

Maling Ward

July 2023



Life in Maling Ward

There is nothing quite like loving and being loved by a dog. My own two Great Danes, Iris and Luna, demonstrate this every day, and bring real joy to my life.

Our relationship with dogs goes back thousands of years, with the strong emotional bond we have being evident in the ability of humans and dogs to understand each other's emotions, facial expressions, words and body language. Those of us with dogs are more likely to exercise regularly, to talk with strangers and to live longer. Dogs help children develop emotional intelligence, they can detect illness and improve our mental health, and patting a dog can lower blood pressure and stress levels.

For some of us our dog is more than a best friend or companion. I was recently contacted by Piper Wright who wanted to tell us about her assistance dog Maycee. You can read more inside about the special relationship between Piper and Maycee, and how Maycee helps Piper navigate what can be a challenging world for her.



Also in this newsletter you will find an artist's impression of the planned new Union Road bridge and public open space at Surrey Hills, and also of the planned streetscape upgrade at Maling Road. I enjoyed being involved in Council's advocacy efforts for the Surrey Hills space, including talking with community members to find out what they wanted to see there. The Level Crossing Removal Project's final design includes much of what our community asked for. More recently, I had the opportunity to hear

about community aspirations for the Maling Road streetscape. Both these projects will provide us with new places to socialise and build community relationships.

Cr Jane Addis

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📞 9835 7845 or 0409 267 902

✉️ jane.addis@boroondara.vic.gov.au

📍 Private Bag 1 Camberwell VIC 3124



Surrey Hills welcomes new public open space

Thanks to Council's advocacy efforts the Surrey Hills community is looking forward to a new Union Road bridge and public open space.

To help guide the Level Crossing Removal Project's (LXRP) design of this new open space, we consulted with our community in 2021. Feedback helped shape Council's Urban Design Advice document, which we used to advocate to the LXRP.

We are pleased to see the final design for the open space and landscaping includes what our community asked for, including:

- accessible and well-designed areas for the whole community to meet and socialise
- trees and green areas
- a space to host events like the Surrey Hills music festival
- a public toilet.

For more information, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/surrey-hills-open-space



Maling Road streetscape upgrade

Over 4 weeks in April and May, community members were invited to share their preference for public-space improvements to the Maling Road shopping centre.

Both of the 2 options presented were developed as part of the Maling Road Place Plan, a document adopted in 2020 and based on more than 1,200 people sharing their thoughts about what they wanted in Maling Road. Both options include the requested improvements of making the centre people-centric, with more green space for socialising. And both improve the narrow footpaths which are in need of rejuvenation.

The options take different approaches to balancing additional public space with traffic flow and on-road parking spaces. Option 1 creates a one-way section between Canterbury Road and Bryson Street, and removes 7 parking spaces to gain 300 square metres of new public space. Option 2 keeps the 2-way street and removes 11 parking spaces to gain 215 square metres of new public space. Both options improve Maling Road with:

- resurfaced and wider footpaths along the street
- more street trees and garden beds
- improved street furniture and lighting design
- safer pedestrian crossings
- treatments to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety
- upgraded bicycle parking.

With 835 survey contributions and good attendance at our workshop and 2 drop-in events, we have valuable information about community preferences. Officers are now preparing a report for councillors outlining the community consultation results. Councillors will review the options, informed by community preferences, as well as the costs and benefits, to determine the Maling Road revitalisation.

Follow the Engage page for updates on this consultation:

 engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/maling-rd-improvements

Piper and her best four-legged friend Maycee

Piper Wright and her ever-smiling corgi Maycee are a fixture in the streets and parks of Maling Ward. You'll find Maycee running free at John August Reserve in Balwyn, and walking on-lead beside Piper through the green spaces of Balwyn Park, Canterbury Sports Ground, Shrublands Creek Reserve and Canterbury Gardens.

Despite their togetherness, few would guess just how important her best-friend assistance dog Maycee is to Piper. Piper has autism, and can find public spaces, loud noises and new things very challenging. In the past her anxiety would cause her to leave an uncomfortable place or situation, but now if Maycee senses Piper's heart racing she lies across Piper's legs or chest with all her weight, calming her down enough to continue her activities. "She is very serious about her job and doesn't move for a sausage scrap without her release word," says Piper. She adopted Maycee in 2017, and quickly realised how much more easily she was able to cope in public spaces and do things independently. "Before I got Maycee things at school were going downhill and I was finding it harder to attend and participate," says Piper. "She really got me back on track, allowing me to finish my VCE – she was present for all of my year 11 and 12 exams – and get my dream job as an emergency vet nurse."



