

# COMMUNITY NEWS

FROM STUDFIELD, WANTIRNA, WANTIRNA SOUTH,  
SCORESBY, KNOXFIELD & BAYSWATER

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KNOX CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
CHRIS ELLIS

FREE

EDITION 70  
FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021

- CONSTRUCTION TO COMMENCE ON WANTIRNA AGED CARE FACILITY
- BAYSWATER 1ST SCOUTS TO GET NEW HALL
- BAYSWATER SECONDARY SCHOOL UPGRADE
- MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Published by: Studfield Wantima Community News Inc.  
 ABN: 98259005633 RAN: A0054764G  
 PO Box 6159, Wantima Mall 3152  
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Additional Distribution: M.Claringbold & S.Bingham  
 Front cover: Chris Ellis, Knox Citizen of the Year with Cr. Marcia Timmers-Leitch. Photo provided by Cr. Marcia.  
 Copies: 20,000 copies produced & delivered to houses in Bayswater, Wantima, Wantima Sth and through local distribution points including libraries and various locations in Knoxfield & Scoresby.

Affordable advertising rates with discounts for multiple bookings. Call Charles on **0407 797 666**

### DEADLINE DATES FOR 2021

Ed. 70 February/March Friday, January 15 2021  
 Ed. 71 April/May Friday, March 12 2021  
 Ed. 72 June/July Friday, May 7 2021  
 Ed. 73 August/September Friday, July 9 2021  
 Ed. 74 October/November Friday, September 10 2021  
 Ed. 75 December/January Friday, November 5 2021  
 Format design by Tamara Bouzo.  
 Fonts sourced from: <http://www.jennasuedesign.com/>  
<http://code.newtypography.co.uk/> - Vernon Adams  
 Printed by Newsprinters  
 Distributed by Independent Letterbox  
 Some photos sourced from Pixabay

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## Editorial

Hello Community News readers, Welcome to 2021!

Our first edition for 2021 is edition number 70! We are back to 24 pages of content and looking forward to bringing the local community your news and information throughout the year.

We will see what is in store for us in the "new normal" environment we are experiencing. It is good to see many of our usual contributors returning to activities.

There are many in our community who will be facing significant challenges. We can be mindful to reach out and offer support to those who are struggling.

There are many community based organisations in Knox who offer support to local people. Now is a good time to make a donation of money or time, so no one is left behind.

Knox has a message to "Be Kind", we can all benefit from a little kindness in hard times. Let's go there!

Janet Claringbold, on behalf of the team.

The team at SWCN would like to thank Wantima College for providing us with an office and home base. We also thank our contributors, advertisers, sponsors and readers. We are grateful for funding received through the Knox Community Development Fund.



## Wantirna Health Aged Care Facility

from the office of  
Jackson Taylor MP

Construction is now underway for the new Wantirna public sector residential aged care facility bringing the very best care to older people in Melbourne's east thanks to the Andrews Government.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan recently turned the first sod on the \$81.58 million 120-bed state-of-the-art facility saying "This purpose-built facility will ensure older Victorians receive the care they deserve in a comfortable environment that feels like home."

The four-storey aged care home will cater to the more complex needs of its residents and has been designed to be mobility and dementia friendly.

It also features a 'pandemic mode' ventilation and air-conditioning system which, when needed, will help to contain the spread of infectious airborne particles by exhausting all air externally from an infected space and provide 100 per cent fresh air to isolated areas.

Residents will enjoy a more home like environment with the dignity and independence of their own private room and ensuite. Thoughtful touches such as memory boxes with personal items at the entrance of each resident's room will be important to helping residents feel safe and at home.

The facility will also include a community room, café, sacred space and other common areas designed to encourage social interactions between residents, staff and families and allow for a range of day to day activities.

The architecture of the new facility has been carefully considered and seeks to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of residents and staff. Natural light-filled spaces and views of the Dandenong Ranges have been integrated into the design to increase the sense of connection to the natural environment.

It will be operated and staffed by Eastern Health as part of the Wantirna Health Precinct with Victoria's legislated nurse-to-resident ratios in public sector residential aged care services ensuring residents will receive the very best care when they need it most.

We've led the way as the first state in Australia to have nurse-to-resident ratios in its public sector residential



aged care. These reforms provide an important safeguard for both residents and staff and ensure older Victorians are receiving the best care possible.

This year we have seen just how important these ratios are. Throughout the pandemic there were just 15 positive cases in Victoria's public aged care including three residents and no deaths.

The Wantirna Health Precinct is a community-focused neighbourhood facility in Melbourne's eastern suburbs that provides integrated health and wellbeing services for all.

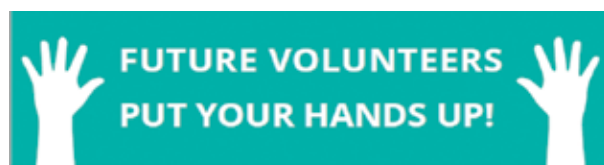
Scheduled for completion by mid-2022, the facility is part of the Labor Government's work in delivering purpose-built residential aged care services and high-quality care for older Victorians. The Government is making record investments in public sector aged care including a new

\$55.57 million 90-bed state-of-the-art aged care facility in Kew and \$27.75 million to support multicultural aged care.

More than \$27.6 million has also been allocated for public sector residential aged care to help ensure older Victorians in state-run facilities are properly supported and cared for.

The Government's work to keep Victorians of all generations connected during the pandemic and beyond will continue, and a further \$1.9 million will support several important initiatives to prevent and respond to elder abuse.

For more information about the Wantirna residential aged care facility visit [vhhsba.vic.gov.au/health-infrastructure/wantirna-residential-aged-care](http://vhhsba.vic.gov.au/health-infrastructure/wantirna-residential-aged-care)



## Volunteer Drivers Needed

Throughout the pandemic our Community Transport continued with a committed group of volunteer drivers. As we now restart other programs we are in urgent need of volunteer drivers.

This is a rewarding role that will give you an immediate fuzzy feeling as you help others.

Making a difference in our community!

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## News from Bayswater Bowls Club

Bayswater Bowls Club is much more than a place where you play bowls – the clubrooms are a hidden gem that provides a true community facility in a lovely setting in Phyllis St., Bayswater, just off Stud Rd near the Knox Early Learning Centre.

We have a fine bar that stocks a wide range of soft drink, wines, bottled beer, pre-mixed spirits, cruisers and so on, as well as a selection of beers on tap all at club prices. It's open between 4 pm and 6.30 pm Tuesday-Friday for that after-work or pre-dinner drink in a relaxing atmosphere, or play pool or darts.

Social memberships of the club are available.

On Fridays, you could combine your drinks with a free game of barefoot bowls, either as a group or as an individual. Members will be on hand to help you.

And on Saturdays, the bar opens at 3pm, so that you can get out on the veranda and barrack for Baysie as we compete in pennant matches.

We also host gentle fitness classes and weekly carpet bowls all year round.

The clubrooms also provide great facilities if you are seeking a function venue for birthdays, engagement

parties or some other social occasion, and you can combine this with a meal and/or a game of bowls. Businesses come to us for work outings, both of a social nature and for team building.

There's plenty of information and contact details on our website, [www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com](http://www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com).



The Bayswater Bowls Club Bar

# BAYSWATER NEWS

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[knox.vic.gov.au/designawards](http://knox.vic.gov.au/designawards)



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## Jackson Taylor Update

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021! Without getting ahead of myself, let's hope it's safe to assume that this year will be in most ways an improvement on the one that preceded it. I hope you all got a break in and some R&R with your loved ones – to those who worked through and to those helped keep us safe with very little break – thank you!

2021 also brings with it my third year in proudly representing you in State Parliament and as part of the Andrews Government. Over the last two years I'm proud to say we've gotten on with delivering nearly \$300 million in local projects and creating local jobs. And, importantly, I've heard from thousands of you on your doorsteps, the phone, at the shops and via my office about what matters to you and helping you with queries – because, as your MP, I don't take that responsibility lightly.

So, a friendly reminder that if I can help or you've got something you'd like to say please do reach out – my details are below.

Excitingly, I'm keen to report back on what last year's State Budget handed down in November is delivering for locals:

- Free Kinder for families in 2021 saving around \$2,000 per child
- Nearly \$30 million to upgrade local schools including \$12.43 million to rebuild Bayswater Secondary and

- \$8.07 million to upgrade Fairhills High
- An extra \$868 million to help fix our broken mental health system and continuing to deliver the Royal Commission
- Delivering around \$2.5 million to revitalise Boronia's CBD and bring it back to life
- A one-off \$250 payment towards the energy bill of around 950,000 households – to check your eligibility visit [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au)
- \$5.3 billion for over 12,000 new social and affordable homes thus creating tens of thousands of jobs



# BAYSWATER NEWS

- A Jobs Plan with a plan to create 400,000 new jobs with half by 2022.

This was the biggest jobs creating budget in Victoria's history and will help get us back on our feet and I'm stoked at the record investment coming into our part of the world in the outer east – you deserve nothing less.

On top of the budget, here's a few other things you may have missed

- \$100,000 to rebuild the 1st Bayswater Scout Hall
  - Nearly \$600,000 to support our multicultural communities with an upgrade at the Chinese Association of Victoria to expand their community facility and The Basin Temple to allow them to provide more meals for those who need a hand
  - A new shade sail for Templeton Cricket Club
  - Over \$400,000 to upgrade Bayswater South Primary
- Before I finish up just a few reminders that we are now in summer which means fire danger is real so please take note and be prepared. Remember to slip, slop and slap and when you're out for a swim to stay between the flags and always keep an eye on our loved ones.

That's all for now, until next time – stay safe.

You can call my office on 9738 0577, email me at [Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jackson.Taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au) or pop in to the office at Mountain High Centre, Bayswater. And for any further information you can search 'Jackson Taylor MP' for more and to follow me on Facebook.



## Jackson Taylor MP

### State Member for Bayswater

Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater Vic 3153

📞 9738 0577 📧 @JacksonTaylorMP 📷 Jackson Taylor MP  
 ✉️ [jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au) 🌐 [jacksontaylor.com.au](http://jacksontaylor.com.au)

This publication is funded from Parliamentary Budget. Authorised by Jackson Taylor, Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater 3153.

## Proudly Local

## Thinking of having a party?

### Think...

# Flame Trees

### Local family business



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## Community News

Available online at  
[www.studfieldwantirnanews.org](http://www.studfieldwantirnanews.org)  
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## Dinsdale Ward News with Cr.Sorina Grasso

It's been a busy time being Ward Councillor for Dinsdale Ward since the Council elections back in November. Along with completing a comprehensive program of induction sessions, some in person, some via Zoom, I gave a welcome to the fantastic Diwali eFestival run by the Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Boronia and visited a number of community groups to learn about their priorities and aspirations for the coming years. I have also been very impressed by the important work and commitment evident in their achievements.

I have been to the Knox Community Gardens, 1st Bayswater Scouts Group, 2nd/3rd Bayswater Scouts Group, Bayswater Football Club, attended AGMs at Orana Neighbourhood House and Eastern Community Legal Centre and participated in a number of end of year celebrations including the Knox Multicultural Committee and Interfaith Network, Knox Arts and Culture Committee and Knox Environmental Volunteers from six environmental volunteer organisations. These included the Knox Environment Society, First Friends of Dandenong Creek, Friends of Koolunga, Gardens for Wildlife, Friends of Blind Creek Billabong, Friends of Old Joe's Creek and Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge.



*Bayswater Train Park*

It was very impressive to hear how adaptable and creative the groups were during this pandemic year and how they carried out their work in all manner of creative ways from conducting garden assessments virtually to running very well attended webinars on native flora and fauna habitats and preservation.



*Knox Community Gardens*



*Celebrating the State Basketball Centre redevelopment*

I was also very pleased to join Jackson Taylor MP to give the thumbs up to an announcement that the State Government was providing \$100,000 for the upgrade of the 1st Bayswater Scout Group Hall.

More recently, in mid-December it was great to attend the opening of the newly upgraded, redesigned and improved Bayswater Train Park in the Marie Wallace Reserve Park playground back in action for the School Holidays and looking great. It was great to see the happy faces of excited kids of all ages using the fantastic playground equipment as we were making speeches and cutting the ribbon.



*With Jackson Taylor MP at Bayswater Scout Hall*

I was also delighted to be at a fantastic announcement for Knox by Deputy Premier James Merlino about the \$130 million redevelopment of the State Basketball Centre in Wantirna South due to start construction in 2021. Knox City Council are also contributing \$25 million to this ground breaking project which will be the biggest facility of its kind in Australia with 10 additional basketball courts, a new regional gymnastics facility, elite training facilities for professional teams, admin facilities and food and retail outlets. Very importantly, this project will also generate local jobs during construction and beyond.



## Cr Sorina Grasso

Dinsdale Ward Councillor - Knox City Council

Advocating for local jobs, prosperity & community.

[cr.sorina.grasso@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.sorina.grasso@knox.vic.gov.au)

M: 0437 853 445  CrSorinaGrasso



## 1st Bayswater Scout Group to get New Hall from the office of Jackson Taylor MP

### 1st Bayswater Scouts and locals will benefit from the upgraded hall

Scouts and community groups across the state can look forward to new and improved Scout halls as they begin to safely return to face to face activities.

Jackson Taylor, Member for Bayswater, recently announced that 1st Bayswater Scout Group will receive \$100,000 from the Andrews Government to completely overhaul its' hall at Guy Turner Reserve in Bayswater. Mr Taylor said "This has been a long time coming – and I'm so proud of the work that the 1st Bayswater Scouts have done to help make this a reality."

"Scout Halls are the beating heart of local communities and I have no doubt that the Scouts and locals will get so much out of this new upgrade whether it be for a Scouts meet up or dance class, the Scout Hall will be home to people across our community."

This is one of 8 Scout Hall projects announced as part of the Andrews Government's \$5.5 million four year investment into Scouts infrastructure. This builds upon the 11 Scout hall capital projects already announced as part of the Andrews Government's 2018 election commitment to build and refurbish Scout halls across the state.

Minister for Youth Ros Spence said "We are proud to partner with Scouts Victoria to deliver upgrades that will give our Scouts and local community groups the modern facilities they deserve and this investment will help grow our Scouts network empowering thousands of Scouts volunteers who give so much to their local communities."

Local Scout groups will match funding for each project working with Scouts Victoria and community partners thus bringing the total investment to \$11 million.

Scouts have a long and rich history in communities across Victoria giving young people the opportunity to be part of a worldwide network to learn important life and leadership skills.

Scouts Victoria was established in 1908 and has a membership of over 20,000 young people and 5,000 adult volunteers across Victoria.

If you are interested in trying Scouting go to <http://www.vicscouts.com.au/join-us.html>



Jackson Taylor MP with 1st Bayswater Scout Leaders and Scouts

## STOP PRESS!

### Guess who is back?

After nine months of working from her home based office, **Lillian from Knox Travel** has announced that to better serve her clients, she is back operating from the travel agency at **Studfield Shopping Centre**.



This travel agency was initially set up in Boronia in the eighties to provide personalised service. Today, it is part of the **Magellan Travel Group**, a division of **HelloWorld**.

Knox Travel has been serving the residents and business community through the numerous natural disasters, wars, global financial collapse and the pandemic.

**KNOXTRAVEL**  
TRAVEL & CRUISE

Throughout the locked down, travellers also took advantage of the agency's 24/7 customer care service. Lillian has channelled her passion and expertise in rescuing stranded passengers amidst handling excruciating refund processing procedures.

Now, she is back, ready to assist her clients with their travel arrangements.

Lillian said that as an IATA (internationally accredited) agent, "**Knox Travel can also hold reservations with no obligations**".

Contact [knoxtravel.com.au](http://knoxtravel.com.au) for a review.

### To Our Valued Clients

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

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Saturday  
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## What's New At Community Pharmacy?

by Purnima,  
Pharmacy Manager



Hi everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and have had a happy and healthy start to the New Year so far.

At Community Pharmacy Wantirna one of our priorities for 2021 is to continue to grow our partnerships with other health and community focused individuals and groups in the local area. By doing so we hope that we

## Meet The Team

In this edition of the Studfield Wantirna Community News our featured team member is Shannon.

### About Shannon



I have been in pharmacy for over 10 years and have been at Community Pharmacy for 2 ½ years.

I first started as a Pharmacy Assistant in 2005. After doing that for 2 years, in 2007, my boss at the time asked if I would like to try being a Pharmacy Technician and I never looked back because I loved it!

#### Q. What made you want to have a career in Pharmacy?

I became a Pharmacy Technician because I have always loved helping people so when I saw how friendly and inviting pharmacy was I took the opportunity to start my adventure in the pharmacy world.

#### Q. Do you have an area of Pharmacy/Health that you are particularly passionate about?

I am very passionate about skincare and make up and giving women the right tools, technique, and products to make them feel good.

#### Q. If you weren't working in Pharmacy what would you want to be?

If I didn't get into pharmacy I would have gotten into the beauty industry as I enjoy make-up and skincare and helping people feel beautiful.

#### Q. What do you like to do when you aren't at work?

I am in a mixed basketball team and love the fitness and comradery. I also love the outdoors so love walking a lot.

#### Q. What is the one thing I would like my customers to know about me?

I am one of eight children and I always enjoy having a huge gathering for Christmas to catch up with them all.

can be more than just a Pharmacy, but a convenient and professional health hub for all your health and well being needs.

As always, we would love any feedback on any health-related products and services you feel are needed in our local area so that we can look into how we can build these into our store to better meet our customer's needs.

## Our New Website

We are very excited to launch our new website on which you will find a full list of services and more information on some of the Community and professional partnerships we are involved in. Have a look on [www.communitypharmacy.com.au](http://www.communitypharmacy.com.au) and next time you are in-store let us know what you think.

## Our topic of the month - Looking after your health within our local community.

The saying "New Year, New You" is often thrown around a lot around this time of year...but in all honesty most people are just happy for a new year this year! Although a new year has come it doesn't mean that everything is just back to normal for many people. Ongoing fears and anxiety, longer term effects from a period of isolation, as well as the economic impacts of 2020 are still very real for many in our greater community.

At Community Pharmacy we have a range of services that can help you review both your physical and mental health needs for the year. We can review your medications with a medication review, perform health checks and discuss any anxieties that you may be struggling with. Purnima, our Pharmacist Manager

has completed training in Mental Health First Aid and there are many services that we can work with you to contact.

Estia Health is offering two weeks free respite care to assist carers who may be suffering from carers fatigue due to COVID – bookings must be made by 28th February.

Home Instead Senior Care helps with support at home and is Government subsidised.

Redefine life offers low-cost counselling in the local area, as well as other services that may be of benefit.

For more details on all our partners listed above please pop in and speak to our team members who can provide you with more information and support.

### Online Zoom Event

## A discussion on different aspects of looking after your mental health

with Natalie Wild from Redefine Life

24th February 2021 at 6.30pm

Location: Online via Zoom. Follow our Facebook page for more details.

In this online event we look forward to discussing a number of different aspects to manage your mental and physical wellbeing in 2021 such as how to look after yourself, recognising when you or someone you know may need help and general tips for day to day well-being.

Community Pharmacy Wantirna are proud to be partnering with Natalie Wild CEO of Redefine Life for this event. Natalie is a Registered Counsellor, Counselling Supervisor, Workplace Mediator, and Business Wellbeing Presenter at Redefine Life. Natalie has a deep passion for providing holistic support with a focus on individual differences in client and business support needs.

To book in and for more details please call us on 9720 2872 or drop into the Pharmacy.

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# Collier Ward Update with Cr. Marcia Timmers-Leitch

# WANTIRNA NEWS

## Happy New Year!

I hope that you have enjoyed the festive period being able to spend time with family and friends in person. It has been wonderful to see people out and about in our community enjoying our open spaces, supporting our local businesses and reconnecting face to face with loved ones.

Knox City Council have been working hard to bolster our local businesses through the launch of the Be Kind / Support Local campaign. Highlighting local foodie spots, specialty retailers, hairdressers, business and health service providers is an integral part of our local recovery and has delivered some wonderful stories and business results. To find out more information on our fabulous local businesses and community groups visit [www.knox.vic.gov.au/bekind](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/bekind) or to get involved and receive a free BeKindKnox

## Outdoor Dining for Wantirna Mall

Noos Noodles husband and wife super team, Lhue and Peter, are thrilled with their new outdoor dining fixtures thanks to the support of Knox City Council and the State Government.

"The new outdoor area has really brightened up what has previously been the dark end of Wantirna Mall" says owner Peter. "New customers have been coming in since the redevelopment and the awareness of our restaurant has really increased."

Many businesses, particularly those in hospitality, have been heavily impacted because of COVID-19. In late 2020 the State Government announced a package to support businesses to adapt to outdoor dining and entertainment.

Knox Council has responded to this and is helping to facilitate increased outdoor dining with local businesses. An online application process has been developed, to ensure quicker decisions and COVID

Outdoor Dining Permit fees are currently waived.

Noos Noodles joins other local businesses Junior Tan Hawker Kitchen & 24 Spices Indian Restaurant (High Street, Bayswater) plus Kokoro Asian Café and Chilli & Basil Thai (Station Street, Bayswater) in trialing this new outdoor concept.

The new outdoor dining opportunities have been created using recyclable materials and have been receiving great feedback from local diners.

Council is happy to work with other local hospitality businesses to help facilitate other outdoor dining spaces. Please go to [www.knox.vic.gov.au/outdoordining](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au/outdoordining) for more information.

Noos Noodles is located at Shop 1 Wantirna Mall and is open from 10am-9pm seven days per week. For bookings call (03) 8201 6688 or visit [www.noonoodles.com.au](http://www.noonoodles.com.au)

Business pack go to [www.knoxbiz.com.au/content/2146/support-local-business](http://www.knoxbiz.com.au/content/2146/support-local-business)

The new Councillor group have been working hard on the new changes to the Local Government Act with a robust induction program to ensure that we are aware of our responsibilities for community representation. I am pleased to report that this year I have been appointed to the following committees in addition to my regular Councillor duties: Arts & Culture Advisory Committee, Multicultural Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Eastern Regional Libraries Board, Knox Hockey Working Group, CEO Performance Review and Knox Interfaith Network.

As always if you need help or information then don't hesitate to get in touch via email [marcia.timmers-leitch@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:marcia.timmers-leitch@knox.vic.gov.au) or phone 0428 162 218.



## Wantirna Local Honoured in Australia Day Awards

Knox City Council has recognised five inspiring local residents in the Knox Local Australia Day Awards. The winners were selected from an outstanding field of nominees, each representing members of the community who have gone above and beyond in serving the city and their fellow citizens.

Congratulation to the 2021 Knox Local Australia Day Awards winners:

- Citizen of the Year: Chris Ellis
- Young Citizen of the Year: Aimee Bugeja
- Elder Citizen of the Year: Christel Huwald
- Volunteer of the Year: Manoj Varsani
- Local Hero: Eve John

Wantirna local Chris Ellis was humbled to be recognised as Knox's Citizen of the Year. She has been an active member of the Lions Club of Wantirna and now the Lions Club Branch of Knox for over 22 years. Known as the local 'mints' lady, Chris has made hundreds of laundry bags and care packages for serving members overseas and organised care bags for women who have had to leave their home due to family violence. In recent times Chris has made and sold over 600 face masks raising \$3000 for the Lions Club.

Knox City Council Mayor, Councillor Lisa Cooper said that there are many high achievers, local heroes and unsung volunteers who work tirelessly for the Knox community and that Australia Day is an opportunity to congratulate the everyday heroes in our midst.

This year celebrations took place virtually, with videos of the award recipients being shared publicly through Knox's social media channels.

Cr. Marcia is pictured with Chris Ellis on the front cover



Lhue and Peter – Noos Noodles with diners enjoying the new outdoor dining

Your  
local  
voice

# Marcia Timmers-Leitch

Collier Ward Councillor - Knox City Council

✉ [marcia.timmers-leitch@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:marcia.timmers-leitch@knox.vic.gov.au)

☎ 0428 162 218 📱 MarciaTimmersLeitch 📷 cr\_marciatimmersleitch



# WHAT'S COOL FOR KIDS?

## Toy Library Memberships for Those in Need by Sarah Buchanan



We know 2020 was a challenging year for many in our community. The Knox and District Toy Library are committed to supporting local families who have been impacted by COVID-19.

We have a number of free 12-month memberships available for families in need. These will provide access to a variety of fun, educational and age-appropriate toys for loan, helping to promote children's learning and development through play.

To apply, you will need to complete a short application form. You can get a copy of the form by visiting the toy library or emailing [info@knoxtoylibrary.org.au](mailto:info@knoxtoylibrary.org.au). To be eligible you will need to show one or more of the following documents:

- A valid Concession Card
- Job Seeker Payment
- A letter from your employer formally advising of a loss of employment or reduction in hours.

You can also apply for a free 12-month membership on behalf of a local family who would benefit due to their current circumstances. This may include individuals who have a disability, experiencing mental health challenges or new migrants.

### About the toy library:

The Knox Toy Library has been an integral community service to the families of Knox for the past 42 years. We aim to support the development of children through play, and do so by providing access more than 2500 fun, educational and age-appropriate toys for loan at an affordable cost.

The children who use our service are predominantly aged between birth and 6 years. Our membership fees are kept low so that all children in the Knox community and surrounding areas can have access to quality toys regardless of their socioeconomic background.



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\* According to TIMSS survey on Maths and Science programs worldwide since 1995



## Vacancies Available in VCAL 2021 Mountain District Learning Centre

VCALFND001 VCAL – Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Foundation)  
VCALINT001 VCAL – Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Intermediate)  
VCALSEN001 VCAL – Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (Senior)

MDLC offers an alternative setting for young people to complete a Secondary Education Certificate (VCAL)  
Year 10 (Foundation), Year 11 (Intermediate), Year 12 (Senior)

There are so many benefits of completing VCAL at MDLC.

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- Welcoming and inclusive program
- Relaxed and supportive learning environment
- Authentic links to real world learning within the program
- Youth worker on site

Please visit our website or contact us for more information.

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A VCAL qualification is recognised by TAFE institutes and employers, and will help to move straight from Secondary School to:

- An apprenticeship or traineeship
- Further training at TAFE
- Getting a job

**For general enquiries, course specific VCAL and enrolment information contact MDLC**

**Mountain District Learning Centre**  
**13 - 15 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully, VIC 3156**  
**(03) 9758 7859 | [office@mdlc.com.au](mailto:office@mdlc.com.au)**  
**[www.mdlc.com.au](http://www.mdlc.com.au) | RTO no. 3969**

MDLC is a registered non-school senior secondary education provider.

Accredited training is delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding.

# WHAT'S COOL AT SCHOOL?

## Upgrading Bayswater Secondary College Brick by Brick from the office of Jackson Taylor MP

Bayswater Secondary College will receive a \$12.433 million upgrade following the \$500,000 announced through the Infrastructure Planning and Acceleration Fund.

The Victorian Government is providing \$12.433 million to Bayswater Secondary College to upgrade and modernise the school including the Main Classroom Wing as part of the Bayswater Education Plan. This investment builds on the \$1.18 billion as part of the Building Works Package announced earlier this year which is creating space for more than 21,000 extra students in Victoria's education system and creating around 1,600 local construction jobs.

In making the announcement, Minister for Education James Merlino said "This is an investment in our kids and their future. Because every child, no matter where they go to school, deserves access to state-of-the-art facilities. Schools are the heart of our communities so it makes sense that we're investing in upgrades to support local jobs to drive our economic recovery."

Member for Bayswater Jackson Taylor welcomes the initiative saying "Families in Bayswater have done a phenomenal job in supporting students to learn from home. As students return to their classrooms we want to make Bayswater Secondary College better than before for students now and for generations to come."

Across Victoria the Labor Government is delivering 1,460 school upgrades investing in new classrooms, fixing old buildings and delivering the learning spaces our kids deserve.

The budget backs in Fairhills High School with \$8.07 million to upgrade and modernise their school including the Auditorium and Science and Technology facilities. These investments will also support local jobs with school infrastructure build expected to create more than 6,400 jobs across the state.

The Labor Government's unprecedented \$7.2 billion investment in Victorian school infrastructure is not only creating 7,500 jobs it is ensuring that ensuring every child has a great local school where they can achieve their best.



Students at Bayswater Secondary College  
Sourced via <http://www.bayswatersc.vic.edu.au/>

## Mental Health Practitioners Come to Local Secondary Schools from the office of Jackson Taylor MP

More Victorian secondary school students in the local area will soon have access to the school-based mental health support they need through the Mental Health Practitioners initiative thanks to the Victorian Government.

A timeline for the 2021 roll-out for Victorian government secondary schools across the state was released and included extra support for local schools. In recognition of the increased mental health challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic the roll-out has been brought forward to be completed by the end of 2021.

Under the initiative, schools in Outer Eastern Melbourne which includes five schools in our local area – Bayswater Secondary College, Fairhills High School, Boronia K-12 College, Wantirna College and Heathmont College. The \$51.2 million initiative, which began in July last year, provides funding to schools to recruit a mental health practitioner. The initiative will see qualified mental health professionals in every government secondary school campus across the state including psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists and mental health nurses.

Mental health practitioners offer counselling and early intervention services and coordinate support for students with complex needs and linking them with broader allied and community health services.

All government secondary schools will receive between one and five days a week of support from a mental health practitioner depending on its size and requirements.

In welcoming the roll out of the initiative, Jackson Taylor, Member for Bayswater said, "It's been a tough year for our schools – certainly a year like no other. And I'm so pleased that in recognition of this, we've

been able to bring forward this very important program that ensures our kids get the support they need"

"I want to thank each and every member of our school communities for putting in the hard yards, the long hours and the dedication to make sure each and every young person gets the support and care they deserve. It's only right we back this up with such a valuable investment."

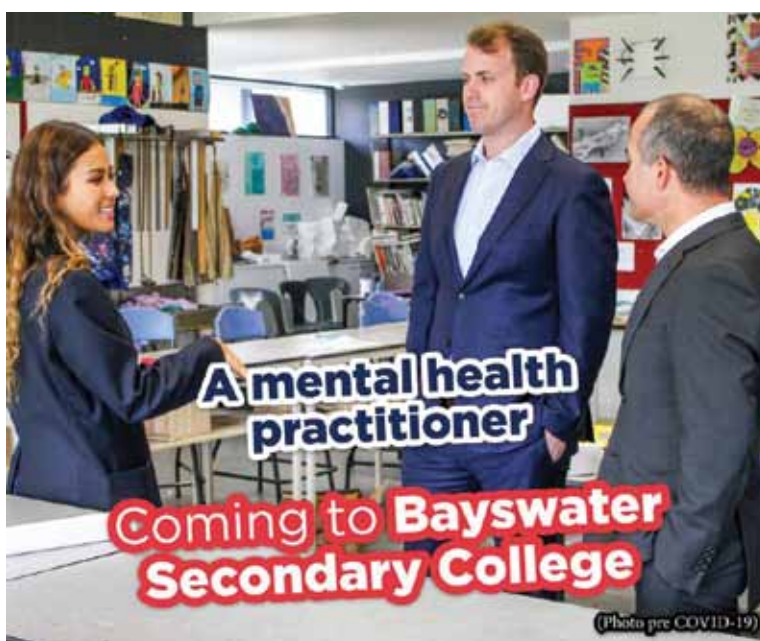


Photo sourced via @JacksonTaylorMP

This initiative builds on the \$65.5 million investment in student health and wellbeing initiatives in schools, including the Victorian Anti-Bullying and Mental Health Initiative, the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support program, as well as increased investment in allied health and nursing services.

All Victorian government school students, whether they are learning remotely or attending school on-site, have been able to access mental health and wellbeing support during the pandemic.

Minister for Education James Merlino commented, "So many of our young people are experiencing mental health challenges. This will make it easier for them to access the support they need at school. This is one of the biggest issues raised with me when I talk to students, parents and carers and schools."

Secondary school students can access counselling via a voice call or video conference through the headspace counselling partnership or via their school-based mental health practitioner.

## 2021 is Going to be a Big Year

from Alan Tudge MP, Federal Member for Aston

As a community we are bouncing back from the pandemic and life is finally starting to get back to normal.

Importantly, there are several local road and community infrastructure projects that will be getting underway across Knox - projects I committed to at the last election to address congestion and safety and improve our life as a community.

While I have had the full funding secured for some time we have had to wait for the State Government or Knox Council to begin construction of these projects.

One of the first that will be starting early this year is the installation of traffic lights at the Lewis Rd and Boronia Rd intersection.

As many of you would know this is a very dangerous intersection and has needed attention for a long time.

Other local road improvements that will begin construction early this year are the traffic lights at the Kelletts/Henderson Rd intersection and slip lanes at Ferntree Gully/Henderson Rd intersection.

One of the big developments of 2019 was opening the Henderson Rd Bridge in Rowville and, although it provides better access between Ferntree Gully Rd and Kelletts Rd, it has increased traffic using these intersections every day. These upgrades will really help manage this extra traffic and increase safety for drivers.

As for community infrastructure, in March this year I expect to see construction begin on one of our largest community projects - the new Knox Regional Netball Centre.

During peak times the centre hosts over 6,000 people every week and is a huge part of our community's life. When complete, the centre will have twice as many indoor courts, seating for 300 spectators, 180 extra car parks and a considerable facelift.

The upgrades will especially help the netball association to expand its' programs and transform the complex into a true regional centre for netball, right here in Knox.

\$4 million of federal funding has been secured for these much-needed upgrades and Knox Council and the state government has agreed to provide the rest with the council managing the construction.

At the same time as all this construction important planning and preparation work will continue on the Dorset Rd extension and the Napoleon Rd duplication. \$130 million of federal funding is locked in for these and I expect construction to begin early next year.

Planning is also underway on extra parking at Ferntree Gully Station and Boronia Station but we still haven't settled on a design for these so there is a bit to go.

As for the Rowville Rail, \$475 million of federal funding remains on the table and I will continue to work to convince the state government, who own the rail network, about this important project. We will find a solution.

Overall, it's exciting to see infrastructure that our community has needed for so many years now being built.

As usual I will keep you updated on all our local projects through Facebook, email and letterbox.

Thanks for your patience and support as we get these local projects done.



**ALAN TUDGE** MP  
Federal Member for Aston

f tudgeMP e alan.tudge.mp@aph.gov.au  
9887 3890 www.alantudge.com.au

*Real Action For Knox*





## Ride For Medical Research

Every year the Rotary Clubs of Boronia and Healesville jointly organise a bike ride around the Victorian countryside raising funds for the important medical research supported by Australian Rotary Health\*.

This year, due to continuing restrictions on our ability to gather and travel as a group, we are replacing the usual event with a do-it-yourself event:

### Ride, Run, Walk or Swim to Make A Difference March 1st to 31st 2021

How far can you cover in the month of March 10km or 1000km?

- Challenge yourself in your regular exercise routine or start a new one to improve your health.
- Set a target distance and fundraising goal, seek sponsorship – challenge your friends to join you.

Raise funds for Australian Rotary Health\* to sponsor medical research. Independent research by Australians, for Australians in Australia.

- Donations are tax deductible.
- No donations are used for administrative purposes.

#### Registration is Free

For more details and to register or donate, please go to: <https://madmarchcyclechallenge.raisely.com/>

## MAD MARCH CYCLE CHALLENGE 2021



*\*Australian Rotary Health, Rotary Australia's not-for-profit health research fund provider, is one of the largest independent funders of mental health research within Australia. Apart from mental health, it also supports a broad range of other general health areas, including scholarships for rural medical and nursing and Indigenous health students.*

*Australian Rotary Health provides support for areas of health that do not readily attract other funding and publishes and promotes research findings to the community.*

For more information on Australian Rotary Health or Rotary go to:

<https://australianrotaryhealth.org.au/>

<https://www.9810rotary.org.au/>

# AROUND KNOX



## News From Your Library

from Angus Cooke

### A message from Joseph Cullen, Eastern Regional Libraries CE

I think we can agree that 2020 was an annus horribilis for members separated from loved ones and confined to home.

Recognising this, there were many good things happening throughout the year in your libraries.

Our members showed great patience as we moved from being open for independent browsing and borrowing, to offering 'Click 'n Collect' and then 'Click for Home Delivery'.

Your library teams cheerily responded to many changes as they adapted to the various COVID restrictions. Your teams kept working when many other library services shut up shop.

However, not content with just providing books, DVDs, etc. by post or courier, your local library teams went online with Storytimes, craft and cooking activities, and author talks. Storytimes were particularly important for our younger members as families tried to maintain a sense of normality in challenging times.

To reduce the stress on our members, we got rid of fines for the late return of items – FOREVER!

Because our communities accepted these changes to our services, as part of their overall response to COVID 19, we are now operating at a new normal. Thank you.

We can go into a much cheerier new year where we can catch up with family and friends – and, of course, visit our local library.'



## Taveuni Island Secondary School Student Assistance Project

Tropical Cyclone Yasa struck the islands of Fiji on December 17th 2020. Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama stated that the damage will likely surpass that of TC Winston in 2016, additionally saying "This is not normal. This is a climate emergency."

The cyclone passed right over Taveuni Island bringing strong winds and salty rain that lasted for more than 6 hours. Across Fiji's northern regions crops were damaged and, in many cases, totally destroyed. Taveuni, known as the Garden Island of Fiji, fared better than most other islands in building damage but their food and income crops were basically wiped out.

The family farms supply much of the vegetables and fruit consumed throughout Fiji. Their livelihoods and incomes are linked directly to crop production and sales. The salty wind and rain burnt the leaves and destroyed most of the food and cash income crops.

Many fruits were just ripening and now lie on the ground. Banana and coconut palms are all shredded. Dalo and Cassava root crops are ruined.

Kava (the national drink) is derived from the roots of Kava plants which take 4 years to mature to the harvesting stage. Four years ago TC Winston

destroyed the Kava crop. The new plants were just nearing harvesting when TC Yasa struck which means no income for another four years.

Many families are not able to afford to send their children to school and attendances have dropped markedly across Fiji, but in particular on Taveuni, with their overwhelming reliance on family farm income from vegetable and fruit crop sales.

The Rotary Club of Boronia has a sister-club relationship with the Rotary Club of Taveuni and supports their projects to assist their community.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to all Rotary Club of Boronia Fiji projects (including the Student Assistance project) via RAWCS.org.au, project 129/2010-11 or by direct deposit to the Rotary Club of Boronia bank account:

BSB: 633-108

Account No: 150436418

In the Message area write "Fiji".

Contact for further information: Peter Malden, Rotary Club of Boronia on 0417-998-082 or [petertmalden@bigpond.com](mailto:petertmalden@bigpond.com)

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[nick.wakeling@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:nick.wakeling@parliament.vic.gov.au) [www.nickwakeling.com.au](http://www.nickwakeling.com.au)

Funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications Budget.

**Nick  
Wakeling** MP

**STATE MEMBER FOR FERNTREE GULLY**



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- ❖ Patchwork
- ❖ Knitting Group
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- ❖ French For Beginners (online)
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- ❖ Men's Social Chat Group
- ❖ Cooking classes and more!

*Please see our website for further information on class times and costs and follow us on Facebook.*



Orana Neighbourhood House | ABN 91 514 980522  
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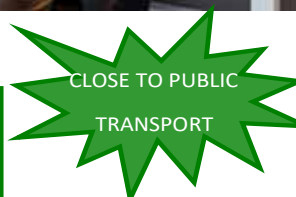


What 2020 has taught us is that during unprecedented times it's important to be somewhere you feel safe, protected, cared for and most importantly somewhere you don't feel alone.

To book a tour or for more information call

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# News from the Australian Jazz Museum

**Proactively Collecting, Archiving and Disseminating Australian Jazz.**

australian  
**jazz**  
museum

## Working from Home

by Ken Simpson-Bull

The current COVID restrictions and precautions have, for quite some time, prevented staff (all volunteers) from physically attending the museum except in small numbers and for strictly limited periods in order to perform vital tasks.

Fortunately, ways have been found for much of the usual work normally carried out on site to be able to be farmed out for working from home. In fact, this has been found to be so successful that much of this type of work will, in future, be able to be permanently performed this way.

To give but two examples: The museum's quarterly magazine is now prepared from home. Articles are submitted by email to the editor who assembles and produces a layout which is then emailed back to several proof-readers who in turn submit their various suggestions and corrections. Any required photographs are accessed from the jazz museum's web site or from non-copyrighted images downloaded from the internet. Many images are submitted by the magazine committee members themselves. The magazine, once approved, is then sent to members,

for the present time in electronic form only.

The other example is the production of the museum's "Rare Collectible Jazz" series of CDs. At present under production from home is the annual "Members' Compilation" CD which is sent to museum members each year. The master CD, once prepared, is sent to a professional replicating firm together with the covers and liner notes which themselves are produced by a graphic artist, also working from home. Several hundred professionally pressed and packaged CDs are then posted to members.

The museum is presently in need of more volunteers to assist in various activities. Those with computer skills are most in need and an interest in jazz would be an advantage. Please contact the museum on the number listed below for details

### The Australian Jazz Museum

(nationally accredited)

15 Mountain Highway, Wantirna will again be open free to the public when it becomes safe to do so. Resumption of group visits will be advised.

Enquiries: (03) 9800 5535 or visit the interesting web site at [www.ajm.org.au](http://www.ajm.org.au)



The Museum's Magazine

## THE FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY

at

THE HUT GALLERY

157 Underwood Rd, Ferntree Gully

### FEBRUARY EXHIBITION "LOCKDOWN ART"

Artwork created by our artists during the lockdown.

Weekends 11am-4pm

Opens Sunday 7th February

Closes Sunday 28th February

### MARCH EXHIBITIONS

#### "The Melbourne And Victorian Artists (MAVA) EXHIBITION"

Open daily 11am-4pm

Tuesday 2nd March

to Wednesday 10th March

#### "ANYTHING GOES"

Members exhibition in the gallery.

Artworks by Ron Ashworth in the foyer.

Weekends 11am-4pm

Opens Sunday 14th March

Closes Sunday 28th March

Note that we are mindful of any changes as regards the Covid-19 situation and government guidelines.

**ALL WELCOME FREE ENTRY**

## The Show Must Go On

During the first half of last year Heidi Victoria set out to highlight the plight of the Performing Arts industry during the Covid19 Pandemic. Heidi's aim was to help governments and non-industry people understand just how resilient members of the Arts community are and how determined they are to survive.

The outcome is a series of behind-the-scenes photographic portraits. "THE SHOW MUST GO ON: What the Performing Arts were doing when they weren't doing what we know they do" represents a great mix including household names along with quiet achievers from music theatre to comedy, jazz, TV personalities and beyond.

An exhibition of 40 of the works will be launched in early February and a coffee-table book featuring over 60 portraits with an accompanying statement from each person will be released at the same time.

When reflecting on the project Heidi commented "I want to ensure the industry is celebrated and that governments become more aware of just how important the arts are to society and the economy."

The Australian Cultural Fund has established a funding campaign which enables tax deductible donations.

A percentage of all publication sales during the exhibition period will be donated to Entertainment Assist to support further development of mental health programs and research in to the unacceptable statistics linked to the industry.

For more information or to make a donation to the project visit:

<https://australianculturalfund.org.au/projects/the-show-must-go-on/>

To purchase a copy of the book visit:  
[www.heidivictoria.com.au](http://www.heidivictoria.com.au)

Information about the exhibition location/times etc can be found via Facebook: @officialheidivictoria



# KNOXFIELD & SCORESBY NEWS



**Knoxfield Ladies Probus Club**  
by Beverly Bishop

Despite ever changing restrictions, the Knoxfield Ladies Probus Club booked our first meeting for 20th January at the Wantirna Club in Stud Road Wantirna to begin 2021 with confidence and positivity. As with other social Clubs, we are taking small steps to hopefully soon resume our usual fellowship, friendship and fun guidelines just as soon as it is safe to do so. We planned a guessing competition – which baby/toddler photo matches which current Club member – to keep us amused after our business part of the meeting, followed by the usual delicious lunch in the Bistro. We did manage to have a get-together lunch in early December after months of lockdown, which was thoroughly enjoyed despite missing our usual celebration of Christmas lunch, Kris Kringle, crackers and jokes. It was lovely to socialise after all those months of keeping to ourselves. Our next meeting at the Wantirna Club will be Wednesday 17th February at 10 am. Visitors are welcome. Call Jo on 0414 914 091 or Bev on 0429 439 131 for details of our Club and activities.



## Cr Nicole SEYMOUR

**Tirhatuan Ward Councillor**  
Knox Council  
✉ P.O. Box 2168, Rowville 3178

*"Thank you for your on-going support. May we achieve great outcomes for our community together."*

0427 245 834  
nicole.seymour@knox.vic.gov.au  
f Cr Nicole Seymour  
www.nicoleseymour.com.au



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## Kim WELLS MP

STATE MEMBER FOR ROWVILLE

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f KimWellsMP 🐦 KimWellsMP

Authorised by Kim Wells, Unit 4, 1335 Ferntree Gully Rd, Scoresby. Funded from Parliamentary Budget.



**A STRONG VOICE  
FOR SCORESBY  
AND KNOXFIELD**



# KNOXFIELD & SCORESBY NEWS



## Congratulations to the new Knox Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Cr Lisa Cooper has been elected Mayor of Knox City Council, with Cr Susan Laukens to serve as Deputy Mayor.

Cr Cooper said it was an honour to be chosen as Mayor among a newly-elected Council and she would embrace the opportunity to serve in this role in what continues to be a challenging time for the community.

"This is a dynamic new Council, and I feel blessed to be elected as Mayor to lead and represent such diverse individuals, who in their own right bring so much skill, insight and wisdom.

Cr Cooper thanked the outgoing Mayor, Cr Nicole Seymour for her leadership throughout the significant challenges of the past 12 months, and for her authentic compassion and care for the Knox community.

Newly-elected Councillor Susan Laukens was elected to serve as Deputy Mayor. Cr Laukens is the Friberg ward councillor. She is a registered nurse of over 25 years with a history of volunteering in the local community.

## NEWS FROM THE MAYOR

Cr Lisa Cooper

### Funding Win For Basketball Transformation

Basketballers of all levels will enjoy state of the art facilities right here in Knox with \$22 million in additional state government funding for the redevelopment of the State Basketball Centre.

The funding will further enhance the transformation of the State Basketball Centre in a jointly funded project between Knox City Council and the Victorian Government totalling \$130 million.

The project will deliver 10 new indoor community courts for local basketball competitions, landscaping, and new administration areas.

The upgrade will establish the State Basketball Centre as a leading facility for basketball in the country meeting growing demand for the sport among local players as well as creating new and improved facilities for gymnastics.

Knox City Council Mayor, Cr Lisa Cooper said increasing opportunities for participation and bringing visitors into Knox to celebrate sport would have widespread benefits for the local community.

"Both basketball and gymnastics are experiencing significant growth here in Knox and around the local region," said Cr Cooper.

"Growing the State Basketball Centre to meet this demand means local sportspeople of all ages, genders and abilities will have the chance to use professional facilities and experience the benefits of physical activity, team sport and the wonderful role modelling

that can come from elite sporting heroes."

"We are proud to see Knox maintain its reputation as the heartland of basketball in the country and provide more people with the opportunity to participate in their favourite sports."

"We are very grateful to Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy Premier James Merlino and the Victorian Government for supporting this project and our local and elite sportspeople."

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cr Cooper said major construction projects also played a key role in community recovery.

"Major projects like the State Basketball Centre redevelopment provide a great opportunity to keep local trades in business and skilled tradespeople in work."

The additional funding brings the Victorian Government's total contribution to \$105 million, with \$25 million to be provided by Council.



## Friberg Ward News

with Cr. Susan Laukens

Wishing you all a Happy and safe New Year for 2021. A sincere thank you to residents of Friberg ward for their vote of confidence in electing me to be their representative at Council for the next 4 years. I am deeply humbled by this opportunity to be your voice on local issues and advocating to other levels of government on your behalf.

On a personal note, we ended 2020 with a COVID normal Christmas in Victoria celebrating with friends and family. I was very appreciative to see my parents after many months of restrictions and to come together to share this special time and tradition with my family. I hope you had that opportunity too. The festive season was certainly a time for personal reflection and a chance to gather my thoughts and set goals personally and professionally for the year ahead.

Please reach out to me as your ward councillor and

I look forward to meeting you as I am out and about in the ward.

Our Major Road Median strips lack of maintenance concerns our community.

During the election period many residents raised with me their concerns on the unsightly unmown grass on major road median strips with potential hazards to site distances and fire risks. Following my enquiries to council I brought this to the attention of the local MP



**VICROADS: IT IS TIME TO MOW**

NICK WAKELING MP AND CR SUSAN LAUKENS ADVOCATE FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

Nick Wakeling who has agreed to raise this with the appropriate government department. Maintenance of the major road median strips is the responsibility of Vic Roads.

Community representatives of all levels of government need to work together to achieve the best outcomes for our community.

As your local councillor, I will advocate to our state and federal members to ensure our community needs are heard.

Christmas celebrations with Knoxfield Girl Guides It was my absolute pleasure to be invited to the Knoxfield Girl Guides end of year celebrations.

During COVID restrictions much of the groups' year had to be held on line - challenging at the best of time. Hearing of their experiences and the resilience and enthusiasm for the program as it was online was heartwarming. Seeing our youth members together enjoying the moment and then being recognised with awards for length of service to Girl Guides Victoria was wonderful to share. Information on joining Knoxfield guides visit [www.guidesvic.org.au](http://www.guidesvic.org.au)



## Susan Laukens

KNOX CITY COUNCIL FRIBERG WARD COUNCILLOR • PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY FIRST

LET ME KNOW WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

Call or text on 0437 882 913,

email me at [cr.susan.laukens@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.susan.laukens@knox.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.susanlaukensforknox.com.au](http://www.susanlaukensforknox.com.au)

SusanLaukensforKnox

## Wantirna Evening View Club

Wantirna Evening VIEW Club is a group of friendly women who meet and enjoy a social environment whilst knowing we are raising valuable funds for The Smith Family Learning For Life Program. We currently sponsor 6 students through the dedicated efforts of our ladies.

We raise the funds by holding raffles at our meetings, Bunning's BBQs; trips to the theatre (local and into city) or a cosy afternoon tea at a member's house.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except in January) at The Wantirna Club, 350 Stud Road, Wantirna 3152 – 7 pm for a 7:15pm start. A lift to go upstairs is available. We enjoy a delicious 2 course meal plus tea and coffee for \$30.00 and each meeting we have an interesting guest speaker.

We would love new members to join – any age group most welcome. Being an evening club our meeting time is suitable for the working lady or the lady who has day time commitments.

For more information, please call our President – Kate on 0421 650 684.



## What's been happening at the Ringwood Field Naturalists Club ?? by Alison Rogers

Our program has been totally re arranged for the last few months, with many speakers postponed to a later date. We are hoping that we will soon be able to continue with 'face to face' meetings

### Meetings

#### January

The Club kicked off the New Year with our January meeting on the 2nd Wednesday night of the month. Traditionally an outdoor meeting, this year we went to Warrandyte State Park to the area called 'Jumping Creek Reserve'. Here some members went on a walk along the river, whilst others joined us for a picnic tea. We then held our Annual General Meeting, which had been held off from September due to Covid restrictions.. It was lovely to catch up with the many familiar faces that we hadn't been able to see for many months.

#### February

Our February meeting will also be an outdoor meeting. A picnic tea at Yarra Bend with a short meeting. This will be followed by a short walk to where the Flying Foxes are roosting. We will watch their dusk flight where they head to the suburbs seeking nectar from flowering plants for food.

All welcome. Contact details below.

### Speakers

No speakers have been organised for now. Watch our website for more information in coming months.

## Ferntree Gully VIEW Club

Our monthly luncheon meetings are held on the 4th Monday (except in December) of each month and includes a 2 course lunch, tea/coffee at a cost of \$25. We have a meeting, then a speaker or entertainment. We support The Smith Family and raise money through our luncheons and in-house functions. We support 6 disadvantaged students through the 'Learning for Life' Program with the Smith Family. We also support a refuge for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Monday 22nd February, 2021  
Lunch & AGM (No speaker)

Monday 22nd March, 2021  
Lunch & Speaker - Dick Francis 'Funny Things Happen at Sea'.

If you want to join a club that is both welcoming and fun, come join us. Visitors are very welcome.

Time - 11.30am for a 12.00 noon start

Where - The Knox Club, corner Stud & Boronia Roads, Wantirna South

To book ring our President - Anne McPherson on 9801 2771

## Boronia VIEW Club

Boronia View club will recommence meeting again Feb 19th 11.00 am for 11.30 am start at Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool, Kilsyth and also for our birthday celebrations on the 19th March

Enquiries: Judith 9764 8602

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### Excursions

#### January - Leader Jackson Airey

The Ringwood Field Naturalists Club went for an excursion to Baluk Willam Nature Conservation Reserve in January.

This was our first group excursion for almost 12 months, and we were glad to be able to gather and walk in nature together, in a COVID safe way.

We were looking for summer orchids, although the weather was anything but summery – a top of about 12 degrees! We did two walks and were able to find the 4 orchids that we hoped to see – Hyacinth Orchids, Small and Large Tongue Orchids and an Onion Orchid.

We then had lunch at a nearby picnic area, before members headed home. It was so nice to be back in nature with friends, which is what our Club is all about.



Large Tongue Orchid  
Photo Jackson Airey

As you can see we have a very varied program and members enjoy learning a little about nature and this wonderful country we live in.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm in Room 4 at Maroondah Federation Estate, Greenwood Ave, Ringwood (Melway 49 H10).

All visitors are welcome.

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

Check out our Website  
<http://www.rfnc.org.au>

there is so much more to see and find out.

## How Will the Roll Back of Jobkeeper and Jobseeker Affect You?

By Melinda Kearsley, Financial Counsellor at EACH.

The New Year brings with it several changes to Centrelink support which has been provided due to the Coronavirus. While this situation is still somewhat fluid, the planned changes, some of which have already begun to come into effect, include:

- January: Reduced Jobkeeper and Jobseeker rates
- January: Reduced Temporary Coronavirus Supplement rate
- February: Temporary moratoriums on Centrelink repayments will end
- March: Waiting periods will be reinstated for Jobkeeper payments
- March: Temporary Coronavirus Supplement ends

As an example of what this will look like, the national poverty line for a single adult is defined by The Australian Council of Social Service as \$457 per week. The changes to Jobseeker payment which started on January 1st will provide \$357.85 per week for a single unemployed adult with no dependants. This includes the Coronavirus supplement of \$75, which will stop at the end of March.

From January 1st, unemployed single adults are living \$99.15 below the poverty line.

From April 1st this will blow out to \$174.15 per week below the poverty line.

Some of the expected outcomes of these changes include an increase in numbers of people living below the poverty line, and subsequently, increased mortgage and rental stress and an increase in homelessness.

### What can you do if you are experiencing financial difficulty?

- Contact creditors early. If the changes to your income will mean you can no longer afford to pay your debts, ask your lender how they can help you to manage the debt. The sooner you contact them the better.
- Reach out to your utilities companies. Let them know you are in financial difficulty and ask how

they can help. If you are already in arrears, hardship arrangements are available to help you

- Avoid the temptation to take on more debt or high interest loans. This can lead you into a spiral of debt that can be very hard to get out of.
- Reach out to your landlord or real estate agent if you are having trouble paying your rent and ask how they can help you. You may also be entitled to a rent-relief grant of \$3000 through Housing Vic if you apply by March 31st.
- Know your rights. The Consumer Affairs Victoria website provides information on your rights during this time.
- Know what you are entitled to. There are many concessions available through the DHHS website to those on low incomes or experiencing financial hardship you may not be aware of.
- Seek help from a Financial Counsellor. This is a free and confidential service and you do not need to be receiving Centrelink benefits to access supports. Financial Counsellors can provide information and options available to you, advocate on your behalf, and empower you to regain control of your financial situation.

### HELP IS AVAILABLE. THE SOONER YOU REACH OUT, THE MORE THAT CAN BE DONE!

#### Contacts:

Department of Health and Human Services:  
<https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/concessions-and-benefits>

#### Consumer Affairs Victoria:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/renting-laws-and-support-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic>

Housing Vic:

<https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/help-renting/rentrelief>

Financial counselling: EACH Financial Counselling  
 (03) 9871 1817

The National Debt Helpline 1800 007 007



Hello to all over50s and a belated Happy New Year from Knox Over50s Group.

At Knox Over50s we are a very friendly and sociable group who normally meet monthly from January to November and provide guest speakers, day and overnight trips, a book club, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings at the Myer Knox coffee lounge, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies.

Although most of our meetings and other activities were cancelled or postponed during 2020 we were very lucky to have a strong Committee who managed to keep us informed and in touch during the 2020 lockdowns. To top it all off we were able to have an informal open air Christmas gathering in the Arboretum on Dorset Road, Boronia. Wonderful!!

What has been missed by most is being able to socialise freely with others and to feel a strong sense of connection with our community.

Unfortunately we are still unable to have our normal monthly meetings in the Boronia Progress Hall, due to both State and Local Government rules. However, our very proactive Committee organised three events for January 2021 – including a Club Luncheon at Crave Restaurant in Boronia, morning tea at Banksia Nursery, Wantirna South and the coffee morning at Myer Knox Coffee lounge.

The Committee are presently looking at the possibility of informal meetings/gatherings in the open air until we are able to use the Progress Hall again.

If you feel you may be interested in joining our group, please contact Jill (on 9801 4363) for further information on upcoming events.

We have a monthly newsletter (Knox Natters Matter) which will keep you up to date with the many fun social activities available.

We look forward to hearing from you or, more importantly, seeing you in the near future.

2021!



**Welcome to this New Year,  
 New Friends, New Interests,  
 New Activities that we are  
 now free to enjoy!  
 So let's make the most of it!  
 The conveners have  
 planned well.**

We were able to visit 3 very interesting gardens. First was the Edible Garden in Yarra Glen, where we ate our way through, with our tour leader, educating us on the very healthy uses, and benefits of various plants. Then to another garden in Rowville. Such a keen gardener, and imagination+, it was beautiful. Back on the highway again, to Coldstream, to Gusti Orth's 100 year old 2 storey house, (Mansion), and spacious garden. So interesting, so much work, beautifully laid out. This included a vegetable garden, raspberries, thornless blackberries, and a Nursery where we were able to purchase plants.

Our programme includes the "Picnic in the Park" on Feb 11th and March 11th. This gig is BYO food, drinks and a chair. Meet at the Arboretum around the corner in Francis Ave in Ferntree Gully starting at 5 p.m. We're always home before dark.

Bookings are being taken for the Echuca Bus Trip in April 5days/4nights. I think the bus holds 40 persons. Accommodation, most meals, Paddle Steamer cruise on the Mighty Murray

To learn more about our friendly club i.e. Life Activities Club Knox Inc., and /or for a copy of our current newsletter, please ring: CAROL 0419 870 639



## Laughter Club News

Hello there. How uplifting it was to be back with our laughter friends in the park again after so long in lockdown! We're pleased to say that the Ferntree Gully Laughter Club has now returned and is meeting in person behind the Ferntree Gully Library. The scheduled days may be different; if you are coming please check with us first. The Zoom sessions will continue once a month as we have distance people now joining us.

I feel I need to talk about adding colour to your life and to combine it with choices. With the advent of Covid-19 most of us have been affected in major ways. Our freedom of liberties have been withdrawn, we have felt shut in, shut down, trapped etcetera. It has caused us to become flat, colourless, apathetic, even unconsciously. We may not yet fully realise how 2020 has influenced our demeanour, either positively or negatively. Would you agree?

We have the power within us, that is to say, it is our choice, to change all that. Even slowly, little by little, one step at a time. What can you do today to bring back that spark of joy, to feel uplifted? Most likely there is a simple behaviour that would aid in this situation. And of course to laugh often would be one superb decision to choose to do as a new positive habit.

One small thing is to do an everyday habit differently, to bring greater awareness into each day, each hour, each moment. I like the idea of adding colour and granted, that will not resonate with everybody, because many people are not drawn to colour. They may not possess much in the way of colourful clothes, nor have much colour around them in their home. People may naturally express in a quieter, more refined way. Anything can change if we choose it.

Adding colour to your life is not only physical, it is also what colour means, to lighten up, be more fun loving, positive, adventurous, different, a risk taker.

To consider colour and choices in our life we may like to sit down and do a little review of where we are at right now and our direction. Are our choices and what we do each day going towards what we wish to happen, or moving away from due to lack of focus and direction?

Let's refer to ourselves as 'Colourful Me'. Colourful Me discovers that each day can be a new adventure, that there is always something unseen to uncover and to be moved by. It helps to lift yourselves out of a mundane routine and implement something else to experience or experiment with. For example, a new hairstyle, hobby, challenge.

What would your Colourful Me reach out for? I feel one big thing we can all agree on is the upliftment when we see a beautiful sunset, which is made even brighter when outside somewhere in nature while watching it. Most people have learned in this last year to value the simple things of life and also that there is much to gain by connecting with nature more often, to do outdoorsy things. The garden has become a source of connection with nature in the past year for a lot of people.

How we live our life may feel like there is no other option, or going back, rewinding. Karmically there may not be an alternative, with no opportunity to get out of a binding situation. Does this sound like you?

If we can't change our circumstances right away or at all, there is that saying about being able to change one's attitude. Even prisoners of war were able to come through their experience when they held hope in their hearts.



Things to ponder for you. More laughter. Introduce colour and hope. Review your life. Make new choices. Work towards your goals. Increase your focus. Do something different. Laugh more!

I hope this stirs up something in you and would love to meet you for some laughter therapy.

Cheerio for now.

Until next time, laughter blessings. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lots of Love and Laughter, Lynette Mitchell.

Lynette & John Mitchell lead the free Community Ferntree Gully Laughter Club, which is on some Sundays.

Phone: 0425 799 258 or John on 0425 798 115

Email: [lynette@laughterforliving.com.au](mailto:lynette@laughterforliving.com.au)

## WANTIRNA DENTURE CLINIC

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B.Pod. M.A.Pod.A.  
**Podiatrist**



**PODIATRY**

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- Children
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- Sporting or Occupational Injuries
- Diabetic and Arthritic Foot Care
- Veterans Affairs

## Hands on Myotherapy



With the new year in full swing we have all again made adjustments to our daily 'normal'. Whether that be working from home instead of the office, less 'face-to-face' time events, changes to the way we keep fit and in our exercise routine or the need to wear face masks.

One major consequence of these changes that our practitioners have noticed is the increase in neck and shoulder problems for our clients. Mask wearing encourages you to tilt the head down to peer over the bridge of your nose and to jut the chin and jaw forward to re-adjust and/or to move the mask away from the mouth. Further, sitting at home desks has created a bad habit of poor posture and lack of breaks to stretch and rest.

These habits bring about a shortening of the muscles in the front of neck and chest and overstretch the muscles in the back of the neck and shoulders. Rounding of the shoulders then becomes a problem thus resulting in an imbalance of the upper body and neck.

Taking regular breaks to stretch the neck, shoulders and chest, along with the use of heat on tight muscles can help alleviate symptoms. Our practitioners will conduct a postural assessment at the time of your appointment and personalise a treatment plan to release muscles, reduce pain and advise you of corrective exercises and stretches.



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[enquire@handsonmyotherapy.com](mailto:enquire@handsonmyotherapy.com)

## News from Wantirna Osteopathy

by Dr. Jason Stone (Advanced Sports Osteopath)

### Flip Flop Backflip

The sun is making a more regular appearance and the shorts and skirts are back in town. The time consuming action of pulling on socks and lacing up shoes is rapidly being replaced by slipping on 'thongs!' Over recent years 'thongs' have evolved far beyond just a beach item or for showering in caravan parks. They are regularly seen worn with jeans at barbecues and beer gardens, exiting the footy clubs and gyms and doing the supermarket shopping.

Anyone who's walked into my clinic room wearing thongs/flip flops soon learns what I think about them. Unfortunately the iconic Aussie footwear is a cause of many musculoskeletal aches and pains. Those of you who've suffered plantar fasciitis, foot pain, heel pain, shin splints, calf pain, knee pain to mention a few, probably know exactly what I'm talking about.

Foot pronation (rolling inward of the feet) has long been a focus of podiatrists due to the increased workload on muscles in the arches, calf and shin, as well as the extra strain on the knees, hips and lower back. Many people have had orthotics (arch supports) prescribed to help cater for the support most footwear fails to provide. Unless you're wearing Birkenstock's



or other supportive thongs your thong is likely to cause foot pronation.

That's not the end of it!! As it's alter ego 'flip flop' suggests, the thong flips up and down with every step

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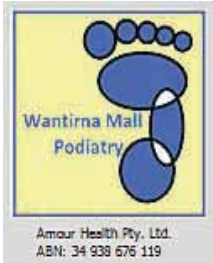
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creating that summer sound of slapping against your heel as you stroll along the hot asphalt. This flick of the rubber sole demands a great deal more work from the calf muscles whilst the arch muscles help your toes to cling onto the strap of the thong. Not surprising you get those heavy legs, cramping calves or tired feet after you've run around Knox City doing the Christmas shopping!!

And then ..... Archies came along. In a 'flip flop' backflip I have now come across a thong that I am happy to see on people's feet. Archies thongs, which we now stock for patient convenience, eliminate all those issues. The straps hug your feet, they are supportive, light, comfortable and look funky.

Next time you're looking for thongs or your legs and feet are aching, think Archies and pop into the clinic to checkout our range.



**Wantirna Mall Podiatry**  
Melina Linardatos (B. Pod, MAPA)  
4/322 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna  
Ph: 9720 1235  
Open: Tues – Fri 9am to 6pm  
Sat: 9am to 1pm  
[www.wantiramallpodiatry.com](http://www.wantiramallpodiatry.com)



Melina Linardatos

### School Shoes

It's important to seek advice on the correct fitting of school shoes. Standing, sitting, walking, running, jumping or skipping; children spend the most time growing in their school shoes.

To fit school shoes properly have your children's feet measured in length and width. School shoes should be protective, supportive and designed to fit the natural shape of the foot. Toe lengths and foot shapes naturally vary. Having a shoe too narrow or wide, short or long can cause pain and other issues. The toe area of the shoe should allow the toes to move freely and not squashed. Also, there should be around a thumbs width from the longest toe to the top end of the shoe when standing up to ensure proper length. The shoe should fit comfortably around the heel and not be too loose or too tight. Laces or a buckle is advisable so the shoe holds onto the foot, slip-on shoes can cause clawing of the toes. Store trained assistants can help you with this fitting process.



At Wantirna Mall Podiatry we can help ensure your children's school shoes fit correctly. A check-up is advised if you notice a problem with your children walking such as: constantly tripping, they are in pain, uneven shoe wear, if they walk on their tiptoes or their feet and or legs do not look symmetrical. We can also help if you notice any dermatological issues on the feet such as skin rashes, hard skin, lumps, bumps or itching. Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year and we hope to see you soon.



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## Wantirna Tennis Club News by Alison Rogers

### Australian Open -February 08 -2021

The Grand Slam season begins at the Australian Open,

Craig Tiley the Director of the Tournament said "This will be an historic Australian Open on so many levels,"

"For the first time in more than 100 years the Australian Open will start in February and we look forward to offering the players what we believe will be one of their best playing experiences in 2021.

"The 2021 Open will look a bit different and that's necessary to ensure the safety of everyone, from players, ball kids and the wider community."

We hope you all get enjoyment out of watching this great tennis tournament.

One of our Wantirna boys will be a 'ball kid' this year. More about his time in at the Open in the next newsletter.

### Did you know that:

Players will compete for more than \$80 million in prize money during their time in Australia, with the AO total prize pool remaining at the 2020 level of \$71.5 million. Players exiting in the first round of the AO will take home \$100,000, up 15 per cent from 2020. There have also been significant increases to prize money for qualifying and the early rounds, with the full breakdown to be provided in the coming weeks

### Social tennis

It is lovely to see our group of social players expanding each week. A great group of friendly players. If you don't feel you can commit to competition, or are not sure if you are good enough to play tennis, come on down on a Tuesday morning and have a hit with some of the social players at the Club.

You don't know till you have a go. All standards are welcome. Enclosed grounds keep young children safe and while they enjoy the playground you can have a hit. Play starts at 9-30am and it is only \$2.

All welcome.



### Midweek Ladies

Did you play tennis when you were younger? Why not come down to Wantirna Tennis Club and join one of our teams. Senior Ladies tennis is held on Thursdays with two seasons of competition per year. A good way to stay fit and meet new people. We are always looking for new players down at the Club. If you would like to play competition give us a call. Rotating teams are available so you can have the occasional day off.

### About Wantirna Tennis Club.

Visit our website for details on how to join our Club. We have excellent facilities, including two new BBQs, covered with a recently installed shade cloth sail. We have 9 tennis courts and a Coaching area in the terrific setting of Wantirna Reserve. We offer a range of competitive tennis and social tennis for both adults and juniors with an excellent coaching programme, plus Hot Shots and Cardio tennis. With safe access

### Coaching

#### Troy & Mike Tennis set for a big 2021

We are excited to be launching our brand new coaching program exclusively now at Wantirna Tennis Club. We will now be offering all levels of coaching every day with Hot Shots red-green

stage, Junior and Senior squads. Adults don't miss out with Cardio Tennis running every day as well. Anyone interested in joining any of our programs please call Mike on 0433511904 or email [enquiries@troyandmiketennis.com](mailto:enquiries@troyandmiketennis.com)

See you on the court.

Troy, Mike, Billy & Dan.



into the complex and beautiful grounds set in the peaceful Wantirna Reserve with the Knox/East link bike track going right past our front door. Give us a call to get more details and information on membership or tennis coaching.



At Wantirna you can always see what is happening by checking out our website or face book page.

**Club coaching team: Troy & Mike 0424693005 or email [enquires@troyandmiketennis.com](mailto:enquires@troyandmiketennis.com)**

**Coaching Face book: [www.facebook.com/troyandmiketennis.com](http://www.facebook.com/troyandmiketennis.com)**

**Wantirna Tennis Club Inc Melway Ref: 63C8**

**Wantirna Reserve, Cnr Mountain Hwy and Burwood Hwys Wantirna**

**PO Box 5295 Studfield 3152**

**Club Secretary: Alison 0408576025 or email [wantirnatennis@gmail.com](mailto:wantirnatennis@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.tennis.com.au/wantirnac/](http://www.tennis.com.au/wantirnac/)**

**WTC Face book: [www.facebook.com/.../Wantirna-Tennis-Club](http://www.facebook.com/.../Wantirna-Tennis-Club)**



## Templeton Tennis Club News

by Don McCracken , President

### Welcome back to TTC news for 2021.

Our summer competitions recommenced over the weekend of the 30th January. Accordingly, there aren't too many weeks left until this season is complete with finals in March.

At the time of writing, (mid Jan) we have 10 of 15 junior teams and the seniors have all 3 teams currently in the top 4. Let's hope the good form stays with us after the long Christmas break! Mid week ladies, Wednesdays and Thursdays recommenced the week of the 25th January.

The next Saturday season (winter) will be upon us very shortly so if you are interested in playing competition commencing in April please make contact with one of our conveners'. Seniors, Brad King 0437 856 393 or Juniors, Pam Stewart 0402 080 054.

Night competitions: Monday and Wednesday nights are back in full swing as of the 3rd February and progressing well. Come for a look and maybe join us. If you are interested in any level of competition be it

day, night, social or just looking for some exercise give us a call on 0425 748 138.

For those of you who have been following the progress of our major works program we are nearly there!!! The first 2 banks (6 courts) are complete and being used over the holiday break.

All being well the last of the courts will be complete by mid February. We thank Council again for their want and willingness to keep our Club as a show piece.

Our coach, Kelly Bisinella, runs a highly successful coaching program at the club for all levels. Give her a ring! Straight Sets 0414 874 482.

Check out our website, [www.templetontennis.com.au](http://www.templetontennis.com.au) for details of those who support us, our sponsors, and give them a call. Let us return the favour, don't forget to mention that you are a Templeton Tennis Club member. Barry Plant Wantirna and Integrity Cabinets.

Come and join us at the family club, your club, the Templeton Tennis Club.

All the best for 2020.

**Templeton Tennis Club Inc.**  
**Templeton Reserve, Templeton St**  
**Wantirna 3152. Melway Ref. 63 G9**  
**Membership: Leanne 9887 1957**  
**Clubhouse: 9887 3505**  
**President: Don 0425 748 138**  
**Coaching: Kelly 0414 874 482**  
**Website: [www.templetontennis.com.au](http://www.templetontennis.com.au)**  
**Email: [president@templetontennis.com.au](mailto:president@templetontennis.com.au)**



**Special Olympics Australia** 

**Melbourne Eastern Ranges, MER**

Welcome to our official **RAID!**  
**Our Return And Invitation Day**  
 21st February 2021  
 10.30 am start to 1.30pm

**A celebration of our Return to sport and an Invitation for new athletes!**

MER offers a year-round multi-sports program for people with an intellectual disability – of all capabilities.

Proudly supported by



This is a great chance to find out all about Special Olympics and the opportunities offered to people from Juniors to adults...interested in playing sport

**Knox Italian Community Club,**  
**99 Karoo Road, Rowville**

**Our Sports**



Please let us know that you are coming. Contact Kylie Wilson on:

☎ 0400 534 906  
 ✉ [melbourneeasterranges.info@specialolympics.com.au](mailto:melbourneeasterranges.info@specialolympics.com.au)  
 By 12 February

Special Olympics Australia is the not-for-profit organisation that transforms the lives of people with an intellectual disability through regular sports participation. All donations are tax deductible. ABN 28 050 738 728

**Special Olympics Australia**



**Melbourne Eastern Ranges**

Special Olympics Australia has announced the winners of the National Awards for 2020

**National Athlete of the Year 2020 award is Bradley Parratt**

it does not stop here

National Volunteer of the Year 2020 award is

**Michael Migliaccio**

Bradley and Michael, you so deserve this recognition!

Both Bradley and Michael live in the City of Knox

It's important to remember that there are around 7,000 athletes and 1,100 volunteers with SOA

Congratulations, what an achievement!



Bradley Parratt



Michael Migliaccio



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