

# Cotham Ward

December 2023



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The Smythesdale Estate Precinct in Hawthorn East has been put forward for heritage protection.



## A message from your Councillor

As Cotham Ward Councillor I have always enjoyed meeting members of my local community – you are both my constituents and my neighbours. This year my term as Mayor has expanded my work to include all of Boroondara, and with that has come many more new faces and conversations. Your ideas are always welcome and I now have a better understanding of what is important to our wider community.

One topic I hear about regularly is heritage. I am particularly proud of the work Council has done in this area, with City of Boroondara in the top 5 councils for heritage protection in Victoria. We have identified and moved to protect more than 15,000 properties by adding them to the Heritage Overlay in the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

This year, we have created a new role to help continue protecting what our community is passionate about. Our Principal Heritage Planner, along with our online heritage nomination process, helps ensure we have processes in place to efficiently conserve heritage properties. Though still in the early stages, our upcoming draft Heritage

Strategy looks to celebrate and embed Boroondara's rich architectural and social history throughout Council's work.

Here in Cotham Ward we recently put forward Hawthorn East's Smythesdale Estate Precinct for heritage protection. In other local projects of note this year, we began work on a master plan for Myrtle and Macleay Parks in Balwyn North, and will soon start work to renew JJ McMahon Memorial Kindergarten. Kellett Reserve on Malin Street in Kew is also due for renewal. Sign up to **engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kellett-reserve-playground** to give feedback on the draft concept playground design before it is finalised in mid 2024.

In other news, it was good to welcome back Tru Coffee cafe owner David Facciolo to the neighbourhood.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and an enjoyable summer.

*Felicity*

Cr Felicity Sinfield



## Update: soft plastic recycling service

We launched our temporary soft plastic recycling service in late July to fill the gap left by the collapse of the REDcycle program. Thank you to all residents who have embraced this new service and contributed positively to the environment by doing so.

One of Boroondara's 2 collection points is the nearby Kew Depot Recycling and Drop-off Centre (at 31-35 Hutchinson Drive, Kew). In the first 3 months of the service, Kew Depot had an estimated 600 visits, with 2,850 visits municipality-wide.

We continue to advocate for action from the Victorian Government to coordinate a longer-term, more viable soft plastic recycling solution with the supermarket and packaging industries.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue dropping off small household amounts of soft plastics at our collection points. Check the web page below to ensure there is capacity at your chosen collection point.

To find out more, visit:



[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics)





## Christmas shopping on your doorstep

With the holiday season upon us, local businesses offer a fantastic variety of gift-shopping opportunities close to home.

Across Boroondara there are 53 shopping centres and strips with everything from popular retail brands to unique specialty shops – plus a great variety of cafes, bars and restaurants.

### Supporting local businesses

Whether you are looking for gift ideas, quality ingredients for a festive feast, or places to dine, your local Boroondara shops, markets, cafes and restaurants have you covered.

Here are our tips for Christmas preparation close to home:

- Choose somewhere new in your neighbourhood to dine out.
- Pick up fresh produce for a home-cooked feast.
- Support a local community organisation with a donation.
- Find a hand-made gift at Hawthorn Makers Market.
- Reduce your festive footprint by shopping close to home.
- Support local traders.

### Shopping on your doorstep

Here in Cotham Ward you can find a laid-back pace and interesting mix of shops at the Stradbroke Shopping Centre, at the intersection of Burke Road and Harp Road in Kew.

This area has restaurants, cafes and a variety of shops that may have the perfect gift for that special someone this Christmas.

Park in the Stradbroke Shopping Centre car park and you'll see our pedestrian access and road safety improvements are now complete.

These include:

- a dedicated loading zone
- upgrades to the accessible parking space
- renewed car park line markings
- improved safety signage
- coloured road surface at the supermarket car park entrance to alert drivers of pedestrians.

We thank shoppers, businesses and drivers for their patience and understanding while we completed this work.

## Boroondara's new police commander

Boroondara has a new Local Area Commander, Inspector Sandra (Sandy) McIver, who was appointed in October.

Inspector McIver has been a police officer for 31 years, working across frontline, specialist, education and strategic roles at Victoria Police. Her specialist roles include time as an instructor at the Victoria Police Academy and developing resources to support frontline engagement with priority communities. Her last frontline role was as Station Commander at Narre Warren Police Station.

Inspector McIver says she has pursued proactive community engagement and crime prevention roles throughout her career. "I've especially enjoyed leading intervention programs that supported at-risk young people and their families, to keep them safe and engaged in more positive activities.

"I'm looking forward to meeting the local Boroondara community and building on the partnerships with City of Boroondara and local agencies, as we work together to improve community safety."

Inspector McIver will join the Boroondara Community Safety Advisory Committee, alongside councillor representatives and other key community and crime prevention stakeholders. The committee works towards ensuring a healthy and safe Boroondara community.



Main: Boroondara Sports Award Lifetime Achievement Award recipients, including Warwick Honeycombe (bottom, third from right). Below right: Cr Felicity Sinfield with Community Athlete of the Year Tom Roach.



## Locals make their mark at Boroondara Sports Awards

Cotham Ward was well represented at the 2023 Boroondara Sports Awards held in September.

There were more than 50 award nominations across 7 categories, from 33 sports clubs across Boroondara.

From Cotham Ward, the Deepdene Bears Cricket Club was awarded Innovative Club of the Year, and Nick Levin from Auburn South Auskick was awarded Young Club Person of the Year.

Warwick Honeycombe, from Deepdene Tennis Club, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the significant impact he has had during his 42-year tenure as Treasurer of the club.

During Warwick's time at the club he managed the finances and helped guide multiple court replacements, light installations and clubhouse renovations. Warwick led centenary celebrations and helped the club make the shift to cashless operations.

As a life member, committee member and competition player until only recently, Warwick's support, friendship and commitment to the club over more than 50 years will be missed.

Tom Roach, of Kew Little Athletics, was awarded Community Athlete of the Year, sharing the award with Liam Henderson from Camberwell Hockey Club.

Tom was awarded for his ongoing contribution to Kew Little Athletics Centre, where he is a popular and active member. Tom is a para-athlete who works hard to not let his physical disability limit him.

In 2023 he represented Kew Little Athletics at Regional and State competitions and was chosen by Little Athletics Victoria to represent them at the Little Athletics Australia National Training Camp and National Championships, where he took bronze in javelin and discus. Tom also qualified for the Athletics Australia Track and Field Championship where he represented

Athletics Victoria and took home a bronze for javelin.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees for 2023.

### Remembering Ian Speed

Sadly, we lost a local sporting legend by the name of Ian Speed in September. Ian was an all-round cricketer for the Balwyn Saints Cricket Club in the 1970s and 1980s where he made nearly 10,000 runs and took 200 wickets.

After his cricket career, Ian discovered a love for bridge, bowls and the North Balwyn Bowls Club, where he was a talented bowler and popular figure for many years.

He volunteered his time over the years to cricket, with roles on the committee and around the club for his beloved Balwyn Saints as well as the Eastern Cricket Association. He is a life member of the Balwyn Saints Cricket Club and the Eastern Cricket Association.