

Gardiner Ward

July 2023



Glen Iris resident Dr Dimity Williams has helped restore a patch of creekside land with indigenous plantings.



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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Boroondara's high rate of volunteering is something we need to celebrate and promote, and it's something I try to do in each of my newsletters. I hope you enjoy reading about what some of our neighbours are doing and that this may motivate you to look into taking on a volunteer role yourself.

I'd like to thank our wonderful Back2Nettleton volunteers and other friends groups for their relentless efforts to revegetate our biodiversity corridors and improve native habitats. Council is committed to continually expanding our biodiversity areas in line with our Climate Action Plan commitments as you'll read in this newsletter.

I'm delighted that construction is set to commence in the July school holidays on Camberwell Green – the restoration of much-needed green open play space near the Junction on the site of the former Council car park. Many local families campaigned for this over the past 6 years and I gave an election commitment to pursue this initiative, which the Victorian Government has committed to fund and deliver. I think this is fabulous news for the families and children of Camberwell Primary School and the surrounding community. Later this year, Council is also expected to commence community consultation on the Draft Camberwell Junction Structure Plan. The plan will establish a long-term vision for the development of the Junction and among other things suggest opportunities for creation of more green open space.

In response to community feedback, Council has agreed to undertake comprehensive renewals of the Dorothy Laver Reserve West, in Glen Iris, and Ashburton Park playing fields this coming year. The state of these playing fields has understandably been the source of much community discontent.

The draft design for the Ferndale Park pavilion generated significant and helpful community feedback. The design is being amended to improve the original design. Further consultation will occur shortly.

Lewin Reserve is situated in a Melbourne Water floodplain. In response to community requests at a public meeting that I hosted, Council committed to undertake an additional flood modelling study. This has now been completed and minor works will be undertaken in July as a result to mitigate risks to nearby residents.

Finally, Council has completed community consultation on the proposal to remove reference to the Council prayer from the Governance Rules. A report will be presented to Council later this year to enable a final decision to be made. I think it is important our Council meetings are inclusive and reflect the diversity and values of our community.

Regards,

Cr Victor Franco

A heart-warming mural for Hartwell shops ...

Later this year you'll be able to admire the handiwork of local schoolchildren, whose collaborative mural will make a colourful new attraction at Hartwell Shopping Precinct.

Council was pleased to support the Hartwell Association of Residents and Traders, Hartwell traders and the local community by funding the installation of this community mural. Installed on Council land along the length of the vacant property at 1134 Toorak Road, Camberwell, it aims to add colour and life, increase visitation and encourage the community to shop locally.

Earlier this year we engaged a local artist to lead creative workshops with 4 local schools, based on the theme 'Heart of Melbourne'. Thank you to all the students involved from Camberwell South Primary School, Glen Iris Primary School, Hartwell Primary School and St Dominic's Primary School.

We encourage you to drop by the area once the mural is in place in coming months to take a look, and pop into the local cafes and shops while you're there.

... and one for Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot)

Another local mural will soon grace the Burke Road underpass of the Gardiners Creek Trail. Melbourne Water has engaged artist Tom Civil in collaboration with the City of Boroondara and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, to celebrate the underwater life of the creek in an artwork later this year.



Gum tree right at home among local flora

A large southern mahogany gum on the Ferndale Trail is now surrounded by indigenous bulbine lilies, kangaroo apples and native grasses, thanks to a local resident.

Gardiner Ward's Dr Dimity Williams (pictured) was worried about the wellbeing of the tree near her Glen Iris home, due to degradation of the ground underneath it. She contacted Council to check the area could be replanted with indigenous plants, then prepared for a planting session. "My neighbour, Josie Browne, and a group of nature-loving friends provided the people power and seedlings while Council delivered some mulch.

"We now have gang-gang cockatoos visiting the area and, at night, microbats," says Dr Williams, a GP and author. She says the project has had great wellbeing benefits for those involved.

"As a GP I can see how being outdoors with others on revegetation projects aids physical and mental health and helps build community connection. It can form part of what doctors like myself incorporate into their everyday practice, a 'nature prescription'. This is where patients are advised to spend time in nature for its health benefits."



Delivering books and friendship with the home library service

Did you know Boroondara has the highest rate of volunteering in metro Melbourne? If you're looking for a new activity this winter and a way to support your community, you could consider volunteering.

Gardiner Ward resident Elizabeth Smith has been volunteering with the City of Boroondara Home Library Service for 11 years. As a library customer herself, she wanted to bring the joys of the library to those who couldn't visit a branch themselves.

Elizabeth says one of her first 'customers' was blind. "He enjoyed receiving talking children's books to share with his grandchildren. From that experience, I knew why I wanted to be a volunteer for the library."

Elizabeth mostly visits nursing homes, but volunteers do visit people in their homes. She makes monthly deliveries, as well as returning borrowed items to Hawthorn Library.

"It's a privilege to take bags of library items to people who otherwise would miss out," she says. "I've become friends with many and over COVID lockdowns, I would phone 'my ladies' for a chat, as I couldn't visit them."

Elizabeth recommends this role to anyone who has a few hours available each month and enjoys meeting people.

If you're seeking a volunteer role but you're not sure where to start, contact the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteering

About the home library service

This essential service provides home delivery of items for people who can't visit the library branches themselves. Anything that can be borrowed from the library is also available through the Home Library Service, including books, DVDs, CDs or magazines. Find out more:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/home-library-service



Working together to protect Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot)

In April, the City of Boroondara joined 15 organisations in launching the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Regional Collaboration. The purpose of this group, which includes neighbouring councils, community organisations and public authorities, is to protect and improve the cultural, amenity, and environmental value of the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) catchment – for the benefit of the community and the environment.

Gardiners Creek, also known as Kooyongkoot, forms much of Boroondara's border in the south, running through biodiversity hotspots, sportsgrounds and recreation hubs. It borders vital commuter cycling routes and many much-loved open spaces.

City of Boroondara has agreed to a long-term shared vision for Gardiners Creek alongside its fellow Regional Collaboration members. The vision states:

- Kooyongkoot and its catchment is protected, valued and loved, supporting diverse uses and thriving biodiversity.

- As custodians of our natural environment, Traditional Owners play a key role in its management.
- Community and all stakeholders are working together to heal, strengthen and ensure the resilience of KooyongKoot and its catchment.

A number of programs and projects will be implemented to achieve this vision. You can find out more in the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Regional Collaboration prospectus at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-collaboration

Markham Forest Project

Community organisation KooyongKoot Alliance (also a member of the Regional Collaboration) has received a \$20,000 grant from the Australian Government for the Markham Forest Project.

This will involve planting 2,000 indigenous trees in our local community – and you can help. Planting events are planned to take place throughout July, August and September.

For further information, email: kooyongkootalliance@gmail.com

Expanding biodiversity sites in Boroondara

We're renewing our Biodiversity Asset Management Plan for the next 10 years. This plan guides how we maintain and expand biodiversity sites in Boroondara in line with our commitment in the Climate Action Plan: to increase the area managed for biodiversity by one hectare per year. Some sites for expanded biodiversity are expected to be here in Gardiner Ward.

What this looks like in practice is extending garden beds within existing biodiversity reserves onto nearby open lawn by planting new indigenous plants and shrubs.

We have several community consultations coming up related to environmental sustainability in Boroondara. If this interests you, visit Engage Boroondara, click 'Join' at the top of the page to register for an account, and select 'Waste, recycling and sustainability' and 'Parks, playgrounds and open spaces' as your categories of interest.

You will receive updates when consultations open:

 engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au



Back2Nettleton volunteers.