



Crucial: a well-funded ABC

Sally Moseby, Convenor, Boroondara ABC Friends



IT has been said before but we really are living in interesting times. Unlike in the past, we are now having to deal with issues we have not had to confront previously: climate change; media platforms that spread disinformation and misinformation at a level never previously imagined; and social disconnection.

It is for these reasons that we need our ABC even more and for it to be properly funded, supported by all Australians who benefit from its work, and respected for the quality and diversity of the service it performs.

We know the consequences of climate change and we are seeing bushfires and floods occur more frequently and with greater ferocity. ABC Emergency Broadcasting assists communities to respond to these threats; it's our lifeblood in times of emergency.

During the 2019–2020 Black Summer bushfires when many lives were threatened, 120 ABC News staff, many returning from holidays, went into the areas to keep communities informed. Nearly 1000 emergency broadcasts were sent out.

Phil Coorey, political editor of The Australian Financial Review stated at the time, 'Just emerged from days of hell on south coast, cannot believe attacks on ABC. It is the *only* reliable source of info. Everyone is tuned in; its real time broadcasting is saving lives, property and helping us understand our situation re fire threats, roads, petrol, food etc' (*Twitter, 3 January 2020*).

It's appalling to have to mention money in this context but this effort added millions of dollars to the ABC

budget costs. It demonstrates how important it is to have a well-funded ABC. Privatisation as some people are advocating would never be up to providing such a comprehensive and quality service. As climate effects become more dire, the disaster mitigation work of our public broadcaster will become ever more important.

The broadcast information that Australians receive from other media platforms – upon which we form opinions, make judgements and act – has become less reliable and more misleading. Deliberate lies and fanciful stories with serious consequences are becoming commonplace. Social media is uncontrolled and not subject to any form of editorial review for accuracy or truth; commercial media is subject to control by a few media monarchs often with an alternative agenda besides public education/information; and we are finding that it is less and less a responsibility of our leaders to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

The situation described is leading to social divisions. If the ABC is not funded adequately, it is possible that televising and broadcasting in rural and regional areas could face reductions which in turn could lead to a rural/urban divide that would create a further disconnect between Australian communities

Despite a narrative from some, we NEED the ABC! If the above matters are important to you, get in touch and keep an eye out for an ABC Friends presence in your area. We will also be having a Meet the Candidate session in Kooyong. To join and/or to stay up to date, go to: <https://www.abcfriendsvic.org.au/>





CONTENTS

(Click on article to navigate to it)

Crucial: a well-funded ABC	1	The Round	14
Quizling Questions	2	Aspect's How to Hospitality Program	15
Catchment zones and affordable housing	3	Balwyn Evergreen Centre	16
Nelson Road, Box Hill	4	Probus Club of Mitcham Nunawading	17
Letters to the Editor	5	Christmas hope for those doing it tough	17
KooyongKoot contributes again	6	Community Bank Inner East & Eastern Health	18
People power for the Federal Election	7	Elizabeth Chong's Easy Chicken Wings	19
Putting 'Nature' into nature strips	7	Kew's new hub for locals with disability	20
What do we want?	9	Youth Achievement Awards	21
Vermont Garden Club	9	Growing up in Surrey Hills	22
North Kew Tennis Club welcome grant	10	Gratitude	23
U3A Ringwood	10	Stan got his pig!	23
Model Railway Club visits Cumberland View	11	Infrastructure projects in Croydon	24
Wonderful Community Gardens	12	Woodsy	24
3147 Love Our Street	12	Wiser Driver	25
Try Scottish Country dancing	13	Events	26
Murnong Aboriginal Gallery	14	Quizling Answers	29



Quizling Questions ? ? ?

Answers on page 29.

- By breaking in half a word that is part of this puzzle's poetical start, and filling the gap with a jumbled version of a second word in this diversion, you will spell a hyphenated word relating to that which is awesome or exhilarating.
- Grass skirt possesses a triple-S, as do these other solutions. Can you solve these puzzles?**

Cinderella souvenir (5,7)

Proles' battle (5,8)

Where queens lie (5,3)

It's dishwasher proof (9,5)

Tasmanian moat? (4,6)

Sheriff often (7-6)

Holy burner (4,5)

Harvard for one(8,6)

Sewer's X? (5-6)

Fastener (5,4)

Horny bunch? (5,7)

Where you swear (7,5)

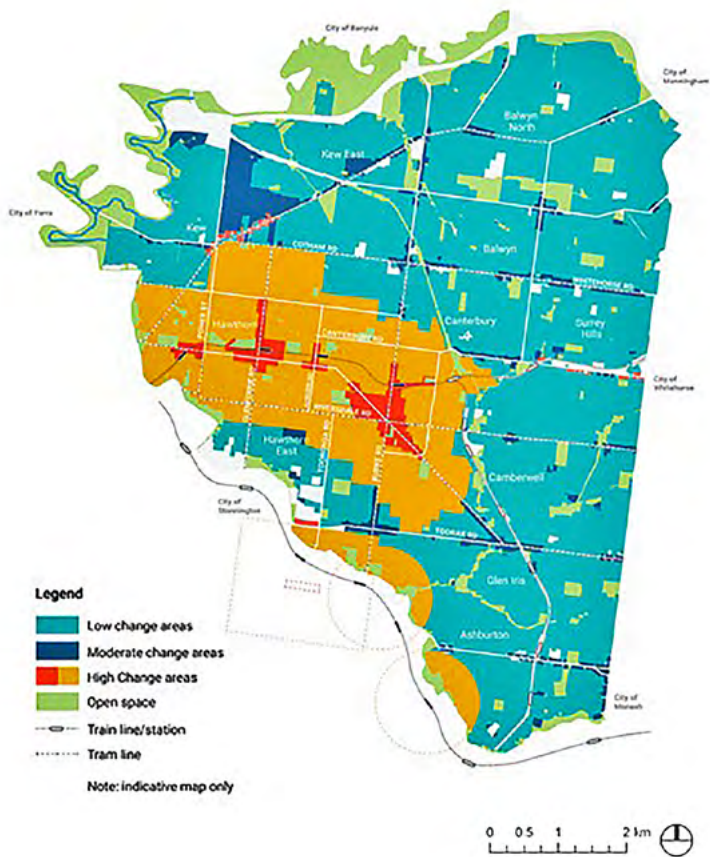
Thank you, David Astle for allowing us to use your intriguing, teasing, and frustrating quizlings that can drive a person to distraction. These come from his book, *Puzzled*.

To read more of his work, go to davidastle.com

Acknowledgement of country

Independent Community News Group Incorporated acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and waters of the Eastsider News focus area, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

To learn more about the rich culture and traditions of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, explore their website at www.wurundjeri.com.au



800m Catchment Zones Won't Deliver Affordable Housing

Jane Oldham

WHILE celebrating Melbourne as the world's fourth most liveable city, the Government is finalising plans for 10 activity centres that will significantly affect our city's liveability. The key feature is an 800m 'catchment' around transport and commercial zones.

These catchments will reshape Melbourne with three-six-plus storey apartments in neighbourhood streets and towers up to 20 storeys at tram and train zones, including in Boroondara, Whitehorse/Maroondah and Stonnington. With the locations of tens of catchments yet to be announced the program will rebuild established Melbourne.

The Planning Minister will rezone these catchments without council or community consultation. The changes will affect Melbourne's suburban character, heritage precincts, and house-and-garden lifestyle. Heritage experts and Boroondara Council warn that 70% of Boroondara's heritage homes are at risk despite assurances that the 'heritage overlay will remain'.

The promised affordable housing in middle Melbourne will remain elusive. In the outer area of the Ringwood catchment, two-bedroom apartments proposed for \$484,000 are out of reach of many Melbourne households. Closer to the CBD, developments target wealthy downsizers.

Social and community housing programs lack targets and unlikely to meet increasing demand. Public housing sites are being privately redeveloped for mostly social

and affordable housing provided by community housing entities. Underused public land is being sold off to developers with an obligation to provide just 10% affordable homes, to be available at 10% less than the median price/rent for the suburb.

Good planning requires collaboration between the state, councils, communities, heritage experts, community housing providers and industry. It should deliver innovative housing models, quality housing with good amenity that responds to climate change, incorporates best practice levels of tree canopy, is well designed and sustainably built. Planned infrastructure upgrades must be delivered in time to meet demand. Many councils have alternative well planned densification strategies already implemented that the Government has swept aside. Hundreds of banked planning approvals provide time to plan thoughtfully.

Level crossing removals and the Suburban Rail Loop have bypassed accountability, feasibility, meaningful engagement, and transparency. It's time to demand better governance. A united community voice, opposition, and crossbench MPs are vital to ensure we retain the best of Melbourne as we densify.

For more information, go to the Boroondara Community Group website at <https://borocogroup.org/> or email them at borocgroup@gmail.com

[Return to Contents](#)



Nelson Road, Box Hill

a misguided planning proposal

Michael Kirk OAM

WHITEHORSE Council recently submitted its MAC (Metropolitan Activity Centre) review report to the Suburban Rail Loop Authority. Among other things, the MAC report recommends that Nelson Road, Box Hill be modified to give priority to cyclists and pedestrians. The road would be converted from its existing role to become a corridor for cyclists wishing to ride their cycles from North Box Hill to southern points of the Metropolitan area. In December 2024 the SLR confirmed that it had accepted Whitehorse Council's recommendations.

Nelson Road runs north south from Shannon Street across Whitehorse Road parallel to Elgar Road and Station Street. It currently acts as a primary access corridor to Box Hill Hospital (621 acute beds, plus 40 psychiatric beds), and Epworth East Hospital (223 private acute beds), and to homes further north. As such, it provides an essential route for patients, staff, and visitors attending these two major hospitals, and a location for essential car parking.

As a former CEO of Box Hill Hospital (1980 – 1990), I hold significant misgivings about this proposal. The proposed change will significantly and detrimentally impact on frail and sometimes very sick patients and their relatives. It will also affect the function that the road provides to the two hospitals and specialist clinics. If this proposal proceeds, it is likely to cause disruptions and inconvenience to all who are seeking to access the medical and educational facilities in this area, as well as for local residents.

I am greatly concerned about the validity of the information on which this recommendation is based. Management of the two hospitals does not appear to have been involved in discussions about the proposals, or even aware of the review. Important stakeholders such as patients, staff and visitors were not consulted.

The quality of information generated for the review is questionable. Road usage was collected in 2021 at a time when Covid restrictions were in full force, and when there was very little traffic, hospital admissions were limited to seriously ill patients, or those with covid, and no visitors were allowed. Outpatient clinics were not held.

No information is provided with respect to the current usage of Nelson Road by cyclists on a daily basis, by time of travel, or whether they are riding to work, or for recreational purposes. How could anyone make a considered decision without such basic information?

Another significant concern is the reduction of 64 parking places in front of the hospitals. There appears to be no recognition that these parking spots are used by patients attending Outpatient clinics, or for treatment/diagnostic tests. Other concerned users are relatives and close friend wishing to visit patients. The metered spaces cost \$3.20 per hour which is dramatically different to the BHH car park (100 cars) where the charge is \$18.00 for 2 hours. The users? Many are frail and elderly, some very ill. These people are not able to search for spaces in the back streets, and walk there and back.

By the stroke of a pen, or by the turn of a bicycle wheel – these people are being dispossessed!

If you share my concerns about this proposal, I encourage you to seek more information, discuss it with your friends and neighbours and to make representations to your local councillors, State politicians and to officers at Whitehorse Council.

This article is a summary of the more comprehensive examination Michael has undertaken of the issues raised by this proposal. The longer version spells out in detail grounds for objection and is available on the *Eastsider News* website here: <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Nelson-Rd-long-version-2.pdf>

[Return to Contents](#)



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Listening to locals. Improving our community.

Labor



Letters to the Editor

The Editors of Eastsider News welcome letters from our readers and supporters. We want to provide you with a platform where you can express your concerns and share your insights on the things that matter in our communities. All we ask is that you keep them polite, well written, short at no more than 250 words and factually based.

Please note, while we welcome a spread of topics, views and opinions, the specific responses expressed by individual writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

Dear Editor

Time to come together

RATHER than disagreeing and fighting one another re the world's climate, *Homo Sapiens* (wise humans) should and must agree, and take urgent climate actions to ensure a liveable future for every form of life. After all, science states that billions of years ago, all species (plants, animals and humans) evolved from the same two cells.

So, let's remember that astounding fact, and let's get together again in 2025. In fact, this must be an essential part of Australia's coming federal election.

Barbara Fraser PhD, Burwood

Dear Editor

Love your work, Eastsider News!

IN our AI age, with misinformation and disinformation swirling, and mainstream media beholden to the rush of the 24 hour news cycle, I increasingly appreciate outlets like *Eastsider News*. Reading articles from real people, about real life activities and concerns, is both refreshing and grounding. It is obvious from every edition of *Eastsider News* that other folk care about the environment, about the health and well-being of people, and recognise the importance of community. Creativity, hope, joy and opportunities can be found within your pages. Please keep those pages coming. And, may more community members join together to celebrate and protect the wonders of life in Melbourne on our precious planet earth.

Amy Hiller, Kew

Dear Editor

Decentralisation, not higher density

IN your article *Higher Density Living in a Changing Climate* (*Eastsider News* Edition 27), your correspondent correctly cites the need for compact cities and environmentally sustainable development. However, if we are to have any chance of retaining Melbourne's fading reputation as one of the most liveable cities, the only solution is decentralisation. While such a strategy is a highly costly way of restructuring, the long-term prospects of infinite growth currently proposed by the current government are simply unsustainable.

Back in 1973 the Whitlam government began a cities program of decentralization, allocating funds to develop cities like Albury–Wodonga. If these policies initiated then had been followed through, Melbourne would be a very different and vastly better city than it is today.

To its shame, the following Liberal government axed the program and we now live in a divided city with cosmopolitan Melbournians living near transport and cultural facilities and the less well-off struggling with the stress of outer suburban living.

Decentralisation would certainly be expensive and difficult to implement, but if we have any regard at all for the long-term future of Melbourne, it is the only way forward.

Bryan Long, Balwyn



KooyongKoot contributes again

Glenys Grant

baseline activities and so much more. Part of their vision has been to bring ethnic, cultural and socio-economic groups of all ages together, for a common purpose – to improve the environment and surrounds of Gardiners Creek. This, in turn, is leading to a healthier, less stressed, more united community.

With the group's success in obtaining grants (KKA have been successful in every project grant application they have made), strong advocacy and the increasing levels of volunteering the future is bright.

The group's next major goal is to plant more than 25,000 plants by the end of 2025 over an area of three hectares. This is in addition to the work done week in, week out by the individual Friends groups. In 2024, Ashburton Creek Biodiversity Crew planted 6000 plants along Ashburton Creek with the support of Boroondara Council. The group recently received a commendation from the Victorian Environment Friends Network for their work.

Stakeholders, the community and local Councils are seeing the value and benefits added by KKA and its members. Support for their goals is growing, but the critical role of Catchment Keeper remains unfunded. This position has been vital in creating the alliance of Friends groups and similarly aligned voluntary groups and the Regional Collaboration that is in the process of developing the strategic plan for Gardiners Creek. The position is important as an accountable and steady environmental resource to maintain and increase community involvement in the catchment. We hope to see more public and private investment and grants for this group and its members, both for projects and people, which are the lifeblood of the KooyongKoot Alliance and the communities they serve.

If you are interested in being part of this vibrant group, contact the Catchment Keeper Graham Ross on 0407 046 358, kooyongkootalliance@gmail.com and check out their website at <https://kka.org.au/>

IN the past year, KooyongKoot and Friends of the Catchment have contributed a staggering 17,000 volunteer hours of community service to the environment. A recent review calculated that, at a conservative rate of \$45/hr, this represents over \$750,000 of value a year. KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA) and its committee estimate they collectively contributed a significant 4,200 volunteer hours to this total.

These figures are set to increase this year, with the establishment of a number of new Friends groups in the Catchment, such as Friends of Gardiners Creek Reserve, Ashburton Creek Biodiversity Crew (ACBC) and Friends of Wurundjeri Way.

KooyongKoot Alliance (KKA) was formed in 2020 as a response to the lack of coordinated approach to the management of the Gardiners Creek catchment. Since then, and in conjunction with the Gardiners Creek Regional Collaboration (five Councils, Melbourne Water and other major stakeholders), they have helped promote and encourage Friends Groups and advisory groups to grow and thrive. KKA has also worked closely with the major stakeholders in the catchment to develop a strategic plan to be delivered in 2025.

The primary work of the Alliance has been about connecting communities. Not only are these groups sustaining and caring for the creek and its surrounds, but they are doing the same for the local communities in which they work. This was acknowledged when KKA won the 2024 Victorian Environmental Friends Network Connecting Habitats award.

The true extent of the work is not just measured in the number of weeds the KKA pull and plants they plant, but also by the volunteer hours they devote to these



[Return to Contents](#)

People power: climate concern & positive action for the Federal Election

Jan Molloy

HOW do we ensure non-partisanship regarding the state of our climate and efforts to lower emissions reaches voters during the 2025 Federal Election Campaign? Do you want to join others in the Federal seat of Kooyong who are keen to be proactive in this space?

Please join us to kick off the Kooyong Votes Climate 2025 election campaign on [Sunday 16 February](#).

There is much at stake in this Federal election and we need your help to make sure climate action is high on the list of vote determining issues in Kooyong. Putting accurate information into the hands of voters about where the candidates stand on climate is powerful.

Be part of it. Find out how you, your family and friends can be involved in a dynamic, non-partisan, Vote Climate campaign which will include scorecards, street stalls, events, including a Kooyong Candidates Forum, door knocking and more.

Join Lighter Footprints on [Sunday 16 February](#) to hear about our campaign strategy and the tactics we plan to roll out. As you know, we run on people power so we can't bring our plans to fruition without your help. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved. We'd also love to hear your ideas about how our campaign could be even better!

After the information and volunteering session, we will kick back and enjoy each other's company with a BBQ (vegetarians catered for), some good conversation and perhaps a game of bowls, pool or ping pong. Drinks are at bar prices. Children are most welcome!

We're delighted that some of the bigger climate organisations including Australian Conservation Foundation, Doctors for the Environment and Asian Australians for Climate Solutions have decided to campaign with us in Kooyong and will be joining the campaign launch. This doesn't necessarily mean they bring significant numbers of volunteers so all of us are definitely still needed. We will also be joined by our usual partners, the Kooyong Climate Change Alliance. Don't miss what promises to be an engaging afternoon with the opportunity to meet some new people and chart a course for climate action in the 2025 Federal election. Kids are most welcome so please feel free to make this a family event.

When: [Sunday 16 February 3-6pm](#)

Where: Camberwell Central Bowls Club, 14 Bowen Street, Camberwell

Registrations are essential (for catering purposes). Go here to let us know you will be coming: <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/kooyong-votes-climate-launch/>

Putting 'Nature' into nature strips

Julie Mulhauser

BALWYN Rotarian Murray Wilkinson has been instrumental in creating over fifty biodiverse nature strips in just over two years.

Murray was inspired by attending a Rotarians for Bees event – 'Bring Back the Buzz' organised by Canterbury Rotarian John McCaskill in March 2022.

Keynote speakers were Costa Georgiadis (Host of ABC Gardening Australia and Rotary Environmental Sustainability ambassador), Alick Osborne (Rotarian and Seasol CEO), Fiona Sutton-Wilson (Earthwatch CEO), Fiona Chambers (When Bee Foundation) and Ian Riseley (Past Rotary International President). Boroondara Council officers Amy Shaw and Penny Coulson also attended and have been great supporters of the Balwyn Rotary Biodiverse Nature Strips.

Murray's interest in horticulture had been sparked in the preceding year, when he and other Balwyn Rotarians, led by the late Dick Menting (Balwyn Rotarian and co-founder of Bendigo Bank), grew seedlings from seed to

(Continued on page 7)



Putting 'Nature' into nature strips (Continued from page 6)

Key	Botanical Name	Common Name	Class i.e. Tree, Shrub, Climber, Ground cover, Grass	Mature Height (mm)	Mature Width (mm)	Pot Size (litres)	Qty	Wildlife Attracting	Notes/ Maintenance	Nursery Available
Cr	<i>Cornus reflexa - greenii</i>	Native hedges	Small Shrub	1500	1500	Take or 140mm	3	Nectar for birds and bees.	Tip prone to sustain rounded shape.	Takestock at Greenlink, otherwise 140mm pots available at Furrings nursery as Cornus 'Fellow & Green' form
Ll	<i>Lomatium laevis</i>	Spiry-headed mat-rush	Grass	1200	1000	Take	1	It provides seeds for small birds, foodsource plant for butterfly caterpillars.	Grows under established trees. Evergreen - adaptable to drought and poor soil.	Greenlink
Dl	<i>Dianella laevis</i>	Fair Flax Lily	Stemless	800 - 1000	1000	Take	5	Shrub and Butterflies.	An attractive clumping habitat plant. Good under trees.	Greenlink
Rg	<i>Rytidosperma gracilimum</i>	Rural Wallaby-Grass	Grass	400	300	Take	7	Bees and Butterflies.		Greenlink
Vs	<i>Volcanella stricta</i>	Tall Bluebell	Clumping	900	400	Take	7	Butterflies.		Greenlink
Ls	<i>Lepidosiphon argenteum</i>	Scaly Duttons	Perennial Herb / Biennial	400	400	Take	11	Native bees.	Some withering over summer.	Greenlink
Anz	<i>Azorella juncea</i>	Chocolate Lily	Ground cover	300	600	Take	11	Native bees.		Greenlink
Bm	<i>Banksia laevis</i>	Cut-Leaf Daisy	Perennial, Evergreen herb	300	300	Take	16	Bees, Butterflies, Other insects.	Can rot back after flowering.	Greenlink
Ph	<i>Phacelia juncea</i>	Desert Rice Flower	Small shrub	500	1000	Take	3	Butterflies.	Mound shaped.	Greenlink
Vh	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Native Ivy - leaf Violet	Ground Cover	150	3000	Take	7	Attracts pollinators like bees and butterflies.		Greenlink
Anz	<i>Azorella juncea</i>	Bulgar Widgee	Groundcover	150	1000	Take	8	Ground dwelling invertebrates and provides food for Kookaburras.	Tolerates extended dry conditions but thrives with regular moisture.	Greenlink
TOTAL: 80										

NOTE: PLEASE CHECK WWW.BYDA.COM.AU AND SEEK ADVICE ON UNDERGROUND SERVICES PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS. THIS PLAN PROVIDES SUGGESTED PLANT SELECTION AND LAYOUT ONLY. ALL HARD LANDSCAPING DESIGN AND ASSOCIATED WORKS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY ROTARY VOLUNTEERS AND HOMEOWNERS ADHERING TO COUNCIL NATURE STRIP GUIDELINES AND ALLIANT APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS.

help revegetate fire ravaged Mallacoota. Somewhere in Mallacoota are Black Cockatoos feasting on She-Oaks raised by Murray.

Fellow Balwyn Rotarians Chris Finley, Clarke Ballard and Marc Mirams joined Murray. Starting with a modest pilot of ten nature strips, the project has quickly grown to fifty nature strips through a combination of 'What's Happening Here' signs, letter box drops and word of mouth.

Cathy now has a Balwyn Rotary biodiverse nature strip designed by landscape architect Jen Martin. She explained she was motivated to make the switch from

The Balwyn Rotary Nature Strip team is looking forward to engaging and training other Rotary Clubs as well as the 'beautification' of the Riversdale Station precinct in partnership with Keep Australia Beautiful, other local Rotary Clubs and the community.

grass and weeds to a biodiverse nature strip because 'There are better things to do with this patch of dirt'.

Cathy's new nature strip softens the look of the street, improves street tree health by reducing soil compaction and contributes much needed support for bees, lizards, and birds. The regular chore of mowing and edging the nature strip has been replaced by removing some occasional emergent weeds.

If you agree with Cathy that a biodiverse nature strip 'sounds like a good thing to do' and want to put 'Nature' in your nature strip, get in touch with Balwyn Rotary – naturestrips@balwynrotary.org.au

[Return to Contents](#)

What do we want?

Bob Simpson, freelance writer

In this world in which we live.

By simplifying the options for the world in which we all live, we face a stark choice: the joy and delight of sustained and peaceful ecological and human flourishing or degradation and human diminishment. The latter manifests through the concrete reality of ecological collapse, human suffering, disintegration of households and communities, moral and spiritual decay, imperial economic processes, and political domination.

The choice is ours to make – purposefully.

Hannah Arendt, in *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, warned that totalitarian movements grow when masses of people resign themselves to apathy. If this mindset takes hold, societies risk losing critical thought, individuality, and freedom – to oppressive systems.

Are we inching closer to this even in Australia? Consider the blatant tribalism between political parties, suppression of choice and reasoned thought in the name of ideology, concentrated and powerful media control, and relentless demands for economic growth. Layered over this is the intensifying self-interest and diminishing regard for the common good, eroding trust and democracy.

If you believe in the contemporary possibility of peaceful ecological and human flourishing, what could we do together? I think the answer lies in households and the influential communities in which we work and play. These are the foundations of transformative change.

First, we must articulate a compelling vision of sustained and peaceful flourishing. What does it look like to live in harmony with nature and each other? How can we nurture hope for it to become a concrete reality? Next, we can collect and share stories of success – households and communities already embodying these values. These examples inspire others and demonstrate what is possible.

We can influence political paradigms, shifting focus from divisive power struggles to genuine public interest. And we could work together through networks of visionary thinkers and doers, using practical tools like training in non-violent communication, action research, appreciative inquiry, and strategic planning.

The solutions begin with us. It will take people who can turn ideas into structured action – visionaries and leaders who guide with purpose. Together, we can create a better world, starting from our households and radiating outward into every sphere of life.



WOULD you like a better-looking garden, advice and help with garden issues, your roses to look healthier, a garden in a small space?

We would love you to join us at our monthly club meetings where our friendly members are keen to help with all things gardening!

Where: City of Whitehorse Horticultural Centre, 82 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill 3131.

When: At 8pm on the second Thursday of the month (except January).

Meeting Highlights: Trading table; display bench; demonstrations; guest speaker; raffle; info. about open gardens/shows & lots more, followed by a delicious supper after the meeting.

Membership: Annual fee: \$25 single; \$35 family (no joining fee). Members receive a monthly e-newsletter.

Forthcoming Events:

The 2025 club year commences at our February meeting (Thursday 13 February at 8pm.) Guest speakers TBA, but topics planned include: African Violets; Hanging Baskets; Vertical Gardens; Permaculture and Preparing your garden for the next season.

Visitors are very welcome (gold coin donation please). Further information and/or to notify your attendance, please call Louise (Secretary) on 0401 431 239 or Margaret on (03) 9878 1702.

Email: vermontgardenclub@gmail.com

[Return to Contents](#)

North Kew Tennis Club

welcoming Bendigo Bank grant

Alan Whittaker

NORTH Kew Tennis Club welcomes a grant of \$33,000 from the Bendigo Bank, which will go toward the cost of relaying four new courts.

With over 250 members at last count, the club is a fixture in the Kew community promoting activity, inclusion and social contact. The existing courts have been well used over the past 15 years and are now in need of replacement. North Kew Tennis Club committee member, Frank Saris, and club president, Graeme Kentish, are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic efforts in obtaining this significant grant. Demonstrating that the word 'community' is a real value at the Bendigo Bank, this grant, together with the backing of the Boroondara Council, will hopefully allow work on the new courts to proceed early in 2025. Many thanks to Maggie and Bob for the work they do at Bendigo Bank.



Graeme Kentish, (centre) President of the North Kew Tennis Club, accepting a cheque for \$33000 from Bob Stensholt and Maggie Stamoulis of the Bendigo Community Bank.

U3A Ringwood

a friendly place to have fun and learn

Lynn Blackbell

U3A Ringwood is a not-for-profit organisation providing a diverse range of low-cost educational and recreational activities for retired and semi-retired individuals aged 55 and above in the Ringwood and Maroondah areas.

U3A Ringwood offers a lively spectrum of activities designed to challenge and engage both mind and body, these include discussion groups covering art, politics, current affairs, and history, as well as exercise and dance classes, poetry sessions, bike riding, craft workshops and more.

The organisation is managed and led by volunteers, all of whom are members sharing their skills and knowledge with peers. This collaborative approach fosters a strong sense of community and mutual support among participants.

Membership is open to individuals aged 55 and over who are retired or semi-retired. The annual membership fee is kept minimal to ensure accessibility for all.

Eastsider News February 2025

Members can enrol in as many courses as they wish, with most activities included in the membership fee. Some courses may incur a small additional cost, especially if they require specific materials.

Engaging with U3A Ringwood offers an excellent opportunity for personal development, social interaction, and active participation in the local community during retirement. Our courses run between early February and the first week of December on weekdays between 9.30am and 4pm at our two convenient locations right in the heart of Ringwood.

For more information, including details on membership, courses, and upcoming events, visit the official website at www.u3aringwood.org.au or by phone at 0481 591 224.



RINGWOOD
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

[Return to Contents](#)

Waverley Model Railway Club– Men’s Shed Visit to Cumberland View Aged Care

Alan Greenhill



WAVERLEY Model Railway Club–Men’s Shed was pleased to present the club member’s ‘Hollow Glen’ model railway layout to the residents of Cumberland View Aged Care retirement village last December. Many residents were intrigued by the ingenious set up and transport systems used to bring the display to life.

The model depicted a fictitious English countryside, castle and town. Residents enjoyed looking for the treasure hunt items set up around the model such as Pepper Pig, rock climbers, billy cart race, the wedding, Santa and the man with the broken leg.

The club operates both HO and N-scale permanent layouts in the club rooms and maintains six exhibition layouts that are displayed regularly at various model railway exhibitions throughout the year.

The club caters for members with many interests: some do dioramas for scenery, others do electronics, we have an extensive railway themed library, buildings to maintain, finances to keep track of and we run model trains.

Visitors are always welcome to come and have a look. Contact us via our website: <https://waverleymrc.org.au/> to arrange a convenient date and time so we have someone ready to show you around.

Note for your diary:

King’s Birthday weekend, 7–9 June, 2025. Come and see our exhibition at the Brandon Park, Community Centre, 649 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill.

Alan Greenhill is Vice President Exhibition Manger Waverley Model Railway Club – Men’s Shed.

[Return to Contents](#)



KEITH WOLAHAN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MENZIES

Committed to *making a difference, not a career.*

✉ keith.wolahan.mp@aph.gov.au

☎ (03) 9848 9900

Authorized by Keith Wolahan MP, Liberal Party, Level 1, 651 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster, Vic 3108

Our wonderful Community Gardens

Ray Peck

IT took a while for a plot to become available at the Linda Crescent community garden in Hawthorn. Since then, I have been amazed at the amount of produce one can grow in a few square metres with enough produce to share with family, friends and neighbours. The two Hawthorn Community Gardens (Riversdale Road and Linda Crescent) have 86 garden plots lovingly tendered by people of all ages. While most conversation ranges around vegies and the weather, on social occasions, personal life stories abound. A great way to meet new people.

Boroondara has several other community gardens, including the Alamein Community Garden, the Ashburton Community Garden, the Balwyn Community Garden, the Canterbury Community Garden and the Willsmere Station Community Garden. Whitehorse has three community gardens at Box Hill, Burwood and Nunawading. Contact details for these are available on the websites of the respective councils at <https://tinyurl.com/BoroondaraCGs> and <https://tinyurl.com/WhitehorseCGs> respectively.

The gardens are at their most prolific right now. Why not track one down near you, include it in your next neighbourhood walk, and maybe even put your name down?

To find out about community gardens in Boroondara, [go here](#) For those in Whitehorse, [go here](#)



Produce from the Linda Community Garden.
Credit: Ray Peck

3147 Love Our Street

Moira Tobin

AT 10am on the first Sunday of each month, a passionate and dedicated team of volunteers meet for one hour to collect litter in postcode 3147 (Ashburton/Ashwood).

Please come and join us at our monthly community clean-ups

Locations for our monthly gatherings change (and are subject to weather) but we publicise details prior to each event on our [Facebook page here](#).

[Return to Contents](#)

Please BYO gardening gloves. Collection bags, sunblock, insect repellent, hand sanitiser are supplied. We also have litter 'grabbers'. Always wear appropriate clothing – boots/closed shoes, long pants, a hat, and bring a bottle of water.

Join us for the hour or for any amount of time you have. Many hands make lighter work. Children under the age of 15 must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Moira Tobin is Street leader for 3147 Love Our Street.





For fitness and fun try Scottish Country dancing

Scottish Country Dance Victoria

MELBOURNE'S inner east is full of folk of Scots descent but you definitely don't need to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dance (SCD). It is danced around the world - same dances, same music.

According to Julie Shelton, secretary of Scottish Country Dance Victoria, it is the best dance style for fitness and sheer enjoyment. 'It was always the party dance style of Scotland, from *ceilidhs* to the heart of social life on Scotland's grand noble estates. And it's for normal people.'

'It's a gazillion times more fun than the gym,' says Shelton. 'Tuesday is dance night for me and I'm there every week.'

It's not Highland Dance. No Sword Dance, no Highland Fling and NO Bagpipes.

'We dance in sets of six or eight, you don't need to bring a partner, you just need soft soled shoes to start, and a reasonable level of fitness. And, no, the kilt is never compulsory, even on the most formal occasions. And it is hand contact only. Men and women do pretty much the same thing- none of that 'backwards in high heels nonsense in SCD'.

SCD is firmly structured and not at all improvised. The dancers in each set combine in regular sequences called 'figures'. Some dances and figures are centuries old. Some were devised yesterday. Most of us encounter Scottish Country Dance at weddings and 21st parties, and if you have ever done the Gay Gordons or the Dashing White Sergeant, you are way ahead of the game.

Our area has multiple SCD groups. These include Deepdene, Box Hill on Canterbury Road, Scotsraig near Camberwell Junction, and Stonnington in Glen Iris. They have regular weekly classes, a few daytime classes, there are frequent Saturday night social dances and the occasional ball.

Eastsider News February 2025



Scottish Country Dance Victoria is offering a free taste of SCD on March 22 from 2 pm at BDSAC Hall, Fordham Ave, Camberwell. The hall is next to Willison Station and a short warm up stroll from Tram no. 70 on Riversdale Rd. Tickets are free but essential and will be available on Humanitix from February 1, 2025. More information on scdvictoria.com or info@scdvictoria.com

The group is keen to give Melburnians a chance to try their dance style.

'We will start with some of the famous *ceilidh* dancing of Scotland. No fancy steps! And we will try some easy set dances, the heart and soul of SCD. It has survived for centuries because it's truly enjoyable. All those lairds, ladies and ghillies can't be wrong. This is a great chance to try something new; you may find yourself a member of the clan.'

[Return to Contents](#)



Murnong Aboriginal Gallery: New exhibition

Susan Vincent, Centre Coordinator, Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place

N'DENE Riley brings her fresh and expressive art to Murnong Gallery at 100 High St, Glen Iris, from Wednesday 22 January through to the end of March.

N'Dene was born on Palawa land in Tasmania and she is now living on Bunurong country. Discovering her identity has been a journey, as her Mum found she was from the Stolen Generation when she started researching their family history. Growing up N'Dene loved art and nature and was happy playing sport or learning new skills. When she discovered painting in her fifties she found an outlet for her keen observation and began developing her creative skills.

“My painting methods and techniques are contemporary and unique to me. Artists have shared their journeys with me along the way as I have sat with them at Baluk Arts studio, in their homes and on Zoom. I believe I connect to my Aboriginal heritage and to my Country with inspiration when I paint, create or design. My stories are told within my artworks in the form of memory of wisdoms taught, Aboriginal symbols, my languages and what I feel internally at those moments,” says N'Dene.

N'Dene's current exhibition explores her connection to the sea and particularly turtles, and indigenous flora. As well as original canvases N'Dene offers prints of her works and hand painted earrings.

Murnong Aboriginal Gallery is operated by Murnong First Peoples Gathering Place Indigenous Corporation



Artwork by: N'Dene Riley. Photography: Susan Vincent

to foster local Aboriginal artists. When you buy at Murnong Gallery you are purchasing from the artist, who returns 20% of the purchase to the Gallery to support the Gathering Place and Gallery.

Murnong Gallery is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11am -3pm. To find out more about Murnong Aboriginal Gallery and Murnong First Peoples Gathering, go to their Facebook page [here](#) or their Instagram account [here](#).

THE ROUND

FOLLOWING a hugely successful debut year, Melbourne's newest premier performing arts venue, The Round, has revealed its highly anticipated 2025 season lineup. As a dynamic hub for the local community and beyond, The Round's new season will showcase a diverse range of productions including comedy, dance, drag parodies, plays and live music.

This \$78m project represents a significant step forward in the City of Whitehorse's artistic evolution. It is

**379-399 Whitehorse Rd,
Nunawading VIC 3131**

also the new cornerstone of Council's commitment to provide for a creative community that is vibrant, diverse and engaged through our arts, culture and heritage.

In 2024 The Round was crowned the Best Public Works Project over \$5m at the IPWEA Excellence Awards.

Discover the latest shows and events coming to The Round. <https://www.theround.com.au/whats-on>

[Return to Contents](#)

Aspect's *How to Hospitality* Program brewing community connection in Hawthorn

Aspect Adult Community Services



Aspect *How to Hospitality*. Participant, Matthew Halinan

AT The Black Sheep pub in Hawthorn, something extraordinary is brewing every Thursday. Between 1pm and 3pm, locals can enjoy more than just a cup of coffee. They can witness inclusion and community connection, thanks to Aspect's *How to Hospitality* program.

This unique initiative is part of Aspect Adult Community Services, which has been a pillar of the Hawthorn community for over 20 years. The program provides Autistic adults with hands-on training in hospitality, helping them build confidence and valuable skills. From customer engagement and coffee-making to handling cash transactions, the program equips participants with abilities that can open doors to employment and greater independence.

Christine Edwards, Regional Coordinator of Aspect ACS regards the Aspect participants as incredible and considers it a privilege to witness the growth in their confidence. 'Each Autistic adult participating in the hospitality program are not just learning workplace skills, they're building confidence to connect with the broader community,' said Ms Edwards.

'Every cup served tells a story of growth and determination. The experience allows them to engage directly with customers, sometimes share their stories, gain practical workplace and life skills and share their journey toward independence.'

The training is delivered in partnership with local businesses, including The Black Sheep and Boom Town Coffee Roasters, who generously supplied the coffee

beans. These partnerships reflect the community's commitment to building inclusion and opportunity.

Luke Johnston, Manager of The Black Sheep in Hawthorn commented: 'Ever since opening my premises to Aspect to run their Adult Community Services, these Autistic adults have taught me so much. I love their individual and unique passions and conversations I have about their dreams and hopes. Patrons also love learning more about their neighbours'.

A program participant, Matthew Halinan said: 'It's been a dream of mine to work in a restaurant or a café ever since I can remember. I was so excited when Aspect created the *How to Hospitality* program so I could learn to make coffee, as well as meet people in the local community. I and others in the program have gained confidence and also a sense of purpose. The program has been life-changing for me.'

Aspect invites the community to visit The Black Sheep, located at 546 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, each Thursday between 1 to 3pm, and support this inspiring initiative. Every coffee purchased helps these talented individuals progress toward their goals while strengthening bonds within the local community.

[Return to Contents](#)



Ross-Hunt
real estate

1973
to
2024



Top 10 things to do when selling your home or property.



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Sold Balwyn



Sold Mont Albert



Sold Camberwell

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Balwyn Evergreen Centre

encouraging fun & meaningful New Year's resolutions

Diane Falzon

BALWYN Evergreen Centre, a community centre dedicated to ensuring older individuals stay active, healthy and socially connected, encourages seniors to embrace fresh opportunities and set resolutions for 2025 that focus on growth, connection and joy.

The Centre believes New Year's resolutions aren't about giving things up; they are about giving things a go. Tina Hogarth-Clarke, CEO of Balwyn Evergreen Centre, considers the new year is the perfect time for seniors to explore new hobbies, engage with their community and discover skills they have always dreamed of learning. 'The new year is a chance to reimagine what brings you happiness and fulfilment,' said Tina.

'Our programs are designed to help seniors improve their mental and physical wellbeing, while also fostering a strong sense of connection with others. New Year's resolutions at Balwyn Evergreen are about opening doors, not closing them.'

The Centre's activity calendar offers plenty of opportunities for seniors to step out of their comfort zones and into vibrant and supportive spaces. Line dancing classes provide a fun and energetic way to stay active, learning new moves to the beat of music. Cooking classes encourage culinary exploration, helping participants master new dishes to share with friends and family. The exercise offerings cater for all tastes and abilities, including a Pilates classes scheduled to begin in March.

For those who value cultural exchange, Balwyn Evergreen's multicultural experiences bring together people from diverse backgrounds to share stories, traditions and meals.

The volunteering programs allow seniors to give back to their community, develop new skills and forge meaningful connections that enhance their own well-being. 'Social interaction, mental stimulation and physical activity are vital for living a healthy and fulfilling life as we age,' Tina said. 'Balwyn Evergreen Centre is here to make those New Year's resolutions not only achievable, but also deeply rewarding.'



(ABOVE): Men's exercise stretch class;
(BELOW): Mount Martha outing.



To discover the full range of activities and programs, or to learn how Balwyn Evergreen Centre can support your New Year's goals, visit www.balwynevergreen.org.au

In our next edition, we will bring you articles on the Men's Kitchen and men's exercise groups conducted by the Centre. For a preview, go [here](#).

[Return to Contents](#)

Probus Club of Mitcham Nunawading

Chris Summers

WITH Christmas and New Year behind us, Probus is back to normal and looking forward to another year of friendship and fun activities.

We finished 2024 with a Christmas lunch at the Canterbury International Hotel with a delicious meal for the 54 members who attended. Our usual quiz tested attendees with curly Christmas flavoured questions helped along with chocolates.

We will start 2025 with a BYO BBQ in February at the home of our President Gerry and his wife Kate. Outings being considered for 2025 include the Gulf Station at Yarra Glen, Johnston Collection in East Melbourne, Desal Plant in Wonthaggi and a Government House tour, all to be confirmed.

Our January speaker was Darren Arnott on Italian Prisoners of War. February speaker will be Lex deMan, former detective, part of the team that cracked the cult known as The Family run by Anne Hamilton-Byrne. Regular activities include a photography group, monthly Sunday lunch, Monday morning coffee group, Bird Watchers, Shares trading group, Footy tipping and a Movie group.

If you have an interest to join a Probus group, please try this happy and friendly group. Contact: President Gerry Cross 0418 130 499; Secretary Dale Perkins 0427 967 855. Email: mnprobus@outlook.com Web: <https://www.probusouthpacific.org/microsites/mitchamnunawading/Welcome> [Return to Contents](#)



Rotarians lined up to pack hampers.

THE Rotary Club of Nunawading has a proud tradition of helping the Ringwood Corps of the Salvation Army to spread Christmas cheer in our local area.

For more than 10 years, Nunawading Rotarians have made a commitment each year to help out with Christmas essentials for their neighbours in the Nunawading, Mitcham and Ringwood areas. For the last few years, the Club has donated as much as \$3,500 each year to provide 50 to 75 Christmas hampers.

So, you ask, what is a Christmas hamper?

The idea is to provide a Christmas dinner for four to five people in a carry bag, along with some additional food staples to tide recipients over for another one or two meals. The bags contain a tinned ham and tinned veggies; a pudding along with custard; jelly and tinned fruit; soft drink, tea, coffee and milk; sweet and savoury biscuits; chocolates and Christmas bon-bons.

The Salvos distribute the hampers and Christmas gifts, for both adults and children, to clients in the local area. This can make the difference between food on the table on Christmas Day or not, and the dignity of being able to enjoy the sort of meal and little extras that most of us take for granted.

Bringing Christmas to those doing it tough

Rotary Club Nunawading

For Christmas 2024, Nunawading Rotary provided 50 hampers, a substantial contribution to the total of 300 hampers distributed by the Ringwood Salvos.

Rotary Nunawading provides the funds, which come from fundraising activities carried out throughout the year. Individual Rotarians then get together to do the shopping for the hamper contents, led by a member of the club, retired Salvation Army Major Wendy Oliver. Once all the shopping is done, 8 to ten Rotarians descend on the Salvos Hall to set up a production line for packing the hampers. Hampers are then distributed from the first week of December. In true Club fashion, those involved in the shopping and packing have a fun time, as well as working hard.

This year, Rotarian Janette Etherington had the opportunity to help distribute the hampers, and gifts from K-Mart Wishing Trees. Clients included a young homeless woman; a refugee family from the Horn of Africa region with seven children; a woman in her 70s homeless who has been living in and moving between different kinds of emergency accommodation since her husband died 17 years ago; and a support worker picking up food and Christmas presents for a mum
(Continued on next page)

Bringing Christmas to those doing it tough

(Continued from page 17)

and three children, where the mum has had significant mental health issues since losing her partner.

Janette said 'I was overwhelmed by the experience of helping the clients to select gifts for their children and to collect their hampers. It is one thing to know that the hampers help out local people doing it tough, but another thing altogether to talk with the clients, and hear something of their stories. All of them were incredibly grateful to receive anything at all, and it truly brought home to me how fortunate most of us are to be able to take a home and food on the table for granted.'



Hampers and gifts ready to go.

Community Bank Inner East signs \$400k two-year partnership with Eastern Health

Inner East Community Finance Limited

INNER East Community Finance Ltd who operate Community Bank Inner East has signed a partnership agreement with Eastern Health, officially launching a two-year partnership worth \$200K per year for Eastern Health Box Hill.

In the first year of partnership, funds will support the Eastern Health Research Forum and at least five Eastern Health Research and Innovation Grants. Funding will also be used for training of nursing, medical and allied health staff and urgent equipment support for the Box Hill Emergency Department and Maternity Ward.

Eastern Health Chief Executive Adj Prof David Plunkett said, 'We are pleased to partner with Inner East Community Finance, whose generous commitment will enhance our ability to deliver high quality care to the community we serve. This partnership is a testament to the shared vision of improving patient outcomes and fostering innovation in healthcare.'

Adj Clin A/Prof Paul Buntine, the Executive Sponsor of the partnership commented on its significance. 'Partnerships like these help us empower our staff. By investing in research, innovation, and staff training, we are equipping our teams with the tools they need to make meaningful improvements in consumer care. We thank Inner East Community Finance for this exciting partnership.'

Bob Stensholt, Chair of Inner East Community Finance, reflected on the reasons for entering the agreement. 'Our partnership with Eastern Health was motivated by a strong desire to increase our business's impact in the health sector and to ensure that high-quality public health services remain accessible to all residents of Inner East Community Finance Limited Melbourne's Inner East, both now and in the future.'

'The funds we have contributed will lead to immediate, tangible improvements, including the acquisition of new



equipment. Additionally, our investment in Research and Innovation Grants and staff training will equip Eastern Health employees to deliver the best possible outcomes for patients.'

Nick Coker, CEO of Community Bank Inner East, explained, 'Along with our support for equipment, training, and research grants, our branches and staff are here to offer personalised financial services to all Eastern Health employees. We provide a full range of banking and financial products at competitive rates, with tailored services to meet the unique needs of Eastern Health staff.'

Inner East Community Finance is the operator of Community Bank Inner East, a franchisee of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Ltd, with branches located in Ashburton, Balwyn, Canterbury & Surrey Hills. As a Community Bank, sixty percent of profit is directed back to the local community through sponsorships and grants.

[Return to Contents](#)



Easy Chicken Wings*

from Elizabeth Chong's book *Tiny Delights*

These are great snacks for anytime, and particularly good for hungry children. They are just as good hot or cold and are excellent additions for the lunch box. When I make them, there are never enough, so I always make a big batch. With meat and produce so expensive these days, chicken wings are good value.

Ingredients:

- 1kg. Chicken wings
- 2 tablespoons olive oil or good quality vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons light soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 cloves garlic...minced
- 1/2 teaspoon five spice powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons chilli sauce (optional)

Preparation:

1. Wash chicken wings & remove the tips (these can be kept for making chicken stock). Dry with paper towels.
2. Mix all other ingredients together in a bowl large enough to hold the chicken wings.
3. Add the wings to the marinade mix, gently working in the marinade. Let stand for at least 30 minutes.

Cooking

- Pre-heat oven to 180C. Line an oven tray with foil or baking paper and arrange wings evenly.
- Roast in centre of oven for approx. 45 minutes. Watch they do not burn.



*Note: This recipe first appeared in *Eastsider News* issue 4, December 2021.

Elizabeth Chong AM is a Chinese-born Australian celebrity chef, former cooking teacher, author and media and TV host and personality. She is known as a pioneer of the industry, the first celebrity chef and promotor of introducing traditional Chinese cuisine to Australia. Thank you, Elizabeth for allowing us to publish your fabulous recipes.

Office Manager

Part Time – 3 days per week (Monday to Wednesday). Approximately 20 hours per week negotiable.

A busy family history research facility requires a competent, self-motivated, friendly, co-operative individual for its Blackburn office.

Previous comprehensive experience in a small office is essential along with superior customer service skills and enthusiasm for helping our clients.

Duties include all facets of office administration including enquiries both in person and via telephone and email, inward and outward mailing processing, cash desk operation, reconciliation and banking.

Computer skills including proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, the use of Internet/email facilities and MYOB are a prerequisite. The ability to work with a minimum of supervision is paramount.

A probationary period of 3 months will apply.

A Position Description and Duty Statement are available from the office on 9877 3789.

Applications are to be made in writing to President, PO Box 2010, Forest Hill 3131 OR email info@familyhistoryconnections.org.au

Applications close at 4pm on 17 February 2025

[Return to Contents](#)



**Family
History
connections**

...tracing ancestors in Australia and beyond

Kew's new learning and lifestyle hub for locals with disability



Endeavour Foundation

AT Endeavour Foundation's new Learning and Lifestyle hub in Kew, activities on offer include cooking, social engagements, fitness options, literacy and numeracy life skills programs, as well as access to Virtual Reality, video Thrive programs, and creative arts activities.

Located in the Kew Library, the new hub will open every Wednesday, supporting people to engage, learn and grow in their own time, and at their own pace.

Endeavour Foundation has provided disability services for over 70 years with that in Kew being their newest. Operations Manager, Palani Subramanian, invited locals to visit and explore the support on offer in their neighbourhood. 'Our organisation was established to advocate for the rights of people living with disability. Seven decades later, we're still ensuring the people we support have access to enriching opportunities in our community, to thrive and live their best lives however they choose.'

Kew Learning and Lifestyle participant, Kylie Roach, agrees. 'We are learning life skills, how to do budgeting and then going out to the supermarket to grab the shopping for our lunches. The latte-lovers session is a nice social activity at a local café. We have loved the fitness sessions too.'

Service Manager, Rebecca Mistriotis pointed to the information sessions designed to help raise awareness around extra supports available on NDIS plans, and also the work and other personalised services we offer through Endeavour Foundation'.

State MP for Kew, Jess Wilson, said she welcomed the new hub and commended Endeavour Foundation on their commitment and connection helping to improve access and inclusion for all people to reach their potential. 'The City of Boroondara is home to over 20,000 people with disability and that number is increasing.

'Having access to the Learning and Lifestyle centre right on their doorstep in Kew, is a wonderful attribute for the community; it will play a truly valuable part in ensuring our community is even more inclusive, accessible and supported now and into the future,' Ms Wilson said.

To find out more about Endeavour Foundation and its services, call 1800 112 112, or go to endeavour.com.au

[Return to Contents](#)



(ABOVE): Cutting ribbon – L to R Grant and Kylie (Kew L&L participants), Jess Wilson MP, Beverley Knowles (member on EF Board of Directors); **(RIGHT):** Virtual Reality – Endeavour Foundation L&L participant.



Unsung Heroes triumph at Youth Achievement Awards

Glenys Grant

OVER the past 46 years, 448 youngsters in the Whitehorse region have won a unique Rotary award. Each year, 11 or 12 students in Year six at local primary schools have been chosen to receive this Youth Achievement Award.

The award has been operating since 1978, even continuing in a modified form through the challenges the two Covid years presented. It was established and run by the Rotary Club of Forest Hill for 45 years, then in November 2024 conducted by the Rotary Club of Nunawading.

The Youth Achievement award, affectionately called ‘The Unsung Hero Award,’ is designed to give recognition and confidence to hard-working, quiet young achievers who don’t shine in the limelight or win awards in other avenues of school life. These students dedicate their time and efforts to consistently helping at the school, are known for their exemplary behaviour and exceptional contributions to the community. Schools specifically choose a youngster who fits the criteria and Rotary takes it from there.

This year 11 schools participated, each choosing a student they believed was worthy. The 2024 awards winners were: Greta from Blackburn Lake Primary School; Aidan from Burwood Heights PS; Magnus from Livingstone PS; Jasper from Mt Pleasant Road PS; Alexander from Orchard Grove PS; Casey from Parkmore PS; Henry from Rangeview PS; Charlie from Vermont PS; Phoebe from Vermont Sth Special School; Aaliyah from Weeden Heights PS; and Marcus from Whitehorse PS.

The presentations have become so popular that, to accommodate extra family members wanting to attend, two award nights were held. At each night, the youngsters, supported by parents, siblings and some grandparents, enjoyed a delicious dinner hosted by Rotarians at Bucatini Restaurant.

Awardees received vouchers, photos, family dinners, framed certificates, laminated citations, a goodie bag and publicity for themselves and their schools.

The 2024 awards were presented to the students by the 9815 District Governor and District Governor nominee. Speakers congratulated the awardees and described what Rotary does nationally and internationally, and how to access the free Rotary youth programs designed

(Continued on next page)



(ABOVE): L-R, Shia, Don and 9815 District Governor Colin Byron share Charlie from Vermont Primary School’s delight in her Award; (BELOW): L-R Bob, Aidan from Burwood Heights receiving his award from Emma Clark, 9815 District Governor Nominee.
Photos: Glenys Grant



Unsung Heroes triumph at Youth Achievement Awards

(Continued from page 20)

to build self-confidence while improving leadership and learning skills.

The presentation of the awards is, of course, always the best part of the evening. That's when the citations are read out and the audience hears why each school has chosen its hero. The calibre of these students is demonstrated by comments such as '... known for his genuine kindness toward classmates and teachers, this student models respect and helps create a positive, inclusive environment.

One inspiring youngster had survived great hardship and bounced back to become a kind and caring mentor to all, along with supporting the school community at every opportunity. All the winners are a credit to their families and schools, a success now and in the future. Congratulations to all.



(ABOVE): Group 2 Awardees with 9815 District Governor Colin Byron and Rotary officials on November 27.

Photo: Glenys Grant

If you would like to view the Youth Achievement Awards memento book, see these youngsters and read some of their truly inspiring citations, the link is <https://rotarynunawading.com.au/documents/en-au/d0e0f6aa-897c-4d56-beae-79e1051980a5/1/>



Growing up in Surrey Hills First day at school

Gill Bell

IT was a sunny morning in early February 1957 when Mum parked the grey family Morris Minor under a shady oak tree outside the primary school gates.

It was my first day at school, and my big sister Mary-Ann was there to lead the way. With some apprehension I eyed the streams of children heading towards the school.

I clutched my mother's hand as we entered the school grounds. I saw a tall white flagpole, some flowerbeds and a grand-looking red brick school building. It was all much more imposing than the little kindergarten I had attended the previous year, with its small tanbark playground.

Children were milling around, calling to one another.

My mother, like the other mothers, wore a full-skirted summer frock. All the little girls also wore skirts or dresses. In those post-war years many children wore the cast-off clothes of their older siblings. My own handkerchief was a simple hemmed square of material from a worn-out shirt. We were not especially poor; it was just the thrifty way in which we lived.

The prolonged sound of a siren cut through the hubbub. It was the signal for parents to leave. Somehow my sister helped me find my new classroom, and then ran off, blonde plaits dancing, to join her second grade.

The country was in the middle of a post war baby boom, and classes were large. In my old black and white photo of our first grade there are ten girls and thirty boys! Teaching these numbers seems a daunting task these days, but I remember classes as orderly and focused on learning.

As newcomers we were designated 'Bubs'. We lined up outside our Bubs classroom. One poor little lad lost his breakfast on the asphalt. A cleaner covered his shame with a layer of sawdust . . .

We are sure you will want to read the full description of Gill's first day at school. Such a lovely, vivid piece full of tiny recognisable details. [Please click here to read more.](#)

Gill expresses her deep gratitude to Canterbury Primary School for a wonderful introduction to learning.

[Return to Contents](#)

Gratitude

Gill Bell

GRATITUDE read the large heading of the message chalked on my local pavement. It was mid-November, just two weeks before American Thanksgiving, so it was a very relevant topic.

WHAT ARE **YOU** GRATEFUL FOR TODAY?
CAN WE GET TEN?

A cup of coloured chalks invited passers-by to add their thoughts. People had already listed ten items, so the message on the next area of pavement urged:

COME ON! LET'S KEEP GOING.

The list included precious things which we often take for granted: sunshine, fresh air, health and movement. It celebrated those dearest to us: family, friends, dogs and dads! And then there were some items which truly enrich our lives: music, marshmallow and chocolate!

It was such a simple question but it had brought a range of heartfelt answers. It was a truly inspired reminder that we do indeed have so much to be grateful for. It was also lovely glimpse of the priorities of our neighbours.

And despite the looming Black Friday sales, not one item involved material possessions.

Thank you so much, graffiti artist, for helping us to think about what is important in our lives!



WHITEHORSE resident Martyn Dale remembers an occasion ("must have been around 1970," he says) when a small adventure he had was provided its conclusion by the local newspaper. "I came home to Allambie Place after school on Tuesday evening. There was a pig running around our street, so I chased it, hoping to capture it. I tried to rugby tackle it but it was incredibly agile, got away, sprinted down to Benwerrin Drive and across Burwood Highway – and that's the last I saw of it. Until a couple of days later this article came out in what was probably the *Nunawading Gazette*."



STAN GOT HIS PIG!

A by-laws officer's life is full of surprises as Nunawading officer Stan Baade well knows. He has been called out at all hours to impound all kinds of animals.

Over a long period he's had dogs by the hundreds, horses, cows and a stray goat or two.

But last Tuesday night an urgent call to his home shot one of the imperturbable Stan Baade's eyebrows skywards.

It was Burwood police on the phone and they wanted him to pick up a stray PIG that was charging around a service station at the corner of

Royton St. and Burwood Highway, East Burwood.

Not looking forward to chasing a five-months-old, 70 lb. Black Barrow pig around a service station tarmac, Stan set out to make his catch.

But when he arrived on the scene the astute proprietor had captured it and locked it in the oil room.

"But it was still quite an exercise to carry 70 lb. of squealing, squirming pig to the council dog cart," said Stan.

The owner, who lives in Springvale, claimed his porker on Wednesday but how it came to be wandering around East Burwood is still a mystery.

[Return to Contents](#)

Infrastructure projects in Croydon benefit from Federal Government funding

Raff Ciccone, Federal Labor Senator for Victoria, Catherine King MP, Minister Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

RESIDENTS and visitors to Croydon, in the seat of Deakin, will benefit from the Thriving Suburbs Program, with the Federal Government committing \$15 million for two Maroondah City Council infrastructure projects.

The funding includes:

\$7.5 million for the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct Stage 3 Multipurpose Hub at 20 Civic Square, Croydon.

The project will deliver a multipurpose community and sports hub as part of Stage 3 of the precinct redevelopment plan, accommodating the relocation of multiple local sporting clubs which will significantly increase fit-for-purpose facilities and useable open space, improving liveability and amenity for greater community engagement.

\$7.5 million for the Croydon Main Street Revitalisation

The project delivers a revitalisation of the Croydon Main Street and shopping precinct, inclusive of pedestrian and cycle ways, street and feature lighting,

artwork and activated green spaces as part of the broader enhancement and structure plan to improve the night-time economy and community liveability.

The Thriving Suburbs Program is an open and competitive program, with funding awarded on a merit basis, supported by a two-stage assessment process. It is designed to build better cities and more liveable suburbs, targeting projects – such as sporting and cultural hubs, libraries and parks – that increase community cohesion, liveability and accessibility.

Projects receiving funding in greater Melbourne include new and revitalised multi-purpose community centres, an upgraded pier, a town centre revitalisation, upgraded inclusive sports facilities, and improvements to local play and green spaces.

For more information, visit: www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/cities/thriving-suburbs-program

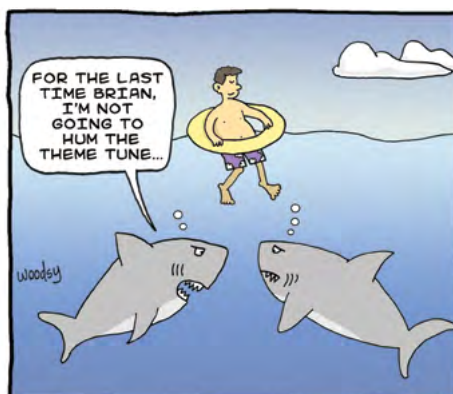


Croydon Main Street Revitalisation

woodsy

insert brain here

[Return to Contents](#)





WISER DRIVER[®]

A free 4-week refresher course for responsible older drivers.

Join us for an informative, informal and friendly refresher course, to upgrade your knowledge and build on your experience to keep you driving safely.

Topics covered include:

Driving today

- How driving has changed over the years
- Our strengths as older drivers
- Overcoming the risks

Safety tips for wiser driving

- Keeping your car in good condition
- Night time driving
- Planning ahead
- Medicines and driving

Safety rules

- Changes to the Victorian road rules
- What to do in a crash
- Fun quizzes to check your knowledge of the road rules

Car safety features

- How safe is your car?
- New mandatory requirements
- Tips for buying a safer car
- Used Car Safety Ratings.

Being roadworthy

- Assessing your own driving skills
- How ageing can affect your driving
- Staying safe – helpful hints

Planning for the future

- Retaining our licences
- Occupational therapy driver assessments
- Using Public Transport to supplement driving

Resources included:

- VicRoads: Road to Solo Driving Handbook
- VicRoads: Ageing and Safe Driving – Am I Still Fit to Drive
- Online Videos from RACV
- Fun quizzes to update your knowledge of the road rules
- Visit from Vic Police to answer your questions and queries
- ANCAP Rating: How safe is your car

Free 4 week course starting at Hawthorn Community House on Wednesday 5 March 2025.

