A new band for the old brand

Here come the girls! The old brand, the Ferntree Gully Eagles Football Club, with a hundred years of play behind them, now field three teams of junior girls (see the story page 7). The girls’ team will be playing in the Eastern Region Girls Football League.

Just one instance of the shifting patterns of inclusiveness in local community groups. Read about CFA volunteers standing their ground (page 9), the Arts Society reaching out to young people (page 13), and the days of giving everyone a go in the railway camps (page 20).

Also in this issue:
- Village News page 3
- Food Feature pages 14-15
- U3A page 18
- Schools page 19
- What’s on pages 26-7
Welcome to the winter edition of Ferntree Gully News. Shorter days and more time indoors can lead to reflection on how we do things, (especially with an election campaign going on). A pattern emerges in this issue’s contributions that is worth pondering. It is the theme of inclusiveness, or as the saying is, ‘Giving everyone a go’. Girls playing footy may be startling to some, though there have been women’s teams for a long time. But now we have a formal recognition of their right to be part of the League.

The story of the Billy Boy (on page 20) is a poignant example of a once familiar way of finding a role for everyone. The Russian migrant with the damaged foot found dignity (and an income) in carrying out a humble role in the railway camp on the Ringwood line – in the days before economic rationalism put him on the dole.

On the other hand the CFA volunteers are standing their ground for volunteer autonomy. It is their free gift of service, even into danger, that is their dignity. Ferntree Gully CFA Captain puts the case on page 9. And the Arts Society is reaching out to a younger generation offering opportunities to teenagers to take first steps in the world of exhibitions (page 13).

All these changes have taken time but, as football manager Michelle says, ‘Good things take time’.

As ever, this issue is full of stories of collaboration: 100 years of Cubbing, 90 years of fire fighting, 75 years of the Arts Society, 25 years of Interchange’s family camps. It goes on: people getting together to care for others, to raise funds, to keep up our spirits, family camps. It goes on: people getting together to support their ground for volunteer autonomy. It is their free gift of service, even into danger, that is their dignity. Ferntree Gully CFA Captain puts the case on page 9. And the Arts Society is reaching out to a younger generation offering opportunities to teenagers to take first steps in the world of exhibitions (page 13).

‘Food, glorious food’

Gully News and MDLC recently held their annual ‘thank you’ get-together for all the volunteers of Gully News. Ferntree Gully library once again very kindly donated their space and facilities. More than 50 volunteers mingled and chatted for a very enjoyable two hours. This event is often the only opportunity many of our walkers have to meet other volunteers.

Local State MP Nick Wakeling attended, very kindly donating the door prize of a delicious selection of chocolates. Dobson Ward Councillor Karin Orpen spoke about how the Knox community values the volunteers and the paper.

A highlight was provided by Gemma Schofield of Fresh Pantry, the popular take-away food shop in Alpine Street. Dressed in chef’s cap and apron she entered singing, dancing and presenting her savoury wares. Photo by Barbara Oehring.

Pam McConnell

Anne Margot Boyd

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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**Station Street change here**

The last remnants of the service station at 44 Station Street have been removed. This is the site known to locals as ‘Straubs’ after the late Peter Straub who managed it for many years. For a short time the full panorama of the mountain can be viewed from Station Street pavements south of The Avenue. It must be many years since this was so, and it will not be possible for long. Make the most of it.

Building is expected to start soon on a two-storey block of shops and flats.

**Straub’s site**

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**Farewell to McDonald’s Electrical**

Many long term residents will lament the closure of McDonald’s Electricals and the departure to the country of Anne and Russell Hall.

In the 1950s the McDonalds built their house on the corner of Station Street and Selman Avenue. The workshops, crammed with stuff, were at the back of the house between the two streets.

Apprentice Terry Hall later bought the business. His blue overalled figure always emerged ready for a chat whenever you turned up needing work done.

We wish them well in their ‘escape to the country’.

**Support local businesses**

Because the demolition period caused considerable disruption to local businesses, Ferntree Gully Village Traders Association have appealed to Knox Council to oblige developers to observe rules imposed to maximise customers’ access to shops. Council agrees obstruction should be kept to a minimum. The traders appeal to their loyal customers to keep coming. At the time of going to press, no date is available for the start of work.

*Photo by Barbara Oehring.*

**Quarry Road upgrade**

A major upgrade is taking place in Quarry Road. The project is funded by Knox Council and the Federal Government’s Roads to Recovery program. It will include complete sealing of the road.

‘This is great news for residents who will benefit from a safer, sealed road once the works are complete,’ Dobson Ward Councillor Karin Orpen said.

**Benefits of the new road will include:**

- Speed humps for improved safety
- Overhead public lighting
- Guardrail to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place to control speed.

The road was closed for the first round of works in late May and will be closed again for between four to six weeks from mid June.

‘While there will be some temporary inconvenience while the work is carried out, summer dust and winter mud will soon be things of the past,’ Cr Orpen said.

Council expects works to complete around late July 2016. Residents with enquiries can contact Council by calling 9298 8000.

Once the retaining wall works are completed, the road will re-open.

A second temporary road closure will also occur for between four to six weeks in mid-June on a date to be advised.

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For your diary

June
5 Young @ Art Exhibition award presentation at The Hut Gallery, page 13
5 Upwey Country Music Club: Guides Hall, Underwood Road, FTG 12:30-5pm. Contact Graham 5964 8298
18 Belgrave Lantern Parade, page 27
19 Remnant & Haberdashery Sale, Glengollan Village, page 22

July
3-10 NAIDOC (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders) Week
15 Horizons of Hope craft sale, page 27
15 World Elder Abuse Day
17 Poetry in the Hills. Belgrave Library 2pm.
29 National Tree Planting Day
Our mobile lender is available to come to you.

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Wally Tew Reserve upgrade delivered

During the 2013 election, I made a number of commitments to improve local infrastructure, particularly local sports facilities.

I firmly believe that sports facilities are good for the entire community, keeping kids engaged and off the streets. Importantly, the clubs are often places for younger generations to be mentored by older ones. I recently had the privilege of officially opening the upgrade of the Wally Tew Reserve, the home of the Ferntree Gully Eagles.

There are many families in Ferntree Gully and throughout Knox who are part of the Ferntree Gully Eagles Football and Cricket Club and use the ground and its amenities. Just over $69,000 was delivered to complete stage two of the terracing works underneath the verandah and a concrete path around the perimeter of the oval. It makes the reserve an even better facility for the hundreds of kids and parents who use it every week.

But there is always more to be done. I know that the Wally Tew Reserve now needs some new lights, and I will be fighting hard to get some funding to make the new lights a priority project.

Alan Tudge MP
Federal Member for Aston

Interchange celebrates 25th anniversary of family camps

This June, local not-for-profit group Interchange Outer East is thrilled to be celebrating 25 years of running family camps for local families.

Established in Ferntree Gully in 1982, Interchange Outer East each year provides respite and recreational programs to over 500 local families who have a child or children with a disability. The Family Camp Program began in 1991 as a way of providing families with the chance to take a holiday in an environment where they feel safe and unjudged about their child’s disability. The camps also give parents the much-needed opportunity to relax with other families and friends who understand the needs and challenges of having one or more children with a disability.

Family camps are held twice a year, often over a long weekend. Along with recreational games and activities, parents get the chance for some respite. This is made possible by youth volunteers in the camp who run recreational activities with the children so parents can relax and reconnect with each other, with other parents, or with the other children in their family.

Over the 25 years, Interchange Outer East Family Camps have proudly provided over 375,000 hours of relaxation and recreation to nearly 4000 parents and children, with over 500 local youth sharing more than 2000 hours of support for the families during their stays. As Interchange Outer East mother Fiona Fisher describes:

‘It’s an event our family looks forward to every year. It just means so much to be able to get away and relax with other families who just understand what your “normal” is.’

Family camps are an important part of the services Interchange Outer East provides to local families. The organisation has always been passionate about supporting not only the child with a disability, but the family unit as a whole. In addition to Family Camps, they provide regular sibling, mums’ and dads’ support activities. In spite of these programs making such a difference to the lives of families, they receive no government or ongoing funding. They are only made possible thanks to the generosity of local businesses, community groups and donors, which is what makes this 25th milestone even more special.

To support these vital Interchange Outer East Family Camps into the future, local businesses, community organisations and individuals are invited to consider making a donation this tax time. All donations of $2 or above are tax deductible and can be made by visiting https://www.givematcher.com.au/25th-anniversary-of-family-camps or calling the Interchange Outer East offices on 9758 5522. Monthly donations and sponsorship packages are also available.

For more information about Interchange Outer East and the opportunities for supporting, volunteering and community involvement, please phone 9758 5522 or visit www.ioe.org.au

Contact: Katie Jacobson. Tel. 9758 5522 or email Katie.Jacobson@ioe.org.au

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It is the best of times for girls’ football

There’s never been a better time to participate in girls’ and women’s football. So much is happening on and off the field about women in football.

Ferntree Gully Football Club now has three teams in the Eastern Region Girls Football League, Under 12s, Under 15s and Under 18s.

Last year there were eight teams in the league; this year there are fourteen teams. Teams play to modified rules and regulations: U12s have a modified ground; U15s and U18s play on a full sized ground. There are variations to bounces allowed: U12s one bounce, U15s two bounces and U18s three bounces. Plus many other examples from team numbers to penalties.

Off field we have a female co-compere of the Football Show (Channel 9). The Marngrook Footy Show (NITV) has two female panelists. Radio and print media have an increasing number of female journalists.

Women’s football is not exactly new. The Western Bulldogs AFL team has a photo from 1950 of a women’s football team. But now, in 2016, there is widespread change at last.

I commented to Michelle, the manager of the Ferntree Gully Under 15s girls team, about the slow pace of girls’ and women’s real participation in football. Her reply was pointed and wise. ‘Good things take time.’ I don’t think I could be as patient.

On Tuesday 19 April, I attended training for the Under 12s, Under 15s and Under 18s at Picketts Reserve, Ferntree Gully.

It was a beautiful, autumnal evening. The girls gathered in a circle, two new players were introduced and all players named themselves. They then moved into groups of five or six to complete drills under the watchful eye of coach Jim Cameron and assistant coach Carly.

I stayed on the oval taking photos and watching the activities. I was really impressed by the girls’ enthusiasm and the way they were enjoying themselves. I returned for Thursday night’s training session and to catch up with John Hilton, the overall coach. The weather was very different from Tuesday, raining the whole time. Nevertheless the girls were out on the oval for training drills.

John has coached boys for seven years and is in his second year as coach of the girls. He finds the girls very competitive and he is very enthusiastic about the future of girls’/women’s football.

2016 is a transition year for younger girls as the trend now is through the school system. In 2017 there will be a national competition. Friday 29 April was the final day for AFL clubs to submit proposals and apply for a licence for an affiliated women’s team. There are eight positions available in the AFL Women’s League. So now there is a positive pathway for girls.

On Sunday 8 May the Ferntree Gully girls’ teams all played at Picketts Reserve. The day was a fund raiser for breast cancer and the girls wore pink socks.

Contacts
Robyn – Under 18s manager 0422 173 765
email: robyncorrin@optusnet.com.au
Michelle – U15s manager 0414 935 275
email: shal761@bigpond.com
John – U12s coach 0421 373 554

Alice Collins
Red Hats, Queens and ‘Millinery Madames’

The hills were awash with a sea of red and purple last month, when 80 Red and Pink Hatters from around Victoria (and the border) got together for a weekend of fun (and a little business).

The ‘Red Hat Society’ (RHS) is a worldwide women’s club that celebrates having fun and not acting your age. Wearing the distinctive vibrant colours of red and purple, ‘Hatters’, as they are known, love to get together to enjoy a wide range of different activities.

The ‘Arabian Nights and Majestic Days’ weekend event saw the ladies starting out with a ride on the Puffing Billy steam train to Emerald, where they enjoyed a picnic and a stroll around Emerald Lake Park.

Later that evening the ladies were dazzled with bellydance performances and had fun dressing up for an ‘Arabian Nights’ themed dinner.

Then, after all the fun and frivolity, it was eventually time to get down to business. The ‘Queens’ (the name given to the leaders of each RHS chapter) and ‘Vice Queens’ from 21 different groups around Victoria got together to share ideas and network as part of the annual ‘Queens’ Council’ lunch the following day.

The ladies had a fabulous time and are looking forward to the next opportunity to get together and have some fun! If this sounds like something you’d like to do, why not join us!

Women over the age of 50 are the main focus of the society, inspired by a line in the ‘Warning’ poem by Jenny Joseph, which reads: ‘When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple with a red hat which doesn’t go, and doesn’t suit me’. Ladies under 50 are welcome too, but instead wear pink hats with lavender clothing until they are old enough to ‘REDuate’ into the red and purple colours.

The society is made up of small individual groups, who normally have outings around their local areas. However there are larger events held several times a year where ladies from all over the state, country or even the world, can get together to make new friends and have fun. Some of these events have included cruises, themed weekend conventions, pyjama parties, picnics, high teas and more!

For more information on the Red Hat Society see www.redhatsociety.com

For information on Red Hatting in Victoria, see www.redhatsvictoria.com

The Ferntree Gully chapter of the RHS is the ‘Millinery Madames’. All women over the age of 25 are welcome to come and join in the fun. The group gets together twice a month for a range of different activities. Please see the website for more information www.millinerymadames.com or e-mail Obsidian at queen@millinerymadames.com

Rockin’ Glengoldies

Glengoldies entertainment group recently held an open day in its premises at Glengollan Retirement Village, Ferntree Gully. The group has a repertoire of rock, dance and more sedate pieces. The youngest member is in her late 60s and the oldest, 87.

Five years ago Vicki Knight, Glengollan resident, barbershop singer and former tap dancer, founded the group ‘just to do a bit more with my mother’, she said. Since then, the group has taken on a life of its own. They famously opened a national conference for retirement villages in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre with their cover song of Queen’s We Will Rock You.

The group continues to rock the hills at various venues, and is open to bookings. Phone 0408 995 570.
A captain’s call in a proud tradition
Volunteering since 1926

When our member Graham Crichton asked me to write an article for this edition of the Ferntree Gully News, I thought it was appropriate for two reasons.

Firstly, it gives me the opportunity to tell our community that in 2017 Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade will celebrate 75 years since the formation of the brigade under the Country Fire Brigades’ Board on 29 July 1942. In 1945 this board became the Country Fire Authority. In celebrating our 75 years, it will be most appropriate to recognise the membership of the brigade who have contributed so much throughout those years.

Our history actually goes back much further than just 75 years.

It goes way back to 1926 when the Fern Tree Gully Bushfire Brigade was formed on 29 February of that year.

Since those days, Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade has had a long and proud tradition of being a 100% volunteer fire brigade supporting our community with a dedicated emergency service response.

This response has often been to every corner of the State of Victoria, and in recent years, has extended into New South Wales, South Australian, Tasmania and Western Australia. Over the years, we have achieved this by having an extremely dedicated number of volunteers. On receiving a call, our members readily leave their families, their work or their mates and assist in whatever the emergency may be, whether it be fires, floods or any other incident. In this year of 2016, our brigade has close to 45 members most of whom train and respond to calls on a regular basis.

My second reason for writing this article is to answer some questions and concerns that brigade members and I have received from the public with regard to current news and media stories. Many of these media articles have featured a photo of our Ferntree Gully tanker taking part in a motorcade past State Parliament in Spring Street Melbourne on Saturday 23 April. Our brigade, along with another 420 CFA brigades from across Victoria, took this action to highlight the concerns expressed by our communities and our volunteer fire fighters alike regarding possible far-reaching changes to the CFA presently being considered by the State Government. These changes we believe would have a very adverse effect on volunteer participation and drastically erode the essential backbone of our fantastic organisation.

Over the years this organisation, the Victorian Country Fire Authority, has proclaimed its pride as a community based volunteer fire and emergency organisation supported by some excellent administration staff and a number of career fire fighters.

The current issue of great concern is not about an increase in career firefighter numbers, nor is it about pay and conditions for career firefighters on duty, nor is it about a fear of ‘being replaced’ by career firefighters.

Our concern is about decision making and control of the CFA. Decision making and control must remain with the Country Fire Authority’s executive team: the CFA Board and the Chief Officer. There should be no provision for an industrial body to veto decisions made by the leaders of this Authority. There should be no clauses that preclude or segregate volunteer fire fighters from carrying out their role as presently performed. It should not be prescribed that all volunteer brigade administration support officers and managers in non-operational support roles come only from career ranks. It must remain up to the CFA Board and Chief Officer to put in place what is determined to be the best fit in response to the needs of our communities.

We have, over the years, acknowledged the growing need for more career firefighters to support some of our communities throughout the State. With changes in communities and competing pressures on families, work, and household budgets, assistance can be needed on occasions and we support this.

Finally, I am writing this article the day after Ferntree Gully volunteer fire fighters, supported by CFA career fire fighters from Boronia, volunteers from Bayswater (Breathing Apparatus Specialists) and volunteers from Montrose (Gas Cylinder Flare-off Specialists) fought a late-night structure fire. This fire involved a caravan under a carport near a house, and also a car. The home suffered only minor damage such that the family occupying it was able to sleep in their home for the remainder of the night. The teamwork shown at this fire and the outcomes achieved were a fine example of what volunteer and career fire fighters can accomplish when all working together in support of our communities.

In conclusion, I would like to add a point that cannot be stressed highly enough:

only working fire alarms
installed correctly can save lives.

Captain Seamus Smith
Ferntree Gully CFA

Ferntree Gully fire brigade
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Angliss Hospital Ferntree Gully Auxiliary

Thank you to all local people who helped us raise the $71,195.00 that, at our AGM recently, we handed over to our wonderful Angliss Hospital. We could not do this without the continued support from all you wonderful folk who bring in items for us to sell and also, thanks to our wonderful ‘shopoholics’! This money purchased a lot of essential equipment including a GP Intubating Fibrescope for Surgical Services, breast pumps for the Special Care Nursery and items for Emergency and General medicine. Please be sure to come to our Annual Fashion Parade in July. For further details please ring me.
Mob: 0414 683 796; land line 9763 4803; email: gravatt@optusnet.com.au

Denise Gravatt - Secretary

Winter home safety
Most Australian seniors want to stay in their own homes as long as possible. However it is important to ensure safe living even if your movement and balance are diminished. This is especially important in winter. How does your home check out?

Is there a working smoke alarm in place?
Install new smoke detector batteries once a year. Pick a date like the change in daylight saving time and make sure all batteries in the home are renewed at the same time.

Is the lighting adequate?
Increase the light wattage to allowable levels and investigate additional lighting solutions available such as night lights and battery-powered touch, sound or motion-activated lighting – all these enhance comfort and convenience in your home. Install sensor lights at main entry points; these will light the path into the house and be a good security measure.

Organisations such as Home Instead can advise on these and other safety solutions for seniors.
Elder abuse

Elder abuse is a form of family violence. It is any act that harms an older person that is carried out by someone they know or trust. This person can be a son, daughter, grandchild, husband or wife, other family member or friend. Like family violence, elder abuse can take many forms - financial, verbal, emotional, physical or sexual abuse, as well as neglect. Some types of elder abuse are more serious and have greater impact than others. However, all forms of elder abuse are unacceptable.

People experiencing elder abuse are unlikely to seek help because of shame or fear of family breakdown. However, financial abuse - due to the impact of not having enough money for everyday survival – is the type that will be more commonly raised with others. For the older person, financial abuse can look like:

- having your credit card used without your permission
- being forced to change your Will or assign Powers of Attorney
- signing as a guarantor for another person’s loan without being given independent advice about the implications to your financial security, and
- having your property or assets sold without your permission.

Financial abuse, however, is often connected to other types of abuse that are equally destructive such as threatening or controlling behaviour. This can include hitting, swearing or yelling at someone, or not allowing someone to go out or have friends visit.

Elder abuse can happen regardless of gender, background or culture. This harmful behaviour can be deliberate or unintentional. Sometimes, there may be a co-dependent relationship where both the older person and the person who is harming them are dependent on each other.

Often the person doing the harm can have other issues impacting on their life and may need help themselves. They may have limited experience caring for older people and may be experiencing carer stress. Or they may be coping with poor mental health, financial difficulties or drug, alcohol or gambling issues. This person may not be aware they have a problem, or may not know where to go for help.

For services working in this area, helping the older person experiencing elder abuse can often also mean helping other family members too. Services recognise each family is different, and that understanding family dynamics and respecting the older person’s wishes are very important.

How ECLC can help

ECLC is working with other services as part of the Elder Abuse Awareness and Advocacy Project to increase awareness of this important community concern and to promote the rights of older people.

When communities talk openly about the issue, it gives people permission to speak up if they or someone they know is experiencing abuse. Being able to identify the signs is also the first step in being able to seek support.

If you, or someone you know, is experiencing elder abuse and you are unsure what to do, please contact ECLC on 9762 6235 to speak with Kaz Mackay, Project Coordinator, who can provide information, advocacy and/or referrals to the specialist services that can help. If appropriate, an appointment may also be made with you to speak with an ECLC community lawyer for advice on your legal options.

15 June 2016 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

How to get involved:

- contact your local community house or neighbourhood learning centre to see what activities are being held in your area
- contact ECLC if you would like to organise a presentation on elder abuse prevention for your local community group or organisation
- for more information on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and activities in Victoria go to http://elderabuseawarenessday.org.au/

Other information and support:

- call Vic Police on 000 if you, or another person, is in immediate danger
- call Seniors Information Victoria on 1300 135 090 for information about older persons’ services in your area
Beginners please

The early days of theatre in the Gully

In November 1938 Lilian Lavender formed a theatre group called the Prosperity Players. Their November 1938 production at the Ferntree Gully Shire Hall can rightly be considered the birth of live theatre in Ferntree Gully. The group broke up in 1941, but out of the prime members (notably John Tyrell, Elsie Adams, and Olive Long), Maurice Latimer formed a new incarnation of a theatre group he had founded in Brighton in 1935, the Latimer Players. They presented their first play, ‘The Whole Town’s Talking’, at the Shire Hall on 10 Sept 1942.

Maurice Latimer was born in Essendon in 1901 and first came to the public eye on a new medium, radio, in 1926, on which he appeared until 1929. But the stage rapidly took over and he was producing plays by 1931. He formed his own theatre company, the first Latimer Players, at Brighton in 1935. They staged productions at the Brighton Town Hall from 1935 until 1937, when the group appears to have broken up.

Latimer came to Ferntree Gully in 1942 and in April 1945 the new Latimer Players became affiliated with the new Ferntree Gully Arts Society. Their first production as the FTG Arts Society Repertory Players was in October 1945. But Maurice Latimer resigned from the new group without warning on 10 Oct 1945. Not only do the minute books survive, but we also have a first-hand account of what happened. Bruce Dobson recalled that Maurice Latimer disagreed with John Tyrell over the change of name, and that was that.

Maurice remained with his brother, Leonard Latimer, in their house in The Avenue until c.1951. The Latimers then moved to Richmond and later to the central Victorian spa town of Daylesford. Maurice Latimer died at Daylesford in May 1984.

Ray Peace

Ray Peace is Vice-president of the Knox Historical Society. He is currently researching a history of theatre in the area for the 1812 Theatre.

Maurice Latimer – a footnote

Towards the end of 1949, the present editor of Ferntree Gully News came to live in The Avenue opposite ‘Footlights’, the home of the Latimers. Anne Boyd, a teenager at that time, recalls:

In December 1949, just after I completed secondary school, the family bought a weekend cottage in The Avenue. A neighbour, Maurice Latimer, soon invited us across the road for a cup of tea. I remember a small gnome-like figure in a big bright living room full of books, sofas and an expensive sound system. He had a huge collection of classical music on 78 rpm discs and offered to play something. I suggested the Brahms First Symphony, having learnt about it in school but not heard it. ‘That’s jumping into the deep end’, he said as he placed the first of many discs on the turntable. And it was, in many more ways than that.

Looking back I think perhaps it was the theatre producer in Maurice that led him to draw the best out of anyone and especially the young. In the next 18 months or so he not only introduced me to most of the classical and operatic repertoire but took my brother and me to theatre productions in town.

The impact on a Gully teenager of the first Melbourne production of ‘A Streetcar named Desire’ (February 1950) can be imagined. In June we went with him to the musical, ‘Song of Norway’ at His Majesty’s and back stage afterwards to meet his friends among the cast. In August Doris Fitton’s Sydney production of the play, ‘Dark of the Moon’ opened at the Comedy Theatre. Maurice had tickets for the three of us at the first night. The whole cast came to Maurice’s the next day for afternoon tea!

1950 was something of a ‘year that made me’ as I listened to music and read my way through Maurice’s library of 1930s and ’40s novels and plays. I was devastated when he left but I had learned enough to get myself to Melbourne University where there was much more to discover. I spoke to Maurice on the phone many years later when he was coaching Year 12 English students in Daylesford. He was a teacher to the end.
Facelift is not just skin deep

In 2014, the Ferntree Gully Arts Society celebrated its 70th anniversary. The society members decided its venue, The Hut Gallery, deserved a facelift. And so the little building with its orange exterior has been transformed. Its new soft-green outer sits comfortably within the background of the hills, while its fresh signage is a self-assured expression of the society and its purpose.

The facelift is the external manifestation of change. At the same time there’s an internal transformation happening as well. The entire undertaking is embodied in the project Beyond Seventy which aims to achieve big things with increased membership and offerings.

With the support of the Knox City Council, the society members are workshoping ideas with the marketing company SRG Consulting. But this is no movement of weasel words and techno-babble. Rather, it’s an initiative driven by a passion for the arts and a keen enthusiasm to extend, even further, the society’s services to the community.

Workshops are stimulating sessions where themes such as the traditional and contemporary, commercialism and passion, resources and offerings, are excitedly debated. Courses, exhibitions, workshops and social activities will continue, just as they have in the past, but with a difference. The future will hold a greater outreach. And there’ll be even more emphasis on the particular needs of different members of the community, whether they be young or old, local or from further afield.

An example of the society’s more recent undertakings is the Young @ Art Awards where young people are encouraged to submit and exhibit work. Previous events have attracted work of high quality. The next exhibition and awards will be held at 2 pm on Sunday 5 June. The exhibition will be on display on Sundays until 26 June. Following on from this, September will see the popular Street Art on Canvas, another exhibition attracting younger entrants.

So it’s not just a cosmetic facelift that the FTG Arts Society is engaging in. It’s setting the scene for deeper and wider inclusiveness, an inclusiveness that is cognisant and varied in meeting the needs and aspirations of many.

As Aristotle said, ‘The aim of art is to represent not the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance’.

Story and photos by Teresa Cannon

For more details Phone 9758 8955 or visit our website: www.thehutgallery.wordpress.com
A Pumpkin tale
The hero of today's story (and dish) is Pumpkin.

Pumpkin seeds were brought out to Australia by the First Fleet in 1788. Early settlers and convicts found that pumpkins grew wonderfully in the Australian sun and kept well over winter.

Pumpkins, which are oddly enough a fruit, are extremely versatile, tasty, healthy and inexpensive. The early settlers used to substitute pumpkin for apples in a pie. And they would serve their children pumpkin fritters, with golden syrup, as a treat.

Boiled pumpkin-tendrils were served up by the early settlers when other green vegetables had died in the hot weather.

Pumpkins have been popular in Australia for well over 200 years. Recipes for pumpkin soups, pancakes, scones, cakes, breads, puddings and soufflés have been circulating for decades.

Nearly every part of a pumpkin can be eaten: from the tendrils, to the skin, flesh and seeds (which are called pepitas).

Pumpkins can be cooked in a variety of ways: roasted, toasted, puréd for soups, or mashed and used in casseroles, breads, and muffins.

My hubby likes to wrap pumpkins in foil and roast them on the BBQ, along with onions and potatoes. They taste delicious cooked this way.

Pumpkin is an extremely healthy addition to one’s diet: low in calories and rich in important antioxidants, vitamins and minerals.

The most common pumpkin varieties grown in Australia are: Kent Pumpkins, Queensland Blue Pumpkins and Butternut Pumpkins.

Today’s warming, winter soup recipe features butternut pumpkin, which tends to have a slightly sweeter and nuttier flavour compared to other pumpkins.

Butternut soup recipe

Ingredients
- 2 medium butternuts
- 1 apple
- 2 medium onions
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 ¼ teaspoons curry powder (medium strength)
- 4 tablespoons plain flour
- Pinch of ground nutmeg
- 2 chicken stock cubes
- 750 ml boiling water
- 500 ml milk
- 1 teaspoon salt

Peel and dice butternuts, chop apple and onions. In a large saucepan, sauté onions in butter. Add curry and fry lightly. Add butternut and apple and sauté for a while. Add flour and nutmeg and stir-fry lightly.

Dissolve chicken stock cubes in boiling water. Add stock, milk, and salt to butternut mixture. Boil, with lid on, over moderate heat until butternut pieces are soft. Stir occasionally. Puree/blend until smooth. Colour should be deep yellow; texture creamy. Serve hot. Recipe makes 2 litres of soup.

Bon Appétit.

Gemma Franks
Photo by Barbara Oehring

‘... food glorious food, pumpkin soup, deep yellow, creamy, hot, a winter delight...’

Try Lawn Bowls at Ferntree Gully Bowling Club

What’s On at Ferntree Gully Bowls Club Bistro?
SPECIAL DEALS AT JACK’S ON GLENFERN BISTRO

Monday night is Roast Night
Your choice of 2 roasts each week $16.00

Tuesday night is Parma Night
 Succulent chicken schnitzel with choice of 4 toppings $17.00

Wednesday night: second main meal only $10
Buy one main meal, and get a second of equal or lesser value for only $10

Thursday night is Steak Night
Your choice: porterhouse or rump, & a selection of sauces. $18.00

Present this ad with your main meal purchase and receive a free pannacotta or bread & butter pudding dessert. 1 per customer. Valid April/May 2016

Glenfern Road, Ferntree Gully
www.ftgbowls.com.au
or call 9753 5888

Ferntree Gully News June 2016
‘It’s all about the customers’ at Chosen Bean

‘A bigger venue and a bigger menu.’ These are the words of Paul Coster, barista at the Chosen Bean Café, Mountain Gate. He’s referring to the recent move, from the original coffee and cake venue, to the new, large, open, light-filled setting. Much has gone into the current site. It has a full commercial kitchen. Its walls display paintings for viewing and for sale. Bunk seats provide cosy seating. And there’s pride in the rendered walls which, in places, expose the original bricks.

It’s not only the setting that’s new. The range of menu items shows a keenness for taste, vitality and innovation. And there’s an acute appreciation for the importance of coffee and the many attributes that go for getting it just right. The Chosen Bean has won numerous awards at the Compak Golden Bean, the world’s largest coffee roaster competition. The awards are due to Paul’s Dad Steve, and his mastery of the roasting process.

When you get a coffee at Chosen Bean you’ll be getting one where roasting, blends, pressure, absorption, earthiness, aroma, smoothness, water quality, grinder setup, temperature, humidity, coffee age and so much more are taken into account. These coffee features are important to Paul Coster but when you ask him about the qualities of a barista, it’s not these features he talks about. It’s his desire to please his customers. He wants to know his customers, their likes and dislikes and he’s eager to satisfy their needs.

You can choose to have your coffee with almond milk or hazelnut syrup. And you can go for the house blend or choose your own blend.

Ever tried a cold drip coffee? This refreshing drink results from a light roasting of the beans after which they are crushed and placed in water which drips slowly into another container. The process allows the full flavour of the coffee to be retained.

As well as the coffees, Chosen Bean sells all the paraphernalia you’d need to make them. So you can enjoy the blends, the tastes and the barista experience all in your own home.

If coffee’s not your thing you might like to try a liquorice tea or a turmeric latte with ginger and honey. Smoothies come with cow’s milk, coconut milk or soy.

Manager, Kara Raeburn, has had national and international experience and she’s dedicated to pleasing every taste whether it’s Paleo, gluten-free, vegan or less sugary. As she says, ‘It’s just good stuff. Quality ingredients that are light and wholesome.’

Another important factor for Kara is that produce is sourced locally and in-season. She enjoys experimenting and does not shy away from creative combinations. How about a breakfast of brioche with figs and blueberry labne or a lunch of lamb salad with cauliflower tabbouleh and goat’s curd?

A dining experience at the Chosen Bean is about consideration for the customer, creative cuisine and award winning coffee.

Teresa Cannon

Teresa Cannon

Chosen Bean Café
Mountain Gate Shopping Centre
Shop 11a, 1880 Ferntree Gully Road
Ferntree Gully VIC 3156. Tel. 03 9752 2489

http://chosenbean.com.au
Mon-Fri: 7am – 5pm
Sat: 8am – 5pm, Sun: 8:30am – 3pm
Church Services

Uniting Church of Australia
Lay Ministry Congregation
6 The Avenue, 3156.
Tel. 9753 6522
Worship each Sunday 10.00am
Sunday School for
Primary School children 10.00am

Catholic Church
St John the Baptist Parish
19 Forest Road, 3156
Tel. 9758 1029 fax 9758 9234
office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Parish priest: Fr Alan Fox

Times of Mass
Saturday 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am & 11.00am
Tuesday 7.00pm
Wed. & Thurs. 9.15am
Friday 11.00am

St Thomas Anglican Church
12 Mount View Road
Upper Ferntree Gully 3156
Tel.9752 2682
Sunday Service 10.00am

Worship
Sunday 8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.00am Holy Eucharist with hymns
Thursday 10.00am Holy Eucharist
followed by cuppa and chat
Christian Meditation Mon. 4.15, Tues. 9.30am

Upwey Baptist Community Church
Darling Avenue cnr Burwood Highway
Worship with Us
Sundays 10.00am
Together with children’s church

Uniting Churches welcome a new leader

Ferntree Gully, Bayswater and Scoresby congregations are seeking new directions under the leadership of prominent churchman, Reverend Ric Holland.

RevRic (which is his car number plate) has come to our cluster of churches as an Associated Minister, to be with us until at least the end of the year. He is a very welcome placement for us, as our three congregations try to envisage what the future of the cluster, and each congregation, will look like: how do they relate to their surrounding communities; what are their strengths and weaknesses as congregations; what do they see as their mission and how best to fulfil that mission as a fresh expression of church.

RevRic comes to us with a great depth of experience in this sort of ministry, and in particular ministry to the disengaged. He has been CEO of a number of agencies dealing with promoting and addressing community issues, the latest one being Melbourne City Mission. The City Mission is Melbourne’s oldest charity, one which works with some of Melbourne’s and Victoria’s most vulnerable individuals, families and communities. In fact, Ric received an award for his work there.

During his years of working with an amazing array of people in amazing situations, Ric has some marvellous stories to share of the best (and funniest) and the worst (but not as many, thank goodness) of humanity. He has gleaned great insight into how congregations and agencies can best use their assets, both buildings and people, to be church in, and to minister to the community.

We take delight in introducing him to you and we very much look forward to working with him. You will probably see him around the village at some stage. His ‘official’ office is at the Bayswater Congregation but when he is out and about in our locality he is often seen in the local coffee shops around the village catching up with various people in the community. So look out for him, and say ‘hello’. He will enjoy that.

Pat Rivett
Ferntree Gully Uniting Church

Today is very special

The year is going far too quickly! I hear this statement so often and feel it myself too. I am looking forward to something rather special in August and want the time between now and then to go quickly. However when that special time arrives I don’t want the time to go quickly. Yet it always seems to.

We all have the same number of hours a day – 24 – to eat, sleep, work, play, and yet so often we say there are not enough hours a day.

As I grow older I am realising that today is special. Today is the day I need to live well. Today is the day I need to love better than I did yesterday. Today is the day I need to forgive. Today is the day I have.

Yesterday is gone and I cannot do anything about it. Tomorrow is not yet here.

Today is all I have. Same as you, today we have 24 hours.

When I go to bed each night I ask myself what could I have done better? What did I do well? Did I tell those I love, that I love them?

I recently lost an extremely special friend; it happened very, very suddenly and now more than ever I have cause to use today well. It is not about ‘not putting off until tomorrow what I can do today’. It’s about balance. Balance between work, rest, play, love, forgiveness, grace. And most of all if I allow enough space for these in my own life I will be in a place to give them to others. More importantly I will be there for those who share each 24 hours with me.

Praying your today is special – every single today.

Angela Locke
Ferntree Gully Salvation Army

Gallipoli dawn

In the darkness, twelve steam tugs pull in shore a thousand soldiers standing in lifeboats
The dark range ahead towers Like a looming fortress.
Suddenly a yellow light flashes High on the shadowy hill.
‘They have seen us.’
A single shot rings out
The key is turning in the lock of the lid of Hell.

From the readings at the
Dawn Watch, Quarry Park, 2016
The Spirit of Anzac is alive and well in Knox

With the centenary of the Western Front and the battle of Long Tan being particularly remembered in 2016, I was honoured to attend many local memorial services to mark ANZAC Day. The spirit of Anzac and the acknowledgment of the sacrifices made by so many grows each year with local crowds getting bigger and bigger.

This year a carpet of 300,000 hand knitted red poppies was draped on the steps of state parliament made by an amazing team of volunteers including Ferntree Gully stalwart Anne Bailey. This special carpet is on its way to England to be displayed at the Football Club and who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country and their clubs during World War 1 or World War 2, as follows:

**World War One**

**V F Carey** Private, age 32, son of Ferntree Gully’s first policeman, Barnett Lucia Carey and Jane Carey. Star cricketer and still the only FTG CC 1st XI player to average 100 in winning a batting average. In 1911-12 he scored 717 runs @ 102.43 and took 33 wickets @ 5.33 in a stellar season.

**W W J Head** Sergeant, age 21, son of Roland and Isabell Head, well-known owners of Head’s General Store in Upper Ferntree Gully. Played cricket and football with FTG CC and FTG FC from 1908-1914.

**E Kehoe** Corporal, age 25, son of Mary Ann and James Kehoe of Ferntree Gully. Playing member of FTG FC 1912 and 1913 Premiership seasons.

**G H Pickett** Driver, age 33, son of George and Elizabeth Clansfield Pickett of Ferntree Gully. Older brother of Frank and Alf Pickett, leading administrators and players of FTG CC and FTG FC during 1910s to 1950s.

**E J Westley** Private, age 20, son of Josiah and Lydia Westley of Ferntree Gully. Played cricket & football with FTG CC and FTG FC from 1913 to1914.

**World War Two**

**F C Schultz** Flight Sergeant, age 25, son of Carl and Annie Schultz of Boronia. Leading FTG CC pre-war player and committee member. Played cricket and football with FTG CC and FTG FC from 1933 to 1943.

**L K Williamson** Private, age 26, son of Eunice Williamson and husband of Dorothy Williamson of Ferntree Gully. Played cricket and football for FTG CC and FTG FC from 1938 to1942.

**Dawn Services**

Near 1000 attended in the dramatic setting of the Ferntree Gully Quarry Park, many more were at the Boronia RSL.

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I thank the many local groups who continue to ensure this special day is marked with commemorative services. This year I again had the privilege to attend the Boronia RSL Dawn Service, the Salford Park Retirement Village commemorative service and also the unveiling of a special commemorative plaque at Wally Tew Reserve in Ferntree Gully.

Stephen Flemming of the Ferntree Gully Cricket Club completed many hours of research to discover local Knox residents who were members of either the Ferntree Gully Cricket Club or the Ferntree Gully Football Club and who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country and their clubs during World War 1 or World War 2, as follows:

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Nick Wakeling MP
There is a school of thought that considers that regular walking is the best form of exercise one can have, and, in keeping with our philosophy of catering to the health and well-being of our members, Knox U3A has a number of very active walking groups. For the safety of the members, strict guidelines as to individual capabilities are in place, and are enforced, but there is something available for everyone.

The ‘Full-day’ bushwalking group usually gathers on a Wednesday, and visits established walking venues in, and within 1.5 hours’ drive of Melbourne. Walks are usually between 12 and 15 kilometres in length, and participants need to supply their own meals, and transport to and from the starting point. Areas in the Dandenong Ranges, Gembrook State Park and Philip Island have been among the venues for this group in the past.

The Monday and Wednesday walking groups follow the same format, and requirements, of the full-day group, but their walks are set between 9 and 12 kilometres. Indeed the Monday Walkers recently spent a week on Philip Island, covering a different short walk every day. A photograph of the group on the George Bass Coastal walk is shown nearby.

Easier still, we have our ‘Strollers’ group, which gathers on a Tuesday morning, and undertakes interesting, leisurely walks of approximately two hours duration. The group recently had a walking tour of Nellie Melba’s Coombe cottage and farm and approximately 20 members enjoyed this outing.

For something completely different, there is the Dog Walkers and Coffee Group, who meet on a Thursday and, accompanied by their beloved pets, engage in one of the many walking opportunities in Knox, often encompassing a coffee at a dog-friendly café. However, this group is at full capacity at the time of writing. Those interested in joining would need to go on a waiting list.

Finally, a new activity for Term 2, is ‘Exploring Melbourne’ – held fortnightly on Mondays – where many of the hidden treasures of our metropolitan city are visited and explored.

So, if walking is your thing, find out more about these walking groups by telephoning 9752 2737, or visiting our website at www.u3aknox.org.au.

John Ford
At the start of term two Ferntree Gully North Primary School welcomed their new Principal, Mrs Sue Dean, to their amazing school! The four school captains, Blake, Julia, Emma and Nathan, interviewed her to see what she thinks about her amazing new school.

When asked to describe our school in three words Mrs Dean said, ‘The students and staff are all positive, caring and inclusive’. She went on to talk about the school’s qualities. She thinks highly of our dedicated teachers and students who help to create an amazing learning environment.

Mrs Dean said that her old school and new school have a lot in common. She wanted to come here because of the students, staff and programs. Mrs Dean worked at Warranwood Primary School for nine years and wanted the opportunity to develop her skills at a great school.

Mrs Dean said she feels that it takes 5-10 years to really get to know a school and its students and families. She commented, ‘I know I will be happy here for many years so I’d like to spend that time really getting to know the school’.

Mrs Dean has loved sharing the stories about the students and their lives and she said these relationships help make a difference to schools and their community.

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We asked Mrs Dean what she likes about our ‘Play is the Way’ program. She answered, ‘It’s an amazing framework to help scaffold children’s learning of effective social skills. It explicitly helps teachers direct skills enabling students to build life skills. I especially like the way students develop resilience in themselves.’

Blake, Julia, Emma and Nathan

Another side of Vinnies – the Knox Vincentian Scholarship Scheme

We are all well aware of the work done by the volunteers of St Vincent de Paul who visit numerous clients each month, extending food, clothing and shelter to them. Their shop in Ferntree Gully alone is staffed by 87 volunteers and provides a wide range of items at affordable prices to the local community.

However, not content with their efforts, in 2001, the Ferntree Gully Conference of St Vincent de Paul recognised that there was also a need to assist school students living in the local area who were missing out on aspects of their education through financial hardship. Elsie Johnson, a member of the local conference and a former teacher, approached the Parish Priest, then Father Des Moloney, to gain his backing for a support scheme. She then contacted a number of parishioners to form an administrative committee.

In the latter part of 2001 the Ferntree Gully Vincentian Scheme Committee was formed. It spent the rest of 2001 formulating a constitution and with funds provided by St Vincent de Paul and St John the Baptist Parish commenced operations in 2002. In that year the committee delivered $3,000 to 25 students in the Ferntree Gully area to assist with the funding of books, uniforms, school camps etc. Local schools were invited to nominate eligible students living in the local area and grants were paid directly to the schools who oversaw the distribution.

It was Elsie’s vision that the scheme would extend beyond Ferntree Gully and since its inception it has grown in area and funding. Funding is now provided by the Knox Sherbrooke Region of St Vincent de Paul and in 2008 the City of Knox became a partner in the scheme, enabling it to service primary and secondary schools of all denominations across the whole of Knox. Donations are also received from local organisations and individuals.

In 2010 Elsie’s efforts in this area and that of social justice were recognised at the Victorian Awards ceremony.

Chris Markwick, the current chairperson of the committee, says that Elsie was the driving force in establishing the scheme and ensuring its success. The scheme is currently allocating over $60,000 a year. By the end of this year, over $500,000 will have been granted to more than 2,000 students.

Letters of appreciation from schools on behalf of the parents give the committee the energy and commitment to persevere. Chris believes that the scholarship will long continue as an important part of the Vinnies’ community care.
Billy Boy

He was always the first there. He travelled each morning from St Albans, hopped off the train at Ringwood, and opened the gates of our construction site at Bedford Road level crossing around 6:30am. He was distinguishable by two things – his pronounced limp and his distinctly Russian peasant clothes. George was a post World War 2 refugee. He wore browns. Brown tweed cap, brown shirt with sleeves that billowed down his arms and cuffed tightly with twin buttons at the wrists, brown canvas trousers, and in winter he added a brown hessian vest. George was our Billy Boy, and he was the best.

George was an immigrant, an invalid and invaluable. His crushed foot would never enable him to join a construction gang, but in the 1970s in Victoria he still was able to gain useful employment. He never needed a hand out. He didn’t rely on benefits. He believed in good government, a solid basic wage, sensible people-planning, and his own work ethic. George was a Billy Boy.

Arriving at our work camp, George would light the fire in the lunch room, sweep the floors, feed the camp cat, tend the vegetable garden, and clean the washroom. When the workmen arrived he would take their lunches, lay them all out, assess what had to be done, and that would set the course for the rest of the day. At Ringwood, George would have filled the urn and have it boiling right on 10:00 am. In earlier times those before him would have stoked the fire in the lunch room, sweep the floors, feed the work gang, and put the billy on. The name stuck.

George loved his work. The gangs loved him. They relied on him. He knew it. He was a happy man. All around Melbourne Billy Boys on construction sites looked after their workers. There was little wasted time. The men were happy that they were being looked after. All around Victoria people with disabilities were given the opportunity to take up work in State Authorities. It came at a cost but it came with such reward. And then came economic rationalism and all that was gone.

If George was about today, he would be on the dole. He would be sitting at home on a meagre disability pension and more than likely suffer some form of depression. The State would be paying. His children would not have his work ethic. The State would be paying again. The gangs he served would be wasting time and their facilities would be either unhealthy or costing us a mint through a cleaning agency. Guess who would be paying. Our successive government’s appear to be spending many millions on welfare rather than on a plan to manage a well-balanced community.

The best construction gangs always had two things in common – good workmanship and a good Billy Boy. Today artisan skills have been largely replaced by the flat-pack and as for Billy Boys – well who needs them? Who needs them?

Peter Stag
Alan Edward Tudge was born in Pakenham on 24 February 1971, the youngest of three children. His parents emigrated from Scotland in the late 1960s. Alan’s early schooling was at Pakenham Primary then Haileybury College before going to Melbourne University where he gained a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts and it was here that he had his first taste of ‘politics’. Around seven years later he completed a Masters of Business Administration at Harvard University in Boston USA.

After University Alan worked initially with the Boston Consulting Group, then later operated his own business in a similar strategic company advisory capacity. Alan married Teri in 2003. They live in Vermont South and have two daughters and a son.

Experience in Government started in 2010 with three years as a senior advisor to the Education Minister in the Howard Government followed by several years as deputy director of the Cape York Institute. Alan says ‘I worked on some of the toughest problems in remote communities including welfare and alcohol abuse, following the Noel Pearson tough

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Reconciliation in Knox

Once again National Sorry Day 26 May was marked with the annual ceremony outside Knox Council’s Civic Centre. The proceedings included a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, conducted by a Wurundjeri Elder. This event gives the community the opportunity to unite and move towards healing for the stolen Generations.

The Knox Sorry Day ceremony is in partnership with TR@K, an independent, grassroots community group concerned with indigenous and reconciliation issues across Knox and the eastern region of Victoria.

Knox City Council works with TR@K to promote awareness and understanding of Australian history and the ongoing needs and aspirations of Aboriginal people. They work to build bridges of recognition and respect for all people across the Knox community.

TR@K is looking for more members. If you’d like to be involved contact: Anne Schmid 0421115382. Towards Reconciliation at Knox meets monthly.

Come getaway with us

Life Activities Club Knox is one of the largest seniors clubs in Knox run by volunteers. We provide over 20 activities for people who want to make friends and enjoy the second half of their life!

Our Weekday Getaway Group goes on two or three midweek breaks per year. We usually stay in Caravan Parks within three hours of Melbourne. A few of our members have caravans but most stay in cabins.

In March we went to the Riverglen Holiday Park in Geelong. Twenty-three people came along for an enjoyable three-day break. We visited the huge Geelong Vintage Markets area, Balyang Sanctuary and Fort Queenscliff. The markets were full of memorabilia and nostalgia. Some people had great fun dressing up and taking pictures. The fort was a highlight with its retracting gun and black lighthouse.

Our next Getaway will be at the Stratford Tourist Park on the beautiful Avon River. This time it will be four nights, from Monday 5 to Friday 9 September. If you would like to join us, please contact Jane on 0416 362 175 or knox.enquiries@life.org.au. New members are always welcome. Book now.

Rainbow flags and cakes for IDAHOBIT Day

IDAHOBIT is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. It was celebrated on 17 May with a colourful party at the Knox Civic Centre. Gully News photographer Barbara Oehring was there.

IDAHOBIT is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. It was celebrated on 17 May with a colourful party at the Knox Civic Centre. Gully News photographer Barbara Oehring was there.

No plastic bags in recycling bins. That’s the way the planet wins.

Never place plastic bags in recycling bins. Next time you have household items to recycle, place them in without the bag. You’ll keep recycling going strong, and help put your rubbish to work.

Find out what to recycle at knox.vic.gov.au/waste
Celebrating 100 years of Cubbing

On 15–17 April, 23 ten-year-old Cub Scouts went camping under canvas at GWS Anderson Scout Camp, Officer. The weather was just lovely with the rain holding off and fun was had by Cubs and leaders alike.

On Saturday the Cub Scouts participated in trestle bridge making (see photo), bird watching, canoeing, cooking chocolate cake in oranges and making bush donuts. The screen printing on dilly bags with ‘Celebrating 100 years of Cubbing 2016’ was a big hit (see photo). The Cubs also enjoyed making leather woggles, marble painting and Kub Kar soap carving. The night culminated in a campfire sing-a-long. All the Cubs entered the campfire circle by going over the Cub-built trestle bridge in the dark: the Cubs thought it was absolutely marvellous!

On Sunday the Cubs enjoyed a Scouts Own in a beautiful bushy setting and meandered back to camp whilst doing a scavenger hunt. The final activity, much awaited by the Cubs, was the Kub Kar races. The Cubs had carved a car out of soap on the Saturday, which had to be within certain weight specification. They then raced it down a 2 metre race track against fellow Cubs. Peyton from 8th Knox took home the Kub Kar ‘The Ashes’ trophy. Well done to all the Cubs on the great designs! The weekend finished on a high for everyone and the Cubs loved the blanket badge they all received.

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

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

Nicole Klep,
District Leader Cub Scouts

Falling in love with everything

Friends of Koolunga Reserve and local residents gathered on an autumn Saturday morning for a ‘discovery walk’ around the reserve. A feature of the event was learning from the experts about the endangered powerful owl and why tree hollows are so important for the survival of many of our native species.

The experts included arborist Andrew McKernan, Melbourne Tree Care who demonstrated new techniques for carving habitat hollows to provide more homes for local wildlife living in the reserve; also Nick Bradsworth from Birdlife Australia, Bronwyn Issac, lecturer at Monash University and Grant Harris, Deakin graduate. All were generous in sharing their experience and research on hollow-nesting birds in an urban environment.

Bronwyn’s opening remarks were a startling insight into what drives a dedicated career. ‘I did my MA on powerful owls and fell in love with them,’ she said. ‘Then I did a PhD on the powerful owls and loved them more. Now I love all living things.’

Photos by Barbara Oehring
The ‘Cardboard Warriors’ project

VCAL students connect with community

You don’t need a lot to spark a teen’s imagination. Old cardboard boxes and a bit of tape are enough for youth to enter a medieval world of make believe. Mountain District Learning Centre’s VCAL Students at Upper Ferntree Gully participated in the 2016 Knox Festival art project, ‘Cardboard Warriors’. This project gave the students an opportunity to connect with other schools. They found it highly engaging and interactive.

The year 10, 11 and 12 students enjoyed workshops with cardboard artist Josh from Boxwars, creating shields made only from cardboard (see photo, column 3). Each student selected a ‘warrior’ and then made armour for the warrior. This could be helmet, shield, sword etc. The armour had to be constructed fully, using only cardboard and tape. Some brilliant warrior armour created by our students was displayed at the Knox Festival as part of the High School Art Competition.

The original ‘Cardboard Warrior’ was a game that a young man, Dave Edgar, thought of as a 14 year old, many years ago, while serving in a country youth ministry with a minimal budget for games. Once the warrior armour was prepared it was time to fight! All the warrior had to do was fight the other warriors with the aim of ripping the armour off others while keeping your own armour intact. To this day the game is still one of the best games played in many youth ministries and a feature at festivals around the country (see photo above).

Karen Seymour
Secondary Education Coordinator, MDLC

New Board Member for Neighbourhood House

The AGM of Mountain District Learning Centre in May saw the end of Anne Boyd’s four terms of office and the election of a new member, Uniting Church Minister Rev Ric Holland (see page 16 for profile by Pat Rivett). Ric brings long experience of not-for-profit organisations and a wide range of community development experience. MDLC collaborates closely with the Uniting Church in The Avenue on a number of projects and welcomes Rev Ric to their Board.

The Chair of the Board, Chris Markwick, thanked Anne for her service and especially for the work that she and former Chair, Carolyn Hirsh undertook in 2009-10 in restructuring the organisation to meet new funding and compliance rules for Registered Training Organisations.

Anne will continue to edit Gully News which is auspiced by MDLC.
Past and Present

The past is a foreign country

On learning that his recent dummy spit at the Madrid Open was jeopardising his chance of playing tennis at the Rio Olympics Bernard Tomic is reported to have replied that he didn't care if he went to Rio as he was 23 and worth ten million dollars.

Sixty years ago Tomic's attitude would have mystified athletes vying for a place at the Melbourne Olympics. In those distant days athletes competed at the Games solely for the glory and honour of representing their country as being amateurs they received no financial rewards.

This difference was brought home to me when I watched a DVD reprint of Rendez-vous a Melbourne, the official film of the 1956 Olympics, on loan to me by Rob, a Gully News volunteer. For reasons that I have been unable to discover, filming rights to the Melbourne Olympics were given to a French and not an Australian film company. The decision was quite controversial at the time.

In 1956 Melbourne had a population of only one million people and is referred to in Rendez-vous as 'a large country town'. While we see images of Swanston Street with barely any traffic, what seems to have fascinated the French film makers - they return to it again and again - was the giant and somewhat daggy Santa on the outside of the Foy and Gibson's department store on the corner of Bourke and Swanston Street. In Rendez-vous there are no images of Melbourne's night life or Culture, (that is, culture with a capital C) presumably the French didn't think there was any. Instead they concentrated on photos of kangaroos, emus and cuddly koalas.

Obesity was not a problem in 1956 for what is amazing from a modern perspective is just how slim and trim everybody is and how well-mannered. The filming of Rendez-vous takes place almost entirely at the MCG which throughout the length of the Games is as packed as on Grand Final day yet there seems little in the way of security – no bag checks, no metal detectors, no CCTV cameras and no security guards in hi-visibility vests. The crowd enthusiastically applauds all great sporting feats regardless of the athletes nationality.

Athletic highlights of the 1956 Games are the Australian Golden Girls: Betty Cuthbert and Shirley Strickland with three gold medals each; the long distance Russian runner, Vladimir Kuts, and Alain Mimoun, the French winner of the marathon, run in heat wave conditions. (Incidentally, I discovered that Shirley Strickland was also a trained nuclear physicist).

The Games ended with the athletes marching around the MCG, not behind their country banners, but intermingling as one world team, an Olympian first, to the tune of Waltzing Matilda.

Judith O'Donnell

(Note: ‘The past is a different country: they do things differently there.’ JP Hartley, The Go-Between)

High five and walking

‘It starts with a step and then another. [They] add up like taps on a drum to a rhythm…’ In this statement the writer Rebecca Solnit is describing a rhythm she holds special. It is the rhythm of walking. Walking is a simple thing often taken for granted. Yet walking can achieve much. In his 80-year lifetime Wordsworth is reputed to have walked over 250,000 kilometres while he mused on clouds, cottages, revolutions and daffodils. For him, walking was a state of being, a state from which emanated those many wondrous poetic words.

We are all familiar with the physical benefits that are attributed to walking. Walking may decrease or delay the onset of dementia. Stronger bones and muscles, increased heart and lung fitness and the management of cholesterol are all attributed to the habit of regular walking.

Ferntree Gully is eminently situated for walking whether it’s on formed gentle paths, the challenging hilly terrain or the narrow tracks that hug the gullies of ferns and flowing waters. The air is easy to breathe. The landscapes are easy to view.

If your preference is for company you might like to join one of the many walking groups in the area. One is the Sherbrooke U3A. www.sherbrookeu3a.org.au. This is for over 55s, and costs $40 yearly including other courses, unless they are booked.

See also page 18 in this issue for walking groups at U3A Knox and page 27 for the Life groups. More groups are listed under Walking in Knox on the Knox City Council website.

Check out Judy Wolff’s excellent articles in previous editions of the Gully News (see the website ferntreegullynews.com and search for Foothills Walks).

Give walking a try. And who knows? You might return home to pen the odd poem or two.

Story and photo by Teresa Cannon

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0451 423 015
Knox Social and Community Health, 1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully

**Independent Living Group**
Would you like to increase your independence looking after yourself or your home? Do you have arthritis, back pain, reduced vision or experience fatigue? Join this 6 week program and learn exercises for life, and trial aids and techniques to make life easier.

*Where:* KSCH Ferntree Gully site, 1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully
*When:* Thursday 21 July-25 August
*Time:* 10am-12pm
*Cost:* $45 for Singles and $60 for couples

For more information or to register call the friendly reception team on 9757 6200.

