

# Junction Ward

April 2024



Change is coming to Camberwell Junction with the adoption of the Camberwell Junction Structure and Place Plan.



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Planning advocate Mary Drost protests with actor Geoffrey Rush and comedian Barry Humphries.



## A message from your Councillor

The late Mary Drost OAM, resident of Camberwell, is a name etched into Boroondara's foundations. Mary was a multi-faceted person, a genteel lady with a backbone of steel. She has been described as both a joyful, generous, animated woman of deep faith, and a fierce crusader for planning, environment and heritage causes. Mary understood the importance of preserving heritage in both built form and social context – a message she took regularly to local and Victorian Government officials for more than 30 years.

Most of our local community identified her as the founder of the Boroondara Residents Action Group established in 2004, and as a passionate pro-heritage advocate.

Mary was a councillor for the City of Camberwell, 1982–85, and on many occasions since has presented to the Council chamber in support of heritage preservation. She would look us all in the eye and remind us that the baton was now in our hands and we needed to take heritage responsibilities very seriously. A message I personally do heed.

My warmest congratulations to our 2024 award recipients, local residents

Henry Shirrefs and Liam Henderson. These awards are well-deserved recognition of exceptional leadership, volunteering efforts, commitment and initiative.

On another note, did you know April 6th is National DIY Day? It's a handy reminder to think about the varied skills we have and how to apply them in our daily lives. Repairing and repurposing what we have makes a valuable contribution to the circular economy. Many are aware of the active community Facebook group Boroondara Hard Rubbish Rehome. I am constantly impressed by the generosity, kindness and creativity our community show through sharing and repurposing, together with the advantages of reducing landfill.

Wishing a happy Mother's Day to all the mother and 'other-mother' people in your life.

**Cr Di Gillies**

## Vale Mary Drost: advocate for our community

Former City of Camberwell councillor and heritage and community advocate Mary Drost OAM has passed away at the age of 92.

A proud Boroondara resident, she served as a City of Camberwell councillor from 1982 to 1985, advocating for the protection of Boroondara's built heritage and streetscapes. In 2004, Mary formed the Boroondara Residents Action Group (BRAG), committed to protecting 'heritage, open green spaces and democratic community rights'.

One of her better-known BRAG campaigns protested plans to redevelop Camberwell Railway Station. She was famously supported by actor and then Camberwell resident Geoffrey Rush, and comedian Barry Humphries who was brought up in the suburb.

Mary later widened her focus to form Planning Backlash (now Planning Democracy), a network of resident action groups throughout Melbourne and Victoria. She attended the Victorian Parliament and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, organised street marches, wrote submissions to government, and petitioned planning ministers. She also attended City of Boroondara council and planning committee meetings until as recently as last year.

Mary Drost lived in her family home in Prospect Hill Road, Camberwell, until shortly before her passing.





## Henry's our Young Citizen of the Year

On 26 January we gathered at Hawthorn Arts Centre to celebrate the 2024 Boroondara Citizen of the Year awards.

Henry Shirrefs was named Boroondara Young Citizen of the Year, alongside Brenton Ponza, who was named Citizen of the Year.

A Junction Ward local, Henry is an exceptional leader and community volunteer. At 18, he has led initiatives across sustainability, environment and mental health. His efforts include setting up an interschool sustainability partnership as well as helping raise more than \$47,000 for Lifeline.

Henry says there is nothing stopping other young people in Boroondara from getting out there and bringing their ideas to life.

'Your vision, passion and unique perspective have the potential to make a real difference,' he says. 'Don't underestimate the impact of individual actions – even the smallest ideas can lead to significant positive change.'

For those just starting out and thinking about an idea that might benefit the community, Henry says 'go for it!'

'Start by sharing your idea with others, seek feedback, and build a network of support. Nothing gets solved by one person, and everyone has a perspective that's worth hearing, so talk about your idea to lots of different people to broaden your understanding.'

Henry says the next step is to come up with a plan and follow it through. 'And of course, have fun doing it so you'll want to keep going,' says Henry.

The annual Boroondara Citizen of the Year Awards recognise people who have made an exceptional contribution to our community through leadership or commitment to improving the lives of others. Nominations for the 2025 Boroondara Citizen of the Year Awards will open in September.

Find out more at [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/2024-citizen-award-winners](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/2024-citizen-award-winners)

## Camberwell Junction plan adopted

Our Camberwell Junction Structure and Place Plan was adopted by Council on 4 March.

This plan is our guide for transforming Camberwell Junction into a vibrant, inspiring and community-focused place. It covers both private development proposals and public upgrades.

The plan has actions for how to deliver the community's vision for the centre in the 6 priority areas:

- Thriving economy
- Sustainable living
- Built form
- Public realm
- Access and movement
- Community wellbeing

Following the adoption, we'll be preparing updates to include the land use and built form parts of the plan in Boroondara's planning controls.

We'll check back with the community when delivering large-scale upgrades to the area.

We started this work back in 2021 with extensive research then sought community feedback over 3 rounds of face-to-face and online engagement.

Find out more on our consultation website: [engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/camberwell-junction-plan](http://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/camberwell-junction-plan)



## It's time to nominate for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards. It's a great opportunity to recognise a fantastic local sports player, club member or sports club here in Junction Ward.

Last year, Camberwell Hockey Club was recognised in 2 categories at the 2023 Sports Awards.

Liam Henderson was named Community Athlete of the Year. Liam joined Camberwell Hockey Club when he was 4. He quickly excelled and was soon showcasing his hockey skills at state level with Victoria's Under 21 team and in the Australian Under 21 team, the Burras. Liam was chosen to captain the Burras team that played the Netherlands. His nominator said Liam's hockey skills were complemented by natural leadership qualities, dedication, discipline and perseverance.

Terry Ryan was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award at last

year's event. Terry has been involved in every area of Camberwell Hockey Club with one exception – he has never played hockey. Terry came to the club in 1984 when his son Ben started in the beginners' program. His nominator said that from that moment Terry was 'hooked'. He was Club President from 2001 to 2007 and took roles including Junior Section Chair, team manager, committee member and ground maintenance supervisor. Terry currently manages the top women's team and provides mentorship and counsel to many club members. He is a Life Member of both Hockey Victoria and Camberwell Hockey Club.

Nominations for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards are open until Friday 17 May. Winners will be celebrated at a presentation evening in August. Visit our website for more information: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards)

## Thinking of solar? We can help

We've partnered with 2 local government programs to help you access affordable solar panels and energy-saving upgrades for your home or business.

When you register your interest with Energy Savers or Solar Savers, you'll get free quotes and advice that's tailored to your needs. You'll find out about your eligibility for government rebates, estimated energy and cost savings, and recommendations for reliable local installers and suppliers.

### For businesses

Energy Savers helps small businesses use Victorian Government initiatives to improve their energy efficiency. The program supports upgrades for items such as reverse-cycle air-conditioners, hot water systems, LED lighting and energy-efficient refrigerated cabinets and fridges. Find more at: [businessenergysavers.org](http://businessenergysavers.org)

### For residents

Since 2022, 34 residents in Boroondara have had solar systems installed in their home or business through Solar Savers, saving an average \$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 about the discount and program at: [solarsavers.org.au](http://solarsavers.org.au)

