

Solway Ward

December 2021



Our refurbished Ashburton Seniors Centre is welcoming back the community.
Photo by Michelle Williams



Cr Garry Thompson

☎ 9835 7847 or 0417 153 512
✉ garry.thompson@boroondara.vic.gov.au
📍 Private Bag 1 Camberwell VIC 3124

📘 GarryThompson.Boroondara
🐦 GarryPThompson
📷 GarryThompson.Boroondara

 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the summer issue of your ward newsletter.

You'll notice on the cover of this issue our beautifully refurbished Ashburton Seniors Centre – a project that in many ways is emblematic of the challenges we've faced over the past 18 months. After a \$7 million redevelopment to create a carefully modernised and more accessible facility, we had to revert to a virtual opening last September.

This year, we held an open day in mid-July to welcome community members. On that very night, Melbourne unexpectedly returned to lockdown – our fifth – and the centre was closed to the public for some months, but like so many of our much-loved facilities, it is now open to fully serve its community.

Similarly, construction on our new Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning centre was delayed by the pandemic, but this too is back on track. I was thrilled to virtually launch the centre in late November, and look forward to welcoming you in the new year.

One vital Council project that has maintained its momentum this year is

our Climate Action Plan, which I am pleased to say was endorsed unanimously by Council in late-September. It outlines our response to climate change over a 10-year period, and was passed alongside an implementation plan that pins specific actions to timeframes over the next two years. While we have long incorporated sustainability in our work, now is the time to really hit the accelerator on the 'action' in our new Climate Action Plan.

I believe our targets are necessarily ambitious, but achievable. There is much you as community members can do to play your part – you will find more at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP

Finally, I wish you all the best for a happy festive season and a well-earned and restful summer break. It has been an honour to serve you this year as councillor and Mayor through these challenging times, and I thank you for your resilience and perseverance.

Cr Garry Thompson

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 that are made from 100 per cent cornstarch and certified compostable (with AS4736 and AS5810 symbols). Visit our FOGO bin webpage for more details.



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.

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

For more information, visit:



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



State-of-the-art new centre set to open to its community

Construction work at your new Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning centre is now complete. The new centre features:

- A state-of-the-art computer room
- An additional all-purpose classroom to accommodate a new craft workshop
- Upgraded kitchen and common area with an adjoining deck
- An upgraded reception space and new office accommodation
- Refurbished meeting room that can be used by visiting services
- Remote learning opportunities in classrooms
- Bicycle parking and off-street car parking.

Feedback from our community informed the design of a spacious, accessible centre that responds to the needs of our community now and in future. The centre's popular classes and community programs will resume at 49 Ashburn Grove, Ashburton, in January.

"We can't wait to welcome everyone into the upgraded centre," says Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning President Sally Holdsworth. "We are excited to be delivering an expanded range of new courses and creative activities."

Council is proud to deliver new state-of-the-art facilities designed to enhance the lives of our growing and diverse community in Boroondara.

Solway Shopping Centre upgrade on its way

Ashburton's Solway Shopping Centre will soon be a more attractive and pedestrian-friendly location as Council's Shopping Centre Improvement Plan improves the streetscape.

In August, Council released draft concept drawings to the community for feedback, which in turn has helped inform the final design. It aims to create opportunities for longer stays by incorporating public seats and benches for sitting, relaxing and outdoor eating; improve the appearance of the street with new paving, street furniture and greenery; and upgrade pedestrian access with improved school and pedestrian crossings.

The improvements will enhance the shopping centre's appearance and character and create a safe, functional and pedestrian-friendly environment. It's anticipated these measures will improve user satisfaction and support local businesses by creating an attractive setting for customers and residents to enjoy.

Works are due to begin in early 2022.

For more information, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/solway-shopping-centre-upgrade

You can find out more about Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning by visiting:
www.alameinnlc.com.au



Sports upgrades: around the grounds

Council recently completed some improvement works to the Burwood Reserve West oval, currently used by the Burwood Cricket Club and Ashburton United Junior Football Club. The works were completed in late October, ready in time for the start of the cricket season.

The upgrades included removal of the existing synthetic cricket wicket surface, levelling of the area surrounding the old wicket, and construction of a new synthetic wicket surface. New synthetic grass surrounds were also installed around the new wicket.

These improvements will assist with the maintenance of the wicket and surrounds, as well as provide safe and consistent run-ups for bowlers and an even surface for football players during the winter season.

As part of the works, Council also renewed the existing synthetic run-ups on the Burwood Reserve West Oval cricket nets.

Ferndale Park pavilion renewal

Council is upgrading the Ferndale Park pavilion, currently used for junior and senior cricket and Australian Rules football. The pavilion renewal will provide a fit-for-purpose facility to better meet the needs of the sporting clubs, and improve accessibility and amenities for the surrounding local community.

Council is currently working with the sporting clubs to develop a draft pavilion design that better meets their needs. We hope to share an early design for community feedback in early 2022.

For more information about our sportsground improvement, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/improving-parks-and-sportsgrounds



9278 4444

Ashburton Library's top loans

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

Whether you're looking for a cult favourite, a classic, or something a little more niche for your next read, our librarians at Ashburton Library have shared the top local reads for 2021 for inspiration.

Ashburton Library's most borrowed adult fiction books of 2021 are:

1. *The Survivors*, Jane Harper
2. *Where The Crawdads Sing*, Delia Owens
3. *Honeybee*, Craig Silvey
4. *The Thursday Murder Club*, Richard Osman
5. *The Yield*, Tara June Winch

Council scrapped all overdue borrowing fines earlier this year. We did this knowing our members are committed to returning their books on time. We also hope this encourages new members to join Boroondara libraries.

You can join the Boroondara Library Service in person at any branch or online to access the digital collection. Visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/libraries