

Studley Ward

July 2022



Kew Court House will open its doors
for Open House Melbourne.

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The northern land bridge section of the Walmer Street Bridge is set to be replaced.



Dear neighbours,

Welcome to the winter edition of your Studley ward newsletter.

In these unsettling times I find it reassuring to turn to the comfort of community – from my own family to the wider networks that weave through our day-to-day lives.

City of Boroondara is proud to be involved in many of these. This year we celebrate the 30-year anniversary of the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre – an organisation that links volunteers with hundreds of organisations that reach into every aspect of local life. While offering willing hands and minds, these helpers also benefit through the friendships and connections made with clients and fellow volunteers.

Our seniors centres are another vital source of community, offering companionship, entertainment and improved health to our older citizens. In this newsletter you can read more about new winter events in the Kew Seniors Centre's wellbeing and musical series.

At the other end of the age scale, we have an update on 2 local playground projects – again, there's nothing like a well-thought-out playground to bring people together.

Another aspect to community and togetherness is safety, and this is what drives the work Council has done to facilitate the upgrade of the northern land bridge section of the Walmer Street Bridge, which crosses the Yarra River between Kew and Richmond/ Abbotsford. It is a vital thoroughfare for pedestrians and cyclists, and this upgrade will give more space for all users of the bridge to travel safely.

I do hope you enjoy reading about these initiatives, and that you can make time to reach into your own community this winter.

Cr Nick Stavrou

Landmark buildings open their doors

We are opening the doors to some of Boroondara's landmark buildings for Open House Melbourne weekend at the end of this month.

Held on the last weekend of July, this is your chance to step inside some of our most significant buildings, including 2 on your doorstep in Studley Ward.

- Uncover the history of Kew Court House, the longest-serving police station in Victoria until its closure in 1990. Discover the jail cells and learn how the building was reshaped to become a community hub for Kew and surrounding areas.
- Visit the magnificent 1880 Italianate mansion Villa Alba. Overlooking the Yarra at Studley Park, the mansion, now a museum, houses one of the most important examples of late-19th-century decoration in Australia. Villa Alba features rare hand-painted, stencilled, and gilded decoration by Scottish-trained interior designers the Paterson Brothers.



Image: Russell Winnell

For more about Boroondara sites opening for Open House Melbourne, visit:



www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/open-house-melbourne



The threads and fruits of kindness

This year, we are celebrating the 30-year anniversary of the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre – a remarkable milestone.

Boroondara has one of the strongest rates of volunteering in Melbourne, with more than a quarter of residents donating their time. Our volunteers play a vital role in our community, with many Council programs and initiatives relying on their assistance.

Judith Scurfield is a long-time volunteer at Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre (KNLC). She initially came for yoga classes, then later, gardening and the Be Connected upskilling program.

Gardening led her to join the Fruit Squad, a group of volunteers who harvested fruit from trees in the gardens of people who could not do this themselves. The produce was shared between them and the Sparechair Cafe, the social enterprise cafe at KNLC.

“We learnt some new skills like making marmalade and preserving lemons. The squad has not continued, but a small

group of volunteers, including me, is still needed each summer to water KNLC’s productive vegetable garden in January, when the centre is closed,” says Judith.

Her latest volunteering effort sees her involved in Threads of Kindness – a group making quilts and doona covers for women leaving refuges where they have been living to escape family violence.

The project has financial support from the Sidney Myer Fund and the material is donated by Highly Sprung Furniture in High Street, Kew. The “beautiful” fabric can be made by the volunteers into bed covers, bags, heat packs and other gifts.

“What is not given as individual gifts may be sold as fund-raisers on market days at KNLC. It is a very worthwhile project and gives all of us a great deal of pleasure,” says Judith.

To find out more about volunteering and to view current opportunities, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/bvrc



Playground improvements

There are exciting new playgrounds on their way for Studley ward.

Works to deliver the new Victoria Park Regional Playground started in February and are expected to be completed by late-2022.


This new playground has been shaped by 2 rounds of community consultation to create a fun and inclusive design. Play equipment will include an accessible flying fox, Ninja Warrior-style elements and a sensory nature trail.

Once finished, we will celebrate the official opening. For more information, or to subscribe to receive the latest updates, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/victoria-park-playground

The Victoria Park Regional Playground is supported by the Victorian Government through the Suburban Parks Program.

We are also upgrading the playground at Kate Campbell Reserve to improve the play experience for all children. During May and June, we sought community feedback on a draft design. This feedback will help inform the final design for the new playground.

To find out more, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kate-campbell-playground



Construction works on Walmer Street Bridge set to begin

The Walmer Street Bridge crosses the Yarra River between Kew and Richmond/Abbotsford. It plays an important role for pedestrians and in the regional bicycle network, providing connections into the Melbourne central business district.

The bridge comprises 3 key sections, including the southern land bridge (owned and managed by the City of Yarra), the river bridge (a heritage-listed Victorian Government asset), and the northern land bridge (owned and managed by the City of Boroondara).

The northern land bridge section of the Walmer Street Bridge in Kew has been in poor condition for some time and must be replaced.

Supported by funding from the Australian Government, Council awarded the tender for contract in April 2022 and works are expected to begin in mid to late-2022. The redevelopment of this section of Walmer Street Bridge will ensure it becomes wider, safer and

enhanced for those who use it, now and into the future.

Key features include increasing the width from 1.7m to 3.6m to offer a safer shared path for pedestrians and cyclists, decreasing its steepness so the bridge complies with Disability Discrimination Act requirements, structurally improving the bridge and the staircase connection to the riverbank, adding handrail lighting, and improving its overall amenity.

While construction works take place, the full length of the Walmer Street Bridge will be closed for about 8 months.

We encourage cyclists and pedestrians who regularly use the bridge to consider alternative routes or modes of transport during this time.

To view alternative routes and for more information about the project, visit:

 engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/walmer-street-bridge

Author and The King take the stage


Boroondara older adults are invited to add life to their years through our musical and wellbeing event series, with the next 2 events, hosted at the Kew Seniors Centre, fast approaching.

- On **Tuesday 2 August** Melbourne storyteller, writer and novelist Arnold Zable will present The Power of Storytelling as the next session in our wellbeing series.
- On **Tuesday 30 August** our musical series continues as we recognise the 45th anniversary of the death of Elvis Presley with a selection of the King of Rock 'n' Roll's soulful and timeless songs, performed by Mark C.

These events provide great opportunities for social connection for those aged 65 and over, along with live musical performances and informative sessions to support health and wellbeing habits.

With wellbeing topics ranging from sleep to storytelling, and musical genres from string quartets to soul, there's something for everyone in this year's program.

To register for events and to find out more, visit:

 www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/over-55s/2022-event-series