**Integrated Diabetes Education and Assessment Service (IDEAS)**
Knox Social and Community Health in partnership with Eastern Health provides an integrated team care approach to managing Type 2 Diabetes. The clinic provides Diabetes Specialist (Endocrinologist) and access to other KSCH health services.

*Where:* KSCH Ferntree Gully site, 1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully
*When:* Thursday afternoons
*Cost:* Bulk billed
*Further details:* A GP referral is essential
For more information or to register please call the friendly reception team on 9757 6200

**ACE (Active Chair-based Exercise)**
For people who are frail or with chronic conditions, this weekly program involves a combination of gentle exercise to music, low level strength training, relaxation and activities promoting physical mobility and independence.

*Where:* KSCH Shire Hall, 1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully
*When:* Tuesday: 1pm to 2:30pm
*Thursday:* 10:30am to 12pm
*Cost:* $8 per session
For more information call reception on 9757 6200.

**Chronic Pain Support Group**
A self-help support group for people with chronic pain, who have completed an appropriate Pain Management Program.

Please contact Knox Social and Community Health reception on 9757 6200 for more information and to register your interest.

**National Tree Day – Sunday 31 July 2016**
This year’s National Tree day will be held at Lakewood Reserve in Knoxfield. Come down and support your local environment, bring your family and friends and get involved in the planting. Join a nature walk and talk; visit the Knox Environment Society tree guard workshop, school performances, face-painting and more.

*Where:* Lakewood Reserve, Lakewood Drive, Knoxfield (Melway Ref: 73 C2)
*When:* Sunday 31 July 2016
*Time:* 10am to 12pm

**Glenogollan Remnant & Haberdashery Sale**
A fund raiser sale in aid of ‘Days for Girls’, Ferntree Gully

Morning and afternoon tea available

*When:* Sunday June 19, 10-3pm
*Where:* Glengollan Village Club Rooms, Hutton Avenue, Ferntree Gully
To book a table for $10 phone Brenda 8756 4229

**The Addams Family – St Joseph’s College Production**
If you are looking for some fun, family friendly entertainment then why not come along and support St Joseph’s college by attending the annual production which this year is The Addams Family. Featuring a cast of talented children from both St Joseph’s College and sister school Mater Christi College. The Addams Family promises to be a night like no other.

*Where:* Burrinja Cultural Centre, Upwey (cnr Glenfern Road and Matson Drive, Upwey)
*When:* 4 August – 6 August 2016
*Time:* 7:30pm
Tickets will be available shortly. For more information call St Joseph’s college on 9758 2000.

**Free Assistance with rental and tenancy issues**

Eastern Community Legal Centre offers free legal assistance from its offices in Boronia, Box Hill and Healesville. Funded by Consumer Affairs Victoria, The Tenancy Advice and Advocacy program assists tenants who are experiencing financial difficulties or are on low income. Things the program can help you with include: general rights and responsibilities, notices from landlord or estate agents, VCAT hearings, repairs, bonds, changing the lease, rent arrears or increases, and claiming compensation.

To speak to the Tenant Advocate for a phone or face to face interview, Please contact: Eastern Community Legal Centre, Suite B, 6 Floriston Road, Boronia Tel: 9762 6235

**Conversation Café**
Is English your second language? Come along to the Conversation Café, meet a friendly group of people and improve your English skills over a cuppa!

*Where:* Realm Library, Level 2, Ringwood Town Square, 179 Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood
*When:* Every second Friday
*Time:* 10:30am to 12:00pm

**Yarra Ranges Retirees**
Yarra Ranges Retirees offer monthly meetings with a guest speaker. The aim of the group is to further friendship and common interests between retirees.
The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

*Where:* 197 Greeves Drive, Kilsyth
*When:* Fourth Thursday of the month
*Time:* 9:30am to 12:00pm
*Cost for membership:* singles $14 per annum or couples $20 per annum

For more information contact Brigitte Wustemann -9723 3103 or email: b.wuste@iinet.au

**Gardening on a Shoestring – with Maria Ciavarella**
Gardening can become expensive when you buy everything you need from the shelves. Instead learn to make and grow from scratch to save dollars in the garden.

*Where:* Knox Civic Centre –Function Room 3, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South
*When:* Friday 10 June 2016
*Time:* 10am to 12pm
*Cost:* Free when you sign up.
Bookings are essential. For more information contact Barbara Jordan on 9298 8000.

**Produce in Pots – with Maria Ciavarella**
With house blocks becoming smaller and apartment living more common, some of us need to grow our own herbs, vegetables and fruit trees in pots. Come along to this workshop and learn tips on how to get the best out of growing your produce in pots.

*Where:* Knox Civic Centre, Function Room 4, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna south
*When:* Friday 24 June 2016
*Time:* 10am to 12pm
*Cost:* Free when you sign up.
Bookings are essential. For more information call Barbara Jordan on 9298 8000
Belgrave Lantern Parade
With winter just around the corner don’t forget to pencil in your diary the Belgrave Lantern Parade. Come along and join in the fun as Belgrave’s Main Street is filled with light at winter solstice for the tenth annual lantern parade. Activities commence at 4pm; there is always lots to see and do. The parade itself will begin at 5:30pm from Hayes car park, so bring your lanterns and come and join in the fun.
Where: Main Street, Belgrave – meet at Hayes car park
When: Saturday 18 June 2016
Time: Activities commence 4pm; the parade begins at 5.30pm
For more information go to www.belgravelanterns.org.au or call Belgrave Traders Association on 9754 1207 or Burrinja 9754 8723

The Knox Craft Collective
The Knox Craft Collective is a growing network of craft artists and businesses from the eastern suburbs. It is free to join and offers many benefits for members including: ongoing networking opportunities; regular newsletter; monthly meet-ups; workshops; participation at festivals and major events; free promotion of your craft business or practice through Knox Craft Collective publications and networks.
To be part of this network please email: Knoxcraft@knox.vic.gov.au.

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

Bush walking with Life
The Life Activities Club Knox Bush Walking Group is a small group of keen walkers. We walk every Thursday starting at 8.30am. We catch public transport to our selected start location. Our walks are typically 8 – 10km along footpaths and tracks. The areas we walk include the Dandenong Ranges, Warburton, Warrandyte, Yarra Valley and occasionally some of the bushy areas around the River Yarra and metropolitan Melbourne.
If you would like to come along, please phone Rhoda to find out where we are going over the next few weeks. Wear stout boots and bring lunch. New walkers are always welcome.
When: Every Thursday starting at 8.30am.
Where: We choose a different area every week.

Cost: Free.
Contact: Rhoda 9758 3679

Women who love to dance
Organisations or individuals looking to stage a lively event can book a free performance with All Abilities Superstar Dancers.
Contact: Linda at Interchange Outer East: 0402 011 062

Knox-Sherbrooke Royal Children’s Hospital Auxiliary
Horizons of Hope
Browse the wonderful crafts, all handmade by women in developing countries. Stock up now for birthdays and Christmas.
When: Wednesday 15 June at 10.30am
Where: Wilma Neville’s, 10 Glenfern Road Ferntree Gully. Phone 9758 6662
Cost: $10 including lunch
All welcome. No RSVP required

Cost: Free.
Contact: Rhoda 9758 3679

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@ftgfcfa.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 Ronak Woodrow: 0400 602 925
Knox Historical Society 9758 6722 Ambleide, Sundays 1pm - 4pm
Knox Sherbrooke Auxiliary: Ph 9345 5188
Knox Toy Library RCH Auxiliary: 9758 7859 2nd Wednesday 5.30pm, Studio at MDLC
Lions Club of Rowville Julie Young 9754 4027, 2nd & 4th 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 Fleming 9758 6532, Mondays 6.45pm
U3A 9752 2737, 9am-3.30pm during term time
It’s always difficult to find a vacant block of land in the Hills and this is an amazing opportunity to build and design your dream lifestyle home in a peaceful and attractive location. On over 900 sqm, it’s located within walking distance of schools, local amenities and various modes of transport.

Don’t miss this extremely rare chance of prime vacant land in Tecoma, with quality homes surrounding, and making a once in a lifetime opportunity to build something special.

Call Andrew Ward on 0403411348

Help!! More properties Needed!!

With a current vacancy rate of under 0.5% Abley Real Estate, the Professionals, is in urgent need of more rental properties for anxious perspective tenants wishing to move into somewhere before the winter sets in!

Call our Senior Property Manager, Patricia, now on 0421817526 and ask about our special Winter Introductory Offer as a new landlord.