

SERVICES DELEGATED COMMITTEE

AGENDA

(Open to the public)

6.30pm, Monday 10 July 2023

Council Chamber, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell

Date of Issue: 30 June 2023

Please note: No audio, video, photographic or any other recording of proceedings at Council or Delegated Committee meetings is permitted without written authority from Council.

Order of Business

- 1 Adoption and confirmation of the minutes of the Services Delegated Committee meeting held on 8 May 2023**
- 2 Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer**
- 3 Presentation of officer reports**
 - 3.1 Connecting the Anniversary Trail with Mont Albert Road
 - 3.2 2023 Small Grants Report
- 4 General business**
- 5 Urgent business**
- 6 Confidential business**
- 7 Close of meeting**

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3 Presentation of officer reports

3.1 Connecting the Anniversary Trail with Mont Albert Road

Executive Summary

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the consultation findings for the proposal to connect the Anniversary Trail shared path with Mont Albert Road and to seek Council endorsement to advocate to the Victorian and Federal Governments for funding to deliver the project.

Background

The Anniversary Trail provides an important north-south shared path connection through the City of Boroondara. It connects the extremely popular Gardiners Creek Trail in the south to the Main Yarra Trail in the north and ensures that residents and visitors are provided with good quality intra-municipality connections.

The Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road is in the former railway cutting which results in limited points of access between Whitehorse Road and Rubens Grove at Shenley Ground, with approximately 900 metres between points of access for pedestrians and cyclists due to high embankments and fence lines.

An access point at the Mont Albert Road overpass would reduce this distance resulting in access points to the trail being no more than 370 metres towards Rubens Grove and 530m towards Whitehorse Road. The staircase access to the trail from Barnsbury Road, about 220 metres north of Mont Albert Road is not suitable for cyclists, or anyone with a pram or mobility challenges. A new link at Mont Albert Road would also allow for emergency access and lead to improved safety and security benefits for all users, including the elderly and children using the trail. A locality plan with distances between existing access points to the Anniversary Trail is shown in **Attachment 2**.

The access ramp would create a link between premium east-west and north-south bicycle routes and existing pedestrian routes that would serve several schools as well as improving access to the Burke Road shopping strip and the Mont Albert Road bicycle lanes.

A technical feasibility study was commissioned in 2014 and finalised in 2016. The technical feasibility study found it was possible to construct a ramp connection from the Anniversary Trail to Mont Albert Road on the north-west side of the Mont Albert Road bridge that met the requirements of all technical stakeholders in VicRoads (now the Department of Transport and Planning), the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action), Bicycle Network Victoria (now Bicycle Network) and the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group. In principle support was received from these stakeholders.

In late 2022, community consultation was undertaken with residents within approximately 500m of the site as well as users of the Anniversary Trail. Feedback from the broader community was encouraged through Engage Boroondara and social media.

Overall, there was overwhelming support for the construction of the proposed ramp connection with 167 (87.4%) of the total 191 submitted responses supporting the construction of the proposed ramp connection. A total of 13 (6.8%) were opposed and 11 (5.8%) were unsure.

Key Issues

The consultation raised several issues for consideration, including:

- Retaining as much current vegetation as possible and including more native trees and general vegetation.
- Improving the design of the proposed ramp to consider better disability access and general access improvements.
- Enhanced lighting options for the structure.
- Design of a structure that is sympathetic to the natural environment.

Council officers will consider the above feedback in consultation with internal stakeholders and update the concept design, feasibility study and cost estimate accordingly.

Next Steps

Considering the very high level of support from the community, significant benefits to the broader community and alignment with the Boroondara Community Plan and the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy, this report seeks Council support to update the feasibility study, concept design and cost estimate, considering comments received and to seek external funding for the construction of the ramp connection.

Officers' recommendation

That the Services Delegated Committee resolve to:

1. Support the proposed Anniversary Trail ramp connection with Mont Albert Road on the north side of Mont Albert Road, west of the Mont Albert Road bridge as depicted in **Attachment 1**.
2. Update the concept design as shown in **Attachment 3**, the feasibility study and cost estimate considering consultation and Councillor feedback.
3. Seek funding for the proposed ramp connection from the Federal and Victorian Governments to deliver the project.
4. Notify the community of the Services Delegated Committee resolution.

Responsible director: **Jeanine Nieuwenhuizen, Acting Director Urban Living**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the consultation findings for the proposal to connect the Anniversary Trail shared path with Mont Albert Road and to seek Council endorsement to advocate to the Victorian and Federal Governments for funding to deliver the project.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The proposal for an Anniversary Trail ramp connection at Mont Albert Road is consistent with the following items as defined in the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031:

- Theme 5: 'Moving Around'
- Strategic Objective: 'Travel options are safe, efficient and accessible, with active and public transport encouraged'
- Strategy 5.3: 'Shared paths and footpaths are fit-for-purpose through continued improvements to surface condition and lighting.'
- Strategy 5.4: 'Off-road bike paths and on-road cycling lanes are interconnected and safe through expanding access and infrastructure for cyclists.'

The proposal is also included in the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy.

Initiative 1.2 of the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy Stage 1 Implementation Plan states the following:

"Work with the State Government to deliver the Kew to Highett Strategic Cycling Corridor via the Anniversary Outer Circle Trail."

Within this initiative 1.2 lies the following sub-action B:

"Deliver a ramp link between the Anniversary Trail and Mont Albert Road (Canterbury)."

3. Background

3.1 Policy and Site Context

The Boroondara Bicycle Strategy is Council's 10-year plan to improve and enhance the on and off-road bicycle network in Boroondara. The strategy provides recommendations for improvements, including access, safety and education initiatives.

The Anniversary Trail provides an important north-south shared path connection through the City of Boroondara for pedestrians and cyclists. It connects the very popular Gardiners Creek Trail in the south to the Main Yarra Trail in the north and ensures that residents and visitors are provided with good quality intra-municipality connections.

A connection between Mont Albert Road and the Anniversary Trail is recognised within the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy as an important link to be established.

Both the Anniversary Trail and Mont Albert Road are identified on the Principal Bicycle Network (PBN) as Bicycle Priority Routes (BPR's) and also form part of a Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC).

Strategic Cycling Corridors are defined as:

'a designated cycling route that joins up important destinations such as the city centre, national employment and innovation clusters, major activity centres and other destinations of metropolitan or state significance.'

The 'Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28' has a specific focus on developing these Strategic Cycling Corridors and safety which is discussed below.

3.2 Safety and security of shared path users

The Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road is in the former railway cutting which results in limited points of access between Whitehorse Road and Rubens Grove (at Shenley Ground), with approximately 900m between points of access for pedestrians and cyclists due to high embankments and fence lines.

Public requests have been received in the past for improved access to and from the Anniversary Trail. A comment from one of these residents is included below:

"Currently, access is only available at either Whitehorse or Canterbury Roads. Mont Albert Road is an important access point with close proximity to Camberwell Grammar.

Another point to bear in mind is that in an emergency, the current restricted access leaves ALL path users (pedestrians and cyclists) isolated and vulnerable along this stretch of the trail."

The importance of a link at this location was also reflected in the development of the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy 2022.

An access point at the Mont Albert Road overpass would reduce this distance resulting in access points to the trail being no more than 370 metres from Rubens Grove and 530m to the car park at Whitehorse Road. The staircase access to the trail from Barnsbury Road, about 220 metres north of Mont Albert Road is not suitable for cyclists, or anyone with a pram or mobility challenges. A new link at Mont Albert Road would also allow for emergency access and lead to improved safety and security benefits for all users, including the elderly and children using the trail.

A locality plan with distances between existing access points to the Anniversary Trail is shown in **Attachment 2**.

3.3 Technical Feasibility Study

GHD consultants were appointed to undertake a technical feasibility study on the development of a ramp to connect the Anniversary Trail and Mont Albert Road. The study examined the location and alignment and involved a concept design of the ramp and associated infrastructure.

The study resulted in a concept design for an approximately 142 metre long and 3.3 metre wide ramp structure, with a switch back, that would connect Mont Albert Road with the Anniversary Trail. There is a height difference of 8.5 metres between the road and the trail. The ramp concept design complies with disability access requirements. The proposed design also aims to minimise the impacts to the surrounding trees and vegetation.

The proposed structure specifically includes the following components:

- A disability compliant 82m ramp structure from Mont Albert Road grading down the embankment which then switches back for 60m before connecting to the existing Anniversary Trail.
- Triangulated steel truss for the ramp support structure with concrete piers.
- Fibreglass grid type decking to allow for easy drainage which also allows for sunlight to penetrate through the deck for proposed landscaping underneath.
- A 1.4m high balustrade barrier and steel handrail.
- At grade concrete path connections and short sections of retaining walls at the top and bottom of the embankment.

The technical feasibility study included consultation with VicRoads (now the Department of Transport and Planning), Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action), Bicycle Network Victoria (now Bicycle Network) and the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group.

Each stakeholder brought their design and operational needs to the attention of Council officers and GHD consultants for consideration and inclusion in the assessment of the technical feasibility of the proposal. All technical stakeholders provided in principle support for the proposed ramp connection structure.

The concept design as prepared during the technical feasibility study is shown in **Attachment 3**.

4. Outline of key issues/options

4.1 Key Issues

Community consultation on the proposed ramp connection project between Mont Albert Road and the Anniversary Trail commenced on 18 November 2022 and ended on 16 December 2022.

Community feedback acknowledged that the link would:

- Provide good safe access to the schools in the area.
- Improve access for commuting and recreational purposes.
- Improve safety by reducing the distance between access points.
- Improve connectivity to the cycling and pedestrian networks.

Key issues and concerns raised for consideration include:

- Retaining as much current vegetation as possible and including more native trees and general vegetation.
- Improving the design of the proposed ramp to consider better disability access and general access improvements.
- Enhanced lighting options for the structure.
- Design of a structure that is sympathetic to the natural environment.

Other issues raised related to the Anniversary Trail in general such as the importance of improving and maintaining the trail, vegetation maintenance, concerns with pedestrian safety and interactions with cyclists and the need for other infrastructure improvements such as the bridge at Toorak Road.

4.2 Options

It is proposed to amend the concept design and respond to the raised concerns in the following ways.

4.2.1 Loss of vegetation and planting of native trees

It is not possible to retain all vegetation on the embankment and provide the ramp connection. Some vegetation including tall trees and groundcover will be removed as a result of the project. It is estimated that six existing trees will require removal.

Although the feasibility study report provided a vegetation and landscape assessment plan, a detailed Tree Management Plan has also been commissioned. This plan would identify the nature and limitations of the surrounding trees and vegetation and potential measures to mitigate impacts.

The feasibility study would also be updated to incorporate the Tree Management Plan and include a landscape plan outlining the provision of new trees and vegetation that is sensitive to the surrounding area.

4.2.2 General access and disability access

The proposed ramp has been designed in accordance with the relevant standards including disability requirements. Whilst the standard has been met, consideration will be given to a wider more generous radius at the switch back landing area and its connection with the Anniversary Trail to improve accessibility. Any impacts to vegetation will also be considered as part of this proposal.

The concept design will be updated accordingly.

4.2.3 Lighting of the ramp structure

Consistent with Council's approach to illuminate our shared paths and new shared path structures, the concept design will be updated to incorporate hand rail lighting within the new ramp structure.

This type of lighting has been highly effective in a constrained environment and successfully implemented along various sections of our shared path network including bridges.

4.2.4 New structure and local character

Compared to a heavy concrete structure, the proposed steel structure will be lightweight and less visually intrusive. Several elements of the design including the steel structure, balustrades, decking and piers will be reviewed to ensure that the new structure is sympathetic to the local environment. This may include colouring certain steel components of the structure to suit the landscape. This will be reflected in the updated concept design and feasibility study.

5. Consultation/communication

5.1 Community Consultation, Engagement and Communication

The community consultation page went live on the Engage Boroondara website on Friday 18 November 2022 and closed on Friday 16 December 2022.

The following engagement activities were undertaken for this project.

- Engage Boroondara website landing page.
- Postcard drops to approximately 1,500 residents within approximately a 500m radius of the project site.
- An article in the December 2022 Boroondara Bulletin delivered to approximately 76,000 residents (print) and 40,000 residents (digital).
- Consultation posters installed at strategic locations along the Anniversary Trail.
- Electronic direct mail to the Boroondara Bicycle Strategy 2022 'Keep Informed' list.
- Social media.

Other stakeholders consulted included Camberwell Grammar and through the school, their staff, parents/carers and students. The Boroondara Bicycle Users Group was also consulted.

Overall, there was overwhelming support for the construction of the proposed ramp connection with 167 (87.4%) of the total 191 submitted responses supporting the proposal. A total of 13 (6.8%) were opposed and 11 (5.8%) were unsure.

5.2 Technical Stakeholders

As noted in Section 3.3, the technical feasibility study included consultation with VicRoads (now, the Department of Transport and Planning), Department of Environment and Primary Industries (now the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action), Bicycle Network Victoria (now Bicycle Network) and the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group.

The concept design and feasibility study will be reviewed and updated in line with community, officer and Councillor feedback.

Officers will reconvene with key technical stakeholders to obtain their support on the updated study.

6. Financial and resource implications

Funding has been allocated within the 2023/24 budget to update the concept design, cost estimate and feasibility study report in accordance with the feedback.

The estimated cost is in the order of \$30,000.

Subject to Council endorsement of the project, officers would then seek funding opportunities through the Victorian and Federal Governments to deliver the project.

7. Governance issues

Under Part 6, Division 2 of the Local Government Act 2020, no officer involved in the preparation of this report has any direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of the report.

Consistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, it is considered that no human rights are impacted or infringed as a consequence of the outcomes of this report.

