

# GARDINER WARD update

with Councillor Coral Ross | June 2009

## Welcome

Dear Neighbour

Welcome to my first news update of the year and this Council term. I hope that you find it informative and helpful.

Included in this update is news of options for HA Smith Reserve in Hawthorn; upgrades to the Gardiners Creek Trail, the Hawthorn Leisure Centre and development plans for the Hawthorn Town Hall as an arts precinct.

Residents continually tell me of the importance of the environment and sustainability. The Glen Iris Wetlands in Sinclair Avenue will open shortly and it will improve the quality of stormwater entering Gardiners Creek as well as providing an oasis for birds and animal life.

Households can also take advantage of cheaper solar panels through a

bulk purchase scheme available through Council.

I would also like to thank you for re-electing me as your councillor. It is a privilege, and I welcome your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any Council-related matter.

With best wishes

**Cr Coral Ross**



## Glen Iris Wetlands

Built on the former Glen Iris and Tooronga Bowls Club site at Sinclair Avenue, the 1.7 hectare wetlands will improve the stormwater quality entering Gardiners Creek.

It will also create a haven for native flora and fauna, and provide passive open space for residents to enjoy. Most of the earthworks have now been completed, and once Citipower fits electrical cables the pedestrian bridge will be built.

"The wetlands are starting to fill with water and birds are already arriving," said Councillor Ross.

"The wetlands act as a biological filter removing contaminants in the stormwater run-off. In effect, it acts like the kidneys for the catchment.

"It will provide a wonderful habitat for bird life, frogs, water birds and other flora and fauna."

The \$1.79 million wetlands are a joint project between Boroondara, Melbourne Water and Stockland.

More than 10,000 native indigenous plants and trees have been planted as part of the project.

The new playground at the end of Parkin Street in Burke Road South Reserve was recently upgraded and reopened for use, and work on the 350,000 litre water tanks next to the cricket nets have finished in time for the start of the rugby season.

The wetland project is a wonderful addition to the amenity of Glen Iris, and it is expected to attract visitors from all over Boroondara as well as the wider community, providing an oasis for bird and animal life.

The new wetland at Glen Iris is almost finished and will be officially opened in July.



**Gardiner Ward**  
**Cr Coral Ross**

Including parts of Hawthorn, Hawthorn East, Camberwell and Glen Iris.



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01

## Redevelopment of Hawthorn Library Precinct

Plans for a new community facility within the Hawthorn Library Precinct are moving forward.

The development in Glenferrie Road will include services for children, families and the elderly. It will also be home to the Manresa Kindergarten, which has to vacate its current Lynch Street site.

The area is currently home to the Hawthorn Library, Peppercorn Senior Citizens Club, Hawthorn Community Education Centre, Glenferrie Early Childhood Centre, Maternal and Child Health and Occasional Care.

Some of the buildings, which date back to the 1940s and early 1950s, are inadequate for today's needs. The project will see the construction of a state of the art two-level facility.

The community provided feedback to the site development plan in February and concept plans are expected to be completed in June. Details are available at Council.

## Epworth Camberwell

Plans have been submitted for Epworth Camberwell to be built on the corner of Burke and Toorak Roads, Glen Iris.

The proposed three-storey building, plus planned development at 382-384 Burke Road which consists of a 68 bed acute care facility ancillary to the existing hospital (formerly Cedar Court) are included.

Plans include operating theatres and consulting rooms as well as underground parking for 98 cars.

02

## Gardiners Creek Shared Trail is set for a massive upgrade

The 1.5 kilometre gap east of Solway Bridge to Warrigal Road will be completed, and the path between the velodrome at HA Smith Reserve and Toorak Road will be re-aligned and reconstructed.

The shared trail is one of the busiest in Melbourne with about 2,000 cyclists using it daily. The upgrades will be funded by local, state and federal governments.

More than \$2.5 million has been given by the Australian Government to close the trail's gap in Ashburton. Council applied for a grant to the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program as part of the Australian Government's stimulus package.

The City of Boroondara will spend \$300,000, and the Cities of Stonnington and Monash will each contribute \$215,000. Other funding has been received from the Victorian Government.

"Council is committed to improving sustainability and encouraging alternative methods of transport," said Cr Ross.

"We are delighted that part of the stimulus package will be used in this way."

It will take three years to complete the works, which include:

- replacement of the Solway Street Bridge
- regrading the connection onto the Solway Street Bridge
- a new shared path through Markham Victory Reserve
- a new bridge over Gardiners Creek
- a new shared path east of Warrigal Road connecting into the existing Gardiners Creek Trail in the City of Monash.

This section of the Trail is very narrow, has several kinks and visibility issues. It is also close to the creek bank and is in need of a major upgrade.

Unfortunately, as part of the works, some trees will be removed but others will be re-planted elsewhere.

## Hawthorn Town Hall redevelopment

Council has a vision to reinvigorate historic Hawthorn Town Hall to create an exciting new community and cultural space for Boroondara.

The hub would provide quality arts space for Boroondara residents, catering for music, contemporary theatre, dance and visual arts. It will include restaurants, craft shops, commercial entertainment venues, engaging public spaces, public art all in the proximity of rehearsal and preparation areas and library services.

As one of the few historic town halls remaining, the development of the arts precinct will ensure that the unique architecture of the Hawthorn Town Hall building is preserved.

There are also plans to provide a professional performance program to support existing community-based productions.

Councillor Coral Ross says that the community has been loud and clear in stating that they want more arts facilities in Boroondara.

"People really want to participate and appreciate the arts on their doorstep," said Cr Ross.

"I will be advocating strongly for this project. We certainly need an arts centre in Boroondara. We should know shortly if Council decides this is a priority project which should go ahead."

## HA Smith

Now is the chance for you to have your say in the development of one of our biggest parks - HA Smith Reserve, Hawthorn.

Council is keen to get feedback on design options for the park. Residents living within 500 metres of the park have been sent plans along with a questionnaire. Plans have also been put up on noticeboards at the park.

Currently HA Smith is a sporting reserve used both actively and passively. It has two soccer fields, a pavilion, playground, exercise stations and passive open space. The Gardiners Creek shared pedestrian and bicycle path runs along the southern boundary.

Among the suggestions are:

- construction of a new sporting pavilion and associated off-street car parking on the Glenferrie Road side of the park
- realignment of the Gardiners Creek Trail and provision of a shared pedestrian/bicycle bridge crossing Gardiners Creek to the east of Glenferrie Road which will make the trail more direct and reduce conflict between cyclists and pedestrians
- realignment of the existing soccer fields to provide two senior sized soccer fields and one cricket oval, plus associated practice cricket nets
- upgrade and improvement of the training lights to the sports fields
- construction of a beginner skate and BMX Playground to complement the existing playground and provide an alternative recreation activity within the reserve for primary school aged children

- demolition of the existing pavilion and conversion of this section of Reserve Road to parkland, increasing the open space within the reserve
- exploration of opportunities for water sensitive urban design.

There are also options of using a traditional turf surface for both fields, or a synthetic surface for one field. There are a couple of different locations for the pavilion, and a couple of different places for the skate park.

For more information please look at Council's website, or see the designs at the park.

The questionnaire should be returned to:

**Post:** Environment and Sustainable Living Department, City of Boroondara, Private Bag 1, Camberwell VIC 3124

**Fax:** (03) 9278 4502

**Email:** [haveyoursay@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:haveyoursay@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

## Reduce today, don't waste tomorrow!

Did you know that each Australian household produces an average of 1.14 tonnes of waste per year the majority of which ends up in landfill?

But one of the easiest ways to reduce our waste is to reduce the size of our bin.

Research shows that using a smaller bin leads to a reduction in waste - because the bigger the bin, the more rubbish and recyclables are thrown in it. In fact in Boroondara more than a quarter of the contents of a 240 litre bin are recyclables.

And downsizing your waste bin will also save you money. Additional or bigger recycling bins are available free of charge.

Most councils are moving to smaller bins. In 2006 just three (including Boroondara) of the 30 inner and outer metropolitan councils had 240 litre

bins for household waste. Council began replacing 240 litre bins from households of three or less with a smaller bin from May.

"It may take some getting used to, but future generations will thank us for reducing our carbon footprint," said Cr Ross.

"At the moment 50 per cent of Boroondara waste ends up in landfill. We know we can do much better. We owe it to our children to think about how we can contribute."

Council provides a free recycling and green waste service as well as a state-of-the art transfer station for the disposal and recycling of a wide range of items. There is also a free at-call green waste service for garden pruning (available twice a year).

A broad range of materials can be disposed of by residents at the



Boroondara Transfer Station. It accepts waste; recyclables including computers, TVs, VCRs, DVDs, sound systems; green waste; mattresses; tyres; oil; steel; whitegoods; car and household batteries; paints and gas cylinders.

The station is located at 648 Riversdale Road, Camberwell.

For more information on Council's waste service or how to downsize a waste bin, please call 9278 4444.

## Solar Suburbs Bulk Purchase Program

Councillor Ross attended the launch of a valuable initiative which is set to slash household bills and help the environment.

Boroondara residents now have the exciting opportunity to purchase discounted solar panels through the Solar Suburbs Bulk Purchase Program.

The City of Boroondara joined forces with other councils to connect residents with a solar panel provider who will offer a bulk discount, saving participating residents between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Homeowners can purchase a 1kW solar panel system to produce emissions-free, renewable electricity for their home.

“Residents have said they want to do their bit for the environment and this will enable people to benefit from the bulk purchasing power of many council areas. It will enable households to save two tonnes of carbon per year,” said Councillor Ross.



“You will also have lower electricity bills as you will be generating some of your own household power.”

To get maximum benefit from this program, applicants should:

- be home owner/occupiers
- have eight square metres of unshaded, north-facing roof.

For more information and to register online visit [www.solarsuburbsprogram.com.au](http://www.solarsuburbsprogram.com.au) or call 9095 7404.

## Your Tutor

Do you ever get stuck at night with your homework?

If you are in years 4 to 12, then help is close at hand – your own professional tutor.

Boroondara library is offering members a free tutor service, via the library website [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/library) It can be accessed online either from home, or a library computer, from 4pm-8pm Monday to Friday.

Tutors are available for most subjects studied at school.

“This is a wonderful initiative, and it will be great for students to be able to get expert help when they get stuck,” said Councillor Ross.

For further information ring 9278 4666.

## Anderson Park stairs

New stairs are being built at Anderson Park, at the corner of Henham and Anderson Roads, Hawthorn.

“Currently a lot of people walk down the steep dirt hill,” said Councillor Ross. “The stairs will be safer and will connect to the circular path.”

The stairs will replicate the bluestone used in the stairs further along the park.

## Hawthorn Aquatic & Leisure Centre upgrade



The Hawthorn Aquatic & Leisure Centre has been earmarked for an upgrade and makeover.

It is proposed to expand and improve the range of programs and services available and address structural issues such as the deteriorating pool and gym.

Councillor Coral Ross said that she is strongly advocating for the facility to be modernised and expanded to accommodate more patrons.

“Hawthorn Aquatic & Leisure Centre is used by a lot of residents but it is in desperate need of upgrading,” said Cr Ross.

“Council is yet to make a decision about whether the project will go ahead but I will be pushing hard for the upgrade to happen,” she added.

“The 50 metre pool will be renovated, the installation of a warm water hydrotherapy pool and hopefully an exciting new children’s waterplay area.”

“Improved disability access, a new child care facility and a brand new café are also part of the proposal.”