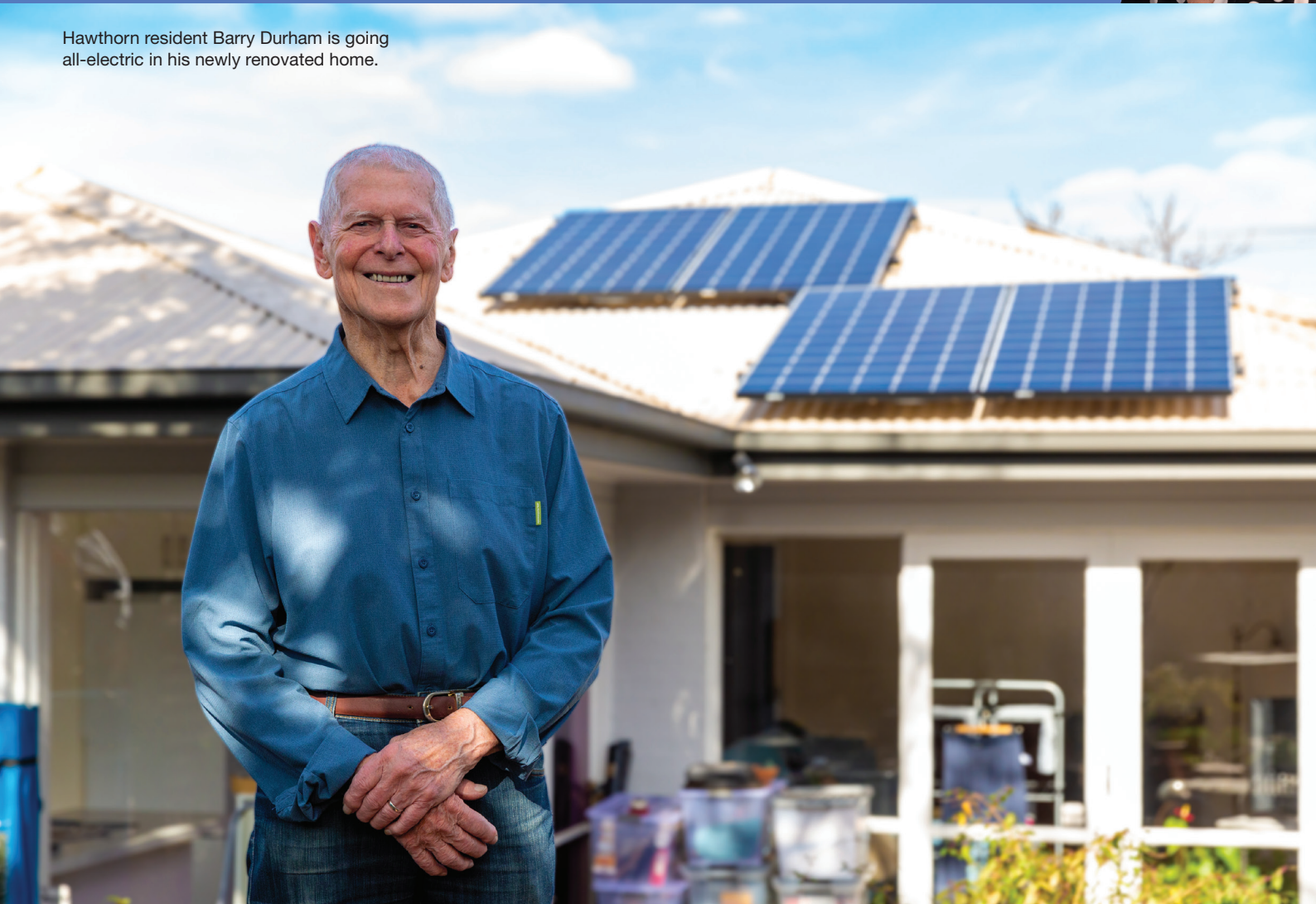


Riversdale Ward

July 2023



Hawthorn resident Barry Durham is going all-electric in his newly renovated home.



Cr Susan Biggar

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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Change is hard, isn't it? Many of us are creatures of habit. We might have a morning routine involving a dog walk or a gym session, a favourite cafe, a particular coffee order. We may find comfort in the routine and don't find it easy when it's disrupted.

Big changes are even harder for most of us. I moved a lot before landing in Australia 20 years ago – it was my sixth country. Even though I wanted to make every move we did, I found constant change difficult. I became tired of leaving friends, adapting to different cultures, and buying new spices!

But even if you stay in one place, the world is changing. And to limit the negative changes to our climate and manage with a growing population, we need to find new ways of doing our everyday 'stuff'. In particular, we need to find new ways to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.

This means finding clean sources of energy for transport, cooking and heating – primarily by switching to electricity, which is moving speedily to being sourced from renewable energy. Many people I speak to are thinking about, or have already purchased, an electric vehicle. I am excited about the

recent arrival of ours, and I do love my electric scooter.

But we can't stop there. Many homes in Boroondara use gas for hot water, heating and cooking. Fortunately, there are excellent alternatives which are considerably more efficient. In my cover story, you'll hear from one Boroondara resident who has made this transition.

Council is supporting a community initiative, Electrify Boroondara (electrifyboroondara.org), to raise awareness about the need to electrify our homes and assist the take-up across all sectors of our community.

Change is hard. Most of us have lived all our lives with petrol engines and gas heating. But the new generation of electric vehicles, induction cooktops, and heat pumps for heating and cooling as well as energy-efficient water heating, offer markedly better service than the appliances we grew up with. It's time to make the change, and once made, the benefits will flow.

Cr Susan Biggar



Electrifying to reduce emissions

Local resident Barry Durham made a conscious decision to electrify his home when renovating his property in Hawthorn. He's one of many residents embracing the transition to electricity as a 'greener' source of energy.

For Barry, there were several motivations. "We felt that there would likely be gas shortages, not to mention high costs, in the immediate future, so needed to look at how to degas," he says.

"Also, we could see that burning gas for heating, hot water and cooking was an unnecessary addition to the climate problem. When you added to that the far greater efficiency of modern electric systems, it really was a no-brainer to electrify."

Barry installed solar panels, a heat-pump hot-water system, and reverse-cycle air conditioning. He plans to transition his gas cooktop as part of a future kitchen renovation. Once he has a battery installed, he anticipates virtually zero running costs.

Council encourages our community to consider electrifying. Doing so will contribute to the community targets in our Climate Action Plan.

To find out more, visit: **climateactionplan.boroondara.vic.gov.au**



Cooking up a sense of community

Did you know Boroondara has the highest rate of volunteering in metro Melbourne? If you're looking for a new activity this winter and a way to support your community, you could consider volunteering.

Kieran McGregor has been involved with Boroondara Cooks, Council's meal-sharing and community-strengthening program, since March 2020. It involves volunteers regularly sharing an extra portion of their home-cooked meal with an older resident. After reading about the program in the *Boroondara Bulletin*, Kieran was inspired to apply.

"Boroondara Cooks resonated with me because I cook meals at home, and I am infamous in my family for cooking too much. It's very rewarding to take something to my diner regularly," says Kieran.

"I have lived in Boroondara since 1998, and I understand the importance of community connections, and the satisfaction that volunteering some time to the local community can give."

Kieran says one of the most rewarding aspects of his volunteer role is receiving


text messages from his diner after he has eaten his meal. "He is always so appreciative and has been pretty much up to try anything I give him."

Kieran takes great satisfaction in knowing the program can help ease feelings of isolation and can have a positive impact on the mental health of older residents by providing a simple regular community connection.

"I cannot stress enough what a great program this is for older Boroondara residents. By volunteering, you are giving something tangible and valued to another resident."

