

Maling Ward

December 2023



A time of celebration

Best wishes to you and your family and friends for the festive season – a time to reflect on all that has happened during the year.

Change in Surrey Hills

While all neighbourhoods change over time, the Surrey Hills community has changed more than most recently. The Victorian Government's level-crossing removal at Union Road, Surrey Hills has united the Union Road shopping village. A new public open space for the community to gather has been built with grass, trees, seating and a play structure.

Council has also created a small courtyard in the forecourt of the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre with seats and a picnic table for the local community to enjoy. It is wonderful to see how quickly this has become a focal point for users of the centre and passers-by.

Change in Canterbury

The Maling Road laneway upgrades are expected to start early next year, now Council has obtained the required permits

needed to work next to railway land. A plan to increase public space, allow the planting of trees and shrubs, and improve pedestrian safety in Maling Road was also adopted by Council in September.

Thank you, Greg

Greg Buchanan (pictured right), former Boroondara Citizen of the Year, is retiring as President of the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association. Always an active contributor to the local community, Greg has devoted countless hours helping the community navigate the complexities of the Level Crossing Removal Project to seek the best possible outcome for us all. As a community leader, Greg's hallmark is quiet kindness and a thoughtful and respectful approach to problem solving. It has always been a pleasure to work with Greg; his type of leadership can be a scarce resource, and it is something that should be treasured.

Chris Horsfall will step into the role of President and has been actively involved in the association's work.



Wishing you a very merry Christmas.

Cr Jane Addis



Cr Jane Addis

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Revitalising Maling Road

The Maling Road Place Plan (adopted by Council in July 2020) included concept designs to upgrade the laneways leading to Canterbury Station to create a more attractive, accessible and safer experience for locals and visitors. The Place Plan also included concept designs to improve the streetscape of Maling Road.

Laneway upgrades

In early 2024, we will start upgrades to the laneways connecting Canterbury Station to Maling Road. They will include:

- better lighting and improved bluestone paving and asphalt
- more greenery, including a new irrigated garden bed and trees
- places to meet with public seating
- safety bollards to keep vehicles on the road and improve pedestrian safety
- a new car-turning area.

To avoid the busy holiday period, early tree works will start from late January 2024, and construction from mid February.

Streetscape upgrades

Earlier this year, we sought community feedback on 2 concept designs to improve Maling Road's streetscape. Residents, business owners and visitors made valuable suggestions which



will be incorporated in the chosen design to increase public space and improve pedestrian safety with fewer on-road parking spaces removed. This will be achieved by creating a one-way section between Canterbury Road and Bryson Street. Streetscape improvements include:

- more open space, street trees and garden beds
- resurfaced and wider footpaths
- improved street furniture and upgraded street lighting
- safer pedestrian crossings
- improved safety by slowing traffic
- upgraded bicycle parking.

Find out more at: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/maling-road-improvements

Pavilion upgrade for sports ground

The pavilion at Canterbury Sports Ground will be upgraded in 2024–25 to provide a better experience for the clubs that use it – Canterbury Cricket Club, Canterbury Football Club and Canterbury Junior Football Club.

We will create 4 inclusive change rooms with amenities as part of Council's Diversity, Inclusion and Participation

Program, which aims to support female sports teams and encourage female sports participation.

We will also install ramps for better accessibility and wheelchair access.

To view the pavilion design, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/canterbury-sports-ground-upgrade

Soft plastic recycling

In late July, we started a temporary service to process unavoidable household soft plastics.

Thank you to all residents who are using this new service and thereby contributing positively to the environment. In the first 3 months we had an estimated 2,850 visits across our 2 collection points, at the Boroondara Recycling and Waste Centre (648 Riversdale Road, Camberwell) and the Kew Depot Recycling Drop-off Centre (31-35 Hutchinson Drive, Kew).

Before you drop off your soft plastics, please check there is capacity at your chosen collection point via our web page below. We accept plastic bags, food packets/wrappers and bubble wrap. Items like plastic bottles/containers, cling wrap, biscuit trays and cellophane are not accepted.

To find out more, including the full list of accepted items, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics





A new look for Surrey Hills village

Visitors and Christmas shoppers at Surrey Hills Shopping Centre are enjoying the recently completed streetscape upgrades.

These works have created a more attractive, functional and pedestrian-friendly environment, connecting the Surrey Hills village shops with the new Union Road deck and Union train station. They include renewing the footpaths, refreshing garden beds and installing new bluestone edging to complement the heritage character of the area, planting new trees, and installing new seats, bicycle hoops and bins.

Remaining works to install 2 raised crossings at Windsor Crescent and Croydon Road will be completed in early 2024. Find more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/surrey-hills-upgrade

Forecourt update

Improvements to the forecourt outside the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre (SHNC) include permeable paving to improve tree health, a pedestrian strip between Union Road and the forecourt, removing stairs and creating

an accessible pathway into the centre, 2 little street libraries outside the community centre, and new benches and seats, including an accessible picnic table.

SHNC manager, Rochelle Anderson, says the new design fosters social interactions and staff are enjoying watching the community use the new courtyard. "There are mums who stop to chat, older people sitting, children playing, people with dogs, people enjoying a coffee or the sunshine – all while using the lovely new space every day," says Rochelle.

New open space

The new Union Road open space built by the Level Crossing Removal Program officially opened in November. It has a grassed area and trees, a play structure, a deck across the rail trench, new seating, shelters, a public toilet and an accessible Changing Places Facility. We are contributing \$2 million towards the cost of the new area, with the Victorian Government also providing funding. The final design includes many aspects we advocated for on your behalf.

Making history

The final stage of the Canterbury Community Precinct development is nearing completion with 2 of the heritage buildings in Canterbury Gardens being renewed for community use.

Originally the Canterbury Library, and more recently the home of PlayStation and the Toy Library, the building on Canterbury Road is being restored to be used by the Canterbury History Group and the Surrey Hills Historical Society. The refurbished building will provide a dedicated space for volunteers and community members to access and contribute to local history.

Alison Dews from the Surrey Hills Historical Society is looking forward to moving into the precinct. "Local history societies and their collections are important as they provide key information about an area and opportunities to increase residents' participation in their community," says Alison. "Communities are strengthened by an acknowledgement and celebration of the past."

Working together will also provide greater opportunities for collaboration with the Canterbury History Group, such as special exhibitions to commemorate important events and milestones. "These activities prompt community members to recall and share memories of their childhood, and they often contribute information and memorabilia which strengthen the collection," added Alison.

The former Maternal Child Health building is being refurbished to provide a home for Interchange Inner East. For more information, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/new-CCP-development



New playgrounds to explore

After multiple rounds of community consultation, we are pleased to see children and their families enjoying the 2 new playgrounds in Surrey Hills – at Grovedale Park and Mary MacKillop Reserve.

Since construction finished in mid August, children of all ages and abilities have enjoyed the many new features on offer.

At Mary MacKillop Reserve the much-loved castle theme has been retained, with the new play structure using the refurbished castle tops from the previous play unit. The swings have been updated and there are new trees,

a scooter loop path, and a tawny frogmouth owl statue.

At Grovedale Park you will find a new seating area, a basket swing, a new play structure and climbing cube with monkey bars, an accessible path into the playground, and new trees chosen for their connection to the area.

To find more about these projects, visit:



engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/mary-mackillop-reserve



engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/grovedale-park-playground

New neighbourhood courses to try

There is a wealth of activity coming up at our local neighbourhood houses. Look out for the Surrey Hills Neighbourhood House's Christmas Vibes Festival from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday 9 December, and the Surrey Hills Music Festival on 24 February. New courses for 2024 include genealogy, a men's walking group, a Sip and Paint workshop and a free Wiser Drivers Program. Find out more at surreyhillssnc.org.au

Balwyn Community Centre will welcome the New Year with new classes including a drawing class on Tuesday afternoons, an evening Pilates class, and a Strong Bones class, for people who would like to stay strong and fit as they age. It is also offering new classes for beginners and beginners-plus in Mandarin on Mondays, and new beginners classes in French and Italian. Find out more by ringing **9836 7942** or at www.balwyncc.org.au



Balwyn Library's most popular books

The recent 5 most requested titles from Balwyn Library members are:

1. *Homecoming*, by Kate Morton
2. *Did I Ever Tell You This?* by Sam Neill
3. *Spare*, by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex
4. *The Bullet That Missed*, by Richard Osman
5. *Wifedom*, by Anna Funder

Homecoming is a family saga that spans continents and generations and *Wifedom* is part biography, part fiction, exploring the life of George Orwell through his wife. *The Bullet That Missed* is the third in the Thursday Murder Club whodunnit series. *Did I Ever Tell You This?* and *Spare* are both autobiographies.

If you choose to borrow these as audio books you can hear 2 of the authors – Sam Neill and Prince Harry – reading to you.

Boroondara Libraries' Hottest 100 of 2023 will be available early in the new year for more inspiration.

Many of these titles are available as ebooks or audiobooks. Visit the library website to find out how to download your summer read: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/ebooks-and-audiobooks