

Lynden Ward

December 2023



Residents of Compton Street, Canterbury,
with Lynden Ward Cr Lisa Hollingsworth.

Cr Lisa Hollingsworth

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Dear Resident,

With the festive season in full swing, the warmth of summer in the air and the end of this calendar year fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate some of this year's significant community achievements.

Through the 2023-24 Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants program – in partnership with the Rotary Club of Balwyn which contributed \$216,400 from funds raised at the Camberwell Sunday Market – we have allocated \$525,000 in funding to 131 local community groups. The grants will help develop programs that deliver community-focused engagement opportunities supporting social inclusion for people of all ages, abilities and ethnicity, including active ageing, cultural innovation, youth services, health and wellbeing activities, and environmental sustainability initiatives.

I am also delighted to advise Boroondara was recently rated the most liveable local government area in Victoria in the 2023 Australian Liveability Census, as assessed by planning consultancy company Place Score. This is a remarkable achievement we should all be very proud of.

In the spirit of celebrating success, I wish to congratulate our Year 12 students upon completion of their exams. I also acknowledge the talent of Gabrielle Gibbin of Siena College (pictured above), highly commended in the Boroondara Literary Awards' senior prose section for 'When Flowers Wither'. You can borrow the Literary Awards Anthology from your local Boroondara library.

And I wholeheartedly applaud Ms Marcia Davis, of Riversdale Road Surrey Hills, for her breathtakingly beautiful, flower-filled garden (pictured on page 4) which she has cultivated by hand as a labour of love during the 65 years she has lived in her family home.

I wish you and those dearest to your heart the best of good health, happiness, and a prosperous New Year. Merry Christmas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa'.



Cr Lisa Hollingsworth

A new look for Fordham Avenue Kindergarten

In July we completed renewal works at Fordham Avenue Kindergarten, creating a modern learning environment with vibrant and refreshed spaces and features for the kindergarten children and educators to enjoy.

The works included painting to brighten up the classrooms, toilets and kitchen, new flooring and kitchen cabinetry, upgrades to the children's toilets, paths and ramps to make them accessible to all, along with roof repairs and drainage works.

The works began in late 2021 and were completed in stages throughout school-holiday periods, to avoid disruption to programs, activities and services. The kindergarten community is now enjoying the results of the upgrades.

We are pleased to deliver renewal projects to provide high-quality facilities in Boroondara. The renewed spaces at Fordham Avenue will help the kindergarten meet the needs of children, families and educators now and into the future.

The upgrade was supported by the Victorian Government through its Building Blocks grants program.



Cr Hollingsworth with Compton Street residents Norm and Gretta Cockerell, and Peter Gilson.



Local musician joins the OAM band

A lifetime of service to music through brass bands earned Lynden Ward resident Colin Harrison a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in this year's King's Birthday Honours.

Colin joined the Box Hill Junior Band at 13 and in the 50 years since has played in community bands and orchestras, served on their committees, and organised music camps, youth band festivals, competitions and community events.

He created the Silent Anzac project to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice in WWI, culminating in a tour of France, Belgium and the UK in 2018 by the Footscray-Yarraville City Band.

In 2019, with colleagues Jamie Lawson and Phillipa Edwards, Colin started the Skunkworks Community charity to provide development and performance opportunities for the community performing arts sector. More recently, Colin and Skunkworks established the Victorian State Youth Brass Band.

Every year, Council publishes the King's Birthday Honours awarded to Boroondara residents on our website. You can read the full list of recipients here: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kings-birthday-honours



Memories make Compton St history

A chance comment from a neighbour, that Canterbury's Compton Street was the first concrete road in the former City of Camberwell, set resident Gretta Cockerell on a path to document the street's history.

Soon to be available at Camberwell Library, the document combines local historical resources including Council minutes and early subdivision maps with memories from current street residents, and fascinating photographs from various decades.

Now more than 100 years old, Compton Street emerged from market gardens and farm paddocks that were subdivided in 1919, with its first homes built in 1920.

Gretta now enjoys the 'rural' ambience of the street's big Marri flowering gums planted that decade, some of them 20 metres high and home to tawny frogmouths and lorikeets, and the inter-war homes including Californian bungalows. Its residents, unique history and nearby schools and churches also make the street special, she says.

Gretta is not alone in enjoying the neighbourhood. "One resident has lived here all his life, one since the 1940s, others have been in grandparents' homes for 60 to 90 years."

One of those is Peter Gilson, pictured above, a Vietnam War veteran and former Army Captain, who lives in the former home of his grandparents the Mahoneys and contributed his memories of living in Compton Street to Gretta's history. Douglas Walker, who has lived in the street all his life, and Lorenzo Calcagno who emigrated from Sicily and bought in Compton Street in 1977, have also provided memories.

The history also references prominent former residents, and landmarks including the Cullymont, Eyrecourt and Holyrood mansions, St Dominic's, Siena College, and Canterbury and Camberwell Primary Schools.

Local history resources

Boroondara libraries have a wealth of local historical resources. Find out more about key local histories, heritage studies, local historical societies and online resources at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-local-history

If you have a local history story or item you would like to donate to the Boroondara Local History Collection, please email history@boroondara.vic.gov.au



Be water wise for a blooming garden

Lynden Ward resident Marcia Davis has been tending her beautiful Riversdale Road garden for 65 years.

With a hot and dry summer predicted, she will be taking care to make the most of every drop of moisture. You can try the following tips from Sustainable Gardening Australia to save water in your garden.

Water-wise gardening tips

- Water garden beds for longer, less often, to encourage deep root growth and improve plant resilience.
- Water gardens first thing in the morning so excess water on leaves evaporates, reducing infections like mildew.
- Healthy soil retains more moisture than poor soil. Add organic content like compost and aged manure at least once a year.
- Apply mulch on top of your soil to reduce evaporation.
- If you can, invest in a drip-feed watering system, which allows consistent and effective watering to the roots.

Expo encourages switch to electric

More than 1,200 community members attended the Electrify Boroondara Expo in October to learn how to make the transition to electric for a clean-energy future.

Electrify Boroondara (electrifyboroondara.org) is independent of Council, working with the local community to achieve the aspirational 'community targets' in our Climate Action Plan.



Cinema in the Park

Our Summer in the Park program makes a welcome return to Boroondara this year, including events on our doorstep here in Lynden Ward. On Saturday 3 February, Riversdale Park will host 2 silver-screen events as part of the Cinema in the Park program.

The first, at 5 pm, is a showcase of short films from the Boroondara Seniors Film Festival, made by older members of the community. At 6 pm, the 1985 sci-fi classic, *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, will hit the screen. It's a heart-warming tale directed by Steven Spielberg.

Find more at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park-24