

# Cotham Ward

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A design is being finalised for the new playground at Kellett Reserve.



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## A message from your Councillor

I am immensely appreciative of my time as Mayor of this wonderful city in 2022–23. I can't think of a better place to live, work, play or study than right here. I am delighted to have been elected by my peers to be the Deputy Mayor for this year, and congratulate Cr Hollingsworth on her election as Mayor.

Thank you for your feedback on the design for the new playground at Kellett Reserve, our landscape architects are now reviewing your feedback to finalise the design, which we'll share in mid-2024.

I was pleased to meet with the parent committee at the JJ McMahon Memorial Kindergarten (pictured above) to discuss their vision for renewal. It is exciting to see that work has now begun on the project. I thank the teaching staff, parent volunteer committee, families and students for their patience during the temporary relocation and works.

The Victorian Electoral Commission is currently reviewing the ward boundaries across Boroondara and a preliminary

report has now been released. Changes will apply to the next Council election in October.

As the summer cricket season wraps up, congratulations to the great clubs across Cotham Ward, including the Deeners winning the MacGibbon Shield, the Bears winning the inaugural Sturgess Cup, and Kew Cricket Club into the final at the time this newsletter goes to print.

We now head into the winter season and many local clubs are keen to attract new members. These include Boroondara Eagles and Kew Rovers, offering a fantastic girls' footy program. Local sports clubs are a great way to build our sense of community.

*Felicity*

**Cr Felicity Sinfield**

## Update on kindergarten renewal

Construction has started as we work to renew JJ McMahon Memorial Kindergarten in Kew.

Council officers worked closely with the kindergarten's committee of management and staff to develop a design for a high-quality early childhood education facility for our local community. Key features include:

- rebuilding the front playroom
- refurbishing the rear playroom
- a larger office to support the teaching team for planning
- a combined staff and meeting room with a kitchen
- a new shared children's bathroom between the playrooms.

Construction works are expected to be completed by late 2024, ready for the 2025 kindergarten year. Families can apply for the 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten program through the kindergarten central registration scheme.

Find more information about the renewal at: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/jj-mcmahon-kinder-renewal](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/jj-mcmahon-kinder-renewal)







## Nominate a local for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards

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 Cotham Ward by nominating them under a range of categories.

Deepdene Bears Cricket Club and volunteer James Paterson were among Cotham Ward recipients recognised at the 2023 Sports Awards.

The Bears took home the Innovative Club of the Year Award. The club hosted 'The Big 6' for junior players last year at Stradbroke Park.

Among other activities, each child was given 6 chances to hit the ball as far as they could, hence the event name. It was a big success with a great atmosphere and all the children learning new skills.

James Paterson of Deepdene Bears Cricket Club was recognised with a

Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been a long-serving member of the committee, starting in the early 1980s on the committee of North Kew Cricket Club. After a club merger, he went on to become secretary of Deepdene Bears Cricket Club for 22 seasons and president for 4 seasons.

James was awarded the President's Award 3 times. This is given by the Club President to the person on the committee who is the hardest working and most dedicated for that season. In 1999, James was awarded Life Membership of the Deepdene Bears Cricket Club.

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

Find out more at: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards)

## Police home security tips

Most burglaries are opportunistic. This means there is much we can do to deter criminals looking for an easy target.

Victoria Police offers the following tips to keep you and your property safe.

- Lock all access points including internal and external garage doors, windows, gates, sheds, pet doors and skylights.
- Remove any spare keys hidden outside your home. Don't leave keys in window locks.
- Install deadlocks on all external doors and windows.
- Leave out a dog bowl or lead, even if you don't have a dog.
- Don't leave items at your door that might attract thieves.
- Install a peephole (door viewer) to see who is at the door.
- If someone knocks on the door, make a noise to show you're inside.
- Keep tools and ladders locked away so they can't be used to access your home.
- Consider installing a security screen door, monitored alarm system, cameras and sensor lighting.

Current crime statistics show that Boroondara remains a very safe place to live.

**In an emergency call 000.**

**For non-urgent police matters call 131 444.**



## Our top tips for off-lead etiquette

Dogs and their owners are well catered for in Cotham Ward, with 6 off-lead dog parks to choose from. You'll find them in Macleay Park, Belmont Park, Rathmines Road Reserve, Reservoir Reserve, Stradbroke Park and the Outer Circle Linear Park.

We all have a part to play in ensuring our parks and shared areas are welcoming and safe for everyone.

Being a responsible dog owner means more than just giving your pet what it needs, it's also about how you manage your dog around other people and animals and in our public spaces.

Try these tips for your next off-lead adventure:

- Carry dog-waste bags with you and use them.
- Keep your dog 30 m from in-use barbecues or picnic areas, public meetings or sporting events and 10 m from the perimeter of a playground.

- Always keep an eye on your dog. Your pet should not threaten any person or animal and must respond to voice commands or hand controls when off-lead.
- Remember to check Council signs to make sure you're aware of any specific park rules.

We thank all the responsible dog owners who are helping to keep our parks enjoyable places for everyone to visit.

### Renew or register your pet today

All cats and dogs over 3 months old must be registered with Council by **Tuesday 9 April**. If you've recently moved, you can update your contact details, or let us know if your pet is no longer with you. You can pay your annual pet registration renewal fee online at: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pet-registration](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pet-registration)

## A place for you in the 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 us all to discover and enjoy.

We are lucky to have 3 neighbourhood houses and community centres near us in Cotham Ward:

- **Hawthorn Community House**  
Offers a mix of classes and activities, including art, craft, music and movement programs. The William St Playhouse is a welcoming space where families can drop in to play and build local connections.  
[www.hch.org.au](http://www.hch.org.au)
- **Balwyn Community Centre**  
Recently upgraded and surrounded by bushy wetlands, the classes offered here range from botanical painting and drawing to English conversation, cooking, languages and exercise.  
[balwyncc.org.au](http://balwyncc.org.au)
- **Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre**  
Offers a range of programs including playgroups, educational training and health and wellbeing.  
[kewnllc.org.au](http://kewnllc.org.au)

With a diverse range of events and activities to learn and connect with others, as well as groups to join across all 3 locations, if you haven't visited before, this autumn is a great time to start. You can also enquire about hiring rooms at these venues for meetings and workshops.

For more information about Neighbourhood House Week in Boroondara, visit: [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses)