

Solway Ward

December 2022



Solway Ward Cr Garry Thompson with community members and police officers at the Community Safety Month Pop-up at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning.

Cr Garry Thompson

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The Boroondara Bicycle Strategy will help improve on-road and off-road path and cycling networks.



A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the summer edition of the Solway Ward Newsletter.

I hope you enjoyed spring here in Ashburton and Glen Iris. With the very wet start to the season, our parks and gardens are looking fantastic for summer.

Allow me to update you on a few important initiatives.

The Gardiners Creek Master Plan was adopted by Council in October. This was one of my 2020 election promises and I am so pleased that it received unanimous support from my Council colleagues. A lot of work has gone into preparing this master plan, which will enhance biodiversity along the corridor while providing for significantly improved user amenity and experience. We have received great support and feedback from the KooyongKoot [Gardiners Creek] Alliance, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders and many other interest groups whose comments are now reflected in the adopted plan. We are also trialling, for 12 months, alternative weed management solutions to the use of glyphosate along the Gardiners Creek corridor. This important study

will determine the effectiveness of alternative weed management solutions and how they may be considered across Boroondara.

Council has also now adopted the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, which improves the connectivity and safety of on-road and off-road path and cycling networks across the municipality. You can read more about what this means for our ward in this newsletter.

Also, we will begin construction works in the coming months on an upgrade at Council's Y Street Community Services facility and begin various improvement works at Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre. We are also preparing to develop a draft design for the renewal of Ferndale Park Pavilion. All these local projects improve facilities for the long-term health and wellbeing of our community.

I wish an enjoyable summer and a safe and festive Christmas period to you all.

Cr Garry Thompson

Park yourself this summertime

Summer is a fantastic time of year in Boroondara. One of our highlights is the Summer in the Park series which will be appearing at parks and gardens across Boroondara from early February.

Our local Summerhill Park will close out the 2023 season with Theatre in the Park. We're pleased to present 2 afternoon and 2 evening performances from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 March. Performed in our idyllic local park setting, it's the perfect opportunity to soak up the final days of summer with family and friends. Tickets are free and will be available from early February.

Other Summer in the Park highlight events include Family Fun, Opera, Jazz and Cinema in the Park, as well as several musical pop-ups. Find out more and how to book for Theatre in the Park at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/summer-park

Other parks to enjoy close to home this summer include Ashburton Park, Burwood Reserve Park and Warner Reserve.

Another save the date for early 2023 is the annual favourite Ashburton Festival. The festival will take over High Street, Ashburton with events and activities for all ages on Sunday 26 February.





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 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 Solway, Gardiners Creek runs along the southern boundary of Boroondara from Dunlop Street to Warrigal Road. In the master plan, actions and opportunities for this area are outlined under Precinct 5 and 6 which include Winton Reserve and Markham Avenue Reserve.

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 Solway Ward involve investigating and advocating for new alignment for the Gardiners Creek Trail (to connect to Markham Avenue Reserve) and upgrading the bridge near Pitt Street so that it meets Australian standards.

To view the Gardiners Creek Master Plan, including other actions to be delivered here in Solway Ward, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/gardiners-creek-master-plan. Select 'Follow' at the top of the page to stay up to date.

Delivering on climate action

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

Over the past year, we've implemented and achieved several actions with our community, to respond to environmental sustainability and tackle climate change together. These include:

- 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
- running a plastic-free pilot program with 18 Camberwell-based businesses.

Many more actions are coming up over the next year, including the development of a Circular Economy Strategy, an Urban Greening Strategy, and renewal and planting of 1,000 street trees.

Council will also be installing electric-vehicle chargers in Burwood Village next year. This will include 1 dual-port fast charger, and 1 dual-port 22kW AC charger. These Australian-made chargers will be placed in one of Council's car parks servicing the shopping strip, helping to make this a destination of choice.



For more information, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/CAP



Our Boroondara Bicycle Strategy: what it will mean for you

With our population growing, the costs of living increasing, and warmer weather upon us, there is no greater 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 2022 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 Solway Ward, there are a number of initiatives from the strategy’s implementation plan you can expect to see delivered. This includes our ongoing advocacy efforts for a bridge along the Anniversary Trail, crossing

over Toorak Road in Camberwell. This bridge would improve safety and access for pedestrians and cyclists. The Anniversary Trail is a major active transport corridor in Boroondara, forming part of the Kew to Highett Strategic Cycling Corridor.

We also plan to work with the City of Stonnington to improve the alignment and connectivity of the Gardiners Creek Trail section between Warrigal Road and Solway Street in Ashburton. As a popular route for both walking and cycling, completing the missing link for this section of the Gardiners Creek Trail would greatly improve connectivity and provide a more direct active transport trip for those who use it. We will explore the potential for a new, off-road path alignment, considering the use of land on the south side of the creek, which is owned and managed by the City of Stonnington.

Celebrating Community Safety Month

In October we celebrated Community Safety Month, an annual safety awareness campaign that aims to reduce the risk of violence, emergencies and injuries in the community. The City of Boroondara hosted a range of interactive events – including an Emergency Services Family Fun Day – to highlight how we can work together to keep our community safe.

In partnership with Victoria Police and Boroondara Neighbourhood Watch, a Community Safety Pop-up was held at Alamein Neighbourhood and Learning on 12 October. This informal event gave residents an opportunity to meet local Victoria Police officers and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, discuss community safety issues and concerns, and access important information and resources on crime prevention and safety.


Council is pleased to work with Victoria Police, external agencies and the broader community to recognise Community Safety Month each October and continue to foster a healthy and safe community in Boroondara throughout the year.



For more information about the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, visit:

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

For more information and safety tips visit:

 [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
community-safety](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-safety)