

Riversdale Ward

December 2023



Hawthorn Tennis Club was named Inclusive Sports Club of the Year at the Boroondara Sports Awards



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A message from your Councillor

Trust is essential to life. Most of us, for example, have no fear of crossing bridges. We trust the bridge will hold us. Bridges are a concrete example of how trust plays out in daily life.

Trust in government and the institutions that run society is equally important, but much less tangible. There is evidence that public trust in institutions has declined in recent decades. At times, I have seen this lack of trust expressed by community members. Despite this, I believe most people would say having trust and confidence in government matters to them.

So, how do we make this work?

Part of the responsibility for building trust is on us, your locally elected representatives. We need to make sure the things we do are easy to see and understand and that there's accountability. I ask myself: Is the way we make decisions clear to the public? Are our decisions made in the public interest? Are conflicts of interest addressed? Am I available to listen to my community?

Building trust takes time and hard work. Yes, we regularly ask you to tell us what you think about proposals through community consultations. But participation levels are often low. Maybe the lack of noise shows we are trusted to do our best for our community. But it could be that people are busy, involvement takes effort and if they don't feel heard, they may think it's not worth making the effort.

Openness and trust in government are high priorities for me. We want to hear from you, consider your views, and respond to the issues you raise. Building trust doesn't mean making decisions everyone agrees with; it does mean making clear the basis for decisions and showing the right process is in place.

I hope to keep building on the trust you've placed in me by being consistent, accessible and open, and I'm keen to hear how you think I can do this better.

Cr Susan Biggar

Locals make mark at sports awards

Riversdale Ward was well represented at the 2023 Boroondara Sports Awards held in September.

Hawthorn Tennis Club (pictured below) was presented with the award for Inclusive Club of the Year, in recognition of its efforts in establishing a Friday-night social tennis competition for the LGBTIQ+ community.

The club's social series was established in March. Its success saw it continue throughout the year, as people of all ages, genders and backgrounds came to play tennis and socialise in a safe and welcoming environment.

At the awards, Sam Coffa, from the Hawthorn Community and Youth Club, was one of 9 Boroondara locals presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognised the significant impact Sam has had on the club over the past 25 years.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees for 2023. There were more than 50 award nominations across 7 categories, from 33 sports clubs across Boroondara. Nominations for the 2024 Boroondara Sports Awards will open in early 2024.





Glenferrie Place Plan update

Glenferrie Road sits at the heart of the Hawthorn community – a vibrant, bustling activity centre vital to Boroondara and beyond.

Back in 2020 we started gathering your ideas on how we could revitalise the centre through a Place Plan. Since then, our community has helped shape and confirm the vision, priorities and actions by sharing their thoughts in each stage's consultation.

The Glenferrie Place Plan sets out how to revitalise the precinct through 9 place initiatives. These include strategies to enhance it as a shopping destination, support arts and community events, and upgrade the streetscape.

Your feedback has reinforced that improving Glenferrie Road is the most important change we can make to

revitalise the precinct. Creating more green space for social connection, widening footpaths to improve safety and installing new seating also depends on repurposing some of the space that's currently used for on-road parking.

Armed with research and your feedback from earlier this year, councillors are carefully weighing up the options for future parking before deciding on the potential relocation of these spaces.

We're continuing work and discussions this month (December) for an outcome that will best enable the improvements you want to see to the Glenferrie Road streetscape.

Once the Place Plan is finalised, we'll check in with you for your thoughts on any large-scale projects before launching them.

Update: 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 amounts of household soft plastics at our collection points. We accept plastic bags, food packets/wrappers and bubble wrap. Cling wrap and cellophane are not accepted through this service. Check the web page below to ensure there's capacity at your chosen collection point.

Find out more at: **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics**



Follow the Engage page for updates on the adoption of this Plan:

engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/glenferrie-place-plan



Seeking alternatives: 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 H.A. Smith Reserve and Patterson 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, goats

were trialled to target woody weeds and exotic grasses.

You may have spotted the small herd of South African Boer goats locally at Patterson Reserve in the 2022-23 financial year. The goats helped to keep weeds to a minimum and became popular among community members who enjoyed visiting them. We plan to bring the goats back to Patterson Reserve in the future.

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, please visit:



**[www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/
program-weed-management](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/program-weed-management)**

Shop farm fresh and meet your councillor

On the first, third and fifth Saturday of each month, from 8 am to 12.30 pm, Patterson Reserve in Hawthorn East is transformed into a bustling sustainable fresh food market filled with fresh fruit and vegetables, seasonal organic produce, meat and eggs, preserves and honey.

It's the perfect place to pick up supplies for a summer barbecue or picnic, or fill a festive-season gift hamper with local produce.

Your ward councillor Susan Biggar will be at Boroondara Farmers Market on Saturday 17 February hosting a meet and greet, so be sure to head down and say hello.

Cr Biggar will also host meet and greets at the following local venues:

- Monday 4 December, 10 am, Sonny Ray Cafe, 328 Auburn Road, Hawthorn
- Monday 5 February, 10 am, Finders Keepers Cafe, 87 to 89 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn

