

Bellevue Ward

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A message from Councillor Jim Parke

As the days shorten many of us turn our minds to indoor activities for the cooler months. There's no better place than your local community centre to find a wealth of opportunities for learning, connection and enjoyment.

Boroondara has 11 neighbourhood houses and community centres, each with their own distinct identity and place within their community. Specific local needs and interests are met through the programs and activities on offer at each centre. Bellevue Ward is fortunate to have Trentwood at the Hub, based at the Greythorn Community Hub, and to the west the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre is not far away.

When we renewed the Boroondara Community Plan in 2021 we consulted our community to find out what they valued most in Boroondara. They told us community spaces that facilitate social connections and belonging are important to them. We all know having a sense of belonging and feeling

connected to others is vital for our health and wellbeing.

Neighbourhood houses contribute to a sense of belonging by providing a place where people of all ages, backgrounds and interests can be involved through programs, activities and volunteering opportunities. They feel welcomed, can interact, learn, create, be supported and grow.

If you haven't stepped inside one of our neighbourhood houses or community centres recently I encourage you to do so. You are guaranteed a warm welcome, and may be pleasantly surprised by the wealth of opportunities on offer.

Cr Jim Parke

Work begins on Willsmere Park pavilion

Construction is underway to upgrade the pavilion at Willsmere Park. The contractor has begun work on the new pavilion building and once completed, will start to upgrade the existing pavilion building. This staged approach means sports clubs can keep using pavilion facilities throughout the season.

The pavilion design was shaped by feedback from about 120 people over 2 rounds of community consultation.

Key features include:

- upgrading the existing pavilion building
- constructing an additional pavilion building to provide 2 new change rooms, 2 new umpire rooms and a multipurpose community/social room
- improving accessibility of the change rooms and amenities, public toilet and car parking, and adding ramp access
- creating 16 extra car-parking spaces and adding a turning circle on Willow Grove to help overcome parking concerns raised by residents.

The project is expected to be completed by mid 2025. Find out more at:

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/willsmere-park-pavilion



Pictured: *Koonung Trail Reflections* by Peter Ogier, 2023. See it at Trentwood at the Hub.



Koonung Creek Reserve to star in Trentwood's first exhibition

Trentwood at the Hub has opened a free exhibition space for local groups to share their stories and local artists to exhibit their works.

Developed with the support of a Council 2023–24 Annual Community Strengthening Grant, the space is in the foyer of Greythorn Community Hub and will be open whenever Trentwood is open.

The first exhibition is now running until the end of May, featuring photos of Koonung Creek Reserve taken by the Deepdene U3A Photography Group.

Enjoyed by locals in its current form since 1982, the reserve will be greatly reduced in size due to the widening of the Eastern Freeway as part of the North East Link Program. The photographic exhibition will document the current park and its users as a historical record of Balwyn North.

Neighbourhood House Week

Each year, Neighbourhood House Week in May is a timely reminder of our 11 neighbourhood houses and community centres in Boroondara and what they offer for us all to discover and enjoy.

Trentwood at the Hub, at Greythorn Community Hub in Balwyn North, is our local neighbourhood house here in Bellevue Ward. It is Boroondara's newest neighbourhood house, and offers a range of free and low-cost programs. Its diverse mix of events and activities offers something for everyone, and there are many groups to join for fun and to connect you with others.

To find out what else is coming up at Trentwood at the Hub, visit:

trentwood.org.au

For more information about Neighbourhood House Week in Boroondara, visit: **www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses**

Update: Koonung Creek Reserve master plan

In September and October 2023, we asked our community for feedback on a draft concept design for the Koonung Creek Reserve. It was developed by the North East Link Program (NELP) to guide their reinstatement of the reserve after they finish building the North East Link and widening the Eastern Freeway.

A total of 153 people completed our survey, 36 attended a pop-up and drop-in sessions, and 12 took part in a facilitated community workshop. Thank you to everyone who shared their views.

We heard:

- more than 80% of respondents support mode-separated walking paths and cycling trails
- 66% oppose NELP's inclusion of new stormwater management infrastructure in the reserve
- respondents want the reserve to remain untouched and not become too manicured or artificial
- 60% of respondents support the inclusion of a new playground at the western end of the reserve
- a second public toilet near the western end of the reserve was supported.

We presented the consultation findings to councillors for consideration in February. The outcomes from the Council meeting have been shared with NELP. We're now working with NELP to finalise the reserve design to ensure it reflects feedback from community and Council.

Find out more and stay up to date at: **engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/koonung-creek-reserve**



Tips to keep family and property safe

Sergeant Bruce Pingo, assigned to Bellevue Ward by Victoria Police, has some prevention strategies to help you avoid 3 common local crimes – burglary, theft of and theft from motor vehicles.

His advice is straightforward: always close and lock doors and windows in your house and car.

‘With thieves it’s often a matter of opportunity and when things are unlocked it makes it a bit easier for people determined to steal,’ says Sergeant Pingo.

He says it’s common for burglars to enter homes through unlocked back doors, windows and even dog or cat doors. But if all doors are locked offenders will often move on because they are hesitant to make noise and risk disturbing the occupants of the house.

‘If you hear or see anything call 000 at the time. Don’t delay, don’t leave it until the morning. And if you see something out of place in your street or neighbourhood, let us know.’

Locking your car and removing any valuables from it is the best way to protect it. Sergeant Pingo says thieves will peer through car windows and if they see something that might make some quick cash, will try the door.

He points out that current crime statistics show Boroondara is still a very safe place to live.

Sergeant Pingo’s security tips

- Always lock your windows and doors when you are not home or when you go to bed.
- Remove the following items from your vehicle: cash, laptops, sunglasses, keys, wallets, garage remotes, work security passes.
- Consider installing a home alarm system with video surveillance.
- If a crime is happening, call **000** without delay.
- For non-urgent police matters you can call **131 444**.

Hays Paddock playground update

The new playground at Hays Paddock in Kew East is taking shape. Construction has been progressing well as we work to create a play space that reflects what our community told us they would like to see.

Key features we’ve installed so far include:

- new main timber play structure
- seating terrace
- billabong bird hide
- retaining walls
- sculptural elements
- sandpit
- swings
- furniture.

Some features we’re continuing to work on include:

- installation of new shade structures
- building the new water-play area
- trees and plantings.

We’re currently on track to complete works by mid 2024 (weather permitting). The playground area is closed during construction, but all other areas of Hays Paddock are open.

You can find out more about the project at: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/hays-paddock-playground-renewal

