

Bellevue Ward update

Councillor Brad Miles | December 2011



Lots to celebrate locally this year

Dear neighbours,

The last 12 months has seen substantial investment by Boroondara Council in public infrastructure in Bellevue Ward.

The pavilion at Leigh Park has been refurbished, the Greythorn shops are now serviced by a toilet block and picnic area, a footbridge has been constructed at Hays Paddock, and a new pedestrian crossing has been developed over Kilby Road.

Bellevue Ward is the home of the Boroondara Tennis Centre and, at the end of 2010, I had the privilege of opening a major upgrade of the centre.

It has been fantastic to see so much activity in Bellevue Ward, and there are additional improved facilities in the pipeline including a revamped clubhouse at the Freeway Golf Course, and an upgraded pavilion, additional picnic facilities and revegetation works at Hays Paddock.

Funding has also been allocated to install a number of seats at bus stops. Let me know where you think they should be located – contacting me by email is the best.

Bellevue Ward has also attracted significant private investment, with a new Officeworks store being developed at the former Mitsubishi site in Kew East and the Victorian Government granting Aldi a permit to develop a supermarket at Greythorn.

A highlight for me this year was to work with a community-based committee to develop a management plan for Hays Paddock. The draft plan received over



Extended clearways a thing of the past:
Cr Miles with shoppers at Harp Junction.

170 submissions, the greater majority of which supported the proposals.

Now approved by Council, the plan will guide the future use and development of the park, with an emphasis on retaining its much-valued ambience of active and passive recreational activity and protecting its natural values.

Another important achievement has been the restoration of reasonable clearway hours in the City's strip shopping centres.

Boroondara was the first council to re-sign the new hours just before last Christmas, to the benefit of shoppers and traders on High Street in Kew East.

On a final note, I wish all Bellevue Ward residents all the very best during the holiday season and into the New Year.

Cr Brad Miles

Anyone for tennis?

The Boroondara Tennis Centre continues to be one of the City's most popular sporting facilities.

In fact, its 23 fully-lit outdoor courts makes it one of Victoria's largest tennis venues and the recent upgrade and extension brought the following improved features:

- an enlarged foyer, reception, cafe area and improved change facilities
- increased office space and a new coaches room
- a multi-purpose room/crèche with a moveable wall, allowing for flexible program use
- an upgrade to the security, phones and networking through the building
- increased visibility from the club room to the tennis courts and car park – for better security and connectivity.

With summer well and truly underway, Bellevue Ward residents are welcome to drop in to the centre for a couple of sets. You don't need to be a member, just book a court and play.

For more information on court hire and opening hours, phone 9850 4500, visit info@boroondaratenniscentre.com.au or visit www.boroondaratenniscentre.com.au.

The Boroondara Tennis Centre is located at the corner of Thompsons Road and Bulleen Road, Balwyn North.



Bellevue Ward
Cr Brad Miles

Including parts of
Kew East and Balwyn North



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Doncaster rail link on track

The long-discussed extension of the metropolitan rail network to Doncaster is on the verge of becoming a plan given a \$6.5 million commitment by the Victorian Government to examine options for linking the service to Melbourne.

Public consultation is the next step as the Victorian Government investigates various routes, including station locations, along northern parts of the City of Boroondara.

Councillor Brad Miles is one of Council's representatives on the Doncaster Rail Study Local Government Group that also includes Manningham, Melbourne, Banyule and Yarra councils.

Options are likely to include using the median reserve in the middle of the Eastern Freeway. The study will examine how best to maximise integration with land use, tram and bus services together with nominated park and ride facilities.

Council is concerned that no proposed route compromise existing amenity, parkland or open space and includes appropriate links to other public transport in northern Boroondara. Some of our most cherished parks and community spaces about the Eastern Freeway at a number of spots and these need to be protected.

In addition to regular meetings with local government, the Department of Transport (DoT), that is managing the project, has promised community and technical workshops, targeted interviews, public submissions and an interactive online forum.

Timelines identified by the DoT are:

Phase 1: An investigation into the needs and interests of stakeholders and the community, engineering and operations options to accommodate a high capacity heavy rail link, station locations, land use and transport integration opportunities and patronage demands This phase will be completed in 2012.

Phase 2: Detailed development of the preferred options. It is anticipated that this phase of work would commence in mid-2012 and take 12 months.

For more information and to get involved, visit www.doncasterrailstudy.com or phone the Department of Transport on 1800 078 387.

Hays Paddock Plan adopted

Last month, Council adopted the Hays Paddock Plan after extensive community consultation.

The Hays Paddock Steering Committee, which was formed in August 2010, prepared the plan for the consideration of Council. This group included a mix of park users, residents, sporting clubs and other local community groups.

Vigorous research, debate, and many opinions were considered along the way and the steering group should be commended for its tireless efforts to produce the best possible outcome.

Council received more than 170 submissions during the consultation process and there was overwhelming community support for the proposals in the draft plan.

The plan is focused on maintaining the area as a retreat, offering a blend of rural and natural landscapes with a balanced mix of informal leisure activities and organised sporting activities.

An upgrade of the pavilion received strong support (76 per cent of



The new-and-improved footbridge at Hays Paddock.

submissions agreed or strongly agreed) and was endorsed by Council.

The pavilion will include specific design elements to cater for the needs of hearing impaired groups through curved walls, special sound attenuation treatments and the location of sound systems.

It will provide separate gender change rooms, public toilets – including a disabled toilet, baby change facilities and space for meetings.

For more information on the Hays Paddock Plan, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hays-paddock-plan or phone 9278 4595.

New community facilities for Greythorn

One of Bellevue Ward's most popular shopping strips, Greythorn Shopping Centre, has a new picnic area, public toilet and resurfaced carpark.

A lonely picnic table on a weedy slope has been transformed into an inviting space that aims to service a hub of local shops at the north-east end of the centre.

The new picnic area features unique, purpose-built curved seating walls, round timber topped picnic tables, permeable paving and new landscaped gardens, all framed by the beautiful existing evergreen trees.

Following many requests, a new disability-friendly public toilet has also recently been installed in this popular shopping strip.



Local residents enjoy the new picnic area at Greythorn Shopping Centre.

Finally, to cap off the great asset-renewal work happening in the area, the adjoining carpark has been resurfaced to make it safer for shoppers.

WHO knows best on freeway noise

Scores of Bellevue Ward residents continue to be adversely affected by freeway noise and Council is supporting their campaign to have noise attenuation barriers installed along the Eastern Freeway in Balwyn North.

In an extensive report published by the World Health Organization (WHO) last December, it was determined that the health impacts of environmental noise are a growing health concern.

In an earlier report (2009), the WHO concluded "*there is sufficient evidence from large-scale epidemiological studies linking the population's exposure to environmental noise with adverse health effects. Therefore, environmental noise should be considered not only as a cause of nuisance but also a concern for public health and environmental health.*"

In August, a Freeway Noise Community Working Group was formed comprising representatives from Council and three community groups, and it has resolved to commission research to look into the links between traffic noise and the health of residents living in close proximity to freeways.

It was further agreed that the Freeway Noise Community Working Group would:



Cr Miles with other local residents who are concerned by freeway noise.

- identify 'hot spots' to prioritise and communicate as a list for action to VicRoads and the State Government
- with the assistance of Council's Department of Environment and Infrastructure, estimate the cost of noise attenuation works and options
- prepare a noise testing plan including pre and post proposed VicRoads noise mitigation treatments on the Monash Freeway
- research the viability of a class action suit around a claim of nuisance to surrounding residents.

Safety first in Bellevue Ward

Boroondara Council has recently completed a handful of projects that provide residents with a safer environment.



No right turns from Bulleen Road, Balwyn North

In response to concerns about the excessive level of through traffic entering residential streets within the Riverside estate from Bulleen Road during the morning peak period. Following a thorough consultation process, Council introduced a ban on right-hand turns from Bulleen Road (between the Eastern Freeway and Doncaster Road) between 7.30am to 9am, Monday to Friday.



Kilby Road pedestrian crossing

In July 2011, Council installed a new zebra crossing in Kilby Road, Balwyn North at Frater Street in response to safety concerns raised by local residents. The zebra crossing with flashing lights also includes kerb outstands to narrow the width of Kilby Road. This work aims to improve the level of safety for all users by reducing the speed of traffic and assisting pedestrians and cyclists to cross Kilby Road through a dedicated crossing facility.



Hays Paddock footbridge

A new footbridge has just been completed in Hays Paddock that will provide a much more comfortable passage for park users. The former link was very narrow and people using it couldn't see approaching pedestrians, joggers or cyclists around the corner. The new steel and timber bridge is much safer and will serve the community for many years to come.

Have your say on the Open Space Strategy

The City of Boroondara is working on an Open Space Strategy to plan the future of our parks, gardens and sporting fields, and Council would like you to have your say.

Bellevue Ward features a number of popular open spaces, including the expansive Koonung Creek Reserve, which residents regularly use to keep fit, socialise, play, ride, observe native flora and fauna, and take part in many other recreational activities.

The draft Boroondara Open Space Strategy recommends the following:

- introducing an open space contribution rate as part of the planning scheme
- identifying opportunities to provide additional open space
- preparing plans to guide future upgrades of selected open space
- improving park features such as shelters, seating areas, BBQs, play areas and paths
- protecting and enhancing biodiversity values
- continuing sustainable water use and measures that assist in mitigating climate change
- protecting heritage values in open space.

At the end of November, Council sent all households an information leaflet/ feedback form regarding the draft strategy. An electronic version can be downloaded www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your-say.

For more information on this survey, as well as dates and times for February information sessions, visit the website or phone 9278 4534.