

[inbrief]

Council meetings

For information regarding Council meeting dates, agendas and updates, visit Council's website or please call 9278 4474. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

Monday 16 November

6pm Services Special Committee

8pm Urban Planning Special Committee

Monday 23 November

6pm Council Meeting

Monday 7 December

6pm Council Meeting (election of Mayor and Committee Chairpersons)

8pm Services Special Committee

***Monday 14 December**

6pm Services Special Committee

8pm Urban Planning Special Committee

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber located at 4 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.

***This is the last scheduled meeting for 2009**

• **Need to know more? Visit boroondara.vic.gov.au/enquiry**

Ward meeting

Bellevue Ward Councillor Brad Miles invites residents to attend a Ward Meeting primarily to discuss freeway noise between Doncaster and Bulleen roads, Balwyn North. The meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 5 November at the Marwal Centre, 9 Marwal Avenue, Balwyn North. • **Need to know more? Please call 9278 4473.**

Listen in

Want to know what's going on in your neighbourhood? For local news and views on Boroondara, listen in to community radio station 3WBC Whitehorse Boroondara FM, 94.1 at 2.45pm every second Thursday of the month.

Emma Gee, holding her new puppy Gilbert, with Genevieve Moloney, Council's Acting Direct Care Coordinator.



The Emma effect

– understanding life from another's perspective

Inspiring others is Emma Gee's motto.

Emma is living proof that in spite of life's difficulties and challenges, such as illness, the human spirit can be strong enough to overcome anything.

When Emma was 24-years-old, she was working full time as an occupational therapist and was an avid runner, enjoying an independent healthy lifestyle.

This changed when Emma was diagnosed with a malformation in her brain – Aterio Venua Malformation (AVM).

During the surgery to remove this, Emma suffered a stroke, went into coma and awoke unable to speak, move or swallow.

After nine months in hospital and ongoing rehabilitation, four years later Emma is now living independently in her own home in Boroondara.

Emma receives home care assistance from the City of Boroondara's Health, Ageing and Disability Services.

"Without the service, I wouldn't be able to perform my daily activities and pursue my passion to educate and motivate others who have their own difficulties," Emma said.

Emma has founded the charity Shoestrings which encourages others to share their stories, bringing communities together.

She is also working part-time for the National Stroke Foundation in stroke support, is completing her Masters in Occupational Therapy, writing a book and has started her own inspirational speaking business.

This year, Emma presented her story to more than 200 staff who work in Council's Health, Ageing and Disability Services Department.

Emma's presentation encouraged the team to consider a day in her shoes and those of others who have experienced injury or illness.

Council's Director Community Development, Jacqui Briggs, said the presentation was highly emotive and left a lasting impression.

"Our staff reported feeling the 'Emma effect' and this was a firsthand reminder of the challenges people can face performing their daily activities and how we can support them," Ms Briggs said.