

Maling Ward

April 2024



Gratitude for community

In a complex and often troubling world, with so much we have no control over, it is worth taking time to focus on all we have to be grateful for in our community. Recently I spent two joyful Saturday afternoons outdoors in Maling Ward enjoying music and the company of friends and neighbours.

The first was Opera in the Park in Canterbury Gardens. Picnicking crowds gathered beneath the mature trees, to watch the singers who moved among us to perform *L'Elisir d'Amour* – *The*

Elixir of Love. First performed in Milan in 1862, *L'Elisir d'Amour* is a romantic love-triangle comedy featuring a love potion, and memorable and moving songs. It was funny, beautifully performed and a great pleasure to enjoy with such an appreciative crowd. This Council-run Summer in the Park event – and others in the series – are worth putting in the diary for next year.

A week later I joined hundreds of people at the Surrey Hills Music Festival, showcasing local talent among a mix of

musical performances. The Holy Trinity Church hosted choirs, including Surrey Hills' own Rechoired, and music from the Surrey Hills Orchestra. Boroondara Brass and the Boroondara Symphonic Band played at our new outdoors square, and the main stage behind Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre entertained well into the evening. The festival is a free event and supported by a Council community strengthening grant.

With the days getting shorter and cooler we can turn our attention to indoor activities. Maling Ward is lucky to have three neighbourhood houses hosting a wide variety of classes, activities to encourage friendships and opportunities for connection. The houses in Balwyn, Canterbury and Surrey Hills welcome you to call in to see what they offer, or to just have a chat with the friendly staff and volunteers. Or you can look online.



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Solar advice for residents and business

Council has partnered with two local government programs to help us access affordable solar panels and energy-saving upgrades for home or business use.

Register an interest with Energy Savers or Solar Savers to access free quotes and advice, including:

- eligibility for government rebates
- estimated energy and cost savings
- recommendations for reliable local installers and suppliers who have been independently evaluated on safety, product quality and value for money.



For residents

Since 2022, 34 Boroondara residents have had solar systems installed through Solar Savers, saving an average of \$1,073 on energy bills.

For a limited time, Solar Savers is offering households a \$500 discount off the price of solar systems or battery installation. Find out more at: solarsavers.org.au

For businesses

Energy Savers helps small businesses access Victorian Government initiatives to improve energy efficiency.

The program supports upgrades for items such as:

- reverse-cycle air-conditioners
- hot water systems
- LED lighting
- energy-efficient refrigerated cabinets and fridges. Find out more at: businessenergysavers.org

Pavilion upgrade in Surrey Hills

Construction is starting on the pavilion upgrade at Canterbury Sports Ground in Surrey Hills, with works to be completed in two stages.

In stage one the new extension will be built, and in stage two the existing pavilion will be renovated and improved. Having two stages will allow the sports clubs to continue training and playing throughout the season.

Key features include:

- renovating and extending the existing pavilion building to provide 2 new unisex change rooms, 2 new umpire rooms, a first aid room and a multipurpose community space and social room
- improving the accessibility of the change rooms, public toilet and car parking, and adding ramp access
- renewed pathways and better connections between the pavilion and the key features of the park
- a modern design to update the building.

The project is expected to be finished by mid 2025. Find out more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/canterbury-renewal-pavilion



Do it yourself

National DIY Day in April encourages people to fix damaged items or make things themselves. This can help to reduce waste, save money, develop new skills, spark creativity and promote positive mental health. You can:

Fix broken items

Before throwing something away, you may like to see if it can be fixed. Volunteers at the North Balwyn Repair Cafe can help fix broken items.

Re-purpose textiles

Use fabric scraps or old clothes to make napkins, shopping bags or cleaning cloths.

Make your own non-toxic cleaners

Use ingredients like vinegar, baking soda and essential oils.

Find out more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reuse-products



Our neighbourhood houses

Each year, Neighbourhood House Week in May is a good time to visit one of our 11 neighbourhood houses and community centres in Boroondara. It is a time to discover what they offer for us to enjoy. We are lucky to have three neighbourhood centres here in Maling Ward:

Balwyn Community Centre (balwyncc.org.au)

Recently refurbished, this centre has spacious, well-lit rooms, and outdoor areas surrounded by bushy wetlands. Classes include botanical painting and drawing, English conversation, cooking, languages and exercise. Learn bridge or mahjong, play table tennis, try French polishing or join the local produce swap on the third Sunday of each month.

Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre (canterburync.au)

Located in the new Canterbury Community Precinct, Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre offers term-based courses, short workshops and events, children's programs, a community garden, social groups and activities. Classes

include drawing, upholstery, languages, wellbeing and exercise. There is a Book Circle, Chatty Cafe, and garden, mahjong and bridge clubs.

Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre (surreyhillssnc.org.au)

The centre offers a range of courses and activities, conveniently located in the recently upgraded Union Road shopping centre. Classes include ukulele, watercolour painting, strength training and group personal training. There are groups for table tennis, walking (including a walk for carers), bike riding, and a Laughter Club.

Our neighbourhood centres offer a diverse range of events and activities to learn and connect with others, as well as groups to join across all three locations, if you have not visited before you will be warmly welcomed at all the centres. You can also enquire about hiring rooms at these venues for meetings and workshops.

For more information about Neighbourhood House Week in Boroondara, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses



Get organised for Mother's Day at Surrey Hills and Maling Road shopping villages.



Celebrate Mother's Day locally

During the Middle Ages the custom developed of allowing those who had moved away to visit their home parishes and their mothers on Laetare Sunday (the fourth Sunday of Lent). This became Mothering Sunday in Britain, where it continued until being replaced by Mother's Day. In the United States, Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, whose mother had organised women's groups to promote friendship and health, started Mother's Day on May 12, 1907. Within five years virtually every state was observing the day.

With Mother's Day on Sunday 12 May, now is the time to search for a special gift to thank all our mothers. For Maling Ward locals and visitors too, we have some fantastic local shopping centres.

As well as a range of unique shops and boutiques, Maling Road's old-world heritage charm and many coffee shops make it a tempting shopping destination at any time of the year.

In our new-look Surrey Hills village, the range of eateries make the shopping strip a perfect place for a local dining experience to treat our mothers, alongside some great retail options.

Local businesses – supported by our active traders associations – play a major role in the economic wellbeing of Boroondara's many shopping centres and strips. So this Mother's Day, celebrate the day locally to support our neighbourhood shops, cafes, restaurants and businesses.



Boroondara's Photograph Competition

With the theme of this year's photograph competition being Explore Boroondara, it is a perfect opportunity for photographers to show us their knowledge of our neighbourhoods.

Total beginners and professional photographers alike are invited to get out and about in Maling Ward to celebrate Boroondara's people, places, natural environment and heritage.

Entries are now open, and they close on Sunday 5 May, with great prizes to be won.

There are 2 categories to enter:

- Young photographers competition – for school-age photographers (up to 18 years on 1 January 2024)
- Open photographers competition – open to people of all ages.

Photos submitted as part of the competition must be taken in Boroondara, and can include pictures from the past that celebrate Boroondara's heritage, or new shots that celebrate Boroondara as it is now.

To find out more and enter today visit:
www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/photo-competition