

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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EDITION 99

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

- FINAL DESIGNS UNVEILED FOR THE BORONIA STATION UPGRADE
- SURGE IN DEMAND FOR RELIEF SERVICES IN KNOX
- MEET THE TEAM AT COMMUNITY BANK WANTIRNA
- ST LUKES PRIMARY SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL

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Studfield Wantirna Community News

URGENTLY SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS

Members of our current team are retiring following our 100th edition in February, 2026. If Community News is to continue, we need some new team members to help with the production of the Paper.

No experience necessary, just some of your time.

It's a great way to get involved in your local community!

Roles include: administration, story writing, proof reading, formatting, bookkeeping, photography, distribution etc.

Join us to find out more!

VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

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Edition 100 - February/March – Friday 16th January

Edition 101 - April/May - Friday 13th March

Edition 102 - June/July - Friday 15th May

Edition 103 - August/September - Friday 17th July

Edition 104 - October/November - Friday 11th September

Edition 105 - December/January - Friday 13th November

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Content

Bayswater News	Page 3-5
Around Knox	Page 6-7
Wantirna News	Page 8-10
Education News	Page 11
Library News	Page 12
Arts & Entertainment	Page 13-15
Knoxfield & Scoresby News	Page 16
Environmental News	Page 18-19
News In Good Health & Wellbeing	Page 20-21
Community News	Page 22-25
Sport News	Page 26-27

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Editorial

Hello Community News Readers,

How does our community find the key to happiness in society?

According to findings in The World Happiness Report, happy communities have a combination of strong social connections, good health, and a supportive environment with a strong sense of trust and generosity. A sense of community and shared purpose can also significantly increase a society's overall well-being. Critical factors include:

- High-quality relationships providing emotional support, a sense of belonging, and a buffer against stress.
- Being part of something bigger than yourself and having connections linked to purpose.
- A healthy life expectancy.
- Personal freedom to make life choices.
- A higher level of trust and generosity among citizens.
- A strong sense of community and unity with support systems that benefit everyone.
- A trustworthy and well-functioning government creating a positive and functional society for citizens.

Janet Claringbold, Editor.



Thanks to Orana Neighbourhood House and Knox Library for generously providing a room for our meetings.

Bayswater Electorate Update

BAYSWATER NEWS

Final Designs Unveiled For Boronia Station Upgrade

From the office of Jackson Taylor MP, Member for Bayswater

The Allan Labor Government is getting on with delivering a modern, accessible and safer Boronia Station precinct, releasing the final designs ahead of early works starting in the coming weeks.

Minister for Transport Infrastructure Gabrielle Williams today unveiled the designs which feature a striking new station forecourt canopy inspired by nearby Dandenong Ranges flora and an expanded concourse to improve connections across the rail line.

A new landscaped plaza between the station and Dorset Road will create more green space and seating, while also providing a new community meeting place and simplifying pedestrian movement between the station and Boronia's shopping precinct.

The station concourse will be widened with the ticket office relocated to the Erica Avenue entry and the protective services office moved to the Lupton Way entrance – boosting safety through improved visibility across the plaza and station area.

Accessibility will be enhanced with an upgraded pick-up and drop-off zone on Lupton Way, better footpaths to both station entrances and more bike hoops and improved cycling connections.

We've listened to community feedback with commuters also benefiting from new platform shelters, seating and improved lighting providing comfort and protection from the weather while additional lighting and CCTV across the precinct will further improve safety.

As part of the project a new pocket park near the Boronia Junction Shopping Centre will feature garden beds, trees, seating and a nature play area creating a welcoming green space for the community.

Early works will begin in the coming weeks including traffic light upgrades at the Dorset and Chandler roads intersection to add a dedicated right-turn arrow for drivers.

The Boronia Station upgrade will be completed next year following major works that have already made the Belgrave Line boom gate free between Ferntree Gully and Melbourne's CBD, and the Lilydale Line level crossing free – improving safety and reducing congestion across Melbourne's outer east.

The final designs and further information can be viewed at bigbuild.vic.gov.au/boroniastationupgrade.





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Jackson Taylor MP
Member for Bayswater
Delivers for Knox

Suite 2, Mountain High Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater Vic 3153 ☎ 9738 0577
f @ Jackson Taylor MP 📧 jackson.taylor@parliament.vic.gov.au

Elm Street Mission More To Offer in 2026

This year, Elm St Mission introduced new programs while continuing their open-door program. And they are set to introduce another new program called 50s+ Friends in the first half of 2026. This program aims to create connections for people aged 50+, from all walks of life, experiencing life's ups and downs or social isolation. The program will include some expert-led conversations on mental health, wellbeing, grief and loss; it will celebrate cultural diversity and provide information on local services. The main aim is enjoyment and connection, with useful information added to the mix.

"We have had a terrific year," said Program Coordinator, Ethne Pfeiffer. "We've made new friends in the community, developed a new program Care4Carers with Women's Health East and received much needed funding from Bendigo Bank and Knox City Council. And our open-door program has been well attended by regular and new participants."

The pilot program Care4Carers ran from October to November. It was for women carers to enjoy some time out, connect with others, have a chat and feel free to be themselves. Vasudha Harte, music therapist, joined for 6 sessions playing harp for the group as well as guitar and ukulele. "Music is a universal language for sharing feelings and creating connection," said Ethne. "It was a fun addition to the program! We also had guest presenters and offered art activities while we chatted about topics of importance to carers, including self-care." Elm St Mission and Women's Health East hope to run this program again in 2026.



Ethne with Mary Doyle MP (centre) and Marg at Elm St Mission

Elm St Mission also introduced Life Matters, a discussion session where participants could raise topics from theology to mental health and how we embrace life in our modern world. These were occasional Monday afternoon sessions led by professionals in the field.

On 22 November, Elm St Mission celebrated their sixth birthday and raised funds toward a defibrillator. "This is a much-needed item for programs such as ours – and we are grateful for all the interest and engagement on the day. Our friends and supporters are so generous," said Ethne.

Their core open-door program runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays – during school terms – and continues to provide connection for younger and older adults.

Some of the feedback includes: "Elm St Mission is a great support to my Mum and myself. We look forward to each Wednesday to meet fellow friends and travellers. They are like our support group, and the volunteers do an amazing job which we really appreciate." "This is my happy place." "We're like family." "I like the activities. I like singing. I like practising conversation." "I look forward to getting out of bed and coming here."

A major highlight for 2025 was receiving funding from 2 different grant programs. "We received funding from Bendigo Bank Ringwood, Boronia & Bayswater for 'Activities Furniture' and funding from Knox City Council's Community Development Fund grant program for 50s+ Friends," added Ethne. "Programs like ours rely on financial support from organisations such as these. With their support, we can create opportunities for people in the community – free of charge – so that no-one misses out for financial reasons."

For more information:

Phone: 0428 330 873 Email: info@elmstmission.org.au

Address: Elm St Mission, 654 Mountain Highway, Bayswater

Web: elmstmission.org.au

Facebook: ElmStMission

BAYSWATER NEWS

Bayswater Bowls Club News

The Fun is Back in Fridays

Friday night fun is back at Bayswater Bowls Club as we well and truly head into the warmer weather and longer nights.

Essentially we are throwing the doors open at 43 Phyllis St, Bayswater, every Friday night between 4.00 pm and 7.30 pm so that you can check out the club and see what this caper Lawn Bowls is all about.

And that is a sport that's truly accessible and can be played by almost anyone regardless of their age, gender or physical attributes.

It provides good, healthy, gentle exercise, and is played in a sportsman-like manner that encourages friendships.

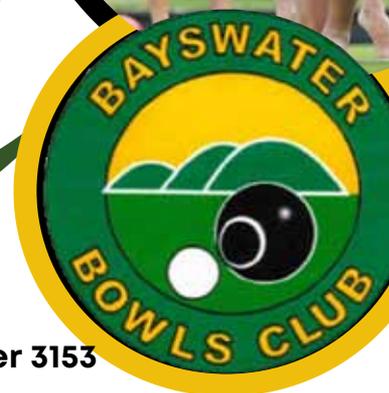
So we are giving you a chance to try it out through "barefoot bowls" where we will provide the equipment and give you a crash course on how to play. No need to book.

And, at Bayswater Bowls Club, we pride ourself in our friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and we're proud of our solar-powered facilities: a large, airy clubhouse and a well-stocked bar (with special member prices), a veranda with great views over the Dandenongs, two accessible all-weather floodlit artificial greens in a pleasant garden setting with plenty of off-street parking.

www.bayswaterbowlsclub.com or phone 9729 8312.

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Doug:
0490 133 953

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BAYSWATER NEWS

Introducing....

Meraki Early Learning Centre

Meraki Early Learning Centre Bayswater is a warm, welcoming environment where children are inspired to learn, explore and grow.

Our purpose-built centre provides engaging indoor and outdoor spaces designed to spark curiosity and support every stage of early development. With a team of dedicated, highly qualified educators, we offer personalised care that nurtures each child's confidence, independence and sense of belonging.

At Meraki Early Learning Centre, learning is hands-on and joyful. Our play-based programs encourage creativity, problem-solving and a love of discovery, while our funded kindergarten supports children in building the knowledge and skills, they need for a smooth transition to school. Families value our strong communication, genuine relationships and commitment to providing a safe, supportive community.

Located in the heart of Bayswater, Meraki Early Learning Centre invites local families to experience high-quality early education in a caring, inspiring setting where children truly thrive. Book in a tour today and discover the Meraki difference.

Heba Maroush
Operations Manager
Meraki Early Learning Centres
E. heba@merakielc.com.au

Special Christmas Market

Bayswater Makers' Market

Bayswater Senior Citizens Hall, 790 Mountain Highway

Saturday, December 13

10am to 2pm

Free entry with plenty of off-street parking

Find the perfect Christmas gifts for your family and friends. Choose from a wide range of lovingly handmade and often unique items. We have cakes, chocolates, condiments, homewares, plants, gifts, toys, jewellery, bags, babywear, cards, fresh flowers, wood crafts, books by local authors, and lots of Christmas themed items including decorations. Something for everyone and every age.

Sit down and enjoy tea or coffee and biscuits for a gold coin donation.

Christmas bonus: receive a ticket for an entry in our free raffle with every purchase. Prizes drawn each hour starting at 11.30am.

Please email any enquiries about stall bookings to bw1market@bigpond.com
Please include some photos.

Other enquiries:
Julia 9890 2546





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Mayor's Message with Cr. Lisa Cooper



Advocating For Knox

Reflecting on the year, Council worked hard advocating to all sides of politics for greater investment in our community — particularly during a federal election year.

We highlighted the need for better roads and public transport and advocated for funding towards upgrading clubrooms, sports grounds and sports field lighting across Knox. We secured funding commitments of \$4.8M to redevelop pavilions at Carrington Park and Templeton Reserve, and \$10M towards upgrading the intersection of High Street Road and Mowbray Drive in Wantirna South.

It takes all sides of politics and all levels of government working together to ensure that our community thrives.

Coming Together As A Community

We know it has been a tough year for many with more people than ever reaching out for help with food and other emergency relief in Knox.

This year, Council responded to surging community need by entering into a lease with Outer East Foodshare to operate a food relief distribution centre

in Wantirna. They are using Council's building to sort, store and distribute supplies from Foodbank and other agencies to over 46 local services who support residents in need.

If you live in Knox and need help with food and other emergency relief, visit knox.vic.gov.au/relief-providers

Seeing Out The Year

As we approach the end of 2025, it's a time to look out for each other as a community and events like the Knox Carols are a way for us to come together as one. I invite everyone to this free family event hosted by Council on Saturday 13th of December at Wally Tew Reserve in Ferntree Gully. Now in its 24th year, the Carols event regularly attracts up to 25,000 people. It runs from 4pm–9.30pm, kicking off with family entertainment, kids' activities and performances from the Knox Factor 2025 winners. The main show starts at 7.30pm, with a fireworks finale at 9.30pm. I hope to see you there.

Councillor Lisa Cooper

Note: This edition was sent to print before a Council meeting to elect the new Mayor on 20 November.

AROUND KNOX

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Maggie Smith's Knox Masters Journey



I have been a member of the Victoria Knox Masters Athletic club for 11 years. I first learned about it from a poster in the Boronia library.

It was a program called "Run Safely Tonight", due to the antisocial attention in the area. Some runners were being harassed by the antisocial element. Knox Council decided to launch a safety program.

I am not a good runner, more of a plodder, but have managed to run with very few injuries. I have enjoyed spin off events, parkrun, neighbouring Vic Masters venue events, social get

together.

It is in this spirit I decided to nominate my wonderful, local club. I was thrilled to learn that we made it to the finalist list. We did not win the top award but were presented with a certificate.

History started again that evening. I felt like we had won the top award anyway, a chance to share my journey with the most wonderful club that has been in the Knox area for nearly 36 years.

Surge in Demand For Relief Services in Knox From Knox Infolink

Anyone with any doubt about the impact of the rising cost of living needs only to look at the dramatic increase in demand for relief services at Knox Infolink in Boronia.

During 2024-2025, Knox Infolink experienced a 25 per cent increase in demand for food relief compared to the previous year.

This translated to an additional 60 people each week seeking assistance. The agency conducted interviews with an extra 500 individuals requesting support, with a total of 2000 people being interviewed throughout the year.

Material aid distribution increased by 50 per cent.

Material aid included essential items such as tents, swags and cooking equipment for those sleeping rough, prescription medicine assistance, help with utility bills, clothing, mobile phone top-ups, MYKI card top-ups, petrol vouchers and toiletry packs.

Service Delivery Statistics

In total, Knox Infolink provided nearly 35,000 points of service over the 12-month period.

A single point of service might include a toiletry pack, with some individuals receiving multiple points of service.

On average, the agency served around 300 community members each week. Of these, about 165 accessed emergency relief services, while 145 received a nutritious, free meal through the community breakfast program.

Client Demographics

Of those served in 2024-2025, 54 per cent were first-time clients. The majority, 67 per cent, resided in Boronia, Ferntree Gully, or Bayswater.

Housing situations varied among clients: 31 per cent lived in private rentals, 20 per cent in public



rentals, 22 per cent were homeless, 10 per cent were mortgagors or dwelling owners and seven per cent were in supported accommodation.

Changing Community Needs

A closer examination of the agency's statistics reveals a 58 per cent increase in employed community members seeking support and there was an 81 per cent rise in requests for assistance from individuals with no income.

Housing affordability became a more acute issue, with a 72 per cent increase in community members experiencing mortgage stress and a 25 per cent increase in those in private rentals seeking support.

AROUND KNOX

Organisational Challenges and Achievements

Addressing the agency's recent Annual General Meeting, Knox Infolink board chair Denise Budge described the year as one of challenges, with ongoing uncertainty around funding security, but also one of achievements.

Following a community-wide lobbying campaign the agency secured \$150,000 from the state government with assistance from State Bayswater MP Jackson Taylor.

This funding will support the continuation of the much-needed community breakfast program for another 12 months, but support from other government sources for other Knox Infolink services has been reduced.

New Initiatives

Despite facing funding challenges, Knox Infolink launched several new initiatives in 2024-2025. These included an out-of-hours food pantry outside its Boronia Road office offering free food and information outside regular office hours.

How to Support Knox Infolink

Knox Infolink welcomes new volunteers as well as donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and other material aid items.

Financial donations can be made via Knox Infolink's website at www.knoxinfolink.org.au All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Contact Information

For further enquiries about Knox Infolink and its services, please contact:

Penny Robinson, Knox Infolink manager

Phone: 9761 1325

Email: pennyr@knoxinfolink.org.au

I'M HERE TO HELP!

My Aston Electorate Office can assist you with information about Federal Government services, including:

- Services Australia
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- Medicare
- Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- Immigration, citizenship and customs
- Passports
- Pensions, and My Aged Care
- Child support
- Veterans' Affairs

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to date



Get in touch

- ✉ mary.doyle.mp@aph.gov.au
- 📍 Suite 4, Level 1, 420 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South, VIC 3152
- ☎ (03) 9887 3890
- 🌐 www.marydoyle.com.au
- 📱 @marydoylemp

Mary Doyle MP
Federal Member for Aston





What's Happening At Community Pharmacy?

with Peter,
Pharmacy Manager



December Craft Market and VIP Day!!!

We are gearing up for one of the most exciting days of the year with our much-loved Annual VIP Event on Sunday 14th of December 2025, which we are running alongside a lively outdoor Craft Market from 10am to 1pm.

Proudly supported by Community Bank Wantirna, Lions Club of Wantirna, Bayswater Fire Brigade – CFA, and Ritchies IGA Wantirna, the day is shaping up to be a true community celebration packed with festive fun for families, shoppers, and locals of all ages.

One of the most anticipated moments will be the arrival of Santa who will be delivered in style aboard the CFA Bayswater Fire Truck. Be at the Mall from 10 to see this annual tradition. After his dramatic entrance, Santa will wander through the mall stopping to chat, pose for photos, and greet his young (and young-at-heart) friends.

Families can also look forward to a host of fun and entertainment including balloon artists, live music, Sausage Sizzle and face painters who will be on-site bringing colour, smiles, and plenty of Christmas cheer.

Meanwhile, our own Annual VIP Event will offer shoppers some of the best deals of the year. Visitors can expect:

- Large storewide discounts on Giftware, Cosmetics, the Scholl shoe range, and Fragrances.
- Exciting door prizes.
- Special gifts with purchase are on offer, and of course.
- The warm, knowledgeable service the pharmacy team is known for.

With market stalls, festive activities, community partners, and exclusive VIP offers, the Wantirna Mall VIP Day promises to be a highlight of the Christmas season.

Mark your calendar, bring the family, and get ready to celebrate a wonderful day in the heart of Wantirna.



Skin Care

We're shining a spotlight on skin health, with a special focus on supporting individuals and families living with eczema and other sensitive-skin conditions. Eczema is one of the most common chronic skin conditions in Australia, affecting around 16% of Australians at some point in their lives, particularly children. The condition can cause intense itching, irritation, and discomfort, which can significantly impact sleep, confidence, and overall wellbeing.

A key part of managing eczema is understanding how to care for the skin properly. Our pharmacists are here to help clear up the confusion. Throughout November and December our team is available to:

- Explain correct topical use.
- Recommend gentle skincare options suited to dry, irritated, or eczema-prone skin.
- Offer clinical services, including medication reviews and skin-health consults to support long-term management.

We can also guide you through choices such as soap-free washes, soothing cleansers, long-lasting moisturisers and bath-care products designed to calm irritated skin and help prevent flare-ups. Many of these options are suitable for sensitive skin, children, and even babies from six months of age.

If you or a family member struggles with eczema or dry sensitive skin, drop in and speak with our friendly team. We're here to provide personalised advice and help you build a simple effective skincare routine to keep your skin comfortable, healthy, and protected.

Colouring Competition

Here's your chance to join the fun! Pop into the store and grab a colouring sheet for our Christmas Colouring Competition! 2

Enter the draw to win the fabulous prize pictured here (just look at that irresistible toy in the corner!). Whether you're young or just young at heart, don't miss out!! Collect your sheet today and let your creativity shine for your shot at winning.



2025 Coming To A Close!

As we reach the end of another year it's a great time to pause, catch our breath, and appreciate the moments, big and small, that have shaped our community.

The holiday season looks different for everyone, but however you spend it, we hope it brings a chance to rest, reconnect, and enjoy the people and places that matter most.

Thank you for being part of such a supportive neighbourhood, and here's to a safe, enjoyable holiday period and a fresh, positive start to the new year.

Community Pharmacy Wantirna

Shop 3-4 Wantirna Mall
348 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna

(03) 9720 2872

OPEN 7 DAYS

E: wantirna@communitypharmacy.com.au

Remember to jump on to our website, sign up to our newsletter and follow us on Facebook & Instagram to keep up to date with all our latest news!

Website: www.communitypharmacy.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/communitypharmacywantirna/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/communitypharmacywantirna/

News from Community Bank Wantirna

There's plenty happening at Community Bank Wantirna, with new team members bringing fresh energy, experience, and expertise to the branch — all while continuing the bank's proud tradition of local connection and community care.

Meet Mark Davenport – Senior Lending Manager

The team is thrilled to welcome Mark Davenport as the new Senior Lending Manager. With more than 20 years of banking experience Mark's background spans everything from retail to commercial lending giving him a deep understanding of how to find the right financial solutions for every customer.

Mark's appointment means shorter lead times on home loans, greater efficiency, and a more personalised experience for customers — ensuring your lending journey is smoother than ever before.

Customers are encouraged to make an appointment with Mark on 0439 188 824 for a FREE Home Loan Health Check — a simple way to see if you're still getting the best deal available.

WANTIRNA NEWS

Your Lending Specialist

Mark Davenport
Senior Lending Manager

0439 188 824
mark.davenport
@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Malvern East, Murrumbeena, Wantirna

Bendigo Bank



Say Hello to George – Personal Banker

Say hello to George, your friendly Personal Banker at Community Bank Wantirna. George has recently stepped into this role following Declan's promotion to Community Bank Murrumbeena, bringing a wealth of experience and a strong background in communication and customer service. He's dedicated to ensuring every customer leaves the branch in a better position than when they arrived, whether it's your first visit or you're a regular.

When asked what he loves about Community Banking, George says:

"What appeals to me most about the Community Banking Model is that the community is at the heart of the bank's decision-making. It's not just about profit — it's about people."

Outside of work, he's a self-described football tragic, playing local footy and cheering on the Melbourne Demons at the MCG. He's also been a dedicated rower for the past 10 years — early mornings don't scare him!

Fun fact: George puts exactly five teaspoons of Milo in his milk — no more, no less!



Introducing Jo and Jasmine



Meet Jo
your local
Customer Advisor



Meet Jasmine
your local
Customer Advisor

Also, part of our team at the Wantirna branch are two friendly faces, Jo and Jasmine, both bringing dedication to their roles as Customer Service Advisors.

Jo's caring nature, strong empathy, and ability to connect with people make her a wonderful addition to the team. She's passionate about children's welfare and animal rescue causes, and outside of work enjoys reading, walking, and dog sitting.

Jasmine brings over five years of customer service experience and loves the personal connections she builds with customers every day. Outside of work, she leads an active and creative life, having been a competitive calisthenics performer for more than a decade.

Be sure to say hello to Jo and Jasmine next time you visit the branch — they're always happy to help with a smile.

Congratulations, Declan

The Wantirna team also celebrates the promotion of Declan to Home Finance Manager at Community Bank Murrumbeena. Having served as a Personal Banker at Wantirna, Declan has built strong customer relationships and a reputation for his dedication and professionalism.

With his two university degrees and passion for helping people achieve their financial goals, Declan will no doubt continue to make a great impact at our sister branch. Congratulations, Declan — the Wantirna team is proud of you!

Community Bank Wantirna continues to grow with a focus on efficiency, personal service, and strong community relationships — ensuring customers always feel supported, understood, and connected.

Wantirna South Probus Club News

By Andrew Field

Wantirna South Probus Club's outing for October was a visit to Guide Dogs Victoria in Kew. Fifty-two members and family attended and we were welcomed to this amazing facility by CEO Nicky Long and her dedicated team.

Nicky introduced us to the important work done for people who are blind or have low vision. A wide range of services are provided, not the least being the matching of a client and a guide dog. Many were surprised to hear that it costs \$100,000 to train each guide dog. Guide Dogs Victoria only receive 13% of their revenue from government funding so reliance is very much on donations and philanthropic support



Given the terrific number of attendees, we were split into two groups to ensure everybody was able to get the full experience of our visit. We heard about the history of Guide Dogs Victoria and that the site has a Peppercorn Lease with the Victorian Government. The contribution of volunteers throughout all stages has been remarkable.



A client told us of their journey to be partnered with a guide dog. They lived on the Mornington Peninsula and needed to find their way to the city to attend university. A crucial aspect of being assessed as suitable to have a guide dog is to display exceptional cane skills. Having turned 16 years of age, it would take a number of years before the client was paired.

As a special surprise for the club, we observed a training session conducted by a senior instructor with one of the younger dogs. The safe navigation through barriers is a fundamental skill the dog needs to master. Another activity demonstrated was assisting the client to locate the pedestrian button at traffic lights.

Morning tea was a chance to view a litter of eleven pups born the previous night via streaming. Ambassador dogs got lots of pats and the only puppy available was able to have playtime with the youngsters, plus some of the lucky members.

We are sure that our visit was a massive learning experience in understanding the amazing work done which extends beyond the guide dog service with the additional support, such as allied health services and tailored assistance to those who are blind or have low vision, their families and carers.

Thanks to the generous donations by our members, we were able to provide Guide Dogs Victoria with a donation of \$800 to support this magnificent organisation.

Girl Guides Provide SERVICE

All through history Girl Guides have provided service to their community and country.

At our beginnings, more than 110 years ago, this saw Girl Guides participating in community gatherings, assisting with resource collections, donations to soldiers during times of conflict to providing first aid supplies, first aid training and providing first aid. The modern appearance of events like Clean Up Australia Day and tree planting in parks continue this tradition.

Wantirna Heights Girl Guides know that providing service to their local community has many benefits. The primary group being helped feels the direct impact of the efforts of the Girl Guides. The parents and carers of the Girl Guides see their family values being reinforced through the efforts of the Girl Guides. The biggest impact is actually with Girl Guides themselves (and often they don't recognise it!).

The Girl Guides are being physically active, mentally creative, using their conversational skills, connected face to face with each other, working together, laughing together and seeing real world results for their efforts. With external people and organisations acknowledging their efforts our Guides experience a massive positive impact through increased confidence and self-esteem.

Our recent service activities have been varied. Tree planting along Dandenong Creek on the City of Knox side, saw another patch planted with seedlings. Palliative care patient bags are decorated by the Girl Guides and used by staff to return patient belongings in a more personal thoughtful way. Food bank donations collected over several weeks for our closest community support service to distribute.



At Wantirna Heights we have opportunities across both units for girls aged 6-15 years to come along and experience Girl Guides. Please reach out and arrange your three FREE visits.

You can find out more about Guides in your area scanning the QR code or visiting www.guidesvic.org.au/be-a-guide



Wantirna Heights Probus Club News

Earlier this year our members enjoyed a 5 day tour of Lakes Entrance and surrounds. All present and accounted for we headed off with Deb and Tony from Spirit Travel whose personal approach and attention to detail was amazing. We were based at Glenara Motel RSL in Lakes Entrance which was comfortable and convenient. Along the way there was shared laughter, conversation, seating allocation, photos, jokes, and lollies. Now we have memories of lots of walking, eating, hurdling obstacles, comparing the number of steps covered and op-shopping! Some of the highlights included Hidden Gems Walhalla, where the main Road and short train ride followed the unforgiving valley floor that once was a major gold mining town. Now the gold is its history and the wattle trees.

We visited Stoney Creek trestle bridge which was built in 1916 from local red ironbark and grey box timber. It is 247m long and 20m high. An awe-inspiring structure, a testament to the fortitude and ingenuity of its builders. To many of us it is now a ghostly figure in the middle of nowhere but back then it was a life line.

St Mary's Church Bairnsdale is a normal looking red brick church from the outside, but upon entering the interior is a complete surprise. An overall vision of colour and stories to feast the eyes. The paintings were executed by Italian Francesco Floreani between 1931-34. He was paid a minimal wage with food and board (depression years). Nyerimlang (meaning chain of lakes) homestead was built in 1891 and became the

holiday home of Francis Stuart (Melbourne) House. Guests included business and political cronies of his time. It is now a time capsule from this bygone era. It is set in gardens overlooking (Reeves River-south end of the lakes system. Now in peace and tranquillity as opposed to its heyday. We were gifted with blue skies meeting blue waters at every turn.

We took in hilltop views, the notorious entrance to the Lakes, Lake Bulga, Lake Tyers, seaside villages of Paynesville, Raymond Island, Metung, and Marlo to name a few. We were also appreciative of all the native animals that put on a show for us in their natural habitat, preening and posing for our photographs or just oblivious to us altogether. Everyone was happy to head home for a rest but many of us wanted to stay on board the cruise and head north.



Club members at Stoney Creek trestle bridge

How Wantirna Became Wantirna

by Ray Peace of Knox Historical Society

WANTIRNA is an Indigenous name, but where did it come from and what does it mean? The story behind the name has a few surprises.

It starts out back in 1913. At that time the population of the district was small. It was also a little ill-defined. Settlement tended to cluster around the stations along the railway line, opened back in 1889. As a result, the area was vaguely known as Scoresby North or Bayswater West, depending on what part of it one happened to be in.

But the settlers who had already moved in and partly cleared the land were finding the district had good soil for growing fruit trees. So, the residents approached the Shire of Ferntree Gully to choose a name for the district.

The shire council decided the best way to choose a name was to let the locals do it themselves via a local area poll. Council selected three names that would be suitable and asked residents to vote for the one they liked.

The first name on the list was Woodbridge. This came about as the road bridge where what's now Burwood Highway crossed over Blind Creek was built of timber. The Burwood Road, as it then was, was just a dusty track, a far cry from today's multi-lane arterial road.

The second suggested name was Appleford. This name also made a good deal of sense as most of those living in the area at the time were growing apples for a living. It would have seemed improbable in 1913 that one day the orchards would be swallowed by suburban homes.

The third name, and as it turned out the clear favourite, was Wantirna, an Aboriginal word meaning 'a running stream'. This name topped the poll so Wantirna the district became official.

But the interesting thing about the poll were the numbers involved. The numbers actually looked like this:

Woodbridge	7 votes
Appleford	10 votes
Wantirna	13 votes

So the name was decided by an electorate of thirty, and a majority of just three. This is somewhat hard to imagine these days, but all this was recorded in the council minutes of the day. Would the area have sounded sweeter if three residents had changed their minds?



Wantirna College Sets

Fundraising Goal

Raising \$100k for the Good Friday Appeal

Wantirna College will once again host a community walkathon which raises valuable funds for the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Good Friday Appeal. Held every two years, students, staff and parents participating in the iCan Challenge 2026 will walk

50km in one day, from St Kilda to Frankston.

After raising \$50,952 in 2024 with 88 participants, their ambitious goal for 2026 is to raise \$100,000! They've got more people walking than ever before (including over

100 students), each hoping to raise at least \$500 through sponsorship.

"Many people within our community have a personal connection to the Royal Children's Hospital, which is why this event resonates with so many, and why it gets bigger each year" said Principal Carrie Wallis.



At the launch event in September students participated in a flag relay around the school ending at the central courtyard where they could pledge their commitment to join the iCan Challenge in 2026. Live music provided by one of the school's contemporary bands as well as a 'hot chocolate van' and sausage sizzle run by students contributed to a festival feel. Special guests, Jackson Taylor and the Good Friday Appeal Mascot, Welby also attended, with over 100 students pledging to walk. Weekly practice walks will take place until March 2026 and on Event Day, walkers will be supported by a crew of volunteers who will set up food and drink stations at several rest stops along the way.

The iCan Challenge 2026 will take place on Wednesday 1 April 2026 and if you'd like to support this worthy fundraiser, please visit the Wantirna College website for more information.



What's new at Your Library? by Karla Simon

Celebrate the Season & Vote for Your Top Read!

Your Library is thrilled to host a range of festive activities for all ages throughout December. Whether you're looking for family fun, crafting, or special storytimes, pick up a program guide at any branch or browse our full calendar online at yourlibrary.vic.gov.au.

Did you read a book in 2025 that absolutely knocked your socks off? Between 1 December and 31 January, you can nominate your favourite read in our annual Reader's Choice Poll. Plus, all voters will have the option of entering a prize draw to win a book voucher valued at \$100! Visit yourlibrary.vic.gov.au/readers-choice today to cast your vote.



New Books and DVDs

Enjoy the latest selection of books and DVDs at Your Library. To place a free reservation on any of the titles below and more, visit www.yourlibrary.vic.gov.au.

Top Reads

- Everyone in this bank is a thief / Benjamin Stevenson
- Gravity let me go / Trent Dalton
- Cat on the road to findout / Yusuf/Cat Stevens
- Mischance Creek / Garry Disher
- Eat yourself healthy / Jamie Oliver
- All the way to the river : Love, loss, and liberation / Elizabeth Gilbert
- Softly, as I leave you : Life after Elvis / Priscilla Beaulieu Presley with Mary Jane Ross
- The Gingerbread Bakery / Laurie Gilmore
- Simple dinners every day / Nicole Maguire
- The soldier's daughter / Fiona McIntosh

New DVDs

- The accountant 2
- Chosen family
- Cold Chisel: the big five-o live
- Fog of war
- Hetty Wainthropp investigates. The complete collection
- Jack Irish. The complete collection
- The White Lotus. The complete third season
- Single, out. Season two
- Crocodile Dundee II
- The deluge Continued over page

Events at Your Library

There's always something to do at Your Library! Here are some highlights in December and January. Book your place (where needed) by calling 1300 737 277, in person at any library branch, or online via our website events.yourlibrary.vic.gov.au. You can also browse our website for many more events.

Board Games at Knox Library

EVERY SUNDAY, 12PM – 5PM

Knox Library | Ngarrgoo, 425 Burwood Hwy, Westfield Knox - Above Rebel Sport, Wantirna South

Join us to play some board games together! All welcome - board games provided. No need to book (FREE)

Christmas Giving Trees

DECEMBER 2025 (During opening hours)

Bayswater, Boronia, and Ferntree Gully Libraries

Get into the Christmas spirit by donating a gift to help create a brighter Christmas for families experiencing hardship or crisis in our local community. In partnership with local community support organisations. Please contact the branch for more information on the types of gifts needed – 1300 737 277.

Mindful Threads: Slow creative play with recycled textiles

THU 4 & 11 DECEMBER, 1:30PM-3PM

Boronia Library, Park Crescent, Boronia

Explore techniques to create individual pieces of art from recycled textiles, with the aim of promoting mindfulness and wellbeing in a relaxed, supportive and friendly space. We will have a guided session on the third Thursday of each month, with the other Thursdays open for you to work on your creations. No experience necessary - no need to book (FREE)

Christmas Book Folding with Kay - Intermediate

MON 8 DECEMBER, 1:30PM-3PM

Bayswater Library, Mountain High Shopping Centre, Bayswater

Join Kay for a fun book-folding session to learn how to upcycle an old book into your own piece of Christmas art. A great opportunity to enhance your book-folding skills by using a combination of cut and fold techniques. All materials supplied. Bookings required (FREE)

Christmas Card Making

TUE 9 DECEMBER, 1:30PM-3PM

Bayswater Library, Mountain High Shopping Centre, Bayswater

Come along and learn to make some beautiful handmade Christmas Cards for your family and friends. All materials are supplied. Suitable for all skill levels. Bookings required (FREE)

Christmas Carols & Storytime with Ferntree Gully Library in the Park

TUE 9 DECEMBER, 6PM-7:30PM

Ferntree Gully Library, 1010 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully

Enjoy Christmas Carols, led by St John's Primary School Choir, in the gardens behind Ferntree Gully Library. There will be some special Christmas stories and a visit from one of Santa's helpers handing out candy canes! Bring a picnic rug or low beach chairs. We will set up some chairs at the back for those who can't sit on the ground. No need to book! (FREE)

Make Norwegian Christmas Gnomes

WED 10 DECEMBER, 10AM-11AM

Miller's Homestead, Dorrigo Dr & Melrose Ct, Boronia

Join Penny and Jude in this workshop where you will learn to make some super cute and easy Christmas Gnomes, inspired by traditional Norwegian folk art. Bookings required (FREE)

Mahjong at Rowville Library

THU 22 JANUARY, 12PM-3PM

Rowville Library, Stud Park Shopping Centre, Rowville

Learn and play Eastern Mahjong in a social environment at Rowville Library. Bookings required (FREE)



OUT AND ABOUT

Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Conference 2025

Studfield Wantirna Community News are members of "The Community Newspaper Association of Victoria, known as CNAV.

CNAV believes that Community Newspapers are the voice of the community and have 70 members across Victoria from rural regional areas to the suburbs of Melbourne.

These Volunteer driven papers are set to keep their communities informed of local topical news strengthening both socially and economically.

Between them they distribute a total of more than 180,000 copies each issue.

This year the conference was held at the Mercure Hotel in Ballarat.

Our team was privileged to attend the conference once again.

Janet Claringold, our Editor, has attended 19 years with the rest of the team clocking up 18 years. Friday night saw old and new faces enjoying each other's company and renewing friendships.

The Conference began on Saturday with the official opening followed by a welcome to Ballarat by Vicki from Ballarat Neighborhood Centre.

Keynote address presentation from the member of Ballarat Gambling Harm Prevention taskforce spoke of how we can help to minimize gambling harm in our communities.



SWCN team members, Coral and Charles Carew and Janet Claringold

The day continued with various workshops.

1. A practical way to support your community beyond the print!
2. Using fun cartoons to enhance the paper to a more entertaining read.
3. Conducting an Interview, what can be published!

The culmination of the Conference was the Annual Dinner.

Awards were presented in various categories:

Best: Feature, Editorial Comment, History, others including Best Newspaper!

While our paper was not successful, it was a privilege to be a part of the association.

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Bonny's Florist
Shop 32 Dorset Square



High quality flowers
9762 3583



Onyx Hair Fusion
Shop 28 Dorset Square



Just wonderful hair
9762 7222



If that's not enough..... you can also drop in for an amazing coffee and cake or lunch at Drop In Cafe conveniently very close by!




The Big Blue Building

Shops 28, 30 & 32 Dorset Square, Boronia. All together in the big blue building - left, next to the Mall. Professional friendly, helpful and personal attention. You'll be glad you came!! Flowers, hair & supplies, nails & beauty. What else could you want?

BOOKS AND WRITING

Wantirna Author, Jeff Steele Launches “No Heil Hitler!” The Dramatic True Story of Paul Cieslar



Wantirna author, Jeff Steele

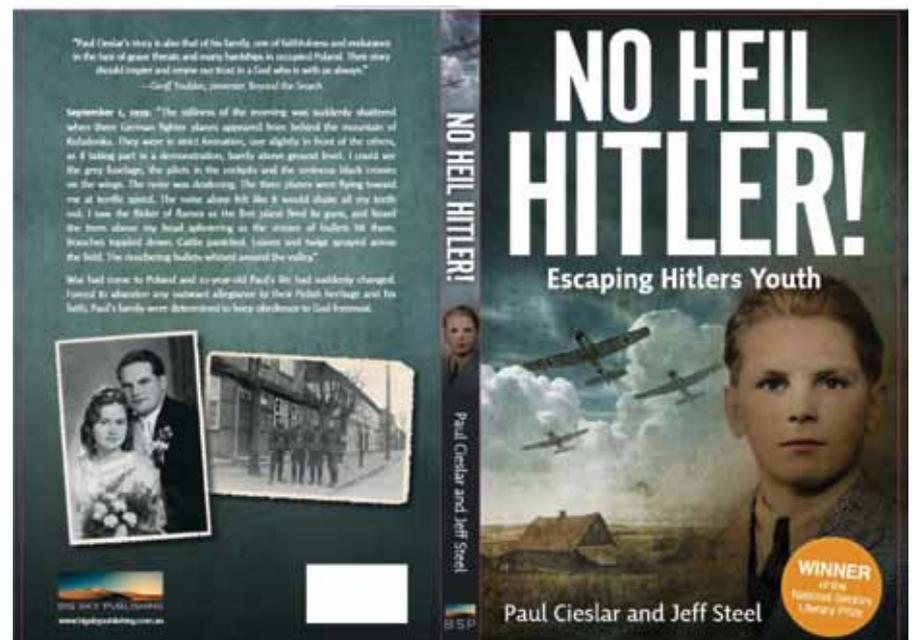
At 13 he outwitted the Gestapo. They wanted to send his family to Auschwitz. At 15 he was on the run in the mountains of Poland where a female Russian spy was tasked to ‘liquidate’ him. At 17 he was kidnapped into a Hitler Youth suicide squad to face Russian tanks on bicycles. He survived. He went on the run again in the mountains of Czechoslovakia; if caught he would be hanged.

Wantirna author, Jeff Steel met him by chance in the sauna in the Goodlife Gym. By this time Paul Cieslar was a highly respected pastor in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Wantirna. Jeff wrote Paul’s story. It starts with the clear statement that the only reason for writing this book is that it happened.

It is scarcely credible. It is all true. ‘No Heil Hitler’ won a literary prize immediately and was subsequently published in six countries. Now re-issued for the mainstream market, this dramatic work will be in Dymocks from late November, or from Jeff at jeff.steel.melbourne@gmail.com.

Jeff is also available to give talks to community groups, schools or churches. Paul unfortunately passed away some years ago. Jeff was honoured that Paul’s family asked him to give a eulogy.

That was some eulogy!



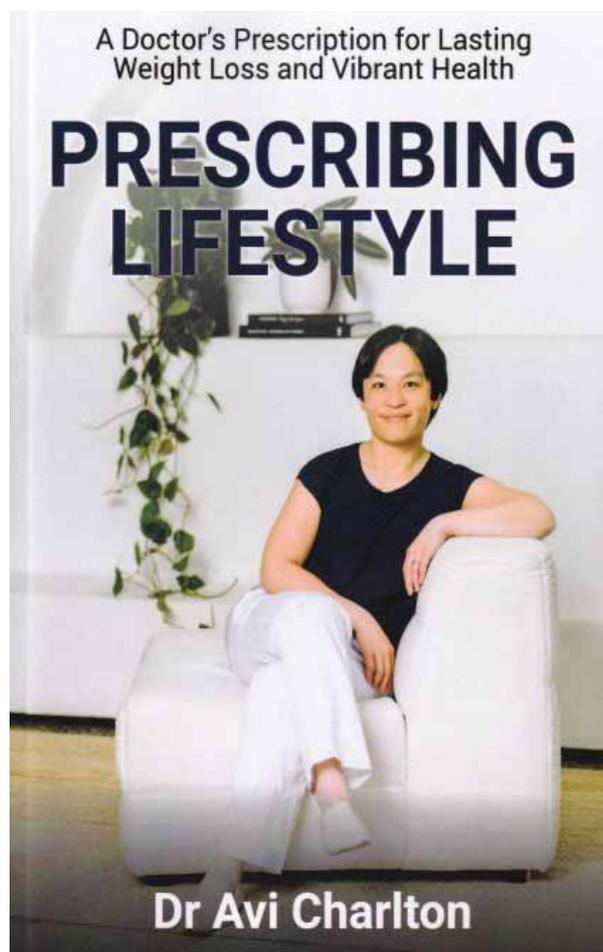
Prescribing Lifestyle by Dr. Avi Charlton Book review by David Mallen

A Doctor’s Prescription for Lasting Weight Loss and Vibrant Health

Does your doctor have their own website? Have they written a book about their medical goals? Mine has!

I found Avi Charlton in February 2018 after my son recommended that I watch the movie ‘Cereal Killers’. It is a documentary about toxic food by Donal O’Neill and featured Sports Scientist, Professor Tim Noakes from South Africa. I visited Professor Noakes’s website and it had a link to the Nutrition Network. The Network webpage had a ‘Find a Practitioner’ button. I clicked on it and discovered that there were several practitioners in Victoria, Australia. The closest was Dr. Avi Charlton in nearby Wantirna. I visited Dr. Charlton and my change to a healthier lifestyle began.

Dr. Charlton started as a General Practitioner in 2005 and gradually changed from ‘cure mode’ to ‘prevention mode’. Many of her patients were seeking help with their weight. Instead of just prescribing a pill she began researching the causes based on Professor Noakes’s ‘Real Meal Revolution’. Obesity can be prevented by changing to low carbohydrate, high protein, high healthy fat food. In 2019 she attended a Low Carb Down Under conference and met other doctors with a similar outlook on health and lifestyle.



In 2022 she founded the Melbourne Low Carb Clinic at her Wantirna Clinic.

This book is about her journey. It contains details of the 6 ‘Pillars of Lifestyle Medicine’: Nutrition, Sleep, Movement, Addictions, Stress Management and Community. There are 7 Parts in the book, covering each ‘Pillar’, with Part 7 ‘Going Forward’ giving a Lifestyle Prescription.

Part 1 ‘Just Eat Real Food’ contains the most chapters and has details of the toxic foods that you need to avoid such as sugar and wheat and vegetable/seed oils. Part 2 ‘The Movement Prescription’ explains about The Exercise Myth. Are you over-exercising or doing the wrong type of exercise? Dr. Charlton is a marathon runner and she explains why regular exercise is so important.

The book contains many case studies of her patients that you can relate to. In Part 7 there is a list of 11 blood tests that you should have every year. I found the Top 10 Tips for Lifestyle Success particularly useful. There are 13 pages of references at the end of the book if you wish to follow-up a particular topic.

If you want to live a longer, healthier life, I recommend you read this book. (It is available at her clinic in Wantirna or from her website: mlclinic.com.au.)

St Luke's Primary School

Building a brighter future together!

St Luke's Primary school has welcomed our new principal, Julia Baker in Term 4. Julia certainly 'hit the ground running' with the school fete in her second week starring in the dunk tank and just recently attended the Year 5/6 camp!

Our Year 4 students interviewed Julia with a list of thoughtful questions that they felt were important to the St Luke's community. They wanted to learn more about Julia's goals, values, and hopes for our school.

What made you want to become the principal of our school?

Growing up locally, I actually used to use the St Luke's gym for basketball training! We also used to play against St Luke's for inter-school sport and I always remember how friendly and respectful the students were. After this experience, I was always drawn to the school and the parish. It really is a beautiful school and I feel blessed to be appointed the new principal!

What do you hope to achieve during your time at our school?

To continue our active and warm presence in our local community and strengthen our teaching and learning practices across the school. I hope that our students leave our school at the end of Year 6 with all the skills and creative courage to redefine our world.



EDUCATION NEWS

How do you plan to help students do their best and enjoy learning?

By working alongside our staff to ensure our learning is rigorous and challenging, catering to all our learners needs and interests.

What qualities do you think are most important for students to develop?

Being kind to one another and to develop empathy. By following in the footsteps of Jesus, we can support and look out for each other to achieve our common goal.



What would you like students to know about you as our new principal?

That you'll often find me working alongside you in the classroom. The students are always at the forefront of my decision making, as is current research and best practice.

Please follow our school Facebook page:- //www.facebook.com/slwantirna

If you would like to explore more about St Luke's, please visit <https://www.slwantirna.catholic.edu.au>, call the school office on 9801 6917 or email info@slwantirna.catholic.edu.au.

News from Wantirna Primary School

Our school continues to flourish with wonderful additions that celebrate creativity, imagination, and our connection to the Australian environment.

Over the past few months, students have enjoyed exploring and learning alongside our stunning Australian animal-themed mural, now a much-loved feature of our school grounds. With its vibrant depictions of kangaroos, koalas, wombats, and kookaburras, the mural has become a source of pride for our school community. It continues to brighten our outdoor spaces and serves as both an artistic focal point and an engaging educational resource.

Our three themed playhouses — a café, an ice cream shop, and a burger bar — have now become established favourites during recess and lunch breaks. These spaces have encouraged imaginative play, teamwork, and creativity, supporting students as they develop important social and language skills through shared play experiences.

Adding to our outdoor learning environment, students have also been busy caring for our new vegetable gardens. These gardens provide hands-on opportunities for children to learn about sustainability, healthy eating, and the joy of growing their own produce. They have quickly become a vibrant, living part of our school community.

We are also proud to offer a Breakfast Club, which operates every morning to ensure students start their day with a healthy meal and a friendly,

welcoming atmosphere. This initiative reflects our school's strong sense of care and community, helping all students to be ready and focused for learning.

Our Out of School Hours Care program continues to grow in popularity, offering a safe and engaging space before and after school. Students enjoy a variety of themed nights such as MasterChef, Kids' Cooking, and Board Games Night, which provide fun, social, and creative experiences beyond the classroom.

As we near the end of the year, excitement is building for our End-of-Year Community Night and Student Performance — a highlight on our school calendar. This special evening brings together families, staff, and students to celebrate the achievements of the year, share performances, and enjoy a wonderful sense of connection across our school community.

At the heart of our school's success remains our commitment to small class sizes and personalised learning. Our dedicated educators deliver explicit teaching in core subjects, ensuring every student builds strong foundations in literacy and numeracy while growing in confidence and independence.

Looking ahead, enrolments are now open for our 2026 Foundation year, and we invite families to visit our school and experience our warm, nurturing environment. We also have limited vacancies across other year levels for families seeking a fresh start in a supportive, community-minded school.

Looking for a supportive school that offers more?



WANTIRNA PRIMARY

Inspiring Excellence through
Care and Respect



WHY CHOOSE WANTIRNA PRIMARY?

Building Confidence through CARE Values
Compassion, Achievement, Respect and Engagement shape happy, capable learners.

Small Classes, Big Impact
Every child is known, valued & supported to reach their potential.

Supportive, Nurturing Environment
Through buddy supports and emotional learning, every child feels connected and cared for.

Book a Tour Today



Scan the QR code or visit our website to book

www.wantirnaprimary.vic.edu.au 120 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna (03) 9801 1938

To learn more or arrange a school tour, please contact our office on 9801 1938 — we'd love to show you all the wonderful things happening at our school.

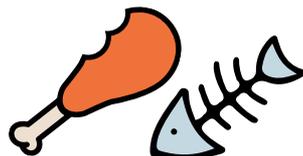
Take a look at our website also - <https://www.wantirnaprimary.vic.edu.au/>

Get Christmas sorted

Red bin
for rubbish



Green bin
for leftovers



Blue bin for
packaging



Don't bin batteries

Batteries in bins cause fires. Recycle your batteries for free by dropping them off at supermarkets, Bunnings and other locations.

bcycle.com.au/drop-off



Neighbour Day 2026

Host an event in March 2026 to connect with your neighbours and build a stronger sense of community.

