

Bellevue Ward

December 2021



Dasha with a staff member at the Lost Dogs' Home, which cares for more than 16,000 lost and abandoned dogs and cats each year.

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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Many Melburnians have taken on a new pet in the last couple of years, or are considering adding one to the family.

I know how tempting it can be to spoil my own dogs, but vets at the Lost Dogs' Home point out the extra attention lavished on pets during the pandemic might be doing them more harm than good. Cats, it seems, have been stressed by the intrusion into their normal lives, while dogs have been missing their owners when lockdowns end. You can read more about pandemic-related pet health in this newsletter.

I'm an admirer of the great work done by the Lost Dogs' Home. This Melbourne institution has been caring for stray and abandoned dogs – and more recently cats – since it opened as the Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs back in 1913. Since then an estimated 1.2 million animals have come there for help.

I was intrigued to read on the home's website that in its first 10 years of

operation, it was common for stray dogs to arrive at the home unaccompanied by train. They could be dropped at any suburban train station, to be dispatched on the train to North Melbourne's Macaulay station, from which the home's keeper would be rung to collect them.

In this summer newsletter issue you can also read about Greythorn Library Lounge-goers' favourite loans of the year, what not to put in your FOGO bin, and plans for a new pavilion at Willsmere Park.

I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season. Let's hope that 2022 proves to be an easier year for all of us. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, I urge you to do so. Vaccinations are safe, effective and are our pathway back to normality.

Cr Jim Parke

Greythorn Library Lounge's top loans


We know how important our library service is to the local community, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our click-and-collect service and digital collections have proven very popular over the past 12 months – with 1.25 million items borrowed across the Boroondara Library Service.

For summer reading inspiration, our librarians at Greythorn Library Lounge have shared the top local reads for 2021. The most borrowed adult fiction books of 2021 are:

1. *The Survivors*, Jane Harper
2. *The Good Turn*, Dervla McTiernan
3. *The Thursday Murder Club*, Richard Osman
4. *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens
5. *All Our Shimmering Skies*, Trent Dalton

Council scrapped all overdue borrowing fines earlier this year. We know our members are committed to returning books on time, and hope this encourages new members to Boroondara libraries.

To find out more visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries



Caring for our pets in a pandemic... and beyond

New dog registrations have soared in Boroondara since the beginning of the pandemic, as locked-down Melburnians sought company and distraction in four-legged form.

But lockdown hasn't always treated pets kindly, with the Lost Dogs' Home reporting multiple issues this year relating to owners spending more time at home.

These include pets being overweight, an increase in arthritis caused by weight gain and increased walks, stomach upsets from diet changes or human food treats, and separation anxiety in dogs.

The vets at the Lost Dogs' Home's Frank Samways Vet Clinic recommend easing your pet out of lifestyle changes as restrictions ease, and always taking care to consider how our actions might affect them.

"A small treat made for humans might seem like a little thing to us," says vet Nicole Godden, "but it can be a huge number of calories for our small pets or even cause them to become quite sick."

She adds we may think we are doing dogs a favour by taking them for longer or more frequent walks, but this may not be appropriate for some dogs prone to arthritis because of old age or pre-existing issues.

A Melbourne institution

The Lost Dogs' Home operates throughout metropolitan Melbourne, caring for more than 16,000 lost and abandoned dogs and cats each year.

It also runs and promotes responsible pet ownership programs and lobbies for fair animal laws, both of which help reduce the number of stray animals being admitted to pounds and shelters.

Council also has a part to play in helping keep our pets healthy and safe, and easing the load on organisations like the Lost Dogs' Home.

Council can help

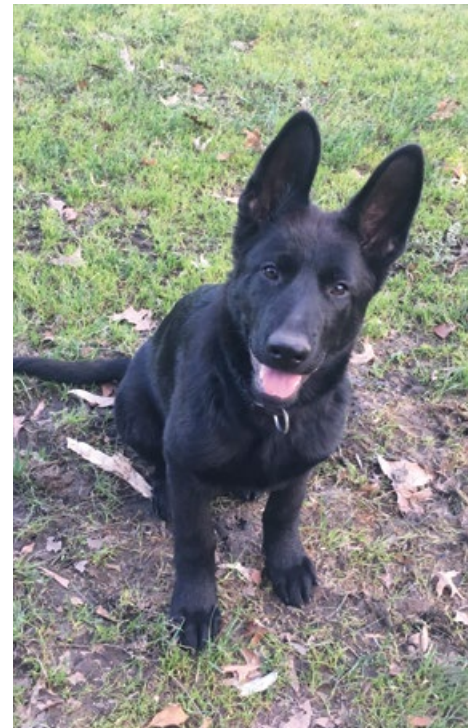
If you are a new owner of a pet, there are some important steps you need to take to ensure your pet is safe and ready to settle in. Here are three tips to get you started:

- Talk to your vet to make sure your pet has all the required vaccinations and is microchipped. Desexing is also recommended.
- Make sure your pet is registered with us by April each year – this helps us return them to you if they're ever lost.
- Socialisation is an important part of behavioural development for puppies. Boroondara has plenty of off-lead parks. To find one near you, visit: **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/off-leash-dog-parks**

Off-leash dog parks in Bellevue

You can find off-leash dog parks throughout Bellevue ward, including:

- Koonung Creek Reserve, Kew
- Hays Paddock, Kew
- Willsmere Park, Kew East
- Hyde Park, Kew East
- Connor Street Reserve, Kew East
- And at several locations within the Outer Circle Linear Park.



Bellevue ward Cr Jim Parke's German shepherd, Xena.

For everything you need to know about pets in Boroondara, visit:

 **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pets**



Coming soon: a renewed Willsmere Park Pavilion

A draft plan to upgrade the Willsmere Park Pavilion is currently being developed to help ensure this facility can better support the needs of our community.

The pavilion, which is currently used for junior and senior cricket and soccer, as well as ultimate frisbee, is in need of renewal due to its condition and lack of facilities to cater for the women and girls who play sport here now and into the future.

Council is developing concepts for a fit-for-purpose facility with improved accessibility and better amenities for the local community to enjoy, such as barbecue and picnic facilities.

The project architect will seek to minimise the visual impact of the improved building by carefully considering the size, roof design and overall exterior of the draft concept, with the plans to embed the building within its surrounding natural environment as much as possible.

The draft design will be shared with the local community in the coming months for feedback. At this time, a community briefing session will be scheduled so surrounding residents and park users will have the opportunity to learn more about the proposed design, ask questions and provide feedback to ensure this renewed facility can be enjoyed by all.

More details to come at:  engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au

What not to put in your FOGO bin

Did you know that a whole truckload of organic material can end up in landfill if just one FOGO bin contains banned items? These are the three most common 'contamination' mistakes residents make:



Mistake #1 Using a plastic bag to collect food waste

Only use lime-green liners made from 100 per cent cornstarch and certified compostable (with AS4736 and AS5810 symbols).



Mistake #2 Binning food in plastic containers, jars and cans

You must remove all food from wrappings, jars, bottles or cans before placing it in your FOGO bin. Put clean containers in your recycling bin, and take soft plastics to REDcycle at Coles or Woolworths, or put in your waste bin.



Mistake #3 Binning pet poo and litter

Compost pet poo at home using a pet poo composter (Council offers these for a subsidised price) or put in your waste bin only.

Please spread the word and help us keep our FOGO material contamination free.

To find out more, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/FOGO-bin