



Maling Ward

APRIL 2021

We are now well into the new Council term and I am very pleased to continue working with the Maling Ward community, and to be involved in the many projects in our ward. Some projects have been recently completed or are underway and others are just starting.

In this newsletter, you can read an update on Maling Road Placemaking, the Canterbury Community Precinct, and the Balwyn Community Centre. And as usual, I have included some inspiring stories from our community – Canterbury Rotary FORaMEAL and Canterbury resident Julie Mulhauser's energy efficiency makeover.



The Victorian Government's Union Road level crossing project is of great interest to our Surrey Hills community who want to ensure the best possible outcome for their neighbourhood.

Along with residents and business owners, Council participated in the consultation process and provided a submission, which explored and offered solutions to the very complex issues that will affect us all. While we acknowledge the benefits of this project, there are also some aspects of concern. Council's submission, along with those from our community, urges the Victorian Government to let the community be properly involved in the decision making process.

The story on page two outlines the details of this project, provides a link to Council's submissions, and summarises the views of some members of our community.

I hope you enjoy the stories, and please let me know if you have something to include in the next newsletter.

Cr Jane Addis

Balwyn Community Centre Child Care

Balwyn Community Centre provides high-quality early childhood programs for up to 25 children aged six weeks to five years.

The childcare indoor and outdoor areas were redeveloped as part of the recent upgrade to the Balwyn Community Centre. There is now a separate sleep nook, a child-friendly bathroom and a safe, large and inviting outdoor play space to enjoy the wonderful natural environment of the centre's parkland setting.

For more information and to enquire about vacancies visit balwyncc.org.au/childcare or call 9836 7942.



Union Road level crossing removal

On 2 December 2020, the Victorian Government announced the fast-tracking of the level-crossing removal project at Union Road, Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert.

The project proposes removing boom gates, separating road and rail tracks with a rail trench, consolidating Surrey Hills and Mont Albert train stations, and constructing a new station. The Victorian Government managed a consultation and engagement exercise in February 2021.

Council has lodged a submission identifying issues and offering solutions to reduce the impact of the project on the Surrey Hills community. The key issues for the community include:

- the implications of consolidating the existing two train stations to a single station
- whether the project will respond adequately to the Surrey Hills built and natural environments
- tree and vegetation destruction, removal and lopping
- appropriateness of the walking and cycling infrastructure, and whether it integrates with other strategic Victorian Government walking and cycling projects
- the implications of the planning project boundary.

The most serious and immediate concern is the proposed occupation of the Canterbury Sports Ground (CSG) for

assumed construction related purposes. The CSG is home to many sporting clubs that cannot be rehomed, with all other local sports grounds at capacity. Our submission asks the Victorian Minister for Planning to remove the CSG from the planning project boundary and to reconsider its land and road hungry nature.

We urge the Victorian Government to engage with our community and listen and respond to our concerns.

Community feedback on the Union Road level crossing removal proposal

Greg Buchanan President, Surrey Hills Progress Association

“The Surrey Hills Progress Association sees significant transport and safety benefits from the project and supports the amalgamation of the two stations. However, there are negative effects for the two shopping villages, at Surrey Hills and Mont Albert, which lose their stations. Liveability and amenity issues also arise for the residents living next to the tight railway corridor where the new station will be located. The association is seeking some key measures to mitigate the impacts at these locations. They centre on creating a village square at each shopping precinct, pedestrian connections over the railway line and direct, safe pathways to the new station entrances. The association also seeks a park-like frontage for the new station to Mont Albert Road, instead of to the residential side streets.”

Shima Ibuki Centre Manager, Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre

“The level crossing removal represents an exciting opportunity for enhancements in our local urban environment, in addition to improvements in safety and traffic congestion. We hope that through community consultation, we will have an outcome that adds benefits to the ways in which we can use additional land, improve safe and convenient access to public transport, and complement our beautiful and distinctive neighbourhood through appropriate design.”

Sue Barnett President, Surrey Hills Historical Society

“The level crossing removal project provides a great opportunity to improve linkages between the north and south of the Union Road shops, which historically have always been separated by the railway line. It is hoped that the creation of open space adjacent the under-road crossing will not only facilitate greater integration of the retail precinct, but also provide a community space within which heritage interpretation of the area is possible.”