If you'd like to find out more about Boroondara Cooks and how you can apply to be a volunteer cook or a diner, please visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/cooks-boroondara or call **9278 4777** for information.

If you're seeking a volunteer role but aren't sure where to start, contact the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/volunteers


Don't let your recycling go to waste

When the wrong items go into your recycling bin, this contaminated waste ends up in landfill. Read on to learn which common items can't go in your yellow-lidded recycling bin.

- **Polystyrene:** recycle up to half a cubic metre of polystyrene at the Boroondara Recycling and Waste Centre.
- **Food and garden waste:** place all food and garden waste in your lime-green lidded FOGO bin.
- **Nappies:** dispose of nappies in your dark green or red-lidded household waste bin.
- **Clothing and other textiles:** reuse damaged clothing or textiles as rags, or donate clothing and textiles in good condition to your local charity or op-shop. If you can't reuse or donate it, dispose of it in your dark green or red-lidded household waste bin.
- **Recyclable packaging that still contains food:** clean out the packaging before placing it in your recycling bin.
- **Batteries and e-waste:** dispose of batteries and e-waste at the Boroondara Recycling and Waste Centre.

Be sure to keep your recycling loose and out of bags.

For more information about which items go in which bin, search our comprehensive A to Z recycling and waste guide online at:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-recycling-guide



Working together for Gardiners Creek

In April, the City of Boroondara joined 15 organisations in launching the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration. The purpose of this group, which includes neighbouring councils, community organisations and public authorities, is to protect and improve the cultural, amenity, and environmental value of the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) catchment – for the benefit of the community and the environment.

Gardiners Creek forms much of Boroondara's border in the south, running through biodiversity hotspots, sportsgrounds and recreation hubs. It borders vital commuter cycling routes and many much-loved open spaces.

The City of Boroondara has agreed to a long-term shared vision for Gardiners Creek alongside its fellow Regional Collaboration members. The vision states:

- KooyongKoot and its catchment is protected, valued and loved, supporting diverse uses and thriving biodiversity.
- As custodians of our natural environment, Traditional Owners play a key role in its management.

- Community and all stakeholders are working together to heal, strengthen and ensure the resilience of KooyongKoot and its catchment.

A number of programs and projects will be implemented to achieve this vision. You can find out more in the Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot) Regional Collaboration prospectus at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/collaboration-gardiners-creek

Get involved: Markham Forest Project

Community organisation KooyongKoot Alliance (also a member of the Regional Collaboration) has received a \$20,000 grant from the Australian Government for the Markham Forest Project in honour of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

This will involve planting 2,000 indigenous trees in our local community – and you can help. Planting events are planned to take place throughout July, August and September.

For further information and to get involved, email:

 kooyongkootalliance@gmail.com

Planting trees to reduce emissions

We planted around 2,000 new trees in Boroondara in the 2022-23 financial year. This included the 1,000 trees we commit to planting every year, as well as an additional 1,000 trees we promised to plant in the last financial year as an action of our Climate Action Plan.

Here in Riversdale Ward and surrounds, this included around 200 new trees in Hawthorn and around 110 new trees in Hawthorn East.

Young trees will always benefit from a little extra attention.

Water it: To check whether your new trees need watering, feel the soil just below the layer of mulch – if it's dry, the tree should be watered.

Mind the bark: When mowing and using line trimmers, avoid contact with a tree's bark. Bark helps protect trees from pests and diseases, and damaging it can cause serious harm.

To find out more about our tree renewal program, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/renewing-trees

Meet your Cr

Get to know your Ward Councillor Susan Biggar at:

7 August: 10 am, Small Caps Coffee, 70 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

19 August: 8 am to 12:30 pm, Boroondara Farmers Market

4 September: 10 am, Timber & Greens, Level 1/10 Oxley Road, Hawthorn

2 October: 10 am, Porgies, 291 Auburn Road, Hawthorn