

# Riversdale Ward

July 2022



Members of the Djirri Djirri Dance Group perform at the launch of the Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy.

**Cr Susan Biggar**

📞 9835 7810 or 0482 999 959

✉️ [susan.biggar@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:susan.biggar@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

📘 [susanbiggariversdale](https://www.facebook.com/susanbiggariversdale)

📍 Private Bag 1 Camberwell VIC 3124

 **BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*



## A message from your Councillor

When I was young, I loved summer. As I have matured, my appreciation of winter has grown. It brings a dormancy, a retreating that creeps in, a bit like our beautiful trees, dropping the flamboyance and openness of summer.

Winter is a different opportunity to enjoy Boroondara. I thought I'd mention some of the ways that I enjoy winter in our neighbourhood.

The colder months invite me to curl up with a book – often one from our incredibly rich library collections or purchased from a local bookseller. Or I may wander down to the Hawthorn Makers Market held at the Hawthorn Arts Centre on the first Sunday of the month to find a keep-me-warm rug.

Or if it's the 1st, 3rd or 5th Saturday of the month, I could head to Patterson Reserve for the Boroondara Farmers Market for freshly picked carrots, potatoes and pumpkin for slowly cooked comfort foods. I might even attend a cooking class for the first time at the Hawthorn Community House.

One thing I've done recently is buy seedlings for my winter vegie garden from one of our abundant nurseries; I've dumped the brassicas this year, but my peas, beans and spinach are going great guns. How are yours?

Another thing winter is good for is ducking into one of our many cafes across the ward for a coffee or hot chocolate. They could all benefit from some extra business right now.

And there's always volunteering. Check out our story about the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre and the many ways to lend a hand for others.

This is Boroondara living, in our hunkered-down winter ways. My experience is but a taste of what is around you.

Let me know what you enjoy, and just how you stay connected with the community we live in.

**Cr Susan Biggar**



## Tackling climate change together

As winter's colder weather sets in, you may have noticed your energy usage and power bills are on the rise.

Supporting you to reduce your emissions is one of the actions in the Boroondara Climate Action Plan (CAP), so we are pleased to partner with the Australian Energy Foundation to offer you a quality home energy assessment for around half the regular price, with further discounts available for concession card holders. Getting a home energy assessment will help you see where you can save money on energy bills, and what upgrades could help to reduce your emissions.

In other CAP news, we are working with our community to launch a Community of Interest (COI) for the CAP. Its aim is to share knowledge about and enhance the impact of the current CAP implementation plan, and to provide a forum for the community to contribute ideas for the next CAP implementation plan. We held a workshop in May to help shape the design and delivery of the COI, and we look forward to continuing to work with our community to reduce emissions.

To learn more about reducing your carbon footprint, including our Home Energy Assessment program, visit:



**[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/  
reducing-your-carbon-footprint](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reducing-your-carbon-footprint)**

# Launching the Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy

Council officially launched the Boroondara Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26 at a special event held during National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) – a significant milestone.

The event, held at the Balwyn Community Centre on Thursday 2 June, was opened with a Welcome to Country conducted by a Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder. Guests enjoyed performances by the Djirri Djirri Dance Group and Yeng Gali Mullum, a singing and storytelling choir with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal members. They were also treated to food provided by Mabu Mabu, an Indigenous-owned and run business that specialises in native ingredients.

It was the first time our community saw the designed version of the strategy, which features artwork by local artist Lewis Wandin-Bursill. Lewis is a proud young Wurundjeri man of the Woi-wurrung group. As an emerging artist, Lewis' recent works have been informed by his interest in the traditional ways of his ancestors.

The strategy speaks to our broader vision of creating a community where the histories, cultures, knowledge, achievements and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are acknowledged, respected, considered and celebrated.

To develop the strategy, we worked collaboratively and consulted with local



Aboriginal consultant and Yorta Yorta woman Karen Milward speaks at the launch.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations, including Boroondara's Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. This helped us understand the role Council and our community can play in the reconciliation process.

