

# Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Jim Parke | September 2013

## Freeway Noise update

Many Boroondara residents have been adversely affected by freeway noise for years. Despite numerous requests over the years, neither VicRoads nor the Victorian Government has been forthcoming with information regarding the cost of funding road treatments and noise barriers in Boroondara.

To give residents an idea of how much work may cost, Council has done a 'back-of-the-envelope' exercise based on a May 2010 media release from the then Member for Burwood, Bob Stensholt, in which he announced that \$8.4 million had been provided in the 2010-11 budget for innovative noise wall treatments and noise reduction technologies in Boroondara.

The \$8.4 million figure was for works on approximately 850 metres of the freeway, which equates to funding of just under \$10 million per kilometre. Bearing in mind that 7.6 kilometres of the Monash Freeway and 8.8 kilometres of the Eastern Freeway is within or borders Boroondara, funding noise reduction technologies for this 16.4 kilometres would cost somewhere around \$164 million. That is a sizable ask for any government, but not a valid reason for the Victorian government to walk away from the problem. It does, however, give insight into the magnitude of the problem and indicates any real solution could be many years coming.

While Council has no direct responsibility for noise emissions on the freeway network, Council's current advocacy calls for the assistance of our local Victorian government representatives to:

- acknowledge the impacts of freeway noise on the wellbeing of impacted residents
- continue to actively engage with our community on this issue,



Traffic on the Eastern Freeway continues to cause resident concerns.

- including through the Freeway Noise Community Working Group
- clearly outline the work plan for the whole of the \$8.4 million noise treatments and noise reduction technologies allocated in the 2010-11 budget
- continue to advocate for noise attenuation works for their communities at each round of budget discussions and allocate further funding for noise 'hot spots' along the Monash and Eastern freeways
- review the Freeway Traffic Noise Policy to be a maximum of 63 db(a) to be measured at first floor level as well as ground level at any time day or night (not just day time readings).

Earlier this year, Council commissioned Deakin University to

conduct a research project, which has seen the development of a mobile phone application to allow the community to monitor traffic noise both during the day and overnight, in their homes and in upper levels where some bedrooms are located. This contrasts with the VicRoads collection method of only reporting readings outside, at ground level and not including readings taken between 12am and 6am. This new data will show if noise levels are at a level to bring undesirable health impacts.

The finalised report will be presented to the Freeway Noise Working Group, which includes resident action groups, local, state and federal elected representatives and Council officers. It will then be published on [www.2loud.net.au](http://www.2loud.net.au) and [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au).



**Bellevue Ward  
Cr Jim Parke**

Including parts of  
Kew East and Balwyn North



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Dear Neighbour

Much has happened since the June 2013 Bellevue Ward Update, including the federal election. My congratulations to Josh Frydenberg MP, on his return as Member for Kooyong and to Kelly O'Dwyer MP, on her return as Member for Higgins. As former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd MP chose to cancel the referendum on constitutional recognition of local government, that question remains for another day.

This edition of the Update includes information on a great charity, The Alannah and Madeline Foundation. The foundation does a magnificent job in protecting children from violence and advocating for children's safety and wellbeing. Children's Week 2013 runs from 19 to 27 October (see page 3) and will see a number of activities across our city.

Freeway noise endures as a significant concern for Boroondara residents, with successive state governments inadequately responding to the problems. Whilst Council continues to advocate on behalf of residents and to work closely with the Balwyn North Freeway Noise Group to reduce noise levels, only the state government is able to provide the requisite noise barriers. Sadly, the prospects of that seem remote in an environment where VicRoads fails even to remove graffiti

from its existing infrastructure, citing a lack of funds!

I am delighted that Council's community consultation is about to commence to gain your views about community services that could be located in our planned North East Community Hub (see page 3). The much-needed facility will become a key addition to Council's infrastructure in Bellevue Ward and I will continue to work hard to bring the project to fruition.

I recently had the privilege of speaking at a combined meeting of Neighbourhood Watch at Balwyn High School. As a member of Council's Community Safety Advisory Committee, I have a keen interest in ensuring our residents feel safe and that Council maintains its strong commitment to the health, safety, wellbeing and independence of all members of our community. The next Bellevue Ward Update will feature news on Council's work to keep our streets safe and to support community policing initiatives.

Recognising the need for appropriate development controls in our city, the next Update will also review progress made by Council in the first year of this term.

Best wishes



Cr Jim Parke

## Robin Madden memorial appeal

The appeal to raise money to commemorate Kew's dancing man starts here.

Council is working with Kew and Kew East Community Bank, the Kew Junction Business Association and other community organisations to raise funds.

The campaign hopes to raise between \$5,000 and \$70,000 for a permanent plaque or public artwork to celebrate Robin's memory.

Robin regularly entertained passers-by at Kew Junction and other locations in



Balwyn and Northcote, with his high-kick dancing style and his Walkman earplugs firmly in place.

Expressions of interest to join a community committee to drive the campaign are now being sought.

For more information, contact Jenny Ruffy, Manager Library, Arts and Cultural Services on 9278 4690 or [jenny.ruffy@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:jenny.ruffy@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

## Hawthorn Arts Centre and Town Hall Gallery



Come and celebrate the opening of the Hawthorn Arts Centre, formerly the Hawthorn Town Hall, at a four-day celebration from Thursday 21 November to Sunday 24 November. The celebrations will include both ticketed and free events and will feature a keynote concert, a community ball and a free community open day on Sunday 24 November.

The Sunday community celebrations will include a kid's zone, dedicated youth area in the basement, 3D artists, short plays, exhibitions, workshops and performances by local groups.

For more information, visit [www.hawthornartscentre.com.au](http://www.hawthornartscentre.com.au).

The Town Hall Gallery will also reopen with a spectacular exhibition, Marker: 10 years of Town Hall Gallery Collection, featuring works the gallery has acquired over the last 10 years. The exhibition is open from 22 November to 4 January 2014.

The Town Hall Gallery has a diverse and significant permanent collection incorporating the cultural heritage of Boroondara with contemporary and historical works.

For more information, visit [www.townhallgallery.com.au](http://www.townhallgallery.com.au) or contact Mardi Nowak, Senior Curator, at [mardi.nowak@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:mardi.nowak@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

Follow  @townhallgallery.

# National Ride to Work Day

If you ride into the city from Bellevue Ward chances are you use the Main Yarra Trail. And if you ride into work on National Ride to Work Day, on Wednesday 16 October, you can enjoy a free hot breakfast en-route.

Council will host a community ride-to-work breakfast at Chandler Park on the Main Yarra Trail, just off Chandler Highway, behind Guide Dogs Victoria, from 6.30am to 9am.

National Ride to Work Day is an excellent opportunity to dust off your bike and give riding to work a go, or, if you are a regular commuter, to celebrate with other riders.

Register online at [www.bicyclenetwork.com.au](http://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au).



## VATMI art and design exhibition



Sonja Kane shows off her latest work.

The annual VATMI art and design exhibition, held in September at Q Art Gallery in the Kew Court House, was a spectacular event, showcasing the amazing talents of some unique and special artists.

The VATMI artists, whom are all living with disabilities, are mentored and trained in technique and use their life's experiences to create an amazing array of works reflecting the real, the sublime and the surreal, in vibrant and bold colours.

Q Art Gallery continues to showcase works and retails original merchandise including homewares, gift cards and wrapping, limited edition prints and art tiles.

For more information, visit [www.vatmiartanddesign.com.au](http://www.vatmiartanddesign.com.au).

## Consultation on planned North East Community Hub

Council will be consulting extensively in Balwyn and Balwyn North from late September to gather the community's views about community services that could be located in the planned North East Community Hub.

Outcomes of the consultations will assist the design process of the community hub.

You can participate in a number of ways: by attending one of the community information and discussion workshops being held in both English and Chinese during September and October; through an online survey on Council's website; a survey on the e-kiosks at the Balwyn Library or Amcal Pharmacy at 81 Doncaster Road, Balwyn North.

If you would like to participate in one of the community workshops or want further information on the consultation process, please call 9278 4753 or visit [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your-say](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your-say).

## Children's Week

To celebrate Children's Week the City of Boroondara is planning a number of events across the City.

Hays Paddock will host a fantastic fun day for young children on Tuesday 22 October from 10am to 1pm. Kids will enjoy craft activities and story time at 11am, and will be entertained by music performances from some of Boroondara's schools.

Parents will have an opportunity to learn about some of the services Council and other support organisations provide across the City.

Show bags with a range of information, samples and goodies for children will also be available.

Council's Parks and Gardens team will give every family a native plant to take home and plant in their garden.

For more information, phone Rhonda Allen, Family Services Development Officer on 9278 4635 or email [rhonda.allen@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhonda.allen@boroondara.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/childrens-week](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/childrens-week).

## Buddy Bags brighten dark days

Each year, tens of thousands of Australian children enter emergency care. Most arrive with just the clothes they are wearing.



The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Buddy Bags program provides children entering emergency accommodation with a backpack containing essential items such as toiletries, pyjamas, socks, underwear, a pillowcase, a book, a photo frame, school stationery and a teddy bear.

Restoring a sense of safety and security into children's lives during a traumatic time is one of the first steps to recovery, and Buddy Bags help make this transition a little easier. They are something children can call their own, no matter where they go.

The feedback from workers and carers is as positive as it is from the children and families who receive them. Zoe, a Social

Worker at Safe Futures Foundation explains the impact that Buddy Bags have on children.

"It's so daunting for children to come here and to have basic essentials for them when they arrive is really beneficial. We just sit down together, open the Buddy Bag and take everything out. Sometimes the children sit there and brush their hair. It's like a really friendly ice breaker."

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation relies on community support and donations to help deliver Buddy Bags to children in emergency accommodation. To sponsor a Buddy Bag, please visit [www.amf.org.au/donation](http://www.amf.org.au/donation) or call 1300 720 747.

## Friends of parks and gardens

Boroondara, and Bellevue Ward in particular, boasts some magnificent and unique parklands, such as the Yarra Flats, Hyde Park, Hays Paddock, Musca and Columba Street reserves and the parkland along the Koonung Trail between Bulleen and Doncaster roads.

Residents have an opportunity to have their say on the things that matter to them in their local parks. Council's Parks and Gardens team is promoting friends groups as a way for people to engage with Council on how our parks and gardens are utilised and to get involved in protecting and restoring the natural environment.

There are currently a number of active friends groups in Boroondara but there

are still many more parks which could benefit from greater community input.

Council recently held a public workshop about opportunities for friends groups so if you missed the workshop or you are thinking of setting up a friends group and would like more information, visit [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/friends-groups](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/friends-groups) or contact the Parks and Gardens team on 9278 4595 or email [boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:boroondara@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

## In brief

### New telephone interpreting service



Council has implemented a new telephone interpreting service, ezispeak, to make communicating with Council easier.

ezispeak offers an 'all languages line' which can be accessed by phoning 9278 4002.

Council is also providing direct lines for Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Greek and Vietnamese speakers so they are immediately able to choose to speak to an interpreter or to listen to pre-recorded messages on key Council topics in their language.

The following numbers have been set up for the major languages spoken in Boroondara:

廣東話	8692 2941
普通话	8692 2945
Ελληνικά	8692 2943
Italiano	8692 2944
Tiếng Việt	8692 2946

### New car park in Kew

A new public car park at 16 Peel Street, Kew, at the rear of the Anglican Church, opened in July. Council has leased the car park from the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Kew, for three years. The extra car parking spaces will improve parking availability for shoppers, visitors, traders and employees. Ticket parking applies between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday, and charges apply. No charges apply on weekends.

### Shop local and win

The Village, Balwyn North, is offering customers who shop at the Village in October and November a chance to win a diamond ring.

For more information, speak to one of the friendly Village traders.

Powerful thoughts ...

Only the guy who isn't rowing has time to rock the boat.

Jean-Paul Sartre

