

Maranoa Ward

July 2023



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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony

Our local libraries have plenty on offer for winter-time fun.



Dear neighbours,

Welcome to the winter edition of your Maranoa ward newsletter.

I find the cooler weather makes a perfect excuse for indulging in the kind of cosy indoor pursuits that celebrate the season.

Top of my list is the wonderful Boroondara Eisteddfod. I am a passionate supporter of this home-grown event series that gets bigger and better every year. We are all used to having every type of music at our fingertips these days, but there is nothing like hearing beautiful music played right in front of you, watching the concentration on the musicians' faces, the relief and joy when they wind up a note-perfect performance. The thrill of competition is all part of the spectacle too, and you'll find plenty of that at our 2 marquee events at Hawthorn Arts Centre – the Festival of Finals weekend in August and Piano Concerto Final in September. Read more about them in this newsletter, I do encourage you to come along.

Hawthorn Arts Centre plays host to a wealth of cool-weather entertainment options, including performances that range beyond classical to jazz, soul, pop and family shows. You can treat your creative side this winter by taking in an exhibition, or try your hand at a creative workshop.

Here in Maranoa Ward we are lucky to have 2 libraries right on our doorstep – Balwyn Library to the south, and Greythorn Library Lounge to the north. Both offer regular storytime events for little ones, a lovely alternative to a playground visit if the weather is wet. A cosy library makes the perfect mid-winter pit-stop for any age – a place to pull up a chair and thumb through the latest magazines or books in comfort.

With warm regards.

Cr Cynthia Watson

New speed limit for Greythorn shopping centre

For several years, Council has advocated for the Department of Transport and Planning to reduce the speed limit on Doncaster Road through the Greythorn Central shopping centre in Balwyn North. We're pleased to see the success of our advocacy efforts, with a new 40 km/h speed limit now in place on Doncaster Road between Ferdinand Avenue and Ellsa Street from 8 am to 8 pm every day.

The new speed limit will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists at the busy shopping strip. It will also help improve safety for drivers entering or exiting the angled car-parking bays and side roads.

To find out more, visit the VicRoads website and search for 'Greythorn Shopping Centre':

 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Statues win finalist spot

The Greythorn Traders Association's Faces of Greythorn statues project was a finalist in the recent 2023 Mainstreet Australia Awards, in the Best Mainstreet Streetscape and Design section. Created by chainsaw sculptor Shlomit Moria, the 6 statues represent local historical figures and community members.





North Balwyn RSL ceremonial closure

On 2 May, the North Balwyn RSL sub-branch held a formal closing ceremony, marking the end of its decades-long involvement in the community.

City of Boroondara Councillors and Council officers joined RSL Victoria representatives, RSL members and their families at the event, held at Greythorn Community Hub in North Balwyn.

The original building housing the North Balwyn RSL in Centre Way, North Balwyn, opened in 1959 and closed in June 2015. The RSL moved into its new home along with other community services and programs in the Greythorn Community Hub, which opened in September 2018. Part of the site has a restrictive covenant, which states that should the North Balwyn RSL close, the land must only be used for community services or for purposes benefitting the community; the Hub does exactly this, and Council is proud to be providing vital services in Boroondara for all ages at the Greythorn Community Hub.

The North Balwyn RSL sub-branch will live on at Greythorn Community Hub, through artefacts and memorabilia displayed throughout the building. Today the Greythorn Community Hub provides a vibrant and welcoming facility for residents too, building on a legacy more than 7 decades in the making.

For more information:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hub-greythorn



Tutoring role helps 'pay it forward'

Did you know Boroondara has the highest rate of volunteering in metro Melbourne? If you're looking for a new activity this winter and a way to support your community, you could consider volunteering.

Maranoa resident Gay Ng has volunteered with the Melbourne Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Volunteer Tutor Scheme for almost 3 years, providing weekly one-on-one English tutoring.

Gay migrated to Australia as a child with her family. She recalls what a big shift it was, even though she and her family all spoke English. They found Australians generous and welcoming, which helped them settle into their new country. As a result of her positive experience, Gay decided she would like to pay it forward.

Gay had known about the Volunteer Tutor Scheme for a while. She had some spare time in 2020 and decided it was time to learn more about the program. She took the first step and found the online training straightforward and enjoyable. The

AMEP team then paired Gay with her 'English practice buddy', who had recently arrived in Australia, to start their tutoring sessions.

Gay says it has been a lot of fun getting to know the person she tutors and establishing a friendship over time. She notes the program is flexible and not too demanding – she spends an hour each week with her buddy, via video chat or sometimes over a coffee.

Gay says there is such a range of options for prospective volunteers that there's bound to be something to suit everyone. She suggests thinking of something you care about or enjoy and looking for volunteering options in that area.

If you're seeking a volunteer role but aren't sure where to start, get in touch with the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteer-opportunities



Planting trees to reduce our emissions

We planted around 2,000 new trees in Boroondara in the 2022-23 financial year. This included the 1,000 trees we commit to planting every year, as well as an additional 1,000 trees we promised to plant in the last financial year as an action of our Climate Action Plan.

Here in Maranoa Ward and surrounds, this included:

- around 130 new trees in Balwyn
- around 270 new trees in Balwyn North
- around 90 new trees in Surrey Hills and Mont Albert.

Young trees, whether planted on your nature strip by Council, or in your own backyard, will always benefit from a little extra attention.

Water it: We water new trees in public spaces to help them get established in their new home. To check whether your

new trees need watering, feel the soil just below the layer of mulch – if the soil is dry, the tree should be watered.

Mind the bark: When mowing and using line trimmers, avoid contact with a tree's bark. Bark helps protect trees from pests and diseases, and damaging it can cause serious harm, especially to young trees.

Give it space: Avoid parking cars too close to a tree or storing heavy machinery or materials beneath the canopy to ensure the soil doesn't compact and oxygen can reach the roots. For young trees, try to leave 2 metres of clear space around them.

Report it: Help us care for our street trees by letting us know if there are issues with a tree's health and reporting any acts of vandalism via our easy online form at: service.boroondara.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue

To find out more about our tree renewal program, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/program-tree-renewal

Testing time for local talent

Our 32nd Boroondara Eisteddfod is well underway, with performers testing their talent across more than 60 sections.

This year we are introducing speech and drama to the competition line-up. They join musical disciplines such as piano, vocals, strings, woodwind, brass and classical guitar.

Add these don't-miss dates to your calendar:

Festival of Finals weekend **Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 August**

See the best of the best at this weekend dedicated to the elite performers from across the Eisteddfod program as they compete for top places in their sections. The weekend culminates in the Gala Finals Concert.

Piano Concerto Final **Sunday 10 September**

The coveted Piano Concerto Award will be presented at this exciting event, showcasing performances from 3 virtuosic young pianists. With Boroondara's own Camerata Orchestra accompanying the pianists, the afternoon will include a stunning program of piano concerto favourites.



For more information and to book, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/boroondara-eisteddfod