The strategy outlines a clear, 4-year roadmap for implementing reconciliation initiatives and contains a number of actions that will be undertaken in response to findings from the consultation and research. It also details actions Council is already undertaking to progress reconciliation, ensuring these continue to be prioritised and built upon.

We look forward to continuing to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader Boroondara community as we progress reconciliation together.



## It's Open House, so step inside

We are opening the doors to some of Boroondara's iconic buildings for Open House Melbourne weekend on 30 and 31 July, including 2 locations on your doorstep in Riversdale Ward.

Visit Tay Creggan (pictured above), a magnificent heritage building on the Yarra and home to the Year 9 students of Strathcona Girls Grammar. You can also discover Melbourne's heritage tram fleet at the former Hawthorn Tram Depot, including the original cable cars that graced the streets of Melbourne.

To find out about all the Boroondara sites taking part, visit:



[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/open-house-melbourne](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/open-house-melbourne)

## Meet your Cr

Get to know your Ward Councillor Susan Biggar this winter at:

**Fonda Mexican**, 651 Glenferrie Road,  
**Thursday 28 July, 4pm to 5pm.**

**The Boroondara Farmers Market** on  
**Saturday 30 July, 9am to 12pm.**

**Porgie and Mr Jones**, 291 Auburn Road,  
**Monday 22 August, 10am to 11am.**

To learn more, visit: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-strategy](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-strategy)





## Plans to develop former uni site

The University of Melbourne has entered an arrangement to sell its 1.62-hectare Hawthorn Campus on Auburn Road, Hawthorn, to developer Hamton.

A joint request for a planning scheme amendment has been lodged by the university and the developer to the Minister for Planning to rezone the land to redevelop the site (Amendment C376boro). The request has been made under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act, which means the Minister for Planning is the planning authority for the amendment (not Council) and no formal public exhibition and community submission process occurs unless the Minister specifically requires this.

The development includes 7 new residential buildings – 5 buildings with a maximum of 7 storeys and 2 buildings with a maximum of 4 storeys – comprising 320 new apartments.

The S.20(4) planning scheme amendment enables the developer to bypass Council process and policy. However, please be assured we will continue to strive to influence the best outcomes for the community. Council is strongly advocating to the Minister to require a community notification process, to ensure everyone understands the proposal and can provide comment.

As more information becomes available, Council will keep local residents up to date through postal letters and on our website under 'Victorian Government planning initiatives'.

## Tackling the volunteer challenge

This year, we are celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre – a remarkable milestone.

Boroondara has one of the strongest rates of volunteering in Melbourne, with more than a quarter of residents donating their time. Our volunteers play a vital role in our community, with many Council programs and initiatives relying on their assistance.

Neil Gray runs the Rugby Tikes program at Kiwi Hawthorn Rugby Club – a program for keen rugby kids aged 3 to 6. It introduces them to rugby union with games, fundamental movement skills, teamwork and all the fun of shouting the team chant at the end.

"I have always worked in sport, and I grew up in sports clubs back home. I love the value that helping people be both physically fit and emotionally fit can bring," says Neil.

The club is driven by volunteers and mostly parents who want to provide

opportunities for their kids, especially after the last 2 years.

"After COVID-19, people want to get outside, be active and do all the things they missed out on. To facilitate that you need people who are willing to put their hands up to organise and administrate or officiate or coach," says Neil. "It's also really important that we provide that environment for our kids to interact and be active and engaged.

"Our little kids in the Tikes program are always pretty nervous when they turn up but the volunteers we have there always get around them and we are building up a great culture.

"As a coach who has worked in high performance in 3 sports, it's a great challenge for me to come up with drills that involve Pokemon and Cars characters!" says Neil.

To find out more about volunteering and to view current opportunities, visit



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