

Maling Ward

July 2022



Thirty years of volunteers

Boroondara residents are regular and committed volunteers who want to improve community wellbeing. Local Surrey Hills resident Robyn Nash is one of our dedicated volunteers who combines her love for dogs and walking our beautiful streets with helping others in her community.

Robyn and her husband Ian (pictured) walk dogs for owners who can no longer do so but want them to continue to exercise and socialise with other dogs. The service is organised through Balwyn Evergreen Community Centre, and along with bringing health and happiness to our best dog friends, it provides a social opportunity for their owners.

"We have been dog walkers for 5 years and have found joy in both the dogs and their owners," says Robyn. "Even though one of the dogs passed away from old age, we have continued our friendship with his owner. We found we have so much more in common than just her dog."

While walking, they double their volunteer efforts by delivering the *Surrey Hills Neighbourhood News*, a local newspaper. Robyn believes volunteering is something

all those with time and physical ability should consider. "A little bit of effort made by many can be most beneficial to the community," says Robyn. "It is important to try and find volunteer options that match your own interests – that approach has enabled us to remain enthusiastic about our volunteering over the years."

Robyn's words echo what Martin Seligman, considered a world authority on happiness, believes are the ingredients for what he names 'authentic happiness' (also the title of one of his books). 'Authentic happiness' is akin to a sense of purpose or fulfilment and comes from using our own strengths and interests to achieve something we believe is worthwhile. When this is combined with the innate human tendency for compassion and altruism, plus our inbuilt enjoyment of socialising, it explains why doing something meaningful and helpful for others is a part of the human psyche. We know that doing something nice for someone increases the happiness of both the people involved.

This year we celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre. Boroondara has one



of the strongest rates of volunteering in Melbourne, with more than a quarter of residents donating their time. Council engages more than 290 volunteers across 15 Council-run programs, including Boroondara Cooks and Town Hall Gallery. Roles in Council programs, and hundreds more in community organisations, can be found at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bvrc

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Budget 2022-23: Planting more trees is part of our Tree Strategy Action Plan

The recently approved 2022-23 Budget is based on the vision laid out by our community in the Boroondara Community Plan (BCP) 2021-31, our key strategic document that guides everything we do. Shaped by the views of more than 5,000 community members in 2020-21, the plan outlines the things our community most values.

We know that Boroondara's beautiful green spaces – including our parks, gardens, walking paths and creeksides – are important to our community. Of the BCP's 7 themes, 'Parks and Green Spaces' rated highly in importance when we consulted our community in both 2017 and 2021, rising from 49% of respondents ranking it in their top 3 in 2017, to 69% in 2021.

In response, we are upgrading the Tree Strategy Action Plan as a Budget 2022-23 priority. Around 1,000 additional trees will be funded and planted this financial year to accelerate greening and canopy cover. These extra trees are in addition to the 1,000 to 1,500 trees we have already committed to planting each year since the plan was adopted in 2017.

By preserving and increasing our urban forest, we aim to enhance our municipality's rich biodiversity and create opportunities for our community to connect with and enjoy their natural surroundings. The 2,500 trees planted in Boroondara this financial year will go towards maintaining Boroondara's special leafy character and provide ongoing shade and environmental benefits.



LXRP update

Following advocacy by Council and the community, the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) announced in late-March its intention to include a widened Union Road bridge to connect with open spaces on either side of the rail trench in Surrey Hills. In late May the LXRP followed with the release of concept designs of the widened bridge and open space, and a short survey about the designs.

Council's Urban Design Advice, developed in partnership with our community during 2 rounds of engagement and consultation in September, November and December 2021, has been used by the LXRP team to inform its design. It is pleasing to see the LXRP listen to the community and Council and to achieve this great outcome.

The LXRP's construction works to prepare for the removal of the level crossings ramp up this month, with Union Road between Croydon Road and Windsor Crescent remaining closed from Wednesday 1 July until Monday 15 August.

For more information, visit:



**[levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/
projects/union-road-surrey-hills](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/projects/union-road-surrey-hills)**



From left: Artist Nicole van Dijk, student Tyler Charity, Maling Ward Cr Jane Addis, students Amelia McIntosh and Mikaela Kwan, and Strathcona Girls Grammar Principal Marise McConaghy.

Underpass artwork tells students' story of hope

Have you noticed the new and vibrant artwork in the Canterbury Road underpass?

The mural *Hope is not cancelled*, designed by artist Nicole van Dijk and students from Strathcona Girls Grammar, was recently installed on the southern wall of the rail underpass, with support from Council.

The mural depicts the students' feelings of hope during the COVID-19 pandemic. The school engaged Nicole through its artist-in-residence program, and she worked directly with year 7 students to design the mural, which was installed in May.

The large flowing design and bold colours sweep across the wall and, if you look

closely, you will see it incorporates the intricate symbols of hope that students said helped them through the lockdowns.

"Many things were cancelled because of the global pandemic. However, there were many things that couldn't be cancelled," says artist Nicole.

"Using illustration, collage and cut-outs, students created black-and-white symbols reflecting on themes of sunshine, spring, love, relationships, reading, naps, devotion, music, dancing, imagination, kindness, conversations and hope. The result is a collaborative artwork that represents hope and emerging from a difficult time."

The long flowing motif of a river that you see in the mural symbolises Nicole's daily

walks along the Yarra River, and the flowing white tendrils represent the "sacred bushland" of inner suburbia.

Council will continue to support community efforts to enhance the Maling Road precinct with placemaking initiatives and with murals, adding colour and a local touch over the years.

Hope is not cancelled tells an important story of our communities' experiences during the pandemic and contributes to the broader story of Maling Road, just as the new 80 Maling Road laneway mural celebrates our community, visitors and spaces.

Thank you to all involved for your endeavours in bringing this stunning artwork to life.



Open House Melbourne

We are opening the doors to some of Boroondara's landmark buildings for the Open House Melbourne weekend at the end of this month.

Held across the last weekend of July, this is your chance to see inside some of the community's most significant buildings, including the Annie Hughston Centre at Fintona Girls' School.

Douglas Golding, Boroondara Mayor Cr Jane Addis, and Canterbury History Group President Neil Curry.



Image: Ray Gruchy

Plaque marks a local landmark

Maling Ward residents may notice a recent addition to the neighbourhood – a commemorative plaque at Abingdon Apartments on Canterbury Road recognising a significant local family and landmark.

The apartments occupy the site of employer and benefactor Alfred Golding's third local building – the Golding Hall

Situated on Balwyn Road and designed by Lyons Architecture, the new centre is a contemporary 2-storey educational building for Fintona's mathematics and science precinct, containing a mix of flexible classrooms, laboratories and collaborative study areas.

You can join a tour around the Annie Hughston Centre with Lyons architects, and also look inside Fintona's adjoining arts precinct and iconic Tourmont house to learn a little about the school's history.

For up-to-date information about Boroondara sites opening their doors for Open House Melbourne weekend, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/open-house-melbourne

and Boot Factory. The hall was the centre of community life in Canterbury, hosting dances, concerts, early film screenings and election meetings until 1910, when it became part of the factory.

Alfred Golding set up as a manufacturer after emigrating to Melbourne from England in 1881, producing tennis and cricket shoes, football boots, and Australia's first pneumatic bicycle tyres. He also set up a brick-making plant on Mont Albert Road. He and his wife, Kate, and their 10 children were active in the local community.

The commemorative plaque, arranged and installed by the Canterbury History Group, was donated by Alfred's great-grandson Douglas Golding, in memory of his grandfather Herbert Golding who was killed in France in the First World War.

An update on playground renewals

Thank you to our community who shared memories, stories and ideas to shape the renewal of Grovedale Park playground. Based on your feedback, we have designed a new playground which will better meet the needs of all children.

We are excited to announce that a concept design has been finalised, with works expected to begin in the 2022-23 financial year.

The new playground uses green and natural timber colours, and carefully considered planting, to ensure that it blends into the landscape. It will also feature a new seating area, a new basket swing, a new play structure and climbing cube with monkey bars, an upgrade to the community's much-loved 'blueberry spinner', and an update to the existing swings. A new accessible path into and around the playground will ensure maximum enjoyment for all.

You can now view the final concept design by visiting: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/grovedale-park-playground-renewal. Make sure you select 'Follow' to receive updates about the project.

We are also upgrading the local playground at Mary MacKillop Reserve in Surrey Hills. You can find out more about this project by visiting:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/mary-mackillop-playground