

FREE

Issue 42 – August 2016

Ferntree Gully News

A community newspaper



Photograph by Barbara Oehring

Don't laugh! This is serious!

The young Laughing Kookaburra has found a place to perch in a foothills garden. The familiar bird is safe for now, but for how long?

More and more people want to live in the foothills of the Dandenongs but the roads they widen and the buildings they put up threaten the forest environment they love.

This problem has been with Ferntree

Gully since the first timber-cutters set up their sawmills. It will continue - but things are happening.

A new Chief Executive is in place at Knox City Council. Council elections will be held in October. A group of residents from across the city, advocating for appropriate development, has formed an alliance (see page 3).

The kookaburra, perhaps, looks hopeful?

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...and more

 Mountain District Learning Centre publish Ferntree Gully News for free circulation to 10,000 households & businesses in Ferntree Gully



From the editor

Welcome to this winter edition of 'life and times' in the little world of a mountain edge suburb.

As we go to Press news from the wider world becomes ever more troubling: yet another shooting in a public place, at McDonalds in Munich, so soon after the slaughter of people celebrating their national holiday in Nice. The local is the microcosm of the global and we cannot ignore the global scene. So as we pause to remember and enter into the grief of innocent lives lost, of shocked survivors and of communities' confidence shattered, we cannot but be aware of the fragility of our own community.

But the threats to our lives as community will have succeeded only if we give up on all the small things we do (and which this paper reports) to maintain the toughness of our community here.

Perhaps a theme for the issue is celebrating young people's contributions and their hope for the future. The children listening to Thomas Harrison (page 18) sharing the stories and sense of country of indigenous Australians, could well be still living in 2090. There's also the young volunteer from Interchange, talented young artists at The Hut, Year 12 students enjoying classes in the Uniting church space, the Cubs, young netball players and students from St John the Baptist primary school planting trees.

If we ask what our place will look like by 2090 perhaps the Quarry Park will be returned to bushland. And the descendants of the kookaburra in the foothills garden will still be finding a place to land.

Once again, thank you to all those who support the paper, the volunteers who produce and deliver it and especially our regular sponsors and advertisers whose financial contribution makes it all possible. Please support them in return.

Anne Margot Boyd



The Gully News team enjoys developing new skills. Alice Collins, an energetic primary school teacher in an earlier life, has taken on the role of roving reporter with an eye and an ear for a good story. Here, pen poised, she puts questions to Thomas

Harrison, the storyteller at the library in NAIDOC week (see page 18). Barbara Oehring, our award winning volunteer (see page 7) was there to take the photo.

For your diary

August

12 August to 3 September

The Basin Theatre Group. 'Dangerous Corner' www.thebasintheatre.org.au (1300 784 668)

26 New Lions Club (see page 6)

26 Daffodil Day (see page 27)

26 Community Promotions (see page 27)

September

4 Upwey Country Music @ FTG Open Mic. Enquiries to Graham 5964 8298 (see page 27)

5-9 Life Activities Club Knox. Next Getaway to Stratford Tourist Park on the Avon River Contact Jane on 0416 362 175 or email knox.enquiries@life.org.au

11 Street Art on Canvas Exhibition at the Hut Gallery (see page 13)

11 -12 The Basin Preschool 60th Anniversary. 385 Forest Road, The Basin. 9762 1854

Contact Sheryn c/-Thebasinpreschool@hotmail.com Memories or memorabilia to share?

14 Fundraiser. Knox-Sherbrooke RCH Auxilliary 9345 5188 39th Birthday Speaker, Yvonne Cowling, the Possum Lady

17-18 Waverley Gem Club Exhibition. Brandon Park Community Centre. 645 Ferntree Gully Road (behind fire station). Contact Gwen on 0407 512 883

Join the Gully News Team

We now have more than 50 wonderful volunteer walkers and an enthusiastic team in the office but we continue to look for more helpers. If you would like to help, either with gathering or editing news, stories and photos, managing advertisements or delivering the paper, contact Anne Boyd 9758 8278 or Jenny Ford 9758 1370, or call in at our office at No. 8 The Avenue, open Tuesdays 10.00am until 3.00pm or by appointment at other times.

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Find Ferntree Gully online

The Ferntree Gully online identity is growing.

The newspaper website is ferntreegullynews.com

The Neighbourhood House, Mountain District Learning Centre is mdlc.com.au

News and events:

ferntreegully.vic.au

lowergullytraders.com.au

mountaingateshoppingcentre.com.au

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45	February	13 Jan	3 Feb
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'We can do better than this'

Former Knox Citizen of the Year and long-time advocate for more appropriate development in Ferntree Gully Village, Lynn Brewster is critical of some of the recent planning decisions at Knox Council meetings.

'We can do better than this 'policy on the run', she says. 'There needs to be more respect for residents views and for the foothills environment. I welcome the present consultations, and the formation of the residents group KADA.'

The founding group of the Knox Appropriate

Development Alliance (KADA) includes residents from across Knox who have separately been seeking better planning outcomes.

KADA will hold a public meeting on Tuesday 16 August, 7pm-9pm, at the Ferntree Gully Bowling Club, 2A Glenfern Road, Ferntree Gully.

For information contact kadaresidents@gmail.com or see facebook: Knox-Appropriate-Development-Alliance.



New voice for Knox residents concerned about inappropriate development

An alliance of advocacy groups from across Knox has been formalised to provide residents with a greater say on how Knox should be developed in the future.

KADA, Knox Appropriate Development Alliance, has been formed in response to the anger expressed by many in the Knox community with development seen as inappropriate and disrespectful of Knox's unique location at the base of the Dandenong Ranges.

Newly appointed Chair of the group, Catherine Kruse, said the group's mission was to provide an alternative voice for residents concerned with the lack of meaningful consultation and the onset of high rise buildings in their local neighbourhood.

'From the responses we have received, it is clear that the community are not being heard by the State Government or our local council and people are fed up', Ms Kruse said. 'We intend to hold public meetings to give people a legitimate voice, document their concerns and to advocate for them to other levels of government on what is appropriate development for Knox'.

'We will be holding our first round of public meetings in August and are seeking a venue'.

KADA are also looking for candidates to stand in the October Council election.

'Things cannot remain business as usual', she said. 'We are fast reaching the point of no return before the landscape and city that we love is destroyed for future generations'.

Have your say on planning scheme changes






Less red tape and clearer planning rules are the goals of an amendment being planned by Knox Council.

Amendment C150 to the Knox Planning Scheme has been prepared. The Amendment proposes to substantially restructure and update policy directions in the Knox Planning Scheme. The amendment will ensure content is relevant and contemporary, and reflects Council's current strategic direction for Knox.

The amendment proposes to replace the existing Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) with a new MSS; introduce new local planning policies; revise and update other local policies, zone and overlay schedules; update some particular provisions; and make some map changes.

The amendment is on public exhibition from Monday 8 August until Monday 19 September 2016.

If you would like to make a formal submission to *Amendment C150*, then you must do this by the closing date and time of **5pm, Monday 19 September 2016**. You can find out more information about the amendment or making a formal submission by:

-  Council's website: www.knox.vic.gov.au/C150
-  Email: psamendments@knox.vic.gov.au
-  Call Council on 9298 8000
-  Knox City Council, Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South; or
-  Knox local libraries.



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Getting a Grip on her surroundings

Hairdresser Sandra Acquaro, proprietor of the Grip salon on Burwood Highway wants to give a new identity to the cluster of shops and businesses in the historic heart of Ferntree Gully.

It takes a stylist to see new possibilities! And Sandra's first priority was to create a name.

Since she opened her salon two years ago Sandra has had difficulty describing to clients where she is. No. 1509 Burwood Highway does not convey a lot. So now the shopping strip on the north side of the Highway, between Selman Avenue and Station Street, is officially 'The Gateway Shopping Centre'. The name derives of course from the historic sign 'Gateway to the Dandenongs', erected in 1956, the year of the Melbourne Olympics.

The bright and friendly Grip Hair salon is next to Subway and in a building that was once the old bakery. You could say this cluster of shops is at the heart of the Gully, close as it is to the original hall and offices of the Shire of Ferntree Gully (created 1889) and the Wally Tew oval, home of the hundred-year-old Gully Football and Cricket Clubs. These days, other prominent landmarks nearby are the Library and Community Arts Centre, St Joseph's college, St John's school and parish, Knox Community and Social Health, Woolworths, Toyota and Le Pine Funeral Directors.

But take a moment, as you dash in and out among the busy traffic, to look up to the beckoning mountain and remember the travellers who first came here, lured by report of exotic fern gullies ahead around the bend in the track.



Sandra Acquaro, proprietor of Grip Hair, and the new sign to the Gateway Shopping Centre. (See also the story on page 21 about early visitors to the Gully.)

Upper Gully Market has a new look

The weekend market beside the Upper Gully railway station has been a familiar attraction for many years with its fresh fruit and vegetables, plants and hot donuts. Recently the number of stalls has grown considerably and is well worth a visit.

You will find more food stalls including Anglo-Indian and Shigo-Japanese; also candles, fresh flowers, jams and chutneys, compost and new craft stalls: clothes, toys, jewellery and more.

Barbara Oehring took this photo.



Is this the view we want to see replaced by three-storey blocks of flats?

The baker is at the market every second Saturday. On 23 July Barbara Oehring took this photo looking across to the shops on the highway.

Other shops in the Gateway strip include:

Retail

- Toys and Treasures
- Muscle Coach Food Supplements
- Mirrors and Tabletops
- Tyre Factory
- Cleaning Products

Food

- Jade Pavilion Restaurant,
- Koffee Bar
- Subway

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Photograph by Barbara Oehring.

At your service for over 100 years

It is not surprising that the biggest shopping centre in Ferntree Gully is at Mountain Gate. After all, its position at some distance from the mountains means shops and houses have room to spread – though the vista of the mountain range still delights at every turn.

As a neighbourhood centre Mountain Gate is the most recent of the four shopping clusters in the area. (The others are Upper Gully, the Village and the newly named Gateway strip on Burwood Highway.) But Mountain Gate still has one of the oldest buildings (the Club Hotel) and long established businesses.

John De Coite's family, who moved to Ferntree Gully in 1922, operated a smithy strategically located at the major intersection of Burwood and Ferntree Gully Roads. The De Coite brothers, John Allan and Robert, were still working in their smithy at the corner of Ferntree Gully Road and Burwood Highway around 1970. In his younger days Bob De Coite was a champion cyclist. The athletic tradition was continued by John De Coite III who was a sprint champion in the early 1980s. Bob De Coite and his brother John Allan De Coite have now sadly passed away. The business continues as De Coite Steel.

A few months ago Gully News photographer Barbara Oehring and I visited De Coite's office and were astonished to see on shop shelving that has been there many years, a label reading, 'horseshoe nails'!

What visions of early days those words conjure up, days when the skills of the blacksmith were as essential as car repairs today. De Coite's Steel are still 'at our service'.

More recently I went Helloworld to book an overseas trip. It occurred to me that a travel agency

is another business that has to adapt to change.

I came away with flights booked, a Personal Assistance service arranged and travel insurance organised. The cheerful and helpful interview gave me the confidence to tackle the long journey.

As a matter of interest though, I asked Google, 'Do we still need travel agencies?' It seems the jury is still out on this. If you enjoy ferreting out online your own bookings with the triumph of finding special deals, you will opt for online. If you value the advice of experts and your own time is critical you will prefer the agent. 'Choice' says the benefits of using a travel agency include:

- A professional travel agent is trained to make your entire experience hassle free. They know how to sort through the myriad of travel information available.
- Customer advocacy: if you experience a problem while travelling your agent will act on your behalf.
- Their knowledge often leads them to the best deal. They can save you hours of time; they are a one stop shop for everything. They tailor the entire package to suit your wants.

As to who gets the best price? Online - if you happen upon the right deals; or, not much to choose; or the agent does best, thanks to their expertise. You choose what suits you best.

I know why I go to the professionals for overseas travel.

Anne Boyd

Selling your house? Handy hints for best presentation

Getting your home ready for sale can be a pretty daunting and scary move. At Abley Real Estate we recently had a client who was putting their home of 30 years on the market and was unsure how to present it for sale. This is not an unusual situation, as many people find this difficult. Do I de-clutter my years of accumulated memories and furniture? Do I take down all my family photos? Should I spend money on my property? All these are valid questions and can add to the overall stress of putting your property on the market.

First, only spend money on the property if you know it's going to be of benefit in getting a return at the end of the campaign. For example, I once had a home that was with two other agencies and been on the market for over 12 months. Once we took over the property the vendor added new carpets, light fittings and some new paintwork. Within a week the property sold for \$15,000 more. And the vendor only paid an extra \$5000 in costs - a wonderful outcome.

Next, there are other ways that are just as useful and effective. Lawns should be mowed and gardens weeded. All light globes need to be fitted correctly and working. Benches, particularly in the kitchen area, should be clean and free of utensils. Beds made, quilts flattened, dressing tables cleared. All floors to be vacuumed and tiled floors washed. Lastly, no shoes at the front door.

There are a number of other handy hints of course and while these are no guarantees either to sell your home more quickly or at a better price, they might just give your home a better opportunity and make it stand out in the crowd a little more.

Happy selling!

Andrew Ward

Sales Manager, Abley Real Estate



DeCoites Steel is at 766 Burwood Highway. See their advertisement on page 17. Helloworld is at Shop 41 Mountain Gate.



100 years of Cubbing. Celebrations continue!



On a cold and drizzly fourth of June, the City of Knox Cub Scouts continued with our 100 year celebration of Cub Scouts. We participated in a State-wide 'Hunting Shere Khan' scavenger hunt. Each area across Victoria organised a local version. Ours was around the Boronia shopping precinct.

The Cubs started at staggered times throughout the day from Boronia library. They each received a compass and Jungle Animal spotto sheet. An adult leader, with the course directions, accompanied each small group. The Cubs had to use a compass to set the direction according to the instruction sheet. They then had to either walk a certain number of metres or for a certain length of time. Over the next few hours the Cubs cemented their skill with the compass, setting and re-setting their course in many directions!

At regular intervals the Cubs searched for pictures of characters from *The Jungle Book*. They had to find the jungle animal's special name and record

subject was Shere Khan, the conniving tiger in *The Jungle Book*.

Despite the inclement weather all the Cubs had a ball, learnt some great compass skills and discovered many interesting things about the Boronia shopping precinct. The leaders all enjoyed the hunt too.

Our next celebration will take place on 30 July. All Cubs are invited to join in our state-synchronised campfire, where all Cubs across the State of Victoria will re-affirm their Cub Scout Promise at 8pm.

If you are interested in trying Scouting and celebrating 100 years of Cubbing go to: <http://www.vicscouts.com.au/join-us.html>

You can try three nights for free! So come along and join in the fun and adventure. Scouting is for youth aged from 6 to 26 years and, after 26, lots of fun is to be had by becoming a leader!

Nicole Klep



this on their spotto sheet. They were then rewarded by their leader with a piece of a large puzzle. They assembled this at the end of their hunt. It was with great delight that the Cubs found that their mystery

A new Lions Club for Ferntree Gully

A newly formed Lions Club is considering an interesting and useful bunch of projects and invites people in the area to come along to hear more.

This includes anyone who would like to make a difference. Whether you are single, a single parent, a business person, a family unit, of mum, dad and children, you are all invited to attend.

The projects include:

- Mural repair at FTG station
- Support for Interchange (Inner and Outer East)
- Stringybark Festival in October
- Coins for Kids at local primary schools
- Anchor Services Inc. (Helping the Homeless)
- Any other project you would like to do.

When: Saturday 20 August at 10.30am

Where: Ferntree Gully Bowling Club, Glenfern Road, Ferntree Gully

Membership of Lions is from age 18. They meet on the first Tuesday (7.30pm) and 3rd Saturday (10.30am) of the month.

Contact: President, Ian 0406 526 592 or Alan 9850 6999 – Email alan.r.f@bigpond.com

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Victoria Day Awards 7



Saying thank you to volunteers

On 1 July 1851, Victoria was declared a separate colony to New South Wales. To celebrate the anniversary of Victoria Day, the Member for Ferntree Gully Nick Wakeling MP hosts an annual awards night which recognises volunteers in our community who have contributed to our local area.

This year Nick combined the Ferntree Gully Electorate Victoria Day awards with community and charitable groups from the electorate of Rowville, represented by Kim Wells MP, to more broadly recognise the contributions of community leaders throughout Knox.

The Ferntree Gully & Rowville Electorates Victoria Day Award helps define, encourage and reinforce local aspirations, ideals and standards by identifying role models.

The awards ceremony, held on 1 July each year, is an opportunity for community groups to recognise, celebrate and say 'thank you' to those who make a significant difference to our community, those who achieve their best and those who assist others.

Official invitations are posted to individual community groups located within the Ferntree Gully electorate the month prior to the awards ceremony each year. Each group is able to select one member from within their organisation to receive a Victoria Day Award.

For 2016, Nick and Kim were honoured to award 33 very worthy recipients with a Ferntree Gully & Rowville Electorates Victoria Day Award.

Gully News nominates Barbara Oehring

Barbara Oehring is an internationally awarded photographer who lives in Ferntree Gully. In 2009, when the community newspaper *Ferntree Gully News* began publication, Barbara presented herself as a volunteer, offering to take photographs. Since then her photos have appeared in every issue, greatly enhancing the liveliness and design of the paper.

Covering events for a newspaper is no small job: from a 6am Dawn Watch to a night-time CFA torchlight procession, in venues all across the Gully, Barbara has been there. She has photographed people and places, birds and animals, portraits and crowd scenes, sports action shots, news pics and the beautiful landscapes of the Gully.

Photographing for *Gully News* is not her only volunteer work. Barbara has also made a specialty of photographing the events and artworks of local indigenous groups in Knox, regularly attending Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and other ceremonies.

Victoria Day award recipients, 2016

- Gary Bass**, Ferntree Gully Football Club
- Wendy Bliss**, Ferntree Gully Netball Club
- Andrew Breeden-Walton**, 1st Rowville Scout Group
- Eric Butterfield**, Knox & District Woodworkers Group
- Rod Canobie**, Boronia RSL Sub-branch
- Tania Challis**, Rowville Primary School
- Miriam Cormack**, Knox BMX Club
- Barry Cornell**, Wantirna Tennis Club
- Craig Douglas**, Scoresby Wantirna South Tennis Club
- Tim Edwards**, Upper Ferntree Gully Junior Football Club
- Mark Flanders**, Knox Obedience Dog Club
- Helen Ford**, Ferntree Gully TOWN Club
- Keith Gay**, Knox Little Athletics Club
- Belinda Gresen-Harris**, Knox Girl Guides
- Leanne Harvey**, Park Ridge Primary Parents & Citizens Association
- Joan Heydon**, Ferntree Gully Friends of Red Cross
- Rob James**, Rowville-Lysterfield Community News
- Inta Jaunzemis**, Knox Historical Society
- Patricia Kolec**, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Knox
- Teresa Koronczewski**, Eastern Districts Polish Association
- Krystyna Mrozik**, Polish Senior Citizens Club
- Barbara Oehring**, Ferntree Gully News
- Johann Poppenbeck**, Knox Churches Soccer Club
- Ramon Relph**, Boronia CFA
- William Rule**, Knoxfield 55 Plus Club
- Christine Smith**, Rowville Community Kitchen
- Alex & Ethel Sully**, Hungarian Community Co-operative Association
- David Thorn**, Knox Obedience Dog Club
- Gordon Veerasawmy**, St Vincent De Paul Society, Ferntree Gully
- Nina Wai**, Knox Chinese Elderly Citizens Club
- Jeanette Windahl**, Ferntree Gully North Primary School

Award recipient Barbara Oehring with friend Danny Craine and Gully News editor Anne Boyd.



8 Community News

Profile: Young volunteer Amy Callaway

Friends, fun and skills for life

Amy Callaway is passionate about her time volunteering with local disability support service, Interchange Outer East (IOE).

Amy first heard about IOE when she was a student at Mater Christi and IOE's Volunteer Coordinator came to the school to talk about volunteering with Interchange's recreation programs. The message resonated with Amy and, at age 15, she signed up and became a regular volunteer on camps and activities. Her volunteering experience led her to paid support work and employment as a recreation activity leader. Both these positions helped her to fund her interests and further studies.

Now, at 23 years of age and a special education teacher, Amy reflects on how volunteering with IOE has influenced her career, her perceptions and general outlook on life.

'Being an IOE volunteer really set me up for my career. I had always wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember but working with kids with disabilities determined the teaching direction I would take.

'Through the training I received as an IOE volunteer, I learnt so many skills that have been invaluable in my current teaching position. I learnt a huge amount about inter-personal skills, positive behaviour support, personal care and working with

young people with diverse medical and behavioural challenges. I've learnt how to communicate with children by various means and on lots of different levels – verbally, by sign, or by using augmented communication aids.

'I've always believed 'all kids are kids' – my favourite saying – no matter what their background, skill sets, presentation or challenges. That's what I'd always say to new volunteers I was mentoring when they were unsure of how they would relate to children with disabilities. Every child has a story. It's up to us to work out what that story is and how we can help them tell it. We need to discover how to bring out the best in each child.

'Probably the most important thing I have taken from my time volunteering is to give myself license to retain my inner child and to play. As a teacher, it's wonderful to be able to relate to the children on their level through play.

'Volunteering through my teenage years really helped me develop as a person. It gave me responsibility, confidence, trust in myself and my decisions and did wonders to boost my self-esteem. I even gained confidence in public speaking, a sure positive for a teacher!

'All these skills and the practical experience I have been able to take from volunteering are only a part of the story. I can't begin to describe the amazing fun I have had over the years, the memorable experiences



Amy on camp with IOE participant, Noah.

I've shared and the lifelong friendships I've made. Nor the sense of accomplishment and satisfaction that I have from knowing that I helped put smiles on the faces of the kids I have been lucky enough to support.

'I still volunteer whenever I get a chance and can't see that changing any time soon!'

For more information about becoming a volunteer with Interchange Outer East recreation programs, please contact Volunteer Coordinators Marcelo or Beck on 9758 5522 volunteers@ioe.org.au or check out the website www.ioe.org.au

Sandra Leehy, IOE

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A day to remember

Two proud players at Upper Gully Auskick are Ethan 8 and Logan 6. The team supported Boronia Auskick at the half time grid game, Round 16, on Saturday



19 July at Etihad Stadium, Tigers v's Bulldogs. This was a fabulous opportunity for the children to see their teams play and be a part of the big game. They

each got provided with their uniforms to play in.

Earlier this year they played at half time on the King's Park oval and were treated to a feast of hot food and drinks back in the club rooms.

Stay fire safe in winter

Unfortunately, Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade are regularly called to attend house fires.

Winter is well and truly with us with the prospect of many more cold days and nights well into spring. Unfortunately, winter brings with it an increased number of house fires. Nearly 40% of all house fires are due to cooking being left unattended on a stove. Always turn cooking off before leaving the kitchen, even if you intend to return in a moment or two. If you feel sleepy, turn off the cooking before you drop off to sleep.

Make it a rule, before going out and locking the door that all cooking on the stove is turned off.

Winter also brings an increase in chimney fires, regardless of the construction material used for the chimney. Metal flues and brick chimneys are of equal concern. The golden rules are to ensure that any new chimney is correctly and safely installed and that all chimneys are regularly cleaned. Soot and tars build up inside chimneys and will catch fire if not removed. Chimney fires can spread rapidly through a roof space to become major and destructive house fires. Chimney sweeps can be found in the Yellow Pages or online.

Open fires must have a firmly fixed screen which will not allow embers to escape over the top of the screen or for the screen to be displaced by a rolling log of wood during the night. It is also necessary to ensure that children or elderly members of our Ferntree Gully Community do not get so close that clothing catches fire. Clothing will burn, and that is why we teach 'stop, drop and roll' to pre-school and primary school children.

Washing should never be placed too close to any heater. Any portable heater should not be placed where it could be knocked over by children or pets.

The use of electric clothes dryers is much more common in winter. All clothes dryers have lint filters that need to be cleaned after every drying cycle to ensure that heat does not build up in the dryer and cause it to catch fire. Overloading a clothes dryer can also inhibit the tumbling of clothes, thus allowing heat to build up within the dryer.

Electric blankets must be carefully inspected during the winter period and used appropriately by only switching on just prior to going to bed and turning off before lulling to sleep. Electric blankets must never be left on during the day for the comfort of pets. Blankets or pillows piled up on electric blankets cause the build

- up of heat and the inevitable house fire.

Charging of mobile devices and laptops etc should only occur when residents are able to supervise the recharge. Mobile devices should never be charged while under a pillow.

Downlights in your ceilings become very hot indeed, therefore always ensure that they are not covered by insulation or are too near to roofing timbers etc. One needs to be aware that possums in the roof space or any work done inside a roof space may move insulation, thus causing downlights to overheat.

Every family needs a well practised home fire escape plan.

Does your family have a meeting place for emergencies such as at the letterbox?

Finally only working smoke alarms save lives.

Australian standard photo-electric smoke alarms are very inexpensive and should be placed in most rooms of a house.

See the CFA website for more information on types and placement of smoke alarms.

Prepared by Brigade Member Graham Crichton



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10 Health and Wellbeing

‘Taking Good Legal Care of Yourself’ is a regular contribution by Eastern Community Legal Centre (ECLC) to raise awareness of legal needs in the community and encourage people to seek legal advice early. ECLC is a not-for-profit community service that provides free legal advice to Melbourne’s outer-eastern communities, including Ferntree Gully. This edition focuses on dealing with ‘Fines’.

Trouble with fines

A fine is also called an infringement notice. You can receive a fine if you break a law. Breaking a law is referred to as ‘committing a criminal offence’. The fine says you must pay money as a punishment for breaking the law. There may also be other punishments depending on what law you break.

You can get fines for:

- Driving offences
- Parking offences
- Public transport offences
- Public nuisance offences

When you get a fine, you have four choices:

- Pay it
- Ask for a Review
- Ask for a Payment Plan if you don’t have the money to pay the fine
- Go to Court. You have a right to dispute your fine in open court

It is very important that you do not ignore your fine:

- It will not go away.
- You will be charged extra costs if you do not pay your fine on time.
- If you continue to do nothing, a warrant may be issued against you.
- A warrant allows the Sheriff to cancel your car registration, suspend your licence, take your possessions to pay the money you owe, and in serious cases, you can be arrested.

Lucien’s Story*

A few years ago Lucien received a fine for not wearing a bicycle helmet. Lucien was a new arrival to Australia. He did not understand the paperwork police gave him regarding the fine. He was also frightened by his interaction with the police. At the time, Lucien did not know where to go for help with translating the paperwork, or to find out what he should do next. He didn’t understand that he had to pay the fine, and didn’t do anything more about it.

Recently Lucien had been arrested by the police and placed on bail for this offence. He sought help from ECLC. The community lawyer explained Lucien’s legal responsibilities regarding the fine, the legal process ahead of him, and helped him prepare for his court hearing. The lawyer also organised interpreter assistance for Lucien at the hearing. After explaining his situation to the court, Lucien’s matter was found proven (in that he did break the law), but it was dismissed with no further penalty or conviction (based upon Lucien’s circumstances). This was an excellent result for Lucien, who now understands bicycle laws and what his responsibilities are should he break them.

The law also says you may not have to pay your fines if you were experiencing a special circumstance when you got the fine which caused you to break the law. At the time of publication, ‘special circumstances’ only include:

- A mental illness or intellectual disability.

- A serious addiction to drugs, or alcohol or a volatile substance; or
- Homelessness.

The process for applying for special circumstances depends on how far your fine has progressed within the infringements system. Contact ECLC on 9762 6235 for more information on fines, or to arrange an appointment to talk to a lawyer about your situation. Remember, take action on your fines as they don’t go away. Get free legal advice early.

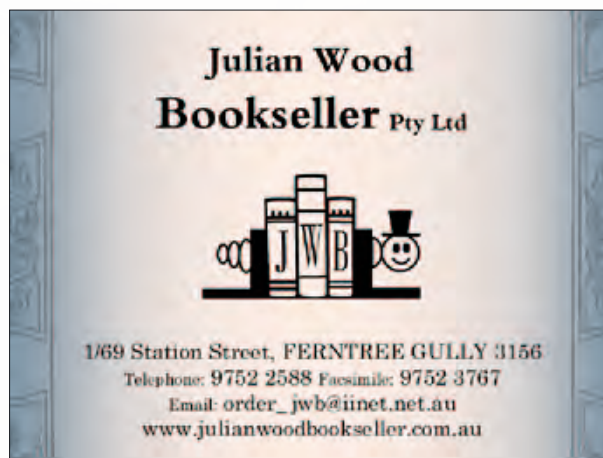
**Not his real name*

Other helpful contacts

1300 00 3224 - Eastern Financial Counselling program (in partnership with Anglicare Victoria) offers information, options and advocacy to help people develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to take control of their own financial situation. This is a free service.



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Knox U3A supports 'wellness'

We live in a time when buzzwords have become a part of our conversational lives. Words and phrases like 'sea-change', 'outside the box', 'empowerment' and, of course, the ubiquitous 'absolutely', when a simple 'yes' would suffice, abound in our various forms of communication. One current buzzword is 'wellness', a state encompassing not only physical and medical well-being, but also mental and emotional aspects. Knox U3A, in its extensive program of activities, has a focus for its members on wellness in a situation where strenuous physical exercise may no longer be appropriate, or even possible.

Last issue we focussed on our various walking groups, and this time we are highlighting the various 'gentle' exercise regimes of the curriculum. Based upon our Term 2 classes, you can see that there is a wealth of opportunities offered in the area of 'wellness'. There are no fewer than five disciplines of Yoga offered, and five disciplines of Tai Chi, both of which are extremely popular. Two sessions of Aerobics were offered in Term 2, and one in the Qigong Shibashi exercise regime. There are two sessions per week of Water Exercises.

Easing down in the level of intensity, Knox U3A offers two sessions of Gentle Exercise, and two in Strength and Balance, while there is also a Meditation group, and a discussion group on Health Matters. Finally, there is Fostering Mental Health, and exercises in Short Term Memory Improvement, which may be done in the comfort of your own home.

Some of these activities are fully booked and prospective newcomers may have to be placed on a waiting list but generally, these lists are short.

For full details of these, and any of our 143 activities, go to our website at www.u3aknox.org.au or telephone our office on 9752 2737.

John E Ford, Publicity Officer

U3A Knox Art Show 2016

For the past 19 years, University of the 3rd Age Knox Inc., has staged an Art & Craft Exhibition and Sale in October.

The Art & Craft show has become very popular with local artists, quilters and craftspeople. The number of entries has increased to a level that the U3A buildings where the exhibition is held, are so crowded that they cannot be displayed to their best effect. This year the October exhibition will be for Art and Photography only. Another exhibition for Quilts and Craft will be held in early 2017.

The Art Exhibition & Sale, will be held on Saturday and Sunday 8-9 October.

Once again there will be a \$1000 prize for the Best Art Work and the Bill Batt Prize of \$600 donated by the Knox Environment Society for the best painting of the Australian environment, in any medium. Major sponsors of this Art Show are Knox City Council, Bendigo Bank Ferntree Gully & Rowville, Ferntree Gully Toyota and Heritage Funerals.

Total prize money will be in excess of \$3,600 and will be split into five categories: Oil Painting, Water Colour, Pastels, Other Media and Photography.

This is a great opportunity for local artists to display their skills and maybe find a buyer for their work.

Artists who wish to enter works in the show can do this via the U3a Knox Inc. website www.u3aknox.org.au or through the U3A office at 1a Park Boulevard, Ferntree Gully (phone 9752 2737).



Course leader Barrie King takes his group through Tai Chi 24 exercises.



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Young @ Art 2016

'Artists are the only survivors. You can give them something or give them nothing. They will survive', said Margaret Thatcher to Australian composer Peter Sculthorpe.

The Ferntree Gully Arts Society, in its Young @ Art annual exhibition, wishes to give young artists something important: the opportunity to display their work on the Hut Gallery walls. Thanks to the Bendigo Bank Community Fund, the exhibition also gives the chance for some to walk away with financial remuneration.

Introducing the prize winners, competition judge Geoff Eady said, 'The excitement of having something displayed is a great thrill but it will dissipate. What never dissipates is the feeling that you are making order out of chaos through line, tone, colour, placement and all of that on a flat plane. It's a powerful thought.'

The prize winners included:

Junior section, ages 12 to 15

1st prize: Aura Seikas, 'Honeymoon Bay, Queensland'. Pastel.

Judge's comment: A difficult medium handled with great sensitivity and looseness. Good colour blends. Subtlety is the hardest skill for an artist to learn.

2nd prize: Sophie Holloway, 'Audrey Hepburn'. Graphite/ HB/charcoal.

Judge's comment: Striking composition, sophisticated use of medium and wonderful control of light and dark chiaroscuro.



Kyle Caulfield beside his painting, 'Slender', with MP Nick Wakeling. Right: Aura Seikas, winner of the Junior section.

Prints and Drawings Exhibition

At the opening of the Ferntree Gully Arts Society Annual Prints and Drawings Exhibition: Knox Councillor Karin Orpin, who presented the prizes. The winner of the John Frawley Print Prize, was Jeremy Swan. The Hiltrud Barfus Drawing Prize was won by Yvonne de Valle. Photo by Barbara Oehring.

Senior section, ages 16 to 18

First prize: Kyle Caulfield, 'Slender'.

Judge's comment: Kyle has shown growing strength, adaptability and maturity across a wide range of media. His images are powerful, evocative and sensitive to emotion.

Second prize: Keirah Hall, 'Taking shelter'. Coloured pencil.

Beautiful use of positive and negative space. Mature application of media, stunning design.

The prizes were provided by the Ferntree Gully Community (Bendigo) Bank and were presented by Ferntree Gully State Member of Parliament Nick Wakeling.



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The Ferntree Gully
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Music at the Bowling Club

Popular hills music club The Mountain Pickers Association has moved to Ferntree Gully Bowling Club.

Pictured here is the July feature act, the energetic Mama's Mountain Jug Band.

The club is dedicated to the promotion of Bluegrass, Old-timey and associated music and gathers a full house wherever it plays. It meets evenings of the last Tuesday of the month.

On 30 August the feature act will be the Hill Williams.



*Mountain Pickers playing at Ferntree Gully Bowling Club.
Photo by Alex Ruschanow.*



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14 Food Feature

Variety: the spice of life

We've all heard the saying: 'variety is the spice of life'. Are you trying new foods and experiences to spice up your life or are you following the same old patterns?

In my lifetime I've eaten crocodile, ostrich, kangaroo, kudu, venison, surströmming (fermented Baltic Sea herring), blodplättar (blood pancakes), escargot (land snails), flake (small shark), biltong (dried, cured, uncooked meat), sushi, sashimi (raw fish), green ant larvae and pigface (ground creeper). I don't regret eating any of these foods although with some, like the surströmming and blodplättar, one tasting will suffice.

Quite a few schnapps shots preceded my surströmming dinner in Sweden. This was necessary to counteract the thought of eating fermented fish, not to mention the odour when the can of surströmming was opened. According to a Japanese study, a newly opened can of surströmming has one of the most putrid food smells in the world.

So why did I eat this 'sour herring' dish? I guess because I wanted to spice up my life. I figured surströmming has been a staple of traditional northern Swedish cuisine since at least the 16th century so why not give it a go. I'm a great believer in eating the traditional foods of the countries one visits.

Back at home, it's easy to fall into the well-worn pattern of serving up the same foods each week. After all, we know what our own family likes to eat.

Our children's taste buds have become accustomed to certain foods and there's no rebellion when they taste familiar dishes.

I think we should introduce variety though, cultivate curiosity and encourage healthy eating. If your children are picky eaters, don't lose heart. It's been reported that children need to try new foods anywhere from 7 to 15 times before acquiring a taste for them. What foods or dishes hasn't your family tried before?

Here is an easy, versatile recipe which one can easily modify with different flavour combinations.

Crust-less Quiche

Place chopped ingredients of your choosing (for example tuna and sweetcorn; cooked bacon and leek; zucchini and feta; sweet potato and salmon; roast vegetables) into a greased pie dish.

Mix together:

- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 2 eggs
- 2 heaped tablespoons of whole-wheat flour
- Salt and pepper

Pour mixture over chopped ingredients in the pie dish and stir. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake at 180 C for 35 minutes.

Bon Appétit

Gemma Franks



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Sports page sponsored by
Ferntree Gully Bowling Club

Bowling Club appoints new coaches



The Ferntree Gully Bowling Club has appointed joint coaches for the coming 2016 Summer Pennant Season.

The new coaches are Simon Jeffery and Jason Saunders.

Simon Jeffery is 29 years old. He started bowling in 2005 and has bowled for Ferntree Gully for two years. He has bowled for Melbourne for 9 years and has twice been a Premiership bowler for Melbourne in the Premier Division. He has represented the Group 5 times, won State Fours twice and several Group Finals.

Jason Saunders is 33. He began bowling in 2000. He bowled for the Richmond Union for 7-8 years and Melbourne for 8 years. He has been a Premiership Bowler for Melbourne in Premier Division once, represented Group five times, won in several Group

Finals, been runner-up in Masters and Victorian singles, and won Club singles at both Melbourne and Richmond Union.

The Club enters competitive teams in both Saturday and Tuesday Bowls Victoria Summer Pennant, and provides many opportunities for social and casual bowls. Additional facilities include versatile clubrooms that include a bistro for relaxing with family and friends and rooms for functions, meetings and entertainment. Whether you are a bowler, or just looking for relaxed dining or a place for your next function, **come and join us – you're among friends.**



St John's Netball Club welcomes new members

Established in 1971, the Club is celebrating their 45th birthday this year.

The club was founded by the St John's Parish and Primary School and still trains and holds events there.

The club is proud to be family friendly and welcomes families who are not currently part of the parish or school. They welcome any new players who are interested in taking up netball, or may be coming back after having a break.

St John's Netball Club has six teams, ranging from Under 11s to Open, playing in the Mountain District Netball Association in Ferntree Gully. They try to keep costs as low as possible to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our sport.

Contact us:
stjohnsnetballftg@gmail.com
Or visit our webpage

The Ferntree Gully Cricket Club All Abilities Team is looking for new members.

Spring is coming. The football season is well advanced. It's time to think about cricket.

To recap on last year: in 2015 the Melbourne All Abilities Cricket Association Inc. (MAACA) was established and conducted regular Super League and Ten over Tonk competitions throughout the cricket season. Eleven teams from six clubs, Axe Creek (Bendigo), Croydon Ranges, Ferntree Gully, Moorabbin, Skye and Yarraville Clubs, participated in the two competitions.

The Ferntree Gully All Abilities team trained every week on a Wednesday evening during the cricket season at Wally Tew Reserve and competed in the Ten Over Tonk competition. The team also travelled out to Casey Fields in February and participated

in Cricket Victoria's All Abilities Cricket Carnival. The coaches of the Gully AA team are very proud of the improvement in skills and game performances displayed by all players throughout the season.

As planning for the 2016-17 cricket season gets underway, the Ferntree Gully CC All Abilities is looking to recruit new players. All Welcome!

For more information on how to become involved, contact anyone of the following:

Frank McGowan, Ferntree Gully CC. 0433 363 127
fm4183@bigpond.com
Mal McLean, Ferntree Gully CC. 0407 532 316
mkmclean@bigpond.net.au
Kevin O'Byrne, Ferntree Gully CC and MAACA Inc. 0407 326 954
fsem15@bigpond.com

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16 Churches Page

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www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Parish priest: Fr Alan Fox

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Sunday 9.00am & 11.00am
Tuesday 7.00pm
Wed. & Thurs. 9.15am
Friday 11.00am

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St Thomas Anglican Church

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Vicar: Revd Raffaella Pilz

Worship

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10.00am Holy Eucharist with hymns
Thursday 10.00am Holy Eucharist
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Upwey Baptist Community Church

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together with children's church

New uses for sacred spaces

Some of the earliest Christian Churches were built on the model of the ancient Roman covered markets or basilicas. Not like a temple for the gods, but a place for people to gather. Although in subsequent centuries the sacredness of the worship space meant

that church buildings were usually set aside for single use, there has always been a tension between this exclusivity and the message of Jesus for Christians to be open to all, especially those in need.

A new meaning for church



Channelling Monty Python for a moment: 'What has the church ever done for us?'

Well, apart from keeping Western civilisation together after the fall of the Roman Empire, it has been responsible for setting up the first schools, hospitals for the common and poor folk, setting up places of shelter to clothe and feed the homeless and setting up the first orphanages. And, yes, the church has its faults. It is made up of frail humanity and yet it continues to work at being a presence of Christ for people 'on the margins' of society, for the vulnerable and the 'unacceptable'. Think chaplains in prison, and so much more!

So, considering the Christian church's background in education, it is really of no surprise that the congregation at Ferntree Gully Uniting Church is welcoming students of Mountain District Learning Centre to come and hold their classes in the church building in The Avenue. These are MDLC students who have had to move from premises in Upper Ferntree Gully. The Centre's classrooms in The Avenue being fully booked, the Upper Gully students found themselves with nowhere to go.

So, when you pass the church building you will notice it bubbling with life. We hope the students enjoy their new premises and share in our spirit of sharing.

Pat Rivett

Ferntree Gully Uniting Church

A mini market in the church



Recently I have had to deal with a whole lot of change in my life, and I have discovered that *I don't like change!* How about you?

Seems most of us don't like change; yet nothing stays the same. Just take the recent election

debacle!

However I have also discovered it's as much about my attitude about change as it is about the changes themselves. If my reactions and responses remain positive then things, generally turn out ok.

Our welfare delivery has undergone a drastic change following the beginning of the new financial year. I was not going to let this change reduce what we were able to offer our community.

We now have a mini market at our church on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 11.30am, providing bread, fruit, vegetables and a variety of pantry items for those who are finding it hard to make ends meet. Everything is free. We aim to help the shopping dollars go a little bit further, or allow some to be left over for those bills that seem to be getting harder and harder to pay.

So if you know someone who could do with a little bit of help here and there, tell them about our mini market. Come a little earlier and have a free cup of tea or coffee and meet some new people...who said change can't be positive?

Angela Locke

Ferntree Gully Salvation Army

Sharing stuff – sharing stories at the Salvos op shop

Is it the lure of a bargain? Is it a quick way to pick up something you need for the house? Is it just a human need to share a story?

Kayla McCulloch at the Salvos Op Shop in Ferntree Gully Village says it's all these things that keep a constant stream of people coming through their big and friendly store. And of course the proceeds go directly towards the Salvos work for local people in need.

'Every bit of stuff that comes in has a story', she adds, 'and people want to tell it. Or they buy something because "my gran had one just like that"

and they want to talk about Gran. The people who come in here are awesome. In a league of their own.'

Manager Misty Springfield-Thomas took over in October 2015 and leads a team of about 15 volunteers, rostered to keep the shop open six days a week. They create an effective display of clothes, household stuff, books, bargains and collectibles. And they are good listeners.

96 Station Street, Ferntree Gully

Open Monday to Friday 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Saturdays 10.00am to 1.00pm.



18 NAIDOC Day

Stories, sticks and bush tucker

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NAIDOC originally stood for 'National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee'. This committee was once responsible for organising national activities during NAIDOC Week and its acronym has since become the name of the week itself. (See the internet for more about the origins and history of NAIDOC week.)

Gully News volunteers Alice Collins and photographer Barbara Oehring went to the NAIDOC celebrations at the Ferntree Gully Arts Centre.

On Thursday 7 July I attended a wonderful event at the Ferntree Gully Community Arts Centre and Library, to celebrate NAIDOC week.

The theme for NAIDOC 2016 is Songlines. This name refers to the stories, songs, dances and painting that tie aboriginal people together. First there was the Dreamtime when everything, land animals plants and lore were created. After that came the songs, for places, like waterholes, even songlines in the sky (the 'seven sisters') and so on. All Australians are invited to learn about the songlines as a way to connect to Aboriginal people.

In the morning, children gathered in the library space to listen to Yorta Yorta storyteller, Thomas Harrison reading the children a story about Bunjil the Eagle and one about the Cocky, the Crow and the Hawk. (The books are in the children's section of the library.) Thomas also demonstrated artefacts such as clap sticks and a coolamon (or shallow wooden dish), and invited children to try on a possum skin cloak. He explained that the cloak is worn skin outside for heating, skin inside for cooling. Finally the children joined him in a kangaroo dance.

The day continued with a bush tucker lunch, prepared by chef Colin Atkinson. We had a choice of two soups and damper, all delicious.

In the afternoon it was time to do things like painting and making badges. I went home with a free plant from the Knox Environment Society's table.

In all, an inspiring, educational and joyful day.

Alice Collins



Thomas Harrison talks to the children about Aboriginal culture.



Colin Atkinson, (also Yorta Yorta) serving delicious chocolate cake with wattle seed and whipped cream with river mint.





Proudly sponsored by
Nick Wakeling, State MP
for Ferntree Gully

A growing community

Ferntree Gully Electorate Youth Forum

The Ferntree Gully Electorate Youth Forum recently participated in a robust discussion that included student leaders from local Knox secondary schools, representatives from Headspace Knox, local state member for Ferntree Gully Nick Wakeling MP and member for Rowville Kim Wells MP.

The students engaged in a range of topics and presented in-depth insights into the important issues facing youth today, including mental health, social media, cyber bullying and drug and alcohol use.

Secondary schools participating in the forum included Fairhills High School, Rowville Secondary College, Scoresby Secondary College, St Andrews Christian College, St Josephs College, Wantirna College and Waverley Christian College.

Fairhills High School Wellness Centre

MP Nick Wakeling recently opened the new wellness centre at Fairhills High School. The Fairhills High School wellness centre will provide ongoing support to secondary students with mental health issues, offering educational resources and encouraging student engagement. The establishment of this centre fulfils a funding commitment of the previous Napthine Government, and will assist many students throughout their secondary school studies.



Local St John the Baptist primary school has recently been involved in a new program, 'one tree per child'. The project aims to educate children about environmental awareness and develop them mentally. As well as supporting the environment and building community through planting trees, St John the Baptist students successfully planted trees recently in the Quarry Reserve. The children participated in three activities:

First, a nature walk to learn about the Quarry Reserve and about caring for the environment; then the tree planting; and finally a habitat game. In this game the children each wore a sticker – to be either a tree or animal (possum, owl, small bird and skink). Then they were given different scenarios: houses, roads and shops were built and trees were cut down. So some children left the game; others had to find a tree to live in and so survive in the game.

Key messages from the game were:

1. We must protect what we trees have left!
2. Trees are an essential part of a healthy ecosystem.
3. We live with wildlife.
4. What can we do in our school or at home to help local wildlife?

Along with the other schools involved, they have pushed the 'one child per tree' project forward to the

ambitious goal of 100,000 trees.

'One tree per child' was launched in Australia on 5 June 2015 by the DoSomething foundation. Created by the famous entertainer Olivia Newton-John and Jon Dee, the successful 'national tree day' saw over 10 million trees planted. 'Planting trees and shrubs is a great way for kids to connect to the environment and their community,' said Olivia Newton-John.

By signing up to 'One Tree Per Child' the city of Knox has committed to working with interested local primary schools to facilitate tree planting events on Council owned reserves and properties. There are approximately 12,000 primary school children in Knox. Council is aiming for 5000 school children to plant a tree by 2020.

The project is mainly funded through the federal government's '20 million tree' program. Similar programs have had major success in other areas of the world. In Bristol, England, students planted 39,000 trees, more than enough for one tree per primary school student. The program aims to do the same in Australia with \$300,000 of government funding. 'If every child plants a tree, it will not only make a difference to the environment but also to the way they think,' said Greg Hunt, Minister for Environment.

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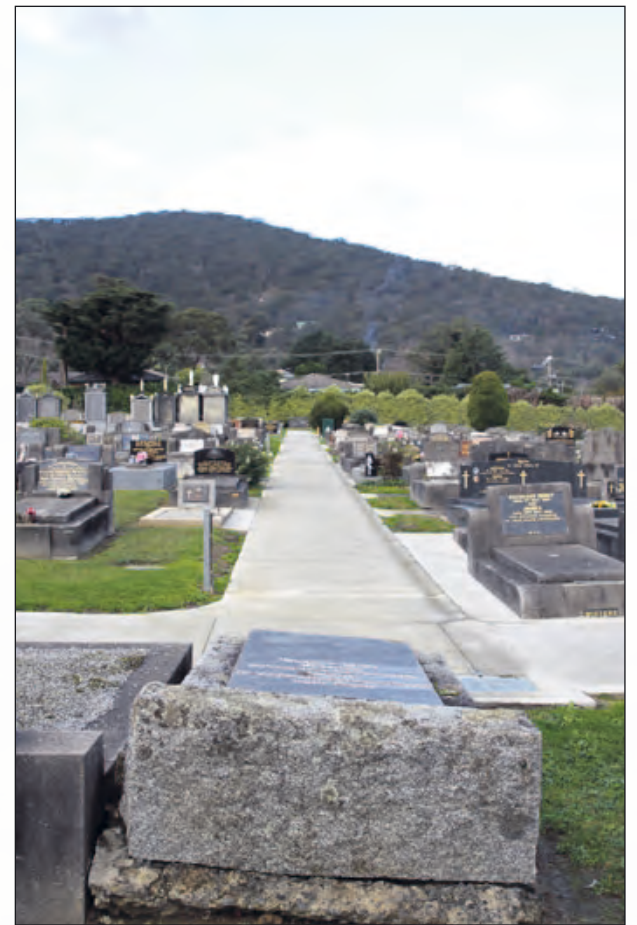
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20 Local History

Ferntree Gully cemetery gets a new lease on life



If you keep an eye on Ferntree Gully cemetery over the next few months you're sure to notice its new look.

Dobson Ward Councillor and Chair of the Ferntree Gully Cemetery Trust Special Committee, Karin Orpen, said new fencing and a bold new entrance would be a welcome addition to the community's beloved local cemetery.

'In keeping with the character of our green and leafy neighbourhood, I'm delighted that the striking

fern fronds will be a feature of the new entrance. The fronds are an appropriate artistic and visual representation of our community's natural beauty.'

The existing cyclone fence has been in place for more than 50 years and is failing in some areas. It will be replaced by fencing which will enhance the area.

Fern Tree Gully cemetery, first established in 1883, has the graves of many of the district's early settlers and one of Australia's best-known artists, Sir Arthur

Left: An artist's impression of the new gates. Insert and right: Barbara Oehring's photos of the present gates and Streeton's grave facing the mountain.

Streeton who lived at Olinda. Cr Orpen said the Ferntree Gully cemetery was a special part of the community.

Work on the new fence and entrance is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Gates of Heaven

Peter Zamorra, Year 10 student at Heathmont Secondary College, spent a week of work experience at Mountain District Learning Centre. He joined the Gully News team in the planning of these pages. Peter is interested in history. He chose to write about a walk through the cemetery.

The cemetery in Ferntree Gully is a sacred place and by the end of the year it will be improved with new gates. I decide to inspect the current gates.

I enter by the side gates on Clematis Avenue. As I work my way from there towards the main gates, I come across many historical graves. Dobson is one name I see frequently, reminding me of their history.

Thomas Dobson arrived in Victoria in March 1854 along with his wife (Susan Cree) and four children. They were originally from Scotland. Thomas Dobson worked in the timber industry.

I then come across Robert Minns' grave alongside that of his daughter Ada Friberg. Ada was born on 20 February 1883. Her father was the only government official in Ferntree Gully for 30 years. He held many jobs including Assistant Returning Officer, Postmaster, Registrar of Births and Deaths and the first Rate Collector and Valuer to the Shire of Ferntree Gully. His daughter took over some of his responsibilities after his death and she lived to be 101 years old.

As I continue to approach the front gate I come across another interesting grave, that of Sir Arthur Streeton. Born on 8 April 1867 at Mount Duneed Victoria, he was known for his landscape paintings

in Australia, such as 'Golden Summer Eaglemont' (1889). Most of his paintings were Australian landscapes but he also painted scenes of war due to his experience in WW1. He died on 1 September 1943.

