

Bellevue Ward

April 2022



Gwenda Foard OAM and Graham Foard OAM were recognised in the Australia Day Honours for their service to the Balwyn North community.

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 **BOROONDARA**
City of Harmony



A message from your Councillor

Among all the elements that make a community, stalwart volunteers like Gwenda and Graham Foard are the glue that bind the rest of us together. There are few aspects of community life in Balwyn North that have not been touched by the work of the Foards over their more than 60 years of service. From the Boroondara Park Primary School Council to the North Balwyn RSL, and multiple sports and service clubs, they have worked tirelessly to better the lives of others.

In 2017, they were named joint recipients of the Boroondara Citizen of the Year award, and now it is their well-deserved turn for national recognition – on Australia Day Graham and Gwenda were recognised with medals of the Order of Australia for their service to the community of Balwyn North.

I know them well, having served with them in several community

organisations. They are kind, selfless, cheerful people, with a commitment to community service that they have passed down to their children. I heartily congratulate them, and thank them for all they do for us.

You will see I have included a photo of artist Angie Polglaze's iconic sculptures that stand outside the fire station on Doncaster Road, Balwyn North. Angie sadly passed away in October, but her work will live on in our neighbourhood.

With autumn in full swing and Easter just around the corner, I hope you have time to take a break and enjoy all the good things that come with this time of the year.

Cr Jim Parke

Hays Paddock Playground update

Due to its age and current condition, renewal works at Hays Paddock Playground are needed to help revitalise and continue the legacy of this much-loved play space.

The playground was opened in 1998 as one of the first inclusive playgrounds in Australia – a trailblazer for its time. Inclusion and 'side-by-side' play for children of all abilities was and remains the main goal for this playground.

We recognise the strong sentimental connection our community has with this popular play space and want to ensure this remains for many years to come.

Across January and February 2022, we sought community feedback to help us better understand what you love most about the playground, and where we may be able to make further improvements as part of the renewal process.

These insights are helping the project team to develop a draft concept design, which will be shared for community feedback in coming months.

To stay informed and be notified once the draft concept design is ready, 'follow' the project page at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hays-paddock-playground





Celebrating a club milestone and Australia Day honours for members

Congratulations to North Balwyn Heights Probus Club, which recently celebrated its belated 25th anniversary. This milestone was due to be celebrated in 2020 but was postponed due to COVID-19, so it was fantastic to finally come together and commemorate the anniversary with members at a function held at Greythorn Community Hub.

The City of Boroondara is an age-friendly city that encourages participation and facilitates opportunities for our residents to live a healthy and purposeful life. The North Balwyn Heights Probus Club represents the best of Boroondara, with the local community coming together to enjoy the activities and facilities on offer in our area.

Council is proud to have supported the club's continuation through the Annual Community Strengthening Grants program, which provides important funding to support the delivery of new projects, events and initiatives that strengthen our community.

Club members Graham and Gwenda Foard were recently recognised with medals of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List, for more than 60 years of service to the community of Balwyn North.

Graham and Gwenda share a long history as members and office bearers of numerous community organisations in Balwyn North, including the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Probus Club, Apex and Neighbourhood Watch, and Boroondara Park Primary School Council.

As President and Secretary respectively of the North Balwyn RSL, Graham and Gwenda were instrumental in realising a vision to create Greythorn Community Hub, returning the RSL site to the community through a lease to Council.

On behalf of Council, we sincerely thank Graham and Gwenda for their outstanding contribution and tireless work to enrich our community and improve the lives of the individuals within it.

Kew Recreation Centre is coming along swimmingly

Major development works for the transformation of the Kew Recreation Centre are well on track for a mid-2023 completion and the appointed builder, ADCO Constructions, is making steady progress.

Since late last year the tower crane has been in operation, delivering materials around the site and enabling the builders to begin the pool structures, including the learn-to-swim pool. The base of the 25-metre pool has now been poured and development of the 2 indoor sports courts is also progressing well.

Steel structural works are underway, and the community can start to see the new Kew Recreation Centre really taking shape. Roof works will commence in mid to late-2022. Council is very pleased with the progress of the project.



To stay up to date with the latest information, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kewrec



9278 4444



Freeway Golf Course bunkers an Australian first

Construction works to redevelop our Freeway Golf Course are progressing well, with the course on track to re-open in late-2022.

In recent months construction of new timber-faced sand bunkers has begun – the first time this type of bunker has been built at an Australian golf course.

Timber-faced bunkers have been used on traditional-style golf courses in the United Kingdom for some time, and are known for their practical value, unique feel and visual amenity.

Council's golf-course architect, Pacific Coast Design, recommended the inclusion during the redesign process after successfully using this bunker design at golf courses in China, Thailand and India.

While most golf courses have sand bunkers, the style and construction of these can result in high maintenance costs. Much bunker maintenance is focused on the 'face' of the bunker (the slope from base of bunker to top), which often washes out into the base during heavy rain and needs to be reinstated. The timber face will reduce maintenance time and cost.

Golf balls also often plug into the face of sand bunkers, causing angst for golfers, and requiring hand preparation and maintenance to encourage the golf balls to move down to the sand base. With the timber face in place, the golf ball naturally bounces down to the base, for a more enjoyable golfing experience.

Holiday fun for all ages

If you're looking for ways to keep the kids entertained in the lead-up to Easter, Council's autumn school holiday program features a variety of fun, educational and interactive in-person and virtual events.

From creative arts to circus fun and nature workshops, there's a range of low-cost and free options to suit all interests and abilities.

The Youth Hub is open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 6 pm during the school holidays. Young people aged 10 years and over are invited to come and play Nintendo Switch, Xbox, pool or table tennis. It's a great place to meet other local young people and make new friends.

Kew Traffic School will also be open for public play-and-ride sessions to help children aged 2 to 10 develop important safety skills on their bicycle, tricycle or scooter.

The school holiday program runs from 9 to 25 April. To find out more, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/school-holidays



For more information about the Freeway Golf Course redevelopment, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/freeway-golf-course-reconfiguration