

# Solway Ward

July 2022



Solway Ward Cr Garry Thompson (far right) at Hartwell Sports Ground with members of the Hartwell Dogs Group.



**Cr Garry Thompson**

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 **BOROONDARA**  
*City of Harmony*



## A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the winter edition of the Solway ward newsletter.

I hope you thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful colours autumn brought to our neighbourhood. Our street trees really stand out to show us the wonders of the changing seasons.

By the time you are reading this newsletter our Council Budget 2022-23 will be adopted. Contained within the Budget are several local initiatives including services upgrades to the Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre, a vital upgrade to the Y Street Ashburton Community Services Building, Eric Raven Pavilion improvements, and commencement of renewal works to Hartwell South Reserve pavilion.

In the next few months, a draft master plan for Gardiners Creek will come before Council, a plan that seeks to enhance biodiversity along the corridor while suggesting significant improvements for user amenity and experience. It also proposes to develop pollution and waste policies to protect this critical asset for future generations. Unfortunately, the Gardiners Creek catchment is one of the worst polluted in the Yarra River System. Together with

the KooyongKoot [Gardiners Creek] Alliance and the support of all councils abutting the creek, we are working towards improving the water quality and protecting and enhancing the whole creek system, as it is such an important asset. Thank you to those who give their time to protect and enhance the creek.

At the time of writing, the draft Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, which seeks to improve the connectivity and safety of on-road and off-road path and cycling networks across the municipality, was about to be presented to Council for consideration. Locally the strategy seeks to address the missing section along the Gardiners Creek Trail at Ashburn Grove by exploring potential route options to provide a continuous off-road path link, and continues advocating for the construction of the pedestrian and cycling bridge along Anniversary Trail at Toorak Road. Learn about the outcome at [engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bicycle-strategy](https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bicycle-strategy)

Stay warm over winter and enjoy all that is on offer in Boroondara.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Thompson'.

Cr Garry Thompson

## Sign up for an energy assessment

As winter's colder weather sets in, you may have noticed your energy usage and power bills are on the rise.

Supporting you to reduce your emissions is one of the actions in the Boroondara Climate Action Plan – our plan to deliver what's important to our community and keep reducing our city's environmental footprint.


We are therefore pleased to partner with the Australian Energy Foundation to offer you a quality home energy assessment for around half the regular price, with further discounts available for concession card holders.

Getting a home energy assessment will help you see:

- where you can save money on energy bills
- what upgrades could be beneficial to reduce your emissions.



You can learn more and register your interest for an assessment at the Australian Energy Foundation's website:

 [aef.com.au/boroondara-hea-program](https://aef.com.au/boroondara-hea-program)





## The power of a smile to break barriers

This year, we are celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre – a remarkable milestone.

Boroondara has one of the strongest rates of volunteering in Melbourne, with more than a quarter of residents generously donating their time. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds play a vital role in our community, with many Council programs and initiatives relying on their assistance.

Pat Griffith has volunteered at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning, where she serves as a committee member, for about 35 years.

“The centre was formed to encourage people in nearby flats to learn new skills such as computers, and to socialise with each other over a cuppa,” explains Pat.

“I was Treasurer and helped oversee the growth of the organisation – both socially and financially.” This involved keeping the books, volunteering as an aide in

computer classes and lending a hand where needed, such as delivering flyers and contributing to AGMs.

“What I love about volunteering is reassuring people that they matter and that we all started off feeling nervous,” says Pat. “It is so rewarding to see people grow in confidence and put their hand up to take on a new role or to volunteer an answer.”

People always appreciate direct eye contact and a warm smile, says Pat. “As a bonus to engaging with people, laughter wrinkles are so obviously a sign of seeing the funny side of life, which makes people approachable to strangers and so it goes on – breaking down barriers in the community.”

Pat also volunteers at local op shops The Ashy and Ashburton St Vincent de Paul, runs a book club at Ashburton Library, and serves on the committee at Samarinda Aged Care Services.

To find out more about volunteering and to view current opportunities, visit:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bvrc](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bvrc)

## Dog-friendly upgrades at Hartwell Sports Ground


We’re providing some new dog-friendly infrastructure at Hartwell Sports Ground in Solway Ward to improve overall safety for our community, including our 4-legged members.

The new features include a recently installed drink fountain with a dog bowl, and the continuation of safety chain-mesh fencing around the rest of the existing playground planned for July. We will improve the fencing around a section of the carpark, with post and chain-mesh infill panels. These fences will have gaps for pedestrians. We’re also placing mulch under existing trees near the playground.

Together with responsible pet ownership, these upgrades will help prevent dogs from running onto the playground and carpark and increase safety and enjoyment when using the off-lead area.



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

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pets](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pets)



## An open day for everyone at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning

We are thrilled that the community was able to enjoy the newly redeveloped Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning at its open day on Saturday 25 June.

The official launch was originally planned to take place in November 2021, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic we reopened the centre virtually while our community was asked to stay at home.

It was fantastic to finally be able to come together with residents and showcase what this family-friendly and welcoming centre has to offer. This includes a new state-of-the-art computer room and all-purpose classroom to accommodate new

craft workshops and remote learning opportunities.

We know how important it is for community groups to have the space to come together and connect. Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning is a place where residents can meet, participate in activities and access much-needed services and programs.

As term 3 approaches, Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning has an exciting schedule of fresh and easily accessible classes. From gardening and yoga to employment opportunities, the courses give residents a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and learn a new skill or hobby.

## New exercise equipment for Ashburton Park

There is nothing like getting your heart pumping with an outdoor workout in one of our beautiful parks. Consultation for our Boroondara Community Plan demonstrated that outdoor fitness equipment is highly valued by our community.

We invited your feedback throughout March and April on the proposed installation of new exercise equipment at 4 locations, including Ashburton Park. With strong support for the proposal, works are expected to begin in late-October or November this year to install the equipment on the Fakenham Road side of Ashburton Park.

The equipment will include a variety of strength and cardio apparatus, and a blue and charcoal-coloured design will complement the nearby playground without intruding on the natural environment.

Following feedback from those who participated in the consultation, static pull-up bars will also be provided.

Thank you to all who took the time to provide their feedback to help shape the final design of this equipment for the enjoyment of all.

To find out more, visit:  
[engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/outdoor-fitness-equipment](https://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/outdoor-fitness-equipment)

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



[www.alameinnlc.com.au](https://www.alameinnlc.com.au)