

Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Jim Parke | May 2016



Festival fever

In late summer and early autumn, two popular street festivals brought local people together to celebrate our community.

Now in its 42nd year, Kew Community Festival is a veteran of the festival scene and put on a grand show between Thursday 3 March and Sunday 20 March.

The relatively young Balwyn North Multicultural Festival, which celebrates diversity in our community, was also very well attended in late February.

Kew Community Festival

Now in its fifth decade, the 2016 Kew Community Festival wound up on 20 March after 18 days of celebrating all things Kew.

On the festival's penultimate day, Victoria Park was a hive of activity, with thousands of locals attending the highly-anticipated Kewmunity Day and Concert.

Other KewFest activities included the Big Kew charity dinner, with proceeds going to St Paul's College for Children with Disabilities and the Boroondara Cares



Foundation, the Kew Historical Society exhibition, and the Glenferrie Road Circus.

Music was yet again a highlight of this popular festival, with highlights including the Zelman Memorial Symphony Orchestra at Xavier, the traditional Kew

Sings Choral Concert at Sacred Heart and the Boroondara Symphonic Band Concert at Holy Trinity.

Congratulations to the organisers; we are all looking forward to your 43rd instalment in 2017.

Celebrating diversity in Balwyn North

Now in its fourth year, the annual Balwyn North Multicultural Festival encourages the local community to come together, get to know each other and celebrate diversity.

Organised by the North Balwyn Village Traders' Association and Rotary Club of North Balwyn, this year's celebration attracted 5,000 people and featured a variety of entertainment for people of all ages.

There were Bollywood and Hawaiian dancers, the Sisters and Mistresses of Song Choir, a local schools poster competition to celebrate the Year of the Monkey, exciting native animal

shows courtesy of Wild Action, face-painting, a magic show, story time and other free and fun festival activities.

A number of local community groups were represented, including local school choirs, church, dance, sporting groups and the North Balwyn Scout Group, and North Melbourne Kangaroos' legends Brent Harvey and Drew Petrie came along to help with the handball competition and to meet the locals.

This important event continues to grow and is a fantastic showcase of the diverse cultures that make up our community.

Congratulations to all of the organisers and good luck planning for next year – you have a lot to live up to!



Hawaiian dancers at the Balwyn North Multicultural Festival.



Bellevue Ward
Cr Jim Parke

Including parts
of Kew East and
Balwyn North



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Councillor message

As mayor of our city I have had the privilege of meeting many of you at various community events and our neighbourhood has been bustling with activity recently.

In the coming months, the \$13.5 million renewal of Boroondara Sports Complex will be completed, and this project will add a series of valuable new features to the popular centre.

Significantly, construction of the North East Community Hub will begin later this year, which will deliver a brand new community facility to our ward.

I have continued to pursue government action on freeway noise and look forward to a positive response to Council's submission for action to be taken. Community safety is paramount and the installation of 40 km/hr zones on Doncaster Road at the Greythorn Shopping Centre, and also the North Balwyn Village, will continue to be a strong focus.

It seems inconceivable that the mix of speed, downhill gradient of the road and vehicles reversing out of parking bays into the path of oncoming traffic is not sufficient for VicRoads to support Council's request.

In February, I joined Tim Smith MP and a number of my Council colleagues at the Balwyn North Multicultural Festival. Congratulations to the North Balwyn Village Traders' Association and the Rotary Club of North Balwyn on a fantastic event. Congratulations also to all involved in the Kew Community Festival held in March, particularly to the 2016 Boroondara Volunteer of the Year, Debbie McColl-Davis.

In March I had the pleasure of attending the annual Boroondara Volunteer Expo, which again proved a great success. The Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre is second to none; last year they referred almost 1,000 volunteers to member organisations. If you are interested in volunteering, give the BVRC a call on 9278 4550.



Cr Jim Parke, Mayor

Major projects in City's north

The City of Boroondara is delivering a series of significant projects in the City's north, which will offer a range of community services and facilities for generations to come.

North East Community Hub



Architect's rendering of the North East Community Hub facade.

Towards the end of 2016, construction will begin on a brand new multifaceted community facility in the heart of Bellevue Ward.

The \$17.3 million North East Community Hub will offer a range of important community services and programs for people of all ages, including:

- neighbourhood house, meeting rooms and community programs spaces
- a library lounge for pick-up and drop-off of library books, access to computers, community information and library programs
- a large multipurpose space
- expanded Greythorn Maternal and Child Health Centre
- North Balwyn RSL and its memorabilia
- expanded Greythorn Early Childhood Centre
- consultation rooms for allied health services
- open space.

Centre Way will become an important link between the North East Community Hub and Greythorn Shopping Centre, and a landscape concept plan is currently being finalised.

Council has also been working with traders to develop a centralised waste

facility to replace the bins and improve the amenity at the rear of the shops in Centre Way.

The new community hub is expected to open in mid-2018.

Temporary accommodation during project

During the construction phase, the Greythorn Early Childhood Centre will continue in a temporary facility at the current Balwyn Leisure Centre.

Balwyn Leisure Centre is situated at 230 Balwyn Road, Balwyn North, two kilometres from the Greythorn Early Childhood Centre site.

It is well served by public transport, and the parking needs of the childcare centre can be accommodated in the precinct.

Families will be able to access Maternal and Child Health services at Balwyn, Balwyn North and Minifie Park Maternal and Child Health centres. The hours at each of these centres will be increased to cater for all users. Families will have the option of choosing which service they would like to attend.

For more information on all major projects, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/major-projects or contact Joe Capomolla, Coordinator Special Projects on 9278 4586 or Joe.Capomolla@boroondara.vic.gov.au.

Balwyn Library

This popular facility will be undergoing an \$8 million redevelopment, which will transform it into a more contemporary library with attractive and appealing spaces to meet, read and study.

Design has now been finalised and the new library will include:

- more casual reading and study areas with better amenity and comfortable furniture
- improved access to the collection through a more intuitive layout
- new quiet study area that is separated from the rest of the library
- larger community meeting room that is accessible after-hours
- improved technology, including more efficient wi-fi.

Construction is expected to begin towards the end of 2016, and during that phase Balwyn Library will be temporarily relocated to the site of the former Balwyn Leisure Centre for approximately 14 months.

Relocating the library service to Balwyn Leisure Centre will maintain a high level of services for library users.

It is the most suitable local temporary space to accommodate the collection and users, and adequate parking will be provided.



Architect's rendering of renewed internal area at Balwyn Library.

Community bus to service temporary Balwyn Library

To respond to the needs of regular Balwyn Library users, Council will operate a community bus service to the temporary premises of the Balwyn Library in Balwyn Road while the permanent library on Whitehorse Road is redeveloped.

The service will depart from the permanent library site on the hour on Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 9pm, and on Sunday afternoons between 2pm and 5pm. This is when regular public transport services are infrequent.

The return journey will depart from the temporary premises in Balwyn Road at half past the hour between the same times.

The bus service will operate between the permanent and temporary premises as a four-month pilot from November 2016 to test demand. If there is a demand for this service to continue after the initial trial, it may be extended across the duration of the redevelopment.

Boroondara Sports Complex

This \$13.5 million project is consolidating the Boroondara Sports Complex (BSC) and Balwyn Leisure Centre (BLC), and construction is expected to finish in mid-2016.

The new, vastly-improved centre will continue to provide all of the highly-valued recreational programs available at the BSC and BLC.

Key features of the new BSC will include:

- new fitness gym and program rooms
- new basketball/netball court
- new crèche
- dedicated gymnastics space
- general amenity improvements including change rooms
- car park improvements.

The demolition of the Balwyn Leisure Centre has been deferred to allow

for the Balwyn Library and Greythorn Early Childhood Centre services to be temporarily relocated there between October 2016 and early to mid-2018, during the redevelopment of the Balwyn Library and the construction of the North East Community Hub.

The BLC will be demolished and returned to open space around June 2018, once these projects are complete.

Lyon Collection now showing at Town Hall Gallery

In March, Cr Jim Parke officially opened The Traveller exhibition at Town Hall Gallery.

The Traveller features works from the Lyon Housemuseum; Corbett and Yueji Lyon's significant private collection of Australian contemporary art.

The exhibition will take you on a journey through time, space and place – through

the vast Australian outback, our urban and suburban landscape, and the virtual world.

When: Thursday 17 March to Wednesday 15 June, 2016

Where: Town Hall Gallery, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn



Cr Jim Parke with Corbett and Yueji Lyon (right) and City of Boroondara CEO, Phillip Storer (left).

Welcoming new citizens to Boroondara

Perhaps one of Council's lesser known responsibilities is conferring citizenship to the many local residents who were born overseas and wish to demonstrate their commitment to Australia.

The City of Boroondara is home to more than 170,000 residents, more than a quarter of whom were born overseas. So this is an important process many local people have been involved in.

Since 2013 we have granted citizenship to 2,521 people at 25 ceremonies, from nations as far flung as Iran, Colombia, Mongolia, Finland and Mauritius.

Becoming an Australian citizen ensures you are protected against injustice, can live in a free and democratic society, enjoy freedom of speech and religion, equality of opportunity and have a say in our future. This is particularly relevant this year, as we prepare to vote in Federal and Local government elections.

At this year's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at Hawthorn Arts Centre, we conferred citizenship to 121 people.

While the City of Boroondara grants citizenship to local residents, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection is responsible for all other matters to do with Australian citizenship.

If you are interested in becoming an Australian citizen, or to find out if you are eligible, phone the Department of Immigration and Border Protection on 13 18 80 or visit www.border.gov.au.

Mayor opens a new civic space



Cr Jim Parke opens the new Hawthorn civic space on Tuesday 26 January, 2016.

As part of this year's Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony, the Mayor of Boroondara, Councillor Jim Parke officially opened the brand new Hawthorn civic space.

This expansive new area on the corner of Burwood and Glenferrie roads is on the doorstep of the Hawthorn

Arts Centre and popular Glenferrie Shopping Centre precinct.

It offers a pedestrian-friendly and welcoming environment for people to meet and socialise.

If you haven't already, go and have a look at this fantastic new public space.

VicRoads plans to sell the land it owns in Kew East and Kew

VicRoads has confirmed its plans to sell the land it owns at 85 Kilby Road, Kew East and at 4 Studley Park Road (the Dorothy Rogers Reserve) at Kew Junction.

Council was provided with the opportunity to purchase the land; however, due to it already being in public ownership, Council rejects the concept of using public money to buy land in public ownership. Council believes the land should remain public open space for the enjoyment of the public.

We are calling on the Minister for Roads and our local members for support to ensure this land remains as accessible public space and is not sold off for development.

This is public land and should remain so. It is gravely disappointing and incomprehensible that VicRoads is contemplating selling public land, and in the case of the Dorothy Rogers Reserve, public land occupied and maintained by Council under a licence from VicRoads as Dorothy Rogers Reserve.

We have written directly to surrounding properties letting them know of VicRoads' plans.

Have your say

Concerned residents are strongly encouraged to contact their local member of parliament and/or the Minister for Roads and request the land be preserved as public open space for the benefit of the community.

Join the conversation on Twitter at @boroondara, #saveourpark.

Powerful thoughts ...

Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.

H. Jackson Brown Jr.

