

Studfield-Wantirna Community News

Edition 8 - Autumn 2010



Photo by Elaine Craig of Knox Photographic Society

*Entering the new
decade in Wantirna!*

- *Healthy Ageing Expo*
- *Wantirna's own Twenty20 "Big Bash"*
- *Remembering Frank Johnson*
- *The Finger family of Wantirna*
- *News from local community groups*

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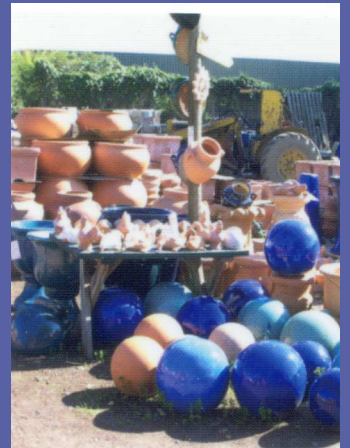
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Getting better with age

from Knox City Council

Knox Council Healthy Ageing Expo, Saturday, March 20

Age is no barrier to a full and active life. That's the message from Knox Council as it gears up for its biennial Healthy Ageing Expo, Saturday 20 March.

Chair of Council's Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee, Councillor Sue McMillan, said the Expo will promote opportunities available to Knox's growing over 50s population.

"The Healthy Ageing Expo is a really positive experience that can share keys to staying happy and healthy," she said. "Ageing presents people with a whole new set of challenges and opportunities affecting health and lifestyle.

"What this expo will show people is that ageing is a positive experience."

Approximately 40 exhibitors will showcase both Government and community-run services suited to senior residents, in addition to a number of privately operated service providers.



"The Expo won't just focus on physical health, it will also focus on mental health and emotional wellbeing," Cr McMillan added. "The Expo will give an outline of the services available to older people and tips on staying healthy.

"We have an ageing community, so the aim of the expo is to reach senior residents who may need to use services offered by Knox City Council or other agencies, and people who are - or may become - carers of ageing relatives or friends.

"It will go a long way to showing people that things really do get better with age, especially in Knox."

The 2010 Healthy Ageing Expo is jointly presented by Knox Council and the Knox & District Over 50s Association Inc. The Expo will be held at Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South on Saturday 20 March from 10am to 3pm. For more information, contact Council by calling 9298 8000.

Better access, better shopping

Council considers upgrade plan

from Knox City Council

A better, more accessible shopping centre is being considered for Wantirna Mall, with Council considering an upgrade plan at the time of going to press.

If agreed to by Council at its meeting on 23 February, works at the shopping centre, located at Mountain Highway Wantirna, could start before the middle of this year, reported Collier Ward Councillor, Mayor Joe Cossari.

"The works would need Council approval before then, focusing largely on boosting pedestrian access, improving carparking and replacing trees, with 86 new trees going in as well," Cr Cossari explained.

"A key feature would also be the undergrounding of the centre's powerlines and the construction of a

pedestrian promenade, creating a more accessible, visually appealing shopping centre."

Pending Council's approval, the works are scheduled to progress as follows:

- March - April 2010: Tender process for power undergrounding and street lighting contract
- June - November 2010: Power undergrounding and street lighting works
- October - November 2010: Tender process for carpark and promenade civil works
- February - June 2011: Construction of carpark and promenade civil works

Cr Cossari said Council valued residents' input into the upgrade plan and would continue to keep them informed of progress.

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*Thank you to the local businesses, who support the production of our community newspaper.
Please support us by supporting them!*

Entering the new decade in Wantirna!

Welcome to the new decade! Our first edition for 2010 sees new groups becoming involved, using our paper to share information around the local community. As a community newspaper we welcome input from local people, so if you have something to say, drop us an email or give us a call.

It's always nice to receive positive feedback from readers as it gives our volunteer team a boost! Thank you for taking the time to contact us.

You will see on page 13, Glen Turnbull's article about the Finger family of Wantirna and the photo from 100 years ago when Wantirna was establishing as an orcharding district. Its interesting to reflect on the changes to our community over the last century and imagine how different life must have been!

I'm sure many people will be glad to see this summer come to an end as the memory of the 2009 fire season is still strong. Hopefully, Autumn will bring a sense of relief to all.

Happy reading!!

Janet Claringbold, on behalf of the team.

*Thank you to Knox City Council and
Cr. Adam Gill & Cr. Joe Cossari
for their generous support of our community paper.*

Apology

We received a letter from Mr. Ray Walker clarifying some aspects of the story about Doris Bromley (Dot Walker). Although he did not wish to have the details published he has requested an apology.

This is an apology to the Walker Family for some incorrect information in the article in the last issue about "Wantirna's Social Lady" the late Doris Bromley (Dot Walker). It was not our intention to upset or offend.

Generally, historical stories rely on the recollection of the people telling them. The story referred to was written in good faith. At Studfield Wantirna News, we believe it is better to have a conversation about events of the past, than not tell the stories at all.

Editor.

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Victorian Jazz Archive Inc.

Located at the western gateway to Wantirna is the Victorian Jazz Archive Inc.

REMEMBERING FRANK JOHNSON

Outside of perhaps millionaire American bandleader Charlie Barnet, it's hard to think of a jazz musician who would regularly arrive at a gig in a Rolls Royce.

Except Frank Johnson.

The cornettist and popular Melbourne bandleader was never one to show up modestly in some country town, especially when the gig was within one hundred miles of Melbourne, No, Frank would borrow a Rolls from Smacka Fitzgibbon's father and pull up outside the venue, often a town hall or mechanics' institute, in true style.

It was that style and showmanship, combined with real fervour for traditional jazz, that led to the astonishing rise of Frank Johnson from dance orchestra fan to leadership of a band that three times bested the fabled Bell Brothers band in musical battles in the late 1940s.

Frank parlayed his success into a hugely popular run at Collingwood Town Hall starting in 1947 and continuing for an impressive nine years.

Cornet was an accidental instrument for Frank. Born in 1927 in Melbourne, Frank was just a bit too young to serve in World War Two. In his late teens he wanted to play trombone but couldn't afford one. A friend lent him a cornet and his

choice was made for him. Initially he preferred the sweeter dance and swing band style, but one night in 1945 he was talked into going along to a Graeme Bell band gig and he was swept off his feet. This was the style of music he would play forever, he told friends.

To be brutally honest, Frank's first band was fairly ordinary. The he met guitarist-turned-clarinetist Geoff Kitchen and the result was a re-formed group that eventually got the name Frank Johnson and his Fabulous Dixielanders. Pianist Geoff Bland, like Kitchen the recipient of excellent musical training at Melbourne Boy's High School, helped shape Johnson's repertoire and ensemble sound. When all that was combined with the crowd-pleasing solos of the ebullient trombonist Wocka Dyer, the success of the Fabulous Dixielanders was assured.

First and foremost, the Bell band was the defining influence on Frank and his combo. But Frank had also listened to those precious red label Eddie Condon

Commodore 78s that had been imported by avid Melburnians or jazz-starved American GIs during the war. One musician particularly impressed Frank, the diminutive trumpet player Max Kaminsky. So it was a huge thrill for Frank when Max came to Melbourne as part of the Artie Shaw Navy Band in 1943 and recorded with the beloved Graeme Bell for Ampersand. The similarities between Frank and Maxie are striking: Both were good soloists, but neither was in the league of a Bobby Hackett or Bob Barnard. Instead, both excelled in ensemble work, pushing the band ever harder and establishing a clean and swinging lead. It was a gift especially admired by the dancers, who flocked to Collingwood Town Hall's back room (the main dance floor was occupied by a sweet orchestra playing for 50/50 dancers) and by hard-core jazz fans who would come by tram from all over the metro area to hear the



Fabulous Dixielanders in their prime.

No band is worth much without a first-rate rhythm section, and Frank's band was blessed with one of the best-ever in Victorian history. Bill Tope played banjo, Wes Brown the drums and Jack Connelly was on bass or tuba, depending on the demands of the number. With Johnson's unerring feeling for just the

right tempo to call for each tune, the band was in constant demand for city and country gigs alike. And, knowing he was not the foremost trumpet soloist around, Frank was modest and sensible enough to invite young Ken Evans from Geelong to play first trumpet as often as possible, which in the early years was just Sundays, when Ken could make the train journey up to the big city.

It was at Wirth's Olympia in Melbourne in 1949 that the Bell band took on Johnson's combo in what we might regard now as an outdated and rather quaint custom, a battle of the bands. The Bells, pre-eminent in Aussie jazz since before the war and fresh from their European triumphs, were supremely confident, but in the end the audience voted the Fabulous Dixielanders as the winners. It was the same result twice more over the following months' rematches.

Johnson's band also took to the road regularly in that

continued on page 6

Victorian Jazz Archive Inc.

(continued from page 5)

era, especially up to Sydney where the band recorded and where Frank would often blow away the local competition at the Clovelly Lifesaving Club, besting the popular Riverside Jazz Band with hot originals and lively cover versions of tunes composed by a pair of Johnson's heroes, Pops Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton. In 1951 the national popularity of the band leapt again with the addition of banjoist and singer Smacka Fitzgibbon, who stayed with the band until leaving to play with the Bells and finally his own band.

As all good things do, the Johnson run of jazz success ended in 1956 and Frank formed a quartet which played at the 431 Club. He also led a dance band with virtually no jazz content that held forth at the Federal Hotel for a couple of years. By 1961, the embers of desire for fine traditional jazz had been fanned and he was able to re-form a true Dixieland band for concerts and festivals. For years he was a star at the various Jazz Conventions around Australia, including the first one. All through his career, Frank had not just played the music but had also written about it with verve and authority. He also gave many playing opportunities to younger musicians by organising concerts and providing them with their moment of glory in the spotlight. The annual Noosa Jazz

Party was to a large degree the result of Frank's efforts.

In his later years in the 1980s he lived and worked in the Brisbane suburb of Ipswich. Frank Johnson is best represented on CD on the album Frank Johnson's Dixielanders (Bill Armstrong Collection BAC22). Their version of James Scott's Grace and Beauty Rag is a particular gem. Have a listen to that CD and to this newly-discovered music of Frank's that has been put out by the Victorian Jazz Archive and see why the Fabulous Dixielanders lived up to the hyperbolic name so completely.

Frank died on 16th October 2000, following a car accident in Hastings St, Noosa a few weeks earlier.

**Contributed by Steve Robertson
Radio Presenter on 99.3 FM.**

**If you have some time available, and would like to join the happy throng of volunteers, at The Victorian Jazz Archive located at "Koomba Park", 15 Mountain Highway, Victoria, call Ray Sutton on 9800 5535
Website: vicjazzarchive.org.au**

Probus Club of Boronia News

The Club was formed in 1988 with 29 Foundation Members and now in 2010 we have 60 members and extend a very cordial invitation for any Men over the age of 55 to join our Club.

The Probus Motto is Friendship, Fellowship and Fun. Our Club tries very hard to live up to this Motto particularly "the fun" section.

Our Club meets monthly at the Knox Club. Meetings start at 10 am and finish at Noon SHARP. Joining Fee is \$ 20 and our Annual Subscription is \$ 25. We are a non Fund Raising organisation with all Members having retired from their working lives.

The Club has a Guest Speaker monthly, who speaks from 11.00 am to Noon. We are proud of the calibre of our Speakers ranging from Sportsmen, Park Rangers, Scientists, Bankers, Lady Department Heads etc. etc.

Monthly Social Meals are held throughout Knox for Members to get to know each other better and bring "their better half" along for friendship with other Wives or Partners.

Trips are also held regularly during the year and in recent years an Annual trip has been held for 3 nights and 4 days.

We have travelled to Swan Hill, Hamilton and Gippsland plus many other Towns.

We can honestly offer you Friendship, Fellowship and Fun at our Club.

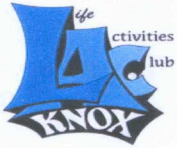
Please Contact Noel Comport 9762 3020 or John Riley 9762 1958 they will be only too willing to assist you with more information and offer you friendship.

Villa Maria Carer Events

Do you care for someone?
Villa Maria Eastern Community Services offer a variety of programs and services for carers living in the eastern region caring for someone at home who is frail aged, has dementia, acquired brain injury or mental illness.

Programs include education, interactive workshops, carer support groups, social outings, sea change retreats, men's shed and wellbeing days.

For more information on upcoming programs and events please call Villa Maria carer access on 1300 650 615.



Life Activities Club Knox Inc.

Christmas Lunch was delicious, with more than half of our members attending. Our Committee supplied meat, bread, tea and coffee and the Venue, and members brought along an amazing assortment of salads and desserts. Yum! Between main course and desserts, we were entertained with a skit on the "Mild, Mild, West".

There was The "Lone Stranger", his ever-loyal horse, "Pronto", "Winnie" who was a friend of the "Lone Stranger" And every time "Pronto" neighed, Winnie was up to see who was calling her. A laugh a minute. Feathers flew when an invasion of wild Indians surrounded our "stars".

Luckily, The "Lone Stranger" was quick on the draw, and out-drew his arch-enemy. Crikey, it was funny, everyone was laughing. No canned laughter for our group.

Since then, we've taken our various walks, been to the Cinema, and 30 Chinwaggers enjoyed Lunches together. Games are on, and also, the "Weekend Getaway" group



moved into Inverloch. These getaways, are always great, with walks, Saturday evening social barbeque, followed by fun times. Also time for board games, reading, sightseeing, and fun.

Almost forgot, our February Picnic in the Park, will be repeated on March 4th. It is always b.y.o. food and drinks, blanket, either prepared food, or there is a bbq nearby. Followed by a walk, or game of Bocce?

Next on our programme, the walks on the second and fourth Fridays, Cinema on the second Saturday, Garden group will be visiting Wandin, then there is water aerobics, bushwalking, Painting, Cards, Social Board Games, and planning for our next weekend getaway to Ballarat.

New members are always welcome, please contact Melva 9762 3764 or Helen 9729 1151

Life Activities Club Knox Incorporated No. A0052438Z and is a member of the Life Planning Foundation of Australia Incorporated (Certificate of Incorporation Reg. No. A00 307 09U: A.B.N. 74 869 342 108)

Knox Home Garden Club *with Lonni Holland*

How have you and your garden survived the last summer? I'm often amazed (shocked) at how excited I am at the prospect of an approaching deep low front, bearing above 10 mm of rain for Victoria during summer, or early autumn. It puts me in such a good mood, that I wonder whether I should "get a life". We drove home on the 2st January from our hols, to a damp and rejuvenated garden, owing to the rain events over New Years Eve and the next day, in fact 120mm in N.E Victoria! Even following heavy rains however, soils can still be hydrophobic underneath woody mulches. Plants large and small, can be re-hydrated by pulling back mulching material around the base, scraping some soil away close to the trunk to determine the dryness in the soil. Try gently loosening the soil even if it's just to break the soil's crust, without disturbing the roots, and if possible create a slight bowl effect around the plant. Fill buckets or watering cans with recycled or tank water, add the advised ratio of liquid Wettasoil or Saturaid around plants onto bare soil. When plants are well watered, liquid feed with Sea-Sol, Power Feed, or compost tea from home made compost and water in well, then cover over with the mulch again. March is always a time to start contemplating remodeling or making major changes in the garden. It's now that I decide whether to expand garden beds, incorporating more drought tolerant plants, and assessing which plants stood the test of summer. My own survival strategy, in the context of my garden is that this summer, my plants either "sulk", "survive" or "succumb", or else get "sequestered"! This attitude is a resignation from last summer's 10 weeks with only 0.8mm of rain. Therefore, the plants that have succumbed, I rip out and that

legitimises shopping for exciting new plants that I can add to my collection, more often than not, "Salvias", and "Grevilleas". The terms "Drought proofing the garden, and using drought tolerant plants", are the catch cries to which we've become accustomed. A part of me despairs at the thought of the loss of an abundance of flower bearing plants, lush perennial borders, and lawn beds. In reality, we are having to adapt our ideas to the plant varieties that require less reticulated watering, to those that can still thrive on Melbourne's rainfall. If you're considering re landscaping areas in your garden, and want to create high traffic or entertaining areas, there are alternatives to growing lawn, such as compacted fine gravels, or lilydale topping for small areas, there are good selections of modern pavers, incorporating cameo's of mosaics. Some of the tougher lawns are the Tall Fescue grasses, some people have even opted to use artificial grass. March is a time to consider bulbs, rhizomes, corms, tubers not only for winter/spring displays, but to beautify summer and autumn garden beds. This family are amongst the toughest, drought tolerant plants to grace your garden, as they contain a storehouse of nutrients and moisture in the bulb, in fact most of the winter and spring flowering bulbs require little supplementary watering. Of the toughest, there are the Jonquil, Daffodil, Freesia, Star flower, Muscari, Snowflake, Ixia, Sparaxis, Iris varieties, Dahlia, Belladonna Lily.

**The Knox Home Garden Club meets every 3rd Monday of the month, at 8pm, with supper afterwards.
Meetings held at the U3A Parkhills Campus, Park Boulevard
Ferntree Gully.
All welcome!!**



Lions Club of Wantirna

The Lions Club of Wantirna, chartered on 18th May 1976, is a Community Service organisation located within the City of Knox in Victoria, Australia. Our core focus is to help those in need within our local community. Our club has 12 members across a wide range of ages and we regularly team up with other Lions clubs and similar organisations within Knox to tackle larger scale projects

Our club members freely donate their time and labour to a diverse range of community welfare, youth, disaster relief and international projects. These projects are funded mostly by internal fundraising activities and through occasional donations.



We are an incorporated organisation having a board of directors and our financials are externally audited annually. We thoroughly cost and plan each of our major projects well in

advance to ensure our objectives are achievable.

Our club represents a very small part of the International Association of Lions Clubs which is represented in 200+ countries and has in excess of 1.3 million members. With this global reach the Lions organisation manages world wide relief projects including the well publicised Sight First

campaign which is an initiative to relieve preventative blindness.

We meet in our clubroom located at the Bayswater Community Centre in Bayswater on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.



Lions Club of Batticaloa, Sri Lanka

Lions Club of Wantirna is involved in many projects:

- Lions Projects such as Australian Lions Foundation, Australian Lions Drug Awareness, Lion Hearing Dogs, Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation
- Knox Community Projects - Angliss Hospital, Country Fire Authority, St John's Ambulance, Wantirna schools, Helping individual Community members
- Eastern Palliative Care
- St Vincent De Paul Families
- Educational Scholarships to Tsunami affected (orphans) in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka - the duration of this project is 10 years. 10 students were selected who orphaned during the Tsunami in Sri Lanka

For further details please phone president Robin Cassidy on 9801 1581 or email Siva Sivagnanam on sivasivagnanam@yahoo.com

RINGWOOD FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB inc

A field trip to Lake Mountain was our first excursion for the year.

Over the past 40 or so years, the RFNC have travelled to Lake Mountain for their bi annual field excursion to look at Alpine native flora. This has always been a very popular trip with the orchids, wildflowers, insects and butterflies a sight to be seen.



This year we surveyed the area with dismay as the heavy toll on the area was very evident from the devastating Black Saturday fires. Areas that we had looked at over these many years were hardly recognizable with many places completely burnt with no vegetation at all.

A few 'trigger plants' in flower, occasional 'native violet' and an area of 'Leek Orchids' growing in an alpine bog were all that was to be seen. Insects and butterflies were plentiful and didn't seem affected by the burnt surroundings. In amongst the devastation, signs of life in the way of small seedlings 6cms tall covering the black ash surrounding the trees, intermingled with tiny wattles and ground cover plants. The tall mountain ash with no leaves on them will never recover, but other eucalypts with epicormic growths (fuzzy green leaf masses on the trunks) and others with groupings of leaves at the base of trees will in time be replaced. This gave us a great sense of 'there will be life yet on the

mountains' and a feeling of hope. We will continue with our trips in future years and hope to see this wonderful area come to life again.

The **RINGWOOD FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB** inc was formed in 1961, 48 years ago by writer and Naturalist Jack Hyett and fellow Naturalist Bill King. The group was formed and quickly grew to a large gathering of 'like minded' people who shared the love of nature and the bush and what was in it.

The group is still going strong with a monthly meeting, followed by an excursion on the following weekend.

Our meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm in room 4 at Maroondah Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood (Melways 49 H10)

A guest speaker with varied topics each month gives an illustrated talk, followed by members giving reports and showing images of what they may have seen during the month. There is always something new to be learned. Recent speakers and other information about the Club can be found on our website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rfnc>.

On Wednesday 10th March our meeting is an illustrated talk by local naturalist and well known author Bruce Fuhrer. His topic is 'Tropical fungi'.

Bruce is renowned for his excellent photography.

The following month, on Wednesday 7th April the topic is 'Living with Tuans and Sugar Gliders in Wonga Park'.

All visitors are welcome.

For more details phone Alison or Peter on 9801-6946.

Wantirna's own Twenty20 "Big Bash"

By Col Fletcher

In the week prior to Christmas, Bayswater Park Sharks Cricket Club conducted its' 5th annual charity Twenty20 cricket match and the second involving local foe Wantirna South Devils Cricket Club.

Established in 2005, the first match was a Bayswater Park "in-house" event conducted to raise funds for one of the club's juniors who was suffering from leukaemia. The first year showcased a junior match with the seniors playing the early game!

In 2006 the match was between Australia and England with the Australian team drawn from local competitions and the English team made up of visiting English players playing in Australia. This was a broader event with more local clubs involved

and all money raised being donated to leukaemia research.

The third year saw a team of RDCA All Stars playing Bayswater Park with the introduction in this year of player sponsorship to raise additional funds for charity. Money was raised prior to match day to complement funds raised on the day and approximately \$5,000 was raised.

2007 was the first year the Bendigo

Bank's Wantirna Mall branch was involved, having taking up a sponsorship of the Bayswater Park Sharks.

2008 saw the first match between Bayswater Park and Wantirna South. Both teams were supported independently by the bank and because of this dual sponsorship manager, Steve Wright, suggested the idea of an inter-club match under the sponsorship of the bank. The match was duly played with Wantirna South victorious. Approximately \$10,000 was raised.

2009 was the second year of competition between the clubs in an event that has become an annual challenge with a perpetual trophy introduced to be held by the winning team. Wantirna South again

were victorious with Bayswater Park (155 all out), unable to chase down Wantirna South's excellent score of 9/222. In the earlier match between the Clubs' Under 16 sides, Bayswater Park were victorious in a very closely fought match, scoring 7/181 against Wantirna South's 177 all out. In the seniors match the "Man" of the Match Award went to the only female participant, Bayswater Park's Lecia Baldry.

The 2009 match raised in the vicinity of \$6,500 to be split between the two worthy causes. While this was down on the previous year, given the difficulties faced by all charities in 2009 with the number of "disasters" and the general economic climate, this

was still a pleasing result that the organiser's vow will be bettered in 2010.

In 2008 and 2009 funds raised are split between 2 worthy charities. Bayswater Park continues to support leukaemia research while Wantirna South, through its connections with the Bendigo Bank, has allocated its share of the funds raised to the Eliza Baird Foundation.



Robin Cassidy (Wantirna Lions), Jason Butcher (Bayswater Park), Michael Jones (Wantirna South) and Steve Wright (Wantirna Community Bendigo Bank) with the perpetual trophy.

The bank commenced the foundation after Eliza was introduced to the bank by the Lions Club of Wantirna who has supported the Twenty20 match in 2008 and 2009 by providing catering services on the day, selling sausages, hamburgers and drinks to hungry and thirsty players and spectators - a most valuable service appreciated by all in attendance and a significant fund-raiser!

Both clubs and the bank want to thank all participants and spectators who joined together to make this a very successful and fun day and look forward to resuming battle in 2010 with Bayswater Park already planning on how to get their revenge and preventing Wantirna South from going back-to-back-to-back to achieve a "three-peat".

Knox City Council

HealthyAgeing Expo 2010

free

brought to you by Knox City Council and Knox and District Over 50s

Saturday 20 March 2010, 10am to 3pm

Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth

The 2010 Healthy Ageing Expo presents a wealth of information on services and programs for quality living and good health in senior years.

Key note speakers include a dietician and representative from Ambulance Victoria's 4 Steps to Life program

Healthy ageing services and businesses from government, community and private sector

Information and advice on a range of subjects, such as meal choices, care options, personal safety and equipment

Full program details will be available at www.knox.vic.gov.au closer to the event.

HealthyAgeing Expo 2010

proudly supported by



**For further information,
call Bruce Griffin
on 9298 8518 or email
bruce.griffin@knox.vic.gov.au**

Introduction

On presentation of
e n t i t l e d d o t c o u r t f i r s



Brigitte Rankin
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Cert. Therapeutic Massage
B A Dance (Teaching)

Introduction

On presentation of
e n t i t l e d d o t c o u r t f i r s

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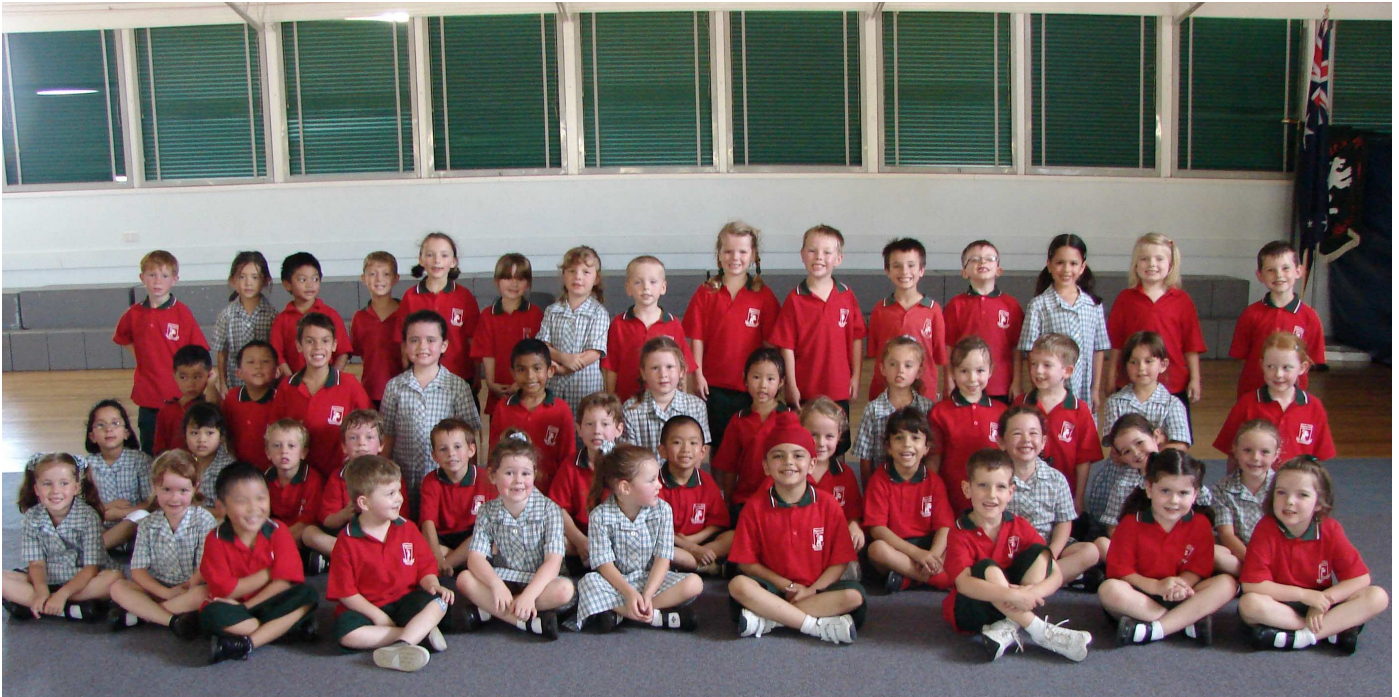
What's Cool at School?

*Proudly brought to you by
Shaun Leane MP,
Member for Eastern
Metropolitan Region*



School's Back at Regency Park

Over 350 eager students started school at Regency Park on February 1st. This included 55 new preps who took to school like ducks to water. The new Preps had a extremely smooth start to their school life which wasn't surprising as they had been part of the school's Transition Program which ran throughout term 4 2009. During this time they attended weekly session where they explored their new environment, made new friends and met their teachers. This set them up for a sensational start.



2010 brings we have a number of exciting projects and programs to look forward to.

Our new building project which is due to begin this year. This will provide 4 new classrooms surrounding a large learning space. This will be a modern and stimulating learning space for students and teachers. In addition, our existing library, toilets and Year 5&6 learning area will be refurbished. We are certainly looking forward to these new facilities.

Our school production 'Cindy goes solo' will be performed on August 3rd and 4th. This will be spectacular nights full of song and dance. The students have begun preparing and are really looking forward to showcasing their talents.

Our Cultural Program which allows each student to experience five incursions each year. These experiences are selected to extend and enrich the students' lives and will include visits by poets authors and musicians. Students will also experience public speaking and will find out about road safety.

Regency Park is committed to ensuring that our students are prepared for the future. They need the skills to be able to operate in an electronic world so we make sure that our students and teachers have access to up to date technologies such as

- Netbooks. These are small Laptops which are wireless and portable. They can be taken into any room and allow teachers to provide each child with computer access, anywhere anytime.
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Mini video cameras for student use

Our students and teachers are making constant use of these technologies and tools in the classroom and beyond. At Regency we achieve excellent results. We endeavour to provide every child with opportunities to grow and excel in all areas of the curriculum by offering these and many more activities to supplement and enhance the dynamic program which runs in each and every classroom.

Sue Boyd, Principal, Regency Park Primary School, Wantirna. Telephone: 9801 3614

The Finger Family of Wantirna

by Glen Turnbull, local historian.

One of the early orcharding families in the Wantirna district was Charles Henry Finger.

He was born in Hawthorn in 1856 of German descent. His name appears in records as Karl, Carl and Charles and his middle name as Henry and Heinrich. As he most likely anglicised his name, I'll refer to him as Charles Henry Finger. He married Maria Christina Schuckraft on 26 December 1877, probably at the early Lutheran Church in Doncaster. There were many early German Lutherans residing at Doncaster in the mid to late 19th century.

Charles and Maria had 12 children, the first four were born at Hawthorn and the remainder at Doncaster, where the family moved to in about 1885. Charles managed a modest sized-orchard off Wilhelms Road at Doncaster East. After the 1890s economy improved, orchardists and fruit growers started looking towards Wantirna for further land to cultivate. The first commercial orchards in the Wantirna area commenced about this time.

Charles purchased 84 acres of Crown Allotment 22 in the Parish of Scoresby, which was located on the western corner of Boronia Road and Mountain Highway, Wantirna (new Eastern Health Hospital site/old Drive-in site) on 23 June 1902. Then Charles purchased part of Crown Allotment 35A in the Parish of Scoresby, which was located on the southern corner of Boronia Road and Mountain Highway (Knox Private Hospital site) on 1 Feb 1905.

From these properties, the Finger orchards flourished until the 1960s. The family mainly grew apples, pears, lemons and oranges. Of his 12 children, nine were sons and most later purchased or inherited various properties in Wantirna, particularly along Mountain Highway

and Burwood Highway. As a result, the Finger name remained strong in the district for many years.

Charles was involved in the establishment of the Wantirna Primary School in 1912, where his younger children attended. Charles (and his eldest sons) were also involved in the early Church of England at Wantirna (St John's) as well as the early Wantirna Methodist Church. They were some of the first shareholders at the Wantirna Coolstore, which was constructed just across the road from one of Charles' properties in 1918.

Charles and Maria were married for nearly 66 years. The Knox Historical Society holds the couple's 60th anniversary wedding photograph from 1937. This family would have been one of few of its era where all their children lived into adulthood. Charles died in 1942 at his Mountain Highway property aged 86, whilst Maria lived a further 2 years. Their youngest daughter, May Finger who did not marry, was the last of their children. She died at Salford Park Retirement Village in 1995, aged 94. Most of the family are buried at the Box Hill Cemetery.

**If you have a local history question, please contact me at gaturnbull@yahoo.com.au*

Glen is a former president of the Knox Historical Society Inc. and current councillor of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.



The Finger family in 1910. (Knox Historical Society image)



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News in Good Health & Wellbeing



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Q. I suffer from Carpal Tunnel pain but don't want surgery what do you suggest?

Phil, Wantirna South

A. Phil, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is a result of compression of the Median Nerve which passes through the front of the wrist. This is usually due to either increased fluid or tendon thickness in this region and often the result of overused forearm muscles. Massage and stretching of the forearm

muscles as well as increasing range of motion in the wrist joints can often help relieve symptoms.

Q. Are high heels bad for you?

Mary, Wantirna

A. Mary, unfortunately for many women out there who love high heel shoes and can often find them more comfortable, they do put a lot of stress on various parts of the body. More commonly we see low back pain due to the shift in centre of gravity forward, calf pain after exercise due to shortened muscles and forefoot pain due to heavier weight bearing on the base of the toes. Regular calf stretching and reducing the amount of walking in the shoes can help avoid these issues.



Menopause

By Marita Reynolds

What are the signs?

Menopause is a change that takes place in the female reproductive system generally between the ages of 45 to 55 years, where women are no longer able to conceive children. However it is important to note that everyone is an individual and some women may experience menopause either prior to or after this period of time.

Menopause can sometimes be referred to as "change of life" and I think this is a very apt phrase as it describes in very few words what is actually happening to a female at this stage in their lives. I see many women who are experiencing change of life (menopause) and are asking themselves the question "Am I in menopause?" There are the obvious signs and indicators such as irregular menstrual cycle occurring or complete cessation of menstrual cycle and of course the commonly talked about hot flushes. However there are other signs & symptoms that are not commonly talked about that can be just as trying to adjust too. Emotional feelings, mood swings and sometimes panic attacks for no apparent reason, weight gain or fluid retention to name a few.

Menopause often occurs when other changes are taking place in our lives such as the children have grown up and are doing their own thing and our parents are aging, and may require more of our time. Of course there are still the normal things in life that we can't avoid that require our attention such as the overall running of the household. You may feel overwhelmed by all that is taking place. The first step to handling the situation is being aware of all the changes.

Once you are aware of what's happening communicate how you are feeling to family, friends or your health care professional and ask them to help you.

Once you have a support network happening then you can start to look at how the changes taking place are affecting you and what you can do to make it easier for yourself. How are you going to handle those changes? Sometimes it is a matter of knowing where to go or where to look. There is so much help out there you just need to look at what you think will work best for you. There is also the Jean Hailes women's health foundation situated in Clayton. The foundation deals specifically with women's health issues. Take a look at their website www.jeanhailes.org.au. The important thing is don't ignore what you are feeling or experiencing, just work out how to work with the experience to help make the adjustment as easy on yourself as possible.

How can reflexology help? Reflexology is the unique use of the practitioner's thumb and fingers that work over reflexes in the feet and hands to help reduce stress, improve circulation and restore general well being. When we experience discomfort or uneasiness within our systems this is a sign that our bodies require our attention. Don't ignore the signs. Menopause is a part of your life that you need to embrace and understand, so that you can make the transition as easy as possible for yourself.

An initial 1-hour session is recommended where we work the feet and discuss how best we can promote improved circulation by using reflexology. It is recommended to allow 4 visits a week apart to gauge effect and response of the body to reflexology.

Marita Reynolds is a practicing Reflexologist and Reiki Master situated in the Wantirna Naturopathic and Remedial Massage Clinic at Suite 9/ 249 Stud road, Wantirna, in the Professional suites above Tivoli Café To discuss your needs or make an appointment please call 9801 5201 or 0425 735 581.

Introducing.....

The Bayswater Christian Assembly

We live in very troubled times - globally, nationally, in our neighbourhood, even our own families - many people are overwhelmed with the serious issues which now confront them in their everyday lives.

Every day we hear of new problems emerging to join a long list of entrenched concerns - climate change, water and other resource shortages, wars, illicit drug use, alcoholism, violent crime, broken homes, illness, hunger, poverty, unwanted children, lonely seniors - the list seems endless, and the cures promised by our governments, however well meaning, remain elusive.

But did you know that the times we live in were forecast long ago, and that the same record tells us much about our future? And even more amazing than that, we are given clear directions about how we can live a fulfilling life - a life of peace and joy - regardless of the dire

circumstances prevailing in the world today.

We are a group of concerned local Christians who believe in God, and His Word, the Bible. We are not associated with any denomination, or political party, we simply believe what the Bible teaches, and seek to follow God, and His Son, The Lord Jesus Christ, who offers the only hope for mankind.

Every Sunday, we meet at the Bayswater Arts Centre on the corner of Scoresby Road and Mountain Highway at 7pm to tell the good news of God's love for each man and woman, boy and girl. We give you a very warm welcome to join us - there is no collection and you can be assured of feeling right at home among friends.

If you prefer, please feel free to contact us by phone, email or postal mail. There are solutions to the problems we all face - and we'd love to help show you God's answers to your particular needs.

Bayswater Christian Assembly

439 Mountain Highway
Bayswater Vic. 3153

Tel: 03 9728 6478 or 03 9729 3225

Email: jlcalldwell@msn.com.au

MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Sunday 10.30am - Lord's Supper
439 Mountain Hwy, Bayswater

Tuesday 8.00pm - Prayer Meeting
439 Mountain Hwy, Bayswater

Sunday 7.00pm - Gospel Meeting
Knox Community Arts Centre,
Cnr Mountain Hwy and Scoresby Rd
Bayswater

Saturday 27th March at 7.30pm
Ministry Meeting

Speakers: Mitchell Kilpatrick & Andrew Ware
Subject: "Bible Prophecies Yet to Be Fulfilled"
439 Mountain Hwy, Bayswater

Contacts: John 0411 239 748

Terry 0413 788 753

Andrew 0427 852 387

Knox Presbyterian Church

Knox Presbyterian Church is a Christian Church with a simple, reverent style of worship. It has an emphasis on explaining and applying the message of the Bible for people today, and cultivating genuine Christian fellowship.

Established in 1987 by the present minister, Dr Rowland Ward, the congregation has people from a variety of ethnic backgrounds who find the meaning of life - and eternal life - in the life, death and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

The regular Sunday services are at 9.30am (includes Sunday School) and 7pm. There is a Ladies Bible Study on Tuesday mornings and a study and prayer time on Thursdays. A Youth Club meets regularly. Recently a new congregation has begun at Mulgrave.

We encourage each member to contribute to the welfare of our community, but we are also concerned for people in other countries. Currently we support three needy girls in India, and Christian work among our indigenous communities as well as overseas.

Please come and check us out. Enquiries: 9720 4871

By the way, 'presbyterian' comes from the Greek word for the elders who have the care of a congregation.

Knox Presbyterian Church
358 Mountain Hwy
(Cnr Thaxted Pde) Wantirna
www.knoxpcea.org.au

What's happening.....

at Orana Neighbourhood House

Orana is a community organisation managed by a volunteer committee and employed staff. We aim to provide a range of social, educational and recreational activities for members of the community.

We also aim to undertake community strengthening activities, like this newspaper, and support groups. Two groups for women, funded through Knox City Council community development grants, are "Bounce Back" for women who may have anxiety or depression and "New Life for Me" which is designed to help women to move through challenging life issues .

For many of us, returning to a learning environment can be challenging, it is our aim to make this as easy as possible with patient and encouraging tutors. Orana offers Computer Classes for beginners, which lead into more advanced classes like "Word 2007" and "Student's Choice" to help students cover the areas they may need extra help with. Other programs are on offer to help people return to paid or voluntary work, including "An Introduction to Office Administration"; an information session about this course will be on March 18 at 4.00pm.

In the coming months, Orana will offer community information sessions on eye care with a local ophthalmologist and local reflexologist, Marita Reynolds will speak on "De-cluttering your life". We will also be offering arts, crafts, yoga, and a range of cooking classes. Keep an eye out for our Term 2 brochure. delivered to local letterboxes next month.



Neighbourhood House

The heart of our community

**Orana Neighbourhood House,
62 Coleman Road, Wantirna South
Manager: Leann Herman Telephone 9801 1895
onh@netspace.net.au www.orananh.org.au**

Sporting Group News

Good times at Wantirna Tennis Club Inc.

Exciting news at Wantirna Tennis Club is the launching of a High Performance Tennis Academy for players of all ages and standards. This is an additional service being offered to complement the existing coaching program at Wantirna.

This program is managed by Kelly Bisinella who is a Tennis Australia High Performance Coach, she has been coaching at the club for the past 12 years. Kelly has joined forces with another High Performance Coach from Italy: Enrico Slomp who has had 20 years international coaching experience with various top Junior ITF and ATP Players.

The Academy is designed for players who are willing to train in an intense and professional environment. The

players will train technically & tactically on and off the court, including the use of a professional video analysis system which will be utilised for each player in order to enhance their performance and ensure development continues.

This Academy will be ideal for players who desire to maximise their abilities!! All are welcome to try out for this program.

Recently the Club held a 'Play Tennis Day' which was a great success. Many people of all ages from the local community came along to join in the fun and games with the Coach and members of the Club. Mini lessons, serves rated by the radar gun and games were held on the day. Lots of prizes were won and a sausage sizzle was held afterwards.

It was great to see many young tennis fans trying to imitate the players from the recent Australian Open. Maybe a future Australian player in the making was with us on the day



Enrico Slomp
and Kelly
Bisinella

**Inquiries about the High Performance Academy
should be made to Kelly 0414 874 482 or to
Alison 9801 6946 for more about the Wantirna
Tennis Club.**

BOWL ALONG TO OUR HIDDEN GEM

News from Bayswater Bowls Club

It seems a strange thing to say about a sporting group, but Bayswater Bowls Club, located as it is in the Guy Turner Reserve, is something of a "hidden gem" of the area.

"You know, I didn't even know we had a bowls club," is a comment the members often hear from first time visitors. It's not that the club deliberately tries to hide its light under a bushel, it's just that its off-street location in a quiet area means that it's not highly visible to passing traffic.

You'll find the Bowls Club opposite Bayswater West Primary School in Phyllis Street, which runs from Stud Road through to Bona Vista Road. The licensed modern clubrooms are set in well tended gardens with great views of the Dandenongs.

This is the club's 21st playing season at Guy Turner Reserve, although for two years before that there was plenty of activity on the site as members did most of the work of building the club and laying the greens themselves.

Today there are two synthetic greens, which means bowls - an ideal non-contact sport for people of all ages and physical abilities - can be played all the year round, with flood lights permitting evening play. Social membership of the club is also available.

Visitors are welcome at any time, and the club has fully qualified coaches who offer free tuition to those interested in taking up the game.

But these days more and more people are just playing for

fun. You can organise a group of friends or workmates for "barefoot bowls", literally kick off your shoes (heels are harmful to the playing surface) and have a go.

The club provides bowls, and experienced bowlers will give you a quick run-down on how to play before leaving you to your own devices. Various options for barbecues etc are available. (Contact the club on 9729 8312 or ring Ros on 9758 6128 or Terry 9729 6732 to make a booking, or email club@bayswaterbowlsclub.com).

Another option is simply to come along to the club after 7 p.m. on the first Friday of the month to try out the game and enjoy a sausage sizzle.

You can find out more about the club at its website www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com.au.

COME AND JOIN US

Newcomers Welcome

BAYSWATER BOWLS CLUB

Where to find us: Phyllis St, Bayswater
opposite the school
via Bona Vista Road or Stud Road. Mel 64 C5

www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com

Ros: 9758 6128 - Terry: 9729 6732

Templeton Tennis Club Wantirna

Be Inspired by the Australian Open

Templeton Tennis Club established for 25 years, is a premium facility located in the City of Knox. The complex features 8 synthetic grass 'drought proof' courts catering for all levels of ability and offers a range of competition including: -

- Junior Saturday morning competition.
- Saturday afternoon Senior Men's and Ladies competition
- Mid Week Ladies competition.
- Night competition - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Many of us have attended, or watched the Australian Open on television. Although most of us will never reach that level of proficiency, the tournament does inspire us to improve our game, or at least think about taking up tennis for the first time!

We can also improve your existing game, or even if you are a complete beginner, get you started via our elite coaching staff!

At Templeton Tennis Club we never overlook the social

aspect of the game and it is great to see the many family groups taking to the courts, particularly on a Sunday for some exercise and enjoyment. So think of summer and think of tennis! Even though these days tennis is a year round activity, warm Days and Nights are the ideal time to get started on your exercise program.

Come up and check us out! We invite you to and see what we offer! Should you wish to visit the club, please contact us and we will happily show you through the facility.

Come and join us at our family friendly tennis club... ..Your club....Templeton Tennis Club.

Templeton Tennis Club Inc.

Templeton Reserve, Templeton St Wantirna 3152.

Melways Ref. 63 G9

Membership: Russell 9887 1957

Clubhouse Phone: 9887 3505

President: John 9803 0201

Coaching: Kelly 0414 874 482

Email: templetontennis@gmail.com

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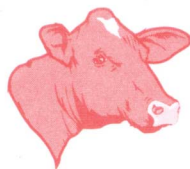
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