

Bellevue Ward

December 2023



Christmas is on its way – look out for festive decorations at our local shopping strips.

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Hays Paddock playground is disassembled, allowing some elements to be reused in the new playground.



A message from your Councillor

Welcome to your summer ward newsletter.

There are multiple construction projects to report on in this newsletter, two of them in Bellevue Ward, and two a little further afield.

You will see from the photo above that work is well underway on the renewal of Hays Paddock playground. Removing the original timber play structure was more a process of deconstruction than demolition, as contractors worked to painstakingly separate palings and posts so we can recycle them to use as new elements throughout the playground. The design includes a new accessible timber structure with bridges and ramps, activity panels, big and small slides, play opportunities underneath and a leaf-shaped shade structure. Among many other new elements, families can look forward to a rope climb zone, a sand play area and a sensory water zone when the playground is completed later next year.

We can also expect to see work begin on the new Willsmere Park pavilion in early 2024. After extensive community consultation we have a final design for the pavilion, which will sit further west of the existing pavilion than originally proposed. I thank all those who took an interest in the project and gave us their feedback.

In this newsletter you will also find an update on Kew Recreation Centre, and can read about our vision and design brief for a new Kew Library. Visit engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kew-library-redevelop to find more about the redevelopment. Click 'Follow' to sign up to receive the latest information.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season.

Cr Jim Parke



Kew Recreation Centre update

Planning is underway to rebuild the steel structure of the Kew Recreation Centre, following a partial collapse of the steel roof on 20 October 2022.

Sections of the steel structure have been dismantled and removed by Council's appointed builder, ADCO Constructions.

Investigations into the cause of the collapse remain ongoing by our industry experts, along with the Victorian Building Authority and WorkSafe.

We anticipate Council's appointed builder, ADCO Constructions, will begin sourcing and procuring material for the rebuild shortly. Off-site fabrication of key materials will take some time and we still currently expect major construction works to resume on site from mid 2024, with completion of the build anticipated for some time between late 2025 and early 2026.

Since pausing construction activity, we have received requests from residents to reopen the footpath at the top of Disraeli Street, as well as reinstate on-street parking. The footpath has now been reopened and can be used until construction works resume. The site fencing has also been relocated and residents can now park on Disraeli Street.

Additionally, the solid timber hoarding on the corner of Derby Place and High Street has been replaced with transparent mesh fencing to provide better visibility for pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

We thank our community for their ongoing patience as we navigate the rebuild to ensure the final structure will be safe and secure.

Visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/krc to sign up for the latest updates.



Hays Paddock playground underway

Work to renew Hays Paddock playground in Kew East began in late July. The new playground will continue to provide side-by-side play opportunities for all children, with the design reflecting community priorities through 2 stages of consultation.

Demolition has been completed to make way for the new playground. We are recycling much of the timber from the original structure to use throughout the new structure, along with the swing seats and some steel poles from the butterfly shade structure. Keep your eyes peeled for new sculptural items made from the steel poles.

The accessible carousel and some other smaller play items have also been reclaimed to use in future Boroondara playground renewals.

We expect the playground to be finished in mid 2024, weather permitting. The area will remain closed during this time.

For more information about the project, visit:
www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hays-playground-renewal



Making progress on Willsmere Park pavilion upgrade

Willsmere Park in Kew East is an important community sport and recreational space. The existing pavilion is in poor condition and doesn't meet the needs of the community or sports clubs, including Kew Cricket Club and East Kew Football Club.

An initial concept design for the pavilion was presented to the community for feedback in November 2022 and received mixed support. While people liked the overall look and feel of the proposed concept design, they wanted better visibility of the playground and green open space.

An alternative design was developed in response to this feedback. It retained all the features of the previous design but shifted the proposed location further to the west of the existing pavilion.

This design was presented to the community in April and May this year for feedback. There was support for this revised concept design given the alternative location provides a better balance of meeting the needs of the sports clubs and the community.

Council officers are now proceeding with this design. Thank you to everyone who took the time to consider the designs and share their feedback.

Following the award of the building contract, construction works are expected to start in early 2024 and to be completed by mid 2025. To view the design for the pavilion and to sign up to receive notifications about the project, visit: **engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/willsmere-park-pavilion-renew**



Looking forward to a new chapter for Kew Library

Council is redeveloping Kew Library to build a modern, purpose-built facility that meets the needs of our community now and into the future.

In 2017, we asked the community what their views and aspirations were for a Kew Library upgrade. They told Council they wanted a library that:

- is welcoming and accessible
- has quiet and peaceful spaces, as well as active and social spaces for activities and meeting people
- is light, comfortable and sustainable
- is an iconic building that celebrates heritage
- connects indoor and outdoor spaces, taking advantage of its location between Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square

- has flexible spaces that can adapt over time as community needs change.

These key themes were used to develop a draft vision and design brief, which will help guide the design for a library that delivers on what's important to the community.

Throughout August and September, 270 people had their say on the draft vision and design brief and told us which spaces and activities should be prioritised. This feedback is being reviewed and will help inform the final vision and design brief.

You can visit engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kew-library-redevelop to find out more about the redevelopment. Click 'Follow' to sign up to receive the latest information.

Update: temporary soft plastic recycling service

We launched our temporary soft plastic recycling service in late July to fill the gap left by the collapse of the REDcycle program. Thank you to all residents who have embraced this new service and contributed positively to the environment by doing so.

One of Boroondara's 2 collection points is the nearby Kew Depot Recycling and Drop-off Centre (at 31-35 Hutchinson Drive, Kew). In the first 3 months of the service, Kew Depot had an estimated 600 visits, with 2,850 visits municipality-wide.

We continue to advocate for action from the Australian Government to coordinate a longer-term, more viable soft plastic recycling solution with the supermarket and packaging industry.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue dropping off small household amounts of unavoidable soft plastics at our collection points. Check the web page below to ensure there is capacity at your chosen collection point.

To find out more, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/soft-plastics

