

# Solway Ward update

Councillor Kevin Chow | December 2009

## Christmas message

Dear neighbour,

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to thank each and every Solway Ward resident for your enthusiastic support and feedback throughout 2009.

This has been my first year as a Boroondara councillor and it has brought many challenges for our community to my attention, but with it much reward.

I am proud to say, due to the combined efforts of my fellow councillors, expert advice from Council officers and support from the community, a huge amount has been achieved within a short period of time.

There have been many highlights during my first year as a councillor, but the following achievements and events stand out:

- Closing the gap – the Gardiners Creek Trail is a key artery for Melbourne cyclists and we were thrilled to receive a \$2.5 million grant towards the construction of a new 1.5 kilometre section of the path. The new section will close the gap that exists between Warrigal Road in Ashwood and the Solway Street Bridge in Ashburton.
- Saving water at Ashburton Pool – the Backwash Project at Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre (APARC) was another example of our commitment to sustainability. This project, jointly funded by the Victorian Government, will see recycled water from APARC



used to irrigate the neighbouring Warner Reserve and will eventually lead to sporting clubs being able to regularly use the sportsgrounds for training and competition.

- Fostering community spirit at Ashburton Festival – this annual festival is truly reflective of the community and this year various local groups organised music, food stalls and other fun activities. I enjoyed mingling with fellow Solway residents and look forward to what next year's festival has in store.

I am particularly proud of these achievements, which will benefit the community now and continue to in the future.

Solway Ward has so much to offer during summer and I'm sure all of you will continue to enjoy the many indoor and outdoor activities available in the area.

You and your family and friends can have a BBQ at Ashburton or Watson parks, and Alamein Neighbourhood Centre also has BBQ facilities. However, if the heat becomes too oppressive, escape to Ashburton Library or APARC and relax in air-conditioned comfort. You can read more about these services in this newsletter or on our website at [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au).

Last but not least, I would like to take the chance to wish you and your family a safe and merry festive season, and an exciting 2010.

Best wishes,  
**Councillor Kevin Chow**



**Solway Ward**  
**Cr Kevin Chow**

Including parts of Ashburton  
and Glen Iris.



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## Shopping centre improvements

Seven of Solway Ward's strip shopping centres, including Ashburton and Alamein, are set to be upgraded after Council endorsed a Shopping Centre Improvement Plan (SCIP) in November.



The SCIP is a Boroondara-wide initiative which assesses 41 shopping centres that contain seven or more businesses. It identifies a range of improvement opportunities that will be progressively implemented as part of an ongoing improvement program.

Council understands how important local shopping precincts are to residents and traders, and the program aims to balance the relative needs of each shopping centre with the anticipated benefits offered by these centres to the broader community.

Improvements that will be considered include upgrading vital elements such as street trees, seats, bins, bike rails and footpaths, as well as a number of desirable additions including feature paving, additional landscaping and public art.

## Investing in our community

Five major projects are underway in the City of Boroondara.

This community investment will see the redevelopment of the Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre (HALC), an upgrade of the Kew Recreation Centre (KRC), the establishment of a permanent new home for the Camberwell Library, the conversion of the Hawthorn Town Hall into a new arts and cultural space and a multi-purpose community space being built in the Hawthorn Library Precinct.

### Project details:

**Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre** – the centre as it currently stands will be demolished and replaced with a new purpose-built facility. Council is also looking into a new and slightly wider 50-metre pool. The new centre will focus on providing general health opportunities, such as gym classes, yoga and pilates, and flexible program space will accommodate growing interest in these activities.

**Kew Recreation Centre** – will be upgraded to enable the closure of the HALC, ensuring safety, cost effectiveness and minimising the construction period. The KRC project will involve an extension to the gymnasium and additional program and administration space. There will also be a new and expanded creche and associated outdoor play area, an extension to the program room a new spinning room and re-organisation of the reception/entry and cafe.

**New home for Camberwell Library** – the Camberwell Centre has been earmarked as the new permanent home for the Camberwell Library, community meeting rooms and office space for City of Boroondara staff. The library and community meeting rooms are proposed to be located on the ground floor and staff will be located on the first and potentially second floors. There will

also be additional car parking facilities for library/civic centre visitors and staff.

**Hawthorn Library Precinct** – a multi-purpose community space will be built for services for children, families and older residents on a site adjoining the Hawthorn Library.

**Hawthorn Town Hall** – set to be converted into a new heritage-inspired arts and cultural space. This project will result in the relocation of Council staff currently working in Hawthorn to above the new library in the Camberwell Centre. Council will maintain a customer service presence in Hawthorn.

# Council's groundbreaking cogeneration power plant

This year, the City of Boroondara showed its commitment to slashing greenhouse gas emissions by joining forces with Sustainability Victoria and announcing the innovative Ashburton Community Precinct Cogeneration Project.

A cogeneration power plant will be installed at the Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre (APARC) to provide low emissions electricity to the facility, as well as the Craig Family Centre. The plant will also supply the bulk of the leisure centre's heat and power needs.

This eco-friendly initiative will also see the installation of energy efficient lights in the surrounding community precinct, solar panels at Ashburton Support Services, Samarinda Lodge and Warner Reserve pavilion. An education program is also being established for residents to learn more about energy saving practices.

The Ashburton project will save around 1,247 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions or 24,940 tonnes over its 20 year life. This is an average energy cost saving of \$170,000 per year and \$3.4 million over 20 years.

The plant is currently being designed and construction is scheduled to begin in the 2010-11 financial year.



## Stay cool when the heat is on

With the mercury already hitting record temperatures, there has never been a better time to prepare for extreme heat.

The City of Boroondara has already prepared a plan to assist and support residents and provide advice in the event of a prolonged heatwave.

You too, can take simple and easy precautions to make life cooler and safer this summer: keep hydrated and drink plenty of water, stay in the shade and avoid over-doing it outside. Cool proof your house and be prepared.

Let's ensure that we look out for our neighbours, relatives and friends;

including our furry ones – they need our help too! We should also maintain a special look-out in our neighbourhood for those who are particularly vulnerable to hot weather, such as the elderly, the very young and those suffering from chronic illness.

Remember, Council is here to help, so if you have any questions please call Boroondara's Public Health Team: 9278 4710 or visit our website [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au).



## Neighbourhood houses

Solway Ward is fortunate to be home to three outstanding community centres: Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning Centre, the Ashburton Community Centre and the Craig Family Centre.

Throughout the year, a variety of activities and educational courses are on offer to suit people of all ages and abilities.

To find out more about what courses will be offered in the first half of next year, get your hands on the *Short Course, Activity and Social Guide*. Copies will be delivered to residents, but if you don't receive one, they will also be available at Ashburton Library, Council offices and the neighbourhood centres.



## Citizen of the Year

Each year Council seeks to recognise outstanding community service with the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards.

The awards reward unsung heroes in our community who generously give their time and expertise to help others.

These may be your neighbours, colleagues and family members who volunteer for charity work; those who never hesitate to join an important community initiative; those who strive to improve the community services and facilities of Boroondara; and of course, tomorrow's leaders, full of youthful enthusiasm.

The awards will be announced at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony in Boroondara on 26 January 2010.

