



Maranoa Ward

APRIL 2021



Gordon Barnard Reserve raingarden

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BOROONDARA
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Dear neighbour,

The start of every year brings with it a spirit of hope and optimism. Creativity and resilience are part of the human spirit, and our community has embraced new ways to connect as we continue to respond to the pandemic. We have become what author Norman Vincent Peale described as 'possibilitarians'.

As we refresh the Boroondara Community Plan, I have enjoyed meeting with many of you. You have told me that now, more than ever, our parks and green spaces are important to you, as are our local shopping strips.

Our local parks and gardens were enjoyed by large numbers of residents during Victoria's lockdowns. I have never seen them so busy. Local sporting clubs memberships surged as our world temporarily reduced to the 5 km around our homes. It was wonderful to see our community strengthen, as the local park became our social and sporting hubs. Small traders have had enormous

challenges keeping their doors open due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was gratifying to hear the members of the Greythorn Traders' Association speak positively about the support they have received from residents. The #ThanksBoroondara campaign run by Council captured the gratitude and optimism our traders are feeling.

As a community, we still face challenges but if we face the future with hope we will see more clearly what is possible.

"Become a possibilitarian. No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see possibilities, always see them, for they're always there."

Norman Vincent Peale

Warm regards,
Cynthia

Cr Cynthia Watson

Shaping the future of Boroondara

The Boroondara Community Plan sets out a ten-year vision for the future, guiding our decision making to ensure we deliver what you told us is most important.

Earlier this year, we heard from more than 4700 community members who participated in stage one consultation to refresh the Boroondara Community Plan, including many from Maranoa Ward:

- 345 from Balwyn
- 448 from Balwyn North
- 264 from Surrey Hills
- 41 from Mont Albert

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

The workshops build on the findings of stage one and will help us make sure 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, before it is formally presented to Council in October 2021.

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



New book celebrates the Maranoa Botanic Gardens

The Balwyn Botanical Art Group, led by art tutor Margaret Castle, has captured the flora of the unique Maranoa Botanic Gardens in an elaborately illustrated book.

Designed and printed in Melbourne, the *Maranoa Botanic Gardens Florilegium* is a beautiful hard cover book featuring intricate botanical watercolour paintings, drawings in pencil, pen and ink, and fascinating botanical information about the native plants' uses and history.

This publication is the result of extensive research and hours of artistic work. "Some of the artists worked for a full term or more on one painting alone," explained Margaret. The Maranoa Botanic Gardens is one of Australia's earliest gardens and features around 5000 Australian native plants.

'Some of the artists worked for a full term or more on one painting alone.'



For more details and to purchase visit www.shop.boroondara.vic.gov.au.

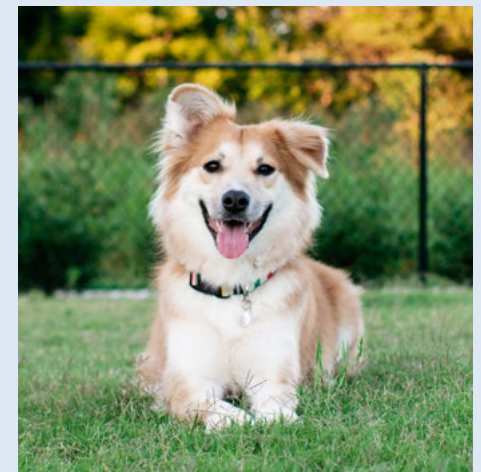
Gordon Barnard Reserve gets a fenced dog play area

Council conducted community consultation seeking feedback on the draft concept design of the fenced dog play area between January and February this year. Thank you to those of you who shared your thoughts on the draft design.

The feedback has helped to inform the final design, which includes dog nature play areas, open grassed areas for active play, new shade trees, landscaping, fencing, furniture and more. Construction works began in March, with the project expected to be completed by July 2021.

The Gordon Barnard Reserve fenced dog play area is supported by the Victorian Government through the Local Parks Program.

For more information visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-play-area or call 9278 4444.





Supporting our waterways and sportsgrounds with raingardens

We have created several attractive and functional raingardens across our municipality that are helping to reduce the impact of stormwater on our environment.

The newest raingarden is at Gordon Barnard Reserve and was completed in spring 2020. We planted more than 2000 indigenous plants and selected species to increase diversity and attract pollinating insects.

Designed to be sensitive to the existing landscape and fit with the natural contours of the land, the raingarden harvests water from a stormwater drain under the reserve. The stormwater is filtered through the soil before it is stored in an underground tank, where it receives further treatment before it is used to irrigate the reserve's two ovals.

Playing field irrigation is one of Boroondara's highest water uses and Gordon Barnard Reserve's ovals are used, year round by a number of sports clubs.

This raingarden is expected to save 7.5 million litres of drinking water per year.

Excess filtered water is released back to Glass Creek and the Yarra River. The raingarden has the added benefit of reducing demand on water catchments and preventing pollution entering the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay.

Find out about other projects helping better manage Boroondara's water and waterways visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/water-and-waterways or call 9278 4636.

Help our local wildlife

Do you live near the Balwyn North Stepping Stone corridor? Would you like to help protect our native fauna and birds, and enhance your garden with native plants?

The Balwyn North Stepping Stone corridor provides a link for local wildlife to creeks and the Yarra River.

Join Council's upcoming Backyard Biodiversity project and learn how to create a haven in your own backyard using indigenous plants to help local birds and wildlife get to the Yarra River corridor safely.

Through a series of workshops, you'll learn to recognise the trees and shrubs these animals like, and receive free plants and advice.

Boroondara's annual Backyard Biodiversity project starts in May and runs through to June 2021. Places are limited, so registrations are essential.

For more details and to register, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/backyard-biodiversity or call 9278 4444.



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boroondara.vic.gov.au



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