

Gardiner Ward

April 2022



Council is developing a master plan to address environmental issues and set in place a long-term plan for the Gardiners Creek (Kooyongkoot) catchment.

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A message from your Councillor

Gardiners Creek, also known as Kooyongkoot, is a much-loved waterway, ecological and transport corridor along our southern boundary. Council's Gardiners Creek Advisory Committee, on which I serve, has been overseeing the preparation of a draft master plan to thoughtfully guide revegetation and biodiversity works, water-sensitive urban design, and shared path upgrades. I'm expecting the draft master plan will be out for public consultation soon and that Council will be able to finalise it by the end of this year.

Large numbers of plastic bags and bottles and other debris were recovered from Gardiners Creek on Clean Up Australia Day. A special thank you to Graham Ross and the 1st Glen Iris Scouts for organising the event and to each and every one of the 55 volunteers who participated, including representatives from the KooyongKoot Alliance, Doctors for the Environment, Australian Conservation Foundation, Back 2 Nettleton Friends Group and the Mullumbimba Rovers.

The Glen Iris Heritage Study is expected to come to Council mid-year for final approval. It seeks heritage protection for a number of individually significant properties and a number of new precincts. All affected and adjoining property owners, residents and

submitters will be notified before the meeting. As I write this, the Ashburton Heritage Study is scheduled to go to Council in late-March and then to the Minister for Planning for final approval, although the previously proposed heritage protection for the High Street, Ashburton commercial precinct will be the subject of a separate review.

Finally, here are some of the things you, my fellow neighbours, have been telling me, and which I want to share and encourage:

- Cyclists please ride slowly and respectfully on our shared paths and remember that pedestrians have priority. *Ross, Glen Iris and Graeme, Hawthorn East*
- Reduce your use of soft plastic bags and recycle them at collection bins at participating supermarkets. *Chris, Hawthorn East*
- Dog owners, please be responsible and clean up after your dog. *Ron, Hawthorn East*
- Talk politely to your neighbours before pruning overhanging branches and please don't allow your vegetation to block the footpath. *Joan, Hawthorn East*

Cr Victor Franco

A centenary of sport in Camberwell

In late-2021, I had the pleasure of attending the 100-year anniversary celebration of both the Camberwell Central Bowls Club and the City of Camberwell Tennis Club. It was fantastic to see the friendships formed between members over the years, and to hear people reminisce about the great times that have been had at both clubs.

For 100 years, these outstanding clubs have sat proudly on Council land and played an extraordinary role in the Boroondara community.

The ongoing effects of the First World War and the influenza pandemic were felt by everyone in the early 1920s. The formation of both clubs came at a time when people needed camaraderie and to have fun – key elements of club life that have been valued by members ever since.

The longevity and success of the clubs is testament to the ongoing work of the club committees and their volunteers. Congratulations to both clubs on this impressive milestone.



Frank Marchesani (President) and David Payton (Club Secretary) of Camberwell Central Bowls Club, and Russell McKimm (President) and Ernie Kollegger (Club Secretary) of City of Camberwell Tennis Club.



Take climate action with Solar Savers

If you're thinking about installing solar for your home or business, help is at hand. Council has partnered with Solar Savers, a local government-developed program to help you get access to affordable, high-quality solar power.

Implementation of this community solar bulk-buy program is just one of the many actions in Boroondara's Climate Action Plan. The plan sets out ways to deliver what is important to our community, to keep reducing our city's environmental footprint.

Installing rooftop solar can reduce your environmental impact, cut your energy bills, and give you greater peace of mind against future electricity price rises.

The Solar Savers program has been running since 2019, and since then the not-for-profit organisation has helped hundreds of Victorian households install rooftop solar, so they can enjoy the benefits of clean energy and cheaper electricity bills.

Solar Savers can support you in making sure solar is right for your needs and a

good financial option for you. They have done the hard work by selecting reliable, experienced local installers that can provide quality solar systems at an affordable rate. Installers have been independently evaluated on their safety, product quality and value for money.

They can give you a quote tailored to your energy usage, to give you a clear indication of how much you can expect to save before choosing to install. They can also provide advice on current State Government rebate and loan offers, along with pension and healthcare card benefits, which can help reduce the up-front costs of solar installation.

If you're interested in learning more and registering your interest to get a free quote, contact the Solar Savers team at:

 www.solarsavers.org.au

 info@solarsavers.org.au

 1300 548 598

Updates for local pavilions

Lewin Reserve pavilion

Thank you to everyone who had their say on the Lewin Reserve pavilion draft concept design in late-2021. Following community consultation, the design is now being finalised to ensure it meets the various needs of sporting clubs and residents.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2022 and take around 10 months to complete.

To stay informed and receive further updates, please visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/lewin-reserve-pavilion-renewal and select the 'follow' button at the top of the page.

Ferndale Park Pavilion

Ferndale Park pavilion is scheduled for a much-needed renewal commencing in 2022-23.

Council will continue to work with local sporting clubs and other community groups to develop a fit-for-purpose concept option which meets their various needs and requirements, as well as those of the broader community.

Through the Diversity, Inclusion and Participation Program, we are pleased to be providing improved and additional amenities to support female sports teams and encourage female sports participation.

We will be inviting the community to share their feedback via a formal consultation process which will open later in 2022.

For more information on both pavilion renewal projects, please email us at boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au or call 9278 4444.

Separated low-voltage wires have been replaced with aerial bundled cable in Fuller Avenue, Glen Iris.



New power-line trial to aid canopy

If you've strolled through the beautiful streets of Gardiner Ward recently, you may have noticed the power lines in Fuller Avenue, Glen Iris look a little different than those in other areas.

Last year, Council upgraded the power lines along this avenue. This involved replacing the separated low-voltage wires with aerial bundled cable (ABC). ABC is a twisted black power line you might see in areas including Fuller Avenue and Bridges Street, Glen Iris.

Council carried out this project to determine how much it would cost, and whether it meant we could retain more street-tree canopy around power lines. Council clears branches from power lines to keep the community safe. The amount of pruning around electrical lines is directed by Victoria's energy regulatory body, Energy Safe Victoria, with requirements mandated by the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

The ABC project was successful as it reduced the amount of pruning required

in Fuller Avenue compared with trees near separated wires. However, the project cost \$120,000. In this case we were fortunate to share the costs equally with United Energy, the power distributor in the area, due to some of the infrastructure needing renewal.

Due to this significant expense, ABC proved to be an option we can consider only in some circumstances. Fuller Avenue was chosen as a trial location due to its high number of large trees in good condition that had canopy close to the power lines.

We are also developing an alternative compliance option, which will involve us managing the risk from large branches near power lines by inspecting them more often. This will cost significantly less than ABC and will still allow us to retain more tree canopy near power lines. Council also continues to advocate for the Electric Line Clearance regulations to change to allow us to retain more street-tree canopy.

For more information about pruning street trees near power lines, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/street-tree-pruning

Wider path for Ferndale Trail


We are reconstructing a section of the popular Ferndale Trail, with upgrade works expected to be finished by June.

The Ferndale Trail provides a 2.2 km off-road, recreational shared path between the Anniversary Trail and the Gardiners Creek Trail in Glen Iris. While most of the path is unsealed and 3 metres wide, the section of the trail between Summerhill Road and Ferndale Road is sealed but very narrow at 1.5 metres wide.

The upgrade works will involve widening this section of the path to Council's standard 3-metre width, consistent with the width of the other sections of the trail and other off-road shared paths in Boroondara. The new path will be sealed and the drainage in the area will also be improved as part of the works.

Once complete, the widened path will improve access and safety for users and address community concerns about drainage and erosion at the path edges.

For more information on the off-road shared paths in Boroondara, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/find-bike-or-walking-path