As an accredited assistance dog Maycee is allowed access to any public place in Australia. Piper trained her through mindDog, a not-for-profit organisation that helps people procure, train and accredit psychiatric assistance dogs. The training took about 12 months and culminated in a several-hours-long public access test, which Maycee must pass every year.

Find a local off-lead dog park

You can find off-lead dog parks in Maling Ward and surrounds, including:

- John August Reserve, Balwyn North
- Gordon Barnard Reserve, Balwyn North
- Beckett Park, Balwyn
- Belmont Park, Canterbury
- Mont Albert Park, Balwyn
- Highfield Park, Camberwell

To find an off-lead park anywhere in Boroondara, visit:



[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
off-lead-dog-parks](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/off-lead-dog-parks)

Having Maycee gives Piper the confidence to go to places she would not have gone to before, including shops, her doctor's surgery, hospital, group activities and aeroplanes. She even accompanied Piper to a recent Harry Styles concert at Marvel Stadium. "She's my rock and comes everywhere with me," says Piper. "She's the best thing in the world."

Canterbury Community Precinct welcomes you

If you have walked through the Canterbury Gardens recently you may have noticed that our new Canterbury Community Precinct is open. The main precinct building is home to valuable

community services including Canterbury Neighbourhood Centre, Canterbury Gardens Kindergarten, Playstation occasional care, Canterbury Toy Library and Canterbury Maternal and Child Health. There are also spaces to hire including 2 community rooms, an art room and a workshop. The refurbishment of 2

existing buildings – to house Interchange Inner East disability and support services, Canterbury History Group and Surrey Hills Historical Society – will complete the precinct later this year. Call in to have a look, or find out more at: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
community-precinct-canterbury](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-precinct-canterbury)



Planting trees to reduce our emissions

We planted around 2,000 new trees in Boroondara in the 2022-23 financial year. This included the 1,000 trees we commit to planting every year, as well as an additional 1,000 trees we promised to plant in the last financial year as an action of our Climate Action Plan.

Here in Maling Ward and surrounds, this included:

- around 110 new trees in Canterbury
- around 90 new trees in Surrey Hills
- around 20 new trees in Deepdene
- around 130 new trees in Balwyn.

Young trees, whether planted on your nature strip by Council, or in your own backyard, will always benefit from a little extra attention.

Water it: We water new trees in public spaces to help them get established in their new home. To check whether your new trees need watering, feel the soil just below the layer of mulch – if the soil is dry, the tree should be watered.

Mind the bark: When mowing and using line trimmers, avoid contact with a tree's bark. Bark helps protect trees from pests and diseases, and damaging it can cause serious harm, especially to young trees.

Give it space: Avoid parking cars too close to a tree or storing heavy machinery or materials beneath the canopy to ensure the soil doesn't compact and oxygen can reach the roots. For young trees, try to leave 2 metres of clear space around them.

If you would like a tree planted on your nature strip, find out more and fill out our form online:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/naturestrips

To find out more about our tree renewal program, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/tree-renewal-program

Don't waste your recycling efforts

When the wrong items go into bins, the contaminated waste ends up in landfill.

What can go in the yellow-lidded recycling bin

- aluminium cans, trays and foil (roll foil into a loose ball)
- steel cans, glass bottles and jars, paper and cardboard (flattened is best)
- rigid household plastic bottles and containers, like milk bottles, washing liquid bottles and yoghurt tubs.

Top tip: you can leave lids and labels on all bottles and jars.

What can go in the lime green-lidded FOGO bin

- all food waste (except for teabags)
- garden waste
- AS4736 certified compostable liners
- paper towel and tissues.

Top tip: be sure to remove all stickers and rubber bands from fruit and vegetables.

What can go in the dark green or red-lidded household waste bin

Most items, except e-waste, chemicals, building materials and medical waste. Take these to Council's waste facilities.

Search our comprehensive A to Z recycling and waste guide online at:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-guide

