

Studley Ward

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Studley Ward Cr Nick Stavrou at the newly opened Walmer St Bridge.

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Dear neighbours,

Welcome to the autumn issue of your Studley Ward newsletter.

Recent editions of this newsletter have documented the progress of upgrading the Walmer Street Bridge, which spans the Yarra River between Kew and Abbotsford. As a keen cyclist who lives not far from the bridge I know how important this link is to our community. It connects us to Abbotsford, and that side of the river to all that Kew has to offer. It's a thoroughfare for those who commute along the Main Yarra Trail, and a pleasant pathway for recreational walkers and riders, parents with prams, and the elderly. They will all be celebrating its reopening late last year.

I joined a celebration at the Kew Croquet Club not long ago and was struck by the strong sense of community among those attending. Clubs like these are the lifeblood of neighbourhoods, bringing locals together, building skills and friendship, and providing a place to be outside home and work (or study). Council is

proud to have supported its growth by recently refurbishing the clubhouse, providing a roadmap to excellence through our Sports Accreditation Program and grants for new clubhouse appliances.

I am disappointed to hear Kew Post Office will close in April. We wrote to Australia Post to advocate for it being retained, emphasising Kew Junction is an identified activity centre expected to house more residents in future. They indicated their decision was a financial one, with the office running at a loss. For those who used the Kew Post Office, you will find offices in Cotham, Kew North, Hawthorn North, Hawthorn and Kew East.

Cr Nick Stavrou

Walmer Street Bridge reopens

After many years of advocacy and planning, we've replaced the northern land bridge section of the Walmer Street Bridge in Kew.

With funding support from the Federal Government, we completed all major works to replace the northern land bridge in October last year. These works have resulted in:

- a safer shared path for pedestrians and cyclists through an increase in the bridge's width (from 1.7 m to 3.3 m) and handrail lighting
- the bridge meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 through making it less steep
- structural improvements to the bridge and the staircase down to the riverbank
- an improvement in its overall look and convenience.

After Salta Properties completed their works on the southern land bridge in December, we were pleased to officially reopen the bridge for cyclists and pedestrians to use once more. We thank our community for their patience while the bridge remained closed during renovations.

For more information about our project, visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/walmer-street-bridge





Club's croquet a game for all comers

A friendly welcome, fabulous garden setting, and perhaps a little *Alice in Wonderland* familiarity have helped make Kew Croquet Club the biggest and fastest growing in Victoria.

A membership drive in the past 3 years has included introducing the game to Kew High School students and groups like University of the Third Age (U3A), hosting corporate team building and social events, offering free trials for community members and cheaper memberships to attract the under-25s.

'Croquet is still relatively unknown by most people, except perhaps from *Alice in Wonderland*,' says club president Clare Newton. 'But after trying the sport, we find people are interested to join.'

Clare says skills from other sports such as tennis, golf and hockey are transferable to croquet, and new players quickly get to a stage where they're ready to compete. 'Croquet is as much a game for the mind as it is for the body, with strategies and skills needed to excel,' she says.

'It's great for mental, social and physical health. Strength is not crucial but balance and coordination are.'

The club offers 4 versions of mallet sport, including Kew Croquet which is unique to the club and played socially. Members are current Australian and Victorian champions of the Japanese sport Gateball, which Clare describes as a fast-moving strategic 30-minute game, 'like chess on grass'. 'We have a group who prefer the traditional Association Croquet – like billiards on grass – and others who play Golf Croquet which is more like snooker on grass.'

The club's 'fabulous' setting in Victoria Park among old gums and flocks of cockatoos is a drawcard, and Council's recent refurbishment of the clubhouse has boosted its appeal as a venue for events. Clare says the process of applying for the Boroondara Sports Accreditation Program has helped the club improve its operations. It holds silver-level accreditation.

An update on Kew Library redevelopment

Council is redeveloping Kew Library to meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

Throughout August and September last year, 270 people had their say on the draft vision and design brief and told us which spaces and activities should be prioritised. Thank you to everyone who had their say.

At the time this newsletter went to print a report on this project was scheduled to be presented to councillors for consideration.

Read about the community consultation at: engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kew-library





Construction underway for new Kate Campbell playground

Construction for the new playground at Kate Campbell Reserve on Kellett Grove in Kew has started.

We're excited to deliver a local playground that will provide a range of new play experiences for children and improve accessibility for visitors.

The playground design is shaped by what our community told us was important to them during consultation. Key features include:

- a new play unit with a cubby house
- accessible pathways in and around the playground
- an accessible basket swing
- swings for toddlers and children
- a seating area next to the swings
- upgraded picnic furniture.

Car park upgrades

As part of the first stage of construction, road and car park upgrades along Kellett Grove were completed last month.

The renewed car park is now compliant with Australian Standards and provides 5 parking spaces for visitors, including one dedicated accessible parking space.

Impacts to the community

To ensure the works are completed safely and promptly, the playground area will be closed during construction. All other areas of the reserve can be accessed as usual from Peel Street.

Works are expected to be completed in mid-July (weather permitting).

For more information about this project, please visit: www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/kate-campbell

Looking for somewhere to play in the meantime?

While the new playground is being built, we encourage you to visit one of Boroondara's many other playgrounds. The Hyde Park playground at 60 White Avenue, Kew East (about 950 m from Kate Campbell Reserve) has junior and senior play units for all children to enjoy.

Police home security tips

Acting Sergeant Gary Tivendale has some home security tips to help prevent burglaries in Studley Ward.

'I'd like to remind Studley Ward residents that they should not be complacent when they leave the house,' he says.

'Most burglaries are opportunistic and doing the simple things to protect your property will go a long way to deter criminals.'

- Lock all access points including internal and external garage doors, windows, gates, sheds, pet doors and skylights.
- Remove any spare keys hidden outside your home. Don't leave keys in window locks.
- Install deadlocks on all external doors and windows.
- Leave out a dog bowl or lead, even if you don't have a dog.
- If someone knocks on the door, make a noise to show you're inside.
- Consider installing a security screen door, monitored alarm system, cameras and sensor lighting.

Acting Sergeant Tivendale says current crime statistics show the Boroondara area is still a very safe place to live.

'Taking these simple measures will ensure it can be even safer and deter crime.'

Find more security tips at: police.vic.gov.au/your-safety

In an emergency call **000**. For non-urgent police matters you can call **131 444**.