As I reach the main gate I notice how pale and rusty it has become. But soon it will be replaced with a beautiful fence with steel fern fronds covering the outside, appropriate to the area.

This has been a long needed change to the cemetery and it is well deserved for the people that rest there.

Peter Zamorra

Further adventures of early visitors to Ferntree Gully hotel, 1866

‘We started somewhat late in the afternoon, but in time to reach the Fern-tree Gully Hotel an hour or so before dark. The house is prettily situated, and quite new, although having the advantage of an old garden of most luxuriant growth, and adorned, among other things, with a number of weeping willows of astonishing dimensions for their age, if this was rightly stated to us as being only seven years. The highest of them was certainly forty feet high, with close foliage and a stem as thick as a stout man’s body.

‘Before the inn was built the place was occupied by the owner of a saw mill, which is now, however, lying idle, and falling into decay. However, the mill-race, fed by the Fern-tree Gully Creek, is still extant, and affords the means for a rough-and-ready shower bath, to be obtained by scrambling down under the old water-wheel, where you may get very efficiently cascaded upon. At present it is somewhat slippery and dirty work to get there, but the arrangements are about to be improved.

‘Perhaps, some of these days, if a plausible medical man happened to be going cheap, it might be worthwhile to have medicinal properties discovered in the water, which for the present, however, only sets up for being cold and abundant.’

Reprinted from The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld) Saturday 17 March 1866

The Ferntree Gully Hotel (known to locals as ‘The Middle’ stands on the site of the first hotel.

The Ferny Creek which once ran behind the hotel and provided washing facilities for visitors is now covered over to make a grassy parkland beside a bike track.



The lure of book-making and the love of the Hills

Review:

The Dandenong Ranges by Nick Anchen
Published by Sierra Publishing, 2016. \$ 39.95.
Available at Ferntree Gully Post Office and Newsagency, Station Street FTG.

Nick Anchen, author and publisher of *The Dandenong Ranges* has been researching and photographing the hills since he began Sierra Publishing with his first book, *Puffing Billy – The Spirit of the Dandenongs*, in 2007.

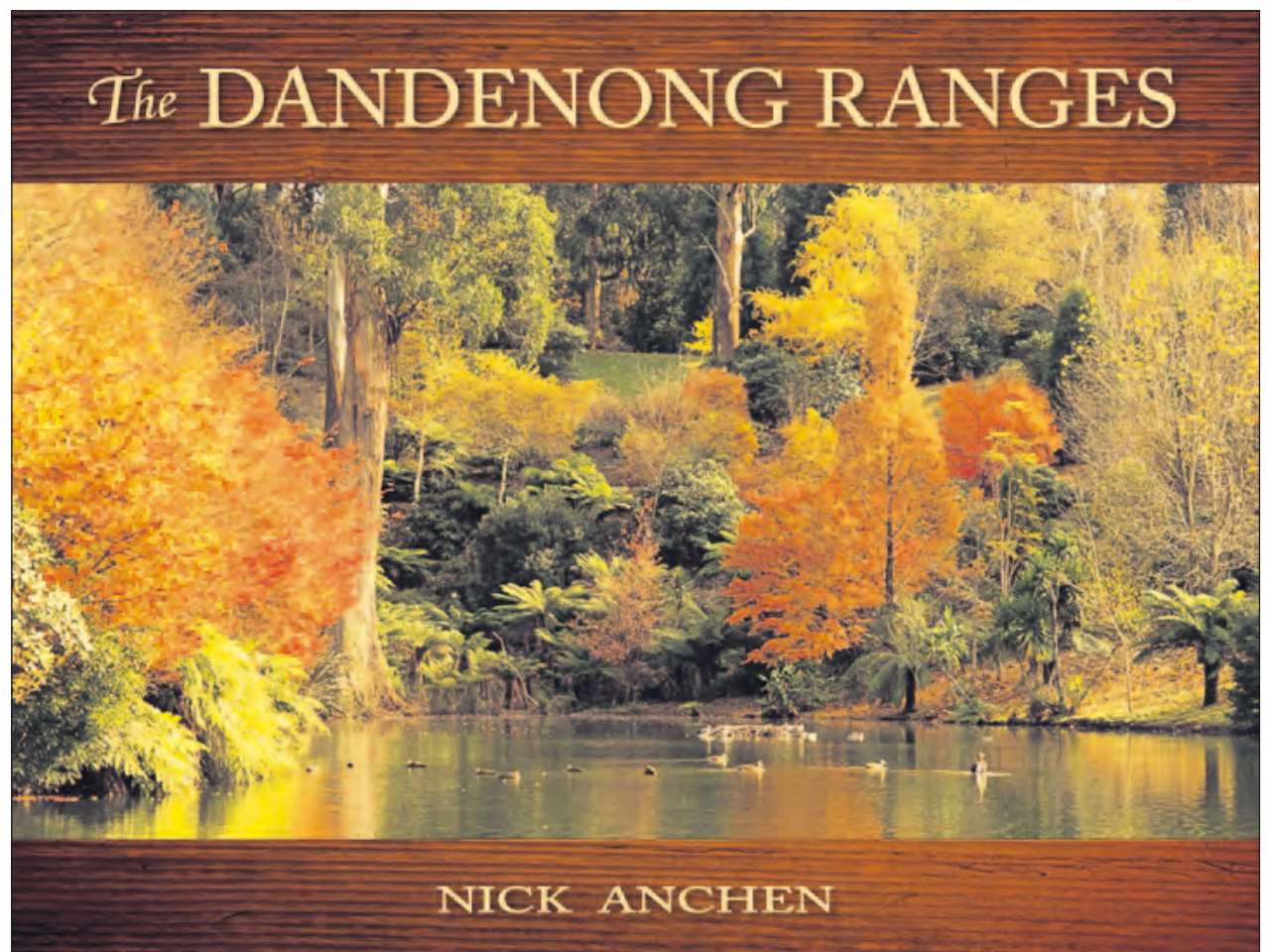
Since then he has published further books on the region: *The Cuckoo*, *Puffing Billy in the Modern Era* and the fascinating *Disaster in the Dandenongs – the Kyeema Airline Tragedy*.

‘How did you get interested in publishing?’ I asked, as we sat over a pot of tea at Rapture café on a winter afternoon.

‘It was the Kokoda Trail that started me’, he said. ‘The experience of walking the trail challenged me to think about becoming a better person. I wanted to do something to make a difference.’

He loved trains, he loved the Dandenongs, he loved books. So it all came together as he taught himself the intricacies of writing and editing, design and formatting, production and distribution that go to crafting books.

In Sierra Publishing’s latest book, *The Dandenong Ranges*, the focus is on the people: the history of the early settlers, the timber cutters and quarrymen, the gold seekers and then the farmers, and gardeners, notably Carl Axel Nobelius and the Tesselaar family. As Nick says, ‘the human element draws me in’. But so does the place, and the book is a series of spectacular photographs: forests, flowers, animals,



seasons, portraits. The beauty of the Dandenongs is there in all its glory.

Like many others in the publishing business Nick has become hooked on the combination of art and entrepreneurship, business and creativity that have

lured many to this 500 year old craft of book-making.

The café was closing and we prepared to leave.

‘By the way, Nick’, I said, ‘what is your day job?’

‘Driving trains for Metro of course,’ he replied.

Anne Boyd

Lorna's life of faith, family and service

**A tribute to Lorna May Feeney,
23 June 1920 – 25 May 2016**

On 1 June this year St John the Baptist's Church overflowed with people. They were there to honour and celebrate the life of a much loved and admired woman, Lorna Feeney.

In his eulogy, Lorna's son Vin, described her as a woman of faith, a shaper of lives. Lorna did indeed hold and practise a deep faith. It was a faith expressed in joy, kindness, acceptance and service to others. Lorna was quick to include and embrace people. She was slow to judge. She was also a woman of candour. She said it like it was and she said it with wit and wisdom. As Vin said, she was more Leunig than Shakespeare. With Lorna, you knew where you stood and there was much comfort in that knowing.

Lorna was born in North Melbourne on 23 June 1920. Her family moved to Brunswick in 1926 and she lived there during her childhood and early adult years. After leaving school she worked in administration, banking and retail. She married her husband Jim (deceased in 2013) in 1944 and ten years later they moved to Upper Ferntree Gully where they



Lorna May Feeney.

were able to acquire land and accommodate their family, which eventually grew to ten children. They revelled in family often saying that their riches came

not from material possessions but from their passion for family and the many marvels that it brought them.

Service to community was another important component of Lorna's life. She and Jim had been active members of St John's as parishioners, parish council members and as visitors to those in nursing homes. They were also highly involved in the schools attended by their children – especially St John's primary school, Whitefriars College Donvale, St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully and Mater Christi College Belgrave.

Lorna is survived by a family which now numbers over 60 members. She will be remembered for her deep love of family and friends, her joy in life, her commitment and service to community, her openness and sincerity, her wit, and so much more.

Teresa Cannon

Our thanks to Carmel and the Feeney family, who provided material from which this tribute has been prepared.

Another success for author Sue Williams

For local author Sue Williams, the hills are alive with inspiration. It's here, as she meanders among the ferns on her regular walks, that her imagination is sparked and she arrives at ideas for characters and plots.

Sue's second novel, *Dead Men Don't Order Flake*, was published by Text in June. It continues the exploits of Cass, operator of the Rusty Bore Takeaway. Cass also has a penchant for detective work. Having already solved a crime in Sue's first novel, *Murder with the Lot*, Cass has developed a reputation, not only for her culinary skills but also as a sleuth of some status. So when the resident policeman closes the case on the death of a young journalist, the locals know who to turn to for further investigation. The story's made all the more amusing because the policeman is Cass's son.

Like her first novel, Sue's second novel is keenly satirical. Whether it's issues to do with gender, the environment, policing or injustice, Sue takes them all on board in a delightfully intelligent and witty way. Cass's second son Brad is a keen environmentalist and he's not too impressed about his Mum's flake cooking. He's agog when her fridge contains no organic tempeh!

Sue has a background in science. She had been writing and publishing science articles for some years before she became interested in fiction. She undertook a writing course at the Mountain District Learning Centre. She speaks excitedly of the 18 months she spent there honing her skills. She grins



Sue Williams, author of Dead Men Don't Order Flake!

cheekily as she says, 'I noticed much of my fiction writing involved dead bodies. I thought that might be a message to write crime fiction'. It was while at MDLC that the voice of Cass was born.

Dead Men Don't Order Flake is very much an

Australian novel with strong characters we'd all recognise. Its humour is deliciously deprecating and Sue cleverly employs this while telling a story of much substance.

