

Riversdale Ward

December 2021



Cr Susan Biggar gets around Riversdale ward on her electric scooter.

Cr Susan Biggar

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A message from your Councillor

Nearly two years of pandemic life – who would have guessed? I think it has stretched us as individuals, families, communities and as a nation. For some of us, it has changed our priorities and sharpened our focus about what matters. It has also birthed a much-needed spirit of generosity and kindness across our community.

I am finding it a joy to see people emerging from the lockdown ready to jump back into their passions – organised sport, music, theatre, travel – and the ability to spend time with friends and family who may have been out of reach.

For me, one positive change that 2021 brought is pictured on the cover of this newsletter. In January, I bought my fully electric Fonzarelli scooter. It's fantastic for my many trips around Riversdale ward or just for popping to the shops to pick up a few things. It may not be as swanky as a Tesla, but it has been a fabulous entree into the world of electric vehicles. Don't hesitate to say hello if you see me out and about on it.

On the topic of electric vehicles, in September 2021, Council launched our Climate Action Plan and declared a climate emergency. These are important steps for us as a community. They represent a notable milestone in the hard work we need to do together. Both Council and the whole of the Boroondara community will need to decrease our emissions and prepare ourselves for a warming climate.

If you have been waiting for a delivery recently, you'll be aware that international supply chains have been severely affected by the pandemic. Together with the harsh impact of 2021 on our local traders, it makes this an excellent time to buy local. Wander down to your shops and see what's on offer in your neighbourhood.

I hope this holiday season is one of joy and recovery for you and those you love.

Cr Susan Biggar

Shop and dine local this summer

With summer upon us and COVID-19 restrictions eased, outdoor trading is here to stay.

Council has extended the outdoor trading program implemented last year to help local traders get back to business by fast-tracking permits and waiving all associated fees. This allowed businesses to accommodate more customers in a COVID-safe way on footpaths, public spaces and private land (including courtyards and private car parks). Parklets were also implemented across Boroondara's shopping strips.

Many additional footpath trading permits have been issued free of charge until the end of March 2022 and we've reinstated a number of parklets for the community to enjoy.

Let's continue getting behind our local business community by dining outdoors and shopping locally this summer at Riversdale Ward's shopping villages. To find businesses that offer outdoor trading near you, visit www.lovelocalife.com.au/explore and filter the map using the tag 'outdoor trading'.





Taking action on climate change

In adopting Council's new Climate Action Plan (CAP), we have committed to making significant cuts to our own emissions over the next 10 years and to work with the community to do the same. We all need to find ways to burn less fossil fuel and move to renewable energy sources.

Within the CAP and the implementation plan, there are hundreds of actions outlined to improve our environmental performance and ultimately, reach our targets. These actions are both for Council and the community. They include implementing a bulk-buy program that will allow the community to buy solar panels, batteries and other energy-efficient

technologies. Council will halve the number of our buildings that use natural gas, and convert at least 90 per cent of our fleet cars to electric vehicles or other low-emission technologies. This is just a small sample of what we intend to achieve.

We will also be planting 14,000 more street trees, improving the way we use and collect water, and encouraging people to cycle and walk more places by improving our local shared-path network. Council will provide support and education to the community to help them incorporate sustainable design and make their homes more energy-efficient.

To learn more about all the actions we are implementing, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP

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

Use only compostable materials to collect food waste, such as newspapers or the lime-green liners that are made from 100 per cent cornstarch and certified compostable (with AS4736 and AS5810 symbols). Find out more at link below.



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 including bags 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.

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

For more information, visit:



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



Bills Street redevelopment update

Plans for the redevelopment of the former Bills Street Public Housing Estate in Hawthorn have been approved by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio, and work is due to begin on the site in early-2022.

The redevelopment of the land at 1-12 Bills Street will construct six buildings on the site, ranging from three to seven storeys, to accommodate 206 homes. The buildings will contain 103 social housing dwellings and 103 affordable housing dwellings, comprising one, two and three-bedroom apartments.

We have sought input from the local community, provided written updates to local residents regarding key decision points and opportunities for community consultation, and have provided our feedback to Homes Victoria and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Council supports development of public housing on the Bills Street site, but the approved plans do not address most

issues raised by Council, including the lack of a community room in the development and the removal of several trees Council sought to retain.

However, following the Minister's approval, no further planning permissions are required and the development now moves to implementation stage, with Hansen Yuncken appointed as builder.

We are pleased that as a result of advocacy by the community and Council, Homes Victoria will cover all construction and delivery costs for a new public car park to be built at Patterson Reserve, to replace the car park that will be removed as part of the Bills Street works. The new car park will increase parking from 39 bays to 48 and includes new lighting, drainage, a new pram crossing, a raised-threshold pedestrian crossing on Robinson Road, a raised-threshold shared-path crossing within the car park for velodrome users, and a bike-repair station. Construction of the car park is expected to start in early-2022.

Shop farm fresh and meet your Cr

You can help support Boroondara students by buying fresh produce for your Christmas spread or summer picnics from the Boroondara Farmers Market. Funds raised from gate entry go to the Education CHANCES Scholarship Program, which financially assists students who live or study in Boroondara and whose families are experiencing financial hardship.

On the first, third and fifth Saturday of each month from 8am to 12:30pm, Patterson Reserve in Hawthorn East is transformed into a bustling, sustainable fresh food market filled with fresh fruit and vegetables, seasonal organic produce, meat and eggs, preserves and honey.

Market dates in December and January are:

- Saturday 4 and 18 December
- Saturday 15 and 29 January.

Cr Susan Biggar will be at Boroondara Farmers Market on **18 December** hosting a meet and greet, so be sure to head down and say hello.

