BOROONDARA

March 2024

Kew Library redevelopment

Vision and Design Brief

BOROONDARA

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1 Executive summary

Council is redeveloping the Kew Library to provide a modern facility that meets the needs of our community now and into the future.

Located between Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square, the Kew Library is uniquely positioned to take advantage of these green spaces and to create a connection between indoor and outdoor areas. The Kew Library is also located near a vibrant and dynamic retail hub, a range of community services, educational facilities, as well as public transport and parking.

Kew's population is forecast to increase by over 6,000 people by 2041, with increases of 29.3% in the 10 to 29 age range and 18.4% for persons aged 65 plus. A high proportion of medium to high density housing with up to 2 bedrooms, combined with increasing levels of hybrid working arrangements, are likely to result in community members looking for spaces they can go to for online meetings and work. This combined with lone person households, an ageing population who may feel isolated and are looking for opportunities to connect with others, and a high demand for study spaces for students attending schools in close proximity, will be key factors in the redevelopment of the Kew Library.

To meet these needs, the redeveloped Kew Library will be a versatile, bright, and interesting place for the whole community. It should welcome people of all ages and backgrounds and be a community hub in Kew, demonstrating Council's commitment to a contemporary library service and life-long learning.

A redeveloped Kew Library will include the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building with a connection to the gardens. Key community benefits of a new library include opportunities to:

- Improve customer experiences – with better layout and flow of the library floorplan.
- Create spaces that support a hub of activity and a meeting place while maintaining quiet spaces for reading and study.
- Create an engaging environment inside and out, utilising the library's unique location adjacent to the Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square.
- Offer a range of community activities, services and programs which meet community needs as they evolve over time.
- Make use of flexible shelving and furniture layouts to enable diverse use of space.

The Kew Library Redevelopment Vision and Design Brief (Vision and Design Brief) has been developed to capture the opportunities outlined above and:

- Comprises a project description, emerging trends and needs analysis summary.

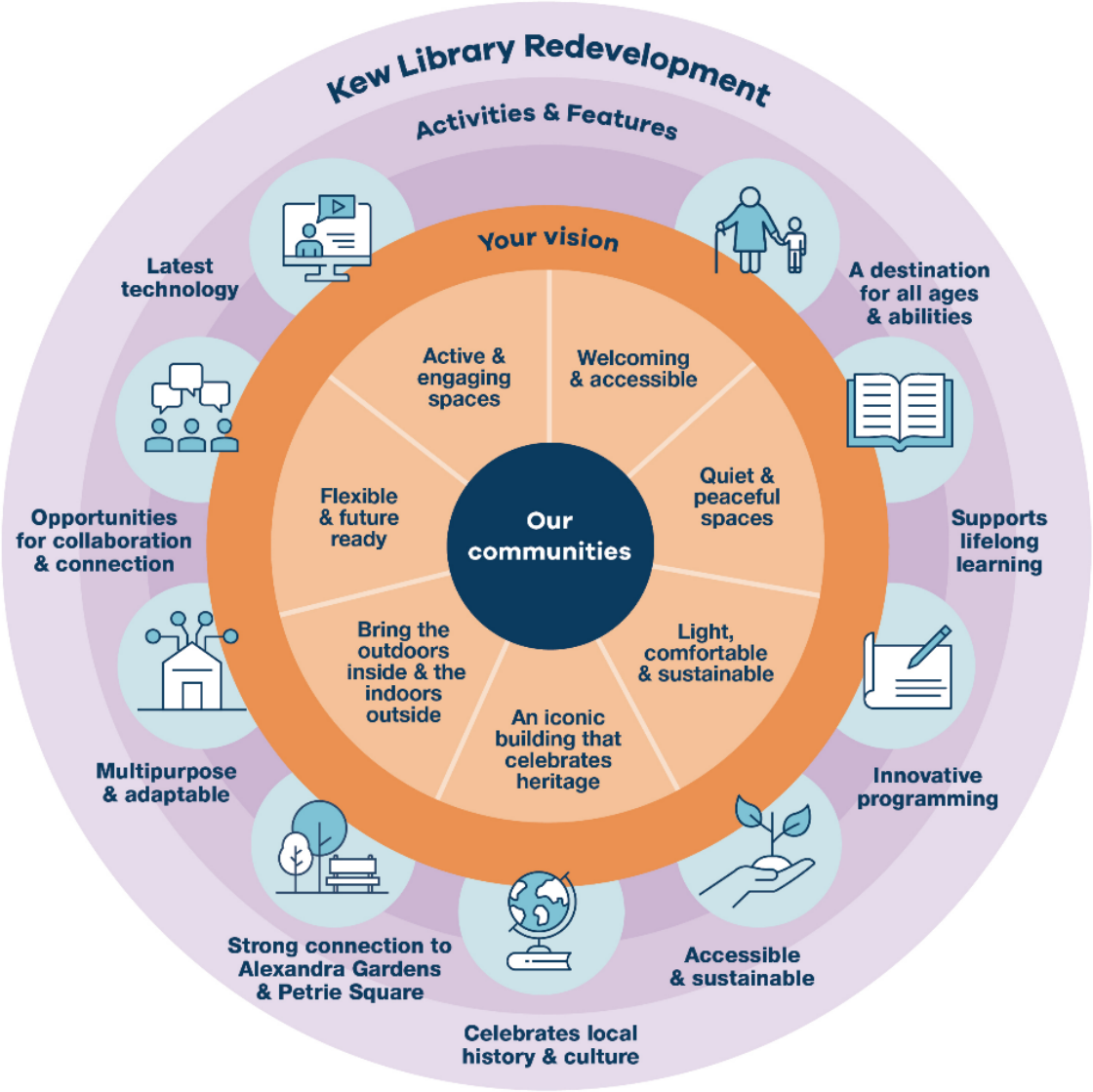
- Has been developed from community consultation and research.
- Will be used to inform the project as it evolves.

Council has allocated funds in its Long-Term Financial Strategy towards the Kew Library Redevelopment across multiple financial years. As this project is only at the pre-design phase, the total project cost is an estimate based on the best available information.

The Vision and Design Brief will inform how we design a modern purpose-built library that delivers on what's important to the community.

1.1 Vision summary

The vision for a redeveloped Kew Library for community feedback has been developed in line with community consultation themes from 2017 and 2023.



2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a Vision and Design Brief for the Kew Library Redevelopment - a major project of the City of Boroondara.

The preparation of a vision and design brief for major projects (such as the Kew Library Redevelopment) assists Council to:

- Capture key work to date (emerging trends and issues, needs analysis, demand etc).
- Articulate our needs/requirements for a modern facility that meets the needs of our community now and into the future.
- Be a succinct vehicle for engaging and communicating with the community.
- Inform future design and construction processes.

A summary of how the Vision and Design Brief will evolve and be used to guide the project's overall development is outlined in Figure 1 below.

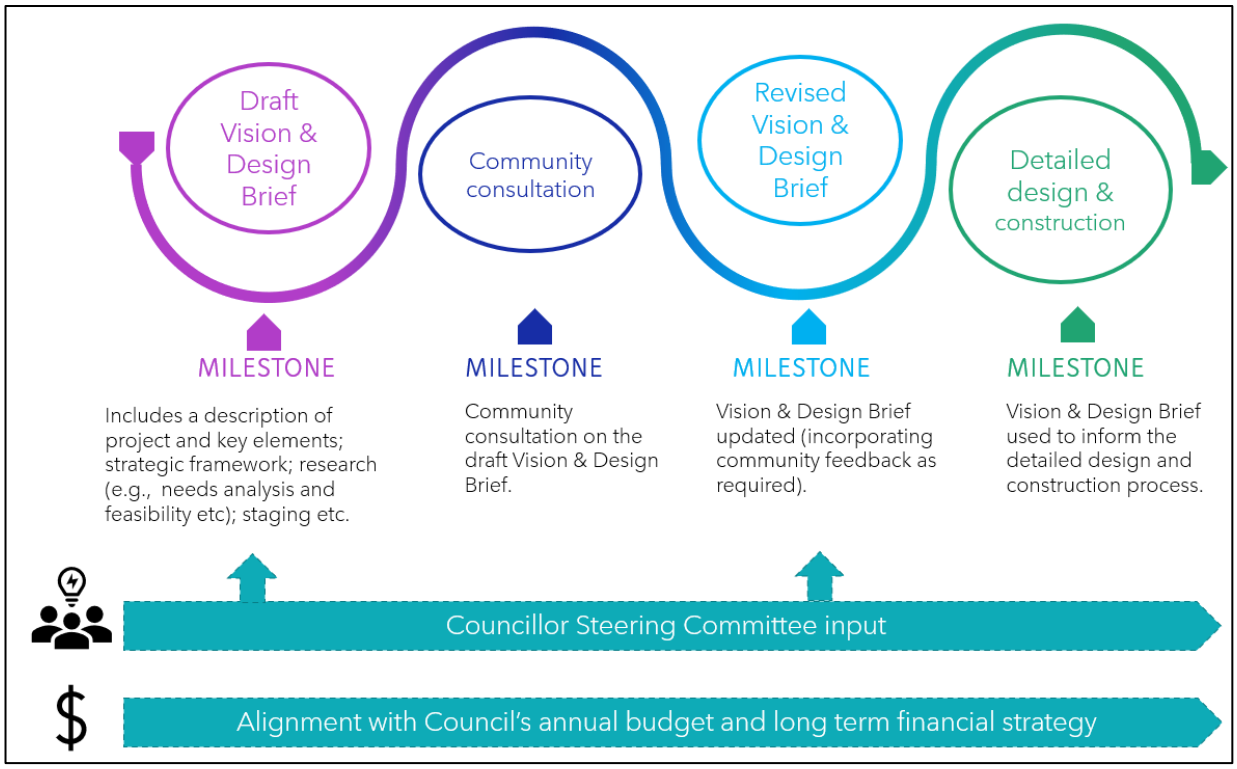


Figure 1: Vision and Design Brief roadmap

2.2 Kew Library location and history

Figure 2: Photograph, C Stuart Tompkins, Junior Section, Kew Public Library, 15 May 1945 (Boroondara Library collection)

History

Library services commenced in the Kew area in 1860 with the Kew Literary and Scientific Society and have operated continuously across the following 163 years. Kew Library moved to the converted City Hall on 23 October 1987, and the site has remained relatively unchanged since this time. Kew Library initially operated as a stand-alone library for the former City of Kew until 1994, then after local government amalgamations, as one of the City of Boroondara libraries.

Kew Library is situated in the original 1960 Kew City Hall which had east, and west wings added to the building at a later stage. The ceilings within the original City Hall are higher than the adjoining wings and the eastern wall of the City Hall features *Four Seasons*, a stained-glass window installed to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Kew Municipality in 1985. Windows to the west provide views of Alexandra Gardens, however structural columns along both the east and west wings, inhibit the view of and access to the gardens. A World War 2 memorial and sculpture located on the north of

the building (adjacent to Cotham Road) have been assessed as being of cultural significance. Additionally, located on the north of the building on Cotham Road, the *Grip of time* public artwork, is considered of public interest, as is the *City of Kew Coat of Arms* recognising the former City of Kew.

This space was not designed as a public library, and although Kew Library has operated successfully since moving to this location in 1987, its operations are constrained by inefficient layout and inability to connect with its external features.

Adjacent to Kew Library is Trinity Grammar (Centre for Arts) which is located in the former Kew Civic Centre. Prior to the 1994 council amalgamations, the Kew Civic Centre and City Hall (later Kew Library) functioned as the municipal offices for the City of Kew, linked by a shared walkway connecting both buildings at level one. This walkway still exists, with the maintenance and ownership resting with the City of Boroondara. While the walkway is not currently being used, removal of the walkway would be the responsibility of Council and would require rectification works to the former Municipal Offices (now Trinity Grammar).

Kew Library location

Kew Library is situated on the corner of Cotham Road and Civic Drive in Kew and is positioned between two significant green spaces (Figure 3). The building has little street presence, the entrance is not clearly defined, and the views of Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square have not been maximised in its current design. This Library is within walking distance of Kew Junction and Kew Court House (now a community performing arts centre) and is well serviced by public transport (refer *Transport, traffic, and parking* section).

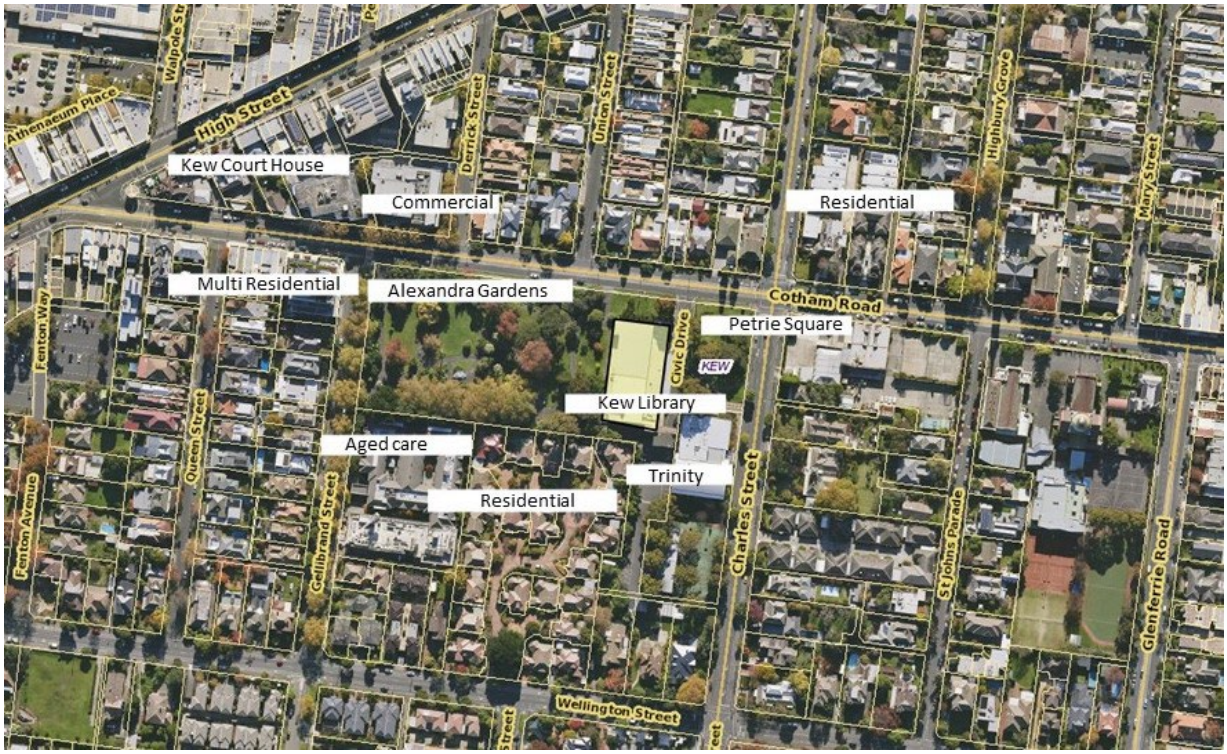


Figure 3: Kew Library (immediate) precinct

Kew Library surrounding area

Boroondara is recognised as an educational hub with nine schools located within two kilometres of Kew Library, including Kew Primary School, Sacred Heart Kew Primary School, Trinity Grammar, Ruyton Girl's School, Methodist Ladies College (MLC) and Genazzano FCJ College. Also within Kew is the Kew Neighbourhood Learning Centre, 11 aged care/assisted living facilities, 25 childcare centres and 11 kindergartens; as well as other community support organisations such as the Boroondara Community Outreach (refer Figures 4 and 5).

Figure 4: Kew Library (broader) precinct

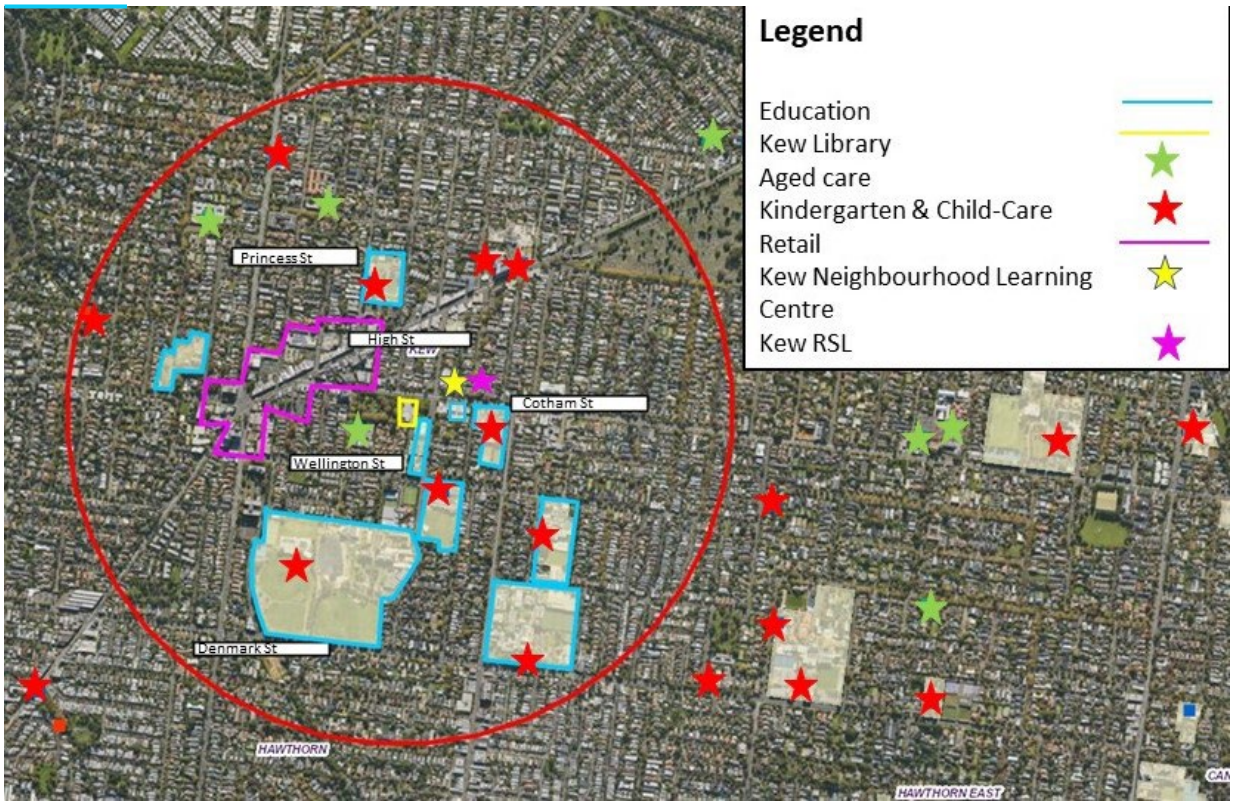


Figure 5: Key community & educational services within 2km of Kew Library

2.3 Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square

The Edwardian-style gardens and Petrie square are immediately adjacent to the Kew Library and within walking distance of Kew Junction shopping centre.

The Alexandra Gardens, to the west of the Library, are a fine example of a Federation landscape and feature expansive lawn areas surrounded by avenues of mature trees. Named after Queen Alexandra, the gardens opened in 1908 and are designed in the formal style typical of the early 1900s. Facilities at the gardens include a barbecue, rotunda, fishpond, play equipment, seating and tables. These gardens fall within the Heritage Overlay HO523, which aims to conserve the gardens, preventing any development that negatively impacts the heritage value.

Petrie Square, to the east of the Library, was named after Councillor Gerard Petrie, a former Mayor of the City of Kew during the 1970s. Petrie Square is separated from the Kew Library by Civic Drive and a row of parking bays along its west side.

The gardens and square are both popular destinations and are available for hire for wedding ceremonies and other functions.

2.4 Current library users and tenants

In addition to library patrons, the Kew Library currently houses the following groups:

- Kew Historical Society
- Inner East Housing
- Boroondara Family Network
- Rotary Club of Kew (storage)
- Boroondara Parks Maintenance
- Regular meeting room hirers.

3 Project context

3.1 Community consultation

Council has conducted two consultation processes for the Kew Library redevelopment - in both 2017 and 2023.

2017 Consultation

A program of community and key stakeholder consultation occurred between October and November 2017 to identify the community aspirations and expectations for a redeveloped library. The 2017 consultation used a range of methods to engage with stakeholders, including online and hardcopy surveys, with over 25% of respondents speaking a language other than English at home and four workshops, including one targeted at young people under 18 years of age. These workshops used open-ended questions to gain insights and feedback about what was important to them for a new library. Responses from this consultation were categorised into seven themes, or design principles that could be factored into the new design (see **Figure 6**), originally scheduled for 2018. However, in March 2018, the decision was made to defer the project to 2022/23.

This *Vision and Design* brief has incorporated the 2017 community consultation feedback. A summary of the key community themes and feedback is outlined in **Figure 6**.

2017 Community consultation summary and key themes

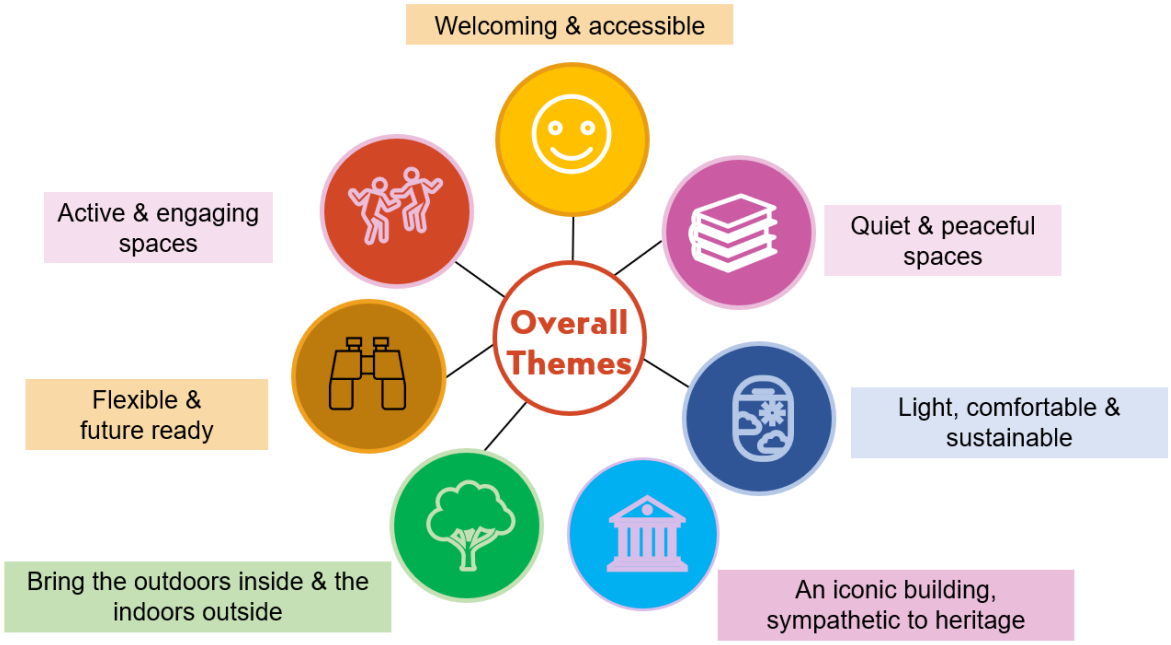


Figure 6: 2017 community feedback themes

Community feedback expressed aspirations for a redeveloped Kew Library that was both calm, quiet, and peaceful as well as bright, alive, active, exciting, and stimulating. In addition, opportunities to integrate the library with its surrounding Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square were also highlighted. This means a redeveloped library will need to create spaces which can accommodate these diverse experiences. The seven key themes are summarised in Figure 6 and Table 1.

Table 1: 2017 Community consultation themes

Community theme	Descriptions within theme
Welcoming and accessible	• Provide spaces that are welcoming and accessible for all community members and allow for people to be alone but with others, as needed • Safe.
Active and engaging spaces	• Allow for spaces that are vibrant, alive, active, exciting and stimulating. • Opportunity to connect with new ideas • Fun • Opportunities to connect with other people • A space to catch up with friends • Associated programming: creative activities, talks, seminars, conferences, hands on learning, children's programs.
Quiet spaces	• Quiet • Peaceful and relaxing • Allow for quiet spaces that bring peace, calm, comfort (furniture) and reflection • Associated programming: information, creative activities.
Flexibility and future ready	• Allow flexible spaces for all that provide for a wide range of activities including accessing information, lifelong learning, latest technology, engaging and contributing to the community, meeting and socialising with others, accessing new ideas and experiences. • Separate quiet and noisy activities, by allowing for quiet reading areas, individual or group study and community meeting spaces.

Community theme	Descriptions within theme
	• Separate children and adult activities • Provide for future needs including books and digital resources in other languages • Provide WIFI, computers, power points • Associated programming including: information, creative activities, talks, seminars, conferences, hands-on learning, children's programs, café.
Bring the outdoors inside and the indoors outside	• Nature • Connection to outdoors • Work with nature and the environment, by bringing the outdoors inside and the indoors outside. • Maximise the beautiful views of the Alexandra Gardens and incorporate Petrie Square.
An iconic building, sympathetic to its history	• Provide an inspiring building that is iconic for Kew and yet sympathetic to its history. • Young respondents specifically mentioned the use of bright colours.
Light, comfortable and sustainable	• Build a sustainable, beautiful building that is light but not too bright with the direct sun, warm in winter and cool in summer. • Interior (access, fittings, comfort) • Lighting • Spacious/organised.

2023 Consultation

The 2023 community engagement (consultation) on the Vision and Design Brief was conducted to determine if the needs, expectations, and aspirations captured in seven design principles in 2017, were still relevant to the community five years on, and to invite feedback on the vision for this facility.

The consultation was hosted on Council's 'Engage Boroondara' site and widely promoted through onsite posters, emails to library members, the Boroondara Bulletin, social media and letters to nearby households.

Feedback from 271 community members was collected via an online and hardcopy survey and across two face-to-face drop-in sessions.

Responses to the consultation survey demonstrate the community's aspirations for the library have changed little since 2017. Each of the feedback themes identified by the community in 2017 has been validated, with most participants agreeing or strongly agreeing these elements are important. These themes are listed in order of importance to respondents in 2023:

1. Quiet and peaceful spaces
2. Welcoming and accessible spaces
3. Good lighting and circulation
4. Sustainable and energy efficient
5. Active and social spaces
6. Outdoors inside and indoors outside
7. Interesting, contemporary and sympathetic design
8. Flexible spaces to accommodate a range of events.

A separate question invited people to consider a list of 10 features or to nominate other features / issues for consideration that they considered to be important for the project. The survey results show the feature most preferred by respondents is the provision of study and remote working spaces.

Additional feedback illustrates the community aspirations for the library in 2017 have been supported in 2023, with considerable emphasis given to:

- A range of flexible spaces able to accommodate different community needs (97 comments)
- The library showcasing outstanding architecture and design (59 comments)
- The library being accessible and inclusive (53 comments)
- Suitable spaces available for children and young people (41 comments).

Further consideration however is required in relation to two existing artwork / civic memorabilia items attached to the existing building. The community expressed mixed views on retaining both the Grip of time artwork and the former City of Kew's Coat of Arms, with over 50% of respondents either not sure or uninterested in them being part of the redeveloped library. Inclusion of these artworks in the redeveloped Kew Library, will need to be considered by the relevant committees and Council, together with the associated budget implications for their relocation and / or inclusion.

In summary, the 2023 community feedback on the Kew Library redevelopment project is highly consistent with community aspirations expressed in 2017. **Figure 7** below, summarises the key themes from 2017 and the degree of community agreement / support for them in 2023.

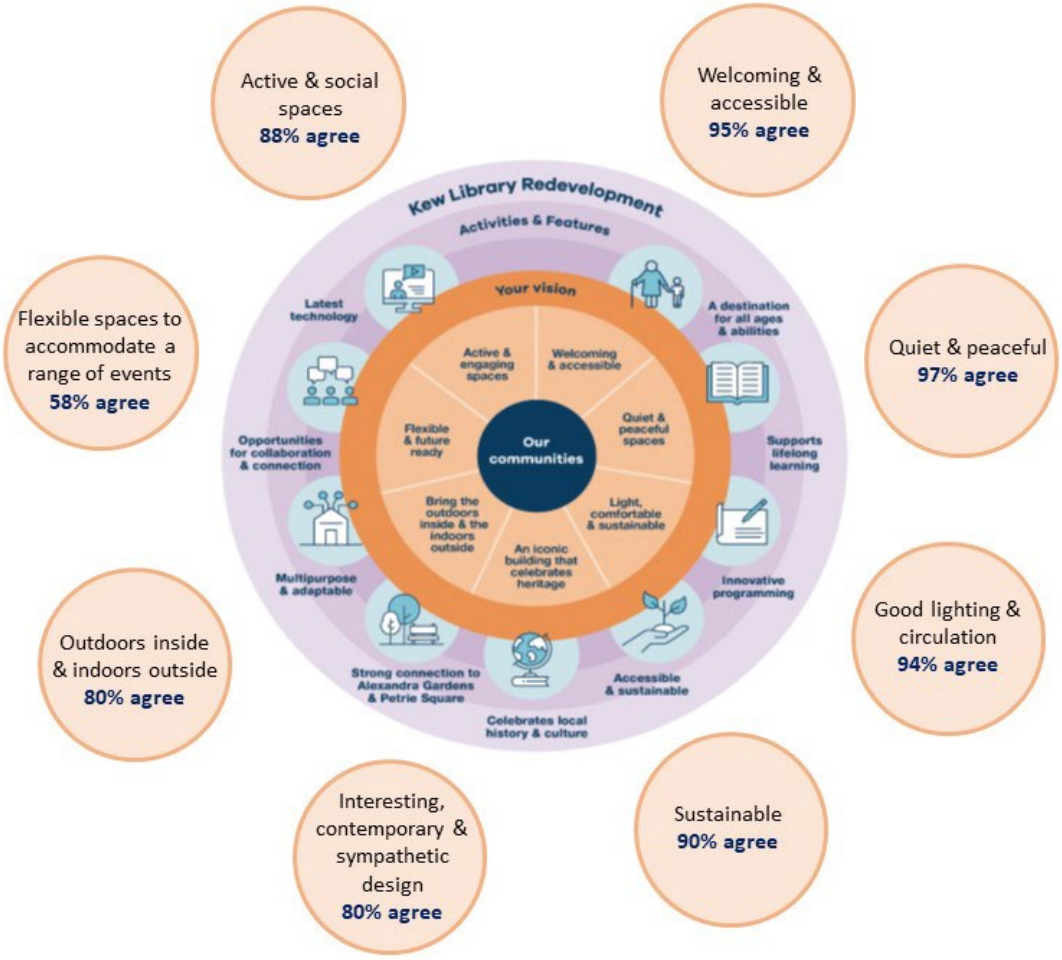


Figure 7. Kew Library redevelopment Vision and 2023 community feedback summary

3.2 Scope for change (redevelopment catalysts)

Fit-for-purpose

Since converting to a library in 1987, outside of minor building works to include a Council Customer Service area in 1994 and to allow for the installation of an automated returns system in 2019, no other significant building works have occurred in the last 36 years. The space was not designed as a public library, and although Kew Library has operated successfully since moving to this location, its operations are constrained by an inefficient layout and inability to connect with its external features. In addition, the building has little street presence, and the views of Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square are not maximised in the current design.

Features that were deemed innovative when the library moved into the current location, such as lighting coming up through the shelves, have proven to be restrictive, as the shelving layout cannot easily be adjusted without significant modification to the lighting plan. The look and feel of the library is dated, and spaces do not offer the flexibility required in a modern library.

Externally, the building is not readily identifiable as a public library. There are no windows into the library at street level (on any side) that provide a hint of what is housed in the building and the Cotham Road frontage consists of a high wall with a World War 2 memorial, sculpture, the City of Kew Coat of Arms and public art - the *Grip of Time* (large hand holding a walking stick). External signage is not prominent and can be easily missed. The fortress-like façade of the library reduces its potential for passive surveillance into the surrounding parkland and limits its Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) potential.

The building itself was originally designed as a town hall with a very high ceiling, which was then expanded with two wings added on, to the east and west sides of the building. The addition of the wings created more space, however a significant number of structural brick columns remained from the original town hall, acting as an obstruction to the view out to Alexandra Gardens and impeding traffic flows around the library customer service desk. The unique aspect of the site, being located between Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square is limited in the current building design and layout.

Building Condition

Nearly 100% of the building is affected by the need to upgrade end-of-life and/or non-compliant elements. Analysis has identified refurbishment of the existing building is comparable in cost (or even slightly higher), than a demolition and rebuild of the current facility. In addition, refurbishment would involve like-for-like and does not offer Council the opportunity to create a purpose-built facility which meets community need (now and in the future).

Following an extensive analysis of compliance, service, and renewal upgrade needs, along with exploration and costing of multiple alternatives, it is recommended that the best value for money and functional improvements to support community needs is to demolish and rebuild Kew Library. The building has a large portion of assets that are considered near end of life, are at end of life, or are requiring extensive maintenance. These include:

- Sewer
- Roof drainage
- Plumbing fixtures
- Essential Safety Equipment
- Air conditioning plant and equipment
- Switchboards
- Hot water units
- Floor coverings

- Painting.

Furthermore, the cost to refurbish in its current form would be more expensive than building a new facility. Whilst it is possible to address the inefficient services and ageing infrastructure in a refurbishment, each of these items is considered more difficult and costly to undertake within an existing building, compared to a new build.

Energy saving initiatives can also be incorporated into an existing building as part of a refurbishment, however the efficiency will be less than in a new build, due to working with existing constraints such as building insulation throughout and the use of passive solar energy.

Building Compliance

A 2022 Accessibility Assessment of the building identified the building currently does not meet the National Construction Code - Section J Energy Efficiency requirements and building codes for Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliance. It is preferable that any major refurbishment of this building realises a level of compliance commensurate to its' importance as a key community facility of Council. The access audit undertaken in 2022 identified non-compliances with building codes for Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) throughout the building including:

- Undersized/non-compliant amenities
- Circulation spaces, including the shelved area in the library
- Shelf height
- Door clearances
- Visual constricts
- Parking
- Access ramps
- Stairs
- Service lifts

3.3 Transport, traffic, and parking

Public transport

The Kew Library is well serviced by public transport, including:

- Bus lines 200 and 207 - seven-minute walk from closest stops
- Tram line 109 two-minute walk from closest stop
- Tram lines 16 and 48 five-minute walk from closest stops.

Traffic and parking

Along with street parking, car parking is available with 52 spaces for the public and 28 Trinity Grammar staff and Council permit spaces at the rear of the library.

Council commissioned the Traffix Group to undertake a Traffic Engineering Assessment in November 2022 for the Kew Library Precinct, which identified there are various car parking restrictions that currently apply for the 80 spaces along Civic Drive as summarised in the **Table 2** below [1].

Table 2: Parking

Type of Parking	Length of time	Number of Spaces
Short term	10 - 30 mins	9
Time limited	2 - 3 hours	38
Disabled	Unlimited	5
Permit Zone - Council	Unlimited	12
Permit Zone - Trinity Grammar	School days/times only	16

Car parking surveys indicated:

- There were ten (10) vacant spaces for the public along Civic Drive during the busiest time (3pm) on a weekday, including five (5) 10-30 minutes short term parking spaces, three (3) 2-3 hour parking spaces and two (2) disabled parking spaces.
- There were forty seven (47) vacant spaces along Civic Drive during the busiest time (2pm) on a Saturday, generally spread evenly across all parking restrictions. On the weekends and after 4:00pm on weekdays however, Trinity Grammar permit spaces are also available to the public, increasing the available public spaces by 16.
- There is limited spare capacity along Civic Drive during weekdays to accommodate additional growth, however there is potential to adjust the parking restrictions on Cotham Road if growth in people visiting the library results from the redevelopment.
- There is a higher car parking demand on a weekday afternoon due to school pick-up associated with Trinity Grammar.

[1] Traffix Group, Traffic Engineering Assessment: Kew Library Precinct. November 2022

3.4 Boroondara Planning Scheme

The Kew Library is:

- Listed as a place of assembly in the Boroondara Planning Scheme (Clause 73.04), and
- Zoned Public Use Zone Schedule 6, where the purpose of the public land use is for local government.

Pursuant to Clause 36.01 of the Boroondara Planning Scheme, a planning permit is not required to use land, or to construct a building or carry out works associated with a local government use. The library use is consistent with this purpose and therefore a planning permit would not be required to demolish the existing building or construct the new building pursuant to the zone. The final design will inform whether a planning permit is required. Examples of where a planning permit may be required include:

- The number of patrons anticipated for the new library and associated car parking spaces provided on site (a place of assembly has a rate of 0.3 car spaces per patron)
- Changes to the library's entrance directly from Cotham Road
- Any requirement to remove native vegetation (local to Victoria) that has not been specifically planted in situ.

4 Planning context

4.1 Broader policy considerations

Value of libraries

In 2018, State Library Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria Network commissioned a study regarding the proposition that public libraries are a high return on investment, with the release of the report *Libraries Work!: the socio-economic value of public libraries to Victorians*[2].

The report identified Victorian public libraries offer vital services to their local communities. They are safe, non-judgmental places that provide free access to services, programs and information technology, as well as opportunities for social interaction and inclusion. The benefits of library services include:

- Improved language and digital literacy, community health and career development outcomes
- Complimentary services offered to local education institutions
- Enhanced local area amenity and environmental sustainability.

The report also highlighted those who do not use libraries still placed a value on public library services, knowing they can use these services in the future and that public libraries are available for other members of the community.

The study used cost benefit analysis (CBA) to assess the net benefit of public libraries. CBA is the preferred tool of Australian Governments for assessing whether service provision is worthwhile, taking into account economic, social and environmental considerations. The economic benefits numbers have been generated using conventions and disciplines that align with the requirements of the Commonwealth and Victorian Treasury guidelines for conducting cost benefit assessments and economic impact assessments.

This assessment determined that public libraries generate $328 million in economic activity per year across Victoria, and every dollar invested in public libraries generates $4.30 of benefits for the local community.

[2] *Libraries Work!: the socio-economic value of public libraries to Victorians. Accessed on 23 March 2023 at* Libraries work: The socio-economic value of public libraries to Victorians (slv.vic.gov.au)

4.2 Policy

The following policy documents were considered in scoping for the Kew Library redevelopment.

Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031

The Boroondara Community Plan 2021-2031 (the BCP) sets out the 10-year vision for the City of Boroondara based on the aspirations of the community and their priorities. The BCP balances the needs of the community, while recognising the challenges, opportunities, and changes to come over the next decade. The redevelopment of Kew Library will support the delivery of the BCP through:

Theme 1: Community, services and facilities

Strategy 1.1: Neighbourhoods and community spaces facilitate social connections and belonging by providing, maintaining and activating places for people to meet, organise activities and celebrate events.

Strategy 1.2: Health and wellbeing is improved through delivering, facilitating and advocating for services and programs that are accessible and affordable.

Strategy 1.5: Life-long learning is supported by delivering and working with our community and partners to meet the broad range of interests within the community.

Theme 2: Parks and Green Spaces

Strategy 2.3: Parks and green spaces are accessible and appealing through maintaining, improving and increasing amenities.

Theme 4: Neighbourhood Character and Heritage

Strategy 4.4 New development positively contributes to amenity and liveability through design excellence.

Within the Boroondara Community Plan are also 6 health priorities. The redevelopment of the Kew Library will support the delivery of the health priorities though:

Health Priorities 1: Improving mental wellbeing and social connection.

Boroondara Library Services Plan 2020–2025

The Boroondara Library Services Plan 2020–2025, sets the Library Services Vision, to be *"An inspirational Library Service where the community is central, and everyone feels welcome."*

The Boroondara Library Services Plan 2020–2025 recognises the need to continuously develop library spaces and services through the delivery of Strategic Objective 3: Buildings, facilities and spaces:

- Action 3.1: Commence the redevelopment of Kew Library to create contemporary and integrated library experiences.
- Action 3.4: Review and improve library spaces and services with a focus on ensuring learning, inspiration and creative opportunities for all library users and various stages and abilities in life.

Kew Junction Structure Plan (2011)

The Kew Junction Structure Plan (updated 2011) highlights the vision for the area as follows:

"The Kew Library will expand its role as the 'learning and information' focus of the centre. This will include a broad range of community, cultural and social facilities within an upgraded or redeveloped building. The library will have strong connections to the adjoining open spaces of the Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square, which will remain as highly valued green spaces. The buildings of this precinct will be refurbished or redeveloped to introduce exemplary architecture to house the expanded community role."

Boroondara Open Space Strategy (2013)

The Boroondara Open Space Strategy (BOSS) 2013 provides the strategic direction for the future planning, provision, design, and management of open space in Boroondara through to 2026. The Strategy identifies how quality open space contributes to the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the community along with the ecological health of our urban environment. The Alexandra Gardens being in close proximity to the Kew Library, presents opportunities for programming which enhances community mental and physical health and wellbeing. Alexandra Gardens falls within Heritage Overlay HO523.

4.3 Kew Library Profile and catchment

Kew Library Profile

Boroondara Library Service

Boroondara Library Service provides virtual and physical services and in 2022/23 welcomed over 794,454 visitors through its five Libraries and the Library Lounge at Greythorn. Boroondara's active Library membership (members who have used a service in the library in the last 12 months) in 2021/22 was nearly 33,000 members, 19.4% of Boroondara's population.

The Boroondara Library Service continues to be well utilised by members, with a very high level of loans of both physical books and e-books, especially in comparison to neighbouring library services (**Figure 7** and **Table 3**). The Library Service also provides activities and programs in line with its reading, discovery and lifelong learning focus and commitment to community connection and wellbeing.

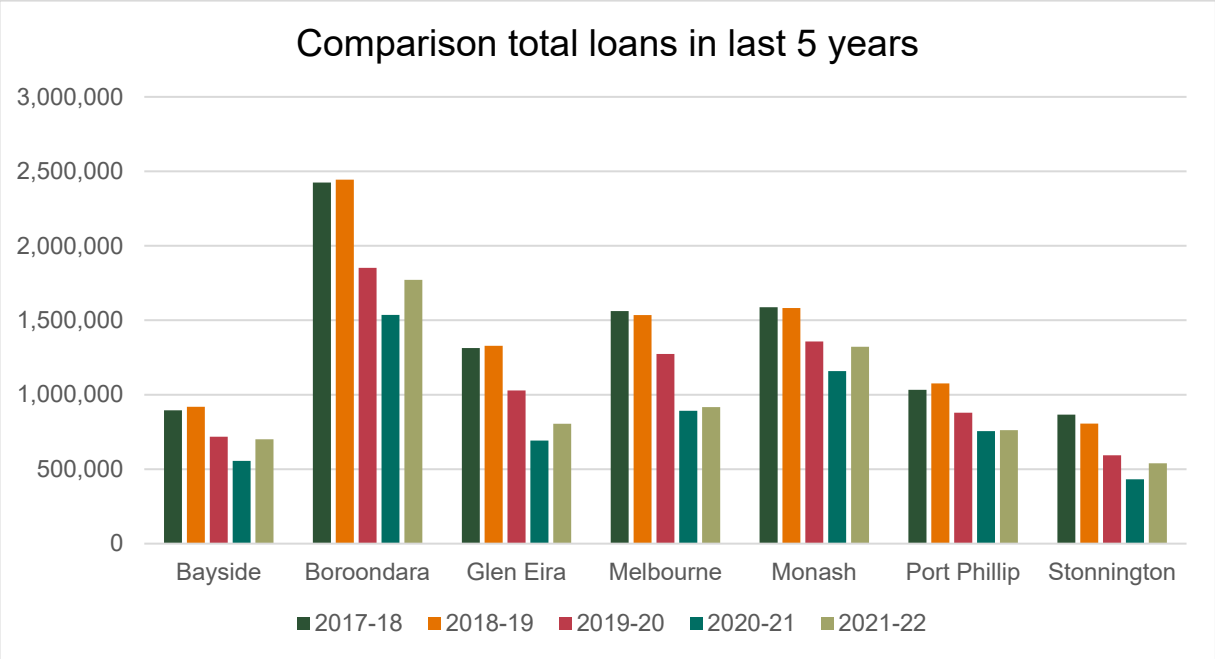


Figure 7 (above) and Table 3 (below): Comparison of total loans with neighbouring library services

Council	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Bayside	895,658	918,566	717,827	555,515	700,328
Boroondara	2,424,882	2,444,241	1,852,287	1,536,417	1,771,896
Glen Eira	1,313,394	1,328,604	1,028,850	692,750	805,332
Melbourne	1,561,907	1,535,291	1,273,790	892,578	916,600
Monash	1,587,628	1,582,503	1,358,023	1,158,948	1,321,633
Port Phillip	1,033,130	1,075,854	879,239	755,589	762,012
Stonnington	866,497	806,136	593,253	432,026	539,496

Figure 8 and Table 4: Comparison of membership with neighbouring library services

Similarly, while the population growth may be modest in Boroondara, the Library Service has grown its membership base over the last five years[3] and is still significantly higher than surrounding municipal areas (**Figure 8** and **Table 4**).

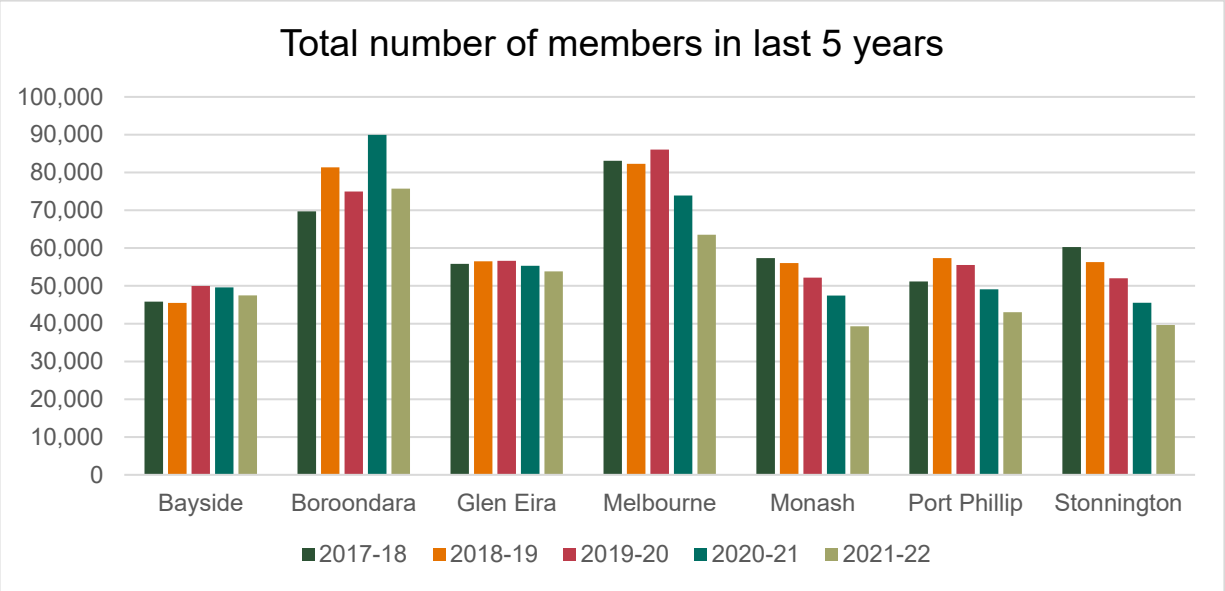


Figure 8 (above) and Table 4 (below): Comparison of membership with neighbouring library services

Council	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Bayside	45,812	45,472	49,974	49,581	47,466
Boroondara	69,730	81,350	74,983	89,974	75,737
Glen Eira	55,815	56,488	56,638	55,323	53,822
Melbourne	83,089	82,302	86,058	73,892	63,527
Monash	57,363	56,029	52,194	47,456	39,300
Port Phillip	51,147	57,344	55,536	49,095	43,031
Stonnington	60,257	56,270	52,001	45,525	39,652

[3] Resources - Public Libraries Victoria (plv.org.au)

Kew Library – Current services

During 2022/23, Kew Library welcomed 119,345 in-person visitors (15% of all visits to libraries across Boroondara), loaned 196,278 items (17% of all loans across Boroondara) and answered 12,996 enquiries (19% of all enquiries across Boroondara Libraries). Kew Library is open a total of 57 hours per week across seven days, with extended hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays (closing at 9pm).

The current library includes:

- Library collections: print, audio-visual and reservations
- Outreach Home Library Service
- Customer service desk and library returns space
- Self-service kiosks
- A children's area, including storytelling and activity space
- Reading/seating and study areas
- Public access catalogues, Personal Computers and Wifi
- One large community meeting room
- Two small meeting rooms (available during library opening hours)
- Display areas
- Printers, copiers and digital equipment
- Public toilets and parents' room
- Staff workstations, two offices and amenities
- Flexible program spaces which accommodate a range of different library programs
- Public parking and bicycle racks.

The proximity of a large private school located beside Kew Library (Trinity Grammar), and a high proportion of schools located in Kew and nearby Hawthorn (58 schools in Boroondara), mean that spaces for individual and group study are highly sought after, especially after school and during exam periods, as are spaces for collaboration. Kew Library can be readily accessed by public transport and there is parking available behind the library and along Civic Drive and Cotham Road, allowing for easy access by students and visitors.

A large area for children's books, programs and activities is clearly identifiable upon entering the library and is well utilised by young children and parents. Reading/seating areas where people can connect and meet up, are popular and often fully used.

The junior materials and fiction collection items are the most heavily borrowed at Kew Library of all the collections available. In 2022/23, public access Personal Computers were used for 5,038 hours across 5,312 bookings, and the library Wi-Fi was used by 5,049 visitors. The library meeting room was also heavily utilized, highlighting the need for bookable community spaces in Kew. During the same period, the Home Library Service at Kew Library was well used, with library staff and volunteers delivering approximately 3,714 items to six aged care/assisted living facilities and 50 residents who had difficulty visiting the library due to poor health and physical limitations. This service supports older members of the community, ensuring they continue to have the same access to resources as anyone who visits the library in person, and it is anticipated with an ageing community that its popularity will continue to increase. Passive activities (i.e., chess and colouring in sheets) are also well utilised.

Across 2022/23, Boroondara Library Service delivered 993 programs with over 28,000 participants across all six libraries with 3,751 attending programs at Kew Library. Key programs offered included:

- Storytimes - Sing baby sing (aimed at 0-12 months) and preschool (3-5 years) where parents and (increasingly) grandparents attend with children
- School holiday programs - aimed at primary school children
- Book clubs - primarily for adults
- English Conversation Club - aimed at individuals who have English as a second language where they can practice conversational English
- Technology sessions - how to create a digital photo album, Cyber safety, shopping online, etc.

Kew Library catchment and membership

Across the library service the biggest cohort of members are those aged 65 and over. At Kew Library 32.6% of all members (2,352) are aged 65 years and over, which is higher than the total overall across Boroondara (27.7%). With the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population forecasts indicating Kew's population is ageing, it is highly likely that this total will continue to grow into the future (Census 2021).

In 2022/23, 7,223 members borrowed an item at Kew Library, with the oldest member being 107 years of age. The number of physical items borrowed was 196,278 which equated to 17% of all loans across Boroondara's libraries.

Of these members, 82% (5,887) were residents of the City of Boroondara with the vast majority living near Kew Library. Library members can borrow materials from any of Boroondara's six libraries, and there is evidence to suggest that members will travel some distance to Kew Library, although in the case of residents in Ashburton, they are

less likely to travel to Kew Library, when Camberwell, Hawthorn and Balwyn Libraries are closer.

While 18% of members who borrowed an item at Kew Library in 2022/23 were non-residents from surrounding areas, there were two residential pockets in Richmond and Surrey Hills whose usage was significantly higher. This can potentially be attributed to the distance of the closest libraries in surrounding suburbs (Church Street, Richmond and Whitehorse Road, Box Hill), access to parking, more suitable opening hours, or a preference for the Kew Library collection. (Refer to **Figure 9** to see catchment area for Kew Library)

With a non-resident workforce of 13,994 and a high number of private schools in Kew, it is not surprising that a proportion of those travelling to (or through) Boroondara would find it more convenient to borrow from Kew Library. Ease of travel to Kew Library also seems to be a significant factor with a number of members living near main or arterial roads.

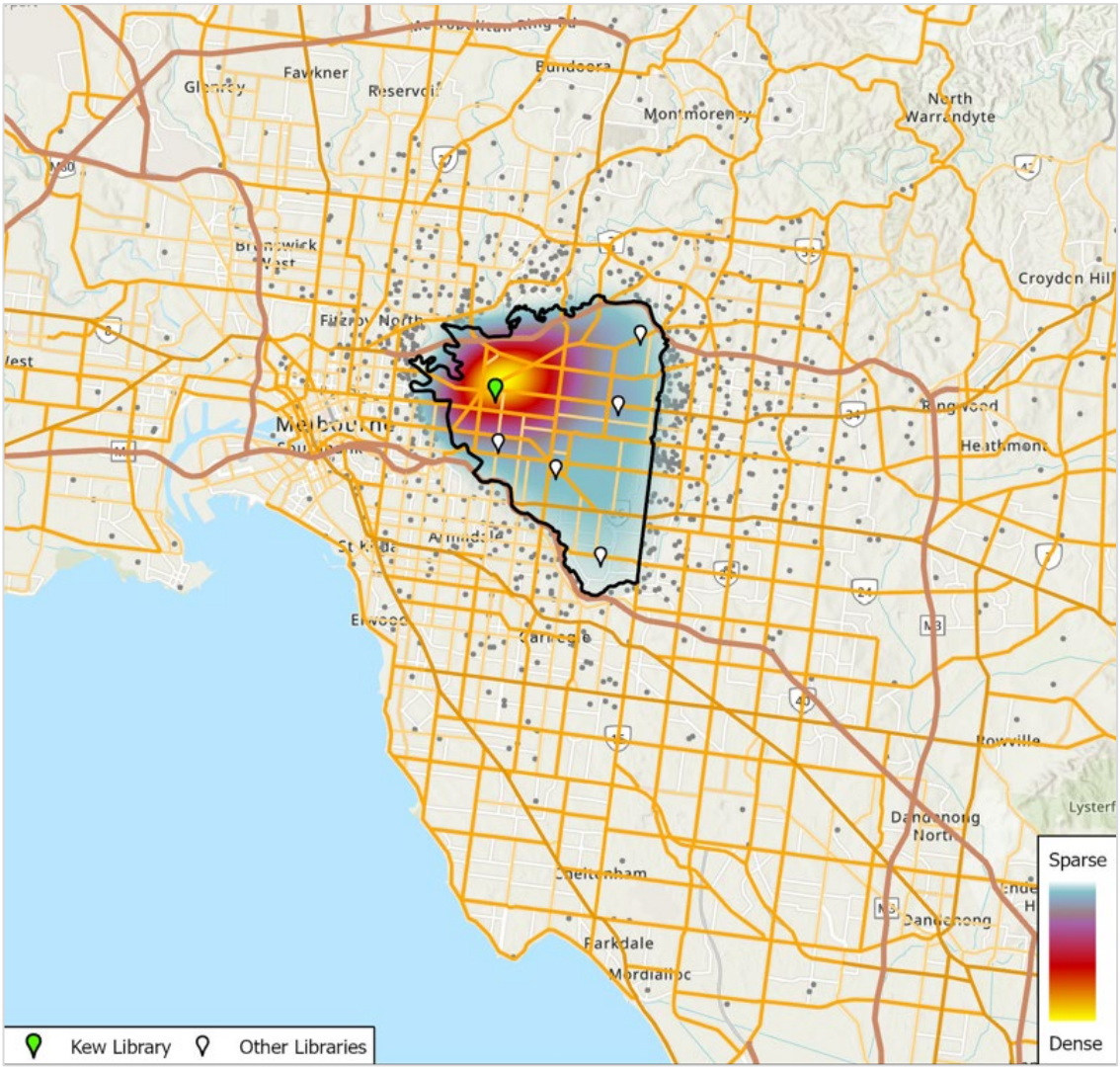


Figure 9: Heat map of library members who borrowed at Kew Library in 2022

Usage

Many parents choose to have only one library card for the family, especially when children are young. While there is no requirement for a child under 18 years of age to have their own membership card, at Kew Library the number of members under 15 years (who have their own membership card) is almost 4%. Further, loans of picture books, junior and teen fiction makes up 46.4% of all the loans at Kew Library.

In addition to library loans, in 2022/23 Kew Library also accounted for:

- 50,359 reservations (16.5% of all reservations placed across all Boroondara libraries)
- 5,049 members accessed the public Wi-Fi (being 13% of all Wi-Fi users).

While the number of library members is a key measure, it only tracks transactions where an individual is required to be a member. Individuals who walk into the library to read the newspaper, flip through a magazine, attend a program or just sit in the warm/cool environment, are not required to be a member. This usage (in 2022/23) was tracked through the following:

- 119,345 visits were recorded (15% of visitors across all libraries)
- 12,996 enquiries were answered (18.6% of enquiries asked across all libraries)
- 3,751 people attended adult and children's programs (13% of all people participating in programs).

4.4 Emerging needs, trends and opportunities

The needs analysis summary identifies current and future needs to inform a design that enables the library to readily adapt and ensure it remains relevant, well used and becomes a community space for all. Needs analysis for a new library address:

- **Community aspirations** for the project
- The needs of existing and future populations. **Demographics** indicate that by 2041 Kew's population will increase by 6,367 people (20.5%)
- **Community demand** for spaces for a diverse range of services programs. In 2022/23, Kew Library received 119,345 visits (2,295 per week), engaged with 3,751 participants in programs, answered 12,996 enquiries and had 196,278 loans.

Since the Boroondara Library Services Plan 2020 - 2025 was developed, the level of change experienced by the community has been significant with the COVID-19 pandemic, an increased level of social isolation, loneliness, increasing prevalence of mental illness and a rapid push onto digital platforms for core library services. The expectations of the community have also changed, and this requires public libraries to be responsive and ready to change to stay relevant for their community.

Identified emerging trends and opportunities include:

- Libraries as community hubs and places to connect
- Lifelong learning
- Enhancing the customer experience (including through the digital environment)
- Collaborating with others
- Kew Library's unique location
- Health and wellbeing

- Sustainability
- Changing nature of library collections
- Learnings from a post COVID-19 environment
- Cost of living.

Summary of existing and emerging needs

Existing and emerging needs to be addressed by a redeveloped Kew Library are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Existing and emerging needs

Need	Description
Population growth	Forecast demographics indicate the population in Kew is due to increase by 6,367 people by 2041, with increases of 29.3% in the 10 to 29 age range (+2,289) and 18.4% for persons aged 65 plus (+1,040). A high proportion of medium to high density housing with up to 2 bedrooms, combined with increasing levels of hybrid working arrangements, are likely to result in community members looking for spaces they can go to for online meetings and work. This combined with an ageing population who may feel isolated and are looking for opportunities to connect with others, and a high demand for study spaces by students attending schools in close proximity, will be important factors in the redevelopment of the library.
Young people and students	Boroondara has one of the highest concentrations of primary and secondary schools in the state, with a high proportion located in Kew and nearby Hawthorn. The Library is also well serviced by public transport. This means young people and students are likely to continue to access the Library as a study space and for learning resources. Teenagers use the public library as an individual and group study space, occasionally attend events and often read recreationally for entertainment during school holidays.
An ageing population	Kew has an ageing population, higher than Greater Melbourne, with an increasing median age and % of residents aged 65 years and over across the last 20 years. These include: • The 65 to 84 years age group: as individuals transition towards or enter retirement, the public library becomes a valuable resource for reading materials, a place to go and

Need	Description
	read the newspapers, to access the internet or to attend an event. • The 85 years+ age group: as people age and experience limited to no mobility, the role of the Home Library Service and online programs are vital to reduce social isolation and give a sense of connection to the wider community. Digital technologies may also play an increasing role in connecting cohorts with limited mobility into library services.
Increasing diversity	Mandarin or Cantonese speaking households in Kew are almost double the rate for Greater Melbourne (11.4% vs. 5.9%).
Engaged families	In comparison with Greater Melbourne, Kew has a lower proportion of children under 10 and adults aged 25 to 44 years. However, local families are active users of the Kew Library, and although the number of members under 15 years is just under 4% of all members, loans of picture books, junior and teen fiction makes up 46.4% of all Kew Library loans. In addition, there are several informal mothers' groups who meet in the children's areas at Kew Library. The Kew library is heavily used by children who attend storytimes and holiday programs and read prolifically through junior collections for entertainment and education. Plus, many individuals return to public libraries when they become parents, to provide their children with access to storytime programs and to commence reader development and literacy.
Individuals aged 18 to 34 years	Individuals aged 18 to 34 years, sporadically use the public library through this period of their life as they are often focused on tertiary studies / full time work.
Redeveloped facilities and increased visitation	Over the past 10 years three (3) of Boroondara's libraries have been redeveloped and it has been noticeable that visitation and/or usage increased after the redevelopment and has been sustained. Feedback received from customers after redevelopments is overwhelmingly positive with appreciation for the bright modern look at each location, along with increased space for activities, meetings and study. This trend was most evident with the redevelopment at Camberwell Library where within three months of moving into its current location, loans increased by 59% and visits jumped

Need	Description
	by 178%. After the redevelopment at Balwyn Library there was an increase in loans by 12% and visits by 11% within three months, while at Ashburton Library the increase in visitation was more gradual and is now 11% higher. It is probable that the redevelopment of Kew Library will follow a similar pattern.
Lone person households	Over one in five households in Kew Library's catchment is comprised of one person which is also predicted to grow over the coming 20-year period. The importance of the redeveloped Kew library providing a sense of community and connection for lone individuals was discussed by the community with increased space requirements needed to meet this increasing demand for the community's lounge room.

Summary of emerging trends and opportunities

Changing community trends and opportunities that libraries need to be aware of and plan for, are summarised in Table 6.

Table 6: Emerging trends and opportunities

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
Libraries as community hubs and places to connect	In the past few decades, public libraries have continued to re-invent themselves as active, engaging and thriving community hubs that combine literature, technology, culture, the arts and social connection. This includes the notion of libraries as a 'third place' where people spend time between home ('first' place) and work ('second' place). These spaces were seen as locations where ideas are exchanged, people have an enjoyable time, and build relationships. Post COVID-19, remote or hybrid workers are increasingly using libraries, with more people spending (at least part of) their workday at the library. Many libraries have adapted to accommodate this trend in their community spaces, meeting rooms and other reservable spaces. In a post pandemic environment, libraries are being referred to as a 'third working space' between home and work. Some Victorian libraries now run co-working spaces in partnership with other organisations.

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
Public libraries as a destination	Libraries are still hugely popular destinations. According to data published by The Sydney Morning Herald, about 7.6 million people visited Australian libraries in the 12 months to July 2019. The City of Boroondara Library Service has grown its active membership base over the last five years and is still significantly higher than surrounding municipal areas. Council anticipates the Kew Library Redevelopment will generate increased usage of the facility, with an improved layout and flow, increased natural light, and more spaces for study, reading and activities, leading to better customer experiences. For example, after the redevelopments at Camberwell (2012), Ashburton (2013) and Balwyn (2018) libraries, there was a noticeable increase in utilisation of each site, which has been sustained. Visitors to these redeveloped libraries have appreciated the fresh look and feel, along with the creation/enhancement of spaces, and increased community meeting and study spaces.
Lifelong learning	Public libraries are gathering places where local people and ideas come together. Libraries have become a central hub for lifelong learning and creativity, with large, open and flexible spaces in an environment of colour, sound, ideas and creativity. Recognising that there is a need for spaces for study, hybrid work and collaboration, is equally important. Anticipated lifelong learning programs include STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) and literacy programs will continue to be evolved to build up skills of children, young people and adults at all stages. The inclusion of multifunctional spaces will allow for formal and informal programs, to spark creativity, collaboration and innovation in community members who gain access to resources and expertise that might not otherwise be accessible. These spaces can be: • Technology based recording/podcast studios, 3D printing, laser cutting, (such as Makers Studios) etc. • DIY bicycle repairs, gardening, picture framing, etc. These type of maker spaces can have a sustainability focus. (Refer 'Sustainability' section below)

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
	• Craft based sewing, knitting, building model airplanes, painting, origami, etc.
Customer experience - including the Digital environment	Today's customers expect more personalised and immediate service. According to research[4]: • 80% of customers now consider the experience a company provides to be as important as its products and services • 66% of customers expect the companies they interact with to understand their unique needs, and • 88% expect companies to step up their digital initiatives as a result of the pandemic. In addition, access to emerging technologies to help build a digitally literate community are vital, especially for ageing populations and low-income households. Libraries are now actively reinventing themselves to be the library of the future, that not only continues to provide access to literature, but also has the leading-edge technology to ensure access is offered to all members of the community.
Collaborating with others	Programming in libraries is constantly evolving to remain relevant and meet the changing needs of the community. To meet a diverse range of community needs and interests, libraries are working collaboratively with a range of partners to increase opportunities for program delivery - with a focus on intergenerational programming. • Collaborations with other Council departments at the library working to deliver a range of programs across Council, such as active seniors, arts and culture, leisure and recreation, sustainability activities (e.g., worm farms, gardening and sustainable living etc). • Partnerships with external organisations including some service delivery and information provision these could be in the library space, gardens or outreach, and could include Neighbourhood houses, educational institutions, allied health groups etc.

[4] What Are Customer Expectations, and How Have They Changed? - Salesforce.com - sighted 1 May 2023

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
	• Partnerships with community groups to deliver programs and raise awareness of what they offer these include allied health support programs and information, sustainable ideas and support for the home, bicycle repair workshops with bike groups, crafting with Country Women's Association, gardening tips with garden clubs, etc.
Lending services	Public libraries have diversified into lending more than just physical and digital books and audio-visual items, moving towards being a 'Library of Things' that the community can borrow to try, use or keep. This can include: • Seed libraries - seeds are collected and shared (eg. Monash Public Library) • Kitchen library - crockery, cutlery and electrical appliances (eg. Yarra Libraries) • Tool libraries - range of tools, including gardening tools (popular in US) • Musical instruments - small instruments (popular in US) • Games libraries - board games and jigsaw puzzles.
Intergenerational programs	Regular programs (eg. intergenerational storytimes with aged care facilities, sing-a-longs) and family events celebrating significant days, social and cultural events (eg. Science week, Harmony Day) are an emerging opportunity. A community kitchen within the facility could also bring people together from different backgrounds and ages and has been used successfully overseas.
Kew Library's unique location	Kew Library is the only one of Boroondara's libraries to be adjacent to formal gardens and open space on either side, offering a unique opportunity to make the connection between the indoor and outdoor spaces that cannot be readily replicated at other libraries. This redevelopment could be a destination point for the community for the next 50 plus years, with well-designed spaces that will encourage partnerships and innovative thinking to maximise the potential for programming to take advantage of Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square. There is a growing trend for redesigned public libraries to incorporate green spaces through design principles that connect

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
	buildings to the natural environment. This can be through a connection to an existing green space, a design that creates a new green space or integrates the space into the building. An example includes New York Public Library's adjacent Bryant Park which is used by the library and wider community for programs and events. A more identifiable and connected Kew library to the adjoining gardens also offers opportunities for greater community safety incorporating CPTED principles.
Sustainability	Boroondara's climate action plan is a priority for both Council and the community. Redeveloping Kew Library to meet Boroondara Council's environmentally sustainable design objectives is a priority. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has seen an increased focus on air quality within public buildings including opportunities for 'pandemic proofing' of buildings through mixed-mode and natural ventilation. There is also increasing research and examples around the world of libraries as a source of information about sustainable living, including the establishment of sustainability hubs as an emerging programming opportunity[5].
Learnings from a post COVID-19 environment	Research[6] exploring emerging trends for the design of public libraries in post-COVID-19 environment identified the following: • The need for equality around digital technology • Reduced physical touchpoints • A focus more on community and social services • A desire for more localised services • The importance of communicating change to customers, staff and partners • Creation of flexible spaces to meet the need for community meeting and working spaces.

[5] Embree, J.K., & Gilman, N.V., (2020). The Library as a Campus Sustainability Hub: A Case Study in Increasing Community Engagement & Collaboration in Sustainability through Academic Libraries.
[6] Marshall, A., (July 28, 2020). Design Ideas for the Post-Pandemic Public Library Design Ideas for the Post-Pandemic Public Library (gensler.com)

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
Health and wellbeing	The Brief identifies strong connections between health and wellbeing (physical and mind) and community connection. Key emerging trends include: • **Social isolation and loneliness:** Boroondara is experiencing an increase in singles and couples in dwellings and studies have shown levels of social isolation and loneliness increased during the pandemic and remain high. • **Dementia**: this disease is increasing and was responsible for almost 230,000 years of healthy life lost among people aged 65 and over in 2022, a 61% increase since 20117. Kew (in line with Greater Melbourne) has an ageing population. • **Mental health**: this is only second to asthma as a long-term health condition in Kew, as identified in 2021 ABS census. • **Greenspaces and mental health**: major differences in disease prevalence are reported when comparing residents of very green and less green settings, even after controlling for socioeconomic status8. Physical activity in greenspaces has been defined as 'green exercise' and research has identified that: – People who use the natural environment for physical activity at least once per week have about half the risk of poor mental health compared with those who do not do so – Each extra weekly use of the natural environment for physical activity reduces the risk of poor mental health by a further 6% – This presents a significant opportunity for outdoor programming within the Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square which is facilitated through the Library's broader program and partnerships.

[7] Dementia in Australia, Summary - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (aihw.gov.au) - 23 February 2023
[8] Maas, J., Verheij, R. A., De Vries, S., et al. (2009) Morbidity is related to a green living environment. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 63, 967–973.

Emerging trend/ opportunity	Description
Changing nature of library collections	Public libraries are now evolving to be 'people-centred, not collections centred'[9]. Public libraries had already begun to shift collections of physical items to digital formats prior to the pandemic. The emergence of COVID-19 accelerated this trend, enabling libraries to continue providing services 24/7 with minimal interruption during lockdowns. Three years on from the beginning of the pandemic, many individuals find accessing content and services digitally is more convenient and nearly all information searches now begin online with an expectation that many resources will be readily available online. This is not a trend that will reverse itself. The challenge for contemporary library services is to find the balance between print and digital, along with the balance between the collection footprint and spaces for collaboration, study, reading and programs.
Cost of living	The emergence of significant financial pressures affecting the community after three years of the pandemic and continuous natural disasters, is a significant challenge for many individuals. Public libraries are a key community resource during periods of hardship. Anyone can visit a library and stay for an extended period, taking advantage of library services and amenities.

[9] To survive in the digital age and stay relevant, public libraries need to be brave and innovative - Council (councilmagazine.com.au) - 14 January 2022

5 Vision

5.1 Vision summary

"An inspirational Library Service where the community is central, and everyone feels welcome."

Boroondara Library Services Plan 2020 - 2025

Kew Library is a community hub - inspiring lifelong learning, wellbeing, collaboration and social connection.

5.2 How we will achieve the vision

The redeveloped Kew Library should reflect this vision and community consultation themes through the following elements.

Table 7: Vision description

Vision	Inspires a building that…
Identity	• Is welcoming for all ages • Encourages people to participate in programs they can readily access and generates an excitement for learning • Becomes a community focal point, a destination point • Generates a sense of pride and ownership • Strong connection to the existing outdoor spaces • Is known for innovative programming indoors and outdoors.
Ambience	• Compliments and enhances the surrounding area and adjacent Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square - they bring the outdoors inside and the indoors outside • Has a look and feel of enduring quality

Vision	Inspires a building that…
	• Feels comfortable for long or short-term visitation • Promotes and embodies sustainability • Reflects a sense of the history of Kew • Is vibrant and interesting • Offers a diversity of settings (flexible spaces) for all members. • Feels spacious, with strong visual links to the outside and clear wayfinding • Feels relaxed, inviting and engaging.
Flexibility & customer experience	• Accommodates a range of customer needs and activities throughout the day through library spaces that are open, flexible and spacious • Facilitates opportunities for collaboration and partnerships (enabling a diverse and responsive suite of programs and services) • Is safe and secure • Meets child safe standards • Is accessible to all and goes beyond mere compliance with standards • Provides a variety of well thought-out and designed spaces, including acoustics for quiet conversations, group study and activities, casual reading and intensive study • Provides technologically friendly spaces, including ready access to power/charging points • Is flexible, versatile, and multifunctional • Is functionally efficient and economic • Uses environmentally sustainable design principles in building design and operation • Facilitates access to collections in all formats • Creates positive experiences for customers interacting with the space.
Opportunities	• Enhances the library service's vision to help people to re-skill, re-learn, stay well and re-connect in flexible learning and social spaces

Vision	Inspires a building that…
	• Demonstrates Council's commitment to quality community infrastructure • Makes an eloquent statement on the community's value of culture • Integrates the library with Alexandra gardens and Petrie square.

5.3 Design Brief inclusions

Opportunities to incorporate the following mix of spaces and activities within the redeveloped library will continue to be explored as part of the detailed design process.

The following items have been allocated an indicative, high-level costing as part of the budget allocation in Council's Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) - refer section 6 below.

Table 8: Design Brief inclusions

Type of Space	Description: Spaces that allow for …
Collections	• Print collections - books, magazines, newspapers • Audio-visual collections - DVDs, talking books, music • Collection displays - new and interesting, themed.
Community spaces	• Community noticeboards • Artwork, display and exhibition spaces • Meeting places.
Customer service	• Self-serve kiosks for loans and renewals • Customer service desk for enquiries and assistance • Returns • Reservations - including after-hours reservation lockers.
Meeting rooms	• Meetings - small and larger (incl. after-hours access) • Can also accommodate talks or seminars as well as activities and programs.
Multipurpose program, events, and	• Creative makerspaces - craft, technology or DIY spaces • Events - for all ages

Type of Space	Description: Spaces that allow for …
performance spaces	• Passive activities - chess, board games and puzzles • Flexible spaces (that can be collection display during the day and rolled back to be event space in the evening) • Space which facilitate indoor and outdoor programming (refer example list below).
Community kitchen	• Community kitchen facilities for warming and serving food/ refreshments.
Quiet areas	• Study - individual and group • Hybrid working • Reading - for all ages • Quiet, relaxed and sensory friendly.
Staff	• Library service offices and desks • Storage • Home Library Service • Stock management.
Technology	• Computers • WIFI • New and emerging technologies.
Amenities	• Public toilets
Outdoor space/ decking	• Activities, programs and events • Connection with Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square • Connection with natural environment.
Artworks and civic memorabilia	• 'The Four Seasons', Stained-glass window by artist John Summers (currently on eastern façade facing Civic Drive). • World War 2 memorial and wall-relief sculpture (currently on external Cotham Rd façade).

5.4 Example programs

The spaces above propose to facilitate a range of activities and programs. An example list is provided in the table below.

Table 9: Example programs

Potential / example programs	Description
Indoor	• Storytimes, playgroups and school holiday programs • STEAM programs • Intergenerational educational and informational workshops to raise awareness of council programs (eg. Reusable nappies) • New and emerging technologies • Author talks and book groups • Informative pop-ups of community initiatives (eg. Local employment opportunities, sustainability) • Introductory workshops with Neighbourhood & Community Houses (eg. Watercolour painting) • Creative writing workshops • Local history programs • Health and wellbeing programs (men's groups, healthy eating programs, yoga, tai chi).
Outdoor	• Intergenerational or topic-based activities (eg. Bees) • Outdoor storytimes and school holiday programs. • Partnerships with local recreation centres for activity based programs • Christmas markets • Photograph, outdoor painting workshops • Introductory workshops with Neighbourhood/Community Houses (eg. Pilates, Yoga) • Collaborations with Sustainability, Arts and Parks Teams for outdoor events (eg. Worm farms, performances in the park) • Connection to land, star gazing, awareness.

5.5 Design Brief exclusions requiring further investigation

The following items are not included in the budget allocation in the Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) and emerged as opportunities in 2017 and 2023 community consultation processes. The detailed design process will involve innovative approaches to explore how the elements below might be incorporated into the building design within the LTFS budget allocation. If moving forward, there is misalignment between the

allocated budget and cost estimate, a further report will be submitted to Council for consideration.

Table 10: Design Brief exclusions (subject to further investigation)

Type of Space (tbc)	Description: Spaces that allow for …
Mini cafe	• Hot/cold beverages (e.g., Coffee etc) • Limited food offering - toasted sandwiches, muffins.
Community organisation space	• Dedicated exclusive space for community organisations to be based at the facility. *
Consulting spaces	• Community organisations can book a space to meet clients • Council services can access a space to meet residents/ clients.
Staff	• Dedicated space (office/ storage) for Council's Parks team
Artworks and civic memorabilia	• The "Grip of Time" sculpture by artist Peter Schipperheyn (currently on external Cotham Rd façade); and • The "City of Kew Coat of Arms" sculptural relief (located adjacent to the "Grip of Time" sculpture).

* Kew Historical Society has been connected with the Kew Library since 1987 when the library moved to the converted City Hall. The Historical Society has informed Council of its preference is to stay at the Kew Library.

The current brief does not include a dedicated exclusive space for community organisations. However, the Kew Historical Society could be accommodated in the redeveloped library if other previously considered library components were reduced.

5.6 Design principles

The design principles developed for the Kew Library Redevelopment are:

- **Community aspirations** - the design incorporates the themes identified from community consultation
- **Safety** - the design applies Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to maximise a sense of safety of people using the precinct

- **Design excellence** - the facility design encourages an innovative, creative, and sensitive design approach - including consideration of local heritage
- **Flexibility** - the design maximises the facility's ability to be flexible, adaptable, multi-purpose, functional and able to change over time
- **Sustainability** - the design reflects Council's sustainability commitments and minimises the building's carbon footprint throughout its life cycle
- **Accessibility** - the design reflects Council's disability commitments and goes beyond mere compliance with accessibility standards
- **Cost** - can be delivered within Council's long term financial plan and considers both design/construction as well as life-cycle costs.

6 Project detail

6.1 Project staging

It is anticipated the Kew Library redevelopment will be delivered over a multi-year period starting 2023/24. Key stages include:

- Pre-design: Vision and community consultation
- Design development
- Construction and fit-out.

6.2 Financial implications

Council has allocated $20.647 million in its Long-Term Financial Strategy (LTFS) towards the Kew Library Redevelopment across multiple financial years. As this project is only at the pre-design phase, the total project cost is an estimate based on the best available information known at this time and undertaken by a quantity surveyor. As the project design progresses, more confidence can be had in the project cost estimate.

7 Conclusion - Creation of a new library

Building a new library involves the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building with a connection to the gardens.

The rebuild would provide a purpose-built library and offers the following opportunities:

- Reinvent the library with exemplar design, flow and connection with surrounding precinct, parkland and streetscape so it becomes a destination point.
- Develop versatile multifunctional spaces that can adapt to the changing needs of the community and remain relevant into the future.
- Take advantage of the proximity of Alexandra Gardens and Petrie Square using design principles that connect buildings to the natural environment and create a strong connection between indoors and outdoors.
- A more identifiable and connected Kew library to the adjoining gardens also offers opportunities for greater community safety with CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles.
- Will meet minimum Green Star 5-Star (or equivalent) standard as outlined in Council's Sustainable Council Buildings Policy.
- Build life of 50 to 60 years.

Located within the Kew Junction Structure Plan precinct, the Kew Library project has the potential to create a unique asset for the whole municipality, through an iconic purpose-built library design which allows indoor and outdoor programming in adjacent Petrie Square and Alexander Gardens. An inspiring example of a library which successfully programs indoor and outdoor activities is the New York Public Library and adjacent Bryant Park, which are programmed to complement each other's activities. The broad suite of community indoor and outdoor programs and events have created a highly successful public space.

Figure 10: New York Public Library and adjacent Bryant Park.