

Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Jim Parke | May 2014



Trial tackles car-dooring

Council staff have created an innovative solution to combat the problem of motorists hitting cyclists with their car doors when they exit cars.

Victorian Roads Minister Terry Mulder has supported the idea and approved a trial that runs down a 900-metre stretch of Glenferrie Road between Barkers and Burwood roads, a section that has a history of collisions involving cyclists.

Under the trial, the existing 1.5-metre wide bike lane does not change in size, but cyclists are directed to ride in a 60cm safe zone furthest from parked cars.

To encourage drivers not to drive too close to the bike lane, a white chevron marking runs the length of the left edge of the traffic lane.

The trial will last for 12 months and the behaviour of road users will be monitored by VicRoads to determine its effectiveness.

If the trial is successful, it is likely it will set a new standard for bike lanes.

The move follows the tragic death of student James Cross, 22, who was killed in a car-dooring accident in Glenferrie Road in 2010. He was Victoria's first recorded death by dooring.

Council staff examined the problem and developed a solution. Council encourages a culture of innovation among its workforce.



An innovative Council idea has led to a bicycle lane trial in Hawthorn.

Council is also conducting a communications campaign to alert drivers to be aware of cyclists when opening car doors.

Snap Send Solve

A smartphone app called Snap Send Solve is making it easier for residents to report issues to Council.

Download the app and, if you spot graffiti, a faulty street light, dumped waste or a pot hole, all you have to do is reach into your pocket and report the issue.

The app makes it easy to report the location of issues using the GPS of smart phones.

It also automatically sends the report to the right authority based on the type of issue and geographical location.

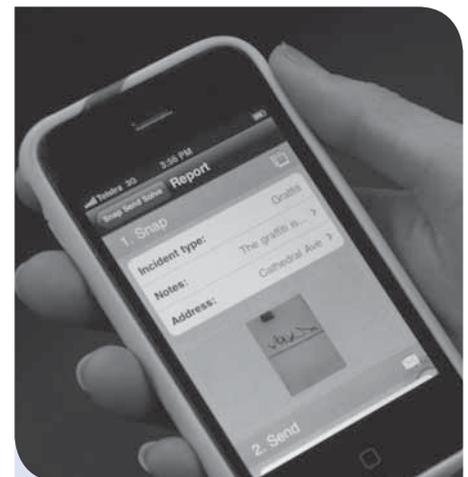
You can use the app wherever you are in Australia to report issues.

City of Boroondara has received more than 800 requests via the app since its inception in 2010.

Council is working with Snap Send Solve to help the community report on a wider range of issues.

We are also working with the app developer to allow the app to report directly to the relevant department at Council to improve response times of Council officers.

Snap Send Solve is available through your smartphone's app store. It is free and works on iPhone and Android devices.



The Snap Send Solve app helps residents swiftly report issues to Council.



Bellevue Ward
Cr Jim Parke

Including parts of
Kew East and Balwyn North



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Dear neighbour

Bellevue Ward has been abuzz with activity in 2014. In February we were treated to the North Balwyn Multicultural Festival in this, the year of the horse. March brought us the iconic Kew Festival. Hearty congratulations and thanks to the many volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make the events such a huge success.

In March, Cr Phillip Healey and I had the pleasure of attending the Boroondara Safety and Security Forum for Bellevue and Studley wards, hosted at Macleay Park. Thanks to Leading Senior Constable Carolyn Pethick for her great work in organising the forum and to the Kew and Kew East Community Bank branches of Bendigo Bank for supporting the forum.

On ANZAC Day I had the pleasure of being joined by our Mayor, Cr Coral Ross at the Dawn Service at the RSL in Balwyn North.

This edition of the *Bellevue Ward Update* brings news of many topics of local interest, including the \$500,000 refurbishment of the North Balwyn Bowls Pavilion, Council's trial to combat the dangerous problem of car-doorings, the "Snap Send Solve" initiative and potential waste charge savings by downsizing your general waste bin. Page 4 includes a snapshot of the Breast Cancer Network of Australia, based in Camberwell. Please give consideration to supporting that very worthy organisation in their good work.

The next edition will bring news of the 2014–2015 Budget, on which Councillors and staff have spent significant time balancing potential savings and debt-reduction strategies with a commitment to minimising increases in rates and charges, while maintaining our high levels of service.

The Budget will be adopted in late June. There will also be a comprehensive update on the Boroondara Planning Scheme amendments, submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval in October 2013.



Cr Jim Parke

Could you downsize your bin?

Council is continuing its campaign to encourage residents with large general waste bins to opt for a smaller one.

The thrust behind this campaign is research that indicates that residents with large general waste bins are more likely to put recyclable items in these bins, robbing the community of the opportunity to recycle more.

The campaign began a decade ago when it was discovered almost 30 per cent of waste in 240 litre general waste bins could have been recycled.

Council has made inroads over time, with a further study in 2010 indicating that this figure had been reduced to 12 per cent.

It is clear that any further reduction in the number of 240 litre general waste bins would be likely to reduce the amount of recyclables going to landfill. This material would then be diverted to the recycling stream.

Council conducted a campaign last year outlining options to residents. Some



Contact Council if you could do with a smaller general waste bin.

households that have large families or have special waste needs because of medical reasons can continue to have a 240 litre garbage bin.

But others who downsize can save money, and help look after the environment by improving the recycling process.

For more information about waste and recycling services go to www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-recycling or phone 9278 4444.

Help us recycle more

One of the biggest issues that Council has to overcome when recycling material at the transfer station is dealing with plastic bags in recycling bins.

A great deal of recycling material is lost because plastic bags are either put inside recycling bins, or recyclable materials are placed inside plastic bags and then put inside the recycling bins.

Recyclables should not be placed in plastic bags as the bags will not be opened during sorting for occupational health and safety reasons. The bag's contents will go directly to landfill despite a resident's best intentions.

Council is committed to recycling and our residents have indicated that recycling is a high priority, but the issue of plastic bags stops Council from realising its full potential in this area.

Although plastic bags are the main contaminant, other items wreak havoc

on the recycling process, such as organic materials, oils, liquids and nappies.

Safety is another priority for Council during bin collection times, and Council asks for your assistance. You can help by placing bins:

- at least 0.5m apart and away from parked cars
- on the kerb the evening before collection.

Avoid placing your bins under street or parking signs, trees or wires, and remove your bin from the nature strip on the day of collection.

More information is available at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/waste-recycling.

Popular bowls club receives pavilion upgrade

Council is injecting \$500,000 into a major refurbishment of the North Balwyn Bowls pavilion, home of one of the most picturesque bowling clubs in Melbourne.

The North Balwyn Bowls Club is located in Buchanan Avenue and it has a proud history dating back to 1948.

The club relies totally on the volunteer work of its members to operate the bowling program, the social program and maintain grounds and playing surfaces.

It provides a social outlet not only for bowls, but it is also involved with school programs and continues to promote exercise for all age groups.

Council has identified the upgrade of the pavilion as a key project for the community.



North Balwyn Bowls Club is being upgraded.

The building is in fair condition, but the toilets and changeroom areas need to be upgraded.

Other works include:

- upgrading access points and toilets for people with a disability
- reconstructing toilets and change rooms to meet current standards
- installing new fittings and energy-efficient lighting throughout

- replacing electrical wiring and the switchboard
- installing a new heating system
- installing a new electronic locking system.

Council will also remodel the caretaker's cottage and construct new storage and meeting rooms.

The project is scheduled to finish in June this year.

Planning protection for shopping strips

Boroondara has taken another step towards tightening its planning scheme to allow for appropriate development and protecting what we love about the look and feel of our great City.

Earlier this year, Council received the Panel report for Amendment C108 to the Boroondara Planning Scheme, which covers the City's 31 neighbourhood shopping centres and three commercial corridors.

We are pleased with the Panel Report in that it supports an emphasis on preserving the established 'main-street' character and heritage buildings within the neighbourhood shopping centres. The Panel has also agreed to mandatory street wall heights and the need to provide setbacks behind the building facades to reinforce the existing and preferred streetscape character.

Council is also very pleased to have Panel approval to remove public car

parks and associated built form controls from the amendment, given that there is no intention for the car parks to be redeveloped by Council. This was a very contentious issue throughout the consultation period.

We are disappointed, however, that the Panel preferred discretionary maximum building heights which could be negotiated on a case-by-case basis during planning permit applications, rather than the certainty of prescribing mandatory height controls as suggested by Council.

The Panel was generally supportive of the revised Amendment C108 provisions and recommended it be adopted, subject to some changes. Their report can now

be viewed at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/amendmentc108-panel-report.

The Panel's recommendations, along with the final form of the amendment will be considered by Council in May, and affected owners and occupiers, including submitters, will be invited to attend the meetings on 5 and 26 May.

This is the last stage in the process for either introducing or abandoning the permanent planning provisions for the City's neighbourhood shopping centres and commercial corridors into the Boroondara Planning Scheme. Council's resolution on 26 May will be reported to the Minister for Planning for a final decision.

Network provides great support

Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) is a national organisation that has been based in Camberwell since 2000.

It works to ensure Australians affected by breast cancer receive the best support, information, treatment and care appropriate to their individual needs.

BCNA supports, informs, represents and connects people affected by breast cancer by providing a range of free services, resources and programs.

The organisation has more than 90,000 individual members and 300 support groups throughout Australia.

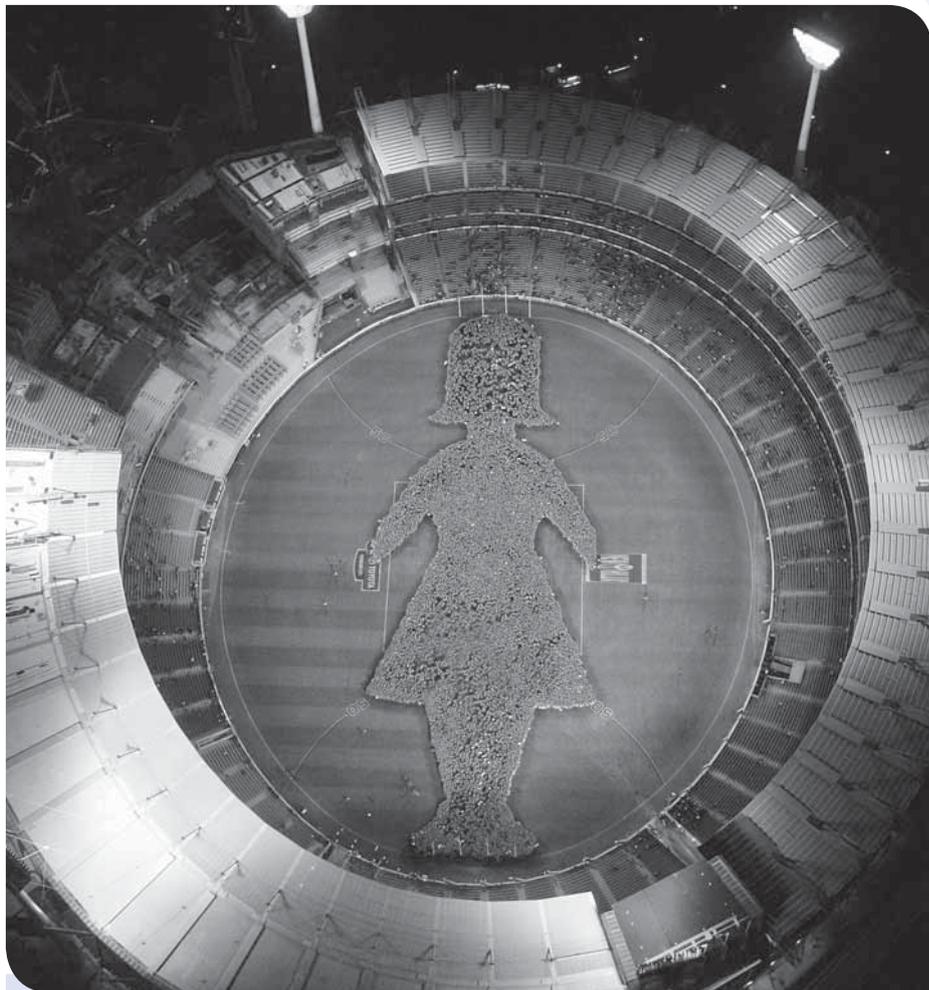
BCNA is presenting its signature Field of Women event on Saturday 10 May at the MCG, before the Melbourne vs Western Bulldogs game in the evening.

This moving and inspirational event will see 15,000 people stand together to represent the number of Australians who will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year.

Everyone is encouraged to participate – you don't have to have had breast cancer to take part.

Tickets are \$55 each and include a poncho, backpack and tickets to the AFL match on the night.

Visit www.bcna.org.au to find out more about Field of Women 2014, and BCNA's events, programs and services, including the free My Journey Kit for women newly diagnosed with breast cancer.



A bird's eye view of the MCG during the inaugural Field of Women event in 2005. Photo courtesy of the *Herald Sun*.

Have your say on local issues

Would you like to join a 1,000-member strong panel of people with an interest in Boroondara? Want to make a difference, but don't have time for formal meetings?



We are now recruiting new members to join the Boroondara Community Voice Panel.

Council regularly asks the Panel for their views and opinions on important local issues through online surveys and a forum. The views of the Panel help shape the decisions that Council makes.

As it all happens online, you can respond to the surveys and post on the forum at your convenience at any time of day or night.

All members' views are equally important and we encourage healthy discussion and deliberation so that Council can better understand the range and diversity of views in our community.

It only takes about 30 minutes of your time a month to participate. Coming up next will be topics relating to sport and recreation and to arts and culture. Sign up now to make a difference.

For more information or to join the Panel call 9278 4444 or visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/panel.

Powerful thoughts ...

Difficulties mastered are opportunities won.

Winston Churchill