8. Social and environmental issues

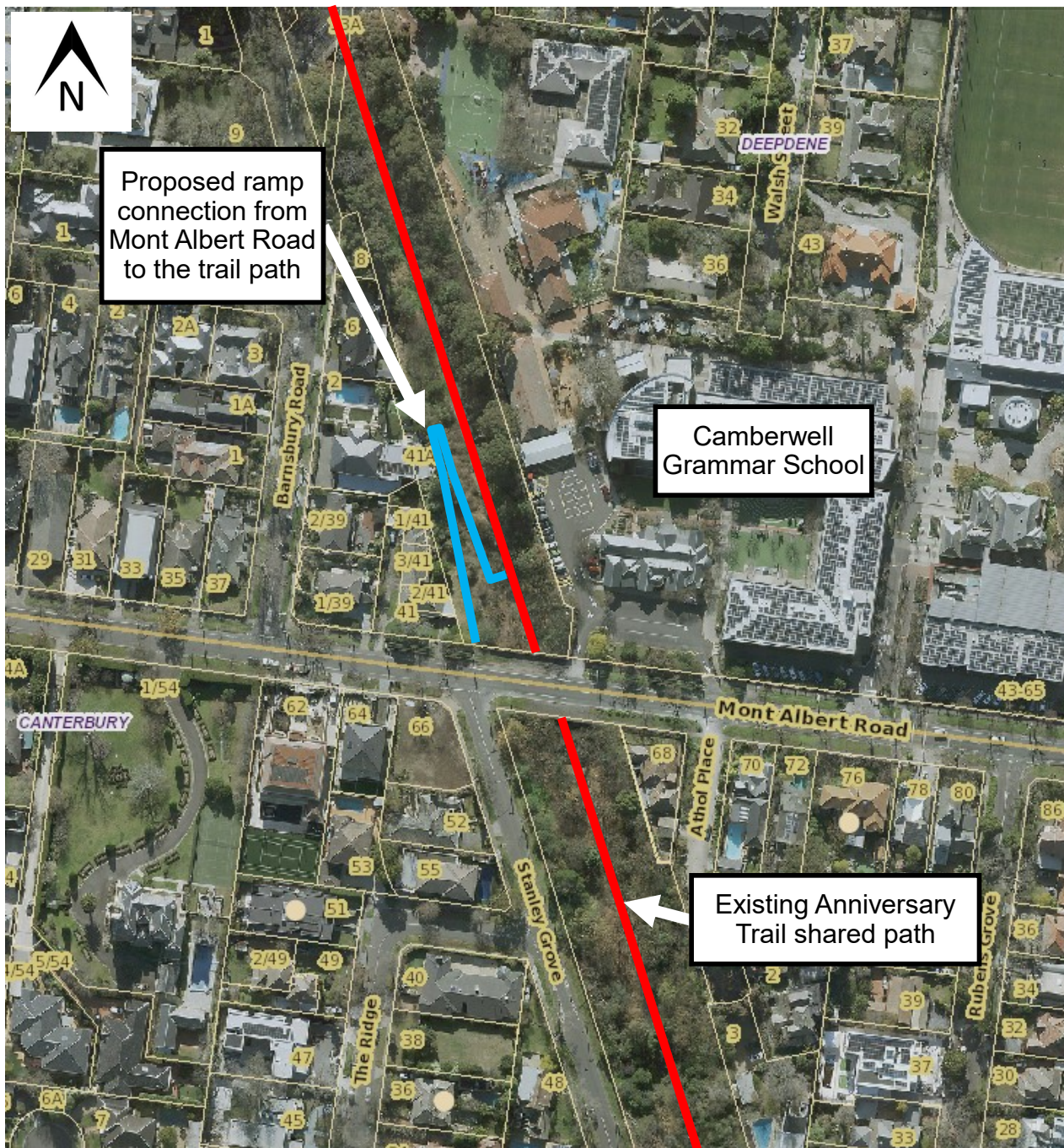
When considered in a broad context, the proposal to improve safety and access to the Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road by constructing a ramp connection to allow direct and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists has positive social and environmental impacts.

Improvements to the pedestrian and cycling network will contribute to community health and wellbeing by increasing the opportunities for these activities. Increased walking and cycling also positively contributes to the environment through the reduction of vehicle traffic leading to reduced noise and air pollution.

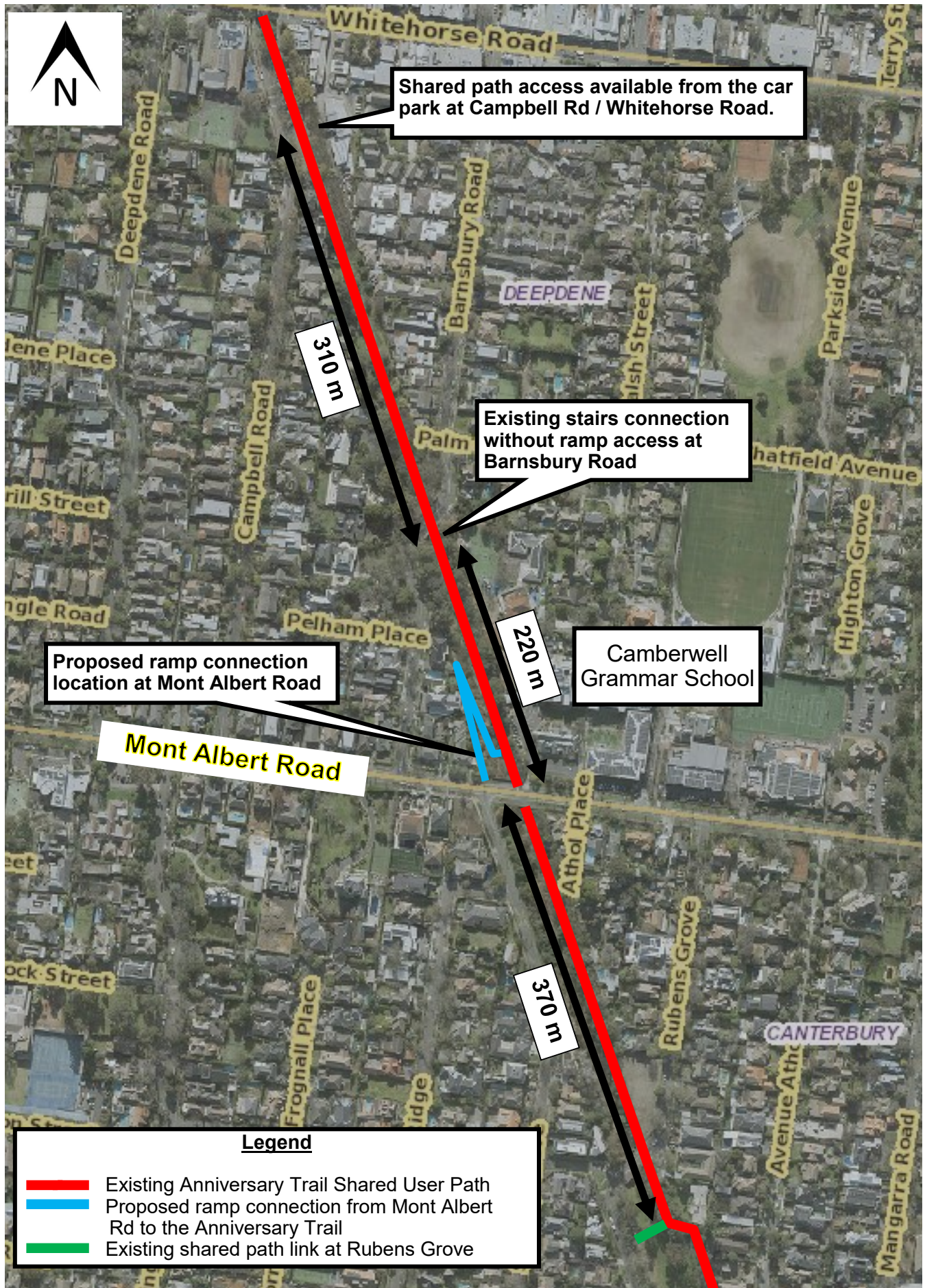
Manager: **Jim Hondrakis, Manager Traffic and Transport**

