



# Progress 3127

Newsletter from the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association

First Edition April 2026

## President's welcome

Welcome to *Progress 3127*, the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert Progress Association's new quarterly newsletter.

We're hoping, through coverage of a blend of local news and events and updates on some more serious topics, to keep residents and businesses of postcode 3127 interested and up to date on matters of importance to all of us.

This first newsletter leads with the exciting news that Whitehorse Council has purchased land near the Hamilton Street shops to create a new public open space.

This is a great example of how persistent advocacy by local groups and residents, can produce positive outcomes for our neighbourhoods.

Coinciding with the launch of *Progress 3127*, we have also revamped our website to make it more relevant and easier to navigate. [www.shmapa.org.au](http://www.shmapa.org.au)

Mark Curry, President



## New Open Space for village

Whitehorse Council has purchased properties at 383-87 Mont Albert Road, adjacent to the Mont Albert shopping village, to be converted into an open space garden and park.

This positive initiative by Council addresses a gap identified in its 2025 Whitehorse Open Space Strategy. It follows advocacy over many years by our Association and some key individuals (including Elizabeth Meredith and Geoff White) highlighting

that Surrey Hills (5 sqm per resident) and Mont Albert (7 sqm per resident) have very low provision of public open space compared with other suburbs (the average for Whitehorse is 36 sqm per resident).

Along with the planned upgrades to Hamilton Street in the next 18-months, this initiative will enhance Mont Albert shopping village, making it a pedestrian friendly activity centre.

## cape cafe opens in Mont Albert

The cape café, operating from the heritage Mont Albert Station building, was officially opened by Whitehorse Mayor Cr Kirsten Langford (right) and Bethany Newman, COO of cape group Australia (left), on 12th March.

The social enterprise café, serving coffee and baked goods, aims to create meaningful employment and training opportunities for young people with disabilities while providing a relaxed, inclusive space for locals to meet, and unwind.

The café project, led by Whitehorse Council, is the culmination of efforts by local



residents, business and advocacy groups to save the 115-year-old heritage building and make it the focal point of a public open space hub, attracting new activity and visitation to Hamilton Street.



## Heritage clarity needed

The State Government's recent planning reforms aim to address housing supply and affordability, accommodating Melbourne's rapid growth while limiting urban sprawl.

Key elements include housing targets, increased density around activity centres and along public transport routes, and new 'fast track' development standards.

The Housing Choice and Transport Zone (HCTZ) has been introduced to enable higher-density housing, including three to six storey developments in residential streets within and around activity centres.

In practical terms, this means taller and much larger buildings may be introduced into streetscapes with heritage and/or environmental overlays - where context, materials, size and scale are critical.

The State's high-density housing strategy is being implemented through a standardised approach, not tailored to local conditions.

SHMAPA is seeking greater clarity in how the HCTZ interacts with heritage, landscape, and other design overlays—so that increased housing can be delivered while still protecting the distinct character of Melbourne's suburbs.

## Local events

### Councillors to attend SHMAPA meeting

We have invited Cr Kirsten Langford (Mayor of Whitehorse) and Cr Shima Ibuki (Deputy Mayor of Boroondara) to our May meeting to talk about Council issues and priorities for Surrey Hills and Mont Albert, and take questions. If you would like to attend in person or by zoom, register your interest at [shmapa3127@gmail.com](mailto:shmapa3127@gmail.com).

**Thurs May 14, 7:30 to 8:30 pm**  
**Balwyn Community Centre**  
**412 Whitehorse Road,**  
**Surrey Hills**

### "From Paddocks to Suburbs"

The Surrey Hills Historical Society, with the City of Boroondara, is screening a new compilation of historic films by Norman Carter. His films have been digitised to produce a fascinating insight into how parts of Boroondara and Whitehorse have changed over three decades from rural to urban. Free, bookings essential.

**Surrey Hills Historical Society**  
**Thurs 23 April, 7:30 - 8:30 pm**

**Friday 1 May, 2pm to 3pm**  
**Balwyn Library**

**To register: [boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/out-archives-paddocks-suburbs](http://boroondara.vic.gov.au/events/out-archives-paddocks-suburbs)**

### Calligraphy Workshop

In this engaging and beginner - friendly workshop, you'll be guided through the fundamentals of modern calligraphy, from holding the pen correctly to forming graceful, flowing letter shapes..

**Sunday 24th May, 1pm – 4pm**  
**Surrey Hills Neighbourhood Centre at 157 Union Road.**

**To find out more or to book:**  
**[www.socialplanet.com.au](http://www.socialplanet.com.au)**



## Hooked on fish and chippery

Teresa and Sean, the owners of Mont Albert Fish & Chips in Hamilton Street, describe working in their business as a labour of love.

"We really love our work. We know all the names of the locals and their families," the vibrant Teresa said.

Sean established the business in 2008 after working in a fish and chippery in Kew for a number of years.

The menu at Mont Albert Fish & Chips features an impressive selection of fresh fish and crispy chips, available in generous portions, together

with speciality seafood such as battered prawns, scallops, crab sticks and homemade potato cakes. Other menu items are grilled wraps, burgers, steak sandwiches, dim sims and pineapple fritters.

They have a commitment to serving only fresh quality fish and local ingredients, friendly service and a clean and safe environment.

The shop is open from 11am to 8pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11am to 9pm on Friday and 4.30pm to 8pm on weekends. Delivery service is available on 0412 716 333 or 0421 136 777.