

Maling Ward

April 2022



One hundred years of change in Maling Road

Our adjoining shopping strips of Canterbury and Maling Roads developed steadily from the late-1880s and by the 1920s included more than 100 commercial premises.

The introduction of the car soon changed our lives and the way we shopped, and by the 1950s commercial centres had to provide parking to survive. In *Visions of a Village*, Don Gibb and Stuart Warmington quote a report issued in May 1972 by the Camberwell City Engineers and Town Planning Department, describing the Canterbury Shopping Centre as 'sick', but stating "Maling Road could be cured by 'renewal'." In response, the Canterbury Shopping Centre Environs Urban Renewal Guidelines (1981) aimed to ensure the Centre catered for the community's retail, social and environmental needs, and that its attractive characteristics were maintained or enhanced.

Works began on landscaping and building restoration, parking in Theatre Place was removed and the road was closed and paved. Houses in Wattle Valley Road and Bryson Street were acquired to create car parks to accommodate those removed from Theatre Place, and to allow the area

to grow and thrive. With more parking available, the plan was to remove parks from Maling Road and make it one-way to accommodate gardens and trees.

Forty years on, with the Centre again struggling, it was time for another renewal. Using a placemaking approach, Council consulted with the community to identify what makes Maling Road special. Based on 1,700 responses, the Place Plan for Revitalising Maling Road was adopted in 2020. One of its five community-nominated principles was to create vibrant public spaces and a street for people. As in the 1980s, this was to be realised by removing parking from Maling Road to provide space for gardens and trees to create a green and vibrant place to visit and socialise.

With community complaints over the years about a shortfall of commuter parking at railway stations, including Canterbury, in 2019 the Federal Government announced funding for commuter parking. After a feasibility study determined the station car park to be unsuitable, Council undertook feasibility works for the Wattle Valley Road car park,

and before committing to the project, the community was consulted. In addition to providing parking spaces for weekday commuters and weekend visitors, the project could also accommodate short-term parking spaces and those relocated from Maling Road to enable space for public realm upgrades.

The Federal Government's recent decision to withdraw funding for the Wattle Valley Road car park was unexpected. While I acknowledge there were some concerns from residents, it is disappointing to be denied the chance to hear all community perspectives. This would have allowed Council to make an informed decision on the car park proposal, based upon the benefit to the whole community. It is also disappointing that this opportunity to realise the vision of the Maling Road Place Plan cannot be fulfilled. Council will now need to explore other options for implementing the Place Plan.

Cr Jane Addis

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📞 9835 7845 or 0409 267 902

✉️ jane.addis@boroondara.vic.gov.au

📍 Private Bag 1 Camberwell VIC 3124



Our own Boroondara Citizen of the Year

Common sense, common purpose and communication are the keys to progress, according to Boroondara's 2022 Citizen of the Year, Maling Ward's Greg Buchanan. "You can't do a lot yourself without having that respectful and cooperative approach with key groups and individuals," says the Surrey Hills local.

I have worked with Greg on many projects, and have long admired his commitment and ability to work gently and productively with others, which is why I was so pleased for him to receive this award. It is so like Greg to focus on others in the community he represents; he accepted his Citizen of the Year award as recognition of the community groups he works with. I congratulate him on this thoroughly deserved recognition.

Greg has worked with hundreds of local residents and multiple community and government organisations in recent years. In 2010, in response to the demolition of the then 95-year-old Surrey Hills Post Office building, Greg was instrumental with others in reviving the Surrey Hills Progress Association, first formed in 1889. The modern group's purpose is to protect the neighbourhood character of the area with its Victorian, Edwardian and inter-war homes, while supporting appropriate

improvements. In 2010, 3 individual Surrey Hills homes, and a precinct of about 10, were heritage protected. Now there are 1,114 properties in Surrey Hills included in a Heritage Overlay.

In 2015, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anzac landings at Gallipoli, Greg was pivotal in organising an Anzac Day dawn service at the shrine in Surrey Gardens, taking care to ensure that schoolchildren from Chatham, Surrey Hills and Our Holy Redeemer primary schools, and Ashwood School, played a central role. With the exception of 2020, it has continued each year since.

Greg's recent focus has been advocating for more positive community outcomes from the Victorian Government project that will remove the level crossings at Surrey Hills and Mont Albert and build a new station in place of the 2 existing ones, thereby reshaping the surrounding area.

Greg is keen to ensure that once the level-crossing removal project is finished in 2023-24, the commercial centres of Union Road and Mont Albert Village continue to thrive. "Locals rediscovered them through the COVID pandemic and I'd really like to see them flourish."

Surrey Hills level-crossing removal update

In February Council endorsed and adopted the Urban Design Advice (UDA) for the Union Road, Surrey Hills level-crossing removal. The UDA was developed with input from the community, and to guide the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) in their designs for Union Road.

The adopted UDA includes 15-metre-wide decking across the rail trench, public open space with capacity to host events and markets, places to sit and relax, and more greenery. It also reflects the clear community feedback that any planning of the Department of Transport's Strategic Cycling Corridor to the west of Union Road needs to be undertaken in consultation with the community and Council.

We have presented the adopted UDA to the LXRP, Minister for Transport Infrastructure, Department of Transport, and other key stakeholders to advocate for our community's preferences. We look forward to the LXRP delivering decking and high-quality public open spaces for the Surrey Hills community.

For more information, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/surrey-hills-lcr



Precinct blends old with new

It is exciting to see the new Canterbury Community Precinct taking shape, with the heritage-protected former bowls club building undergoing restoration and being complemented by the addition of a new building. The construction team have connected the roof trusses of the current structure to the new structure to integrate the two buildings, and will soon install the roof, wall cladding and sheeting, followed by the internal fit-out works.

Located within our beautiful Canterbury Gardens, the new precinct will meet Council's vision to create a central, inclusive and welcoming community space for the Canterbury community. It will provide a new home for several important community services including Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury Maternal and Child Health, Canterbury Norwood Baptist Kindergarten, Playstation Occasional Care, Canterbury Toy Library, Canterbury Community Garden, Interchange Inner East, the Canterbury

History Group, and the Balwyn and Surrey Hills Historical Societies.

With more space, the Neighbourhood Centre can bring all staff and most programs together, and will be able to offer activities to more people. "We're really excited to be able to work with the other services to build programs together that will benefit the broader community – to support young families and those with teenagers, to look at things like a homework club, maybe some school holiday programs," says Neighbourhood Centre manager Tracey Martin.

While COVID-19-related supply and construction workforce challenges have resulted in minor construction delays, building should be completed in early-2023.

To find out more, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/canterbury-community-precinct

Something for everyone at Balwyn Library

There are plenty of fun activities to keep the children busy these school holidays at Balwyn Library. Our programs aim to provide children with an entertaining experience, while helping to establish a life-long love of learning.


Join in with the stories, songs and activities of our storytime sessions, or create a masterpiece during a craft and STEAM session. Our program provides children with the opportunity to think critically and learn.

Children coming into the library can pick up a Bingo card from one of our friendly librarians and find all the hidden characters placed throughout the space.

Beyond school holidays, our online book groups meet each month and bring together like-minded literary minds in a hive of thought-provoking conversation. For budding writers across Boroondara there is our creative writing group for adults. Whether you are just starting to write or you already have work published, everyone is welcome, all you need is a passion for writing.



For more details about the events available, visit

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries/library-events

A photograph of the Grovedale Road quarry in the 1920s.



Grovedale Road Park tells a settlement story

Grovedale Road Park Playground in Surrey Hills is due for renewal. It is set on land with an intriguing recent history.

It was once a quarry site and formed part of the property of English settler John Butler Maling, who farmed the area between Weybridge Street, Whitehorse Road, James Street and Ross Street from the 1860s, grazing cattle and sourcing water from the quarry. Clay from the quarry was made into bricks used to build houses in the area, including Maling's own home Ancyra, which still stands at the corner of Weybridge and James streets, just a few steps from the playground. The quarry was later filled in, and is now topped by Grovedale Road Park.

Our ward was named after Maling's nephew, JB Maling, who served the Shire for 38 years from 1887, including 3 terms as shire president. He was also the first mayor of the City of Camberwell. Both

Malings came from Shepreth in Cambridgeshire, and owned similar-sized farms in the Surrey Hills area. Shepreth Street is named after their home village.

Grovedale Road Park Playground is 20 years old and needing refurbishment. This will occur in the 2022-23 financial year and will include equipment better able to cater to all ages and abilities, and a variety of play types. The draft playground concept design has been shared with the community for feedback, with the final design set to be revealed in late-April.

To view the final design, and watch the progress, follow our Engage Boroondara page at:

engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/grovedale-park-playground-renewal



Support for new community projects


After a challenging two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing financial support to community organisations, clubs and not-for-profits through our Annual Community Strengthening Grants program has never been more important.

With applications for the next round of Annual Community Strengthening Grants open in late-April, we are encouraging local organisations with projects to help our community to apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

In the last round, Maling Ward's St Paul's Kindergarten was awarded \$1,977 in grant funding to buy specialty STEM resources. STEM is an approach to learning which incorporates science, technology, engineering and mathematics. These resources will help ensure St Paul's Kindergarten continues to lead the way in educational practice in Boroondara.

To give your application the best chance of success, you can discuss ideas with a Council officer and attend one of our grant-writing help sessions.

All details can be found at:

 **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/annual-community-strengthening-grants**