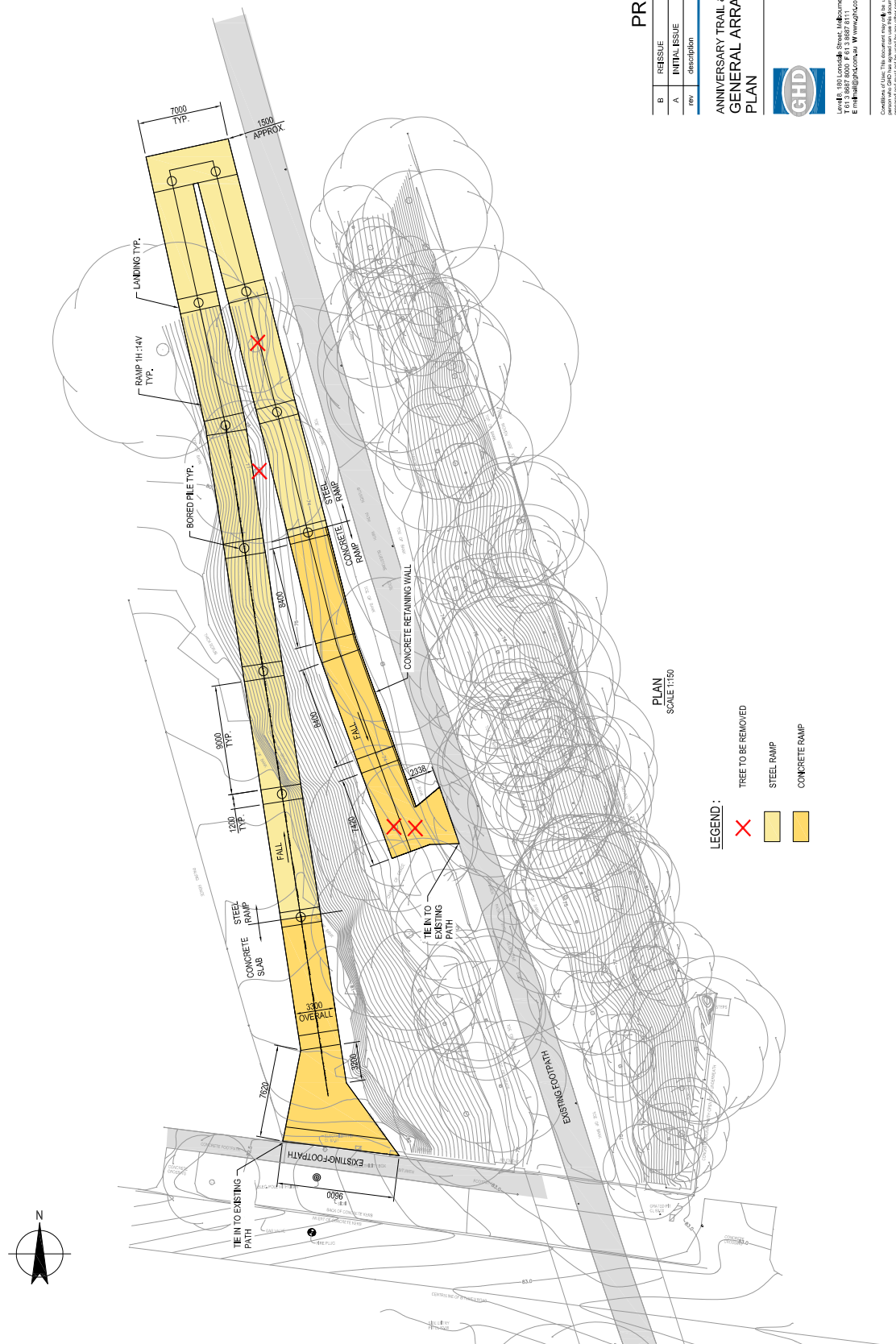
Report officer: **Bhushan Jani, Coordinator Transport Management**
 Nikhil Maharaj, Strategic Transport Engineer

Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road Existing Route and Proposed Ramp Connection



Anniversary Trail at Mont Albert Road - Existing Access Points





PRELIMINARY

| | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------|------|
| B | REISSUE | | |
| A | INITIAL ISSUE | | |
| rev | description | app'd | date |

ANNIVERSARY TRAIL & MONT ALBERT RD GENERAL ARRANGEMENT PLAN

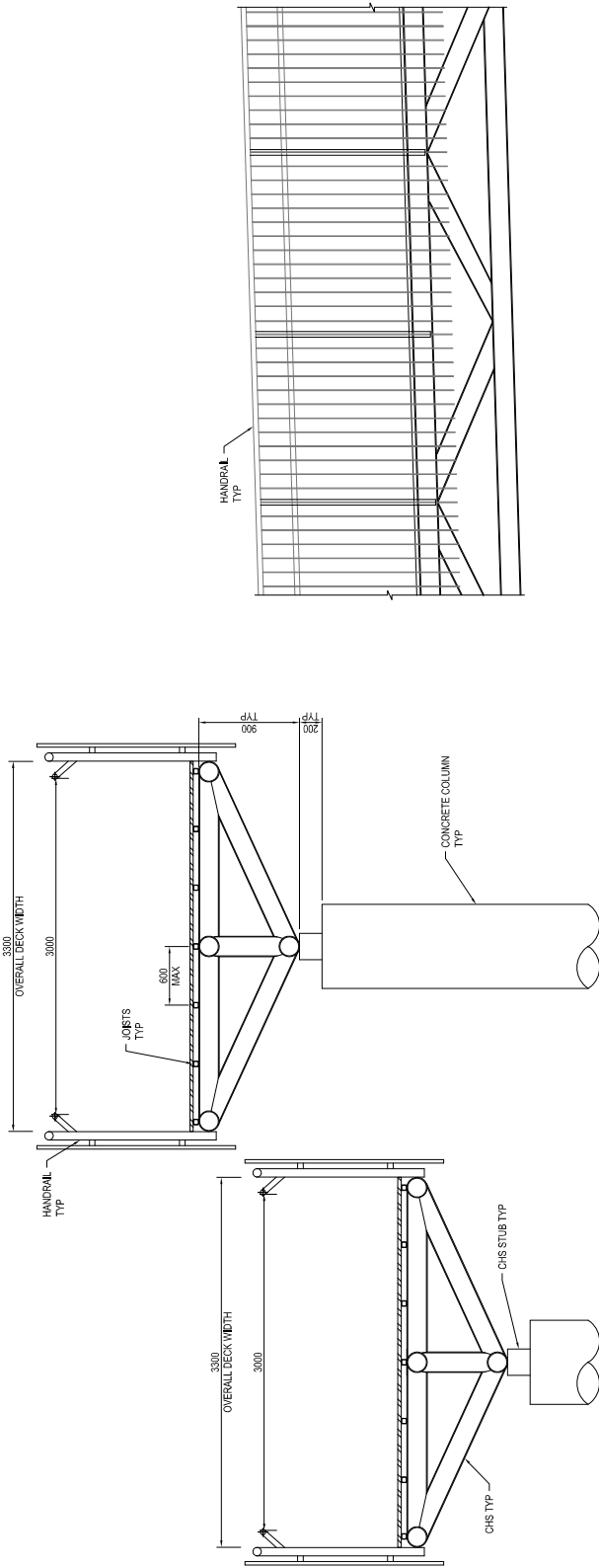


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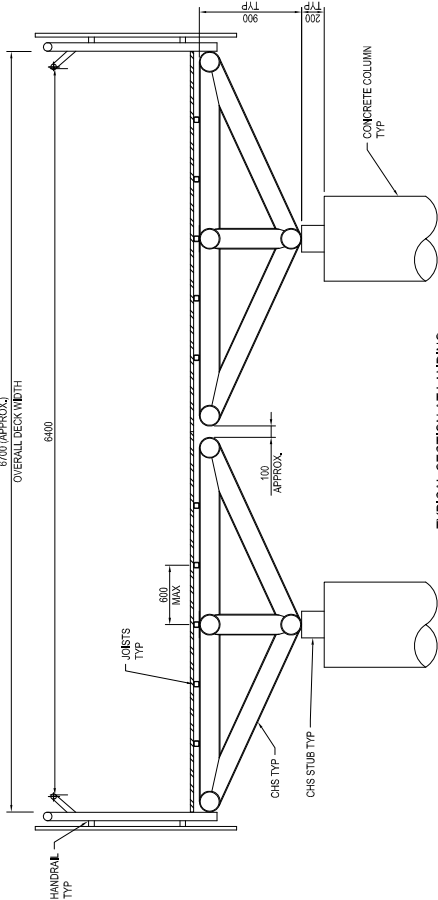
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| scale | 1:150 | for A1 | job no. | 31-31382 |
| date | MARCH 2016 | | rev no. | B |

approved (PD) _____ SK002



TYPICAL ELEVATION
OPTION 2 - STEEL TRUSS
SCALE 1:20



TYPICAL SECTION AT LANDING
OPTION 2 - CHS TRUSS
SCALE 1:20

PRELIMINARY

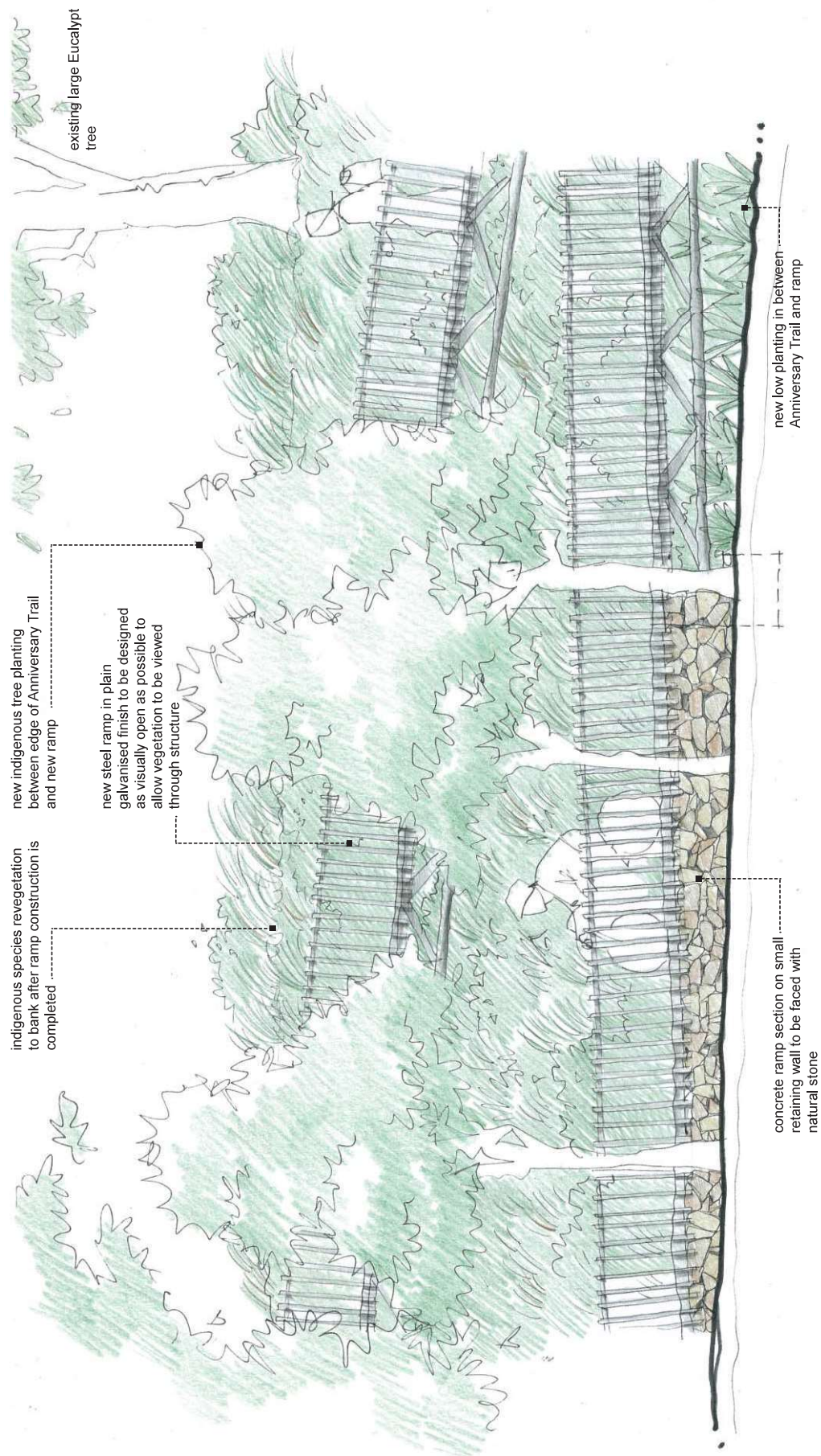
| B | REVISION | | |
|-----|---------------|-------|------|
| A | INITIAL ISSUE | | |
| rev | description | app'd | date |

ANNIVERSARY TRAIL & MONT ALBERT RD
OPTION 2 - RAMP
SECTIONS

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scale 1:20 for A1 job no. 31-31382
date MARCH 2016 rev no. B
approved (PD) SK006



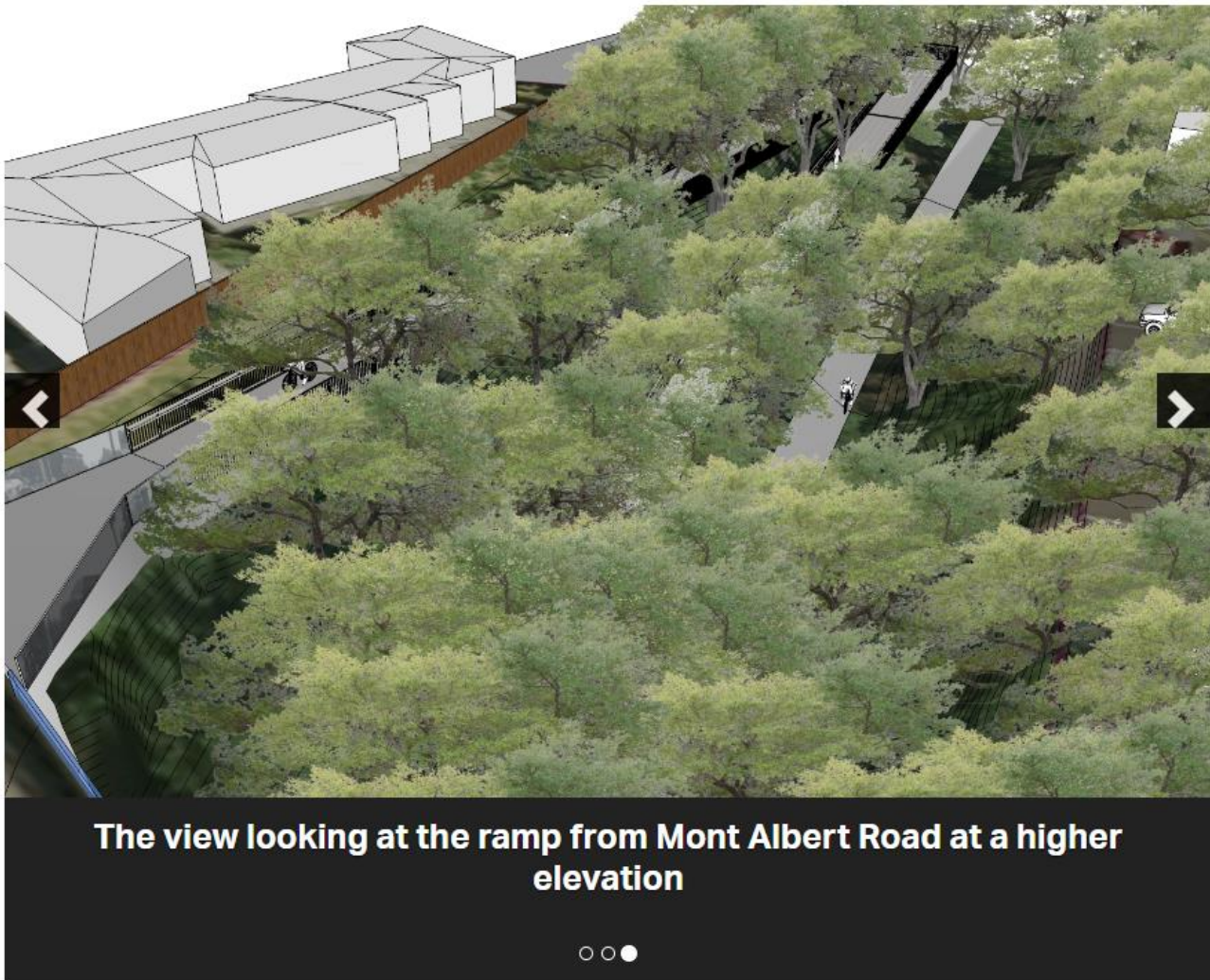
Anniversary Trail Access Ramp: elevation sketch A

GHDL
june 2014



The view looking north towards the ramp from the Anniversary Trail





3.2 2023 Small Grants Report

Executive Summary

Purpose

To present 2023-24 Small Grants recommendations for Services Delegated Committee endorsement.

Background

The 2023-24 Small Grants opened on Monday 20 February and closed on Sunday 19 March 2023.

Small Grants support projects and equipment costs associated with the delivery of new one-off services, programs and activities that strengthen the Boroondara community. Small Grants also address key priorities in the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31.

The six streams in the Small Grants program are:

- Healthy Community
- Sustainable Community
- Creative Community,
- Vibrant Retail Precincts
- Active Community
- Life Long Community.

Funding is available for up to \$3,000 per applicant across all streams.

Key Issues

The total funding pool for the 2023-24 Community Strengthening Grants is \$526,185. This includes a Council contribution of \$318,185 and a Rotary Club of Balwyn contribution of \$208,000. In line with the Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy, 25% of the Annual Community Strengthening Grants allocation is provisionally allocated to the Small Grants, which is \$131,546.25.

Sixty (60) applications were received for the 2023-24 Small Grants round, which is 32 more applications than in 2022. Twenty-five of the applicants were new to the grants program. Of the 60 applications received, 55 were assessed, two were ineligible, and three were withdrawn prior to assessment. Vibrant Retail Precincts received one application that was assessed though subsequently withdrawn. Full or partial funding totalling \$96,108.87 is recommended for 53 applications.

Confidentiality

Confidential information is contained in **Confidential Attachments 1 and 2**, as circulated in the confidential section of the agenda attachments. The information in this attachment is deemed to be confidential in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) and the definition of 'confidential information' in Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020.

The information relates to personal information, being information which if released would result in unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs and private commercial information, being information provided by a business that if released would unreasonably expose the business to disadvantage.

If discussion of the confidential information in the attachments to this report is required for Council to make a decision, Council may resolve to discuss the matter in a confidential session or to defer the matter to the confidential section of the agenda.

Officers' recommendation

That Services Delegated Committee resolve to endorse the 2023-24 Small Grants funding as listed in **Attachment 1**, annexed to the report.

Responsible director: **Kate McCaughey, Director Community Support**

1. Purpose

To present 2023-24 Small Grants recommendations for Services Delegated Committee endorsement.

2. Policy implications and relevance to community plan and council plan

The Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 is Council's key strategic document and it describes the community's 10-year vision and priorities. It guides Council's decision making, and directly informs the budget processes and Council strategies, plans, policies and actions.

The Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31 is structured around seven themes our community told us were important to them and each includes a strategic objective describing the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. The four strategies of relevance for this report are:

Strategy 1.2 under the Priority Theme of Community, Services and Facilities.

Health and wellbeing is improved through delivering, facilitating and advocating for services and programs that are accessible and affordable.

Strategy 1.3 under the Priority Theme of Community, Services and Facilities.

Arts and culture are showcased by increasing opportunities to participate in artistic and cultural programming.

Strategy 3.1 under the Priority Theme of The Environment.

Community resilience and capacity to live sustainably is increased through advocacy, education and resources.

Strategy 6.3 under the Priority Theme of Local Economy

Showcase and promote the City's attractions to increase visitation and spending locally.

In addition, the health priorities of improving mental wellbeing and social connection, tackling climate change and its impacts on health, and increasing active living will also be contributed to through these projects.

Policy context

Council adopted an updated Community Strengthening Grants Policy 2023 in February this year. The Policy outlines funding allocation parameters for the 2023 Small Grants. The policy integrates Council's grant funding activities, so they strategically align to community needs, as identified in the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031.

The allocations recommended support commitments contained in the Boroondara Arts Plan 2020-23, the Multicultural Action Plan 2019-23, Disability Action Plan 2018-22, Add life to your years - Healthy Ageing in Boroondara Plan, Sport and Recreation Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Children and Young People Action Plan, and Reconciliation Strategy 2022-26.

3. Background

Program Overview

The Small Grants program provides financial support for projects and equipment costs associated with the delivery of new one-off services, programs and activities. Small Grants also address key priorities in the Boroondara Community Plan 2021-31.

Up to \$3,000 is available for small projects, with a maximum of \$2,000 available for equipment. Professional fees and administration costs are not eligible for funding through the Small Grants program.

The six streams in the Small Grants program are:

- Healthy Community
- Sustainable Community
- Creative Community
- Vibrant Retail Precincts
- Active Community
- Life Long Community

Assessment and review process

Council officers assessed all applications in accordance with the program guidelines criteria. Applications were scored using a rating scale from 0 to 10, with scores aligned to one of the following four categories:

- highly recommended overall (81% - 100%)
- good overall (66% - 80%)
- fair only (50% - 65%)
- not recommended overall (under 50%).

To ensure recommendations for funding of similar projects are fair and equitable, a standard amount was allocated by officers to similar budget items/areas across all streams.

Officer recommendations are based on the merits of each application, the application of program guidelines and an analysis of the financial investment against the potential community benefit from the project. Recommended applications align with Council's strategic objectives and priorities and deliver outcomes in alignment with the grant stream objectives and criteria.

The Community Strengthening Grants Review Panel (the Panel) provided feedback on the officer recommendations.

The Panel comprised Mayor Sinfield (Chair), and Councillors Parke and Stavrou. Three officers from the Community Planning and Development Department provided administrative support to the Panel. Relevant department managers and officers also attended the meetings to provide additional Panel advice. A full list of attendees is listed in **Confidential Attachment 2**.

4. Outline of key issues/options

The funding pool for the 2023-24 Community Strengthening Grants is \$526,185. This includes a Council contribution of \$318,185 and a Rotary Club of Balwyn contribution of \$208,000. In line with the Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy, 25% of the Annual Community Strengthening Grants allocation is provisionally allocated to the Small Grants, which is \$131,546.25.

Applications for Small Grants 2023-24 opened on 20 February and closed on 19 March 2023. Sixty (60) applications were received, which is 32 more applications than in 2022. Twenty-five of the applicants were new to the grants program. Of the 60 applications received, 55 were assessed, two were ineligible, and three were withdrawn. Vibrant Retail Precincts received one application that was assessed though subsequently withdrawn by the applicant, leaving no applications in this stream, and 54 requiring recommendations.

Officers have recommended a total allocation of \$96,108.87 to support 53 of the 54 applications assessed across five of the six available streams. Of these, 39 applications were recommended for full funding, 14 were recommended for partial funding, and one not recommended for funding. All recommended allocations, including project summaries, are listed in **Attachment 1**.

Table 1 below shows the number of applications in each stream and funding recommendations.

| Grant Stream | Number of applications | Recommended for full funding | Recommended for partial funding | Not recommended |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Healthy Community | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Creative Community | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 |
| Active Community | 16 | 13 | 3 | 0 |
| Sustainable Community | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Life Long Community | 14 | 7 | 6 | 1 |
| Vibrant Retail Precincts | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 54 | 39 | 14 | 1 |

To ensure recommendations for funding of similar projects are fair and equitable, officers recommended a maximum amount of \$33 per person for excursions, limited to one event and \$32 per person for catering. The implementation of these caps resulted in some applications being recommended for partial funding.

Officers have recommended funding allocations that align with Council's strategic objectives and priorities and deliver outcomes in alignment with the grant stream objectives and criteria.

The not recommended, withdrawn and ineligible applications are listed in **Confidential Attachment 1**.

