

Maranoa Ward

December 2022



Boroondara's first fenced dog-play area, at Gordon Barnard Reserve in Balwyn North, has been open for a year.

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Information in this newsletter is correct at the time of going to print.

 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



Dear neighbours,

How the year has flown. As I write this message, I'm buoyed by the sight of Christmas decorations that adorn pedestrian barriers, tree guards and shop windows across more than 50 retail precincts throughout the City of Boroondara. Council has installed 2,500 such decorations with messages of love, hope, peace and joy, adding a touch of festive cheer to our beautiful city.

It's been a big year, as our local traders, hospitality businesses and service providers continue to recover from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic. It's wonderful to see so many people out and about in the municipality, enjoying the freedoms we all hold so dear. As you prepare for Christmas, I encourage you to shop locally whether it's for gifts or something delicious for a festive spread. For many of us, Christmas is an incredibly social time as we plan to catch up with one another before the end of the year. We are fortunate to have some of Melbourne's best local restaurants, cafes and bars in Boroondara, the perfect setting to ring in the festive season. If you must travel

over the period, do take care on the roads.

I'm proud to say that as a Council, we have achieved a great deal for our Maranoa community over the past calendar year. There is much to look forward to over the summer months and beyond. If you're anything like me, you will be looking forward to a well-deserved break: the chance to open a book or spend time with family and friends, with longer days and warmer weather adding to our enjoyment of outdoor spaces. The City of Boroondara has much to offer, from cultural events such as Summer in the Park to improved facilities at Gordon Barnard Reserve for frolicking with our 4-legged friends, from new playgrounds to well-stocked local libraries.

Wishing you all the blessings of Christmas and a happy New Year,

Warm regards,

Cr Cynthia Watson

Celebrate summer close to home

Summer is a fantastic time of year in Boroondara, perfect for enjoying time with family and friends in our beautiful parks.

One of our summer highlights is Summer in the Park. This season, our local Greythorn Park will play a starring role with A Little Classical in the Park. Save the date for Saturday 25 February, 1 pm to 2 pm, to be delighted by the sounds of classical music in an idyllic park setting. Find out more on our website: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park

During the festive season, many of us are also out looking for that perfect gift. You'll find a range of stores across your local shopping villages, including specialty stores with products you won't find elsewhere. You can also consider gifting an experience from a local business, such as a cinema gift voucher or a personal training voucher. Find more ideas at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/christmas

Of course, December is also the time for end-of-year celebrations. Whether planning lunch, dinner or drinks, call ahead to check if you can make a booking at a favourite local restaurant, cafe or bar. It's easy to support local while celebrating the festive season with family and friends.





A year of play for our pooches

It's been a year since Boroondara's first fenced dog-play area was opened here in Maranoa Ward at Gordon Barnard Reserve, Balwyn North.

Over this time, many of our 4-legged family members have been playing, socialising and exercising together in their new space.

To ensure all dogs and their owners can continue to enjoy using this area, we recently completed some maintenance improvements. These included upgrading and extending the size of the central concrete seating area in the middle of the park, to provide more space for people to gather on a secure surface while interacting with their dogs. An added gravel circuit path connected it with the gravel circuit path around the facility to improve access.


We also laid new mulch near this area between the canopy trees to improve the

worn grass surface, and planted 2 new trees on either side of the central gathering area to give more shade and enjoyment for all.

You can also help to ensure you, your furry friend and those around you can safely enjoy the space by always keeping an eye on your pooch and making sure they're friendly towards people and other dogs.

Don't forget to also carry a waste bag with you and pick up after your dog. There are free waste-bag dispensers at both entrances of the facility where you can pick up bags, and bins where you can dispose of your dog poo.

For more information, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/fenced-dog-play-area

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A new playground at Hilda Street Reserve

Through the development of the Boroondara Community Plan, our community told us they value high-quality, inclusive community facilities, as well as enhanced, safe and engaging open spaces and playgrounds.

Following community consultation in mid-2021, we developed a new playground design for the play space at Hilda Street Reserve in Balwyn. The design was centred around what our community told us is most important to them.

The new playground includes play equipment to be enjoyed by younger and older children. You'll find a new combination unit with a rope bridge, catwalk, swings and a fire pole. It also includes a spinner and nature-play opportunities.

For more information about the project, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hilda-street-playground-renewal





Eisteddfod's resplendent return to Hawthorn Arts Centre

Council was pleased to welcome the Boroondara Eisteddfod back to live performances and in-person audiences at Hawthorn Arts Centre this year. This was the first year the complete Eisteddfod program was delivered since 2019.

And what a year 2022 was, with:

- record registration numbers of 1,023 participants
- more than 105 hours of live competition delivered uninterrupted
- 30% growth in registered participants since the last live event in 2019.

This year's event also introduced the new discipline of classical guitar to diversify the already wonderful range of musical categories showcased across the program.

The Eisteddfod's hallmark event, the Piano Concerto Final, featuring the Camerata Orchestra, was this year

delivered using image magnification technology. This allowed a large video image of the piano keyboard to be projected to improve the audience experience. We congratulate Brian Luo for winning first place in the Piano Concerto Award this year. The Gala Finals Concert was another wonderful opportunity for audiences to be wowed by the high standard of competing finalists across numerous musical disciplines.

Thank you, as always, to the dedicated volunteers who supported this year's Eisteddfod. We also acknowledge fellow members of the Eisteddfod Advisory Committee who have contributed to another successful program: Anne Gilby, Douglas Heywood OAM, Dr Yvonne Ho AM, Gary Kirby, Dr Sharon Lierse and Dr Elizabeth Mitchell.

We are already looking forward to the 2023 Boroondara Eisteddfod.


Top reads at Greythorn Library Lounge

Looking for your next holiday read? Whether you're into murder mysteries or youth illustrated fiction, find inspiration in the books that kept local members turning the pages this year. The Greythorn Library Lounge's most-reserved items of 2022 to date are:

1. *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens
2. *Still Life*, Sarah Winman
3. *Exiles*, Jane Harper
4. *Atomic Habits: tiny changes, remarkable results: an easy and proven way to build good habits and break bad ones*, James Clear
5. *The Thursday Murder Club*, Richard Osman
6. *Beautiful World, Where Are You*, Sally Rooney
7. *One of Us is Lying*, Karen M. McManus
8. *Weird History!*, Anh Do
9. *The Paper Palace*, Miranda Cowley Heller
10. *The Promise*, Damon Galgut



You can join the Boroondara Library Service in person at any branch or sign up online to access the digital collection. Find out more at:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries