

Cotham Ward

July 2021



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A message from your Councillor

We are once again in winter and living through the coronavirus pandemic. It is frustrating and disheartening to be in and out of lockdown, and I feel for those in our community who are isolated and struggling. We are offering COVID-19 support for residents and businesses, and you can visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/covid-19-support or call **9278 4444** to find out what help is available for you.

On a more positive note, the vaccine rollout that seemed like a dream this time 18 months ago, is now underway. I am proud to be fully vaccinated and I encourage you to get vaccinated as soon as you are eligible.

Council has recently adopted the 2021-22 budget and we remain committed to investing in infrastructure projects that are vital to service our community. These projects will stimulate our local economy, provide vital support services, and support our continued drive to improve our environmental sustainability.

The lockdowns have certainly promoted walking, and the use of our parks and gardens has never been higher.

A great part of their appeal is our beautiful trees, which is why I'm pleased to see \$660,000 allocated in the budget to our ongoing park and street tree renewal program, an increase in funds that will help improve canopy coverage through additional street tree planting.

As part of the Shopping Centre Improvement Plan, we have improved the streetscape of Cotham Village Shopping Centre in Kew to enhance its appearance and character. We hope that it will help stimulate the economy in the village and support local businesses. I also encourage residents to show their support for Boroondara businesses by shopping and dining locally whenever you can.

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Rathmines Road Reserve pavilion renewal underway

Construction works to renew the Rathmines Road Reserve pavilion, used by junior, senior, and women's football and cricket teams, got underway in June.


Temporary facilities, including change rooms and amenities, have been established within the adjoining Sir William Angliss Reserve for the impacted sporting clubs to use during the works.


Construction works are expected to be completed in late 2021 to early-2022.

Once finished, the revitalised pavilion will provide a fit-for-purpose facility that will better meet the needs of the sporting clubs, and encourage increased junior and female sport participation.

Community consultation also recently closed on the proposal to renew the sportsground lighting with energy-efficient and environmentally friendly LED lighting. Pending the review and outcome of community feedback, upgraded lighting is expected to be installed in early-2022.

For more information:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/rathmines-pavilion-renewal

 **9278 4540 or 9278 4857**





Community immunisations continue

We know the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many disruptions in our day-to-day lives, including missing or having to change important health appointments.

Despite this, immunisation rates have remained strong throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, based on a recent report commissioned by the Victorian Department of Health.

While Boroondara does not administer any COVID-19 vaccination sites, Council has continued to deliver our community immunisation program throughout the pandemic to maintain community health.

This includes our general public, child and dedicated flu vaccination sessions.

Programs like these protect you, your family and community, and in the past have helped eradicate diseases like polio and smallpox.

You can use the 'Immunisation dates calculator' on Council's website to find out your child's scheduled immunisation dates based on their date of birth and add them to your calendar.

Local physician and public health advocate Dr John Cunningham is urging Boroondara residents to get their COVID-19 vaccinations. "Until we're all vaccinated, our lives won't return to the way they were in 2019," he said.

"Vaccination is the alternative to lockdowns and will allow our whole society to return to normality, but it won't work until almost all of us have had the shot."

To use the tool and find out more, visit:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
immunisation-dates-calculator](https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/immunisation-dates-calculator)

 9278 4444

Victoria Park Regional Playground design

Following two rounds of community consultation, the final design of the Victoria Park Regional Playground has been completed.

Community feedback helped inform the final design, which includes retaining the much-loved bluestone embankment wall, accessible items such as in-ground trampolines and a giant basket swing, sensory and active play elements including fitness stations, and a family-friendly learn to scoot/skate area. New park amenities including shade sails, improved picnic and BBQ facilities, and accessible car parking bays and pathways will complement the new playground.

Construction of the car parking bays and minibus drop-off bays started in June, with construction of the playground scheduled to begin in late-2021.

The Victoria Park Regional Playground is supported by the Victorian Government through the Local Parks Program.

For more information:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
victoria-park-playground](https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/victoria-park-playground)

 9278 4444





OAM for priest and police chaplain

Long-time Boroondara resident Reverend Jim Pilmer PSM OAM has been recognised with a medal of the Order of Australia for service to the Anglican Church in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. A priest for 50 years, Reverend Pilmer's rich and varied work life has seen him focus on racial and religious diversity, marriage education and police chaplaincy.

He was the director of the Anglican Marriage Guidance Council (now Relationship Matters), and in 1995 was appointed senior police chaplain for Victoria Police and created the multi-faith chaplaincy network which now has more than 60 chaplains supporting police across the state.

In 2008 he retired as senior police chaplain but remained as part-time chaplain to the Homicide Squad and Major Collision Investigation Unit for eight years. After 2009's Black Saturday bushfires he supported staff working for the State Coroner and Disaster Victim Identification team.

Reverend Pilmer serves as voluntary chaplain to the Boroondara Police Service Area (including Boroondara and Camberwell police), is St John Ambulance's honorary state chaplain, and is an associate priest at Holy Trinity Surrey Hills.

Reverend Pilmer said the Order of Australia was "very humbling to receive". "I'm delighted that the role of chaplaincy has been recognised because I think pastoral care of our people, especially police, is very very important and much needed.

"I've been very fortunate to have a very wide diversity of ministry that has been personally fulfilling and mentally stimulating."

Congratulations to all Boroondara residents recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

For more information:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
QBH-recipient-2021](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/QBH-recipient-2021)

Traffic school parties a hit this winter

Children on scooters, bikes and tricycles are back whizzing around Kew Traffic School and learning about safety after the refurbished facility reopened in April.


Feedback on the new facilities has been overwhelmingly positive, with the community welcoming the new amenities, including a large enclosed party room and kitchen for private parties and events.

The reopening has been met with enthusiasm from parents and schools alike, with 350 private parties and more than 900 children having attended public ride sessions at the time of writing. While weekends are booked up to December, weekday bookings are welcome for the school-holiday ride and play sessions.

At the April opening day the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, Federal Member for Kooyong, took a spin around the track. We thank him for joining us on the day and for the Federal Government's \$10,000 contribution towards the refurbishment.

For more information or to make a booking, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kts

 9278 4444

