

# Riversdale Ward

April 2024



Artist Tom Civil with his mural in the Gardiners Creek Trail's Burke Road underpass.

**Cr Susan Biggar**

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## A message from your Councillor

Trees are a favourite topic for me – and it seems I'm not alone with this. One resident recently wrote:

*'When residents buy into [this road] ... we buy into trees. Large trees, leafy trees, old trees. Shade on a hot summer's day. We know that trees have consequences that we don't always like, but trees are what we want. Trees are a major reason we live here.'*

In recent months, I have heard the distress of some residents, phoning me in fury or despair to report the illegal destruction of a tree. Sometimes it's a hard-to-trace poisoning, on other occasions, a Sunday-morning chainsaw. In one case, we fined the owners on the Monday only to get the report of another tree cut down by them 5 days later. Unfortunately, these law breakers are not bothered by our fines, which are limited by the Victorian Government. For many, the current \$2,000 fine per offence is simply the cost of getting what they want.

But we all pay the price for this ecological vandalism. Community members often mention how important

it is that we preserve our trees, and there are so many reasons for this.

We need our trees, and so does our wildlife. Trees provide food and homes, store carbon, help with air pollution, prevent soil erosion, provide shade, help reduce our home energy costs and improve our mental health and wellbeing.

So what can you do to help us save our trees? Keep a watch out for their potential removal and let us know as soon as you can if you suspect the removal of a tree is illegal. Join (or start) a group of like-minded people to promote increased tree canopy. Support Council in its attempt to have the level of fines increased by the state government. Plant trees yourself.

Some things are worth fighting for. Our trees are one of them.

**Cr Susan Biggar**



## Mural reveals an underwater world

A vibrant new mural is brightening up the Gardiners Creek Trail's Burke Road underpass – thanks in part to our Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) Master Plan.

Adopted in 2022, one of the actions in the plan is to look at opportunities for the Burke Road underpass, such as improved lighting and public art. When Melbourne Water upgraded the nearby Gardiners Creek sewer main in 2022, we advocated for funding and support to deliver on this action from the master plan. With our support, Melbourne Water funded most of the installation of the new mural and lighting.

We facilitated cultural consultations between the artist and Elders from Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation on the mural's design.

It depicts the underwater ecosystem of Gardiners Creek. Look for short-finned eels, yabbies, tadpoles and aquatic plant species, all found in nearby Gardiners Creek. If you look closely, you may spot feathers that represent the Wurundjeri name 'Kooyoongkoot', translating to 'haunt of the water fowl'.

Learn more about the Gardiners Creek Master Plan at: [engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan](https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan)

# 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, including:

- your eligibility for government rebates
- estimated energy and cost savings
- recommendations for reliable, experienced local installers and suppliers independently evaluated on safety, product quality and value for money.

## 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
- energy-efficient refrigerated cabinets and fridges.

Find out more at:

[businessenergysavers.org](http://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 of \$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](http://solarsavers.org.au)

# Why it's good to DIY

National DIY (do it yourself) Day in April encourages people to fix damaged items or make things themselves. This can help reduce waste, save money, develop new skills, spark creativity and promote positive mental health.

You can:

- **Repurpose textiles** - Using old fabric scraps or clothing, try making your own cloth napkins, shopping bags or cleaning cloths. This is a great way to avoid buying disposable items and reduces waste.
- **Try visible mending** - Patch holes in clothing through visible mending.
- **Make your own cleaning products** - Using simple ingredients like vinegar, baking soda and essential oils, you can make non-toxic cleaners that reduce exposure to harmful chemicals.
- **Upcycle furniture** - Try repurposing old or discarded items to create something new.
- **Fix broken items** - Before throwing something away, why not see if it can be fixed? Volunteers at the North Balwyn Repair Cafe (below) can help mend what's broken.

Find out more on our website:

[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reuse-products](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/reuse-products)



## Charge up at HALC

We're supporting our community's transition to electric vehicles (EVs) by installing EV fast-charging stations. And now they're in your neighbourhood.

The new charging stations at the Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre car park are just a short walk from Glenferrie Road. They can provide fast and reliable charging for residents and

visitors who shop, dine, exercise or attend events in the area.

We're proud to be delivering this project through our Climate Action Plan, which commits us to making charging stations available within a 2 km radius of major activity centres by 2030. The EV chargers are powered by 100% renewable electricity. [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/ev-chargers](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/ev-chargers)



## Green light for Glenferrie Place Plan

Change is coming to Glenferrie Road now that our neighbourhood's Glenferrie Place Plan has been adopted.

It brings together 9 priorities that are set to revitalise this bustling precinct that is both the heart of Hawthorn and a vital activity centre for Melbourne.

This includes upgrading the Glenferrie Road streetscape – while keeping the Liddiard Street car park as is. In the future, more parking may be provided at this location – subject to further analysis and consideration by Council.

Adopting the Place Plan means we can move ahead with improvements that create:

- streets and public spaces with more greenery
- more places for people to meet, shop, relax and learn
- a flourishing and diverse local economy and community
- a place where everyone feels welcome.

For a closer look at the Glenferrie Place Plan and the exciting initiatives it contains, visit the project page on Engage Boroondara. You can also follow the project page to receive updates: [engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/glenferrie-placemaking](https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/glenferrie-placemaking)

## Meet your Cr

Get to know your Ward Councillor Susan Biggar this autumn at:

**Monday 8 April:** 10 am, Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre cafe

**Monday 6 May:** 10 am, The Foodstore Cafe, 1/22 Bills Street, Hawthorn East

**Saturday 18 May:** 8 am to 12:30 pm, Boroondara Farmers Market

## Round table meetings to boost inclusivity in Boroondara

We are committed to fostering an inclusive community here in Riversdale Ward and right across Boroondara.

On 17 May, we recognise IDAHOBIT, also known as International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination.

To reinforce our commitment to ensuring our LGBTQIA+ communities have their voices heard, we are hosting bi-annual LGBTQIA+ community round tables.

The first 2 events were held in November 2023 and March 2024.

At these meetings, a group of committed community members meet to share their ideas with Council about how we can improve the health, wellbeing and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ communities.

Join us at events to mark IDAHOBIT this May. Find out more:

[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/idahobit-2024](https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/idahobit-2024)

