

Solway Ward

April 2024



Solway Ward Cr Garry Thompson with members of the Men's Shed at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning.

Cr Garry Thompson

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Planning advocate Mary Drost protests with actor Geoffrey Rush and comedian Barry Humphries.



A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Solway Ward newsletter. I hope you have all enjoyed what started out to be a mild summer, but finally warmed up. Our sporting grounds have benefited from the unusually wet start to summer.

Two of our local grounds, Ashburton Park and Dorothy Laver Reserve West, are going through a turf renewal program, including irrigation and new drainage. When complete, these grounds will be among the best in the municipality.

I was privileged to attend the 150th birthday celebrations for Burwood Cricket Club in February. To mark the occasion the club published a memoir named *Community at the Crease*, highlighting many of the events and the history of the club. It is a great read.

The Ashburton Traders continue to engage widely with our community and the Ashburton Festival this year was again a great success.

The start of 2024 unfortunately marked the passing of 2 former City of Camberwell councillors. Mary Drost

OAM served on Camberwell Council from 1982 to 1985. She was a fierce advocate for appropriate planning and development and founded the Boroondara Residents Action Group and Planning Backlash (now Planning Democracy).

Neville Lee OAM was elected to represent the residents of Ashburton and Glen Iris as councillor in September 1956. He served as a City of Camberwell councillor from 1956 to 1964, and was Mayor in 1961–62. As a champion of pre-school education he was instrumental in establishing up to 20 kindergartens across the municipality. He was also instrumental in founding the Ashy Op Shop and the former Ashburton Support Services. Both former councillors were dear friends. My sincere condolences go to both their families.

Cr Garry Thompson

Thanks for having your say on new playgrounds

We're renewing the playgrounds at Winton Reserve in Ashburton and Burwood Reserve in Glen Iris due to their age and condition.

Our landscape architects listened to ideas from playground visitors big and small, and used these to develop draft designs for both.

At Winton Reserve, we now plan to integrate the Ashburton Food Forest with the upgraded playground to encourage nature play. At Burwood Reserve, we're planning to feature a bounce pad, a triple swing set, more shade and better access with improved paths and seating.

We plan to share final designs with you in late 2024. Construction for the new playgrounds is set to start in the 2024–25 financial year (subject to Council's annual budget process).

To stay up to date on the Winton Reserve playground design, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/winton-reserve-playground

To stay up to date on the Burwood Reserve playground design, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/burwood-reserve-playground



An artist impression of the new playground at Burwood Reserve (subject to change)

The Men's Shed at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning runs on Tuesdays.



A place for you right in your 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're lucky to have 3 neighbourhood houses and community centres right here in Solway Ward with a range of complementary programming.

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning (www.alameinnlc.com.au): Conveniently located opposite Alamein Station, it has a Men's Shed that operates from the station on Tuesdays, as well as a community garden next door. Classes range from computer skills to employment pathways, self defence to horticulture for beginners.

Ashburton Community Centre (ashburtoncc.org.au): Co-located with

Ashburton Library on High Street, it hosts book clubs along with art, music, language and exercise classes. It also runs a Chatty Cafe on Thursdays and the quarterly Ashburton-a-Fair community event.

Craig Family Centre (craigfc.org.au): Offers a range of community programs and events, as well as kindergarten and sessional care. It also runs playgroups (including Bush Playgroup and Mandarin Playgroup) and activities for under-5s, a Bright Brains Homework Club and Chatty Cafe.

With a diverse mix of events and activities to learn and connect with others, as well as groups to join across all 3 locations, now is a great time to take a closer look. 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

Thinking of solar? We can help

We've partnered with 2 local government programs to help you access affordable solar panels and energy-saving upgrades for your home or business.

When you register your interest with Energy Savers or Solar Savers, you'll get free quotes and advice that's tailored to your needs. You'll find out about your eligibility for government rebates, estimated energy and cost savings, and recommendations for reliable local installers and suppliers.

For businesses

Energy Savers helps small businesses use Victorian Government initiatives to improve their energy efficiency. The program supports upgrades for items such as reverse-cycle air-conditioners, hot water systems, LED lighting and energy-efficient refrigerated cabinets and fridges. Find more at: businessenergysavers.org

For residents

Since 2022, 34 residents in Boroondara have had solar systems installed in their home or business through Solar Savers, saving an average \$1,073 on energy bills. For a limited time, Solar Savers is offering households a \$500 discount off the price of solar systems or battery installation. Find out more about the discount and program at: solarsavers.org.au



Lifetime achievers Trevor Smyth (bottom left) Malcolm Fielden (top left) Adrian Reus (top, second from left).



It's time to nominate 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 Solway Ward by nominating them under a range of categories.

It was fantastic to see so many Solway Ward clubs recognised at the 2023 Sports Awards.

Burwood Cricket Club was celebrated as the Collaborative Club of the Year in recognition of its partnership with the YMCA Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre. Together they created a healthy alternative to fast-food vouchers for their junior player of the day certificates. Each week, the player of the day is now awarded a free family swim voucher.

Solway Ward had 3 Lifetime Achievement Award recipients last year:

Adrian Reus - Burwood District Cricket Club. Adrian holds records for the most games played and wickets taken at the club, and his feats within the Box Hill Reporter District Cricket

Association are highly regarded. His contributions on and off the field have made him a legendary figure in the club's history.

Malcolm Fielden - Burwood Cricket Club. Malcolm has been named a 'Club Legend', is a Life Member of the Eastern Cricket Association, and was awarded by Cricket Victoria for 50 years' service. He has served as president, committee member, coach, captain and ECA umpire, and is still on the committee today.

Trevor Smyth - Ashburton Uniting Church Tennis Club. Trevor has been a member of the club since 1964, including president for the last 25 years, leading large projects to improve the club such as court resurfacing and light installations.

Nominations for the 2024 awards are open until Friday 17 May. Winners will be celebrated at a presentation evening in August. Visit our website for more information: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/about-2024-sports-awards

Go local to celebrate Mother's Day

With Mother's Day coming up on Sunday 12 May, now's the time to search for the perfect gift to honour the special women we call 'Mum'.

For Solway Ward locals and visitors alike, Ashburton Village has some great shopping options to explore.

With more than 21,000 residents living within a 1.5 km radius of High Street, the area is a hive of activity.

From fantastic florists to unique boutiques and eateries, there are Mother's Day gifting and dining options aplenty for the special mum in your life (plus a great variety of local cafes to recharge at on your shopping excursion too).

Local businesses like these – supported by our active traders associations – play a major role in the economic wellbeing of Boroondara's many shopping centres and strips.

So this Mother's Day, celebrate the day by supporting local and knowing that your neighbourhood shops, cafes, restaurants and businesses appreciate the local love.

