

Cotham Ward

December 2021



No. 7 Harcourt Street in Hawthorn East is one of 14 grand homes built there by the prolific architect John Beswicke.

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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

There is an abundance of hope in the community as we head into summer, with optimism that we can put lockdowns behind us, and celebrate the joy of Christmas with our loved ones. It has been a difficult two years on the 'Coronacoaster' and everyone has had their own journey, struggles and triumphs along the way.

We have seen a fantastic rate of vaccination among our Boroondara community, and together we can help protect the vulnerable who are unable for medical reasons to be vaccinated. Please continue to encourage each other to get vaccinated and have a booster as they become available in 2022.

The lockdowns have certainly promoted local walks, and the usage of our parks, gardens and cycle network has never been higher. Getting out and about, exploring closer to home, prompted me to look further into the beautiful Harcourt Street precinct which became part of the Cotham Ward at the last election. I hope you enjoy the collection of Beswicke properties in this newsletter and manage a walk around Hawthorn East soon.

As we approach summer and the upcoming cricket season, can I encourage those of you with dogs and children to be mindful of the new turf wickets that are being cultivated across our sports precincts. There are many hopeful cricketers eager to get out and play and we have unfortunately seen some damage to the pitches occurring.

I look forward to seeing our local economy get back on track over this festive period, and I hope that you will all shop locally as much as possible – there are great innovative options for Christmas gifting including vouchers, tickets for events, or dinner somewhere special to reconnect with friends and family.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and I hope that 2022 is an easier year, where we can share life with family, friends and community groups.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Felicity'.

Cr Felicity Sinfield

Constance clocks up a century

Centenarian Constance Tucker's first Boroondara home was a house on Canterbury Road, opposite the end of Warrigal Road, where she lived as a teenager in the 1930s. It was quite a change from home town Maryborough. "Every now and then a car would come through the front fence and demolish the front gate. My father had to keep repairing the gate."

Constance played tennis, and later golf at Green Acres in Kew. She was a long-time member of the Kew Garden Club, and pre-pandemic volunteered at a local op shop and attended the Camberwell Community Centre.

She believes her active life has contributed to her longevity. "I've always been super healthy and every time we had a holiday we used to go on a hike somewhere."

At the time of writing, the long-time Boroondara resident was planning to celebrate her late-November 100th birthday with her son and friends.



Harcourt Street Precinct, Hawthorn East



Take a walk with ‘Hawthorn’s architect’ John Beswicke

If you’ve ever stopped to admire the distinctive three-storey red-brick shop buildings of Hawthorn’s Auburn Village, you might be tempted to find out more about their creator, the prolific Melbourne architect John Beswicke.

Exploring just a little farther north will take you to the grand facades of Cotham Ward’s Harcourt Street, whose significant homes include several examples of Beswicke’s finest residential work and have earned the precinct heritage status.

The architect designed 15 mansions on Harcourt Street, and the 14 that remain include grand homes at Nos. 7, 13, 16 and 29. The imposingly tuck-pointed Ellerslie at No. 16 has stained-glass windows and a gothic-style tower, while at No. 29 the opulent home of Beswicke himself – Rotha – boasts triple gables and a polygonal turret with ‘candle-snuffer’ roof. Built in 1887-88, it was home to the Beswicke family for more than 90 years.

Close by is Beswicke’s Wentworth building for MLC and Hawthorn’s former town hall, now Hawthorn Arts Centre. The architect’s civic bent saw him design town halls right across Melbourne, from Hawthorn and Malvern to Dandenong and Essendon, among hundreds of commercial, residential and institutional buildings he contributed to Melbourne’s streetscapes.

Known as “Hawthorn’s architect”, Beswicke was also an inventor and motoring enthusiast. And his name lives on right beside one of his finest creations – Beswicke Square next to the Hawthorn Arts Centre was recently named in his honour.

To find and learn about other Beswicke-designed properties in Boroondara, visit the Victorian Heritage database at vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au and search on ‘Beswicke’ while limiting the results to Boroondara. This is a valuable source but does not include all Beswicke properties.



Offering help in a critical moment

With demands on Victoria's ambulance service remaining high, Ambulance Victoria is promoting its GoodSAM (Smartphone Activated Medic) app in metropolitan Melbourne to help both patients and paramedics.

The app connects registered 'responders' to nearby patients in the first critical minutes of cardiac arrest. In an alert triggered by a 000 call, the responder is told the location of the patient and the nearest defibrillator.

The GoodSAM responder can provide CPR and, if possible, use the defibrillator, giving the patient a greater chance of survival until the dispatched ambulance arrives. For every minute a patient doesn't receive CPR or defibrillation, their chances of survival fall by 10 per cent.

Any adult who is willing and able to provide CPR, and familiar with the use of a defibrillator, can register as a GoodSAM responder.

Ambulance Victoria CEO Tony Walker says everyone has a role to play to help improve cardiac arrest survival rates of one in 10.

"Our message is simple – you don't have to be a paramedic to be a life saver, you just have to be over 18 and willing to give hands-only CPR."

Cardiac arrest: how you can help

- Most cardiac arrests happen at home. Ambulance Victoria urges all Victorians to call **000** immediately and the person who answers will talk you through CPR.
- All Victorians can learn how to do CPR, and find out where their nearest automated external defibrillator is located, by visiting Ambulance Victoria's website: **www.ambulance.vic.gov.au**
- Research supported by the Australian Resuscitation Council indicates CPR can be performed safely by bystanders during the COVID-19 pandemic, by performing compression-only CPR and not rescue-breaths, and wearing a surgical mask and covering the patient's face and nose with a mask or cloth.
- GoodSAM can be downloaded from the app store and GooglePlay.

Solar to light up the night on Outer Circle Trail

Users of the Anniversary / Outer Circle Trail shared path between High Street and Normanby Road in Kew will soon have their way lit by the sun – even after dark.

Council is about to install solar lighting in that section after progressively introducing lighting along the busiest sections of shared paths right across Boroondara. Using solar technology is an investment in sustainable initiatives that is in keeping with our newly adopted Climate Action Plan.

The lights aim to improve visibility, safety and security for path users during the hours of darkness, especially in winter months. They will be dimmed or switched off during the late evening and early morning, from approximately 11pm to 4am.

The works are anticipated to be undertaken during the current financial year.

