

Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Jim Parke | December 2013



Season's greetings

Christmas in Boroondara

Many of Boroondara's shopping strips are welcoming the festive season with sparkling Christmas decorations.

Council has allocated \$100,000 across our City for colourful street decorations to help spread the Christmas cheer. Shop locally this Christmas and support your community by choosing your special gifts from a local strip shopping centre.

Bellevue Ward has some fabulous strip shopping centres that are bursting with Christmas colour and atmosphere.

In the shopping centres of Greythorn, Balwyn North and Harp Village, coiled

Christmas trees have been fixed to parking sign poles and adorned with a big red bow. They feature two sets of three bells that will give a subtle jingle when the wind blows.

The decorations were designed in consultation with the City's trader associations and groups.

For more information about shopping local visit www.greythornshoppingcentre.com.au or www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/business/shopping-centres.



Balwyn and Balwyn North Community Hub

Community hubs offer a range of community services and programs in one location.

Council consulted with the community on the community hub planned for Balwyn North from late September to mid-October 2013.

The level of participation by residents and key stakeholders and the very positive response to this project demonstrates the strong support for a community hub.

Nearly 800 people participated, with residents sharing their views through a random telephone survey and seven information and discussion workshops, including workshops for Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking residents. There was

also the opportunity to get involved via online, e-kiosk and hard copy surveys.

Council is currently analysing the results, which will inform the concept design of the hub.

For more information, contact Fiona Brown, Senior Policy and Project Officer, on 9278 4476 or visit <http://bulletin.boroondara.vic.gov.au/balwyn-north-hub/>.



A greener Greythorn

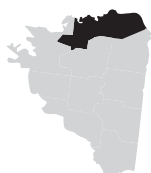
Council has been working with the Greythorn Traders Association to improve the appearance of the shopping centre by introducing more greenery to the streetscape.

Fourteen climber frames were planted with Star Jasmine in sections along Sylvander Street, Trentwood Avenue and Doncaster Road.



Bellevue Ward
Cr Jim Parke

Including parts of
Kew East and Balwyn North



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Dear Neighbour

Last month councillors elected Cr Coral Ross as Mayor of the City of Boroondara for the next twelve months. My hearty congratulations go to Cr Ross, and also to Cr Jack Wegman for a job well done during his service as Mayor 2012-2013. My colleagues have again elected me to serve on the Audit Committee and the Management Performance Review Committee, among other roles. All councillors sit on the Services Special Committee and the Urban Planning Special Committee.

November marked the first year of my service as your representative on Council. The year has been productive and yielded significant benefits to Bellevue Ward. The decision by Council to endorse the Victorian Government's new residential zones will ensure preservation of the unique neighbourhood character treasured by our residents. Nearly all of Bellevue Ward is proposed to be within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone – which provides the toughest protection in Australia. More details are on page 3.

Council's recent community consultation sought your views about community services that could be located in our planned Balwyn and Balwyn North Community Hub. The hub is a much-needed facility in Bellevue Ward and I expect significant progress will be made with the concept design in the New Year. On the cultural front, last month saw the opening of the revitalised Hawthorn Arts Centre – a magnificent facility, which is well worth a visit. Located at 360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn, there is parking behind the centre, off Kent Street.

Christmas is a time of joy, generosity and peace, that brings together family and friends. I'm confident that Council's investment in Christmas decorations this year will add to the festive atmosphere. There are some great Carols events planned locally, including at Macleay Park, Balwyn North commencing 6.00 pm on Saturday, 14 December and in Grace Park, Hawthorn commencing 5.00 pm on Sunday, 15 December. Compliments of the season and my best wishes for a prosperous 2014! Let's all work to make it a festive and accident-free holiday season.



Cr Jim Parke

Hawthorn Arts Centre Opening



The Hawthorn Arts Centre has been beautifully restored.

Community celebrations to mark the opening of the revitalised Hawthorn Arts Centre took place on the weekend of 22 to 24 November. The celebrations featured a spectacular variety of events including a concert and a Let's Get Started: Open Day, offering a range of arts and cultural programs to suit everyone.

The Hawthorn Arts Centre building is the City of Boroondara's largest and most impressive historic icon. The \$18 million restoration and redevelopment of the Hawthorn Town Hall, has restored the heritage building to its Second Empire glory. State-of-the-art facilities, and functional, adaptable spaces have been designed to accommodate a wide variety of arts and cultural events.

The Hawthorn Arts Centre is destined to become one of Melbourne's premier arts facilities. We look forward to a future of presenting diverse visual and performing arts programs, civic events as well as community and corporate activities. The Town Hall Gallery will be presenting an exciting exhibition program over summer.

Find out what's happening at the Hawthorn Arts Centre by subscribing to the monthly e-newsletter *Arts Abstract* at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/our-city/arts-culture/hawthorn-arts-centre-information.

Balwyn Chinese speaking new parents group

Council has been running a monthly Chinese speaking group for families at the Balwyn Maternal and Child Health Centre since 2009.

There are many Chinese speaking families in Boroondara, particularly in the Balwyn area, and these monthly meetings give them a chance to get together to discuss the joys and challenges of being a new parent.

The meetings provide a great opportunity for new parents and families to socialise and receive parenting information on a wide range of topics.

The Chinese-speaking (Mandarin) Balwyn Maternal and Child Health group meets for two hours on the second Thursday of each month. It is for people who live, study or work in the City of Boroondara.

The Balwyn Maternal and Child Health Centre is located at 1 Cherry Road in Balwyn.

Contact the Maternal and Child Health Coordinator on 9278 4607 or email mc.hc@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

Council also has a telephone interpreting service which offers direct lines for Mandarin speakers. To take advantage of the Mandarin interpreting service, phone 8692 2945.



Cultural Diversity Plan 2014-18

Boroondara has an increasingly diverse multicultural population with approximately 44,951 residents born overseas.

In Bellevue Ward, the 2011 Census showed more than 4,600 people were born overseas, nearly 30% of the entire Bellevue Ward population. In addition, more than 5,000 speak a language other than English at home. This diversity has enriched our community with a wide array of cultural backgrounds, languages and religions. Council is now preparing the Cultural Diversity Plan 2014-18. The plan will provide the guiding principles and actions on how Council will respond to our growing cultural diversity to support a harmonious and inclusive community.

Council sought community feedback on priorities for the plan with bi-lingual focus groups in Mandarin, Cantonese and Hindi, in addition to two world café forums held in November. As part of the consultation phase, Council adopted a community-driven



approach with members of both Boroondara's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community and the broader community. This approach gave those interested the opportunity to receive training and assist facilitating community conversations. This initiative promotes greater community ownership of the key priorities and objectives to be set under the plan.

Community feedback is now being analysed and will be incorporated into the draft Cultural Diversity Plan 2014-18 to be released in mid-2014.

Battling graffiti

Council is committed to responding to concerns from the community about graffiti.

Council recently submitted an application to the Department of Justice for an allocation of Portable Graffiti Removal Systems (PRS). Council successfully secured nine of the systems which are now available for loan.

The PRS can be borrowed for up to a week by community groups for organised clean-up days, by traders, schools and residents to remove unsightly graffiti. The PRS consists of a 120 litre wheelie bin, a high pressure water system, graffiti removal products and personal protective equipment.

For more information or to book a PRS contact Customer Service on 9278 4444.

New residential zones

Council's decision on 16 September to endorse the Victorian Government's new residential zones will ensure the unique neighbourhood character of Boroondara is protected, and in particular, that the amenity and many picturesque streetscapes in Kew East and Balwyn North are preserved into the future.

With the support of many resident action groups and individuals, and based on feedback from extensive research over the last five years on the Neighbourhood Character Study, Council has requested that the Minister for Planning introduce the three new residential zones into the Boroondara Planning Scheme. They are:

- Neighbourhood Residential Zone – intended to provide for limited growth. Mandatory height limit of 8m. Multi-unit provision allowing only two dwellings on a lot. Minimum subdivision area of 500sq metres or 300sq metres depending on the location.
- General Residential Zone – intended to provide for moderate housing growth. Mandatory height limit of 9m or 10.5m depending on the location. No minimum subdivision area.

- Residential Growth Zone – intended to provide for higher density housing in buildings up to four storeys. Mandatory height limit of 13.5m. No minimum subdivision area.

Council hopes the new planning provisions will be incorporated into the Boroondara Planning Scheme by the end of the year.

Once the Minister has approved the new zones, Council will invite submissions from the community about the new provisions. This is likely to occur in early-mid 2014. The feedback received may inform changes to the new zones.

For more information, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/c190.

Carols in the Park

Enjoy a wonderful evening of carols and fireworks in Macleay Park.

This event will feature Boroondara Brass, the Open Door Singers, a special guest appearance by Santa, stunt motorcyclist David Russell, and fireworks. Carols in the Park is organised by the Churches of North Balwyn with assistance from North Balwyn Rotary and the 1st North Balwyn Scouts.

Where: Macleay Park, Corner Belmore Road and Buchanan Avenue, Balwyn North

When: Saturday 14 December, 6pm family fun; 7.30pm carols

More information: Tim Blowfield, 9857 8100 or 0408 996 403

2013 year in review

Significant improvements to the amenity and liveability of Bellevue and its close neighbours occurred in 2013. They include:

- the new \$2 million pavilion at Hays Paddock, featuring unique facilities for hearing impaired users
- an upgrade to the Belford Oaks Community Childrens Centre
- a second teaching room (with the help of the Victorian Government) at Bellevue Kindergarten, Balwyn North
- a new footpath at Greythorn Shopping Centre
- new playgrounds at nearby Macleay Park and Stradbroke Reserve

Plans for a new Community hub for Balwyn and Balwyn North are progressing well following an extensive consultation period.

Development of the plans for the Boroondara Sports Complex in Belmore Road has continued

throughout the year with a series of well attended consultation and information sessions.

City-wide, Council is committed to investing in infrastructure to build a better city. The 2012-13 Annual Report shows Council's largest ever expenditure on capital works projects worth over \$72 million, with \$61 million spent on replacing existing assets and \$11 million on new and upgraded infrastructure. Fourteen million dollars was spent on roads, drains, footpaths and other infrastructure to improve the amenity of our City.

The Annual Report is available at Council's customer service centres, libraries or online at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your_council/media-publications/annual-report.

Community safety a priority

Council has a strong commitment to the health, safety and wellbeing of our community, and works in partnership with Boroondara Police to identify and respond to community safety concerns. This is achieved through a number of committees and networks, with representatives from Council, Boroondara Police, stakeholders and the community.

They include the Boroondara Community Safety Advisory Committee, Boroondara Family Violence Network, Boroondara Licensees Accord and a registered rooming house group.

In 2013, programs and events organised included the White Ribbon Day 2013, supporting the stand against violence towards women, the Boroondara Business Security Forum, the

Boroondara Homelessness Protocol, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, and the Glenferrie Road CCTV Project.

It is great to see the eight CCTV cameras in the Glenferrie Road entertainment precinct will be operating over the festive season.

For more information, contact Ros Winkler, Community Safety Drug and Alcohol Officer, on 9278 4017.

In brief

Council services over Christmas

Customer Service will only be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Calls will be automatically transferred to the emergency after-hours service.

On all other days Camberwell and Hawthorn Customer Service will operate from 8.30am to 5.15pm (Cashiers close at 5pm).

Christmas and New Year waste collections

Wednesday 25 December 2013 is Christmas Day. Collections scheduled for this day have been rescheduled and will be collected on Saturday 28 December 2013.

Wednesday 1 January 2014 is New Years Day. Collections for this day will be collected instead on Saturday 4 January 2014.

Residents are asked to place their waste, recycling and green waste bins out for collection on the Friday night before each collection.

Christmas tree collections

Bookings open on Monday 16 December for Council to collect your Christmas tree from 6 to 31 January 2014. Last bookings taken 24 January.

Call Customer Service on 9278 4444.

Your voice

The Boroondara Community Voice Panel is a community engagement initiative that lets Council know what the community thinks about issues.

The panelists are a group of people with an interest in Boroondara who wish to make a difference.

For more information contact the Engagement team on 9278 4444 or visit, www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-panel.

Powerful thoughts ...

We must use time as a tool, not as a couch.

John F Kennedy