In times of change, seize the moment

Taking care of each other

Barbara Oehring’s photograph captures the children’s delight in the new playground in Ferntree Gully’s Quarry Park.

Gemma is at the top of the slide and London is on the ladder. Gemma is taking care of London’s doll Anna, while London is climbing up the rungs. The two girls became friends at the playground that afternoon.

For a few precious weeks in June, parents and children flocked to the parks to enjoy the easing of Covid-19 restrictions (see page 15 and 19).

The new lockdown has put an end to all that. We are back to staying at home, and wearing masks when we go out, back to Zoom sessions, and online school. Our writers reflect on who we are now.

In this issue:
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We acknowledge that we meet and work on the land of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation. We pay respect to their Elders past, present & future.

Village Fair cancelled

Around this time of the year community groups based around Ferntree Gully Village would be meeting to plan the 2020 Village Fair.

Held annually for over 20 years, the fair, focused around the CFA Open Day and the Uniting Church Fete has been looked forward to as Family Fun plus showcasing the shopping centre.

Sadly this year the Fair has been cancelled. Perhaps – as happened on ANZAC Day – we will find a way to lead up to Christmas with extra efforts at home and in the streets: Christmas lights, shop window light-up displays and more!

Thanks for Gully Gem

Thanks to all who sent us appreciation of our June issue. Here is one of the best.

Hi everyone at Gully News

Just a happy reader letting you know how much we love and appreciate your wonderful ‘local’ newspaper.

My husband Paul and I have lived in the same house, same street and same suburb for almost 49 years and we look forward to reading your newspaper ...

Thankfully, your wonderful little gem arrives regularly and we devour it each time. It is an old-fashioned type of community newspaper not just an excuse for Real Estate ads.

We look forward to reading many, many more of your gem newspaper. You could easily say it punches way above its weight! A small suburban newspaper almost entirely created and distributed by volunteers. We wish you and all associated with the Gully News a long and happy future full of local stories about local people. The way a newspaper should be!

Many, many grateful thanks.

Sue and Paul Cornish

Join us on Facebook

Ferntree Gully News is now on Facebook! Join us at ‘Friends of Ferntree Gully News’ to stay connected and informed between editions of the paper. We look forward to seeing you.

Meg Hellyer

Walkers reminder during lockdown

Don’t forget to wear a mask when walking for exercise and delivering Gully News. Thank you for staying the course.

Anne Boyd
Message from the Mayor of Knox – Cr Nicole Seymour

How are you? Are you doing ok? It has been an incredibly tough six months, and who would have thought we would face yet again such disruption to our lives with a return to Stage Three ‘Stay At Home’ restrictions in play.

Australians are known for their resilient, ‘can do’, ‘she’ll be right mate’ attitudes, and this was evident when the Covid pandemic first broke. People heard what was needed to ‘flatten the curve’ and even though it was difficult both from a personal and financial perspective, everyone pulled together and got the job done. There was an outpouring of kindness and strong sense of duty to each other.

Fast forward to now and there is a different mood. I am sensing many in our community are tired, stretched, fragile and some at breaking point. This is resulting in some having less patience, less tolerance and a waning of the resilience displayed at the start of the pandemic. Many small businesses aren’t sure they’ll survive this time.

Your Council understands the issues our Community faces and is actively doing all it can to provide timely and targeted Relief, Response and Recovery efforts from both a community health and wellbeing perspective as well as economic perspective. It is an evolving situation, which is requiring Council to juggle the immediate needs of a Covid response with ongoing delivery of the core services our Community expects of us – a mammoth task not experienced before.

Acknowledging the mood change and the greater burden a second lockdown has had on many, I ask that each of us dig deep and find the resolve to soldier on. To remember to be kind to each other, no matter what adversity we are presented with. Council is here for you. We have a range of Relief, Response and Recovery efforts in play and are already casting our minds to what more is needed in the months ahead. Everything we do, aims to complement State and Federal Government initiatives to ensure there is no duplication of effort and that no-one falls through the gaps.

If we all do our bit, following the guidelines re staying at home, social distancing, displaying cough and sneeze etiquette, wearing masks as appropriate, using hand sanitiser etc., we will get through this and life will return to some form of new normal.

Councillor Nicole Seymour

For more, see knox.vic.gov.au
See also Knox Council facebook site for daily messages from Mayor Nicole Seymour
Knox Community Bank Group announces Grant Awards 2020

We want to start by acknowledging the work being done by many of our local sporting clubs and community groups.

Many groups in and around Ferntree Gully are doing it tough. With rates, ground maintenance, insurance, electricity, and water bills piling up quickly for clubs and community organisations, many are in a precarious position, especially in light of the recent Covid-19 crisis.

The volunteers running these local clubs and community groups are the backbone, and are doing a fantastic job under challenging conditions. We want to take this opportunity to thank every volunteer, whether you take the tongs at the canteen barbecue one weekend a year or are the president of the Club. Your work is valued and we thank you!

We want to encourage everyone to please make an extra effort to reach out this week and thank the volunteers at your local clubs and community groups.

The Knox Community Bank Group Community Grants program is a highlight on our community calendar. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the Knox Community Bank Group team and our community partners alike. It is our way of saying thank you to all those volunteers and organisers working so hard in challenging circumstances.

This year we were able to give more than $49,700 to the local community through this wonderful Community Grants program.

When you choose to be a customer of either Ferntree Gully or Rowville Community Bank branches or the newly established Caribbean Park Business Centre (cashless) Branch, you benefit your community. This Community Grants Program is a great example of this.

You may not think it matters who you bank with. But that’s not the case. Just take a look (page 4 opposite) at the community partners we were able to provide support to this year alone!

Foothills Community Care
Food Drive

Imagine trying to isolate and stay as well as possible with nowhere to live. Or trying to deal with the Covid-19 crisis when you are already socially and financially disadvantaged.

Foothills Community Care is currently facing these and many other challenges. Demand for their meals has increased tenfold since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

We understand that everyone is currently facing their own set of challenges. If you can spare a few dollars or have staple food items you are happy to donate please reach out to Stephen and the team at Foothills Community Care, or drop the items you would like to donate into either the Ferntree Gully or Rowville Community Bank Branches.

If you would prefer to make a donation please use this secure link: https://www.foothillscare.org.au/donate/

Your support of this wonderful community organisation is greatly appreciated!
Knox Community Bank Group Grant Recipients 2020

- Foothills Community Care received a grant to produce meals for the homeless and socially disadvantaged.
- Peace and Loyalty Freemasons Lodge received a grant to fund scholarships at Fairhills High School.
- Knox Woodworkers received a grant to fund the production of wooden Christmas toys.
- Knox Remembrance Day received a grant to help fund the event.
- Ferntree Gully Girl Guides received a grant to purchase fans for their hall.
- Liberty Avenue 3 Year Old Kinder received a grant to fund the purchase of waterproof matting & outdoor furniture.
- The Basin Music Festival received a grant to fund the Basin Youth Stage Summer Concert and the Basin Music Festival.
- The Gully Men’s Shed received a grant to concrete the floor of the Men’s Shed in Ferntree Gully.
- The Links at Waterford Residents Association received a grant to build chairs, tables & mobile stools for the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre.
- Ferntree Gully Football and Netball Club received a grant to purchase a DeFib machine for the women’s rooms at the Club.
- Bena Angliss Kindergarten received a grant to fund equipment for indoor and outdoor play spaces.
- Waterford Park Men’s Shed received a grant to purchase materials to be used to produce toys for the Royal Children’s Hospital.
- Knox Environment Society received a grant to purchase an indoor/outdoor PA system.
- Saint Paul’s Anglican Church Boronia received a grant to purchase of a large freezer to hold pre-prepared meals for the needy.
- The Fields Pre-School Rowville received a grant to build a vegetable and butterfly garden at the pre-school.
- Coonara Community House received a grant enabling them to publish their ‘150th Year Anniversary’ book.
- Boronia and The Basin Community News received a grant to support the publication of their monthly newspaper.
- Regency Calisthenics College received a grant to fund the purchase of rod covers.
- Knox United Soccer Club received a grant to purchase new aluminum goals for use by the Club.
- Ferntree Gully Village Traders received a grant to support the publication of the local newspaper.
- Ferntree Gully News received a grant to fund costs associated with printing and distributing the paper.
- Knox and District Toy Library received a grant to run the ‘Saturday borrowing sessions’ program.
- Mountain Gate Tennis Club received a grant to fund landscaping around their clubroom.
- Upper Ferntree Gully Football Club received a grant to fund the purchase of portable marquees to be used by the Club.
- Rowville Lions Club received a grant to purchase an ipad, laptop, camera and printer.
- Knox Italian Community Club Rowville received a grant to purchase a new glass washer at the Club.

That’s more than $49,700 given back to our local community in 2020 alone!

For those of you that use Facebook please visit the Knox Community Bank Group page at: https://www.facebook.com/knoxcommunitybankbranches/ & like/follow our page as we will be posting about each community grant recipient over the coming months.

Still creating masterpieces
The Knox Woodworkers are in lockdown at the moment but those with their own workshops are creating masterpieces at home, including toys for children at Christmas.

This photo is from the past. When they reopen in the, hopefully, not too distant future, they will be looking for new members.

For more info please go to the website www.knoxwoodies.org.au
What has FTG CFA learned in the era of Covid-19?

As I am writing this article today, my radio is telling me that we are about to enter into another six weeks of stage 3 Covid-19 shutdown. Brigade wise, this means that we are restricted once again to onsite station training and to no more than two firefighters at a time. It will also mean continuing training and meeting online.

Not only have we had to contend with Covid-19 restrictions but the knowledge that on 1 July, Fire and Rescue Victoria (FRV) would be introduced. This would amalgamate all paid CFA firefighters with those of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) and that the MFB would cease to exist. Over the past four years or so, there has been turmoil in the Victorian Fire Services leading to resignations of the appropriate minister Jane Garrett as well as chief officers and CEOs of both organisations. Just a few weeks ago on the eve of the introduction of FRV, the Chief Officer of the CFA Steve Warrington resigned. As a result of this situation, I have asked the Ferntree Gully CFA Captain, Seamus Smith, to outline our concerns at the lack of promised consultation with our volunteer body, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria.

The last few months have certainly been a learning curve for all of us. We have also learned that calls to motor vehicle crashes and car fires have markedly reduced, presumably because there have been fewer cars on the roads.

Structure fires have fortunately been fewer too, but avoidable house fires have continued. Avoidable house fires include those originating from the stove top because cooking was left without supervision, clothes dryers over filled or lint filters blocked, power boards overloaded or candles left unattended. Heating flues and chimneys which have not been thoroughly cleaned, on a regular basis, are a continuing problem across Victoria. See the website ferntreegullynews.com for care of wood fired heaters. See the website ferntreegullynews.com for care of wood fired heaters.

French firefighters pay tribute to Australian volunteers

A connection between volunteer firefighters in Australia and France has led to an emotional tribute to the heroes of last summer’s fire season.

In 2018 Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) delegate and Belgrave Heights and South volunteer firefighter, Jim Kelly, presented a plaque and caps to Villers Bretonneux Fire Brigade in France as part of the Le Hamel centenary commemoration. This year the French brigade has returned the favour, raising funds and sending calendars to share with their Australian counterparts.

At the 2018 ceremony, Mr Kelly was presented with a medallion and his brigade later sent a CFA flag signed by local volunteers to the French brigade. The flag is now displayed in a new station built for the Villers Bretonneux and Corbie brigades. The Villers Bretonneux brigade is one of many based near European battlegrounds which continue to help visiting Australians. After this summer’s fires in Australia, brigades in the Somme region of France held many fundraisers, including a major event in the Amiens cathedral. Villers Bretonneux brigade’s (district commander) Lt Col Grech also sent 50 calendars to Mr Kelly to distribute among brigades involved in the Australian fires.

Flues coated internally with tar and soot can easily catch fire and ignite wall cavities. Never underestimate the need to keep flues clean.

Home Safety Quiz

With this in mind, I think it is time for a Covid-19 home safety quiz.

True or False? (answers in column 3)

1. One smoke alarm in the hallway of a home is sufficient.
2. Burning damp wood or pine wood in a fuel heater is ok.
3. Not all clothes dryers have lint filters.
4. It is ok to leave cooking on the stove while you have a quick sleep.
5. Chimney sweeps went out with the horse and cart era.
6. Power boards and double adaptors are always safe.
7. Leaving the electric blanket on during the day so that the pets keep warm is a good idea.
8. Candles or incense burners left burning unattended or where they could be knocked over rarely cause house fires.

Stay safe fellow Australians
Cherish your families and loved ones

Prepared by
Brigade Member Graham Crichton

Answers to True or False questions

1. Smoke alarms are recommended to be installed in all bedrooms and living areas. It is best to have photo-electric smoke alarms all wired together so that if one alarm sounds, then all alarms sound, including those in the top story of a double story house.
2. Burning damp wood or pine wood causes your chimney or flue to become coated with tars and soot. Eventually, these substances will catch fire.
3. All clothes dryers have a lint filter which must be cleaned after every cycle. Never overload the dryer. Items must be allowed to tumble freely. Overfilled clothes dryers prevent this tumbling and cause excessive heat to build up and the clothes to catch fire.
4. Cooking fires are at the top of our list of preventable house fires. Never leave cooking unattended just for a few moments. Always turn your cooking off if you are going to have forty winks or check on the children etc.
5. Chimney sweeps prevent chimney and flue fires. Please keep your home safe by keeping your chimneys clean.
6. Power boards and double adaptors are big fire demons when they are overloaded. When buying a power board, make sure that it has an overload cutout. Ensure that you have a safety switch in your electrical fuse box. Such switches cut off the power in a millisecond and are a great idea.
7. Leaving electric blankets on during the day is very dangerous. We suggest that you only turn on your blanket 15 minutes prior to going to bed and then turn the blanket off. Never leave the blanket on during the day and never allow pillows, blankets or pets to pile up on the blankets. By the way, never charge your mobile phone while it is under the pillow.
8. Candles, or incense burners frequently cause house fires.
From 1 July 2020, the Victorian State Government has made massive changes to the way fire services are organised and structured. These include changes to response areas and support arrangements between fire services across the state.

A fundamental change is that all paid fire-fighters from the now redundant Melbourne Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) will come together under a new body, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV). This change can be seen as a great benefit for paid fire-fighters. One set of administrative staff will now be looking after their recruitment, training, rosters and leave-planning as well as effecting commonality in appliances and equipment.

These changes, however, have left the volunteers feeling uncertain and frustrated. Impacts are far greater than originally advised or intended. CFA volunteer brigades were presented with a concept of ‘returning the CFA to a volunteer service free from industrial interference’. But at the time of writing this has not occurred.

There is confusion about the autonomy, control and secondments of paid CFA staff. Even confusion about which uniforms are to be worn as well as possible staff cuts. Essential staff are being lost to our organisation due to budget constraints. In some cases, work locations offered would require families to move to distant Victorian locations.

Ferntree Gully’s concern is to receive appropriate and necessary support to enable us to get on properly with our role of responding and supporting our community and State.

In spite of the disruption the change has not affected our brigade's mission and core business: to provide the best support and assistance that we can to our community. We believe that the role volunteers play is invaluable to the State of Victoria and beyond. We love it when we hear the messages of appreciation, admiration and support that come from our community. It really is heart warming and exemplifies why we are here.

We always have the interests of our Ferntree Gully community at heart, regardless of the tasks that we do. We will continue firefighting, conducting sessions in schools and pre-schools, talking safety with community groups or delivering bushfire meetings on street corners. We have the ‘local knowledge’ which is so very important when the chips are down.

Serving our community is the sole reason why we have been in Ferntree Gully for 78 years: always adapting to meet the risks experienced by our community.

**Seamus Smith**  
*Captain, Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade*

Photo above taken by Barbara Oehring at a Community Bushfire Meeting at the top of Hansen Road. The Dandenong Ranges vehicles were coming down Chandler track after a training exercise.

**Changing Victoria’s fire services**  
**Introducing Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV)**

**Saving energy in the colder months**

With social distancing measures in place, many of us are spending more time at home. While this means more home cooking and cozy evenings in, it can also mean an increase in energy bills.

Here are some tips to save on gas and electricity year-round, and particularly while the cold weather is still upon us.

Keep the warmth where you want it
- Insulate to stay warm and reduce heat loss through windows. Choose the right curtains and blinds and install them properly to keep the heat from escaping.
- If you’re not using your fireplace, block your chimney with a chimney balloon to stop heat escaping.
- Close doors between heated and unheated zones of the house.
- If you’re renovating, consider where you want to keep the heat, and ensure that space is well sealed.
- Fit weather stripping and seals around door and window frames.
- Install a high-efficiency heater and make sure it is maintained to ensure your safety and keep it running well.
- In some cases, it might be cheaper to run the heater on your reverse cycle air conditioner than use gas heating.

**Use timers and thermostats**
- Install a timer to allow you to turn the heating on before you get up in the morning and switch off automatically when you don’t need it.
- Set your thermostat for between 18 and 20 degrees and adjust as necessary. Every extra degree adds 10% to your heating bill.
- Wear warmer clothes and add blankets for cosiness in living areas.
- Go solar
- Consider installing a solar energy system on your home. Solar Savers is a local government initiative designed to make solar easy and more affordable for Knox residents. Additional financial support is available for pensioners and low-income households www.solarsavers.org.au
- If you already have solar, you may be eligible for a rebate on a battery. Visit www.solar.vic.gov.au to see if your suburb has been designated for rebates.

**Get advice from the experts**

Knox City Council has partnered with the Australian Energy Foundation to help residents and businesses get free expert advice on how to improve energy efficiency, minimise their carbon footprint and even save money on their energy bills. Knox residents and businesses can call 1300 23 68 55 or email advice@aef.com.au to speak with an experienced energy advisor.
Covid-19 not stopping construction

The Covid-19 pandemic has stopped a lot of things, but not our local infrastructure improvements.

One of the big developments last year was opening the Henderson Rd Bridge in Rowville. This provides another north-south link between Ferntree Gully Rd and Kelletts Rd and I’ve received great feedback on how it is helping locals and businesses by providing an alternative to Stud Rd. The final pieces to this project are the traffic lights at the Kelletts/Henderson Rd intersection and slip lanes at Ferntree Gully/Henderson Rd intersection. Work is expected to begin in September of this year.

Work is well underway regarding the Dorset Rd extension and Napoleon Rd duplication. Millions in federal funding has now been released to the state government to conduct detailed planning work. The projects will be staged together with Napoleon Rd done first so there is extra capacity. Construction is expected to commence in late 2021/early 2022 on this huge $130 million project.

Those starting to drive to the city again on the Monash Fwy will see that Stage 2 of the Monash Fwy upgrades is now underway. This will add 36 km of new lanes including from Eastlink to Warrigal Rd. We added an extra $184 million to start it more quickly. It will be completed in 2022.

And for those who travel by train, planning work is currently underway with Knox Council and the state government for additional parking at Boronia Station and Ferntree Gully Station. $35 million in federal funding is secured and locked in the budget. These are complex projects and we want to ensure we get it right. We still haven’t settled on the design of these so there is a bit to go.

As usual I will keep you updated on all our local projects through Facebook, email and letterbox. Thanks for your patience and support as we get these local projects done.

Alan Tudge
Knox Council Elections

Importantly, these elections will be held by postal voting only in October 2020 due to the pandemic.

The 2020 Knox City Council elections will be held by full postal voting. This means ballot packs will be mailed to every person enrolled on the Knox City Council voters’ roll, from Tuesday 6 October.

Voters must have posted or hand-delivered their completed ballot material by 6pm on Friday 23 October 2020 for their vote to count. It is important to note that the election is being held entirely by postal voting, there will be no voting on Election Day (24 October 2020).

Voting is compulsory. If you are enrolled to vote, you must vote or risk being fined.

You must be at least 18 years of age to vote in Australia. There is no upper age limit so unlike previous local government elections, people over the age of 70 are required to vote.

If you are yet to enrol or want to update your enrolment details, you need to do so by 28 August 2020. For more information, regarding information on who can vote, different entitlements, how to apply to vote, voters’ roll privacy and what happens if you don’t vote visit the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/.

More information will be communicated by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) over coming months.

Candidate for Friberg Ward:
Susan Laukens

Susan Laukens is a candidate for Friberg Ward which includes parts of Ferntree Gully around Mountain Gate and parts of Knoxfield and Rowville.

Susan has lived in Knoxfield with her husband and two daughters for over 13 years, and for 26 years has served the community as a registered nurse. She is currently president of Knox Community Gardens Society Inc.

Susan says, ‘I am a truly independent candidateputting our community first! I will be held accountable to the residents of Friberg and greater Knox. I will not be influenced by party politics, and I will uphold your trust and serve my full four year term.’

Contact Susan on 0492 820 666 or email friberg@ susanlaukensforknox.com.au

Round the world with Gully News

For years readers of Gully News have been packing the newspaper in their baggages on trips around the world. They have sent us photos of themselves reading it in amazing places.

Earlier this year we published Anthony Myszka’s spectacular photo. We asked for more of the story about his ascent to the summit of Imja Tse (Island) Peak, 6189m, in Nepal’s Himalayan Range. He sent us extracts from his journal of the climb.

At the summit
Today, I aligned my dreams, pace, and strategy with ‘The Tortoise and the Hare’.

I was now doubled over, hands on knees, catching my frozen breath. This is hell. With the moon still over my left shoulder surely, we couldn't be far from Crampon Point? We started rock scrambling - good, I needed a new distraction from the physical effort. I was on a ridge with sheer drops on either side. My super-bright headtorch couldn't make out the depth, but intuitively I felt very exposed. A thin shelf was negotiated with the aid of a weathered length of fixed rope. With this section done, I concentrated on the distant figures ahead of me.

Soon, rock scrambling gave way to heavily iced rock slabs - and so, we reached Crampon Point. I savoured this moment whilst attaching my crampons (a spiked device attached to the underside of each boot to aid traction over ice). Here, I entered an iced wonderland. Eons-old stratified ice and metre long icicles hung from jagged cliff edges. A glance at a photo of my kids (Soph and Sam) attached to my high-altitude gauntlet gave me a much-needed spur. Fresh snow has a tendency to absorb reflected sound and so, explains why it's eerily quiet here.

Imperceptible at first, stars reluctantly surrendered their sparkle to the approaching dawn. I roped up with Dawa Tenzing, mindful of keeping the rope taut - there are bottomless snow bridges hidden in this crevasse wonderland … Past the crevasse field, the valley slopes upwards. The summit is now awash in sepia-tones by a sun slowly breaking over the horizon. And with it, the promise of warmth!

Finally, at the summit, the journal continues.

There's an urgency to snap a few obligatory summit photos as the bone-numbing wind noticeably picks up. But I'm hypnotised by the endless carpet of jagged sapphire blue then lightens to a copper sulphate blue at the sky's zenith.

From my vantage point, glaciers are retreating. The evidence is clear.

The summit, no larger than a full-sized billiard table, induces vertigo as it falls steeply away on each side. Here, Base Camp is almost 1.2kms below my feet.

I double check that my karabiner and abseiling descender are locked.

I steal one last look at this 360°magnificence. I look at my photo of the kids and quietly hope Soph and Sam will be proud of their dad.

I'm floating – the Tortoise made it.

Anthony Myszka

See ferntreegullynews.com for more of Anthony’s story.
Belgraves Lantern Festival reimagined

This winter the hills community came together in a sign of resilience with a special variation of the Belgrave Lantern Festival, lighting the streets and shop windows of Belgrave with an array of colourful lanterns. The festival is held each year to celebrate the winter solstice and ‘light the longest night’.

This year’s festival was ‘reimagined’ with a difference. Normally where the festival would be held on just one night with a lantern parade attracting large crowds, this year the festival became a public art installation held over two weeks in response to current restrictions.

From 20 June until 5 July, the community was invited to place lanterns in shop windows, their windows at home, at work, school, in front yards and in driveways. The result was a collection of everything from owls to toadstools, giant cockatoos, chickens knitting, steampunk air balloons, Nemo under the sea, and even Bluey!

What a great way to lift spirits – and well done to the organisers for ‘reimagining’ the event so well. I can’t wait to see what gets dreamed up next year.

Meg Hellyer

Capturing the magic of the Hills

One does not have to look far when it comes to finding inspiration in the beauty of the Hills.

‘I’ve been painting for many years and still get a kick out of it,’ says Gerrit. ‘I love painting Dandenong subjects. I’ve been walking around here for years – it’s the source of much inspiration.’

Gerrit has been living in the Hills since the age of 11, when his family emigrated from Holland during the 1950s.

He was out wandering the Dandenong Creek trail recently when, ‘to my very pleasant surprise,’ he happened across a wallaby in his path. ‘He stood looking back at me,’ says Gerrit, ‘and we both watched each other curiously, neither of us keen to move. I had plenty of time to take a good photo. I couldn’t think of a better subject for a painting. The little wren in the bottom right hand corner was an afterthought. I do like to have a bird in my paintings.’

Gerrit mainly works with acrylics, and enjoys painting birdlife, scenery and creatures he spots around the Dandenongs. Previously he has painted Rostrevor House at Sassafras, just past the 1000 Steps.

Having worked in the city, he also enjoys painting city buildings, street art and laneways. He says his wife, Jan, is a ‘tough critic’ and has a good eye – ‘if she likes it, then I’ve done well!’

If you’re interested in getting in touch with Gerrit about a painting, you can email him at gerritlinde.gl@gmail.com

‘I hope people get as much pleasure out of these as I do,’ he says.

Meg Hellyer

Arts Page

Ferntree Gully News August 2020

Sponsored by Ferntree Gully Arts Society
Focus on Food

Kyra’s thinking outside the box

Four days before Mother’s Day – about five weeks after the initial closure – they reopened the café, implementing new ideas such as the uplifting display window and the large vibrant coffee sign placed out the front. Besides bread, Kyra’s also started selling handcrafted doughnuts, cakes, tarts and pies. The community was thrilled they could drop off Kyra delights at doorsteps on Mother’s Day.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday the café is open until 5.00pm so customers can grab a coffee and a snack after the other cafés in the area close, which is usually between 2.00 and 3.00 pm.

Kyra and Waz are so grateful to be given the chance to offer their new range of products and would like to take this chance to thank each and everyone in the community for their ongoing support. Despite all the challenges the pandemic brought, the couple never gave up but started ‘thinking outside the box’ to come up with the ‘right ideas at the right time’. They’re already thinking about their next possible project once the pandemic is over – selling birthday cakes! We can’t wait Kyra’s, keep it up!

Saskia Friedrich

Smashed avocado on toast

What have we learnt from Covid-19? I guess we have learnt not to take anything for granted. And we have learnt that we have so much to be grateful for, living as we do in Australia. At an unprecedented time, such as this, people take stock of their lives and priorities. I, for one, am grateful our family is living safely and comfortably in our own home in Ferntree Gully.

On a micro level, and seeing as this column is supposed to be about cooking, perhaps some people have learnt how to cook at home during lockdown or have perfected new dishes. Learning how to cook is one of the most important life skills to have. It enables you to be self-sufficient, save money, and nourish your body with well balanced meals. Home cooks know precisely what ingredients have gone into their cuisine and are rewarded with a sense of accomplishment when the dish turns out well.

My teenage daughter, part of Gen Z, enjoyed making and eating smashed avocado on toast for almost every lunch during the initial eight-week remote schooling period. The Hass avocado (which is in season from May through to January) needs to be perfectly ripe. She researched how to ripen avocados. One of the best methods is to place an avocado in a brown paper bag, together with a banana. Ripe bananas release a natural plant hormone called ethylene, which triggers ripening in mature fruit. The paper bag traps the ethylene gas and speeds up the avocado ripening process. Depending on the avocado, ripening can be achieved within 24 hours.

While her wholemeal bread toasts, my daughter cuts an avocado in half, scoops out the perfectly ripened, creamy green flesh and mashes it on a plate with a sprinkle of salt, pepper and mixed herbs. She then transfers this concoction to the top of her toast, which she has placed on a clean plate. Presentation is important. My hubby likes his avocado with a splash of olive oil, and a sprinkle of pepper. Other people take their avocado with a dash of lemon juice. I am the only one in our household of four who doesn’t eat avocado. I know it is good for you: full of vitamin K, folate, vitamin C, potassium, vitamin B5 and B6, and vitamin E, amongst other nutrients. Perhaps I should try harder at acquiring a taste for avocados.

Gemma Franks

Chandelier Wine Lounge & Bar

This new wine lounge at 1/115 Station Street has finally opened. Owner Janine has been trying to open the wine bar since the beginning of the year and after major renovations, and in the face of the lockdowns, they are now trading online. Check their website for novel food and wine ideas: http://chandelierwinelounge.com.au
Sports clubs live in hope

The membership renewal forms were submitted, the grounds maintenance was up to date, teams were organised, practice had begun, the new season’s draw was finalised and distributed.

The window of hope for the recommencement of suburban competitive sports was open for a few weeks but then the second lockdown was announced. It was not a surprise. As the daily number of virus infections rose it was becoming clear that Melburnians had to take collective responsibility.

Located along Brennock Park Drive Ferntree Gully, the Ferntree Gully Cricket Club has been seeking new players to participate in the Woolworth Blasters program (five years and above), Juniors (under 12s through to under 16s), Seniors, All Abilities and Veteran competitions.

Meanwhile.

Senior players have been undertaking additional training sessions since early June under lights and junior players were hard at it trialling for various teams associated with the Under 15 Craig Shield competition.

Now the website announces ‘All training on hold’.

For the latest information see the website or contact Senior Coach Jason Kilby on 0420 289 995 or Junior Co-ordinator Dave Morrison on 0402 702 395.

MDLC and the pandemic

It seems 2020 was sent to try out all our skills, ones that we didn’t know we had and also the ones that we use really well.

The staff at Mountain District Learning Centre have gone above and beyond to provide online learning, care and well being for the students. I know that at first the change was rather terrifying to work out, but from what I have heard and seen the students adapted very well and staff are making sure that contact has been kept throughout the lockdown period.

As a Board member, I can’t thank the staff enough for the dedication they have shown in these really difficult times.

Robyn Burke
Chairman MDLC Board

Fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease

Most people probably don’t know that my husband Peter was diagnosed in 1994 with motor neurone disease. He died four and a half years later, and since then I have worked as a volunteer for Motor Neurone Disease Association Victoria (MNDA) in a variety of roles, fundraising being a major one.

With the onset of Covid-19 and the lockdowns, all our fundraising events were cancelled. To offset this, a virtual event called ‘Australia Moves for MND’ was instigated. I registered for the event which ran from 3 May, the start of MND Week, to June 21, MND Global Day. My goal was to walk 150km and raise $750 by asking people to sponsor me.

So I have been walking every day, mostly in the sunshine, but also on rainy days. It’s given me an incentive to get out and about, to stay active rather than veg out at home feeling sorry for myself, especially as I should be in England at the moment catching up with friends and relatives.

I’m proud to say that I smashed my goals, walking 220.5km and raising $2151 + $125 which went straight to MND Victoria. I am so lucky to have some wonderful and generous friends, and even people I didn’t know, who donated to my AM4MND page. It’s certainly uplifting to know there are such good people in the world.

Now it’s all over, I am looking forward to the time when things will ‘get back to normal’ and we can all get back doing the things we do! Hopefully the Ferntree Gully Art Society and the Hut will open up in time to run the Annual Members exhibition, and that we’ll be able to end the year on a high note at the Christmas dinner in December.

Marian Lowe
Vice President, Ferntree Gully Arts Society

Callista with her ‘contact staff’. Photo by Barbara Oehring.
Teaching remotely during pandemic

New learnings for teachers working from home

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, like many other teachers in Knox, I have been working from home and teaching in adult education remotely via Zoom. Fortunately many of the teaching materials I had to use were already on an online learning platform.

With this type of Web conferencing software however, students have their teacher with them for the entire teaching day. They can see the teacher talking to them in real time and ask the teacher questions. It was then very encouraging to see how effective the virtual classroom can be. In some ways this mode of delivery can be more personalised than face to face teaching, since the teacher is literally face to face with all their students. (I always request ‘cameras on’.) Even when students are in breakout rooms working in groups, they don’t know when the teacher will join the breakout room. This certainly keeps them on their toes. I found that Zoom experience rewarding and overall very positive.

Also, via Zoom, I have enjoyed assisting students with their everyday conversational skills at Orana Community House. The students have increased in confidence while talking about current events and topics ranging from dealing with the impact of the pandemic on the local economy to the multicultural cuisines offered by local restaurants.

A fellow educator teaching in the secondary school sector locally has found that teaching remotely has meant teachers have had to step up and improve computer literacy by using Google Classroom a learning platform where teaching materials are put online for students to access. Unlike Zoom, this platform uses Google Meet for small group work. It also offers important benefits for students of all abilities who can access the educational content they need to be successful. This includes students who may not be able to attend school regularly, offering them a more inclusive way of teaching.