To view Council's submission visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/media/file/33-submission-union-road-level-crossing-removal.pdf or call 9278 4444.



Maling Road placemaking project

The revitalisation of Maling Road is starting to realise our community's vision for the precinct. Improvements include the gradual removal of the stored bins from the laneway between the shops and the station, tree lighting in Theatre Place, and comfortable seating and greenery in the Maling Road Parklet for visitors to enjoy. We have also organised a series of events to encourage people to spend more time in Maling Road including:

- the transformation of Theatre Place into an outdoor cinema throughout February for Maling Road Movie Nights – led by the Maling Road Business Association
- live music sessions on Saturday mornings.

Installation of laneway murals and heritage façade improvements are taking place this financial year. And next financial year Council will undertake further upgrades in the network of laneways between Canterbury Station and Maling Road. These improvements should make it easier to move around the shopping centre and offer new and creative activities. Affected property owners and traders will be consulted ahead of implementation, and we will keep community members updated on progress.

Canterbury Community Precinct

This exciting project will provide a new, central location for important early years services and community groups.

The site has been established, and demolition (where required) will begin in the coming weeks.

Boroondara's Community Plan

The Boroondara Community Plan sets out a ten-year vision which guides our decision making and ensures we deliver the things you told us are important to you. Earlier this year, we heard from more than 4700 community members who participated in the stage one consultation to help refresh the Boroondara Community Plan, including many from Maling Ward:

- 252 from Canterbury
- 264 from Surrey Hills
- 54 from Deepdene
- 345 from Balwyn.

Stage 2 is now underway, with a series of 'Boroondara Conversations' workshops which bring together community members from diverse backgrounds, age groups and suburbs to discuss the ways we can work together to realise our community priorities.

The workshops build upon the findings of stage one and will help us ensure the Boroondara Community Plan continues to meet the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and study here.

You will have an opportunity to review the Boroondara Community Plan when it is presented for public exhibition in August/September this year, and before it is formally presented to Council in October 2021.

For more information visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/maling-road-placemaking or www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/canterbury-community-precinct or call 9278 4444.

To learn more about these findings and the next steps on the journey, visit engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au or call 9278 4444.

Julie makeover – kitchen showing day lighting, pelmet lighting and new FOGO bin.



A lighter footprint at home

If you are thinking about ways to reduce your carbon footprint at home, Council has a range of resources to help.

A good place to start is with an energy audit of your home. Council offers a free energy advice service in partnership with the Australian Energy Foundation, as part of our Living for our Future program. You can also borrow a home energy meter or thermal imaging camera to better understand how, when and why you are using energy so you can make smarter energy choices.

The Living for the Future program also includes workshops and webinars with topics ranging from solar and batteries for beginners to home energy saving. Council's free *Guide to Creating an Energy Efficient Home* has useful information on easy steps to increase energy efficiency including draught

proofing your home, installing LED lighting, and solar panels and battery storage.

Canterbury resident Julie Mulhauser has embraced the movement. Last year, she renovated her 1970s era home to make it more energy efficient, with a 68 per cent reduction in energy use over winter as a result. "Unlike previous winters, we are now warm – especially in the bathroom and living areas. It is quiet and the day lighting and artificial lighting is beautiful," she said.

For more sustainable building and energy efficiency information and resources visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-environment/sustainability/reducing-our-carbon-emissions/reducing-your-carbon-footprint.

Providing for those in need

Many local organisations have been quick to change their programs throughout the pandemic to better help those in need. One example is Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre, which moved from offering face-to-face programs to providing meals, care and emergency relief packages and other support.

The Rotary Club of Canterbury also quickly adapted to local needs, refocusing its Asia Pacific FORaMEAL project locally after seeing many individuals and families in our community doing it tough.

The program, which offers free and nutritious meals to vulnerable individuals and families in times of disaster, has since provided and distributed more than 170,000 nutritious meals to vulnerable Victorians, with the assistance of 37 community groups and schools.

Doug Hawley, founder of the initiative, said: "Members of the Rotary Club of Canterbury feel that through their efforts, they have made a small but significant contribution to relieving hunger in Melbourne."

For more information on the FORaMeal initiative visit forameal.org.