



Riversdale Ward


APRIL 2021



Gardiners Creek



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BOROONDARA
City of Harmony



Climate Action Plan progress

Climate change is the key environmental challenge of our time. Council is developing a Climate Action Plan to provide targets for reducing emissions and set out other important programs to help Council and the community adjust to a low-carbon future. We recently asked the community what's important to them in addressing climate change. We are drawing on that feedback as we shape the draft Climate Action Plan.

In the meantime, Council is taking steps to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, including upgrading street lighting to more efficient technologies, delivering the Sustainable Council Buildings Policy, and a Power Purchase Agreement for green renewable electricity. Together this has resulted in Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions now measuring 70 per cent lower than they were in 2007. Council facilities are now responsible for less than one per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Boroondara. As part of the draft plan, Council has started to look at ways to further support residents, local businesses and community groups to reduce their environmental footprint.

For more information visit
www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP
 or call 9278 4444.



A message from your Councillor

I have lived in Boroondara since moving to Australia nearly 20 years ago. I was raised in San Francisco and am married to a New Zealander; we are both now Australian citizens. Together we have raised our three adult sons here. I work for the national health practitioner regulator, working to improve the public's experiences with their health practitioners and increasing trust and confidence for both groups.

As normality returns, this is a unique moment to pause and consider where we're headed as a community and how we want to live, work and play – and protect what we love for the future.

At Council, we have fired up many new advisory committees, which will guide some fundamental pieces of work in the future. Some of the highlights are as follows:

- Our climate action plan is taking shape to set targets for reductions in Council and community emissions, as well as proposing steps to address the impact of climate change. We look forward to bringing it to the community for consultation soon.
- Cycling and active transport are on the agenda, given the dramatic increase in the use of our shared path network; it's a perfect

opportunity to reconsider how we get around Boroondara.

- There are a series of important projects on the horizon in Hawthorn; we have kicked off the Glenferrie Precinct Development Advisory Plan committee to bring the thinking and planning for these projects together into one place.
- Gardiners Creek's paths are much-loved and very well-used, so it's the right time to develop a masterplan to link with other local Councils and community groups to protect this beautiful area.

As a Council, we are looking at how to ensure we are transparent about how our decisions are made and that our community voice is heard. I am heartened by the interest and level of engagement by many of you and I welcome your input, ideas and concerns.

Please come and meet me at the Boroondara Farmers Market on Saturday 17 April. I'll be there all morning and would love to chat over a coffee.

Cr Susan Biggar



Fairview Park

Introducing Riversdale – your new ward

How well do you know your ward? This lovely pocket in Boroondara's southwest corner is home to a diverse and relatively young community.

Boroondara's new ward boundaries were created following a 2019 review by the Victorian Electoral Commission. In October last year, Riversdale residents had their first chance to vote in council elections in their new ward.

Riversdale's boundaries include parts of Hawthorn, Hawthorn East and a tiny snippet of Glen Iris. This corner of the city is home to beautiful parks and gardens such as the picturesque riverside Fairview Park in Hawthorn. Dog-

owners particularly value the park's generous off-lead area.

There are more than 15,000 people living in Riversdale with 25 per cent speaking a language other than English at home. The largest other language groups are Mandarin, Cantonese, and Hindi.

Riversdale's largest age group is those between 25-34 years of age (25 per cent), followed closely by adults aged 35 to 49 years (20 per cent). Testament to its youth, there are ten schools, including public and private, primary and secondary.

Riversdale residents are very community minded with around 25 per cent volunteering for a community organisation or group.

Bills Street public housing redevelopment

Council has been informed that Homes Victoria began community consultation on the Bills Street public housing redevelopment in Hawthorn on 15 March 2021 with community consultation open until 5 April 2021. Despite Council seeking details of the project and encouraging Homes Victoria to engage with the local community, they are not proposing any direct engagement with local residents. As a result, Council will be letterbox-dropping households in the local area, to bring the online workshops and survey to their attention.

We are committed to ensuring community voices are heard. We encourage you to get involved. To understand more about the project, and to have your say in Engage Victoria's online survey: engage.vic.gov.au/bills-street-hawthorn-redevelopment/online-survey

The Victorian Government has determined it will make the planning decisions, rather than Council. We have sought and received a commitment from the Victorian Government that council representatives will be invited to future meetings of the Community Reference Group.

Council supports the development of public housing on the site and continues to advocate for early engagement on all issues that will be of interest to the local community, including building scale, design, and impact on amenity, traffic, and replacement of the Robinson Road car park. Advocating for an exemplar design is a role Council will undertake to ensure that a public development of this nature is in the interests of the community.

For more information, visit www.vic.gov.au/bills-street-hawthorn. To learn about Council's adopted urban design framework in response to the proposal visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/Bills-Street.

For more information visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au or call 9278 4444.



Safer shared paths

Who would have guessed that a pandemic would lead to significant increases in the use of our shared paths across Boroondara? The Victorian Department of Transport has permanent electronic counters along shared paths in metropolitan Melbourne that record the number of bike riders, though not pedestrians. Data from these counters show a dramatic increase in usage, with the number of cyclists doubling and, in some cases, tripling compared to pre-pandemic levels. Anecdotal evidence also points to large rises in pedestrians using the shared paths.

With the return to more office-based work, some residents are also hopping on their bikes to get to the city.

As Council considers improvements and additions to the shared path network, new lighting along the trail between

Patterson Reserve in Riversdale Ward and Burke Road has recently been introduced. This lighting includes a combination of light poles and handrail lighting with energy efficient LED lamps.

Council continues to install bike hoops all over our city. There are also bike repair stations on all our major off-road shared paths and other destinations. These stations include a pump to fix punctured tyres and basic tools to make minor adjustments to bikes. To find them, search your address or destination in the 'Near me' function on our website, then click the parking and transport category **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au**.

For more information visit **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/cycling-and-walking** or call 9278 409.

Supporting Gardiners Creek

Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) is our significant waterway along Boroondara's boundary with the City of Stonnington. Both the creek and surrounding reserves provide passive and active recreation space for the community, and are an important biodiversity corridor.

A Gardiners Creek working group is advocating for a whole-of-catchment approach to the creek and its surrounds, recognising the need for a coordinated approach to issues including:

- biodiversity
- water-sensitive urban design
- shared path networks
- passive and active open space.

The working group is engaging with key stakeholders, including community groups, to ensure that the potential of the entire waterway is realised for all of us and forever.

Find out about other project to help better manage Boroondara's water and waterways at visit **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/water-and-waterways** or call 9278 4636.



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boroondara.vic.gov.au



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Have you received the correct ward newsletter? If you've received a neighbouring ward newsletter by mistake, please contact us at **comms@boroondara.vic.gov.au** and we'll post the correct newsletter.