Sorina Grasso

Meanwhile not everyone is on Zoom

At Eastern Ranges it’s for real

What a strange year we are having in P18 this year! We have all coped really well with the constant changes – as their teacher I am so proud of all the students.

We have done lots of exciting things already this year. One of our favourite things to do is cooking. We have been practising making toast — our favourite toppings are butter, jam and Vegemite. We are also practising our life skills and learning to clean up, wash the dishes, dry them and then put them away. It’s really important that we can learn to do these things for ourselves.

Another one of our favourite things this year has been science. We have learnt about melting and freezing things. One of our activities was a melting race. We each had an ice cube and had to try different ways to get our ice cube to melt. After a lot of trial and error, the most effective way we found was to hold the ice cube in our hand and warm it up.

We’ve been very busy practising our reading, writing, speaking and listening. We’ve written creative stories, we’ve been very busy practising our conversational skills at Orana Community House. The students have increased in confidence while talking about current events and topics ranging from dealing with the impact of the pandemic on the local economy to the multicultural cuisines offered by local restaurants.

In maths we have learnt about shapes, numbers, skip counting and solving multiplication problems by ‘drawing’ the problem.

We have been so busy in just half a year – I can’t wait to see what we achieve in the second part of the year.

Susan Collier
Teacher Eastern Ranges School

Heritage College moves to a new home

Life changed dramatically for the Heritage College community when they learnt that a property on Burwood Highway was up for sale. The site was Knoxbrooke, the place that for over 50 years had nurtured children with disabilities. The potential was exciting – a place where Heritage College could expand to achieve this in their new home.

For the previous 10 years, Heritage College had been operating in The Basin. Currently it conducts classes for primary grades. However with enrolments growing and plans to expand to Years 7 and 8 in 2021, a larger property is needed. Further plans will see a complete secondary college in future to be housed in a multi-level building.

Growth, Creativity and Community are basic precepts of the college. It has a Christian ethos but everyone is welcome, no matter their beliefs. Current students come from a range of different backgrounds and cultures. The only requirement for attendance is an acceptance of the college values. These are broad. They create social harmony and include respect, loyalty, commitment and dedication.

Students coped well during the first COVID lockdown. Like so many schools their lessons continued online. And unable to gather for music lessons, the beauty of their melodic voices was captured in a virtual choir. This experience will serve them well during the current lockdown.

The commitment of Heritage College ‘is to prepare every child to meet the challenges of a changing world with courage and confidence.’ No doubt with their fine vision and underpinning values, they’ll continue to achieve this in their new home.

Heritage College Knox 9739 8126
www.heritage.vic.edu.au

Teresa Cannon
Teacher Heritage College Knox

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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 0217
Email: stjohnthebaptist.net.au

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

The Salvation Army
37 Wattletree Road, 3156
Tel. 9752 2682
Sunday Service 10.00am
Sean and Rachel Attard

St Thomas Anglican Church
12 Mount View Road
Upper Ferntree Gully 3156
www.stthomas.com.au
Tel. 9758 9234
Email: stthomas@bigpond.com
Vicar: Anne Kennedy
Sunday Services
8.00am Holy Eucharist
10.00am Holy Eucharist & Sunday School

Thoms Place Community Meal
10.00am-2.00pm Friday (not in January)
all are welcome for a cuppa and chat
with lunch served at 12 noon

RAFT Anglican Church
(Rowville and Ferntree Gully Together)
131 Taylors Lane, Rowville
www.raftchurch.org.au
Tel: 9764 2573
Email: admin@raftchurch.org.au
Sunday services
8:30am Traditional
10:30am Family (includes kids & teen churches)
5:00pm Contemporary
Senior Pastor: Hilton Jordan

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

Communion in the time of pandemic
Strange times we are living through. Just been hearing Daniel Andrews announcing that Melbourne must now go back into Stage 3 Lockdown. What huge decisions these people are making on behalf of us all, for the ultimate benefit of us all. Although it seems frustrating to have extra restrictions put on us, we all live in and have responsibilities for our communities. Such is life for churches too.

Ferntree Gully Uniting has not been meeting face to face, but each week we receive resources and links to various on-line services. We have also had ‘Paper Church’ shared by Rev. Ann Scull from Boronia Road Uniting Church. Paper Church is the Service printed out, with prayers and meditations for Sunday, or any time during the week, for use as a family or as an individual. These have been very much appreciated.

Then, last Sunday 4 July Rev. Peter Rivett offered to guide us through a Zoom Communion Service. The week before, we received the Paper Church copy of the Service, with the various prayers. As usual with Zoom meetings, people were sent the link the night before, and, at 10:00 Sunday morning, we all zoomed in. Not only was it lovely to see everyone’s faces again, but we were presented with something to chew over during the week. ‘if Jesus welcomed Judas his betrayer around the table where he and the disciples ate the last supper, what does that radical act of inclusion require of us who call ourselves Christian?’

Various people from the congregation participated with the readings, prayers and announcements, just like ‘real’ church. Of course there were a few bumps and blips, but that was expected; not only was it our first time, but Zoom meetings are often like that. One could say, it adds to the humanity of it all. You may ask how did we do the communion? Well, our congregation had, over the lockdown weeks, been receiving these little ‘portable’ communion cups with a little wafer attached, for use on Sundays or whenever families had gathered. So, as the words of Institution were said, we were all able to partake together.

We are hoping for at least one more Zoom Service with Rev. Pete. After that we will need to decide our future. If you are interested, there are some great resources online. Tecomia Uniting Church via their Facebook page, Catholic Mass online at Saint Simon’s Catholic Church in Rowville, and Glen Waverley Uniting are just three. Look them up. Not only would you be most welcome, you would be sure to leave with some needed support and strength to face the coming weeks of lockdown. Keep well and God bless!

Pat Rivett

RAFT Youth Group’s challenge
Each year alone has its challenges and strengths in the youth group. However, I don’t believe any of us could have prepared for the challenges which 2020 has brought our way!

As a youth leader at RAFT church, I have been blessed with the encouragement from a team of like-minded individuals who strive to help positively impact the youth of the community by building friendships and teaching them what it means to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We have faced some difficult challenges by engaging with the youth over Zoom. Some challenges have included: internet difficulties and not being able to talk face to face with each of them about what’s going on in their own lives.

This time has also been a season of growth. We have had so much fun with new activities and leading youth bible studies relevant to their lives. Though our numbers in the youth group have dropped slightly, it’s been so encouraging to see many of the youth still craving the connection formed within the group and still having confidence to invite friends to youth online.

RAFT in itself, but also the youth group, works hard to establish a safe space for the teens of the community to grow, meet people they wouldn’t normally talk to, deepen those friendships, stay active on a Friday night and learn about the bible and why we Christians follow what it says as disciples of Jesus.

I can confidently say that the great commission, in which Jesus commanded the church to ‘go and make disciples’, is being fulfilled at RAFT church through the youth group. I believe we are all in the same boat when I say, I can’t wait to go back to normal. But maybe we should be considering what a new normal will look like? How can we as a community in Rowville and Ferntree Gully and the surrounding suburbs go about making a positive impact in people’s lives? It may be popping by to see an old friend you haven’t seen in a while or elderly person in your community who may be doing it tough. In the bible it says to not withhold good when it is in our power to act. May we all, as a youth group and as a community, bless those around us and point them to Jesus.

Chloe Hamilton
Rowville and Ferntree Gully Anglican Church
Changes underway at Quarry Park

Upgrades to Quarry Park have recently been completed, including a new playground, ready for us all to enjoy. And we did, for a few weeks until lockdown intervened.

As well as the playground the works include a sandpit, BBQ and undercover picnic areas. There is a new viewing platform over the lake and surrounding park, and fishing platforms by the water thanks to a grant from Fisheries Victoria.

Changes underway at Quarry Park

The play equipment will unfortunately be out of bounds for a while, but next time you’re out for a walk why not head along and check out the changes? We are so lucky here in the Gully to have so many incredible places at our doorsteps.

Gardening in the community

For a gardener, the year started out very nicely, the tomato crop had been plentiful; the pumpkins were just starting to ripen. It was all steam ahead for the Knox Community Gardens. This was going to be a big year. Unfortunately, everything came to a massive halt when Covid-19 arrived on our shores, uninvited and unwelcome.

As president of the Knox Community Gardens and a local nurse, it was evident to me the situation would deteriorate very quickly. Membership safety became paramount. A decision was made very quickly after consulting with Council. The gates to the gardens were closed to the public. Next, procedures for keeping membership abreast of restrictions and for best practice hygiene were swiftly implemented.

Members were grateful to the committee for ensuring the gardens remained available to them in accordance with two of the rules about going out: food and exercise. The solace of the gardens became a place for members to enjoy a safe environment for growing food, being outdoors and exercising. They told us how important the gardens became for their mental health and wellbeing during this very difficult time.

This only confirms what we often hear: the Knox Community Gardens are so much more than just a place to grow veggies. They are a place of belonging, fostering amazing support and lifelong friendships. The solace of the gardens and the surrounding natural environment are unquestionably a vital community resource and an absolute paradise in Knox.

The gardens continue to be closed to the public at time of publication. Stay tuned to our Facebook page or website for news of reopening. www.knoxcommunitygardens.org.au

Susan Leukens
President, Knox Community Gardens
Acknowledgement is the key

On 6 May Knox City Council provided an Aboriginal Cultural Competency community training session via Zoom. The presenter was Bernadette Atkinson from the Koorie Heritage Trust who grew up in Knox but her parents and some family members have since moved back to their Yorta Yorta country at Echuca.

It was a very full, valuable session covering such topics as the difference between a Welcome to Country and an Acknowledgement of Country, Australian history from an Aboriginal perspective, an encouragement to build relationships with Aboriginal people and communities and the fact that Aboriginal people are not homogeneous – there are many different languages and customs. Resources were also provided for participants to follow up or pursue a topic in more depth.

Bernadette involved the participants by inviting us to think about elements of our own identity and what we regard as sources of pride, and later to nominate things like which states or territories have the highest proportion of Aboriginal people. She was a very open and engaging presenter. She emphasised that talking about the past is not about blame or guilt. It is about knowing, understanding and acknowledging our shared history so that we can live in the present and make a future.

Beth Duffy

Dear Australia: letters from a time of pandemic

Australia Post acknowledges that the last few months have had an extraordinary impact on families and communities. There have been highs and lows, moments of joy and steep learning curves. Australia Post recognises the importance of marking this moment in the nation’s history. A national letterbox has been created to receive letters sharing experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The letterbox closes on 18 August 2020.

Eligible Dear Australia letters will be kept for future generations at the National Archives of Australia. This will enable all Australians to record their impressions of this remarkable time. Share your experience of this time in a letter. Send it to: Dear Australia, Locked Bag, Australia 9999.
Collectables: a reflection

At a time in my life when I am considering downsizing, I am filtering through old boxes and reflecting on the things that I’ve collected over time. And as I look, it occurs to me that our collectables can mostly be pinned down to the financial phases of our lives. That’s probably obvious, but then again, lots of things become obvious when we grant ourselves the time to think. Many of us, no doubt, have had plenty of time to do just that lately.

As a child I collected marbles and swap cards, then budgetcigars — but that was fleeting. At 20 I collected my first car, the first of many. It was a second-hand XW Grecian Gold Falcon. I put very shiny hubcaps on it. I was so proud. My first sign of prosperity.

In 1976 we bought our first house in Francis Crescent, Ferntree Gully. Looking back it was a bit of a dump — no hot water, no indoor toilet, and a single wood fireplace — but we had worked hard for it and we loved it. It was our treasure, and whenever we had a spare quid — which wasn’t often — we collected stuff to embellish it. A set of curtains here, new floor coverings there. And down the track a bit with a little extra change in our pockets we acquired some nice prints to hang on our walls. Monet’s Haystacks, Manet’s Balcony, and Degas’ Ballerinas. Very classy. They made us feel just that little bit - you know, refined. La di da! Time moved on, and we outgrew our little house. Now we found our credit cards were no longer maxed out and we could scrape a few dollars together — so a new home it was to be, and wasn’t it just grand. But then we found that those shiny prints we had collected were no longer suitable. Now we must have originals. Real water colours, oils and acrylics. Maybe a tapestry?

And now, as I look through old photos of what was, and as I think about those times gone, a pattern emerges. Each time I had a spare dollar my priorities and tastes changed. Does that happen to you? We collect trinkets, then pretty things, and discard them for something new, something more valuable. And then what? Maybe – no, probably the trinkets and the outside dummy and the pretty things were more valuable in our journey than an oil painting with a signature in the bottom corner.

The Hindus have a saying, ‘Wealth will not buy you happiness, but a BMW is more comfortable than a bicycle.’ Quite so. If it’s good for them, then maybe it’s good for the rest of us, but take a moment to look at what the rich and powerful collect. They have finished with collecting stuff and move on to collect people, organisations and the occasional politician. Take care. Beware, for we are all indeed, collectables.

Peter Stagg

Back to basics

It was the second week of working from home after the pandemic struck. The sun was shining and the temperature was a balmy fifteen degrees. I didn’t have a video meeting for two hours, so I slipped on the running gear and headed for Blind Creek Trail. What a blessing to be able to exercise in the great outdoors in this wonderful area we live in. Weekdays are even better than weekends, with fewer people, pets and push-bikes to weave around.

