

# Maranoa Ward

April 2022



Sculptures by the late Angie Polglaze outside the fire station on Doncaster Road in Balwyn North.

**Cr Cynthia Watson**

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An Angie Polglaze sculpture on Doncaster Road.



## Dear neighbours,

Local history is made up of local stories that we become part of as we live and work in our community. Early pioneers are commonly remembered through historic markers, street and placenames, and the memory of why they are recognised fades with time. Our historical societies are often the keepers of this important knowledge, and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Balwyn Historical Society in documenting the early history of Balwyn.

The settled history of Balwyn began in 1841 when Henry Elgar acquired 5120 acres of land in the area we know as Balwyn and Balwyn North. The land was subdivided and sold as farmland, and became a small flourishing community. In 1852, Andrew Murray bought land and in 1858 built a house which he called Balwyn. The name Balwyn derives from the Gaelic word *bal*, which means house and the Saxon word *wyn*, which means vine, meaning the 'home of the vine'. Mr Murray established the first vineyard in the area and made award-winning red and white wines.

The Greythorn Traders Association has embarked on an ambitious project to

bring our local history to life. A number of small statues will soon be installed within the Greythorn Central shopping precinct to recognise notable identities such as orchardist Ferdinand Finger, Donald Wood, who opened the first pharmacy in a building designed by acclaimed architect Robin Boyd, and Greythorn Wildlife Sanctuary founder William Maughan. Their stories are our stories as we live in and serve our community. I look forward to seeing these statues installed and congratulate the Greythorn Traders for this wonderful initiative for our community.

On that note, you will see the well-known local art of sculptor Angie Polglaze above and on our cover. Angie sadly passed away in October, but her iconic sculptures live on outside the fire station on Doncaster Road, Balwyn North.

Warm regards,

Cr Cynthia Watson

## Boroondara Eisteddfod is back for 2022


After another successful year, Boroondara Eisteddfod is back to offer talented local musicians an opportunity to perform in person and compete in the disciplines of piano, voice, strings, woodwind, brass and classical guitar.

This year, the Boroondara Eisteddfod will include a gala concert, featuring the final rounds of the vocal, strings and brass championship solo competitions.

The hallmark event of the Boroondara Eisteddfod program, the piano concerto competition, is planned to be a live performance supported by Boroondara's Camerata Orchestra – an event not to be missed.

Registrations to compete in the Boroondara Eisteddfod are open until Monday 18 April.

For more information and to register, visit:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/eisteddfod](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/eisteddfod)





## Kickstart your project with a Community Strengthening Grant

After a challenging 2 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.

These grants contribute funding to support the delivery of projects, activities and initiatives that strengthen our community. Applicants can apply for funding under six streams:

- Active Community – Sports and Recreation
- Life-long Community – Opportunities for Over 55s
- Creative Community – Arts and Culture
- Healthy Community – Health, Safety and Wellbeing, Youth, Children and Families
- Sustainable Community – Environmental Sustainability
- Vibrant Retail Precincts.

Applications for the next round of Annual Community Strengthening Grants open in late-April. So, we're encouraging local organisations with ideas to help our

community bounce back to come forward and apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

In the previous round, Boroondara Eagles Football Club was awarded a \$9,000 grant to roll out an education and support program called Doing Mental Health Differently by Building Self-Worth and Demonstrating Respect.

The grant funding will help provide education opportunities to explore and strengthen self-worth and respect, to help members improve their overall mental health and wellbeing.

We're here to help give your grant application the best chance of success. Applicants can discuss their ideas with a Council officer and attend one of our grant-writing help sessions.

All details can be found on our website at **[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/annual-community-strengthening-grants](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/annual-community-strengthening-grants)**

For more information, contact

📧 **[communitygrants@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@boroondara.vic.gov.au)**

☎ **9278 4753**

## Hilda St Reserve playground update

Works to deliver the new and improved Hilda Street Reserve playground are expected to start early in the new financial year, a slight delay on the previously anticipated start date due to COVID-19 impacts and contractor availability.

Once complete, the new playground will include the themes and play elements most popular with the community. There will be new swings, including a toddler seat, a sling seat and a basket seat. A new combination unit will also include swings for younger and older children, as well as a rope bridge, inclined catwalk and a firepole. Other favourites include new monkey bars and a track glide, while balancing logs, rocks for hopping and timber stumps will encourage nature-based play.

The new space will offer play opportunities for a range of ages, as well as increased connection and accessibility with the inclusion of new pavers between park and playground elements.

For more information, visit:

📍 **[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hilda-street-reserve-playground](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hilda-street-reserve-playground)**

☎ **9278 4444**



# Local artists invited to exhibit at Town Hall Gallery

Have you ever dreamed of hosting your own art exhibition? Our Community Exhibitions Program offers opportunities for promising local artists to publicly exhibit their work at the iconic 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. More than 1,000 people attend exhibition openings annually, and each exhibition attracts around 800 visits on average.

The Community Exhibitions Program has also helped facilitate art sales worth more

than \$98,000 – funds that go straight back into the pockets of the local artists exhibited.

We are proud to offer this program each year to help foster a thriving arts scene in Boroondara.

To check your eligibility and apply for your chance to feature in our 2023 Community Exhibitions Program, visit: **[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/apply-community-exhibition](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/apply-community-exhibition)**

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

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



## 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 and its myriad forms to the Town Hall Gallery at the Hawthorn Arts Centre.

Since Bate first visited the Gardiners Creek bushlands as a child, he has loved wandering and exploring the sparse outback areas of our country. His artistic practice incorporates personal narrative and visual storytelling inspired by the natural beauty and varying terrain of Australia.

To learn more, visit:



**[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/intrigue-images-donald-bate](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/intrigue-images-donald-bate)**

# Holiday fun for all ages

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

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](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au)** and search 'school holidays' or 'seniors clubs' for more information, or call **9278 4444**.