Teresa Cannon

Reading around the world

Recently the *Gully News* made it as far as remote western Tanzania, near the border with Burundi. Pictured is Lameck Onesmo, who works with an organisation providing assistance to refugees from Burundi who are currently living in camps in the area. As you can see by the expression on his face, Lameck loves *Gully News*! If only we delivered on a regular basis!

According to the UNHCR there were around 21 million refugees worldwide in 2015 living in temporary housing in host countries including Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon and Tanzania. 33,000 people a day are forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. For more information, see <http://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

Dianne Lagerway, Community Development staffer at MDLC recently visited Tanzania.



Year 13 – a new program

Year 13 is a new program designed for young people from 17 to 25 years who may have completed (or nearly completed) their VCAL or VCE.

This course includes:

- Information about TAFE, Vocational Courses or University
- Career planning and guidance
- Work experience opportunities
- Building your personal confidence
- Practical advice to help you land your first job
- How to craft a winning resume, stand out in group interviews and make a great impression.

The course fee is \$20. The program runs for three days per week for 14 weeks. It's light and breezy and will help you get started with the next stage of your life! Telephone the office at MDLC, 9758 8278, for further information or to express your interest.

Amber Gray and Jemma-lei are enjoying the airy spaces of their church classroom. See the story on page 16.

Make a difference in someone's life

Mountain District Learning Centre often receives enquiries from people who would like to improve their literacy skills. For such clients, spending regular time one-on-one with a volunteer is a great strategy. The Centre provides support, training and materials.

If this volunteering sounds like something you'd like, you can read more about what is involved on www.mdlc.com.au. Or please call Jayne on 9758 7859 to discuss further, or come to one of the meetings on the information day.

Some Australians are moving through the school system without achieving a level of reading, writing and maths skills necessary for full participation in life and work.

This is not a new problem. There is evidence that it's been happening since the education system

was established in the 1850s. It is also an issue that is present in all demographics – wealthy or impoverished, old or young, male or female.

UNESCO's definition of functional literacy is 'a level of skills sufficient to function in the particular community in which an individual lives.' In Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges there are around 37,000 people over 17 with low literacy, 56,000 with low numeracy, and 112,000 people with low computer literacy. In our community this means difficulty with things like getting a job promotion or changing jobs; reading a letter from Centrelink; or even understanding a bus timetable.

For more information on levels and testing, see www.abs.gov.au

Make a difference in someone's life

Become an adult literacy volunteer

Come and have a chat to learn more at information sessions on Tuesday 2 August, 2016 at Realm at 10am (Ringwood library) or at MDLC 13-15 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully at 7:30pm

24 Knox Environment Society

Native plants close to extinction

Knox Environment Society volunteers come to the rescue

KES is a not for profit volunteering program for people wanting to care for their environment. This group of environmentally dedicated volunteers offers the opportunity to learn about and contribute to the preservation of indigenous flora (that is, plants local to this part of Knox). Some of these plants are close to extinction.

By supporting KES, either by buying plants or as a volunteer, people can help the environment and give local wildlife the security of a safe habitat and seasonal food.

Overall KES's primary aim is for the current and future care of the environment of our community.

KES volunteers will provide the specialist knowledge, insight and information to support you in choosing suitable plants and nurturing your native garden.



If caring for your community, gardening with indigenous plants, and preserving the environment and local wildlife, is important to you, then KES's objectives and plant nursery are for you.

The nursery is located in the parkland opposite the Ferntree Gully Library, entry off Burwood Highway, Melways reference 74 A5. The nursery is open on Thursdays, 10am to 4pm and Saturdays and Sundays 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

Call in to the nursery to learn more about volunteering at KES, or about workshops and other activities – and to buy plants

Or email us at info@kes.org.au

Right: Christine is the expert at plant potting.



Gardens for Wildlife

The gardens for Wildlife program is a partnership between Knox Council, Knox Environment Society and the community. The program is not-for-profit and there are no fees for participating.

If you would like to participate go to the website www.knoc.vic.gov.au/G4W

With only 4% of the original bushland remaining in Knox and a large variety of native species becoming displaced, Gardens for Wildlife will give you the knowledge you need to create an area in your garden for wildlife and to know what they need to survive.

On joining the program your garden can become a vital stepping stone in connecting pockets of bushland across Knox and help to provide wildlife with the resources they need to survive.



Out and about with Alice

Saturday 18 June

Today I travelled over the West Gate Bridge to visit a friend in Altona North. We have been friends since Lyn joined me at Hyde Street state school in 1953. We both moved on to University High followed by three years at Melbourne Teachers' College. In 1963 I went to live and teach in Adelaide. Lyn and I now catch up by visiting one another and staying over.

I grew up in Seddon. It was a delightful little village. I attended the Seddon Congregational church. Seddon has changed a lot since then. Melbourne's west is now very much alive, very trendy and many cafes. Unfortunately my family home no longer exists. In the 1990s the beautiful double-fronted Federation house was knocked down and replaced by an ugly brick dwelling. Nowadays the old houses are lovingly restored.

I wanted to visit the Seddon Uniting church to see if a christening font dedicated to my grandfather, John Charles Giles, still exists. So last Saturday I went back to the church and found the Maribyrnong Makers market in full swing in the church grounds. This has to be the most expensive market I have visited. Scarves for \$118. Beautiful hats around \$140. I did manage to purchase a few things and the christening font is



still there. I contacted a church member and plan to visit. This means getting to the church on time, 9am on Sunday.

Sunday 19 June

Attended the Willy Lit. Fest (or Williamstown Literature Festival) and went to a workshop to improve my interviewing techniques. An excellent experience and I learned a lot. Sitting opposite me was the secretary of the Footscray Historical Society. She wants to record me and gather my knowledge and experience of living in Seddon. Would I refuse an opportunity to talk? Of course not! If you see me roaming the streets of Ferntree Gully with my trusty pad and pen do not be afraid. On the other hand perhaps you should be afraid. After lunch in Williamstown, we went to Altona Beach. There we met the Altona Adventurers who were cleaning up the beach and foreshore.

Monday 20 June

Returned home after visiting a fantastic shop, Altona Fresh. If you are over that way it's well worth a visit.

Alice Collins
Gully News volunteer

The Gully Gang

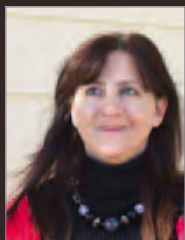
What is the Gully Gang? It's a small, informal, leisure cycling group, mainly of older bike riders, who ride once a week, starting from the Tim Neville Arboretum in Ferntree Gully.

The group first started affiliated to a local bicycle shop back in 2008. The cycle shop has since gone, but the cycling group kept going. Each week, the group assesses weather conditions, then rides for a morning coffee somewhere in Knox or adjoining areas, using the city's shared-use path network. The pace is easy, and the rides mostly in the range 10–25 km. Regular destinations include Jells Park, Knox City, Croydon, Wellington Village in Rowville, and other cafes in the local area.

Occasionally the Gully Gang ventures further afield. The annual Christmas break-up ride has visited Brighton for lunch several times. Members don't have to live in the City of Knox: regular riders come from as far afield as Mooroolbark, Kallista, and Cranbourne. The average number of riders each week is about seven, but sometimes as many as 15 cyclists attend weekly rides.

The group meets each Wednesday morning at 10 am in the car park on the south (Francis Crescent) side of the Tim Neville Arboretum. New members are welcome.





'In this life we cannot always do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' *Mother Teresa*
I really can't go past this quote from Mother Teresa; it rings so true. It really is the small things in life that we do with love that make it worthwhile. It's easy to forget this sometimes, especially in winter when the weather is cold and dreary and motivation is at its all-time low.

Diana Brown

Knox Social and Community Health

1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully
reNEW: nutrition. exercise. wellbeing

Want to improve your health and wellbeing? Tried all the diets and exercise but finding that it makes no difference? Know what you want to do but finding it difficult to get motivated?

reNEW is a four-week wellness program that aims to help you improve your health and wellbeing. It provides you with information and ideas to help you make lifestyle changes. Run by a dietician, exercise physiologist and health psychologist.

Come along to hear a different approach to achieving wellbeing.

The focus is health for all. Learn how to achieve this through looking at the way we eat rather than what we eat, learning to enjoy moving our body, and ways to increase confidence to make changes happen.

When: Thursday 4 August till 25 August

Time: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Where: KSCH Wantirna site – unit 1/603 Boronia Road, Wantirna

Cost: \$8.00 per session or pay \$25 up front for the four sessions by 4/8/16. Bookings essential; please call reception to register your interest on 9757 6200

Family drug support meetings

Non-religious, open meetings for family members affected by drugs and alcohol. Open to anyone and providing opportunities to talk and listen to others in a non-judgemental, safe environment. Please phone facilitators to check on dates and venue, prior to attending.

When: Tuesday every fortnight (next sessions 9 and 23 August 2016)

Time: 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Enquires: Michael 0448 169 205 or Debbie 0412 382 812

Life!

Helping you to prevent diabetes, heart disease and stroke. The Life! course provides an individual session to identify your risk factors and five group sessions across six months. This course offers the skills, support and expert advice needed to make lifestyle choices for your health.

Where: KSCH Wantirna site – unit 1/603 Boronia Road, Wantirna

When: Mon 1 September 2016

Time: 10:00am to 12:00pm

Cost: free for eligible people

For more information please contact reception on 9757 6200

Walk and Talk Club

Come along and walk to get fit, enjoy friendly company, stimulating conversation and maybe a cup of coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome. Pets as well.

When: Thursdays 10am to 11am

Where: Mountain District Learning Centre, 13-15 The Avenue, Ferntree Gully

Cost: Free. Please register your interest on 9758 7859

SaturDads

A Saturday morning playgroup for children up to age 7 years and their dads/male carers. Come along with your children and be part of the fun.

Meet other dads/male carers. Friendly relaxed atmosphere. Learn new games and activities to share with your children. Healthy morning tea supplied.

Mum, grandparents or other carers are also welcome to join in for the first couple of sessions.

When: Every Saturday morning, 9:00am to 11:30am

Where: Maroondah Social and Community Health Centre, rear 75 Patterson Street, Ringwood East. (Enter through St. Stephens's church car park, Freeman Street)

Cost: Free. For more information call 9837 3999

The Gully TOWN weight loss club

Lose weight with the Gully TOWN club: a low cost community support group with fantastic and friendly members. Offers weekly weigh-ins, menu ideas and no points to count. Costs less than \$6.00 per week.

When: Tuesday nights, 7:00 to 8:30 pm

Where: Elderly Citizens Club, Underwood Rd, Ferntree Gully. Enter from Railway car park

Contact: Phone Annette on 9736 1693 or John on 9754 1151

eHealth record for children

As a busy parent or parent-to-be, your child's health and wellbeing is one of your top priorities. From the moment they are born, it is important that a record is kept of the health care they receive. The Australian Government's personally controlled eHealth record system will make it easier for you to track your child's healthcare from infancy through to early adulthood. Having an eHealth record will provide more connected health care for you and your family so that no matter which healthcare professional you visit or where you visit them, they can all have access to the same health information. To register yourself and your child/children for an eHealth record or for more information go to: www.ehealth.gov.au or call: 1800 723 471.

Australian Jazz Museum

The Australian Jazz Museum has approximately 650 members, and more than 50 active volunteers. Its purpose is to preserve jazz music of all types but particularly Australian. It holds recordings (vinyl, cassettes, tapes, CDs and acetates) photographs, posters, videos, instruments, diaries and oral history and interviews and records of rare material. There is a shop selling CDs, books, videos, DVDs; a display area for mounting exhibitions; a reference library and a members' lending library. It also provides access for listening to recorded performances and viewing videos. There are rehearsal facilities and the museum is host to the Victorian Jazz Workshops' regular Saturday Musicians' Workshop Program.

Visitors welcome and admission is free.

Where: Koomba Park, 15 Mountain Hwy, Wantirna

When: Tuesday and Friday, 10am to 3pm

Tel: 9800 5535

Website: www.ajm.org.au

Ringwood Family and Relationship Centre

Supports families to strengthen relationships with a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of children. The centre also provides referrals to specialist services for assistance with drug, alcohol, gambling, mental health, family violence and financial issues. Some of the services offered include information and support, counselling, parenting education and workshops, child inclusive sessions, family dispute resolution, family financial and property mediation, parenting orders program and referrals.

They also offer outreach services for ease and convenience.

Where: Level 1, 68 Charter Street, Ringwood

When: Monday through to Friday

Tel: 9871 6300

Website: www.ringwood.frc.org.au

Bizzy Bee Clothing

Bizzy Bee Clothing makes and supplies clothing for both males and females with disability and ageing problems. The clothing is designed for easier dressing as well as comfort and dignity. The range includes slippers, singlets, track pants, shirts, and dresses. You can shop online or they will visit aged care facilities, retirement villages, and seniors clubs.

For more information call 0438 099 683 or check out the website on www.bizzybee.net.au

Daffodil Day - Friday 26 August 2016

Daffodil Day is a great opportunity to come together for a day of community service. As Cancer Council's flagship fundraising event, all money raised helps to fund vitally needed cancer research, prevention and patient support services. By volunteering, your school or workplace can make a real difference to the fight against cancer.

Assemble your team of volunteers (groups of between 6 and 100 people) and take to the streets selling Daffodil Day merchandise, or fresh daffodils, and help tackle cancer head-on. No sales experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a willingness to take part. Volunteering on Daffodil Day has many benefits for everyone. It's a fun team-building activity that not only gives you a chance to get out and about in the community, but also instils a real sense of pride in what you can achieve together.

So get involved and show you care about beating cancer this Daffodil Day. For information go to: www.daffodilday.com.au/

Dog Walking Group

First Saturday, every month!

You can support Animal Aid and exercise your dog at the same time by participating in the walking group organised by Animal Aid supporters. On the first Saturday of each month, a group meets at a designated point along the Warburton Rail Trail for a walk to help raise funds for shelter animals in need of special veterinary care. Everybody is welcome, whether a dog owner or not. All walks are suitable for prams and strollers, although it can be a little rough in some places. All dogs must be kept on a lead at all times. The walk lasts for approximately 2 hours. Registration is from 9.30 am and the walk begins at 10.00 am. All participants should BYO morning tea.

Come along and enjoy the chance to meet new people, exercise your four-legged friends and help Animal Aid. \$5.00 donations for registration.

The next walk is in August - Gruyere towards Wandin.

Melway Ref 285 G5

Meet at Picnic Area -50 m on left hand side of Kylie Lane. (Limited parking)

Animal Aid Coldstream Telephone: 9739 0300.

Country Music Show

The Upwey Country Music Club presents a Walk Up - Open Mic concert on the first Sunday of each month at the Guides Hall in FTG. New singers, musicians and bands are always welcome. A band or musician is available to back singers, if required. Just bring your music along. There is a small entrance charge of \$7 (\$5 for members) to help cover costs.

When: First Sunday of month, 7 February & 6 March etc. from 12.30 to 5pm **Where:** Guides Hall, Underwood Road, Ferntree Gully Enquiries to Graham 03 5964 8298

Promoting your community group

Good promotion means communicating more than just the facts and the best promotion involves planning. This workshop will provide practical guidance on how to communicate, appropriately and effectively, the right information about your organisation on platforms such as print media, flyers, websites and social media.

When: Monday 22 August, 9.30am -12.00pm

Where: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South.

Contact name: Community Strengthening Team

Phone: 9298 8000

Email: commskills@knox.vic.gov.au/commskills

RSVP before Thursday 18 August

Cost: Free

Book online at knox.vic.gov.au/commskills



Great events at Ferntree Gully Library

Colouring for Adults

Learn about the use of coloured pencils, colour, and coloured designs. No experience necessary. Bring your own pencils if you have them. Some pencils will be provided. Take

this opportunity to relax with a cuppa and join others in colouring great designs just waiting to be brought to life. You are welcome to bring your own colouring book, or to work with the designs provided.

An ongoing group – all welcome.

When: Thursday 11 August 2.30pm and Thursday 1 September 2.30pm

Bookings essential.

Healthy Lifestyle for Wellbeing

Celebrate Jean Hailes Women's Health Week at Ferntree Gully Library.

Join Health Psychologist Emma Salt for a discussion about wellbeing through creating and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Emma will talk you through the process of making change and will provide practical tips to help you stay on track as well as strategies to cope with obstacles you may face along the way.

Emma works locally at EACH, supporting people with chronic illness to develop healthy and meaningful lives. All welcome.

When: Thursday 8 September 2.30pm

Bookings essential

Matthew Fagan's Lord of the Strings

Ten string guitarist, Matthew Fagan will be having a send off show at the Upwey Belgrave RSL on Saturday 6 August at 8.00pm.

Matthew Fagan's Lord of the Strings.

Send off the Edinburgh Fringe and Europe

Upwey Belgrave RSL

1 Mast Gully Road, Upwey

Table/Dinner Bookings- 9754 3665

Show Bookings- 0438 881 985

Tickets: By Donation (\$15+)

Matthew has also recently launched the crowdfunding campaign 'A Song for Billy' a music recording and production project of a Celtic, Classical and Baroque Music CD 'A Song for Billy' featuring the Liberty Banjo Billy Connolly gifted to Matthew during the 1999-2000 tour with Billy of 53 nights.

Matthew would like to share this unique gift in a recording as a thank you to Billy Connolly and for the support he has received in his performance career.

Once the target is reached excess funds raised will go towards Parkinson's Australia to help provide information, education, advice and peer support services to improve the life for people living with Parkinson's.

Here is a link to the campaign <https://igg.me/at/ASongforBilly/x/14481742> or for further information contact Kellie on 0438 881 985 www.indiegogo.com search for project A Song for Billy

Your community contacts

Please send any alterations or additions to gullynews@gmail.com

FTG Angliss Hospital Auxiliary 9763 4803 Denise Gravatt

FTG Arts Society The Hut Gallery 9758 8955, Sundays 11am-4pm

FTG Community Care 8711 8677

FTG Cricket Club. Malcolm McLean 0407 532 316, playing at Wally Tew Reserve

FTG District Guides Rebecca Court 0409 930 272

FTG Girl Guides Jane Meehan 0408 505 661. We have vacancies in all groups 5-18 years

Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade email info@ftgcf.org.au or leave a message on their facebook page

Ferntree Gully Friends of Red Cross Meets 2.00pm first Tuesdays most months. For venues and information contact Maxine Lane 9758 3087

FTG Lioness Club 9723 9614 Doris Drummond, 1st and 3rd Mondays 10.30 am

FTG Senior Citizens 9758 2990, Thursdays 11am-3pm

FTG TOWN Club Helen Ford 9842 1738

FTG VIEW Club Isabel 9758 5435, fourth Mondays, Knox Club 11.30am

Fourth Knox Scout Group Mel Doyle 0457460313

Friends of Blind Creek Billabong Fay 9758 4802

Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve Moyra Farrington 9762 5102

Gully Men's Shed Paul Moloney 0407 560 168 or Geoff Thake 0408 539 873

Gully TOWN Club Leslie 9762 1534, Tuesdays 7pm

Knox District Woodworkers Club Albert Bak 9758 4849

Knox Environment Society Irene Kelly 9763 8069

Knox Exercise & Social Group. Ronald Woodrow: 0400 602 925

Knox Historical Society 9758 6722 Ambleside, Sundays 1pm - 4pm

Knox Sherbrooke RCH Auxiliary: Ph 9345 5188

Knox Toy Library 10am-12pm Fridays and Saturdays 0424 265 790

Ferntree Gully Village Traders Association 9758 7859 2nd Wednesday 5.30pm, Studio at MDLC

Lions Club of Rowville Julie Young 9754 4027, 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Lions Club of Wantirna Paul Garrey 0400 823 441, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

MDLC Philosophy Group 9758 7859, Fridays 9.15-11.45am

Probus, FTG Gwen, 9755 8378, Fourth Wednesday, Carrington Park

Rotary Club of FTG John Flemming 9758 6532, Mondays 6.45pm

U3A 9752 2737, 9am-3.30pm during term time

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plus support kids with disabilities to have fun on camps and activities

9758 5522
volunteers@ioe.org.au
www.ioe.org.au

INTERCHANGE
 OUTER EAST



More Properties Needed!

After a spectacular month from Abley Real Estate Pty Ltd where we've sold a great deal of our stock, we badly need more properties to sell! The average days on market is 23! Incredible! Here's an example of some of the recently sold properties.



7 Shelford Court



105 Alexander Ave



2/16 Paterson Street



42 Hazelwood Road

Having said this, our commercial area still has a number of opportunities available to astute buyers looking for an investment or a venue for their business perhaps. Here's a snapshot of some available.



42/756 Burwood Highway



1551-1553 Burwood Highway

Call us on 9758 5858 to discuss these and the other properties on our books. Also, ask about our special 'Winter Package' for selling your home or leasing your investment property.
Until next time! Stay warm!

Shop 12 Mountain Gate Shopping Centre Ferntree Gully 9758 5858

www.professionals.com.au Email: reception@abley.com.au