Dates: 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March

Time: 12.30pm-2.30pm

Where: Level 1, 584 Glenferrie Rd Hawthorn

Contact us on 9819 2629 or info@hch.org.au to register.



Fledermaus!
The Knowe, Sassafras
 15-16, 22-23 Feb, 1-2 March, all 2pm
The Round Studio, Nunawading
 8 March - 2pm and 8pm
 9 March 2pm
Moe Plaza, Moe
 12 April at 5pm

A sparkling light opera by Johann Strauss II, the Master of the Viennese Waltz. Full of infidelities, revenge, deceit, laughter, and champagne!

1935 - 2025
GSOV
 90 Years

For tickets and details go to gsov.org.au

FLEDERMAUS! is a story of revenge, infidelity, disguises, and false imprisonment decorated by Strauss's splendid waltzes. With its glorious music, wonderful singing, and a charming and witty libretto, Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Victoria (GSOV) offers two opportunities to see this joyful work of genius (*see above*). Tickets are strictly limited and this summer presentation always sells out quickly.

Also, this year, GSOV brings you *The Mikado* (17–20 July at Alexander Theatre, Clayton) with its memorable music, endearing characters and the wittiest lyrical comedy, and Jubilee (17–19 October at Athenaeum 2, Melbourne) featuring the frothy courtroom comedy, *Trial by Jury* to celebrate 150 years of Gilbert and Sullivan, and 90 years of the Society with theatrical anecdotes and a joyful romp through the operettas.

Sunday, 16 February from 3pm to 6pm

Kooyong Votes Climate Campaign Launch
Camberwell Central Bowls Club, 14 Bowen Street, Camberwell

IN 2022, Kooyong residents showed that climate was high on their list of priorities. If you want to help keep it up there for the 2025 election, the Kooyong Votes Climate Campaign Launch is your best opportunity to hear about all the options.

Register: <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/kooyong-votes-climate-launch/>

Sunday 23 February 2025 at 4pm

Blackburn Lake Wetlands Regeneration Update
Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre, 95 Central Rd, Blackburn

THE Blackburn Lake Wetlands Regeneration project is well underway. This project is a partnership between Whitehorse City Council, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Advisory Committee, Bungalook Nursery and Melbourne Water, and aims to remove weeds, and plant 4,000 indigenous plants.

The project is hosting an afternoon tea for the community where an update on the project progress will be provided. There will be a recap on the project and its aims, what has been done to date, what are the aims for 2025 and 2026, and how can members of the community get involved in this exciting project.

Everyone interested is welcome to attend.

The Working bee dates for the wetland regeneration for the remainder of 2025 are March 15, April 12, May 3, May 31, June 14, July 5 and August 2. Further Information contact Tony 0408 656 021.



VOTE CLIMATE 2025 CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

A Lighter Footprints
and KCCA event



Sun, Feb 16th:
3.00pm - 6.00pm

Camberwell Central
Bowls Club,
14 Bowen St,
Camberwell

Get
involved
now!



At this forum, Kooyong candidates will be invited to speak about their environment and climate policies, and answer your questions. Once the federal election date is set, this important event will be promoted. Keep your eye on the What's On page at <https://lighterfootprints.org/events/> or subscribe to the newsletter at <https://lighterfootprints.org/>

*Special
Olympics
Australia*

Melbourne Inner East

Move, Play, Connect

COMMUNITY EVENT

Bringing together individuals with intellectual disabilities of all ages and abilities, along with their families, our dedicated volunteers, and the local community to foster connection and celebrate the joy of sport.

**All Are
Welcome**

SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



DATE: SATURDAY 1 MARCH, 2025

TIME: ARRIVE FROM 1:00PM
STARTS 1:30PM
FINISHES 4:00PM

LOCATION: TOM KELLY ATHLETICS TRACK
DONCASTER EAST, VIC

PARTICIPANTS will enjoy a range of sports-themed games and activities. Individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism from the broader community will be able to explore our programs, discover opportunities to get involved in sport, and connect socially in a warm and welcoming environment.

This gathering is all about promoting inclusion and engagement, fostering a joyful, family-friendly atmosphere that celebrates diversity, connection, and the power of sport to bring people together.

Learn more: <https://mailchi.mp/specialolympics/moveplayconnect2025>

[Return to Contents](#)

Wednesday 5 March from 7:30pm to 9pm

Powering 2025: Driving Australia's Energy Transition

Malvern Town Hall, 1251 High Street, Malvern

ENERGY analyst and renewables expert Simon Holmes à Court will be joined in conversation with Ric Brazzale, Managing Director at Green Energy Trading to provide an update on Australia's energy transition.

Always a popular event so register to ensure your seat: <https://lighterfootprints.org/event/powering-2025/>

Tuesday 11 March 2025 at 10.30 am

Camberwell Music Society

Camberwell Uniting Church, 314 Camberwell Road, Camberwell

FOUR eminent musicians will start Camberwell Music Society's 2025 concert season.

Wilma Smith (violin), Lisa Grosman (viola), James Monro (cello) and Tian Tian Lan (piano) will play favourite piano quartets by Mahler and Brahms.

Tickets can be bought at the door or on-line at www.trybooking.com/CVUUD

For more information about the Camberwell Music Society, including their future programs, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/cammustest/home>

scdvictoria.com or info@scdvictoria.com. Tickets are free but essential and will be available on Humanitix from February 1, 2025.'"/>

FREE TRYOUT EVENT

Join us for a fun hour and a half intro to Scottish Country Dance. See if you like it. You may end up part of the clan!

SATURDAY
22 MARCH 2025

2.00 PM

BDSAC Hall Fordham St Camberwell
Next door to Willison Station

AFFILIATED TO THE
rscds

More information on scdvictoria.com or info@scdvictoria.com
Tickets are free but essential and will be available on Humanitix from February 1, 2025.

Saturday, 22 March 2025 to Sunday, 23 March 2025 from 10am to 4pm

National Trust's Vintage Clothing Sale 2025

Abbotsford Concert, 1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford

THE National Trust Australia (Victoria)'s beloved Vintage Clothing Sale is back in 2025 for another massive weekend, returning to Abbotsford Convent on 22 and 23 March 2025.

With vintage clothes, high end and designer wear, shoes, handbags, scarves and belts, millinery and jewellery, men's and children's clothes, there is something for everyone. There is the usual collection of linen, fabric and haberdashery and an interesting array of collectables. For one weekend only, we will fill the massive Magdalen Laundry at the Abbotsford Convent. Mark your Melbourne fashion calendar, bring a gold coin donation for entry, and prepare to refresh your

wardrobe and home with fun new designer finds, quality garments and eclectic homewares.

All proceeds support the National Trust in conserving and protecting Victoria's natural, cultural and built heritage. Become a National Trust Member to receive express entry.

You may wish to donate items for sale. If so, or to find out more about the Clothing Sale, please contact the National Trust by phone on (03) 9656 9800, by email at info@nattrust.com.au or via their website at <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/event/vintageclothingsale/>

For more information on visits to Abbotsford Convent go here: <https://abbotsfordconvent.com.au/visit/>

[Return to Contents](#)



In the next edition

The next edition of Eastsider News will be in April 2025. The deadline for contributions will be March 20, 2025.

But don't wait till then. We love hearing from you at all times and we will continue post your articles, newsworthy material, stories and other content on our website. Whenever you are inspired, please send us your contributions, written and visual to eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Disclaimers

Eastsider News is a means by which people in Whitehorse, Boroondara and adjacent areas including Manningham and Monash can share information, opinions and experiences. A spread of interests and views that reflects the diversity of people in the area is encouraged, but views expressed in *Eastsider News* by individual writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, Independent Community News Group Incorporated, or any other organisation.

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We encourage our readers to also become writers for Eastsider News. Guidelines are available on our website at <https://www.eastsidernews.org.au/guidelines/> When writing your article, please consider our editorial values at www.eastsidernews.org.au/editorial-values/

If you have any queries, email us at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Volunteer to keep Eastsider News alive and well

The *Eastsider News* team needs your help to keep us on the road. We hope we can tempt you to become involved in the production of *Eastsider News*.

A particular need we have at present is web site management. Could you help us get the best out of our Wordpress website and assist with uploading content? We'd love to hear from you. All positions are voluntary and unpaid. Get in touch so we can chat about making best use of your skills and time at eastsidernews1@gmail.com

Guidelines for writing articles

Guidelines for writing for Eastsider News are on our website at www.eastsidernews.org.au/ All contributions should be emailed to eastsidernews1@gmail.com We will always acknowledge receipt.

In summary, we prefer articles of no more than 600 words or 250 words for letters to the editor. Submit your article

as a word document and images as a jpg. Editors will usually accept material as written, but may make changes to improve clarity, readability, or focus. Please be respectful, non-defamatory and factual in your writing and choice of topic. As a community newspaper, we seek material of local interest or with a broader context if relevant.



Quizling Answers

1. BREATH-TAKING (THAT jumbled inside BREAKING)
2. Glass slipper, class struggle, chess set, stainless steel, Bass Strait, process-server, joss stick, business school, cross-stitch, press stud, brass section, witness stand.

Contact Eastsider News

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