

# Solway Ward

April 2022



Solway Ward Cr Garry Thompson with Sandra Bygrave from Samarinda Aged Care Services, which received an Annual Community Strengthening Grant to help deliver its Samarinda Octopus project.



## Cr Garry Thompson

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 **BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*



Our Summer in the Park program has filled green spaces throughout Boroondara.



## A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Solway Ward newsletter. The start of 2022 has been met with optimism. Students are back at school and hopefully will have a relatively uninterrupted year. Parents too! Weekend sports are in full swing, and many community activities are back to normal. Hopefully 2022 is a year that celebrates us being together, with many of the challenges we have faced over the last two years starting to fade away.

### Summer in the Park

I hope many of you were able to get to one of our Summer in the Park events, whether it was Jazz in the Park at St James Park, Opera in the Park in the Canterbury Gardens, or more locally that you enjoyed Theatre in the Park in Summerhill Park. It has been so good to see our community taking in some fresh air, socialising with friends, and enjoying some light arts entertainment.

### Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning

We celebrated a virtual opening of the Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning centre's recent redevelopment late last year, but now with term 1 well underway

many of you will be enjoying the new facilities. Supporting and renewing our neighbourhood centres, like Alamein, is such a vital Council role. They directly serve our communities, provide fantastic learning opportunities, and offer community connection and often long-time friendships. If you haven't visited one of our local centres, please do. Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning, The Craig Family Centre and the Ashburton Community Centre each offer something different.

If you have any questions on any of the centres, please feel free to drop me a line and I will point you in the right direction.

In the meantime, please enjoy what remains of autumn and the colours of the changing season.

**Cr Garry Thompson**

## Solway Shopping Centre works underway

Works to improve Ashburton's Solway Shopping Centre started in February, delivering on a design shaped by feedback during community consultation.

The improved centre will include upgraded car-parking bays, making it easier to park when visiting the area. The accessible car-parking bay will include a shared space next to the bay and a ramp for access to and from the footpath. The footpath along the school boundary will also be widened to improve access, and the intersection of Taylor Street and Winton Road will be upgraded to improve sightlines and pedestrian safety.

New spaces for sitting, relaxing and outdoor eating will create opportunities for longer stays, and the streetscape appearance will be enhanced with the use of consistent materials and street furniture.

The revitalised centre aims to be a safe, functional and pedestrian-friendly space.



For more information, visit:



**[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/  
solway-shopping-centre-upgrade](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/solway-shopping-centre-upgrade)**



## Kickstart your project with a Community Strengthening Grant

After a challenging 2 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing financial support to community organisations, clubs and not-for-profits through our Annual Community Strengthening Grants program has never been more important.

These grants contribute funding to support the delivery of projects, activities and initiatives that strengthen our community.

Applications for the next round of Annual Community Strengthening Grants open in late-April. So, we're encouraging local organisations with ideas to help our community bounce back to come forward and apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

In the previous round, Solway's Samarinda Aged Care Services was awarded \$9,180 in grant funding to

support delivery of the Samarinda Octopus project, an information navigation service delivered by trained volunteers working within the Samarinda Community Services Team.

Grant funding will support the promotion, recruitment, training and supervision of local volunteers who will engage older people with the information and services they need to participate in community life and flourish.

We're here to help give your grant application the best chance of success. Applicants can discuss their ideas with a Council officer and attend one of our grant-writing help sessions.

All details can be found on our website at **[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/annual-community-strengthening-grants](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/annual-community-strengthening-grants)**

For more information, contact **[communitygrants@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitygrants@boroondara.vic.gov.au)** or call **9278 4753**.

## New community centre open for all to enjoy

We are thrilled that the newly redeveloped Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning is now open for the community.

The redevelopment has created more space and opportunities to meet the demand for the centre's much-loved popular programs now and into the future.

The site features a new state-of-the-art computer room and all-purpose classroom to accommodate new craft workshops and remote learning opportunities. The kitchen, reception and common area have also been modernised.

Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning has an exciting year of fresh and easily accessible classes on offer, which provide residents with a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and learn a new skill or hobby, including:

- gardening, English as an additional language and technology courses
- employment skill programs and mosaic and craft workshops
- Men's Shed – work on a community project with other men in Ashburton
- yoga and Pilates classes.

To find out which courses and activities best suit your needs, visit:

 **[www.alameinnlc.com.au](http://www.alameinnlc.com.au)**





## 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.

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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](http://www.solarsavers.org.au)

 [info@solarsavers.org.au](mailto:info@solarsavers.org.au)

 **1300 548 598**

## Planned renewal of Ferndale Park pavilion

Ferndale Park pavilion, set beside the sportsground of the Ferndale Park precinct, is scheduled for a much-needed renewal in 2022-23.


The sportsground is currently used by junior and senior cricket clubs in the summer season and junior and senior football clubs in the winter season. The existing pavilion is unable to cater for the current level of sporting participation, in particular the needs of women and girls, and early investigation has identified a need to improve accessibility for these sporting clubs and the broader community.


Council will continue to work with these local clubs and other users to develop a fit-for-purpose concept option that meets their various needs and requirements. We will be inviting the community to share their feedback via a formal consultation process which will open later in 2022.



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To learn more about the Ferndale Park pavilion renewal plans, contact us on:

 [boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

 **9278 4444**