

Maranoa Ward

April 2024



Maranoa Ward Cr Cynthia Watson with 2024
Boroondara Citizen of the Year Brenton Ponza.

Cr Cynthia Watson

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Dear Neighbour,

There is a saying that when performance is measured, performance improves. What we choose to measure tells us what we value. We know that we as a community value our parks and green spaces, local shopping areas, and council services, which all contribute to making Boroondara a great place to live.

A community is more than a collection of physical places. What makes a great community is how we care for each other. My experience as a long-term resident and councillor is that we are a community with a big heart. How do we become a more inclusive community?

More than 7,500 people with disability live, work and play in Boroondara. One important way we can become a more inclusive community is to address the social and physical barriers people living with disability face every day. Disability is part of the human experience. Breaking down barriers to participation in physical activity is an important objective in our Boroondara Community Plan so that all people have the opportunity to grow and flourish.

The Boroondara Sports Complex is a key host site as part of the Boroondara Disability Sport and Recreation Hub that connects people with disability to programs and services available across all our aquatic and leisure facilities. Within the hub, people with disability can find details about accessible programs and events across Boroondara. Find the hub at boroondaraleisure.com.au/hub

If you would like to become involved as a volunteer you can contact the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bvrc

Kind regards,

Cr Cynthia Watson

Eisteddfod applications now open

The Boroondara Eisteddfod is set to return for its 33rd year, promising 16 weeks of exhilarating competitions and events.

Applications are now open for performers of all ages, offering the chance to showcase their talents across sections including piano, vocal, strings, woodwind, brass, classical guitar, chamber ensemble, large ensemble, choral, and speech and drama.

With a prize pool exceeding \$16,000, the 2024 edition of the Eisteddfod is set to be the most competitive yet.

Esteemed educators and industry professionals will serve as adjudicators, providing feedback and guidance to participants, nurturing their growth in a supportive atmosphere.

Whether you're a seasoned performer, a new talent, a lover of the arts or just keen to see the next generation take to the stage – the Boroondara Eisteddfod promises a platform for all to shine.

Find more information about entry requirements, session dates and times and performance requirements at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/eisteddfod





Brenton's our Citizen of the Year

On 26 January we gathered at Hawthorn Arts Centre to celebrate the Boroondara Citizen of the Year awards for 2024. Maranoa Ward's Brenton Ponza was named Boroondara Citizen of the Year.

Brenton was recognised for his disability advocacy and work as a volunteer coach at GoZone Gymnastics in Balwyn in particular. GoZone is a therapeutic gymnastics program for children with physical or intellectual disabilities.

Diagnosed with cerebral palsy, Brenton joined the GoZone program at 8 years old. He says helping others is what motivates him.

'When I was younger, I went to special needs gymnastics and this helped me lots. Now I am helping the group that helped me,' says Brenton. 'I love working as a team, making new friends and having a good chat.'

Aiming to spread awareness and raise much-needed funds, Brenton is also an

adviser for the Cerebral Palsy Education Centre. His dream for the future is for greater diversity and inclusivity in sport.

At the presentation ceremony, Brenton encouraged others thinking of volunteering to 'just do it'.

'People with a disability should give it a go. Try new things and give it a go because if you do not give it a go, you will never know what it is like,' he says.

The Boroondara Citizen of the Year Awards recognise people who have made an exceptional contribution to our community through leadership or commitment to improving the lives of others. Nominations for the 2025 Boroondara Citizen of the Year Awards will open in September.

Find out more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/2024-citizen-award-winners

A place for you right in your neighbourhood

Each year, Neighbourhood House Week in May is a timely reminder of our 11 neighbourhood houses and community centres in Boroondara and what they offer for all of us.

We are lucky to have 2 just on the doorstep of Maranoa Ward:

Trentwood at the Hub (trentwood.org.au) at Greythorn Community Hub in Balwyn North is Boroondara's newest neighbourhood house. It has recently opened a free exhibition space for local groups to share their stories and local artists to exhibit their works. The first exhibition is now running until the end of May, featuring photos from the Deepdene U3A Photography Group documenting Koonung Creek Reserve.

Balwyn Community Centre (balwynncc.org.au) – pictured below – has been upgraded recently and has new spacious, well-lit rooms, an outdoor leisure area, and is surrounded by bushy wetlands.

Both locations offer a mix of free and low-cost programs, classes and events, along with groups to join for fun and to connect you with others.

For more on Neighbourhood House Week in Boroondara, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses



22 Riverview Road in Balwyn North combines the Moderne and Old English design styles.



Post-war homes in bid for heritage protection

In 2022, we identified 18 properties in Balwyn and Balwyn North as worthy of heritage protection. With striking architecture, impressive design, or connection to the post-war development era, our heritage consultants considered these houses to be significant.

To protect the properties, we propose an amendment to the Boroondara Planning Scheme to include them in the Heritage Overlay.

The proposal was shared with the community for feedback in November and December last year. It outlined the properties and the details of their historical significance, including 22 Riverview Road, Balwyn North.

This attic-storeyed cream brick house was built in 2 stages, 1949 and then 1952. It combines 2 very different design styles – Moderne and Old English – that are rarely seen together.

With impeccable attention to design detail, the house is an example of the work of designer/builder Frances John Sanders.

In May, the amendment will be considered by an independent planning panel. In this public hearing, feedback received in submissions will be considered.

When we created the Boroondara Community Plan 2021–31, our community told us they value local heritage. It's Council's responsibility to help protect the character of our neighbourhoods. A Heritage Overlay helps ensure a property's social, aesthetic and historical value is considered if it's proposed for development.

For more information about these proposed heritage overlays, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/heritage-C398

Sports award nominations open

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards. It's a great opportunity to shout out a fantastic local sports player, club member or sports club here in Maranoa Ward by nominating them under a range of categories.

Last year, Hannah Lowe of local Titans Junior Basketball Club was named Club Person of the Year at the 2023 Sports Awards. She was recognised for her significant contributions to the Titans, where she is general manager and head coach.

Her nominator said Hannah has supported young people to pursue their love of basketball by coaching, training, creating programs, and advocating for her teams. She took over the Titans administration in 2006 when it had 19 teams and built it up to 217 community-level teams competing year round at local venues.

Nominations for the 2024 awards are open until Friday 17 May. Winners will be celebrated at a presentation evening in August.

Visit our website for more information: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards

