

Gardiner Ward

December 2022



Kathy and Julie from the Back2Nettleton Friends Group work to replant vegetation after works by Melbourne Water. Image: Geoff Pinney

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Back2Nettleton Friends and Melbourne Water staff at a working bee to revegetate the area.
Image: Geoff Pinney



A message from your Councillor

Since my winter newsletter, 2 significant Council initiatives have been endorsed and put into action. I was pleased to serve on the committees that helped bring the Gardiners Creek Master Plan and the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy to fruition. You can read more in this newsletter about local initiatives you will start to see taking shape.

The photo above was taken at a planting day to help revegetate Nettleton Park after Melbourne Water sewer-pipe works. Our amazing Back2Nettleton Friends Group turned out in force, along with Melbourne Water staff, to settle in about 1,600 plants provided by Council and Melbourne Water. My thanks go to all involved, particularly the Friends' indefatigable Ruthie Scharley who brought everyone together. You can contact them at back2nettletonfriends@gmail.com

Glen Iris residents may have seen that early construction works for the renewal of Lewin Reserve pavilion have begun, with completion expected by mid-2023. Ferndale Park pavilion is also ready for renewal. Council is working with local sporting clubs and the Hawthorn U3A to develop a fit-for-purpose concept option and we will invite community feedback early next year.

In October, a plaque was unveiled in Bowen Gardens to honour the life and

the deeds of local World War II hero Flight Lieutenant Les Knight, DSO, who lived on Bowen Street in Camberwell. Four months after taking part in the daring and celebrated 'Dam Busters' bombing raid on Germany in 1943, he lost his life, at 22, in another raid. He selflessly continued to pilot his damaged aircraft, allowing his crew of 7 to jump to safety, and avoided crashing into a Dutch village. Council is proud to call him a son of Boroondara.

In November, we officially launched the new Toorak Road building at the Bowen Street Community Centre. Council upgraded the building to provide new light-filled and accessible multi-function spaces with a kitchen and associated facilities. This has allowed the Centre to expand its program to include cooking workshops, more language sessions and many other things in addition to the childcare and family programs it is so well known for.

I wish you all the best for the festive season and new year. Keep 10 February free for Gardiner Ward's Summer in the Park event – a Little Latin in the Park at Anderson Park. I will be there with my family – do say hello.

Cr Victor Franco

Adding vibrancy to Hartwell Shopping Precinct

Council is leading a project which will support the Hartwell Association of Residents and Traders, Hartwell traders and the local community by funding the installation of a community mural to improve the amenity of the Hartwell Shopping Precinct.

We will be installing a creative mural on Council land, along the length of the vacant property located at 1134 Toorak Road, Camberwell.

We plan to engage a professional artist to lead a series of creative community workshops to develop the mural design. These workshops, based on the theme 'Heart of Melbourne', will invite participation from local schools, traders, community groups and the wider Boroondara community.

The mural aims to enhance vibrancy, increase visitation, and encourage the community to shop locally, following the impacts COVID-19 has had on local businesses in the area.

This is an opportunity for our community to come together and support local businesses as the mural comes to life over the next few months.



A new Gardiners Creek Master Plan

The Gardiners Creek Master Plan was unanimously endorsed by Council on 10 October. The final master plan incorporates feedback we received from our community during consultation on the draft master plan in mid-2022.

Included in the Gardiners Creek Master Plan are catchment-wide and site-specific initiatives, as well as major strategic and collaborative opportunities to achieve the overarching aims of:

- enhancing the rich and biodiverse area
- managing water and drainage with careful urban design
- reducing litter
- improving water quality and reducing pollutants
- improving access and safety
- improving signage and how people get around the area, and
- recognising and celebrating Aboriginal histories and cultures.

Here in Gardiner Ward, Gardiners Creek runs along the south-western boundary of Boroondara from Tooronga Road to Dunlop Street. In the master plan, actions

and opportunities for this area are outlined under Precincts 3 and 4, which include Nettleton Park, Eric Raven Reserve, and Dorothy Laver Reserve East and West.

Pending Council Budget allocation and funding opportunities from the Victorian and Australian governments, we plan to deliver a number of improvements. Among a broad range of initiatives to be delivered catchment-wide, some examples of actions to be delivered here in Gardiner Ward involve improving connections through to Toorak Road by implementing a shared pedestrian link/bridge at Back Creek Reserve, as well as upgrading the 4 bridges between Nettleton Park and Dorothy Laver Reserve West so they meet Australian standards.

To view the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, including other actions to be delivered here in Gardiner Ward, visit:

 engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan

Select 'Follow' at the top of the page to stay up to date.


We're trying new ways to manage weeds

We carry out weed management across Boroondara to enhance the appearance of our parks, sportsgrounds and public spaces. Weed management also helps to manage and protect our biodiversity. At Council, we use mechanical methods (like steaming or hand weeding) as well as herbicides to manage weeds, depending on the location.

In August, Council resolved to stop using the herbicide glyphosate along the Gardiners Creek corridor for a 12-month trial period. This trial supports our commitment to minimising the use of herbicides, and any potential impacts on human and environmental health, where possible. Any other methods for managing weeds may be used during the trial period, including steam, heat, animals and controlled burns.

The trial will be judged successful if the same standard of maintenance and presentation is achieved, among other measures. An audit has determined the baseline condition, and a follow-up audit will be done at the end of the trial. Customer satisfaction results, the number of customer complaints and costs of using different methods of weed management will also be used to measure results.

For more information about our weed management practices, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/weed-management

Council plans to build a shared-path bridge over this section of Back Creek in Glen Iris.



Boroondara Bicycle Strategy: what it means for you

With our population growing, the costs of living increasing, and warmer weather upon us, there is no better time to consider more sustainable ways of getting around.

Shaped by the views of more than 600 people, our new Boroondara Bicycle Strategy focuses on prioritising safety for everyone in our community. It was endorsed by Council in July and outlines what we will deliver and advocate for to achieve our vision: “To deliver an integrated bicycle network which is safe, connected, protected, efficient and appealing to users of all ages and abilities.”

Here in Gardiner Ward, there are a number of initiatives from the strategy’s implementation plan you can expect to see delivered. This includes working with the Victorian Government to deliver the Dandenong to Cremorne Strategic Cycling Corridor via the Gardiners Creek Trail. We’ll advocate for separate paths for pedestrians and bike riders along

the corridor, undertaking feasibility investigations to prevent conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists and cater for more active transport opportunities into the future.

We also plan to build a shared-path bridge over Back Creek, including an unsealed gravel-path link to Somerset Road in Glen Iris. Boroondara has an extensive off-road path network, consisting of 37 km of formal shared paths and 75 km of informal shared paths. Informal shared paths are typically unsealed and cater for recreation and local trips. These paths are highly valued and well utilised by the community.

Delivering this shared-path bridge over Back Creek would complete a missing link through Back Creek Reserve and provide a continuous off-road path link between the Ferndale Trail, Ferndale Park and Hartwell Shopping Village, including a potential connection to the Anniversary Trail via the existing road network.

For more information about the Bicycle Strategy, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bicycle-strategy

Valley Parade safety review

In August 2020, Council obtained approval from VicRoads (now the Department of Transport) to implement a 40 km/h speed zone along Valley Parade in order to address road safety concerns relating to vehicle speed and crashes.

After receiving further reports from residents about issues with vehicle speeds in early-2022, our Traffic and Transport team undertook a thorough road safety review of the full length of Valley Parade from Glen Iris Road to Great Valley Road.

Electronic traffic counters were installed at various locations to understand vehicle speeds and volumes. The traffic counts showed speeds were still high and significantly greater than the 40 km/h limit.

As a response, in June and July 2022, we installed a speed trailer at the eastern end of Valley Parade for westbound traffic to educate motorists of the speed limit in the street. The speed trailer displayed the vehicle speed on an LED board and if that speed exceeded the 40 km/h speed limit, the message changed to “SLOW DOWN”.

In early-2023, Council will also share a proposal (via letter) with residents of Valley Parade and nearby side streets which includes speed-mitigating treatments.

For more information, contact Council’s Traffic and Transport team at **boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au** or call **9278 4444**.

