

Cotham Ward

December 2022



Cotham Ward Cr Felicity Sinfield
at the reopened Victoria Park
Regional Playground.



Cr Felicity Sinfield

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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony

Community Safety Month came to Kew Traffic School in October.



A message from your Councillor

There is an abundance of hope in the community as we head into summer, with optimism for better weather to celebrate the joy of Christmas with our loved ones.

Many of our parks, gardens and open spaces have been difficult to mow recently. The significant rainfall has caused soft surfaces, and a risk our heavy mowers can do damage. We appreciate your understanding, our teams will be catching up as weather permits.

One place you might like to meet with family and friends is the recently renewed playground at Deepdene Park. The new design incorporates the themes most popular with the community, including a new train-themed combination unit, and the original tram was refurbished and retained. Designed for a range of ages and abilities, it includes climbing and traversing, a shop counter, a tunnel, slides and a variety of new swings. Interactions with nature include a water pump, balancing logs and a creek bed. We've also upgraded the social spaces

including a barbecue, an all-weather area and picnic tables.

I hope you will all support our local economy and shop locally as much as possible – there are great innovative options for Christmas gifting with vouchers, tickets for events or dinner somewhere special to reconnect with friends and family.

We had a wonderful month of community safety events in October, but don't forget if you're going away over the holiday period, you can register your absence from residence with Victoria Police and learn more about how to prevent burglaries at [police.vic.gov.au/home-and-property](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/home-and-property). You can also contact your local Neighbourhood Watch for more information.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, and I hope that 2023 is an easier year, where we can celebrate and share with family, friends and community groups.

Cr Felicity Sinfield

Your new Victoria Park Regional Playground opens

After years in the making, the fantastic new Victoria Park Regional Playground was completed in October, with an official opening event held to celebrate the milestone with community members.

The design of this new playground represents our community's needs and wishes, with elements for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy. There is a giant basket swing, in-ground trampolines, sensory art elements inspired by flora and fauna of the local area, sand and water-play, and an adventure trail with Ninja Warrior-style elements. The playground and park also have a fitness station, a dedicated seniors' exercise park, improved picnic and barbecue facilities, accessible restrooms and pathways.

Take your family and friends along to enjoy the outdoors this summer.

The Victoria Park Regional Playground is supported by the Victorian Government through the Suburban Parks Program. The National Ageing Research Institute also contributed \$25,000 for seniors' exercise equipment, and Kew Rotary \$15,000 for an accessible double barbecue.

For more information, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/victoria-park-playground





E-scooters: safe riding for everyone

The City of Boroondara is home to wonderful trails, shared paths and open space for all members of the community to enjoy. As our population grows, so does the need to preserve the quality of life in our suburbs by encouraging sustainable ways of getting around.

Council recently endorsed the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy 2022, which sets a framework to improve infrastructure and education for cyclists and pedestrians in the community over the next 10 years. It includes a section on e-bikes and e-scooters.

Hundreds of community members shared a diverse range of views with us, which helped shape the strategy. One theme that shone through was the importance of safety for both riders and pedestrians.

The use of electrically assisted scooters (e-scooters) is rapidly increasing. While they are a popular mode of transport in

Boroondara, it's important to understand the Victorian Road Rules to make sure everyone remains safe.

If your e-scooter has an electric power output of greater than 200 watts, is powered by a petrol motor, or is capable of speeds greater than 10 km/h, it cannot be legally used on public roads, footpaths, shared or cycle paths, in public parks or any public areas (unless it meets the standards for registration and is registered). Most newer-model e-scooters exceed these thresholds and do not meet the standards for registration, and therefore can only legally be ridden on private property. Penalties for riding an illegal device in a public area are enforceable by Victoria Police.

Community safety is everybody's responsibility. Let's all ride, scoot and walk safely to create a safe environment for all road and path users.



Locals recognised in sports awards

The Hawthorn Arts Centre was a hive of activity on 13 September, as we celebrated the winners of the 2022 Boroondara Sports Awards. The awards aim to recognise the important role sports clubs play in improving community health and wellbeing, and fostering social connection.

Australian cricket legend Damien Fleming was our host, sharing his insights and experiences as the finalists and winners across 6 key categories were announced. Australian former professional triathlete and 2-time World Triathlon Champion, Emma Carney, gave an inspirational keynote address.

Among the successful clubs and sports representatives, it was wonderful to see Cotham locals celebrated. Max Dias, 16, (pictured above), from North Balwyn Cricket Club, was named Young Club Person of the Year, recognising his time and devotion in coaching the under-12s team. A finalist alongside Max was James Mills from the North Balwyn Baseball Club. His club was also a finalist in categories including Collaborative Club of the Year and Inclusive Club of the Year.

Nominations for the 2023 Boroondara Sports Awards will open in March 2023.

Find out more about the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy:
www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/boroondara-bicycle-strategy-2022

Family fun day to celebrate Community Safety Month

In October we celebrated Community Safety Month, an annual safety awareness campaign that aims to reduce the risk of violence, emergencies and injuries in the community. The City of Boroondara hosted a range of interactive events to highlight how we can work together to keep our community safe.

One of the feature events was the Emergency Services Family Fun Day at Boroondara Farmers Market on 15 October. Representatives from a variety of emergency services and community organisations were in attendance including Victoria Police, Fire Rescue Victoria, Victoria State Emergency Service, Australian Red Cross and Ambulance Victoria.

Community members enjoyed educational and interactive activities, met emergency service professionals, and the lucky younger attendees had an up-close look



inside a fire truck, police cars and rescue vehicles. It was also an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the hard work and commitment of emergency services and community organisations' volunteers and staff.

As Chair of Council's Community Safety Advisory Committee, Cr Felicity Sinfield said: "Council is pleased to work with

Victoria Police, external agencies and the broader community to recognise Community Safety Month each October and continue to foster a healthy and safe community in Boroondara throughout the year."

For more information and safety tips visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-safety

Kew Recreation Centre update

On Thursday 20 October, a section of the steel roof structure at the Kew Recreation Centre construction site collapsed. No one was hurt and there was no impact on neighbouring properties, with damage contained within the construction site.

The builder, ADCO Constructions, is in the process of preparing a methodology to safely remove the collapsed structural steel for the approval of WorkSafe.

We anticipate that these works will commence in December 2022 and continue in early 2023. WorkSafe will be on site to supervise the removal of the steel.

Thorough investigations into the cause of the collapse are still ongoing with WorkSafe and ADCO and will continue while the removal of the collapsed steel takes place. The full impact of the collapse on the project timeframe is not yet known.

An update will be shared once a revised construction timeframe is confirmed.

Every step will be taken to ensure the final structure is safe and secure, and a high-quality, modern recreation and aquatic facility is delivered for our Boroondara community.

We will share any updates as they become available at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/KRC