

5 March 2018



Hawthorn Community Chest is turning 60!

Hawthorn Community Chest (HCC) is turning 60 years young this year. To celebrate, HCC will be hosting a 'Brilliant Ball' on Saturday 2 June 2018. To be held at Leonda in Hawthorn, the glamorous *Brilliant Ball* will bring together 400 local people and businesses to recognise not only what HCC has achieved in the past, but also to raise money to ensure its work continues.

The original 'Chest' was established back in 1958, when many residents of Hawthorn were struggling through the post-war years. Its charter has since expanded to look after people throughout Boroondara. Despite the area's general affluent nature, there are still pockets of extreme poverty, which is compounded by sickness, family breakdown, mental illness and unemployment.

Eight percent of Boroondara's households have an income of less than \$300 per week, which is well below the Australian poverty line, and one in five Boroondara residents has a disability. With this level of need, HCC's role remains as relevant today as it was in 1958.

However, HCC's President, Sarah Curtis, acknowledges that the charity has needed to evolve with the changing times and nature of the Boroondara area.

"Many local residents will have fond memories of our annual tin-shake, and many have attended our functions. While we hold a number of fundraising events throughout the year supported largely by our friendship networks, we have recognised that to support the growing demand for our services, we need to extend our reach into the business community," she said.

"Hawthorn, Camberwell and Kew have become thriving business hubs, and we've seen an opportunity to connect with local business. Fortunately for us, many who work in Boroondara also want to help those most in need here, and we have had great support for our Business Supporter Program," she added.

Despite her extensive and varied work within the community, even Sarah admits that there is nothing quite like a gala Ball to showcase HCC's achievements, and to celebrate the generosity of local residents and businesses.

"We have been thrilled at the response to our Ball, with many local businesses including Bakers Delight and Bunnings committing to tables already," Sarah said.

"HCC's legacy has been to provide relief to those living locally who are in necessitous circumstance. Support which, in many cases, is life changing. With your help, HCC hopes to continue its work in Boroondara for the next 60 years."

For details regarding the *Brilliant Ball*, including tickets and sponsorship opportunities please contact Hawthorn Community Chest's Executive Manager, Tina Probert, on 0499 400 043 or email admin@hawthorncommunitychest.org