

COTHAM WARD update

with Councillor David Bloom | June 2009

Welcome

Dear Neighbour

My first months of being a Councillor have been busy but rewarding. I have the legacy and privilege of working across many exciting projects which will come to fruition soon.

It certainly continues to be a momentous time in Cotham and I would like to acknowledge my predecessors for their dedication and tenacity for making these projects possible.

The Balwyn Structure Plan, the development of the Hawthorn Library

Precinct and the Kew Court House are just a few of the major projects which are working to make our community more liveable and improve our quality of life.

I have featured some stand out projects in this edition to inform you about what we hope to achieve for the community. They will, in some shape or form, impact on you so I would encourage you to read further for more detail.

I strongly urge all of you to read about the Balwyn Structure Plan. This is a landmark document which is set to revolutionise the face of Balwyn for the next decade.

The Kew Court House is another project in which I suggest you become involved.

While the community is to be applauded, and fundraising so far has been a huge success, there is still some way to go. Keep up that community spirit!

As always, please feel free to call me on 0427 362 307 or email david.bloom@boroondara.vic.gov.au on any matters relating to your neighbourhood. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf this year.

Yours sincerely
Cr David Bloom



Balwyn Structure Plan and Community Consultation

Council has been preparing a draft Structure Plan that sets out a vision and objectives for the future growth and development of the Balwyn Neighbourhood Activity Centre.

The draft Structure Plan seeks to strengthen Balwyn's role as a neighbourhood shopping centre by building on its standout quality of convenient shopping. It seeks to preserve Balwyn's village character through streetscape improvements

to make it more pedestrian friendly and amenable, and protect it through setting realistic height limits on buildings. The draft Structure Plan also provides for some growth.

The plan identifies some larger sites where more intensive development can meet local housing needs and help create a more vibrant environment.

The draft Balwyn Structure Plan was available for public comment from 4 May to 29 May 2009. A consultation

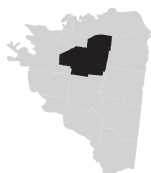
brochure was mailed to residents, as well as property owners, and traders. Copies of the draft Structure Plan and consultation brochures were made available from Council's libraries and customer service centres, as well as Council's website.

Two information stalls were also held in May as well as a meeting for traders. For further information, please contact Strategic Development on 9278 4476 or 9278 4990.



Cotham Ward
Cr David Bloom

Including parts of Kew, Kew East, Balwyn and Balwyn North.



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A pool for all seasons

Did you know the Boroondara Sports Complex (BSC) is open all year round? The facility boasts an inviting 50-metre outdoor pool, and best of all, it's heated. For something a little different in the wet, why not try one of the aquatic classes on offer? Aqua aerobics is an enjoyable, social workout or if you are after something a bit more challenging, experience the deep water running classes.

For more information, call 9851 0444 or visit www.bsc@ymca.org.au

Redevelopment of Hawthorn Library Precinct

Plans for the redeveloped Hawthorn Library Precinct are advancing with Council's endorsement of the site development plan.

The project will integrate services for children, families and elderly citizens within a site that is highly valued and utilised by the community. It will also incorporate the Manresa Kindergarten, which is currently housed off-site. Some of the buildings, which date back to the 1940s and early 1950s, are inadequate for today's community needs.

The project will see the construction of a single, two-level facility that will provide best practice, improved functionality and meet modern building standards for safety and accessibility.

The Hawthorn Library Precinct is at 584-590 Glenferrie Road and is bounded by Oxley Road, Swinburne Avenue and Glenferrie Road.

It currently includes a mix of services including the Hawthorn Library, Peppercorn Senior Citizens Club, Hawthorn Education Centre, Glenferrie Early Childhood Centre and Maternal and Child Health and Occasional Care. The site development plan was subject to community feedback in February and concept plans are expected to be completed in May.

Kew Court House and Police Station

Concept plans for a new performance and exhibition space at the Kew Court House and Police Station have been developed by the City of Boroondara.

Two years ago, Council purchased the Kew Court House and Police Station from the Victorian Government for \$825,000 with the intention for it to be restored and used for the community.

The building requires extensive renovation, including repair of the slate roof and ventilation dome, and renovation plans include a new foyer, bathrooms and kitchen to ensure the venue meets a broad range of community needs.

The restoration has been assisted with an Australian Government grant of \$330,000 under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

In 2008, Council was also successful in obtaining a Heritage Victoria Grant of \$250,000 towards the costs of the roof repairs, and having satisfied the necessary permit requirements, works are about to commence using slate of a similar quality to the original.

Council would like to thank all residents and businesses who have contributed to the Kew Court House Restoration Appeal which raised \$650,000.

Special thanks go to a private donor who donated \$250,000 and the Kew Senior Citizens Club, which contributed \$50,000.

