

# Maranoa Ward

December 2023



Maranoa Ward Cr Cynthia Watson with  
Boroondara Eisteddfod Piano Concerto Award  
winner Rachel Shindang and runner-up Tianyi Sun.



**Cr Cynthia Watson**

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What makes a good city? For some it is beautiful green spaces like our magnificent Maranoa Gardens.



## Dear neighbours,

For many years, thinkers have turned their minds to the subject of what makes a good city. Cities are compared through a liveability index, described as smart, resilient, sustainable, carbon-neutral or inclusive, just to name a few. Why is it important to think about where we live in these terms? Why does it matter?

As a resident I have enjoyed living in Boroondara and value its beautiful gardens, leafy streets, sport and recreation facilities, and its cultural life. My friends and neighbours place value on other features such as heritage. Who decides if a city is 'good' or not? The great answer to this question is we all do! When we update the Boroondara Community Plan it is done through consultation, to develop the principles of what we all think makes for a good city.

As our population grows, understanding and applying these principles becomes even more important. Are we getting

it right? I look at the wonderful facilities and programs enjoyed by our community in Boroondara and see that as evidence that we are moving in the right direction together.

In my view the most important thing to be found in a 'good city' is kindness. How we treat each other is more important than having the best library or arts centre.

As we approach the Christmas season and say farewell to 2023, may we all be a little kinder to those around us, and enjoy special time with friends and family.

Merry Christmas and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Watson'.

**Cr Cynthia Watson**

## Update: temporary 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.

In its 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).

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

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue dropping off small household amounts of unavoidable 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)**







## Sophie brings home gold to Boroondara

In June this year, 19-year-old Maranoa local Sophie Nichols represented Australia at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany. A gymnast since the age of 8, Sophie was one of 64 Australian athletes who made the journey, winning gold overall and for her impressive floor routine. She also took home silver in the vault, and placed 4th in beam and 5th in bar.

A member at the Boroondara Sports Complex, Sophie has trained with the Balwyn Gymnastics Club for nearly 12 years. The Club's Special Olympics Gymnastics program is designed for gymnasts with intellectual disabilities, giving them the opportunity to develop physical fitness, strength, balance, flexibility, coordination, confidence and friendships.

Sophie was inspired to start gymnastics after watching her older sister and copying her moves on the trampoline. Sophie's mum, Robyn Nichols, says the accessible classes offered at Balwyn have been the perfect fit.

"She enjoys it so much she is a development coach now and helps teach

a class of younger kids on Saturdays with the help of a mentor coach," says Robyn.

According to Robyn, Sophie was nervous in the lead-up to the games but was incredibly proud to represent Australia.

"All the athletes travelled to Berlin and stayed with Team Australia and other teams in the athlete hotels. They did not travel with their families which was a big step in independence for Sophie. She went to the games not expecting or knowing if she would win any medals, so to win gold was a dream come true and there were some happy tears all around."

### You can get involved

The Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub aims to connect people with disability in Boroondara to programs and services available across Boroondara Aquatic and Leisure Facilities. To see the recreation programs, community events and fun activities available, visit:

**[www.boroondaraleisure.com.au/boroondara-disability-sport-and-recreation-information-hub](http://www.boroondaraleisure.com.au/boroondara-disability-sport-and-recreation-information-hub)**

## Locals make mark at sports awards

Maranoa 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.

Hannah Lowe, from the Titans Junior Basketball Club, won the Club Person of the Year Award. She has created beginner programs, holiday camps and invested in talent pathways for young people, and was given the award for her work providing training, coaches, grading and general advocacy for her teams at league level.

Maranoa's James Amalfi and Julian Gangi, from the Boroondara Hawks Junior Football Club, were finalists for the Young Club Person of the Year Award.

Michael Whitehead received a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work at the Koonung Heights Cricket Club. A stalwart of the club as a player and leader, he served many years as a committee member, including 8 as President and 4 as Secretary.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees for 2023. Nominations for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards will open in early 2024.



Michael Whitehead

# Record entries and magical performances at 2023 Eisteddfod

The breadth of talent in our community was again showcased at this year's 32nd Boroondara Eisteddfod at Hawthorn Arts Centre. Local musicians and performers of all ages competed in the Eisteddfod across 16 weeks.

There were thrilling live competitions and events, starting with heats and culminating in a Gala Finals Concert and Piano Concerto Award Final.

This year the competition attracted record registrations, with 1,279 entries (a 25% increase on last year) and more than 1,600 performers.

A new category of speech and drama was introduced to the line-up this year, joining musical disciplines such as piano, vocals, strings, woodwind, brass and classical guitar. The Festival of Finals weekend was also a new addition, with vocal, strings and woodwind finalists performing at

the Gala Finals Concert. Across the weekend, there were 130 performances from 119 talented young performers in front of appreciative audiences.

The Eisteddfod's showcase final event, the Piano Concerto Award Final, featured the Camerata Orchestra, with Rachel Shindang winning the coveted Piano Concerto Award. We also congratulate Tianyi Sun, who was the runner-up finalist, on his performance.

As always, there was a dedicated team of volunteers behind the Eisteddfod. We thank them all for helping us bring this event to life.

Thanks also to the fellow Eisteddfod Advisory Committee members who contributed to another successful program: Nadene Gilmore, Doug Heywood OAM, Melanie Hillman, Dr Yvonne Ho AM, David Hobson and Jenny Meacham.



## Some Bite Sized Classical in the Park this summer

Our Summer in the Park program makes a welcome return to Boroondara this year, including events taking place right across the community and on our doorstep here in Maranoa Ward too.

Boasting a variety of entertainment including theatre, cinema, opera and jazz, this year's Summer in the Park program includes singalongs, circus acts and Broadway classics too.

On Sunday 25 February, Maranoa Gardens becomes the setting for Bite Sized Classical in the Park, promising a wonderful afternoon pop-up musical experience, suitable for all the family.

Featuring some of the best performers from the Boroondara Eisteddfod, guests will be treated to a rich mix of popular classical music, set in the glorious grounds of Maranoa Gardens.

For more about this event, and other Summer in the Park events, visit:



[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park-24](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park-24)

