

Opinion

Mail
The Editor, Knox Leader,
19 Chandler Rd, Boronia 3155

Email
knox@leadernewspapers.com.au

Complete turnaround

I AM irritated that former Knox City councillor Karin Orpen, who is now the president of the Knox Historical Society, is pushing for a new heritage centre to be built next to Ambleside Park Homestead.

Back in 2003, as president of the Knox Historical Society, I first brought the idea of the heritage centre to Knox City Council. But it was Cr Orpen who effectively blocked the idea by her lack of support.

I was the president of the society from 1997 to 2006 and was on the society's committee for 16 years. During that time the society could not achieve a great deal in relation to the construction of a heritage centre in Knox or even to maintain the historic Ambleside homestead mainly because of Cr Orpen's lack of support for the society.

Cr Orpen only became a financial member of the society last year and was almost immediately elected to the presidency.

I am all in favour of the heritage centre for Knox, but I cannot believe Cr Orpen's complete turnaround now.

I can only put this down to her wanting full credit for the idea and the centre's construction.

Glen Turnbull, Knox Historical Society member, Sunbury.

Don't blame fireworks

I REJECT claims the recent fireworks display at Knox Festival led to incidents of unruly behaviour by teenagers.

To blame the fireworks is to miss the point. Some responsibility should be taken by the parents of those involved, but there is a broader issue here. More needs to be done to find things for teenagers to do, not shut the doors by cancelling this very popular family



Former councillor Karin Orpen's push for a heritage centre has upset one reader.

event. Perhaps a concert could be held next time to conclude the evening.

Cr Peter Cole.

Questions on railway

SOME questions for the people who just cannot accept no for a future Rowville railway.

Where would the station be located that wouldn't need a bus or car to get to it anyway? Rowville has boomed in the past decade without a railway, so who is being disadvantaged? Who will really use it, given that there are periodic bursts from governments to shift people and employment out of the city, not into it!

Surely they are dreaming to suggest that an extension of the snail pace Glen Waverley line or a branch along Wellington Rd would

provide a fast service to Melbourne.

Our councillors, in particular, should get moving on the Dorset Rd extension to Napoleon Rd as a much-needed improvement to traffic flows. The route is in place – do we have to wait 20 years for it?

Owen Calvert, Rowville.

Dog large, but not dangerous

WE ARE writing in response to the article "Dog rips teen girls back" (*Knox Leader*, January 26).

We were shocked to read that a teen girl's back was ripped after she was "mauled" in an "horrific" and "vicious" dog attack. She had suffered 40 scratches on her back from a dog more or less jumping on her saying hello.

Being owners of Newfoundlands (who often don't realise their own size), we believe it was

a dog at large saying hello. The breed is renowned as placid and loving and we have the support of many Newfoundland Club of Victoria members.

There is no doubt the young girl would have been scared – they are a large breed and can be intimidating. And yes, the dog in question should not have been able to escape from its yard on two separate occasions.

But to class this as an "horrific" and "vicious" attack is a complete joke.

We agree there should be tighter laws for dangerous dogs, yet in this case this does not apply. The Newfoundland is not a dangerous and aggressive dog.

Travis and Nicole Parry, Knox.

Bus lane creates woes

OK Knox councillors – own up. Which of you has a bus driver in the family? That's got to be the only reason you would put a bus lane from Boronia Rd to Knox City. For over 15 years I've travelled that road and never had a problem with cars and buses sharing the lane.

I bet there will be more problems now though.

Posted online by Jan of Bayswater.

Keep facility open

WELL done to all the young campaigners who have fought so hard to save Knox bowl at Lewis Park and commendations to Knox Council for addressing and supporting their concerns.

With BMX freestyle and skateboarding to most likely make their debut at the 2012 Olympics, and Knox bowl being known for producing many current and past champions, council would be foolish to not provide the necessary funding to keep the facility open.

Posted online by Annie Rentos.