Without the strenuous walk up the hill from Ferntree Gully station to get home every evening, I initially put on weight during this time of isolation. Of course it might have had something to do with the proximity of the pantry too. Clearly working from home needs a touch more discipline and self-control. Some of the benefits became immediately obvious though. In two words: no commuting. This saves me up to three hours a day travelling to and from the city. I certainly don’t miss the crush on the train home, with standing room only and no elbow room from Melbourne Central to Box Hill.

Before the pandemic many businesses were not set up for flexible working for all. Perhaps ten per cent of the workforce working away from the office at any one time was deemed sufficient. This was mainly due to technology restrictions, but many also regarded working from home with a touch of cynicism. As soon as it became obvious that the office was no longer a safe environment, everything changed overnight. Technology had to be ramped up urgently and attitudes had to change. Flexible working and video meetings have now gone mainstream, and this should be a lasting legacy of the 2020 pandemic.

The need to reinvest in local manufacturing will hopefully be another benefit. I recall a conversation with a Melbourne-based woollen mill, where locally produced wool was shipped overseas, turned into luxury clothes, then shipped back to the very same mill. Labour costs are obviously much lower in other countries than here in Australia, but the cost of those finished goods does not reflect the impact on our planet of shipping goods back and forth over vast distances. The pandemic has severely impacted supply chains, particularly where international transportation is involved, so common sense might prevail in the future.

This strange but special time has been devoted to my family and helping with the school run. The wonder of seeing that happy smiling face when you peer through the classroom door at pick-up time, followed by that run into your arms, is one of life’s greatest pleasures. The Hindus have a saying, ‘Wealth will not buy you happiness, but a BMW is more comfortable than a bicycle.’ Quite so. If it’s good for them, then maybe it’s good for the rest of us, but take a moment to look at what the rich and powerful collect. They have finished with collecting stuff and move on to collect people, organisations and the occasional politician. Take care. Beware, for we are all indeed, collectables.

Lia Unmack

Simply being at home

Recently I listened to a talk on how to make yourself happy. One thing said, was that basically, happy people are people who decide to be happy.

We live in a world with all kinds of uncertainties and not always things to keep a smile on the face. But happiness or unhappiness is something that can become a habit.

All of us can find plenty of excuses, even explanations, for being unhappy. We have all experienced people who, placed in a happy situation, soon find plenty of reasons to be miserable.

Such a view might appear unfair, but you know, time and again I see people who are their own worst enemy. They complain about how bad things are, but don’t do anything about altering them. I must add of course that they are not necessarily aware of this.

People’s attitudes vary a great deal, from state of health, financial pressures or even one’s own personality. But the ordinary times of life occupy us the most. These are what we have to learn to live with. We can introduce as much variety as possible and do whatever to lift our spirits, but in the final analysis it comes down to coping with ourselves.

Familiarity might indeed breed contempt, so we need to be aware of the danger of taking for granted the things and the people right here, under our very noses.

At this moment in our lives we are told to stay at home as much as possible. Why not prize and treasure that now, and enjoy the simple down-to-earth happiness and the satisfaction of Simply Being At Home?

Martin Whitely
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, Saturdays and Sundays 11am-4pm
FTG Cricket Club, David Morrison 0402 702 395 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@ftgcfa.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 VIEW Club Anne McPherson 9801 2771, fourth Mondays, Knox Club 11.30am
Ferntree Gully Village Traders Association 9758 7859 2nd Wednesday 5.30pm, Studio at MDLC
Foothills Community Care 8711 8677
Forest Rd M&CHC Playgroup frplaygroup@gmail.com. Sessions weekdays 9am to 3pm
Fourth Knox Scout Group Mel Doyle 0457 460 313
Friends of Blind Creek Billabong Fay 9758 4802
Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve Moyra Farrington 9762 5102
Gully Men’s Shed thegullymensshed@gmail.com
Gully TOWN Weight Loss Club 0481 848 696, Tuesdays 7pm

Knox Basebacl Club Gilbert Park David Rice 0419 330 323 www.knoboxbaseball.com.au
Knox Community Gardens Society Inc. Mobile 0490 970 722 knoxcommunitygardens@gmail.com
Knox District Woodworkers Club Lynette Hardy 9758 9605
Knox Environment Society www.kes.org.au
Knox Exercise & Social Group, Ronald Woodrow: 0400 602 925
Knox Heart Support Ian Andrews: 0448 888 155
Knox Historical Society 9758 6722 Ambleside, Sundays 1pm - 4pm
Knox Sherbrooke RCH Auxiliary: 9345 5188
Knox Toy Library 10am-12pm Fridays and Saturdays 0424 265 790
Life Activities Club Knox Carol 9727 2726
Lions Club of Rowville Julie Young 9754 4027 2nd & 4th Wednesday
Lions Club of Wantirna Paul Garvey 0400 823 441, 1st and 3rd Wednesday
MDLC Philosophy Group 9758 7859, Fridays 9.15-11.30am
Probus, FTG Gwen, 9755 8378, Fourth Wednesday, Carrington Park
Rotary Club of FTG Secretary Graeme Aspinall gas95992@bigpond.net.au Thursdays 6.45pm
Rowville Seniors Sports 9763 7400
St John’s Tecoma Cricket Club. Talaskia Reserve. Mark 0404 029 418 sjotemocacc.com
U3A Knox 9752 2737, 9am-3.30pm during term time
Upwey Country Music Graham 03 5964 8298

The Gully TOWN Weight Loss Club
Nothing beats personal contact even in this digital and social age. During this pandemic, we’ve learnt to reach out to our diverse weight management group by employing old fashioned means by today’s standards. Newsletters, phone calls and messages along with virtual weigh-ins have proved the vital link for all our members’ mental and physical health. We are a caring, non-profit club and if you’d like to make us a part of your health journey, please call us on 0481 848 696 or email thegully.town@gmail.com for details.

SEED OF LIFE FARMERS MARKET
Third Saturday of the Month
9.00am to 2.00pm
2 Francis Crescent, Ferntree Gully Village
facebook.com.solfarmersmarket

Ferntree Gully News August 2020
It’s important to get tested for coronavirus at the first sign of any symptom and stay home until you get your result. Getting tested means you keep yourself, your friends, family, workplace and your community safe.

It’s not over yet.

Find out where to get tested visit vic.gov.au/CORONAVIRUS

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Friday & Saturday 7am - 7.30pm
Sunday 8am - 4pm

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Friday & Saturday 7am - 7.30pm
Sunday 8am - 4pm

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- Key Cutting
- Shoe Repairs
- Clothing Alterations
- Jewellery & Watch Sales
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