

More action on energy saving urged

RESIDENTS, businesses and schools will need to start thinking about reducing their carbon footprint as part of Knox's push towards zero net emissions by 2025.

Knox Environment Society is backing the Green Leaf project aimed at educating people about reducing energy use and saving water.

KES president Darren Wallace said: "The council has set the city fairly high aspirational targets and the only way they can be met is if the council provides help to the broader community."

Mr Wallace said individuals and organisations needed to "act sooner rather than later" to carry out energy and water-saving initiatives.

"Knox Council is doing its bit at two levels, by putting in facilities themselves and providing information to other organisations."

Not many businesses were doing much to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Mr Wallace said.

"It's surprising because there are significant savings to be had."

Mayor Jim Penna said the council recognised that many businesses wanted to do something, but didn't know how.

"Knox is working with businesses and is intent on working with a lot more medium to small businesses."

Businesses will discuss sustainability solutions at Knox's Sustainability Summit on April 21. Register at www.knox.vic.gov.au or call 9298 8000. Bookings are essential.



Surf's up

Wantirna South Primary School pupils performed a Beach Boys song as part of their water theme assembly last Friday. The school received its bronze accreditation under the Water - Learn it! Live it! program at the event. The program is part of a State Government campaign to educate Victorians about saving water. Principal Andrew Crossett said the school had significantly reduced its water usage through education programs. "We have installed flow-control devices on taps, a rainwater tank for watering the garden and students are collecting water from drinking taps and reusing it to water our gardens." Details: 9552 3648.

Picture: Rob Carew

Skaters applaud bowl reprieve

By Will Wright

SKATERS cheered and clapped at a Knox Council meeting last week when councillors unanimously decided to retain the Knox Bowl for another two years.

Save Knox Bowl group leader David Lalama said he was pleased with the outcome after plenty of hard work had gone into the campaign.

"A lot of people said that saving the bowl couldn't be achieved, but I have no doubt proven them wrong."

Mr Lalama said the campaign encouraged people, including young people, to become more proactive about community issues.

"The campaign has given hope and inspiration to many people in the community who have felt they cannot make a difference.

"Their contribution to the campaign has enabled their voice to be heard and consequently resulted in a positive outcome."

Cr Adam Gill, who presented a Save Knox Bowl petition with 1114 signatures to the council on the night, said the result showed the council had listened to the community.

"The users of the skate park have clearly shown they want to keep it. I

believe this is a win for the democratic process."

The Wantirna South site in Lewis Park will be reviewed over the next two years. The skate park will continue to be maintained at an annual cost of between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

Rehabilitation works required to ensure ongoing safety and usability were estimated at \$25,000 and will be carried out in the next two years.

Knox City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the City of Knox - the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation

Partnership in Progress: Lewis Park

Mayor's Message

Knox Council's decision to review the future of the Lewis Park Skate and BMX site is a win for democracy, and a great opportunity to provide the best mix of facilities for local residents. Council's position has always been to provide high quality facilities for the local skating and BMX fraternity. Previously, that involved an evaluation process that led to an already popular facility in Gilbert Park. Although the new site was intended as a replacement facility for Lewis Park, skaters recently demonstrated their concern with plans to decommission the older facility. Council listened to those concerns and recognised that many people have a strong historical connection to the Lewis Park site. The position of holding one regional facility at Gilbert Park was reconsidered and a review process begun to consider the best possible way forward. A reference group of users, residents and others will assist Council's Recreation and Leisure Liaison Group to recommend a future approach to the evolving needs of skate and BMX facilities. What was most pleasing about the recent process was the professionalism, courtesy and sense of decency that was displayed by those keen to maintain the Lewis Park facility. Council looks forward, now, to the review process and welcomes the input of the skaters, riders, industry representatives and others to make the Lewis Park Skate and BMX Facility Reference Group a progressive partnership that provides quality assets and opportunities.

Cr Jim Penna
Mayor

Correction:
The latest edition of the Knox Council 'Tirhatuan' Ward Newsletter has Councillor Mick Van de Vreede's voicemail number incorrectly listed as a fax number. The correct voicemail number is 9298 8567.

Knox City Council
HealthyAgeing Expo 2008
brought to you by Knox City Council and AARP Over 50's Association Knox Branch
free Saturday, 29 March 2008 - 10am to 3.30pm
Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South

New trial of Hard Waste Collection Service

Commencing 31 March and finishing on the 30 June 2008, Council will test a new hard waste collection service to improve the recovery of recyclable and reusable items. The contractor will use three separate vehicles to make collections.

- The first collection will pick up any potentially reusable items that will then be taken to the Knox Transfer Station in George Street, Wantirna South, for sale through the Reuse shop.
- The next collection will be for mattresses, which will be disassembled to recycle the mattress components.
- The final collection will be the balance of the hard waste pile, also to be taken to the Transfer station for separation and salvaging of metal items.

Say What? free Communication Workshop

Good communication skills are essential in every aspect of our lives. This workshop will help you to identify and develop solutions to organisational communication barriers; establish a model for effective communication; develop techniques for active listening; and practise assertive communication. **NB:** Workshop is over two nights.
Date: Wednesday 12 March & Monday 17 March 2008
Time: 7pm - 9:30pm (two 2.5 hour sessions)
Venue: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth
RSVP before: 11 March to Jen Blyth on 9298 8379 or email jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au

'From Go to Whoa' Workshop free

This workshop will provide practical guidelines to help groups successfully plan and facilitate their next project, from beginning to end, whether it is a chocolate drive, a working bee or a regional concert. Facilitator Jan Bottcher has worked as a Major Events coordinator with both community and corporate organisations.
Date: Thursday 13 March 2008 **Time:** 7pm to 9:30pm
Venue: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth
RSVP before: 11 March to Jen Blyth on 9298 8379 or email jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au

Effective Minutes & Motions free

Ever wondered what you should be recording in the minutes and how and when a motion should be passed? This workshop is designed to assist community groups to host successful meetings with effective minutes and motions.
Date: 19 March 2008 **Time:** 7pm to 9:30pm
Venue: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth
RSVP before: 17 March to Jen Blyth on 9298 8379 or email jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au

Group Training Program Business Succession Planning

This event is subsidised by the Victorian Business Centre and is offered at the low cost of \$500 (plus GST) for eligible applicants. Whether you are growing your business or positioning it to move on to another arena, it is important to plan, develop strategies and be in a position to have choices. This program will help owners and managers get an overview of the many growth and succession options available and assist in establishing a clear direction for themselves and the business.
Dates: 9, 16, 23, & 30 April 2008
Time: 8am to 11:30am
Venue: Rm 2, Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South
For more information, go to www.knoxbusinessdirect.com.au/events or phone John Pearson from The Advantage Group on 9887 7744.

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Council and Community: A Partnership in Progress

It's their bus-iness

OVERCROWDING on buses such as 693 (*Knox Journal*, February 27) is a clear indication that bus services in Melbourne's outer-east are inadequate.

There is no excuse for the State Government not to run more buses.

The 693 along Ferntree Gully Road is a perfect candidate for a SmartBus and, accordingly, it should be upgraded to run every 10 minutes during peak times. At present, it only runs every 20-30 minutes during peak times, which is far from enough.

The failure of the Government to address such problems is a sign of an inefficient and self-serving bureaucracy.

Melbourne needs a central body responsible for the planning and provision of all train, tram and bus services. Such a body would serve the interests of the public and would not stall on such trivial matters as bus overcrowding.

The Brumby Government needs to quit making excuses and get its act together.

Jeremy Lunn
Outer east convener
Public Transport Users
Association

Wake up gamblers

I AGREE that we need to think afresh about poker machines and the State Government's approach to the whole problem of gambling.

Firstly, don't get sucked into playing them, just stop playing and walk away.

Know that you cannot win.

The only beneficiary is the Government with its taxes —

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and one very smart man's family, the descendants of George Adams, founder of the Tatts lottery so long ago.

Most likely they're up all night counting the money so ill gotten.

So wake up people — I have.

Garry McPherson, Bayswater

Positive youth

CONGRATULATIONS to the many young people who attended the Knox Council meeting to protest against the closure of the Lewis Park skate and BMX facility.

The young people at this meeting conducted themselves in a very positive and respectful manner, which should be applauded, particularly as youth are often portrayed in a negative light.

As an immediate past community representative of the Knox Council's youth issues advisory committee, I can only hope the city's young people continue to positively voice their concerns on issues which affect them.

Darren Wallace, Bayswater

Train drain a strain

AS an anxious driver, I made the decision to take the train into Hawthorn when an important job interview was offered to me.

Thanks to the appalling

service provided by Connex, I not only paid \$10.10 for a daily ticket, but a further \$13 to the gracious taxi driver who had to rush me to my interview because the trains were so badly delayed.

To ensure I had plenty of time to make my interview I took one train earlier than necessary.

After sitting idle between two stations for 25 minutes, this extra time was soon lost.

No explanation as to why this happened was given, let alone an apology.

Luckily, I got the job, but it's certainly no thanks to Connex.

Next time I'll drive myself.

Gemma Holleran
Ferntree Gully
(via internet)

First, aid students

IN response to your article 'Bleak Outlook - Lack of Doctors' (February, 27), my son wanted to do medicine but chose geology instead. He was frightened off medicine as the HECS fees were so large.

Geology has qualified him for a professional income a lot faster. So why doesn't the government provide more medical student scholarships, with living allowances, in return for service (after qualifying) in an area with doctor shortages?

I read that the government was considering practice nurses to take over some of the doctors' overload. I've met several very qualified nurses who could certainly issue any repeat prescriptions, write a form for a blood test or write a repeat referral to a specialist — so why wasn't the idea put into place? We need solutions now.

Denise Star, Ferntree Gully