

# Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Jim Parke | December 2015



## Enjoy an outing with your dog in Bellevue's beautiful parks

Did you know that we have three off-lead  
dog parks within the Bellevue Ward?

Your dog can enjoy a lead-free run at:

- Koonung Creek
- Hays Paddock
- Kate Campbell Reserve

With the warmer weather upon us, it's a  
great time to get outdoors and take up  
some exercise with your pooch.

It's not only great for our health and  
wellbeing, but gives your dog an  
opportunity to develop their social skills so  
they are well adjusted and well behaved.

So why not use the extra time you  
have in the coming holiday season  
to explore some of our beautiful  
parks and walkways with your dog.

For tips on responsible pet ownership,  
phone our Animal Management team  
on 9278 4444 or view our responsible  
pet ownership video (also available in  
Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Italian  
and Vietnamese) at [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pet-video](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/pet-video)



Cr Jim Parke, Mayor of Boroondara, takes his 9 month-old German Shepherd pup, Kaiser, for a walk along the Koonung Trail

## Outcome of draft heritage study for Balwyn and Balwyn North

In response to community feedback, Council has decided not to proceed with  
the recommendations of the draft heritage study for Balwyn and Balwyn North.

The draft study was completed in June  
2014 and sought to identify places  
and precincts of local cultural heritage  
significance in the suburbs of Balwyn  
and Balwyn North (incorporating  
Deepdene and Greythorn). This  
included the re-assessment of 45  
properties previously identified in the  
Camberwell Conservation Study.

The Draft Balwyn and Balwyn North  
Heritage Study recommended Heritage  
Overlays be applied to 26 individual  
properties and the four heritage precincts.

The Urban Planning Special  
Committee received 137 submissions  
regarding the proposal - 94 opposed  
to the heritage overlays, 22 in support  
and 21 neither in favour nor opposed.

Issues raised by submitters  
included impact to property values,  
disagreement with the heritage value  
of properties and precincts, objections  
to specific properties being included  
or not included in a heritage overlay  
and objection to properties being  
included on the possible Heritage  
Overlay Register.



Bellevue Ward  
Cr Jim Parke

Including parts  
of Kew East and  
Balwyn North



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@JimParke

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## Councillor message

Dear neighbour

I write to you not only as your ward councillor, but as Mayor. Last month my fellow councillors unanimously elected me as the 21st Mayor of Boroondara. It is a great honour to be able to serve such a wonderful City and I am delighted to be the first Bellevue Ward Councillor to hold the position. I have already had the pleasure of welcoming new citizens at Citizenship Ceremonies on 8 and 9 December 2015 and look forward to the Australia Day ceremony. With over a quarter of our residents having been born overseas, the real strength of the Boroondara community lies in the way it embraces diversity. So coming into the Christmas break, please take a moment to connect with others in the community who are also proud to call Boroondara home.

It's great to represent such an engaged community and your feedback on our many projects has helped guide their development. Examples include the North-East Community Hub, the Balwyn Library redevelopment and the Boroondara Sports Complex expansion, where we have had invaluable community input into a raft of issues including design, operation, parking and traffic considerations. I am very grateful for this partnership which has led to better project outcomes.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, with Council decorations across more than 50 shopping strips in Boroondara. A special thanks to the many residents who have decorated the outside of their homes for Christmas – it does much to add to the incredible atmosphere at this time of year; particularly for children. Again we've enjoyed several wonderful local Carols by Candlelight events. Remember though that this time of year can have its highs and lows - so take care of yourself and keep safe, especially out on the roads. I extend my very best wishes to you for a safe and happy Christmas and a fulfilling 2016.

Cr Jim Parke

## Lobbying to protect Boroondara's trees

Trees are one of our City's most prized assets and the penalties that a Council can impose for such a breach of a local law are vastly inadequate.

The maximum fine, set by the State Government, is \$2000. We first started lobbying on this issue in 2008 and we continue to lobby to increase this penalty to a level that would provide a suitable deterrent for a breach.

The issue has been raised with the Minister for Local Government and Council has passed a resolution calling on the Municipal Association of Victoria to also increase its lobbying efforts. Where possible, Council prosecutes cases through the Magistrate's Court to provide additional deterrent.

In addition to penalties, Council maintains a program of proactive measures to deter destruction of canopy trees such as educating builders and property owners about our Tree Local Law, requiring tree management plans as



a condition of planning permits, routinely carrying out compliance inspections and meetings with builders to reinforce the need to comply.

Council maintains its view that the illegal removal of trees is a serious issue that has the potential to diminish the environmental and aesthetic appeal of our neighbourhoods.

## Council pops up around town

On consecutive Saturdays in September, Council trialled a new way of engaging local people by "popping up" in Ashburton and Balwyn North.

Pop-up Council was the most popular idea at the inaugural Community Innovation Tournament in May and was tested on 5 and 12 September as a way of interacting with locals who are difficult to reach via our regular channels.

This idea captures the essence of what the Community Innovation Tournament wanted to achieve – find more innovative ways for the community and Council to work together.

The Boroondara community is a very busy one, and it can be difficult to find the time to catch up on important local information or visit Council during business hours so the idea brought Council to where people are rather than hoping they will come to us.

A number of councillors and Council officers from various departments were



Residents make the most of Pop-Up Council in Balwyn North

on-hand to field questions and talk to the community.

To find out more about what happened when we "popped up" in Ashburton and Balwyn North, visit [www.youtube.com/boroondara](http://www.youtube.com/boroondara) and search for "pop-up" to watch a short video.

Pop-up Council will be evaluated with a view to running them across the City again in the future.

# Design for new North-East Community Hub almost complete

Planning is well underway for a new Community Hub in Balwyn North with detailed designs to be completed by early 2016.



An artist's impression of the proposed North-East community hub in Balwyn North

Throughout June and July 2015, the community provided feedback on the concept plans through information sessions and through an online survey.

Feedback will assist in developing the detailed design for the \$17.3 million community hub at 2 Centre Way, Balwyn North.

For a number of years, Council has been considering opportunities to provide a facility in Balwyn North that could offer a range of needed community services and programs for residents.

Council is planning to demolish the RSL building which is currently on the site, as well as the adjacent Greythorn Early Childhood Centre and Maternal and Child Health Centre.

Temporary accommodation for the Greythorn Early Childhood Centre will be provided at the former Balwyn Leisure Centre in Balwyn Road. Families will also be able to access Maternal and Child Health services at Cherry Road Balwyn, Maud Street Balwyn North and Minifie Park Maternal and Child centres.

The new North-east hub will include:

- North Balwyn RSL and its memorabilia
- a neighbourhood house / community meeting rooms
- expanded Greythorn Early Childhood Centre
- relocated Greythorn Maternal and Child Health Centre
- allied health and counselling services
- a library lounge for pick-up and drop-off of library books, access to computers, community information and library programs
- community programs for all ages
- a large multi-purpose function room.
- open space and memorial

The project will also include landscape beautification across Centre Way.

The community will be able to comment on the plans as part of the planning permit process.

To stay up-to-date with the project, visit [www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/north-east-hub](http://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/north-east-hub).

## What's on in Boroondara this summer

### Hawthorn Arts Centre



#### The Dusty Springfield Story

**When:** 11am, Wednesday

16 December 2015

**Cost:** \$14 or \$12 for groups of 8 or more

Wendy Stapleton presents the outstanding tribute to the songs and career of Dusty Springfield, Britain's greatest female pop singer.

#### 3MBS Mendelssohn Marathon

**When:** 9.30am,

Sunday 28 February 2016

**Cost:** \$105 all day (full), \$300 all day (premium), \$25 single session

Following the immensely popular Beethoven, Schubert and Brahms Marathons, 3MBS Fine Music Melbourne is proud to present a 12-hour 3MBS Mendelssohn Marathon with lunch and dinner breaks.

### Town Hall Gallery

#### Retrospective

**When:** 10am, Tuesday 1 December to Sunday 20 December 2015

Town Hall Gallery presents a selection of local artist John Ivan Bogdanov's extensive painting output. Following a stroke in his later years, Bogdanov turned to painting as a way to express a driving inner need to share his visions.

To make a booking or for more information on what's on at the Hawthorn Arts Centre, Town Hall Gallery or Kew Court House, visit [www.hawthornartscentre.com.au](http://www.hawthornartscentre.com.au)

## Kew Occasional Care will meet all care needs

From December this year, the Kew Occasional Care centre will be leased to a community based committee of management that has been very successfully managing the North Balwyn Play Centre for 30 years.

All of the childcare places offered by this service are eligible for the Australian Government Approved Childcare Benefit scheme which will result in lower childcare costs for eligible families.

Council was not eligible to attract the Child Care Benefit as the operator of the Kew Occasional Care Centre.

Council endorsed a proposal in October to lease the Kew Occasional Care premises to the new operators based on the community benefits that the committee of management can provide, in particular, the ability to attract the rebate for child care for families, as well as funding for the support of children with additional needs.

As part of the transition to the new arrangements, all of the families who have had children receive care this year at either the Kew Occasional Care Centre or the North Balwyn Play Centre, will have all of their childcare needs in 2016 met.

Forty families from the two centres have requested 77 of the 125 childcare places available next year. To book for 2016 phone the North Balwyn Play Centre on 9859 8586 or email [info@playcentre.org.au](mailto:info@playcentre.org.au).

## Council Grants for all ages, the fit and the active

Once again, in 2015, Boroondara residents have enjoyed the benefits of the Community Strengthening Grants Program, run in partnership with the Rotary Club of Balwyn.

The grants program supports community organisations to meet the social, cultural, economic, recreational and environmental needs of Boroondara residents, as outlined in council's strategic plan.

In total, \$375,129 in funding was distributed - \$224,365 from Rotary and \$150,764 from council. Ninety-three organisations across Boroondara received funding.

A range of sporting club programs was funded in Bellevue Ward

including those run by Greythorn Football Club, Greythorn Park Tennis Club and North Balwyn Bowls Club.

Transport subsidies for local tours were provided to a number of community groups such as Balwyn War Widows Association, Ladies Probus, Probus Club of North Balwyn and Greythorn.

Young people didn't miss out either with a grant for a hurdles upgrade for the Kew Little Athletics Club.

## Balwyn Library redevelopment

The design for the redevelopment of the Balwyn Library is currently being finalised with construction expected to begin in late 2016.

The redevelopment will ensure the local community has access to a contemporary library with attractive and appealing spaces to meet, read and study.

It will be an active, welcoming destination for events and activities, and a place for people of all abilities and interests to connect to information, new technology and their community.

During construction, the Balwyn Library service will be temporarily relocated to the former Balwyn Leisure Centre premises in Balwyn Road.

Relocating the library service to Balwyn Leisure Centre is the most suitable option in terms of maintaining a high level of service for library users.

It is also seen as the most suitable temporary space to accommodate the collection and be a comfortable space

for users. There is also adequate parking available.

The proposal represents the best use of ratepayer funds as the cost of retaining Balwyn Leisure Centre for temporary accommodation is estimated to be considerably less than the alternatives that have been investigated, resulting in the library being located in portables.

Council will continue to keep Balwyn Library users informed of temporary relocation plans.

Should you have any questions about the Balwyn Library project, contact Joe Capomolla, Coordinator Special Projects on 9287 4586 or [Joe.Capomolla@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joe.Capomolla@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

For service-related questions, contact Sue Gray on 9278 4650 or [sue.gray@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:sue.gray@boroondara.vic.gov.au).

Powerful thoughts ...

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.

Winston Churchill

