

# Riversdale Ward

April 2022



Riversdale Ward Cr Susan Biggar with Hawthorn resident Vicki Beale, a participant in Council's Backyard Biodiversity program.

## Cr Susan Biggar

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 **BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*





## A message from your Councillor

I grew up in a delightful small town in northern California with an impressive town hall. My gregarious dad was very involved in community activities – he knew absolutely everyone in town – and volunteered in the office of our local representatives.

I recall tagging along with him as a young girl, overawed by the buildings, the people, the suits (!) and the feeling that the complicated proceedings and discussions occurring in that building didn't have much to do with my life and my concerns. Fortunately, it didn't take me long to realise that local government has everything to do with me and many of the basic amenities and experiences of my everyday life.

As your local representative, I hope you see Boroondara's local government as genuinely "ours" – responsible for focusing on our community's local priorities. There are many ways to use your voice.

First, I am your representative and I love to hear directly from you. My phone number and email address are in every

*Bulletin.* When residents contact me, they're often apologetic for bothering me. But my conversations with you – by phone, Zoom or in person – are not only a responsibility, they help to keep me in touch with concerns in our community.

We also now have a dedicated online space – **[www.engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au)** – for you to give input. We hope you find it easy to use and even fun. We think it will help us gather your views more consistently.

You can also tell us about issues you discover using the 'Snap Send Solve' app on your phone. And if you want to see us at work, you're welcome to attend a Council meeting, online or in person.

I know my dad, if he were here, would be picking up the phone to call me, as his representative. Please feel free to do the same if I can be of help.

**Cr Susan Biggar**



## Sports awards nominations open

Every year we come together to recognise the important role that sport and recreation clubs play in enhancing community health and wellbeing, increasing participation in physical activity and fostering social connection.

This year, the 2022 Boroondara Sports Awards will acknowledge the sports clubs, volunteers and members making an outstanding contribution to the community, in the categories of Inclusive Club of the Year, Innovative Club of the Year, Collaborative Club of the Year, Club Person of the Year, Young Club Person of the Year, and Life Achievement Awards.

The 2022 winners will join the likes of Amy Marinov (pictured above) from the Hawthorn Citizens Youth Club, who was awarded Young Club Person of the Year 2021 for her initiative in creating an online calisthenics concert that allowed club members to perform during lockdown.

If you think your local sport or recreation club, or a club representative or volunteer, is doing something extra special to help our community, you can nominate them now. Applications for the 2022 awards close at 5pm on Friday 25 June.

For more information visit **[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sports-awards](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sports-awards)**, call **9278 4797** or email **[sport@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:sport@boroondara.vic.gov.au)**



## Tackling climate change through bulk-buy solar and biodiversity

Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines how we will respond to the increasing threat of climate change to our environment, and work with you – our community – to keep reducing our city's environmental footprint. To deliver on one of the many actions in the CAP, we've partnered with Solar Savers to implement a community bulk-buy solar program.

The local government-developed program will help our community access affordable, high-quality solar power. Installing rooftop solar can reduce your environmental impact, cut your energy bills, and give you greater peace of mind against future electricity price rises.

Solar Savers has chosen reliable, experienced local solar installers that can provide quality solar systems at an affordable rate. They can also give you advice on pension and healthcare card benefits, and the current State Government rebate and loan offers,

which can help reduce the up-front costs of solar installation.

Another CAP action is to improve our local habitat for biodiversity, and this autumn Hawthorn residents have a local opportunity to do just that through our Backyard Biodiversity program ([www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/backyard-biodiversity](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/backyard-biodiversity)).

Our Hawthorn Stepping Stone corridor provides an important habitat link for local wildlife. By taking part in the program, you can help local birds and other wildlife flourish in the Hawthorn area.

The project will support you to enhance your garden to provide habitat that helps native animals thrive, through workshops, landscape gardening advice and free indigenous tubestock plants. The workshops will run from late-April to June.

Registrations to participate in the program close on Friday 22 April.



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

## 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 by more than 470 local artists, including Donald Bate whose work will be shown from April. The program has also facilitated sales worth more than \$98,000 for artists.

To check your eligibility and apply 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.

## Meet your ward councillor

Your ward councillor Susan Biggar will host a meet and greet at the Boroondara Farmers Market from 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday 30 April.

With autumn in full swing, you might like to head down to the market at Patterson Reserve in Hawthorn East for a chat with Cr Biggar, and pick up some farm-fresh seasonal produce while you're there.

Find out more at: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sustainability](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sustainability) or 9278 4444





## Kickstart your project with a Council community grant

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.

These grants contribute funding to support the delivery of projects, activities and initiatives that strengthen our community.

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, the Melbourne Hindustani Classical Music Society was awarded a \$6,889 grant to support the delivery of the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music here in Riversdale Ward.

Building on the success of the 2020 festival, this grant funding will enable the event to proceed in 2022 by providing financial support for venue hire at Hawthorn Arts Centre, printing and advertising, musician fees and catering.

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**



**9278 4753**

## Bills Street works underway

Preliminary works are underway for the Victorian Government's redevelopment at 1-12 Bills Street, Hawthorn, bringing some temporary changes to parking in the area.

The Bills Street redevelopment will construct 6 buildings on the site, ranging from 3 to 7 storeys, to accommodate 206 homes. To replace the existing car park at Robinson Road, a new public car park will be built at Patterson Reserve which will increase parking from 39 bays to 48.

### Access to Robinson Road car park

Construction of the new car park is planned for completion later this year. During construction, temporary public parking has been made available at the nearby University of Melbourne campus.

Carpark access changes include:

- No standing/parking in Robinson Road. This will become a drop-off area only, with the exception of 2 accessible car-parking spaces.
- 40 public parking spaces are now available at the University of Melbourne campus.
- On weekdays 13 of the 40 spaces are for public parking only and not to be used by contractors. On weekends, all 40 spaces are for public parking only; contractor parking is prohibited.
- Safe pedestrian access will be available along the east side of Robinson Road.

For more information on the Bills Street redevelopment, please visit [www.vic.gov.au/bills-street-hawthorn](http://www.vic.gov.au/bills-street-hawthorn)