

Solway Ward

December 2023



Cr Garry Thompson with Burwood Cricket Club's Zimbabwean recruit Modester Mupachikwa (left), and Club President Kate Bellamy.



Cr Garry Thompson

 9835 7847 or 0417 153 512

 garry.thompson@boroondara.vic.gov.au

 Private Bag 1 Camberwell VIC 3124

 [GarryThompson.Boroondara](https://www.facebook.com/GarryThompson.Boroondara)

 [GarryPThompson](https://twitter.com/GarryPThompson)

 [GarryThompson.Boroondara](https://www.instagram.com/GarryThompson.Boroondara)





A new look for Rowen Street Kindergarten

In June we completed renewal works at Rowen Street Kindergarten, creating a modern learning environment with vibrant and refreshed spaces for the kindergarten children and educators to enjoy.

This much-loved Glen Iris kindergarten has been operating for more than 70 years, providing a valuable service to many children and families in the neighbourhood. Highlights of the works include an improved layout, making it easier for staff and children to move around and access the rooms from the foyer, as well as upgrades to make the kindergarten accessible for all.

We are pleased to deliver these renewal works to enhance learning spaces and accessible spaces for our young children to interact, learn, develop and play together. These upgrades will ensure Rowen Street Kindergarten can continue to deliver a valuable service for our community for many years to come.

These works were supported by the Victorian Government through its Building Blocks grants program.

A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the summer edition of the Solway Ward newsletter.

This summer will be a little different to the last one here in Ashburton and Glen Iris, with meteorologists telling us we are in for a hotter and drier summer. This means we need to manage our water consumption more closely, and keep ourselves and our pets cool and hydrated on hot days and nights.

On the positive side, we are unlikely to see the washed-out sports matches of last spring and summer, and can look forward to a full season of local sport.

On that note, it was great to drop in recently to Burwood Cricket Club's Fix the Mix event and panel discussion promoting how women's and girls' participation in local cricket can have long-lasting positive impacts on those clubs. President Kate Bellamy and the club are developing some wonderful initiatives to support diversity in our local community sports.

A couple of other events that are always a must do on the community

social calendar here in Ashburton and Glen Iris are the Rowen Street Kindergarten's Family Fun Day and the Ashburton Primary School Fair. This year the kindergarten celebrated its Fun Day in its newly renovated and extended facilities. It was great to be able to reopen this facility and celebrate with current and past committee members and many family groups. I was privileged to take on one of the most important roles at the Ashy Primary School Fair – as a judge of the Bake-off! There are so many talented community members of all ages, and I was only too pleased to put my creative assessment skills to the test.

Enjoy the summer ahead, and remember to look out for vulnerable community members when the temperature rises. A safe and festive Christmas period to you all.

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

Cr Garry Thompson





Club proves gold standard on inclusion

When it comes to inclusivity, Burwood Cricket Club is leading the way. The club was awarded Gold accreditation earlier in the year, alongside Camberwell Hockey Club, in our Sports Accreditation Program for its proactive approach to providing a safe and welcoming environment, and its significant steps towards diversity and inclusion.

Located in Solway Ward, Burwood Cricket Club provides participation opportunities for junior girls to senior women, and is taking strides to ensure female cricketers have equal opportunity and a clear path to follow. There are teams for all ages and abilities – from Blast (5 to 8 years), Junior (9 to 16 years), Senior 1st XI and Social T20 (16+ years), right through to Social Sixes (over 40s).

Club President, Kate Bellamy, says the launch of its Social Sixes Program led to the creation of a Social Women's T20 team and more females than ever wanting to be involved in the club.

"We've seen a growth of female players across all programs and that's due in part to the wonderful culture we have at the club," says Kate.

"Females can be seen in all areas of the club and are therefore involved in all aspects of decision making within it. We have fathers playing with sons and mothers playing with daughters. How good is that?"

To find other sports and recreation clubs in Boroondara visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/sports-clubs

Accreditation nominations close soon

There's still time for local clubs to get their nominations in for the 2024–25 Boroondara Sports Accreditation Program.

Launched last year, the program is a way to recognise and reward local sports clubs that provide their players and volunteers with an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Applications for 2024–25 accreditation will close on 14 December. For more information and to apply, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/accreditation-sports-club

Gardiners Creek 'no glyphosate' trial concludes

In August 2022, Councillors made a decision to trial weed-management practices that do not use glyphosate along Gardiners Creek. It responded to concerns raised by some community members about the use of glyphosate. The 12-month trial began in December last year and wound up at the end of November.

The trial involved all areas of open space next to Gardiners Creek, including sportsgrounds, parks, reserves, garden beds and biodiversity areas. Locally, the trial sites included Markham Reserve, Clifford Close, Ryburne Reserve and Dunlop Street Reserve.

Alternative methods suitable for the conditions of each area were used. These methods included use of hand weeding, brush cutting, flame (using a weed-burning torch), heat treatment, minimal use of alternative herbicides, and in some hard-to-reach areas in other wards, goats were trialled to target woody weeds and exotic grasses.

The outcomes from the trial are being assessed and a full report will be presented to Councillors for consideration in 2024.

For more information about the trial and our broader weed-management program, visit:

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

The playground at Burwood Reserve in Glen Iris is set for renewal.



Two playgrounds ready for renewal

Local families can look forward to 2 new playgrounds in Solway Ward. The playgrounds at Winton Reserve in Ashburton and Burwood Reserve in Glen Iris are being renewed to:

- offer a range of play experiences for children
- ensure the playgrounds are enhanced for families to enjoy both now and into the future
- improve accessibility.

The playgrounds have been much loved by locals and visitors since they were built in 2004, providing nearly 20 years of enjoyment and adventures. But due to their age and condition, they have reached the end of their useful lives and are prioritised for replacement in line with our Playground Replacement Program.

Across September and October, we asked playground visitors big and small to share their local knowledge, special memories, stories and ideas to help guide the design for the new Burwood Reserve playground.

The community consultation for the Winton Reserve playground renewal is

still open and families can share their feedback by making a submission through Engage Boroondara.

Council would like to thank everyone who has taken part in consultations so far. Many children shared their ideas with us by uploading drawings of their 'dream' playground. All these ideas and comments help us shape the redesign of these spaces.

Next steps

Using your feedback, our Landscape and Design team will develop and present draft concept playground designs to our community for feedback before they are finalised late next year. We expect to start building the new playgrounds in the 2024–25 financial year.

For more details and to keep up to date about the final design concepts for the Burwood Reserve playground, visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/burwood-reserve-playground

To share your feedback on the renewal for Winton Reserve by 5 pm on Friday 15 December visit: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/winton-reserve-playground

Update: temporary soft plastic recycling service

We launched our temporary soft plastic recycling service in late July to fill the gap left by the collapse of the REDcycle program. Thank you to all residents who have embraced this new service and contributed positively to the environment by doing so.

In its first 3 months we had an estimated 2,850 visits across our 2 collection points, at the Boroondara Recycling and Waste Centre (648 Riversdale Road, Camberwell) and the Kew Depot Recycling Drop-off Centre (31-35 Hutchinson Drive, Kew).

We continue to advocate for action from the Australian Government to coordinate a longer-term, more viable soft plastic recycling solution with the supermarket and packaging industry.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue dropping off small household amounts of unavoidable soft plastics at our collection points. Check the web page below to ensure there is capacity at your chosen collection point.

To find out more, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics

