

Studley Ward

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Dear neighbours,

Welcome to the autumn edition of your Studley Ward newsletter, our first for 2022.

I hope that you were able to enjoy a well-deserved summer break, and returned well rested and full of hope and expectations for yourselves and your loved ones.

One of the great things about our community is that despite our recent difficulties, we have all pulled together. It is wonderful to see, wherever I go, that our community spirit is alive and well.

I know from speaking with you as I move throughout our ward and wider Boroondara community that you are prioritising health, the environment, and nourishment for the spirit through art. You are therefore sure to find something to interest you in this newsletter.

We have an article on our new draft Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, which aims to deliver an appealing bike network that is safe, connected, protected and efficient. This strategy will help integrate bicycle networks so you can move safely and seamlessly around

your neighbourhood, municipality, and Melbourne more widely.

It will also ease and encourage use of cycling as a sustainable transport choice, thereby helping deliver action on the transport theme of our Climate Action Plan. Also working to enact this plan is our partnership with the local government-developed Solar Savers program, set up to help you gain access to affordable solar power by installing high-quality rooftop solar panels fitted by experienced and reliable installers.

You'll also find an update on our biggest work-in-progress – the new Kew Recreation Centre – and for the creative members of our community there is an article highlighting our Community Exhibitions Program and how you can take part.

I do hope you enjoy reading, and that your year ahead is a rewarding one filled with happiness and prosperity.

Cr Nick Stavrou

Kew Recreation Centre coming along swimmingly


Major development works for the transformation of the Kew Recreation Centre are well on track for a mid-2023 completion and the appointed builder, ADCO Constructions, is making steady progress.


Since late last year the tower crane has been in operation, delivering materials around the site and enabling the builders to begin the pool structures, including the learn-to-swim pool. The base of the 25-metre pool has now been poured and development of the 2 indoor sports courts is also well underway.

Steel structural works are underway, and the community can start to see the new Kew Recreation Centre really taking shape. Roof works will commence in mid to late-2022. Council is very pleased with the progress of the project.



To stay up to date with the latest information, please visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kewrec

 **9278 4444**



Take climate action with Solar Savers

If you're thinking about installing solar for your home or business, help is at hand. Council has partnered with Solar Savers, a local government-developed program to help you get access to affordable, high-quality solar power.

Implementation of this community solar bulk-buy program is just one of the many actions in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan. The plan sets out ways to deliver what is important to our community, to keep reducing our city's environmental footprint.

Installing rooftop solar can reduce your environmental impact, cut your energy bills, and give you greater peace of mind against future electricity price rises.

The Solar Savers program has been running since 2019, and since then the not-for-profit organisation has helped hundreds of Victorian households install rooftop solar, so they can enjoy the benefits of clean energy and cheaper electricity bills.

Solar Savers can support you in making sure solar is right for your needs and

a good financial option for you. They have done the hard work by selecting reliable, experienced local installers that can provide quality solar systems at an affordable rate. Installers have been independently evaluated on their safety, product quality and value for money.

They can give you a quote tailored to your energy usage, to give you a clear indication of how much you can expect to save before choosing to install. They can also provide advice on current State Government rebate and loan offers, along with pension and healthcare card benefits, which can help reduce the up-front costs of solar installation.

If you're interested in learning more and registering your interest to get a free quote, contact the Solar Savers team at:



www.solarsavers.org.au



info@solarsavers.org.au



1300 548 598

Your invitation to exhibit

Have you ever dreamed of hosting your own art exhibition? Our Community Exhibitions Program offers opportunities for promising local artists to exhibit their work at the Town Hall Gallery free of charge.

In the past 11 years, our program has exhibited more than 2,050 artworks produced by more than 470 local artists, showcasing the diversity and depth of creative talent in Boroondara. The program has also helped facilitate art sales worth more than \$98,000 for our artists.

To check your eligibility and apply to feature in our 2023 Community Exhibitions Program, visit:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/apply-community-exhibition

Applications open on Monday 9 May and close on Sunday 19 June.



The Intrigue of Images: Donald Bate

Our latest community exhibition is sure to inspire. From 12 April to 14 May, Donald Bate brings vibrant, high-energy paintings inspired by the beauty of the Australian landscape to the Town Hall Gallery.

Since Bate first visited the Gardiners Creek bushlands as a child, he has loved wandering and exploring the sparse outback areas of our country. To learn more, visit:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/intrigue-images-donald-bate

Image: Donald Bate, *Freedom Flow*, 2017, acrylic on stretched canvas, 203 x 99 cm. Image courtesy of the artist.



Finalising our draft bicycle strategy

The draft Boroondara Bicycle Strategy sets out a framework to advance bicycle infrastructure and mode share in the City of Boroondara over the next 10 years.

The proposed bicycle network in the draft strategy includes new and improved off-road paths and on-road connections, which will provide access to a range of destinations. This will help make riding an attractive option for all residents, workers and visitors to our City.

After extensive research, analysis and prior community engagement, our draft Boroondara Bicycle Strategy was shared with the community for feedback from mid-December 2021 until the end of February 2022.

The project team is currently reviewing the feedback received during this time and will be updating the strategy.

Almost 80% of those who shared their feedback were either very or generally supportive of the guiding principles that underpin the strategy, including:

- a complete and connected bicycle network
- a safe bicycle riding experience
- integrated supporting facilities and amenities
- awareness and education.

The draft strategy recommends a series of prioritised actions based on these guiding principles which will assist Council in achieving our vision to deliver an integrated bicycle network that is safe, connected, protected, efficient and appealing to users of all ages and abilities.

You can view the draft strategy and 'follow' the project page to stay informed at



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bicycle-strategy

Holiday fun for all ages

The autumn holidays are finally here, and we have a range of great activities and programs for all ages to enjoy across April.

If you're looking for ways to keep the kids entertained in the lead-up to Easter, Council's school holiday program features a variety of fun, educational and interactive in-person and virtual events.

From creative arts and nature workshops, to Mario Kart tournaments and lots more, there's a range of low-cost and free options to suit all interests and abilities. The school holiday program runs from 9 to 25 April. Kew Traffic School will also be open for public play-and-ride sessions.

But let's not leave the fun to just the kids. We have 25 seniors' clubs throughout Boroondara that offer a fantastic range of activities and social catchups catering to different language groups and interests.

Visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au and search 'school holidays' or 'seniors clubs' for more information, or call **9278 4444**.

