

Riversdale Ward

December 2022



Riversdale Ward Cr Susan Biggar at the Borroondara Farmers Market. Find details of her meet and greets inside.

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 **BORROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

We each have connections to our past, heartfelt reminders of years gone by. For some, it's childhood lollies. Is it sherbet bombs, milk bottles or jaffas for you? Maybe you are mentally transported back to a favourite meal cooked by your Nan or storytelling with an Auntie. You might cherish memories of a religious or cultural celebration or a beloved place.

All of these represent our heritage. An ornately woven tapestry of traditions, objects, culture, history, places and buildings. In Boroondara, we are lucky to have a rich and diverse link to our past through our built environment. There's the Hawthorn Arts Centre, our old 'Town Hall'. And our primary schools with their red-brick buildings that sit at the heart of our community and are loaded with local history. These we can ensure remain protected.

Private homes across the community also reflect different eras. In Riversdale Ward, you don't have to go far to find houses dating from Victorian, Edwardian and art deco eras, right up to today. As our tastes change, so our older housing stock has been updated. For many people, living in a street reflecting years of tradition and the aesthetic of past generations is something they value.

A connection to heritage is one of the issues that you, the community,

continually raise with me. You tell me you're concerned about losing tangible examples that link you, and all of us, to our history here in Boroondara.

We are also acutely aware of the need to adapt to the pressures of the present and to maintain Melbourne as a growing and dynamic city. And many individuals are concerned about the impact of a heritage overlay on their property.

Council has now completed more than 20 different heritage studies and many assessments to consider heritage overlays. These decisions are not taken lightly, involving a series of steps, including early consultation with the property owner and the community.

Once a place is protected, it provides that deep connection to our history, contributing to the sense of place we love about Boroondara.

If you would like to know more about our built heritage and what Council is doing to protect it – or how this might affect your property – visit:
www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/heritage. Remember, our shared heritage belongs to all of us.

Cr Susan Biggar

Celebrate summer close to home

Summer is a fantastic time of year in Boroondara, perfect for enjoying time with family and friends in our many beautiful parks.

Whether you're preparing for a picnic in the park or planning festive-season feasts, you can shop locally by picking up your fresh and seasonal produce from Boroondara Farmers Market. It will open on Saturday 3 and 17 December, and 21 January, from 8 am to 12:30 pm.

One of our summer highlights is Summer in the Park. This season, our local Fairview Park will play a starring role with A Little Brass in the Park. Save the date for Sunday 5 February, 1 pm to 2 pm, to enjoy a pop-up brass performance with views over the Yarra.

The Summer in the Park series will be appearing at parks and gardens across Boroondara from early February. Featuring highlight events Family Fun, Opera, Jazz, Theatre and Cinema in the Park, as well as several musical pop-ups, check our website for all the details: **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park**





Making climate action happen

It's been a year since Boroondara's Climate Action Plan was adopted by Council and launched to help us do what's important to our community.

Since then we've achieved some exciting and significant changes through this plan, allowing us to tackle climate change together with you at a local level. These include:

- buying green electricity for Council's small sites, so that all Council electricity is now renewable
- holding a Sustainable Living Festival to engage with the community
- releasing the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy to set a framework for advancing cycling infrastructure across our municipality.

We also ran our annual Backyard Biodiversity Program, which supported residents in learning how to help local birds and wildlife journey safely through Hawthorn to local creeks and the Yarra River. In spring we added 2 extra programs due to its popularity.

The annual project will run again next year, along with the development of a Circular Economy Strategy, an Urban Greening Strategy, and renewal and planting of 1,000 street trees each year.

For more information, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP

A new Gardiners Creek Master Plan

Our 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 Riversdale Ward, Gardiners Creek runs along the western boundary of Boroondara from Burwood Road to Tooronga Road. In the master plan, actions and opportunities for this area are outlined under Precinct 1 and 2, which

include HA Smith Reserve, Hawthorn Skate Park, Patterson Reserve, Hawthorn Hockey Ground and other open areas.

Pending Council Budget allocation and funding opportunities from the Victorian and Australian governments, we plan to bring you a number of improvements. Among a broad range of initiatives for the whole creek catchment, some that we are set to bring to you here in Riversdale Ward involve advocating to the Victorian Government and other stakeholders for increased naturalisation of the concrete channel associated with the Monash Freeway, as well as advocating for improvements to the Toorak Road underpass in Hawthorn so it becomes less prone to flooding and silt build-up.

We can all look forward to preserving this special part of Boroondara for generations to come.

To view the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, including Riversdale Ward actions, visit:

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

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



Top tips to reduce your waste

Everyone has an important role to play in reducing waste sent to landfill. Here are some tips to help you reduce, reuse and recycle more:



Before buying something new, consider whether you could borrow or rent the items instead.



Consider buying second-hand. You can also sell, share, swap or donate unwanted items to stop them going to landfill.



Remember to bring your reusable bags, coffee cups, water bottles and cutlery when heading out.



We can't always avoid waste, so choose products in recyclable packaging wherever possible.



Before disposing of broken or damaged items, including furniture, electrical goods or clothing, see if they can be fixed. You could take them to the North Balwyn Repair Cafe at the Greythorn Community Hub, which operates on the third Sunday of every month, from February to November.



Always place loose recyclable items in your yellow-lidded recycling bin.



If you're not sure how to correctly dispose of an item, check out our A to Z recycling and waste guide on Council's website.

To view our A to Z recycling and waste guide, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-guide

Homelessness: how you can help

On any given night in Australia, 1 in 200 people are homeless. Homelessness can happen to anyone and comes in many forms including sleeping rough, couch surfing or seeking shelter in a car. A person is considered to be homeless when they don't have accommodation that is safe, secure and appropriate.

The number of people experiencing homelessness here in our Boroondara community continues to rise, as shown by the increase in those seeking homelessness support from Specialist Homelessness Services in our municipality between 2017 and 2021. People may be unable to access housing due to factors outside their control such as housing affordability and availability, the increasing cost of living, and the effects of COVID-19 such as job loss and poor mental health.

Here at Council we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community, and we work closely with the Salvation Army and other organisations to provide support for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Council has developed a Homelessness Food and Support Guide, which provides useful information about local services and resources where you can find support.

We also have a Homelessness Protocol to ensure anyone who is homeless is offered relevant support services.

What you can do to help

If you notice someone sleeping rough on the streets, in a car, park or abandoned building, you can contact Council's Safer Communities Planner (Homelessness) on 9278 4326 or email homelessness@boroondara.vic.gov.au so they can arrange support such as outreach services.

If you or someone you know needs urgent support, including crisis accommodation, call Opening Doors on 1800 825 955 (24 hours).

If you would like to get involved to help combat homelessness, you could consider volunteering. Several local organisations support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and they welcome volunteers to help with tasks such as serving food, organising emergency relief, events and activities. You can find current opportunities at **volunteer.boroondara.vic.gov.au** by searching 'homelessness'.

To find out more about homelessness in Boroondara, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/homelessness

Meet your ward councillor

Get to know your Ward Cr Susan Biggar at one of her regular meet and greets:

- Monday 6 February, 10 am at Sonny Ray Cafe, 328 Auburn Road, Hawthorn
- Monday 6 March, 10 am at The Foodstore Cafe, 1/22 Bills Street, Hawthorn East
- Monday 3 April, 10 am at Finders Keepers, 89 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn

Due to a diary mix-up, Cr Biggar did not attend the meet-up at Porgie & Mr Jones on 22 August. She apologises for the inconvenience and would love you to come to another meet-up.