MAROONDAH YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Variondah City Council





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Victorian Seniors Festival activities in Maroondah

Welcome to the Spring edition of Maroondah *news*

In this edition, read about a range of community news, updates and events.

Council Customer Service opening hours

Our Customer Service team is here to help. Visit us at:

Realm

Ringwood Town Square 179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood (opposite Ringwood Station)

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm Open Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 5pm Open 10am to 5pm, Friday 26 September (Grand Final Eve public holiday)

Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Closed on all weekends and public holidays.

Read online

Scan the QR code to read our latest edition of **Maroondah** *news* online.



Scan the QR code to subscribe to **Maroondah eNews**, our digital community newsletter.



Maroondah City Council is committed to providing equitable service to all in our community. Please contact us on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 if you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format.

CONNECT WITH US



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Front page: Members of a work skills volunteer group at Ringwood Golf. Read more on page 3.

Mayor's message

Welcome to the new-look Maroondah *news*!

The Victorian Government recently released *Victoria's* Housing Statement, The Decade Ahead 2024-2034, which includes a number of initiatives to achieve their commitment to deliver more housing. Many of their significant planning reforms will change the way planning applications are assessed and decided throughout Victoria.

Whilst some new standards were welcomed, Council has been strongly advocating on several of the proposed changes. Our submission to the Victorian Government included concerns about:

- the lack of community consultation
- poor design and safety outcomes
- the removal of established neighbourhood character considerations
- the removal of local variations to some of the standards
- increased complexity of applying the standards
- the removal of appeal rights for residents and property owners, and limits being placed on Council's scope to achieve more site responsive outcomes in some situations.



These changes will significantly impact the way Maroondah's residential areas will look and feel into the future. I encourage you to also share your thoughts with your local Member of Parliament, both in the lower and upper houses, to provide feedback directly to the Victorian Government and ensure your voice, and the voice of our community, is heard.

In other news, this edition features stories from around our community, progress on current Capital Works projects and updates from Maroondah's nine Councillors. You can also find key safety tips as part of Community Safety Month, and events for all ages, including Maroondah Festival 2025, coming up on Sunday 9 November at Town Park in Croydon.

Visit Council's website to discover events, activities and programs near you, and to sign up for our range of eNewsletters for regular updates.

Warm regards,

lyle Good.

Cr Kylie Spears Mayor of Maroondah

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 22 September, 7.30pm Monday 27 October, 7.30pm

For the purpose of adopting Council's Annual Report

Wednesday 12 November, 7pm Election of Mayor and

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Where: Council Chamber, Realm, Ringwood

Join online:

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ Council-meetings

If attending in person, please arrive on time for the start of the meeting.

Supporting community participation for people with disabilities

People with disabilities are gaining valuable work experience at Ringwood Golf as part of a work skills volunteer program.

The volunteer group supports Ringwood Golf every Wednesday, assisting with a range of maintenance tasks including sand and bucket collection, raking bunkers, weeding and mulching garden beds, cleaning sheds, dismantling furniture and pricing items for the Pro Shops.

The program has been facilitated by Council and Onemda, a disability



Volunteers assisting with raking bunkers.

services and support organisation that provides learning and development programs for people with a disability.

The volunteers enthusiastically give everything a go. One of the volunteers, Josh, likes "doing the buckets" and the social aspect of the program, such as talking with golfers and employees.

Another volunteer, Cam, is a hard worker who enjoys "getting things done", particularly collecting the sand buckets.

The volunteers have become familiar faces at Ringwood Golf and have also assisted at other local facilities, including planting at Dorset Golf in Croydon, as well as weeding, putting down mulch and assisting with moving items at CRISP Nursery in Ringwood.

The tasks complement and build upon skills developed in their gardening and woodworking programs at Onemda.

Steve, the group's support worker, has enjoyed watching their independence grow.

"When we first got here, it was almost hand-over-hand assistance in everything. Now, I can send them to do some things on their own. They have progressed lots in the past year and a half. And that's what the program is about: work skills. They learn the tools of the job so that potentially one day they could get some gardening or maintenance work," Steve said.

Council is proud to offer environments that support people with disabilities to explore their personal interests, learn new things and develop employment skills while participating in community life.

Celebrating culture and community

Local arts, connection and community spirit were on show at this year's First Peoples Mullum Market, held during National Reconciliation Week in Ringwood Town Square.