Find out more:

knox.vic.gov.au/NeighbourDay



Upgrade to all-electric and save

Solar Savers can help you upgrade your home or business with solar panels, batteries, EV chargers, heat pump hot water, efficient heating and cooling, induction cooktops, insulation and more.

Learn more: SolarSavers.org.au

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Knox City Council

KNOXFIELD & SCORESBY NEWS



Hello from Knoxfield Ladies PROBUS Club by Bev Bishop

We have recently been entertained by Colin Bull, renowned photographer of Melbourne Cup Spring Carnival horse race line finishes which have been in sales catalogues and various books over the past 50 years. To enhance the atmosphere of his talk with slides, books and jockeys' shirts old and new, the members of the Knoxfield Ladies Probus Club wore their own beautiful hats and fascinators fit for a visit to Flemington. He had photographs of early lithographs from the 1800s, historic photos through the years as well as modern day coloured photos of winning Melbourne Cup horses, trainers and jockeys. Colin's extensive knowledge was evident as he barely glanced at his books and notes to recall names, dates and places.



The sub committee working very hard indeed.

Our new sub committee has been slaving over their meetings to set up our new Website, spreading the word about our happy ladies' club and investigating new ideas and activities for our members. We asked them for a photograph of one of their meetings and were quite taken aback by what it revealed. Who knew it took champagne and Melbourne Cup celebrations to come up with the good work they have been achieving? They answered that they were hedging their bets. Hmm. It does appear to be beneficial.

We are looking forward to a visit to the Lady Lavender Farm in Bunyip, a Sunday Brunch and Christmas Lunch at the Dandenong Club complete with a Kris Kringle gift exchange as well as a raffle for some very nice hampers donated by our local MPs, and other goodies.

We begin 2026 with a 6.30pm dinner at Bangkok Delight in Boronia, followed by a bus trip to Werribee Zoo which will be a great start to the New Year.

You are most welcome to join us. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Wantirna Club 10.15am for a 10.30am start.

Please contact our Membership Officer Val Poll on 0425 705 053 for more details.



Faye in her hat and Jo in her fascinator





KNOXFIELD NEWSAGENCY

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KNOXFIELD FAX: 9764 9215
VICTORIA

EMAIL: knoxfieldnewsagency@hotmail.com

Monday to Friday 7.00am to 5.30pm
Saturday 7.30am to 3.30pm
Sunday 7.30 am to 10.30am

i | s | h | r | e | d

Community Day

5/7 Samantha Crt,
Knoxfield
1300 763 688
www.ishred.com.au

Once a month iShred opens the doors of its facility which allow members of the community to have their personal documents professionally and securely shredded at an economical cost, with our mobile shredding vehicle.

Our Community Day caters for shredding of:

- Old documents
- E-waste (ie. Laptops, Computers, Cables, Keyboards)
- X-rays
- CDs & DVDs
- Hard Drives

Our upcoming Community Days are on Saturday, 6th December and 17th January from 9am — 12noon



General Corner Store

112 Scoresby Road, Boronia



*We are your local milk bar/
minimart selling many things
from Groceries to yummy
sweet treats.*

**Our opening hours are:
Weekdays: 7.00am - 7:30pm
Weekends 8.00am - 7.00pm**

We would love to have you all drop in for a chat and a coffee!

Knoxfield Housing & Wetlands Project

from Development Victoria

Development Victoria is getting on with delivering a new community in Knoxfield featuring around 400 high quality homes, the new neighbourhood on Burwood Highway will feature green open spaces, new wetlands and great transport links.

What's been happening?

We've been busy getting the site ready for construction which is expected to start in 2026.

- Earlier this year we built a car park and temporary access road (pictured above) where the sales office will stand. We also put in new gates linking the temporary access road to Scoresby Road.
- We've been working closely with Knox City Council and other key stakeholders to finalise plans for the development. We're now working through approvals so construction can start next year. What's next
- We're working towards getting builders and our civil works contractor on board.
- We're aiming to have the sales display suite on site in early 2026. Our team will then get to work fitting out the internal spaces and landscaping of the temporary car park so we can open to the public.
- Early next year, we'll showcase the project branding, giving a new identity to the development.

What's in a name?

We remain committed to respecting the local environment through every aspect of our development. When considering a project name we looked up towards the trees. Can you guess what the name will be?

Stay in touch

We'll continue to share updates on our website, with letter campaigns and community emails.

You can sign up for email updates at development.vic.gov.au/knoxfield

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS



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

2025

Our group enjoys monthly speakers, weekend outings and twice a year weekends. The outings and weekends away are usually conducted by our own members. We acknowledge volunteers' work in providing these opportunities for us to not only enjoy the Australian bush and its contents, but also to learn so much from each other.

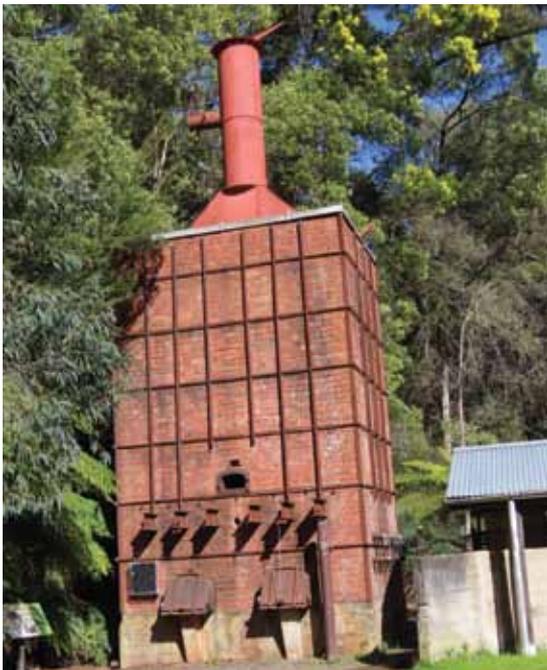
We are now meeting at the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall. Lawrence Ave, East Ringwood. Plenty of parking and easy access to the hall.

Excursion

No 2 September excursion- Beenak (including Kurth Kiln) Leaders – Alison & Peter R

A beautiful day with 19 members attending. This was an excursion to a very Historical area. There were 6 different Acacias in flower along with a number of other plants. We also saw 3 orchid species with 18 birds recorded.

A lovely full day out.



Kurth's Kiln. Photo by Alison Rogers

Meeting

October Speaker: Tony Robinson.--" Worth two in the bush – local birds and how they use plants"

Tony talked about how birds have a range of interactions with plants. He illustrated his talk with photos of:

- Birds and their nests,
- Plants used for security,
- As a food source,
- As launch and viewing platforms as well as a social platform,
- Non-plant structures like fence posts are also used.

October Weekend away – St Arnaud. Leaders Helen and Graeme F

For our spring weekend away, the RFNC headed to St Arnaud which is a town in the Wimmera region to the west of Bendigo. We had 28 members attending the weekend which was a great turn out.

We met up on the Friday afternoon for a walk around Pioneer Park having a look at some old mining diggings, along with the old town swimming pool, where we saw two Sacred Kingfishers on the pool along with a few ducks and cormorants. There were also some great information boards on the town's mining history. We then drove out to the Comstock open cut mine.

Over the weekend we visited a number of local sites. The Wax Gardens and other Bush Reserves were full of native plants flowering and also orchids. With local contacts, we had access to some restricted areas (private land and Landcare areas) which were protected from farming and grazing to see how effective this has been. These areas were successfully rehabilitating and held many flowers and habitat for birdlife. Some of the birding highlights were, Rainbow Bee-eaters, Varied Sitella and White-winged Trillers. We saw 9 different honeyeaters over the weekend including Blue-faced, Yellow-tufted, Fuscous and Black-chinned.

It was a wonderful weekend away.

Excursion

Weekday excursion led by Shirley S - Langwarrin. McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery and nearby Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve

A good day with 13 members attending. The Sculpture Park was quite interesting, with us looking at sculptures which are both permanent and on loan. We were able to see these works of art while wandering through the surrounding bush. A highlight was seeing a family of Tawny Frogmouths, two adults with their two chicks on a low branch.

In the afternoon we visited Langwarrin Flora and Fauna Reserve where we found the gorgeous purple Diuris. A great day out.



Interesting Sculpture. Photo by Alison Rogers

Meeting

November Speaker: Peter Hanson Local mines (Warrandyte area)

Peter started his presentation with some history of gold discovery in the Warrandyte area, mentioning how gold is 'laid down' and then found by the old prospectors. He followed this with many old photos of mines and equipment and how some looked different today. He showed locations of mines on maps, what they looked like inside, what gold seams look like and some of the mines he has mapped out. He further advised many mines are home to bats, wombats and various birds either roosting or

nesting. His love of local history showed in his talk, having been involved with the history of the area since he was a young boy. A fascinating talk.

Future Program - Meetings

December-. 2 members short talks with Don R - Nature how I see it" and Lynn and Neal S - "Tasmanian Treasures of the Earth"

January-. Outdoor meeting TBA

February- Speaker: Nicole Kearney - "Biodiversity Heritage Library"

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 always held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7-30pm now at our new venue the Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall. Lawrence Ave, East Ringwood.

All visitors are welcome. For more details phone Alison 0438 6946 00 or Peter on 0409 6946 23

Check out our Website <http://www.rfnc.org.au> for details of our next meetings.

To all our Community News Readers and Facebook Friends we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Healthy New Year.

Knox Environment Society

Habitat Gardening Using Grasses

by Anne Morton

Grasses and sedges are an important element in the habitat garden. In addition to a canopy tree and a tall mid-storey layer, a ground layer can be full of exciting possibilities for small birds, lizards, echidnas and beneficial insects.

Some butterflies use grasses to lay their eggs on and their caterpillars will use grasses as a food source.

Try tall Tussock Grasses, Wallaby Grasses and Kangaroo Grass for your garden. Add to these cut-leaf Daisies, purple or white, Bluebells and Common Everlastings and you will have a colourful display that also attracts more butterflies, as well as bees and beetles, which will provide more food sources for the small birds.

Also provide rocks and logs in a spot that receives the morning sun in the garden. This will become a basking spot for butterflies and lizards.

And finally, the most important element is water. Provide water in hanging bowls for small birds, or bowls on the ground for lizards and echidnas and larger birds. Place rocks and logs on one side with a branch into the pool to help the smaller creatures to access the water without drowning.

Common Tussock Grass *Poa labillardieri* and Purple-sheath Tussock Grass *Poa ensiformis* are taller grasses growing from 1 to 1.5 metres

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Southern Emu-Wren

(*Stipiturus malachurus*)

by Des Palmer, Australian Bird Tours

Some time ago, the exact time and date are irrelevant really, Le wife, Adrienne, and who henceforth shall be referred to as Le wife (she hates it when I use her name in writing these columns or in my short stories that I write) enjoyed a week's holiday at Cape Conran in East Gippsland. What a magical place! Birds, plants, mammals, next level. One of only two spots in Australia to see the Long-footed Potoroo, one of our rarest mammals, and no, we didn't see one. Doh!

Well, without giving you the whole week's itinerary, we did a nearby coastal bushwalk one day and suddenly a storm was brewing, wind speed picking up and rain out to sea definitely heading our way. The aforementioned Le wife turned to me and said "C'mon pick up the speed, I don't want to get caught in this lot heading our way." (Ah yes, I remember it well, that's what she said, verbatim). We both lifted the tempo, especially you know who (I don't want to keep repeating myself) as she hates getting caught in the rain. In point of fact she would have been in front of Cathy Freeman at the 300 metre mark.

Suddenly, the rain slowly began to fall, the wind reached fever pitch and with my long golden locks

impairing my vision a small bird flitted across the path. I knew exactly what it was and as I got near to where it entered the heath I got one more split second view of it through my binocs, a Southern Emu-wren! I fist pumped the air like a madman, and this is when she turned and saw me, standing in the rain, with the wind so strong it would have blown your uncle off your aunty.

"C'mon, are you crazy" she screamed at me, it was at this point I had an epiphany, yes, she was right, I probably am crazy. I stood there in the pouring rain knowing the bird was long gone, with a grin from ear to ear.

When we were both back in the car, bedraggled and both wet as shags she turned to me with a puzzled look on her face. "Why did you stop?" she said, until a knowing look came across her face. "Don't tell me, some rare bird."

"A Southern Emu-Wren, I beamed enthusiastically, that's a lifer for me, I've never seen one before."

"I'm green with envy" was her sarcastic reply as she turned the key in the ignition and we returned to our accommodation for a hot shower and put on some dry clothes. Some people just don't get stuff I reckon.

Well that's my story about a Southern Emu-wren and just quietly, I'm sticking to it. That's a great little bird, rare as rocking horse manure.



Southern Emu-wren. Photo by Kim Wormald

By gee I can go on, can't I? Why didn't I just say, yeah, I saw one down at Cape Conran a few years ago. Would have saved a considerable amount of time and let's be honest, all you'll probably take from this is, "that's right, Des saw some type of Wren down at Cape Conran, or was it Marlo, somewhere in East Gippsland."

(Put marketing hat on momentarily) If you wanted to nail some rare bird, that's my job now. Australian bird tours, you name it, I'll (endeavour) to find it.

birdtoursbydes@gmail.com

Australianbirdtours.com.au



Common Tussock Grass



Kangaroo Grass



Wallaby Grass

high. Both are adaptable, growing in moist clay-loam soils. Purple-sheath Tussock Grass prefers semi-shade to full shade, whilst Common Tussock Grass likes the full sun and semi-shade. They begin flowering in late October and will be in flower over the hotter months of the year.

Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra* supports native biodiversity by providing habitat and food for insects and small wildlife. Growing up to 1 metre tall, it is adaptable to most soils in full sun to semi-shade. The distinctive flower heads are appearing now in late October and like the Tussock Grasses, will be in flower during the hotter months of the year.

There are many Wallaby Grasses indigenous in Knox. The Velvet Wallaby Grass *Rytidosperma pilosum* is a small grass growing up to 50 cm. This is just one of many species of Wallaby Grass which are both tall and small and they make an attractive addition to the indigenous garden.

You will find many grass species available at the Knox Environment Society Nursery. Come along to 1010 Burwood Highway, Ferntree Gully to see what is available there.

Spring Festival

The KES Spring Festival on 11th October was a great success. The weather was just right for all our exhibitors and there were lots of visitors to the Nursery.

Knox Community Gardens was there with a comprehensive array of seedlings, and the Australian Plant Society (Foothills Group) had a very attractive floral display. Gardens for Wildlife had lots of advice on habitat gardening with local native species.

Other displays included the Friends Groups of Knox and Sarah's Arts and Crafts featuring pillow cases, bags, tea towels all beautifully decorated with native animals and plants. Sarah's father, Peter, was also there promoting his new book *Wombats Do Cube-shaped Poo*.

Throughout the day Tisha was busy with children's activities, there were presentations and entertainment by our music group the Flying Foxes. As well, the Rotary Club of Knox supplied a welcome sausage sizzle.

All in all, it was a successful event and a delight to see everyone there on such a fine day.



Knox Environment Society Festival. Photo by Andrea Coffey

Laughter Club News

Can Laughter Yoga Help on Your Evolutionary Pathway?

Well, we have come close to the end of another journey around the sun, and I wish you are not only surviving the challenges that life throws at you, but also thriving, learning and growing all the while. That is what life is meant to be about, embracing life, creating new challenges, learning, growing, having a go, never, ever giving up.

I don't know about you, if you are a bit like me, you will not bother with creating New Year's resolutions, which are generally made from a fear base, a mental construct, rather than a feeling and growing viewpoint and broader perspective. People seldom stick to them and my preference is to continually work with what I need to improve upon. I do this with regular introspective processes; meditation, journaling, nightly reviews and six-monthly reports to my mentor. Everyday foundational practices are important to me. They help develop beneficial, regular habits in my everyday life which assists me develop psychological clarity.

People may be familiar with the term, either Wesak or Vesak, and you may be unaware that it is also regarded by many to be that which I am referring to, about being the end of a spiritual year and beginning of a new one. Wesak is regarded as the most important celebration on the Buddhist calendar to celebrate the birth, enlightenment and death of Guatama Buddha and will be on 23rd May next year, 2026.

Of course, when I am talking about a spiritual journey, or spiritual new year, I am referring to whatever your individual journey is. Every person is unique being on a different path or journey, carving out a path, being drawn to do this or that, feeling a sense of pull of one's direction and what is most meaningful to each unique person. I firmly believe in the benevolence of

the Universe and what we put out there in our thoughts and unconscious patterns returns to us. Positive self-talk is very important.

I started out with an intense belief in Jesus and God and over time, moved away from that, seeing that all religions held an essence of a deity and that the term we know as God, the essence of Energy which it is difficult to actually put correct wording to, is in everything. It is the basis of all life that lives within us as Spirit.

In a nutshell, it is absolutely brilliant when we do have a strong belief structure which is supportive and can give us purpose, meaning, hope, understanding, compassion, many, many positive qualities.

People can live beautiful spiritual lives without ever going to a church or mosque, surviving as best they can, developing inner strength and evolving as timely as it happens for them. We do not need to compare ourselves with anyone else because we are so very unique and even in every moment, we can be different. There is no need for judgment, right or wrong. It is as it is.

It is best for us if we can move through the experiences that life brings us gracefully, growing, improving, learning and developing new strategies, ways of living, coming to heartfelt, genuine purpose and understanding of the essence of it all. What is life really actually about? We may never really know that answer.

Without any doubt, the main goal is to do our best and live one day, an hour, minute or moment, to the best of our ability. We are meant to have challenges on a daily basis and if we are not moving forward, we are going backwards, devolving. We can't stay the same, stagnate, if not moving forward, then we go backwards.

And as always, I come back to how laughter yoga can help you. All the benefits, physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually can be enhanced from the practice of laughing and not taking oneself so seriously. Belonging gives meaning and loads of support. When we have a cuppa after laughter club, it is a chance to share something of what we have been doing with others. Some members from time to time catch up with

each other, even ones who have left the group, still stay in touch. Laughter yoga is energising and highly therapeutic. Definitely!

Deep thanks too to Ajne, the Ferntree Gully Library Team Leader, for supporting us with running monthly laughter yoga sessions. These are 2pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month, between February and November. (Not December or January). Just book with the library first as they keep track of it.

Laughter yoga is something which can help your overall wellbeing, when we laugh a lot, taking ourselves lightly, things happen, we feel more connected with our spirituality, which is relevant in this otherwise heavy discourse.

I now acknowledge my spiritual teachers, who support and mentor me, leading lovingly and by example. Supporting, loving, interacting and bringing more kindness into the world and with each other. One heart at a time, it helps bring more light into the world.

God bless and wishing you well. Let me know how this sits with you please, if you feel to. Sending you love and encouragement. Lynette xo

When we meet and contact information

The Ferntree Gully Laughter Club meets behind the Ferntree Gully Library at 11am on the 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month and inside the Ferntree Gully Library on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm. We return in February and you can register with the library.

First timers, please contact me, Lynette in case of a meeting change, and if you would like to receive updates in my email newsletter, or the email reminder when the laughter club is on next. You may like to join the Ferntree Gully Laughter Club Facebook group.

Cheerio for now and be kind to yourself. Lots of Love, Laughter and Blessings. Lynette Mitchell.

Phone: 0425 799 258
Email: lynette@laughterforliving.com.au
Website: www.laughterforliving.com.au

Ferntree Gully Library: 9800 6455

Hands on Myotherapy



Preparing Your Body and Mind for Joint Replacement Surgery with Alison

I'm Alison from Hands On Myotherapy, and over my 17 years of practicing I've had the privilege of helping many locals both before and after joint replacement surgery. One thing I've learned is that the work you do before surgery can make a huge difference to how well and how quickly you recover after it.

Before surgery, Myotherapy helps prepare your body by improving muscle strength, flexibility, and circulation around the affected joint. We focus on reducing tension, correcting imbalances, and building resilience so your body is in the best possible condition for the procedure. Just as importantly, taking time to care for your body before surgery can boost confidence and reduce anxiety — helping you approach your operation with a calmer, more positive mindset.

After surgery, Myotherapy supports recovery by easing pain, improving movement, and helping restore strength and mobility safely.

Preparing your muscles and mind before surgery truly sets the foundation for a smoother recovery and a faster return to doing the things you love.

At Hands On Myotherapy, we're passionate about supporting you every step of the way — before, during, and after your journey to better movement.



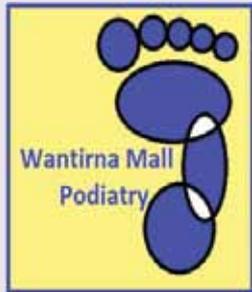
- Back and Neck Pain
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- Knee and Leg Pain
- Deep Tissue Massage
- Sporting/ Occupational Injuries
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8740 3991

Unit 10/603 Boronia Road
Wantirna VIC 3152

Monday - Friday 9am to 7.30pm
Saturday 8am to 1.00pm

www.handsonmyotherapy.com.au
enquire@handsonmyotherapy.com



Wantirna Mall Podiatry Melina Linardatos

(B. Pod, MBA and MHA, MAPA)
4/322 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna
Ph: 9720 1235

www.wantiramallpodiatry.com

Online booking available

Open Tues to Fri 9am to 6pm and Sat 9am to 1pm



Getting Your Feet Ready For Summer

There are several foot health concerns that can occur more readily in the summer months due to our hot, dry climate. One of the most common summer foot problems is cracked dry heels known as heel fissures.

Heel fissures occur on the bottom of the foot mainly the outer edge of the heel. Occasionally these heel fissures can become very deep and bleed causing pain and becoming infected. Open and bleeding heel fissures can be especially risky for people with diabetes or compromised immune systems.



Dry heels and heel fissures can be treated by gently using a pumice stone to decrease the thick, dry layer of skin and regular application of moisturiser containing Urea. Moisturisers with Urea have been found to penetrate the skin further than other general creams. Also the avoidance of walking barefoot or wearing open-backed footwear will help to prevent the skin on feet from drying out.

If the cracks and dry hard skin become unmanageable to clear on your own our Podiatrists at Wantirna Mall Podiatry can remove the heel fissures for you and help clear up any cracks by sharp debridement and using a sanding disc. The treatment is simple as sharp callus debridement involves only removing the hard, dry skin on the surface of the foot, there is no cutting. The sanding disc then polishes any leftover dry parts leaving the skin on the heel relatively smooth. Any deep open cracks are cleaned and treated to prevent infections. Please visit us on our website for more handy tips.

Mr. Mina Williams
B.Pod. M.A.Pod.A.

Podiatrist



PhysioSpot

1621 Ferntree Gully Road Knoxfield 3180
Telephone: 9764 9359 Facsimile: 9763 3114

Corns and Callus

Ingrown Toenails

Flat Feet

Children

Heel, Arch and Forefoot Pain

Sporting or Occupational Injuries

Diabetic and Arthritic Foot Care

Veterans Affairs

Community News



Available online at

www.studfieldwantiranews.org

Find us on Facebook

JOIN OUR TEAM

Volunteers are welcome at
Studfield Wantirna Community News



News from Wantirna Osteopathy

Recover Faster After Surgery Why Physiotherapy Matters

by Lincoln Wong (Physiotherapist)

If you've recently had surgery, you're probably focused on one thing — getting back to feeling like yourself again. Whether it's walking comfortably, returning to work, or enjoying your favourite activities, recovery takes time — and physiotherapy can make all the difference.

Wantirna Osteopathy now offers physiotherapy to help post-surgical patients rebuild movement, strength, and confidence every day. We work closely with your surgeon and GP to ensure your recovery is safe, supported, and seamless.

Here's why seeing a physiotherapist after surgery is one of the best steps you can take for your recovery.

1. Get Moving Sooner and Recover Faster

Gentle, guided movement soon after surgery helps restore flexibility, balance, and strength. Physiotherapists are trained to safely progress your activity.

2. Prevent Complications

Without proper movement it's easy for muscles to weaken and joints to stiffen up.

3. Manage Pain and Improve Quality of Life

Exercise and movement are powerful tools for controlling pain after surgery. Our physiotherapists use tailored exercise programs, hands-on treatment and education to help you feel more comfortable and confident in your recovery.

4. Proven Benefits for Many Types of Surgery

Physiotherapy isn't just for joint replacements. It's proven to help after many procedures like spinal, hip, knee, abdominal and cardiac surgeries

Physiotherapy services at Wantirna Osteopathy:

- Early post-surgical assessments - we start as soon as you're medically cleared
- Personalised rehabilitation programs - targeted to your specific surgery and goals

wantirna
osteopathy



New Rehab Gym

- Sports injury
- Ankle sprain
- Strength exercises
- Balance programs
- Force testing
- ACL rehab
- Plus more

Call or book online
9800 0388
www.wantirnaosteo.com.au

- Manual therapy and exercise plans - to restore strength, balance, and confidence
- Home programs and progress updates - so recovery continues between sessions

Whatever your surgery, your rehab plan is tailored to your body and your goals.

If you've recently had surgery or have one coming up, we'd love to help you plan your recovery.

Let's get you moving, healing, and feeling your best again.

Wantirna Osteopathy
9800 0388



Life Activities Club Knox

COMMUNITY NEWS

Here we are racing through the last two months of 2025. At the end of September we had a great Footy Day for the Grand Final and celebrated with pies and hotdogs followed by 'footy' games using harmless balloons. On 6th October we had a group take off to the Blue Mountains and they had a fantastic time away.

An Open Day was held in October which gave prospective members the opportunity to visit our hall where activities and outdoor events were featured and the coordinators were present to chat.

We are having a return visit this month from Life Activities Geelong who gave us a great day down in Geelong a few months ago.

On 8th December we will be holding our Christmas lunch at the Chirside Country Club. I believe Santa may be attending.

Coming up in the following months and into the New Year are movie days - held monthly, walks, golf, dining, cards and coffee mornings. If you are interested or have any questions, or would like a copy of our Newsletter please ring Lorraine on 0438068334



The Group taking a trip to the Blue Mountains



Open Day

Boronia Ladies Probus Club

Boronia Ladies sadly lost their last Foundation member – our dear friend Irene Jackson passed away on the 28th September, at the wonderful age of 104 (Irene would have achieved 105 on the 9th November). Irene a member since 1988, was an enthusiastic person who joined in everything at the club. We as a club, thank Irene and the other Foundation members for our wonderful club – Vale Irene you are so sadly missed.

The club has had a busy couple of months, September was a Footy meeting, and again this year the ladies came dressed in their club colours, although our winner actually wore multiple colours, representing several clubs. September was a memorable occasion for our member Doreen Evans who celebrated her 90th birthday with us and was presented with her special club badge and flowers.

15th October the club celebrated its 37th Birthday, with a luncheon at Rose Cottage in Monbulk, 47 ladies attended, with 2 ladies from Heathmont Ladies Probus.

The Committee hired a bus to take the ladies, and this proved great as many do not drive now, and parking was not a problem. At the luncheon President Nancy presented our member Mavis Bottomley with her 90th Birthday badge.



Doreen Evans celebrating her 90th Birthday

The meals were delicious, the restaurant is an ideal setting for occasions such as this, and all the ladies thoroughly enjoyed the day.

November meeting we are having Tom Mason talking on Cyber Security, which unfortunately in this day is so necessary for all of us to be aware of scams etc.

If you are wanting to meet some new friends, then our club is what you are looking for. The cost for the meeting and speaker is only \$5, Knox Club at 10am on the 3rd Wednesday of each month even January 2026, there is plenty of parking, you will be made most welcome, and the Committee always makes sure a member is with you on your first visit. Please call Jan 0438 059 783, and ask any questions you may have before making your decision to come, we would love to see you.



Members enjoying the football finals meeting



Knox Over 50s

At Knox & District Over50s we are a very friendly and sociable group who normally meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month from January to November.

Our next General Meeting will be held at 10.30 am on Tuesday the 27th of January, 2026, at Club Kilsyth, 1-15 Canterbury Road, Bayswater North, followed by lunch for those who wish to stay on.

We provide guest speakers, many day trips and an annual trip, visits to Boronia Cinema, coffee mornings, regular lunches at different locations around Knox and morning melodies.

A pleasant surprise awaited us at our monthly luncheon during October. In the spirit of Halloween, Ringwood RSL had decorated their dining-room with some scary, but fun, figures. (Our photo shows some of our members enjoying the "show").

A large group of members enjoyed a trip to the West Coast of Tasmania during November. Also, during November, we had our Cup Day Lunch at the Boronia Hotel.

Our Social Committee is already organising events for 2026 and we will start the year with our monthly luncheon on the 13th of January at the Knox Club.

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

If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Kerry (on 0419 995 084) for further information.

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



Halloween at Ringwood RSL



News from Knox District Cub Scouts

by Nicole Klep, District Leader of Cub Scouts.

“Ready, Set, Roll! Cubs Race for Glory at the Billy Cart Derby”

Just under 100 Cubs from 8 Cub Units gathered at Heany Park Scout Camp in Rowville on Sunday the 12th of October for the Billy Cart Derby! It was a long awaited event, as it was scheduled for February, but was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. This time the weather was on our side and the rain just held off!

We had some very determined Cubs eyeing off the 20 trophies that were up for grabs. The Cubs were in teams of three and created their own team names. One Cub would steer the billy cart whilst the other two Cubs pushed - they rotated roles throughout the different events or even throughout the race. Some of the winning team names were: Green Panthers, Knuckles, The Wolf Pack, Wheelers, and the Black Devils



The races included an ‘Obstacle Course’ (Cubs weaved their billy cart in and out of witch’s hats), a Sprint (fastest billy cart over the line is the winner), ‘Blind Driver’ (the driver worn a blind fold and the other two Cubs pushing, guided the driver through the course), ‘Pit Stop’ (change drivers after parking at different locations) and ‘Wet Driving’ (drivers are given a cup of water, which they had to hold between their legs or feet and they needed to get as much water to the end as quickly as possible). My favourite was the Wet Driving race. We did have a number of wet legs / bottoms by the end of this event! The leader race was a great highlight of the day as well.

Trophies were awarded on the day for all events, including best sportsmanship, best decorated/ designed billy cart, team work and best & fairest. The Cubs all had a fantastic day and went home



asking when the next Billy Cart Derby will be! The overall winning team for the day was the ‘Green Panthers’, which was made up of three male Cubs from 2nd Wantirna Cub Unit.

If you are interested in trying Scouting go to: <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/locations/all-groups/>

2nd/3rd Bayswater, 1st Wantirna South, 2nd Wantirna, 1st Knoxfield and 4th Knox are the local Scout Groups. You can try three nights for free! So come along and join in the fun. Scouting is for youth from age 5 to 26 years and after 26 lots of fun is to be had by becoming a leader!



Wantirna Lions Club – Support Your Community with a LIONS CHRISTMAS CAKE

To support the Wantirna Lions Club’s numerous community projects it will again be selling the fantastic Christmas Cakes and Puddings in our local community. This year there is also a Gluten Free Christmas Cake available.

It would be great if you can support the Lions Club by purchasing a cake and or pudding. Available at;

- Wantirna Mall - Community Pharmacy, Bendigo Community Bank, Post Office
- Studfield Shopping Strip-Amcal Pharmacy
- Mountain Gate Shopping Centre- Post Office
- Bayswater-Commonwealth Bank
- Knox City Centre- Westpac Knox
- Levande Wantirna & Knox Retirement Villages, Balmoral Lifestyle Village

Wantirna Lions Club- Contact Paul 0400823441

If you would like to know more about the Wantirna Lions current projects or membership, please Email: wantirna@lionsclubs201v5.org or contact Paul Garvey 0400823441



THE FERNTREE GULLY ARTS SOCIETY

AT THE HUT GALLERY

157 UNDERWOOD RD FERNTREE GULLY

GALLERY

Thursday to Sunday

11am-4pm or When The Flags are Flying

ALL WELCOME, FREE ENTRY

Ferntree Gully Arts Society will be taking a break from mid December to mid January 2026

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us, all visitors and the people who have purchased our artworks and gifts from our gallery, we as artists greatly appreciate it. We would not survive without your support

Workshops and classes resume in mid January.

Please check out our website.
www.thehutgallery.com.au

Our first exhibition for 2026 is

ANYTHING GOES

FEBRUARY 7th – 27th

Many styles, many mediums

SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

Ferntree Gully View Club

Our monthly luncheon meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month (except December - it is the 3rd Monday) and includes a 2-course lunch menu (meal of your choice to be in by 11.00am), tea/coffee, raffle tickets, cost \$35 (December only) normally \$30. 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 7 disadvantaged students through the 'Learning for Life' Program with The Smith Family. We also support a refuge for women and children escaping domestic violence.

Lunch Date - Monday 15th December - Entertainer - Arnie Grives.

Lunch Date - NO VIEW Lunch in January 2026.

If you want to join a welcoming and fun club, come join us. Visitors are most welcome. Time: 10.30am for a 11.30am start. Where: The Knox Club, corner Stud & Boronia Roads, Wantirna South

Bookings: Call Romaine on 0421 400 549 to book

Wantirna Day View Club

Wantirna Day VIEW Club (Voice, Interests, and Education of Women), is a group of friendly women who meet regularly to enjoy social interaction, whilst also raising valuable funds for The Smith Family Learning for Life Program.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month (except in January) at The Stamford Hotel - Cnr Stud & Wellington Roads, Rowville - 10:30 am for an 11:00 am start. Members contribute a small fee of \$12 per meeting, (which includes morning tea, room hire, and raffle), and lunch is available to order at your own cost. Most meetings also host a guest speaker/entertainment for members' enjoyment.

We would love new members to join. Ladies of any age group, and from any location, would be most welcome.

For more information please call our President - Kate on 0421 650 684

Boronia VIEW Club

Boronia View (Voice Interests and Education of Women) will meet on Friday 19 December at 11.30am at Eastwood golf club Liverpool Road, Kilsyth with a 2 course lunch costing \$30 followed by a day of Christmas activities.

There will be a HUGE Christmas raffle on the day with all monies raised going to the Smith Family children who are sponsored by the club through

the learning for life program which is for their educational needs. The club is looking for new members so ladies of all ages and backgrounds

come along and you will be warmly welcomed. There are also small groups within the club and the occasional outing

Enquiries to Judith on 9764-8602

There will be no January activity.

What's On?

Event	Date & Time	Location	More Information
OLDER MEN : NEW IDEAS	2nd & 4th Fridays each month	Orana NH, 62 Coleman Rd ,Wantirna	Call Orana on 9801 1895
Changing Seasons Cafe	Wed to Fri 10.30am to 3.30pm Sat & Sun 9.00am to 4.00pm	31-34 Elizabeth St, Bayswater Access from the road	8720 1382 Facebook @ChangingSeasonsCafe
Wantirna Day View Club	1st Wednesday each month 10:30 am for 11:00 am start	Stamford Hotel Cnr Stud & Wellington Rds, Rowville	Kate on 0421 650 684
Ferntree Gully View Club	4th Monday of each month 11.30am	The Knox Club. Cnr Stud and Boronia Rd. Wantirna South	Romaine Meadowcroft - 0421 400 549
Boronia View Club	3rd Friday each month 11.30am.	Eastwood Golf Club Liverpool Road Kilsyth	Judith 9764 8602
Boronia Ladies Probus Club	3rd Wednesday of each month	Knox Club, cnr Boronia & Stud Rds Wantirna	Enquiries: Jan on 0438 059 783
Combined Probus Club of Wantirna Heights	First Wednesday of every month at 10am	Knox Boat Fishing Club, Schultz Reserve, Kingloch Pde Wantirna.	Michael 0439 551 209
iShred - Community Shredding Day	Sat. Dec 6th & Jan 17, 9am-12pm	5/7 Samantha Crt. Knoxfield	1300 763 688
Ringwood Field Naturalists Club	2nd Wednesday each month at 7.30pm	Ringwood East Senior Citizens Hall. Lawrence Ave, East Ringwood	Alison or Peter on 9801-6946 http://www.rfnc.org.au
Lions Club of Wantirna	1st & 3rd Wednesday each month at 7.00pm	Lions Club room, Bayswater Community Centre, 739 Mountain Hwy. Bayswater	Paul 0400 823 441
Scoresby 55+ Social Circle	Thursdays 10am-12.00noon	Scoresby Football Club, Scoresby Recreation Reserve.	Jeanette 0491 258 657 or John 0405689554.
Knoxfield Ladies Probus	3rd Wed. of the month at 10.30am.	Wantirna Club, 350 Stud Road Wantirna	Jo 0414 914 091
Lions Club of Knox	1st & 3rd Tues of month at 7.00pm	Our Saviours Lutheran Church Knox 646 Burwood Hwy, Knoxfield	Sue 0411 529 293
Probus Club of Wantirna Sth	2nd Wed of the month at 10.30am.	Wantirna Club, Stud Road Wantirna	Lesley Kelly 0409 028 959
Scoresby TOWN Club	Wednesdays 8.30am	Scout Hall behind 91 Lewis Road Wantirna	9761 1875
Boronia Probus Combined Club	2nd Thurs of the month at 10.00am	Boronia Bowls Club, 5 Marie Street, Boronia	Keiran Smith 0404 079 636
Wantirna Cricket Club	Saturday Summer Competition	Schultz Reserve Wantirna	President David Orlandi 0418 147 456
Rotary Club of Knox	Wednesdays 12.45pm	Knox Club, cnr Boronia & Stud Rds Wantirna	Gary Weston - 0409 553 168
Rotary Club of Boronia	Tuesdays 6.30pm	Knox Club, cnr Boronia & Stud Rds Wantirna	Greg Mossop - 0437 599 949
Rotary Club of Bayswater	Wednesdays 6.00pm	Rotary Club Rooms , Marie Wallace Reserve, King Street, Bayswater	Ron Bridges - 0414 843 427
The Boronia branch of CWA	2nd Wednesday of the month Craft Meeting - 4th Wednesday	CWA Hall at 4 Sundew Ave Boronia	Evelyn on 9762 1537 or 0434 722346
Ringwood View Club	2nd Wed of the month 11am	Ringwood Club, Maroondah Hwy	Heather 0411 219 248
KSSSG-Knox Stroke Survivors	2nd & 4th Wed of the month 10.30am	Crave Restaurant, 236 Dorset Road Boronia	Lister 0413095061 Rob 9758 8582 Anna 0414976619
Knox Photographic Society	2nd,3rd,4th Wednesdays 7.30PM	Boronia West Primary School. Tormore Rd Boronia (Enter via Swimming Pool car park).	Rob 0401943354
Studfield Wantirna Probus Club	2nd Tues monthly at 10.30am	Knox Club, 480 Boronia Rd Wantirna	Pauline 0458 003 985
Elm Street Mission	Mon, Wed, Fri 10 am to 2 pm	654 Mountain Highway Bayswater.	Ethne 0428 330 873 or info@elmstmission.org.au .
Knox Masters Athletics	Wed. 7.00pm-9.00pm	Knox Athletics track, Bunjil Way, Knoxfield	Peter - 0427880143, Helen 0425743977

EACH Financial Counselling

Managing Debt and Spending This Christmas by Holley Dumble

The festive season can be a wonderful time for family and celebration — but it can also bring financial stress. Many Australians head into the new year weighed down by Christmas debt, after spending more than planned on gifts, food, travel, and social events.

When costs pile up, credit cards, Buy Now Pay Later, and personal loans can seem like easy solutions. But by January, those repayments often add to the post-holiday blues.

Spotting the Signs of Financial Strain

If you find yourself using credit for essentials, only paying the minimum on bills, or avoiding opening statements, you're not alone — these are common warning signs of financial stress. The good news? With a bit of planning, you can enjoy the holidays without the debt hangover.

Tips for a Budget-Friendly Christmas

- Set a realistic limit — decide how much you can afford and stick to it.
- Plan ahead — include gifts, food, and upcoming bills in your budget so January doesn't catch you off guard.
- Choose meaningful over material — handmade gifts, shared meals, or time spent together often mean more than expensive items.
- Talk to family and friends — suggest a spending cap or Secret Santa to ease the pressure.
- Seek help early — if money worries are keeping

you up at night, financial counsellors can help you explore options and deal with creditors. Their services are free and confidential.

A Kinder Christmas for Your Wallet

Remember, Christmas isn't about how much you spend — it's about who you spend it with. Taking a mindful approach now can protect your finances and your wellbeing in the new year.

If you need support with any debt concerns -

- Contact EACH Financial Counselling or Financial Capability Program: 9871 1817
- Contact National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007



COMMUNITY NEWS



Community Music and Performances Inc.

Jazz on Sundays

Ringwood Bowls Club
2-12 Loughnan Road Ringwood

- Sunday 7 Dec

1:30 - 5:00pm

Doors Open for a buffet lunch at
12:30pm

(bookings essential)

More Information: Ann Craig
0412 063 603

Bookings – trybooking.com/BVWQE

Facebook:

CMaP Inc – Community Music and Performances Incorporated

Gully Market Update

Ian Rice president gully market.

It's that time of year. Christmas is just around the corner again. Whilst most of us take for granted gathering on Christmas Day with family or friends for lunch, there are many who don't get to experience this.

That is where organisations like Foothills Community Care step in. For the last 20 plus yrs, they have provided a traditional Christmas eve lunch for up to 300 people. For the 3rd year in a row, The Gully Market is making a donation to cover the cost of meat for this feast. This year we are donating \$2500. The market operates from the Upper Gully station car park, both Saturdays and Sundays 0900- 3pm. Looking forward to continuing public support, so that we can continue to support organisations such as this.



 Aussie

Gift yourself
your dream
Ho Ho Home
this Christmas!

Let's talk

Aussie Knox |
Rowville | Keysborough
03 9887 4088

HAPPY FESTIVE
SEASON





Wantirna Tennis Club

2025 - 2026 by Alison Rogers

SPORT NEWS

Tennis at Wantirna Tennis Club

There is so much happening down at Wantirna Tennis Club. We currently have 25 weekend teams playing along with Night tennis and Midweek Ladies.

By the time you read this edition we will have held our 2025 Club Championships. A most looked forward event at the Club each year.

Not only do we find our Champions at the Club, but also have our Wantirna Tennis Club Cup which is open to everyone at the Club.

More in the February edition.

Sponsorship

It was good to meet up with Leigh from Bendigo Bank Wantirna recently down at our Club. The Community Bank Wantirna have been proud sponsors of Wantirna Tennis Club for some time. We thank them for their ongoing support.



Book a court

Have you had a chance to come down and have a play on our new courts yet. This will be very popular over the summer break. There has been a lot of interest in our five new classic clay courts and these along with our 5 en tout cas courts are being well used through our 'book a court' system. These courts are now available for booking both day and night. Just check out our website. If playing at night, just select the 'lights' option, so that the lights come on automatically for you before play. So come on down and have a hit, we welcome you all.

WE WISH OUR READERS AND SUPPORTERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Momentum Tennis

TERM 1 - 2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN!

Wantirna Tennis Club and Momentum Tennis are now welcoming new enrolments for Term 1, 2026!



Be part of one of the largest and most active clubs in the Knox area with a great coaching team dedicated to helping players of all ages and abilities develop their skills.

Enjoy a FREE trial lesson for Hot Shots classes the perfect way for kids to learn, play and love tennis in a fun, supportive environment.

Juniors

Summer season has now started and it is great to see all our Junior Saturday and Sunday competition matches going well.

Thanks to the supervisors and the parents who support their children with this great sport.

If you have children who would like to join in with the Junior Members of our Club and play some team tennis, please give us a call. Now is the time to inquire about the next 2026 season. Details at the end of this article. All welcome.

Social Tennis

Social Tennis is still going strong on Tuesday mornings. Even if the weather is hot or cold, come on down and join the others or just have a coffee and a chat. It is lovely to see our group of social players expanding. They are a great group of friendly people.

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 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.

It is only \$5 for visitors, members free. All welcome.

Join our friendly tennis community and experience the best of local tennis at Wantirna Tennis Club.

For advanced players, Squads continue with high intensity sessions focused on match play, tactics, and fitness. Now's the time to build momentum for the upcoming season. Whether you would like your littlies to play Hot Shots with Ash or Cardio Tennis for both women and men with Troy or Bill give them a call.

Cardio has been extremely popular. Classes are Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes as well as Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Sessions are 45 minutes and it's a fantastic way to enjoy tennis while getting a huff and puff!

For anyone who hasn't tried Cardio Tennis yet, don't forget you're welcome to come and have a free trial.

A reminder that if anyone needs a new racquet, a restring or anything tennis related we can offer great service and pricing on all major brands.

Contact Troy Murrell

Head coach at Momentum Tennis

All Bookings should be made by calling or SMS to Troy at 0434 804 719

About Wantirna Tennis Club

Visit our website for details on how to join our Club. We have excellent facilities including two BBQs covered with a shade cloth sail. We have 10 tennis courts, 5 new classic clay and 5 en tout cas, 8 of these courts are under lights. 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 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 or check out our website 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 043 804 719 and his Coaching team or email t_murrell@bigpond.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

wantiratennis@gmail.com

Web: www.tennis.com.au/wantiratc/

WTC Face book: www.facebook.com/.../Wantirna-Tennis-Club

Wantirna Cricket Club News



Over \$2,000 was raised for mental health charity Beyond Blue at the Wantirna Cricket Club's recent fundraiser at The Knox Club.

The November 28 event was attended by almost 100 guests who heard from ex-AFL star Tom Boyd on his mental health journey, and were entertained by comedians Chris Wainhouse, Evan Hocking and Matt O'Neill.

With summer now officially here it properly feels like cricket season and two of the Wantirna Cricket Club's three senior teams sit inside the top four of their respective RDCA grades at the time of publication.

Jason Green, Michael Tufvesson, Scott Adams and Luke Jones have all scored half-centuries so far this season while 1st XI captain James Willoughby snared a six-wicket haul against Warrandyte. Eddie Boal has also started strongly in the 2nd XI, with 10 wickets in the first two months of the season.



Templeton Tennis Club News

by Neil Houlston, Secretary

Upcoming Open Day on Sunday 8th February 2026

Our club is holding its annual Open Day on Sunday 8th February 2026 from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

This event will for the first time be tied into the end of our weekend Sunday junior's competition to show new players the different competition levels available.

Our club head coach will be in attendance alongside many activities available to try out, including ball machines, testing your serving speed and also our new Pop Tennis (Mini Tennis) offering.

Pop Tennis is similar to pickleball in scale but is more POPular in America since it's much closer to full court tennis.

We encourage everyone of all ages and experience levels that have interest in coaching, joining any of our competition teams or looking to become a member.

Tennis Club Championships

In the lead up to the commencement of summer competition, we held our annual junior club championships in mid-September.

Our club champion for 2025 is Jovi Hong (2nd from right in picture).

Congratulations to all participants and winners on this day.

Straight Sets Professional Tennis Coaching

Kelly and the coaching team at Templeton are available to provide their services for all ages and experience levels, from very beginners all the way through to those trying to perfect their backhand.

Details on all coaching programs available at our club, including cardio tennis, group coaching and private lessons are available on our club's website under the Coaching tab.

Follow Us On Socials

To stay up to date with events like upcoming Open Day and everything else happening at Templeton

Tennis Club, please follow our Facebook and Instagram pages (@templetontennisclub). The pages have the blue tennis ball icon for the profile picture.

Templeton Tennis Club Inc.

Templeton Reserve, 43-63 Templeton Street Wantirna 3152.

Melway Ref. 63 G9

Membership: Leanne 0493 450 111

President: Chris 0425 763 106

Coaching: Kelly 0414 874 482

Website: www.templetontennis.com.au

Email: president@templetontennis.com.au



A New Year Approaching For Knox Boat Fishing Club

For the past 46 years the Knox Boat Fishing club has been an active Fishing and Social Club in the Knox area.

We meet every two weeks on Wednesday evenings at our Clubrooms on Schultz Reserve, Wantirna and have regular guest speakers and talks by members.

Our annual Fishing calendar is always full and caters for Saltwater, Freshwater, Estuary and Game Fishermen. Annual events include a week in March at Bermagui, targeting Marlin and a weekend at Portland for Southern Bluefin Tuna. Weekends away at Marlo, Bemm River, Mallacoota and other Gippsland locations for Bream and other Estuary fish. Freshwater Events include Cod and Trout at Eildon and Nillahcootie and Bass at Blue Rock Dam.

As well as trips away we hold events throughout the year on Western Port and Port Phillip bays for Snapper, Gummies, Whiting and other species.

In recent years many clubs have suffered falling membership as new participants to the sport think they can learn everything from online media. There are two big reasons to join a club like ours. You will learn hands on tips from some very skilled anglers who give you the "one percenters" to make your trips successful but also while doing it you are socialising and making new friends which you cannot do in front of the TV.

We have a number of friendly but spirited Competitions running through the year and high-quality Tackle prizes are awarded at the annual Christmas Presentation night. Champion Angler of the Year, a points-based competition over the year. A species Competition for the largest of each fish from a list caught over the year. (Species include Snapper, Gummies, Whiting, Murray Cod, Trout and a number of other species.

In 2026 a new competition will start. Who can catch the most species in Victorian waters during our Angling year.



Our Club name includes "Boat" but you do not need a boat to join the Club and our Competitions now give land-based anglers every chance to compete.

We welcome new members. If you would like to find out more and perhaps come to a meeting one Wednesday please contact us. Details below:-

Contact:

John Barnard – President

Email: secretary@kbfc.org.au

Telephone: 0417 400 150



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