

# Opinion

Knox Leader



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Leader Community Newspapers reserves the right to edit letters. Letters must carry correspondent's full name, address and daytime phone number.

## People power wasted

IT'S good to see that the power of the people finally prevailed in the matter of the post box that was to be taken away by Australia Post in Bayswater North.

It was good to see local MPs and the public rally for months over the moving of this street post box just a wee bit down the road.

I wonder if it is a hassle for these residents to cross the road to go to the pokies or bingo? The only letters you seem to be writing are letters of complaints.

Get real, guys, there is more to life.

**Tony Menzis, Rowville.**

## Crime problem exists

APART from the obvious distress to the woman who was stabbed in Boronia last week, the sad thing was that no one in my family was the least bit surprised.

Anti-social and criminal behaviour has been a feature of the Boronia village shopping precinct since it opened about eight years ago.

How ironic that the police station is only metres away. Something clearly needs to be done. Either the police are not doing their job properly or there is a problem with resources.

Either way, it is Christine Nixon's responsibility to fix the problem. Enough talk. It is now time (or long overdue) for this problem to be addressed.

**G. Wright, Boronia.**

## More police needed

I BELIEVE we urgently need more police or at least more police overtime.

The final straw for me came when I was sitting in the car park at Boronia Mall at 2.30pm on a busy day, when a car with a woman, a man and two children pulled up and



**Would it have been a hassle for these residents trying to save their post box to cross the road to go to bingo, a letter writer asks.**

parked illegally. The woman was driving, the male was a passenger and the children were unrestrained in the back seat.

The passenger signalled to a nervous-looking youth sitting on a seat opposite, the youth went to the car and a drug deal was arrogantly transacted in broad daylight.

The youth slithered off after putting a small package in his pocket.

To add insult to injury, the passenger left the car and paused to put a package into his knapsack.

Even Blind Freddy could see the parcel contained "unidentified green vegetable matter".

It is obvious that a greater police presence is needed if the sheer arrogance of the scum I saw operating is a guide to the way things are going.

**Bill Birmingham, Boronia.**

## Youth deserve praise

CONGRATULATIONS to the many young

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

The young people that I saw who attended 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 City Council's Youth Issue Advisory Committee, I can only hope Knox's young people continue to positively voice their concerns on issues that affect them.

**Darren Wallace, Bayswater.**

## Too many units

AFTER reading in the Chandler Ward newsletter that Knox will require an extra 12,000 homes by 2030 to accommodate demographics, I can only assume two things:

1. Knox Council has given up any pretence of tackling climate change and liveability; and
2. That Cr Monique Davey (who doesn't live

in the ward) doesn't care about residents living in Boronia being unfairly targeted by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). There are now 23 units under construction within 100m of me, with another 40 planned all within a school zone and a busy shopping precinct.

I and others have suffered unduly at the hands of council's myopic view in this regard, particularly through the loss of amenity and poor decision-making.

I worry how many more units and apartments will be built in Boronia, detracting further from the remaining liveability?

Such one-dimensional thinking with regard to these important issues just adds insult to injury.

**Ian Johnston, Boronia.**

## Distressed by graffiti

I OWN a shop at Bayswater, near the Safeway Supermarket at Mountain Highway.

I have a lot of graffiti. I had reported to the police three times in the last five years, and many times to the Knox City Council.

I even organised the council to paint my shop on three occasions - the last time saw the whole shopping centre painted.

The work is done by the co-operation of the Knox Council with the Ringwood Children's Court.

They get the offending youths to do the painting under supervision. The school holidays and weekends are the worst time for us.

Last week I inspected my shop, and the appearance of the wall nearly gave me a heart attack. The whole wall on the laneway was covered with graffiti.

Not just the offender needs to be educated, but also their parents, to make them responsible for the cost, or they should be put in jail.

**Alison Chan, Wantirna.**

# Rowville rail lowest priority

William Jackson

THE State Government will consider extending the rail line to Rowville — but only once it has perfected its existing rail network.

Ferntree Gully MP Nick Wakeling said a letter from Transport Minister Lynne Kosky outlining public transport priorities showed the government was blatantly disregarding the needs of his constituents.

"The Rowville community's desire for a direct rail link is well known," said the letter.

"However, Meeting our Transport Challenges gives priority to addressing the bottlenecks in the existing rail system before considering any further extensions.

"Similarly, improving tram journey times by way of giving trams greater priority on the road are being considered before any further extensions to the tram network."

Mr Wakeling said it was the first time the minister had put into writing that she understood community concern, but was not willing to do anything about it.

"It shows a disregard for community but the worst thing is they were the ones that promised to do a feasibility study into the rail line and bring the tram line to Knoxfield," he said.

Public Transport Association outer east spokesman Jeremy Lunn said problems in the existing system were no excuse for a lack of investment in extensions.

"Ironically, the train system carried more passengers in the 1950s than it does today," Mr Lunn said.



Nick Wakeling says the Government is disregarding Knox residents' needs. N37KN714

"The claim that they can't build Rowville rail because there isn't enough capacity, is more or less a furphy.

"Meeting Our Transport Challenges is more or less a bag of empty promises. It does not offer anything of substance and most of the promises it does offer are pushed out into the distant future. The government clearly has no influence over events that far away."

■ Your views on this? Email us at [knox@leadernewspapers.com.au](mailto:knox@leadernewspapers.com.au).

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



## Councillor profile

Nine Ward Councillors are the local representatives for residents of Knox City Council. A series of short profiles of Councillors and their involvement in current, local issues will be provided progressively during the first half of 2008. Councillors for Friberg and Tirhatuan Wards are featured below.

### Councillor Debbie Field

Representing Friberg Ward

Centred on Rowville, Knoxfield and Ferntree Gully.

Being a Councillor means being a voice for a wide range of residents and community groups. One of the exciting developments coming up that will bring together Council and community in partnership will be the opening of the Gilbert Park Skate and BMX Park in April. Being a modern, regional facility, the site has already proven popular with local riders and skaters from across Melbourne. Council has invested time, resources and energy into making it a major long-term asset for our community. As a Ward Councillor and Chair of the Knox Skate and BMX Park Reference Group, it has been a pleasure to be a part of this major development and I look forward to residents, users and key supporters joining together for the opening on Saturday 5 April.



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### Councillor Mick Van de Vreede

Representing Tirhatuan Ward

Centred on Scoresby and Rowville.

Of the many issues that affect and benefit local residents of Scoresby and Rowville, the development of Stamford Park is a particularly exciting one. As Ward Councillor, and Chair of the Stamford Park Steering Committee, it has been pleasing to witness the start of a major development in Rowville that will provide a vibrant, mixed-use community asset and jobs for local residents. At its heart, the Stamford Park historic home occupies an important part of the precinct being developed, having been built in 1883 by Frederick Row. The redevelopment of the historic house is getting closer with the sale of nearby land. More exciting features of development — including wetlands and a possible residential development — are now being envisioned, in consultation with the local community.

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**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.

## Economic Development Strategy information session

As part of Council's commitment to community consultation, an Economic Development Strategy information evening has been arranged for Wednesday, 26 March, Room 2 at the Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South between 6pm and 8pm. All interested parties are invited to call in at anytime during these hours. Council staff will be on hand to answer any questions. Registration is not required. For further information call Randal Harkin on 9298 8511 or e-mail [randal.harkin@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:randal.harkin@knox.vic.gov.au)

## Long Term Financial Strategy on the table

Knox Council has re-confirmed its commitment to responsible financial management by revising its Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) for 2008-09 to 2012-13. Building on the 2007 version, the LTFS includes an increase in funding for capital works projects from \$15.7 million to \$21.6 over the next five years. An additional \$6 million in funding will be directed towards asset renewal as part of the draft strategy. The LTFS will also maintain Council's underlying operating surplus and provides a guide for future financial decisions. Copies are available at the Knox Civic Centre, 511, Burwood Highway, Wantirna South and online at [www.knox.vic.gov.au](http://www.knox.vic.gov.au)

## Effective Minutes & Motions free

This workshop is designed to assist community groups to host successful meetings with effective minutes and motions. Our facilitator, Kaz, has worked in the community sector for over 20 years and during the evening will steer you through the roles and responsibilities of the Chairperson and Secretary and provide you with practical tools and tips on useful and straightforward minute keeping.

Date: 19 March 2008

Time: 7pm to 9:30pm

Venue: Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South

RSVP before: 17 March 2008 to Jen Blyth on 9298 8379 or

email [jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:jen.blyth@knox.vic.gov.au)

## National Youth Week

### Knox Youth Animation Project free

Knox Youth Services is running a series of 'stop motion' animation workshops to create 4-5 short films, based around the themes in Council's Youth Charter. Participants will learn new skills, work in teams with new people, and receive copies of the compiled DVD.

Date: Tuesday 1 April 3-6pm, Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 April (weekend workshops from 10am-4pm). You will only need to be available on either the 5th or 6th, but must be available on the other dates.

Cost: Free

Venue: Youth Information Centre, 2 Capital Blvd., Wantirna Sth

(next to Centrelink)

Bookings: Call Pip Smith on 9298 8858 or email [pip.smith@knox.vic.gov.au](mailto:pip.smith@knox.vic.gov.au)

**St. Pats Day**  
Monday 17th March '08  
Loads of fun, prizes & giveaways All  
Live Entertainment from 5.00pm  
Including celtic legends  
**THE BROGUES** from 9.30pm  
Stamford Hotel  
Cnr Stud & Wellington Roads, Rowville

**School Holidays**  
Thursday 27th  
March, 2008  
**Shrek 3**  
Two shows - 10:30 am & 2pm  
\$15 per head show only  
**Book for lunch from 11:30am**  
Kid's meal free with every  
main meal purchased.  
Face Painting

**SALSA NIGHTS COMING SOON - Learn Street Latin Dancing**  
Stamford Hotel  
Cnr Stud and Wellington Rd, Rowville, 3152  
Tel. 9764 4488 Web. [www.thestamford.com.au](http://www.thestamford.com.au)

