

Process Letter 18/3/08

Demo moves ahead

CASSIE MAHER

THE pending demolition of the first heritage-registered building at Kew Cottages has raised questions about the future use of three historic buildings at the site.

The women's hospital block was set to be demolished during stage three of the redevelopment, but was brought forward to stage two by developer Walker Corporation.

Planning Minister Justin Madden approved the decision last month.

The hospital, built in 1898 to quarantine female residents with infectious diseases, could now be torn down as early as July.

Two nearby cottages are also earmarked for demolition, but one remaining cottage, the school house and the dining room will be retained.

Kew Cottages Coalition secretary Don Anderson said it was a pity that such a historic building would be torn down.

"I think it's something that deserves preserving," he said.

"Today, buildings come and go and they've got a life of only 20 or 30 years."

But Louise Godwin, of the Kew Cottages Parents' Association,



Don Anderson wants to save the women's hospital at Kew Cottages.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN n37pp106

said she would rather focus on the remaining buildings than dwell on the inevitable.

Boroondara Council planning director Phillip Storer said that while Walker and the State Government were responsible for the remaining buildings, the council had suggested a medical centre, cafe, gallery, childcare centre or gym as possible uses.

He said the buildings should be used to provide services for people living on site to reduce the impact on existing off-site services.

Walker project director David Jones said the hospital's demolition was brought forward because it was a "more sensible way of building the site".

He said stage two would include more housing but the

remaining heritage-listed buildings would include services for intellectually disabled residents.

Heritage Victoria spokeswoman Angie Phelan said Walker must submit plans of the hospital site's redevelopment before it began the demolition.

"We want the proposal to be heritage sensitive," she said.



BOROONDARA
City of Harmony

This weekly billboard, along with Council's monthly Boroondara Bulletin magazine, provide you with the community news that matters!

Garbage and kerbside recycling

Residents are reminded that there will be no garbage and kerbside recycling collections on Good Friday, 21 March. The collection will take place on Saturday 22 March, with normal collections resuming Friday 28 March. The depot / Transfer Station will be closed on

Mar...

Marar... invites... Wedne... Library... Enqui... Ticke...