5. Consultation/communication

The 2023 Small Grants program was promoted through:

- The Fuse e-newsletter
- Boroondara Creative Network e-newsletter
- the Boroondara Volunteer Resource Centre (BVRC) Member Bulletin
- Sports Club Fortnightly update
- Electronic Direct Mail (EDM) to previous Community Strengthening Grant recipients
- Council's social media
- City of Boroondara website on a dedicated webpage
- a website news item.

Two information sessions were held in hybrid format at Council offices. The website included information and step-by-step guide to assist groups and organisations in submitting an application. Council officers from relevant areas discussed proposal ideas and provided advice to applicants.

6. Financial and resource implications

The funding pool for the 2023-24 Community Strengthening Grants is \$526,185. This includes a Council contribution of \$318,185 and a Rotary Club of Balwyn contribution of \$208,000. In line with the Boroondara Community Strengthening Grants Policy, 25% of the Annual Community Strengthening Grants allocation is provisionally allocated to the Small Grants, which is \$131,546.25.

The total amount requested in 54 applications is \$114,285.97, which is \$17,260.28 less than the total estimated funding available of \$131,546.25. Full or partial funding totalling \$96,108.87 is recommended for 53 of the 54 assessed applications, which is \$35,437.38 less than the \$131,546.25 funding available. This is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2

| Applications | Funds available | Funds requested | Amount recommended |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 54 | \$131,546.25 | \$114,285.97 | \$96,108.87 |

With \$96,108.87 recommended for the Small Grants, there is \$430,076.13 remaining for the 2023-24 Annual Community Strengthening Grants program.

7. Governance issues

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have a general or material conflict of interest requiring disclosure under chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Boroondara City Council.

The recommendation contained in this report is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities 2006 as it does not raise any human rights issues.

8. Social and environmental issues

The applications recommended for funding will have a positive social impact within the Boroondara community, which is particularly important as the community recovers from COVID. The significant increase in applications indicates that groups are returning to activities post COVID. The grants will help to build connected and inclusive communities, strengthen community wellbeing, environmental awareness, cultural innovation, and artistic practice and deliver services, celebrations and events.

Manager: **Fiona Brown, Manager Community Planning and Development**

Report officer: Jacqui Buckland, Community Development Officer (Grants and Partnerships)

Recommended

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|---|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1st Canterbury Scout Group | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase lightweight durable backpacks for group to loan youth members for hikes and camping. | \$ 1,927.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 2 | 1st City of Camberwell (Melba's Own) Scout Group | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase modern lightweight tents for group to support Youth members for camping and Cuboree. | \$ 1,905.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 3 | 1st Glen Iris Scout Group | Provision of safe transport for Scouting youth and equipment | Funding is requested to purchase a trailer to transport equipment for outdoor activities. | \$ 3,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 4 | 2nd/6th Hawthorn Scouts | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase two shade gazebos, including printing the Scout logo on. | \$ 2,887.73 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 5 | Alamein Neighbourhood & Learning | Alamein Drama Group | <p>Funding is requested to provide 10 community dinners to accompany 10 ACFE (Adult, Community and Further Education) funded drama classes for public housing residents, with a focus on residents moving into the 178 new public and affordable housing units at the new Markham Avenue Estate.</p> <p>Funding is also sought for course materials for the ACFE funded drama classes, which will include role play, games and other tools to practice skills in negotiation and resilience through drama.</p> | \$ 2,490.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 6 | ART ETC Collective Inc | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase a Roland RD 88 portable Stage Piano electronic keyboard for use in numerous productions and outdoor events within Boroondara and beyond. | \$ 1,668.18 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 7 | Australian Boys Choral Institute | Equipment Purchase | <p>Funding is requested to purchase equipment and resources for the Early Learners program.</p> <p>The equipment and resources will support the design of music classes to help children map the neural pathways associated with language and reading and develop fine motor skills, whilst learning fun games and songs.</p> <p>Funding would be used for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - colourful, music-themed floor rugs - small, round floor mats - printed resources (include indigenous nursery rhymes) - percussion instruments - large, sturdy storage boxes to securely store new equipment. | \$ 1,946.65 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|----|---|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 8 | Boroondara Brass Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase the following items; - protective covers for large percussion items (timpani, xylophone, and vibraphone) - new wheels for the vibraphone - a percussion mount bar. This will ensure that these valuable percussion instruments can be stored safely and securely, and manoeuvred between storage and rehearsal areas. | \$ 1,980.91 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 9 | Boroondara Chinese Senior Citizens Association Inc. | Bus Outings for Healthy Physical Social Activities | Funding is requested for two bus outings for members to engage socially isolated members. | \$ 1,650.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 10 | Boroondara Greek Senior Citizens Club | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase a laptop for the committee. | \$ 1,200.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 11 | Boroondara Preschool | Boroondara Preschool's 60th Birthday Celebration | Funding is requested to support a celebration to mark Boroondara Preschool's 60th birthday, involving past, present and future community members. Funding would be used for catering, decorations, a commemorative plaque and children's entertainment. | \$ 800.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 12 | Burwood Cricket Club | 'Walking Cricket' - Back in the Game | Funding is requested to support a Walking Cricket program for participants aged over 50 to help keep an active lifestyle. Funding would be used to purchase: - club playing tops - modified equipment - advertising and promotion - venue hire. | \$ 2,505.73 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 13 | Camberwell Historical Society | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested for the purchase of equipment to digitize and store historical documents safely, and printing of advertising materials to reach elderly members without access to the internet. Funding would be for: - a data projector and stand - printing and postage of flyers and newsletters - a portable hard drive - a scanner. | \$ 1,356.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |

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|----|--|---|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 14 | Camberwell United Tennis Club Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase Aussie Clean Sweep two metre wide Dragmats with rear debris retainer. This will enable players to groom the courts before and after each match to maintain a safe playing surface. | \$ 1,772.70 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 15 | Canterbury Area Toy Library Inc. | Nurturing curiosity and creativity via STEM and home life play | Funding is requested to purchase a wider range of educational toys to support the growth in membership since moving into the new Canterbury Community Precinct. Funding is for STEM and home life toys for younger children. | \$ 1,577.23 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 16 | Cara Armstrong Kindergarten | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase portable outdoor equipment to promote physical health and wellbeing of children, develop gross motor skills and increase the children's courage to take controlled risks, and improve their safety awareness. | \$ 2,075.85 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 17 | Circolo Pensionati Italiani, Kew Hawthorn Camberwell | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase: - air pot for coffee - five-litre pump x two - serving coffee pots x two - Bialetti Express pot x four - kitchen utensils and glasses - tea towels and washable tablecloths - napkins, paper cups and plates. | \$ 1,969.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 18 | Cloud9 Women's Choir | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase new sheet music for the choir including pieces by a range of Australian composers. This project supports choir members to continue developing their choral skills, maintain enthusiasm, sing in Aboriginal dialect and attract new members. | \$ 908.18 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 19 | East Kew Junior Football Club Inc. | Club Participation and Reinvigoration (Female Participation and Mental Health Emphasis) | Funding is requested to support a program to reinvigorate player participation to pre-COVID-19 levels to ensure the sustainability of the club and replace deteriorating equipment. Funds will be used for equipment, catering, and advertising. | \$ 3,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 20 | Eastern Senior Chinese Association | 2023 Reunion Festival | Funding is requested to support the Mid Autumn Festival, which celebrates Chinese culture and Mooncake season. Funding will be for catering and costumes associated with dance performances. | \$ 3,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |

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|----|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 21 | Electrify Boroondara | Electrify Boroondara | Electrify Boroondara is a new project that aims to encourage and support the community to reduce its carbon emissions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing the uptake of rooftop solar and batteries - reducing the use of gas by transitioning to electric appliances - increasing the uptake of electric vehicles and e-bikes - improving the energy efficiency. Funding is requested for printing of an information flyer. | \$ 1,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Sustainable Community |
| 22 | Ellipsis Ultimate Inc | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase uniforms and frisbees to support the inaugural Women's Masters team and school holiday Youth Program. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 23 | Fordham Avenue Kindergarten Association Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase a MacBook Pro for the kindergarten to integrate with current Apple devices and support the use of an online portfolio program for families. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 24 | Friends of Hawthorn Tram Depot Inc | Reaching our broader community | Funding is requested to translate the visitor information brochure into other languages and printing. | \$ 1,500.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 25 | Harp Golf Club Inc. | Electronic Display of Golf Honour Boards | Funding is requested to purchase and mount a television screen in the club rooms at Freeway Golf Course for the purpose of displaying achievements and awards by club members since the inception of the club in 1983. | \$ 740.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 26 | Hawthorn Historical Society Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase two secure glass display cabinets to showcase part of the collection to the public. The display cabinets would be shared with Camberwell Historical Society. | \$ 1,809.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 27 | JJ McMahon Memorial Kindergarten | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested for the purchase of outdoor swings and other gymnastic equipment for the kindergarten. <p>Funding is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - swings - balancing nets - trampolines - gymnastic handles. | \$ 1,971.24 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |

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|----|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 28 | Kew Croquet Club Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase battery-operated garden and court maintenance equipment including: - cordless lawn mower - battery for lawn mower - cordless line trimmer including battery - cordless blower including battery - cordless hedge trimmer - battery charger - hedge trimmer oil. | \$ 1,973.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 29 | Kew Little Athletics | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase of a manual push line marking machine. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 30 | Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc (KNLC) | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase equipment to support two Social Enterprises that support young people with disabilities and mental health issues into meaningful employment pathways, as an extension of the pre-accredited training. Funding would support the gardening enterprise through: - lawn mower - whipper snipper. Funding would support the cafe enterprise through: - seating for cafe. | \$ 2,038.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 31 | Koonung Heights Cricket Club | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase a Frogbox Video Capture Kit for broadcasting live cricket. Funding would be for: - Panasonic camera with: - exclusive wind noise reduction kit - remote controlled pan and tilt head - automated video streaming encoder - 4.3m camera mast with carry bag and weight bags - a 20hr battery - 7-inch LCD video viewer - a secure waterproof carry case - cables and chargers. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|----|--|--|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 32 | KooyongKoot Alliance | Revegetating Boroondara | <p>Funding is requested to support Boroondara residents to revegetate their nature strips with native indigenous plants.</p> <p>Funding would be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tools - mulch - plants - advertising. <p>All works will be carried out in collaboration with 1st Glen Iris Scout Group.</p> | \$ 3,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Sustainable Community |
| 33 | Melbourne Chapter of Sweet Adelines International Inc. | Sing in Spring - 40th Anniversary Concert 2023 | <p>Funding is requested to support musical performances, concert and 40-year anniversary celebration.</p> <p>Funding is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - room hire - catering - printing of flyers - transport of choir rises. | \$ 2,609.64 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 34 | Melbourne Recorder Orchestra Inc. | Annual Concert | <p>Funding is requested to support the cost of concert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - catering - venue hire - advertising and promotion. | \$ 618.18 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 35 | Multicultural Dance Group Inc. | Equipment Purchase | <p>Funding is requested to purchase equipment and materials for use in dance class and performances.</p> <p>Funding would be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dance costumes - dance accessories - microphone and speaker - catering - venue hire. | \$ 920.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 36 | Playstation Inc. | Playstation Playdate | <p>Funding is requested to support the 'Playdate' project on Sunday 10 September 2023 at the Fordham Scout Hall, Camberwell for families to get together.</p> <p>Funding would be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - venue hire - children's entertainment - light morning tea. | \$ 1,163.56 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|----|---|---|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 37 | Probus Club of Camberwell | Werribee Mansion and Zoo Excursion | Funding is requested to support a bus trip to Werribee Mansion for lunch and tour of gardens and the Werribee Zoo. | \$ 1,985.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 38 | Probus Club of Greythorn, Inc. | Bus trip, gardening and exhibition visits and activity refreshments | Funding is requested to support costs of three outings and catering. Funding would be for: - bus trip - garden visit - exhibition visit - catering/refreshments for activity groups. | \$ 1,820.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 39 | Probus Club of Kew | Superbus | Funding is requested to support two coach trips to travel to places of cultural and general interest. The outings will enable social inclusion for house-bound members. | \$ 825.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 40 | Probus Club of North Balwyn Inc. | Subsidised Transport Costs | Funding is requested to support transport costs, enabling members and partners to participate in outings and theatre visits. | \$ 1,800.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 41 | Probus Club of Victoria Inc. (Glenferrie) | Day Trip Outing by Bus for aged members | The funding will be used to supplement the cost of a hiring a bus for one trip to a gallery and sculpture Park outside Melbourne. | \$ 1,450.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 42 | reCHOIRed | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested for purchase of equipment for the choir: - portable keyboard - wheeled keyboard case - keyboard stand. | \$ 1,389.09 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 43 | South Hawthorn Tennis club | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase a defibrillator for the clubhouse. | \$ 1,705.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 44 | South Yarra Football Netball Club | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase replacement goal post pads for the home ground, Leigh Park, North Balwyn. | \$ 1,927.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 45 | St. Marys Salesian AFC Inc. | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to contribute to the purchase of new football jumpers for the men's and women's teams, which are shared. | \$ 1,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |
| 46 | Swinburne Amateur Football Club | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested for the purchase of training footballs and team drink bottles that will support club growth, including new women's teams. | \$ 1,998.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Active Community |

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|----|--|---|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 47 | Taiwanese Association of Australia Melbourne Chapter Inc. | Happy Senior | Funding is requested to support the costs of running regular group activities for the older people of the Taiwanese Association of Australia Melbourne Chapter to improve social connection and wellbeing. Funding is for: - table tennis bats, balls and nets - karaoke machine - catering. | \$ 727.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |
| 48 | The Craig Family Centre | Welcome to Ashburton @ Markham | Funding is requested to support four 'welcome to the neighbourhood' events for newly arrived residents of Markham Estate. This project will be delivered through a partnership of local service providers, community organisations, schools and sporting clubs Funding is for: - catering - serving equipment - printing of flyers - cleaning materials. | \$ 2,030.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |
| 49 | The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch (Camberwell Showtime) | Scarves for Camberwell Showtime members | Funding is requested to purchase material for the Camberwell Showtime cobalt scarf, presented to new Scouts and Girl Guide participants at the final rehearsal to be worn as part of the performance uniform. | \$ 3,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Creative Community |
| 50 | The Y Victoria - Boroondara Leisure and Aquatics Facilities | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested for the Boroondara Leisure and Aquatics Facilities 'Keep Cup' initiative. Funding would be for: - 450+ keep cups - advertising of initiative. | \$ 2,500.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Sustainable Community |
| 51 | Urban Guerrillas | Biodiversity and sustainability workshop series | Funding is requested to support a series of six workshops for the Boroondara community to increase knowledge and awareness of biodiversity and sustainability. Funding would be for: - venue hire - tools - signage - catering and sundries. | \$ 990.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Sustainable Community |
| 52 | Vietnamese Senior Cultural Association Inc. | VSCA 10th Anniversary | Funding is requested to support costs of the 10-year anniversary celebration through traditional Vietnamese arts and activities. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Life Long Community |

| | Organisation Name | Project Title | Project Description / Equipment Purchase | Panel Recommendation | Conflict of Interest | Stream |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 53 | West Hawthorn Preschool | Equipment Purchase | Funding is requested to purchase materials and equipment to develop a 'mud kitchen' at the Preschool. Funding is for: - outdoor mud kitchen and workbench - toy tool box and play food. | \$ 2,000.00 | No conflict of interested declared. | Healthy Community |