

Maranoa Ward

July 2021



Cr Cynthia Watson with Luna at the soon-to-be-completed Gordon Barnard Reserve fenced dog-play area (photo taken during construction)

Cr Cynthia Watson

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Dear neighbours,

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything."

– Plato

What are eisteddfods and why are they important for our Boroondara community? Musical performance benefits the performer and the listener and is an important part of our culture and identity. The word eisteddfod is Welsh and means 'sitting together'. It was originally a competitive meeting of bards and minstrels and its purpose was to preserve culture, language and the arts within the community. This still holds true today.

Victoria has a long history of holding eisteddfods. The first was the Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat in 1891. The Boroondara Eisteddfod began in 1992 as the Camberwell Eisteddfod. My children had the opportunity to participate in the eisteddfod as members of the Greythorn Primary School Choir. As a parent it was wonderful to attend and listen to all the local children's choirs perform, admire the discipline and dedication of the staff and, above all,

see the joy the children experienced at being part of a musical performance.

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary of supporting music performance in our community through the Boroondara Eisteddfod. As the Chair of the Boroondara Eisteddfod committee, it has been wonderful to work with Council staff and many members of our community to continue to deliver an event that showcases the amazing talents of musicians of all ages. The Boroondara Eisteddfod has thrived for 30 years due to the dedicated service of hundreds of committed volunteers and it was the only eisteddfod held in Australia in 2020 as we adapted to an online format.

The eisteddfod begins in our imaginations, is created in our hearts and is brought to life by musicians and volunteers who run the event. I look forward to Boroondara eisteddfods for many more years to come.

Cr Cynthia Watson

Maranoa Botanic Gardens in focus

The Maranoa Botanic Gardens is home to a diverse and unique display of Australian flora. Located in the heart of Balwyn, the gardens are home to around 4000 native plant species and are a rich resource for botanists, researchers, students and nature enthusiasts.


The beauty of the gardens is highlighted in the Maranoa Botanic Gardens Florilegium, featuring intricate botanical paintings created by the Balwyn Botanical Art Group led by art tutor Margaret Castle. Reproductions of these paintings are now available in a range of gifts including gift cards, notebooks and tea towels.


The Maranoa Botanic Gardens are also available to hire for weddings and celebrations. If you're planning a special event in spring, book now to make sure you don't miss out.

To order a copy of the Florilegium and browse our collection of gifts, visit:

 www.shop.boroondara.vic.gov.au

To book the Maranoa Botanic Gardens, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/maranoa-botanic-gardens

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Gordon Barnard Reserve fenced dog-play area

Construction of Boroondara's first fenced dog-play area has been underway since March with completion due by the end of July. After some time to make sure the new grass and plants are well established, we anticipate the area will be open to all in October.

The final design is based on feedback we received from the community. Some of the key features include dog nature-play activity areas including tree logs and rocks, open grassed areas for active play, a mix of ground surfaces for dogs to interact with, and new shade trees and landscaping. New fencing and furniture will also be provided, including a variety of seating options, bins with dog waste bag dispensers

and accessible drinking fountains with dog bowls.

The completed area will provide a space for dogs and their owners to socialise and exercise in a safe and controlled environment.

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

For more information and the latest updates, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-play-area




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Hilda Street Reserve playground wishlist

In April we asked the local community for their ideas on how to improve the Hilda Street Reserve playground. Your feedback included requests for updates to the existing playground equipment including the monkey bars and track glide, and the addition of a community see-saw and nature play.

We have now worked these themes into the final design that ensures the playground and the surrounding park remain an asset to the local community. The design will be available to view on our website. Construction of the improved playground is scheduled for mid-2022.

For more information about the project please contact our Landscape and Design team:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hilda-street-reserve-playground
 boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au
 9278 4444





The Boroondara Eisteddfod is back

The annual Boroondara Eisteddfod is returning again this year for the 30th year in a row, and this year boasts a record number of entries, with more than 1000 submissions received during the nomination period.

Eisteddfods across Australia continue to be postponed or cancelled due to the uncertain nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to Victoria's recent restrictions, Council has decided to move all remaining sections of the 2021 Boroondara Eisteddfod program online. This will ensure entrants will be able to participate in the Eisteddfod virtually, with the wider community able to view performances online.

This community competition is a wonderful opportunity for budding

musicians to improve their artistic skills, confidence, discipline and self-esteem in a supportive environment. Council is proud to provide ongoing opportunities for our Eisteddfod community to perform, compete, connect and be enriched, whether it's in person or virtually.

It's easy to head online and join us for an array of spectacular performances, and watch out for the upcoming Eisteddfod Encore Concert and Piano Concerto Final showcase events.

For all the details, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/eisteddfod
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Boroondara Families impresses at MAV Tech Awards


Council's early years digital hub, Boroondara Families, was recently highly commended in the Customer Experience Achievement of the Year category at the 2021 Municipal Association of Victoria's Technology National Awards for Excellence.

The hub provides parents and caregivers with helpful information and resources on maternal and childcare services from 0-8 years. It also includes child and family activities, including playgroups, sport and creative learning to support growing families.

A highlight of the hub is our immunisation and kindergarten date calculators, which many first-time parents are finding invaluable as they navigate their child's immunisation requirements and kindergarten enrolments.

For more information:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/families

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