

Gardiner Ward

December 2023



Cr Victor Franco with Camberwell Primary School students at Camberwell's newest playground.

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Camberwell has a new playground on the site of the former Reserve Road car park.



A message from your Councillor

We now have a wonderful new green oasis in Camberwell Junction. On the site of a former Council car park, 'Le Jardin de Camberwell Green' is now complete and open, with thanks to the Victorian Government which funded and delivered this new playground.

It was this project that first motivated me to stand for election as a councillor. Alongside many local families and volunteers, I campaigned for the restoration of this much needed parkland for almost 7 years. My own children were in Grade 1 at Camberwell Primary (they're now completing Year 7) when a small group of parents and residents first came together to begin discussing and developing the ideas and the campaign which grew from there. Everyone who contributed along the way played a part. It's now a reality!

In accord with commitments given to the community and to Council, the Department of Education has said the garden is to be open and available to the community outside school hours (from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm on school days). This is fabulous news for the families and children of Camberwell Primary School (see front cover photo) and the surrounding community who will jointly benefit. During school hours the playground is part of the school grounds and only open to school children.

For me however, the Camberwell Green vision will not be fully complete until a segment of Reserve Road is used to create a flowing green space from the Junction to the civic centre and improve the connection between the school campuses. While not currently approved by Council, I consider it could benefit the whole community with more connected green park space for recreation, trees, and improved safety for school children, and that this deserves further consideration.

While on Camberwell Junction, Council has released a draft Camberwell Junction Structure and Place Plan for public consultation. The plan will shape the future growth of the Junction and suggest improvements to community facilities, transport links and open spaces. In relation to Reserve Road, it recommends exploring opportunities to improve pedestrian amenity and safety and to better integrate the street with Council's civic spaces. You can view the draft plan at engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/camberwell-junction-plan. I encourage everyone to comment, and look forward to considering all submissions and views.

Cr Victor Franco

A renewed hub at Anderson Park

In October we finished works to renew the Anderson Park Community Hub in Hawthorn East to deliver a high-quality family centre for our community.

Anderson Park Community Hub is home to the South Hawthorn Maternal and Child Health Service and Auburn South Preschool, as well as being used by sports clubs and community groups. We worked with users of the hub to develop a concept design that meets their needs now and into the future.

The hub has a new foyer to give better access to services, a refreshed kindergarten with more classroom space, and more flexible community rooms. Sports clubs will also benefit from the upgraded and flexible change room and umpire room spaces as well as a designated first aid room. The new facilities are inclusive to all club members.

Sustainable design elements include double-glazed windows throughout, electric and solar hot water, solar shading, reuse of existing materials, and water-efficient taps and toilet fixtures.

The Victorian Government contributed \$300,000 to this project as part of its Building Blocks Capacity Building grants program.





Making a bee-line for biodiversity

Graham Ross and the KooyongKoot Alliance have a vision for a biodiverse Gardiners Creek catchment – and are enacting it one nature strip at a time here in Gardiner Ward.

The Alliance is working with the John Gardiner Rover Unit of the 1st Glen Iris Scout Group to revegetate nature strips with grasses and wildflowers indigenous to the area and sourced locally.

Work is largely finished on nature strips in Dillon Grove, Denman Avenue, Valley Parade, Howie Street and Jacobs Street.

“In a few years’ time when the plants have grown we will see self-sustaining nature strips that are biodiversity hotspots and pathways for pollinators,” says Graham. “They will also add richness and texture to the area.”

Botanist Tim Entwisle, former director of Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, was delighted to offer up his patch of Glen Iris for the project.

“I love the idea of our nature strip becoming a biodiverse, lively and

interesting entrance to our home,” he says. “It’s also pleasing to be able to make a small but enduring contribution to the health of Boroondara’s natural environment.

“Just as important as encouraging local flora and fauna back into our urban lives is the chance to grow a community that values and cares for nature. A great example of that is the enthusiastic involvement of the local John Gardiner Rovers.”

The Kooyongkoot Alliance brings together more than 20 voluntary groups working to heal the waterways, land and ecosystems of Gardiners Creek and its catchment, which includes a significant portion of Boroondara.

Council was pleased to support the work to revegetate the nature strips with a City of Boroondara Small Grant.

Residents can apply to Council for a permit to replant their own nature strips. Find out more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/nature-strips-boroondara

Mural reveals an underwater world

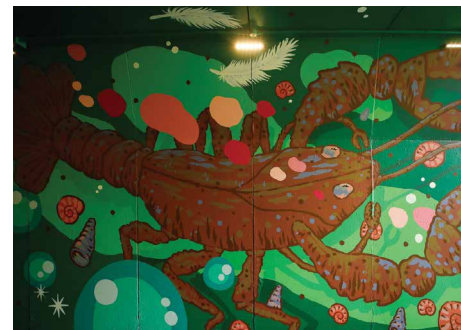
If you’re walking or cycling the Gardiners Creek Trail at the Burke Road underpass, you’ll discover the spectacular new mural depicting the underwater ecosystem of Gardiners Creek. Look out for the short-finned eels, yabbies, tadpoles and aquatic plant species, all found in nearby Gardiners Creek, that feature in the mural. If you look closely, you may spot feathers which represent the Wurundjeri name ‘Kooyoongkoot’, translating to ‘haunt of the water fowl’.

We facilitated cultural consultations between the artist, Tom Civil, and Elders from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation on the design of the mural, which wraps around the walls and ceiling of the 50-metre-long underpass.

We are proud to be showcasing this project supported through Council’s Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Master Plan, and primarily funded by Melbourne Water.

Also, Council has installed much needed lighting in the underpass. It meets current shared trail lighting standards and improves safety in the area.

To find out more visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/underpass-mural



Residents Peter, Ruth, Jonathan, Sally, Diana and Joan are at home at Morgan Glen Iris.



Design award for retirement village

With an ageing community here in Boroondara it's vital that we have a range of high-quality housing options for later in life.

Judges for this year's Boroondara Urban Design Awards decided the Morgan Glen Iris retirement village in Elizabeth Street, Glen Iris, ticks the right design boxes when they named it the best apartment or mixed-use development in the awards.

The 3-storey complex encompasses 62 homes on a triangular site overlooking the lush Back Creek corridor. Judges said the complex showed how a fit-for-purpose facility can be designed in a place-specific manner. They praised its "strong horizontal language, generous private and communal spaces, wide landscape setbacks, and a warm 'homely' tone and character".

The Boroondara Urban Design Awards returned this year after a 5-year break

due to the pandemic, with 3 times the number of entries for the last awards.

Find out more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/urban-design-awards

A (sustainable) new path

Local residents will have an easier neighbourhood walk when Council's work to build a new footpath along the west side of Elizabeth Street is finished in early 2024. The works will improve safety and pedestrian access, and respond to concerns and requests raised by local residents.

Given the presence of existing exposed tree roots in Elizabeth Street, we intend to use a permeable paving material to minimise impact on the existing street and private property trees. Recycled tyre particles make up more than half the paving material, making it resilient enough to tolerate deformations near trees and strong enough for pedestrian traffic.

Progress on Ferndale Park and Lewin Reserve pavilions

The sports pavilions at Ferndale Park and Lewin Reserve in Glen Iris are being renewed to better meet club and community needs.

Earlier this year, we asked our community to give feedback on a draft concept design for an upgraded Ferndale Park pavilion. Thank you to the 170 people who had their say.

The final pavilion design has been updated to reflect what you told us. The staircase will sit against the building, and the public toilet at the front of the building. There will be a fence behind the AFL goals instead of the proposed mesh screen, and the barbecue has been removed. Also, a path will run across the front of the pavilion, maintaining the link between the Ferndale Park and Back Creek shared paths.

The architect is finalising documentation so Council can tender and award a building contract. Construction is expected to start in late 2024.

The new pavilion at Lewin Reserve is almost completed and allocated sports clubs will be using the facilities by the end of the year.

More information:

Ferndale Park pavilion:
engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/ferndale-park-pavilion-renew

Lewin Reserve pavilion:
engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/lewin-reserve-pavilion-renew