




Bellevue Ward

APRIL 2021

Greythorn Community Hub



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BOROONDARA
City of Harmony

A message from your Councillor

Welcome to the first edition of the Bellevue Ward newsletter for this new Council term.

Thank you for your vote of support in the October 2020 Council election and the opportunity to continue my service to the City of Boroondara as your ward councillor.

After the challenges of 2020, it is good to see increasingly positive signs that life is slowly returning to normal. The Greythorn Community Hub has reopened with a full range of services and facilities including the monthly North Balwyn Repair Café. I would like to congratulate founder Andrew Tynan, who was announced as Boroondara's Volunteer of the Year in December last year, to acknowledge his work establishing this popular community resource.

Demolition of the new Kew Recreation Centre commenced in February and construction is about to begin. The new centre is a major infrastructure project for Council and is scheduled for completion in mid-2023. During its closure, Kew Recreation Centre members can use the facilities at Boroondara Sports Complex, Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Ashburton Pool and Recreation Centre.

As local businesses return to normal trading, I encourage you to continue to support them by buying locally. Your support will make sure our neighbourhood shopping strips thrive and remain vibrant. I look forward to sharing more local news with you in upcoming editions of this newsletter.



Cr Jim Parke



Preparation for North East Link construction underway

In February, the Victorian Government began early works for the North East Link Project (NELP). These works include building a new section of the Yarra East Main Sewer (YEMS) to make way for major construction later this year.

The new section of the YEMS is being moved east of Bulleen Road and connected to the existing main sewer at the Eastern Freeway, running under private land along Bulleen Road, including the Freeway Golf Course (FGC) and Boroondara Tennis Centre (BTC).

NELP is currently using a section of the BTC car park, as well as the fairway of the first hole at FGC to build a trench and mini-tunnel boring machine retrieval shaft over the existing sewer line.

FGC remains open for use as an 18-hole course throughout these

works, with some interim changes to the course layout as a result of the first fairway being out of play. An updated course map and scorecards are available from the FGC Pro Shop. NELP will also acquire land from FGC in November. This loss of land will result in reconfiguration works to fit the 18-hole course within a smaller footprint. The design for the new course layout and construction staging for these works are currently in the process of being finalised, following recent community consultation in March.

BTC will continue to run its current operation and programs until the centre is acquired by NELP in late 2022.

For further details on early works visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/north-east-link-project or call 9278 4444.



Andrew Tynan named 2021 Boroondara Volunteer of the Year

This year's Boroondara Volunteer of the Year award winner, Andrew Tynan, knows a thing or two about repairs. Andrew established the North Balwyn Repair Café at the Greythorn Community Hub, where members of the community can bring items such as clothes, toys, small appliances, bikes and household items and learn how to repair them. Since its establishment, Andrew and his team have assisted hundreds of community members to successfully divert their broken items from landfill.

Andrew is dedicated to repairing, reusing and repurposing items rather than contributing to waste, and has taken on the challenges of getting the Café set up while also maintaining full-time work and family commitments. The Repair Café has had a positive impact on the

community, helping members to increase their confidence and skills in repairing everyday items.

"We have a great team of volunteers and enjoy sharing our experience with each other and the rest of the community," Andrew said.

"Our hope is that we will encourage more people to consider repair as their first response to a faulty or damaged item rather than disposal. Not everything can be saved but with some basic tools, and a few simple diagnostic techniques, you might be surprised what you can keep out of landfill."

The Boroondara Volunteer of the Year Awards, announced ahead of International Volunteer Day on Saturday 5

December 2020, recognise the important role volunteers play in the community. Boroondara is home to a thriving volunteering community, where more than one quarter of residents like Andrew give their time. A huge congratulations to Andrew on winning this year's award.

The North Balwyn Repair Café has re-opened after being temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For information on the Repair Café and the many great community services available to residents at the Greythorn Community Hub visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/greythorn-community-hub or call 9278 4444.



Kew Recreation Centre update

Construction of your new Kew Recreation Centre has begun – an exciting milestone for Council’s biggest ever infrastructure project. The new centre will be a purpose-built facility, with modern fitness and aquatic facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

Surrounding residents and the broader community recently attended an online briefing session to hear details about the construction management plan and measures to minimise the impact on surrounding residential areas during the construction period. A recording of this briefing session is available on our website.

During community consultation, we heard how much our community valued the sauna at Kew Recreation Centre. So, in addition to a bigger and better sauna within this new facility, plans

are underway to add a sauna to the Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre as well.

This will benefit the community while Kew Recreation Centre is being built, and in the long-term by adding an additional sauna at Boroondara’s leisure and aquatic facilities. If you are a member at one of our leisure and aquatic facilities, you will be able to use the sauna at no additional cost.

Construction of the new Kew Recreation Centre is on track for completion by mid-2023.

For more information on the redevelopment and to sign up to receive project updates visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kewrec or call **9278 4444**.

Shaping the future of Boroondara

We heard from more than 4700 community members during our stage one Boroondara Community Plan consultation. The plan outlines the 10-year vision for Boroondara’s future, which guides Council’s planning, budgets, services and actions.

Many Bellevue ward residents participated in this process throughout December and January, including 448 from Balwyn North, 645 from Kew, and 165 from Kew East.

Stage 2 is now underway, with a series of ‘Boroondara Conversations’ workshops bringing together community members from diverse backgrounds, age groups and suburbs to discuss the ways we can work together to deliver on our community priorities.

The workshops build on the stage one findings and will help us make sure the Boroondara Community Plan continues to meet the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and study here. You will have an opportunity to review the plan when it is presented for public exhibition in August/September this year, before it is formally presented to Council in October 2021.

To learn more about these findings and the next steps on the journey, visit engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au or call **9278 4444**.



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