Launched in 2024, the market gives the community a chance to explore First Peoples arts and culture, homewares, jewellery and education from a range of market stalls. Visitors to this year's market enjoyed bush-tucker inspired food, free children's nature play activities, an Acknowledgment of Country by Karen Milward AM, a Smoking Ceremony, and family arts activities at Realm Library and ArtSpace, along with an artist talk by Simone Thomson on her *Marrup Biik – Spirit Land* exhibition.

Among this year's returning stallholders was N'Dene Riley, whose vibrant artworks, prints, and hand-painted jewellery drew plenty of interest.

"The market was fabulous and culturally inclusive," N'Dene said.

"A teacher came and bought my artwork – this has led to [me creating] an art mural on their kindergarten and childcare wall."

The market was proudly presented by Maroondah City Council in partnership with Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Mullum Creations, Your Library and Eastland.



A selection of N'Dene's art on canvas.

National Reconciliation Week is acknowledged from 27 May to 3 June each year. It is an opportunity to learn about and recognise First Nations cultures and to promote reconciliation.

Take part in Children's Week

Join us from Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 October for a range of activities to celebrate Children's Week.



Image supplied by the Victorian Government for Children's Week 2025

Held each October, Children's Week is a national event that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children. This year's theme is *Everyone should know about children's rights* – recognising the importance of everyone understanding the unique rights of children.

A great range of free activities will be on offer throughout the week, including some sessions on weekends and evenings, for families with children aged 0 to 12 years old. Activities on offer will include
African drumming workshops and
performances, a children's clothes
swap event, bushland activities, a
grandparents' play date, free webinars
for parents, carers and educators, and
more! Your Library will also be hosting
a storytelling and magic show as part of
the fun, as well as giant games and an
obstacle course.

Visit Council's website for dates, locations and details. All activities are free, but bookings are required for some events.

Providing creative experiences for children

A new program is offering children in Maroondah the chance to try different artforms across multiple disciplines, learn new skills, connect with their community and explore nature.

The program, titled *Imagine: Creative Experiences* for Children, will be presented by Council with support from a VicHealth Grant. It will deliver creative programming for primary school-aged children, with a specific focus on 8 to 12 year olds.

A variety of low-cost workshops will be available between September and November at Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon and ArtSpace at Realm in Ringwood Town Square, and will feature fun weekend experiences, playful round robins and arts programs aimed at developing creative skills and curiosity in children.

The program focuses on opening children's eyes to creative possibilities, teaching them skills to foster

further investigation, and acknowledging the vital role creativity plays in the transitional years of learning. Workshops will feature painting, pottery, drawing, dance and photography.

Visit Council's website to find out more.





Enchanting family fun – Halloween at Wyreena

Hop on your broomstick and fly to Wyreena Community Arts Centre in Croydon, if you dare, for enchanting family fun this Halloween!

Join us from 4.30pm on Friday 31 October for a range of activities.

Soak up the atmosphere in the Wyreena gardens and playspace, with free music and activities for the whole family from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. Bring a picnic or enjoy extended Conservatory Café opening hours for snacks and refreshment options until 7.30pm.

Halloween House

Families and children aged 5 to 12 years are also invited to explore the historic Silver Birches building at Wyreena while it has been transformed into a new immersive Halloween House experience

for young witches and wizards. Expect gentle thrills and exciting magical lesson, with experiences available from 4pm to 8pm.

Access to Halloween House is ticketed and bookings are essential. Bookings close at 9am on Friday 31 October unless sold out earlier. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$89 for a group of five.

Halloween House is provided in partnership with True Fairies.

Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for details and to book.



September

November

What's on in Maroondah



Visit Council's website or scan the QR code for more information about these and other events. Hosting a community event? Visit our website and add your event to our online 'Events calendar'.

EXTENDED LIGHTING

Thursdays in September 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Athletics track at Town Park in Croydon



LIFT THE LID - WALK **FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

10am to 1pm Meet at Town Park, Croydon

MAYORAL ART EXHIBITION

Monday 22 September to Saturday 8 November

Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood





PATHWAYS FOR CARERS PROGRAM WALK

> 1pm to 3pm Meet at Realm, Ringwood Town Square

October



GROWING VELLBEING **ACTIVITY DAY**

11am to 2pm Realm and Ringwood Town Square



SUSTAINABLE STYLE SAFARI

11am to 12noon

Realm, Ringwood Town Square



RUN MAROONDAH

9am start HE Parker Reserve, Heathmont



MOVEMENT AND POSITIVE AGEING EXPO

10am to 1pm

Maroondah Nets, Heathmont

MAROONDAH FESTIVAL

10am to 4pm

Town Park, Croydon





THE NIGHTINGALES **AT WYREENA**

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wyreena Conservatory Café, Croydon

WYREENA MAKERS MARKET

9am to 2pm

Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon



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SPRING 2025

Come and try the ninja program

The ninja program is off to a flying start at Maroondah Leisure! If your child is thinking about getting involved, why not register for a 'come and try' session in the September school holidays?

The 'come and try' sessions will run for 60 minutes each and give your child a taste of what the ninja program is all about. Watch your child jump, climb and conquer obstacles like a true ninja.

Sessions are tailored for children in two age groups, 5 to 8 years and 9 to 12 years, and the 'come and try' sessions are available from Monday 22 to Thursday 25 September.

Session times will be between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. Each session is \$25 per person. Want to join the ninja program after your 'come and try' session? We will waive the joining fee!

Harry, who takes part in the program for 9 to 12 year olds, is enjoying the program.

"I love all the activities that we do... Hamish is a really good and kind teacher, and we have lots of fun."

To find out more and book, visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au/ninja



Your Councillors



BARNGEONG WARD Cr Chris Jones

Mobile: 0418 109 015 chris.jones@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Council is committed to preserving Maroondah's leafy greenness and the unique character of individual neighbourhoods, such as the Golf Links Estate in Croydon.

Council recently sought feedback from residents about the future of trees and vegetation in the estate, as many of the existing trees are nearing the end of their expected useful lifespan.

Renewing street trees forms part of our ongoing efforts to create healthier, more resilient streetscapes. Planting new, appropriate species helps maintain the estate's distinctive leafy character and support a healthy canopy into the future.

This is one of many projects delivered through Council's broader Street Tree Renewal Program, creating healthier, greener streets.

Learn more on our website.



BUNGALOOK WARD Cr Catherine Gordon

Mobile: 0447 538 636 catherine.gordon@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Bungalook Conservation Reserve is home to the critically endangered Kilsyth South Spider-Orchid – a rare native plant that exists nowhere else in the world but here in Maroondah. This remarkable orchid is just one example of the incredible biodiversity supported by our nature reserves.

While these special places are carefully managed through ongoing conservation efforts by Council and volunteers, they remain vulnerable to disturbance – particularly from dogs and cats.

We can all play our part in protecting Maroondah's native plants and wildlife by keeping dogs on-leash in reserves and ensuring our cats are kept safely on our properties.

Visit Council's website to learn more about responsible pet ownership and caring for our environment.



JUBILEE WARD Cr Claire Rex

Mobile: 0476 010 752 claire.rex@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Are you looking to add something special to your garden? Visit CRISP Nursery in Ringwood, where volunteers nurture around 30,000 native plants annually. From hardy grasses to indigenous species, it's a great way to support our biodiversity and bring nature into your backyard.

I'm also excited that the new Access Key for Jubilee Park is now on Council's website. Created in partnership with Access Ability Australia, this guide makes it easier for everyone to navigate the park, with clear information on facilities, pathways, and accessible toilets.

Construction works have also begun on Canterbury Road, Heathmont, following advocacy from Council and Transport Victoria. These upgrades aim to improve road safety – focusing on the intersection at Sunset Drive. Visit the Transport Victoria website to find out more.

Arts in Maroondah

What's happening across Maroondah's arts sector, including exhibitions and theatre shows for all ages.



KARRALYKA

Scan the QR code for more information or to book, visit the Karralyka website at www.karralyka.com.au or call 9870 2888.



RICHARD CLAPTON

Friday 19 September, 7.30pm

\$79 per person, \$74 for concession, \$69 for members

Don't miss Aussie music icon Richard Clapton, performing powerful covers of '60s legends like Bob Dylan, The Byrds and The Doors, plus his own timeless hits. The night begins with a support act from 7.30pm to 8pm, followed by an interval and Richard's full set from 8.20pm to 9.30pm. Celebrate the music of peace, love and understanding.



THE LIBRARIAN

Tuesday 23 September, 11am and 2pm

\$25 per person, \$88 for a family pass

At first glance, Paul-Émile Dumoulin seems like just a regular librarian – serious, proud and very orderly. But when he opens a book, reality disappears! Suddenly, he transforms into wild characters who juggle, dance, balance and beatbox. Direct from Canada, *The Librarian* blends clowning, circus and physical theatre in a joyful celebration of imagination and reading. Recommended for ages 5+. This show is 50 minutes with no interval.



WE REMEMBER – SPIRIT OF THE ANZACS AND VETS

Tuesday 11 November, 10.30am and 1.30pm

\$25 per person

This Morning Music production from Promac will commemorate the spirit of the ANZACs and Vietnam Veterans with great songs from The Andrews Sisters, Vera Lynn, Bob Dylan, John Denver and Tom Jones, to name just a few. There are also a few laughs along the way. Every Morning Music show ticket includes tea, coffee and delicious treats.



Don't miss these exciting events! Scan the QR code or visit the 'Exhibitions and arts events' page on Council's website to learn more about these and other events.





MAYORAL ART EXHIBITION

Monday 22 September to Saturday 8 November

Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood

Celebrate the contribution that thousands of exhibiting artists, together with founding partner Bone Marrow Donor Institute Croydon, have made over three decades in advancing medical research.

Supported by Maroondah City Council, and Community Bank Ringwood East and Croydon.



DISsolution – megan evans Monday 17 November to Friday 16 January

Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood

DISsolution is megan evans' artistic response to the outcome of the 2023 referendum on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. "For over 15 years, my work has explored the importance of acknowledging and taking responsibility for my settler-colonial ancestors," megan said.



WYREENA MAKERS MARKET
Saturday 29 November, 9am to 2pm

Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon

Visit our artists and makers at Wyreena and buy something for yourself or someone you love. Wander the stalls inside the main heritage building and around Wyreena's beautiful gardens, bring a picnic or enjoy something to eat from The Conservatory Café. Enjoy the start of your Christmas shopping at Wyreena this November.

Nature and community thrive in Ringwood East

A shared love of nature has brought neighbours together to nurture and protect native bushland.



What began with just a couple of committed residents has grown into the Friends of Walhalla and Hume Reserves – a group dedicated to caring for two special green spaces in Ringwood East.

With support from Maroondah's Bushland Revegetation team, Hume Reserve has transformed from overlooked land into a thriving pocket of indigenous plants, attracting native birds, insects and animals.

Nearby, Walhalla Drive Reserve offers a nature-inspired playspace with paths, seating and a yarning circle, welcoming both people and wildlife. This reserve has also benefited from the efforts of about 30 local families, who have helped plant and care for seven garden cells since 2022, including the installation of kookaburra nesting boxes last year.

These shared efforts are helping nature thrive, while strengthening community connections along the way.

Want to get involved? Visit the 'Natural environment community groups' page on Council's website to join a local 'Friends of' group or volunteer with Council's Bushland team.

Advocating for better roads in Maroondah

As we enter spring, warmer weather encourages the rapid growth of vegetation. Whilst this is welcomed in Maroondah's parks and reserves, this is not often the case along our busy road network.

Overgrown grass and vegetation along median strips can reduce sightlines for motorists and pose an increased fire risk to surrounding properties and reserves.

Maroondah City Council looks after local and non-arterial roads in Maroondah.

VicRoads manages and maintains all 15 arterial roads in Maroondah:

- Bayswater Road
- Canterbury Road
- Croydon Road
- Dorset Road
- Hull Road
- Maroondah Highway
- Mt Dandenong Road
- Plymouth Road
- Ringwood Bypass
- Wantirna Road
- Warrandyte Road
- Warranwood Road
- Wicklow Avenue
- Wonga Road (between Warranwood Road and Croydon Road)
- Yarra Road

Resident concerns have increased in recent years regarding the condition of arterial roads in Maroondah that are managed by VicRoads, with a lack of regular maintenance leading to increased potholes and uneven surfaces.

Without these issues being addressed by VicRoads in a timely manner, residents face a heightened risk of vehicular damage or major collisions, particularly on high-speed or arterial roads.

Council is continuing to advocate to the Victorian Government for the repair of unsafe and unsightly major roads and median strips managed by VicRoads.

In writing to Melissa Horne, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Council has called for the immediate need for regular

and ongoing arterial road maintenance to address safety risks, fire hazards and amenity impacts.

Council is also calling on the Department of Transport and Planning to allocate the necessary resources to ensure arterial roads and median strips are adequately maintained in Maroondah.

REPORT AN ISSUE

All matters relating to major arterial roads should be directed to VicRoads on 13 11 71.

You can find a list of Councilmanaged roads by visiting Council's website.



Plan, prepare and play it safe

Community Safety Month is held every October and reminds us that we all have a role to play in keeping Maroondah a safe place to live, work, play and visit.

HAVE AN EMERGENCY PLAN

Being prepared for emergencies can help you and your family to recover afterwards.

An emergency plan will help you think about what you will do if a fire, power outage, storm or flood happens at your home, or in your area.

The plan should detail what you and your family will do before, during and after an emergency.

Share your written plan with the rest of your family and friends, and practice it with them.

Get to know your neighbours, including those on your street who might need assistance during or after an emergency.

To help you get started, visit the 'Preparing for emergencies' page on Council's website and download a copy of the *Are you prepared for an emergency?* booklet.

The booklet includes essential information to help you and your family know what to do before, during and after an emergency or significant event, such as house, grass and bush fires, heatwaves, storms, floods, power outages and infectious diseases, as well as important contact details.



DURING EMERGENCIES

In an emergency, call 000 for police, fire and ambulance. You can also report non-urgent crimes and events anytime, anywhere by calling the Police Assistance Line on 131 444 or by submitting an online report on the Victoria Police website www.police.vic.gov.au

Call Council on 1300 88 22 33 to report after-hours emergencies that need immediate action by Council, such as road-based hazards, flooding, fallen trees, a dog attack, or illegal burning off.

Check in on your neighbours.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

You can also get up-to-date information from:

- The Vic Emergency app, hotline 1800 226 226 or website, www.emergency.vic.gov.au/ respond
- ABC local radio: 774 AMEastern FM radio: 98.1 FM
- The Ausnet Power Outages tracker: www.outagetracker.com.au
- Local police stations:

Croydon: 171-175 Mt Dandenong Road, Croydon. Call: 9724 0100

Ringwood: 31 Ringwood Street, Ringwood. Call: 9871 3000

- Maroondah SES unit: Maroondah City Council Operations Centre, 24-28 Lincoln Road, Croydon.
 For flood and storm emergencies, call 132 500
- Alerts from the Chief Health Officer.
 These alerts advise of an urgent issue that poses an immediate threat to public health and requires an immediate response. View these on the Department of Health website: www.health.vic.gov.au/publichealth/chief-health-officer
- Council: 1300 88 22 33



WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- Download the VicEmergency App on your smart phone and electronic devices.
- Save important contact numbers into your phone such as family and friends, Council 1300 88 22 33 and the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226.
- Make sure your house number is clearly visible and your driveway is accessible for emergency service vehicles.
- Write an emergency plan. You can find templates and more information on Council's website, along with resources from the CFA, Fire Rescue Victoria, SES and more.
- Prepare your property for the storm season between October and March, to help minimise the risk of flash flooding around your property. Visit Council's website for tips.
- If you have animals, make sure they are part of your emergency plan and consider where you will relocate them to.

- If you have special medical needs for continuous power supply, discuss this with your energy retailer.
- Practice your emergency plan with the whole family, including pets.
- Practice packing your car so you know how long it will take you.
- Make copies of important documents such as passports, insurance papers and medical scripts. Save these electronically and ensure you back them up.
- Get insurance and review what it covers. Consider household, business and income protection insurance.
- Pack an emergency kit and keep it somewhere easily accessible. See the Are you prepared for an emergency? booklet on Council's website for ideas.
- Build connections in your local street and community. Talk to your neighbours about your emergency plans and see if there are ways you can assist each other.

SPRING 2025



Victorian Seniors Festival in Maroondah

Join us as we celebrate the contributions and achievements of older people in our community and promote positive ageing and wellbeing.

Older people are encouraged to take part in events and activities close to home and right across the state in celebration of the Victorian Seniors Festival, which coincides with International Day of Older Persons on 1 October.

This year's Victorian Seniors Festival theme – Connect, Create, Celebrate – invites older Victorians to come together, discover new interests and have fun.

It is a great way to create new connections, explore new interests, discover ways to remain happy and healthy, and engage in activities meaningful to you at every age.

MOVEMENT AND POSITIVE AGEING EXPO

Tuesday 7 October, 10am to 1pm, Maroondah Nets, 154 Heathmont Road, Heathmont

This free expo is a great way for Maroondah residents aged 50 and over to find out more about the many local venues, clubs and organisations offering information and a 'come and try' format for a range of opportunities, interests, physical activities and supports available in Maroondah. Comfortable clothes and shoes are encouraged for participation in some activities, but not essential.

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Enjoy live ambient music and free delicious snacks as you find out more about positive ageing in and around Maroondah. Visit our stallholders for your chance to win a prize, including a free barista-made coffee. You can find out more details on the day.

Bookings are not required, so just come along!

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Older people in our community are also invited to take part in a range of free and low-cost activities hosted by Your Library, Maroondah's community centres and neighbourhood houses, and local groups for older people.

Bookings may be required for some events.

Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to view dates and details.



MAJOR EVENT: VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL CELEBRATION DAY

Sunday 5 October Federation Square, Melbourne

A free, fun-filled day of music, entertainment and community to launch the festival.

Find out more on the Seniors Online Victoria website

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

SENIORS TRANSPORT

Did you know Victorian Seniors Card holders can receive public transport concessions when using a Seniors Myki? Other benefits include eight days of free public transport across Victoria from Sunday 5 to Sunday 12 October, including:

- Metropolitan trains, trams, and buses
- V/Line trains and coaches
- Selected regional buses outside the Myki area.

Visit the Seniors Online Victoria website **www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au** for details.

If you haven't used public transport in a while, pick up a copy of Council's *Seniors Transport Guide* for information on travel discounts for older people, using a Myki card, transport options and other helpful travel tips.

The booklet is available at Council's Customer Service Centres, or you can download a copy from our website: www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Seniors-Transport-Guide

Call us on 1300 88 22 33 to request to have a copy posted to you.

MAROONDAHNEWS

Boost your wellbeing

It's World Mental Health Month this October. Join us for our free Growing Wellbeing Activity Day and experience fun, engaging ways to look after your mental health and wellbeing.

Come along to Realm and Ringwood Town Square on Wednesday 1 October and get involved in a range of free activities for all ages between 11am and 2pm.

Enjoy activities including herb seedling planting, a workshop to help improve your sleep, a group art activity focusing on sustainability, a bicycle-powered smoothie-making station, weed weaving and nature crafts, an activity to help you find and grow your character strengths, interactive children's activities for safe bike riding, a helmet fitting station, and more! Some sessions require

bookings – visit Council's website to learn more and to book.

A range of organisations will be there, so you can learn about some of the local mental health and wellbeing support services and programs available.

Council is proud to present this event in partnership with Eastland, Your Library and Communities of Wellbeing to raise awareness about the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing for community members of all ages and backgrounds.



Collaborative Mullum Mullum Creek habitat creation project

Council has received funding to support a collaborative project to protect, improve and create habitat along the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor.

Council applied for the funding on behalf of Manningham City Council, Whitehorse City Council and Parks Victoria, under the Victorian Government's Green Links Grants program. Having successfully received this funding, Council will be coordinating the joint delivery of a habitat creation project along the Mullum Mullum Creek, with works to take place across parts of the Maroondah, Manningham and Whitehorse municipalities.

This project arose from a wider collaboration of 22 organisations, including Maroondah, Manningham and Whitehorse City Councils and Parks Victoria, that are committed to improving the health of the Mullum Mullum Creek.

The habitat creation project aims to protect, improve and create new habitat opportunities for a diverse range of species at 11 sites along the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor by:

 improving habitat connectivity, structure and diversity for a variety of birds, mammals, the Southern Toadlet and other species through revegetation works;

- creating a new wetland with creek shaping and planting, building habitat and improving water quality, and creating open unshaded habitats for frogs and lizards;
- installing artificial hollows for Powerful Owls in four locations.

The habitat creation project has received more than \$183,000 in funding through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Green Links Grants program.

The funding will also support Council in implementing aspects of our Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan 2025-2035.

You can find out more about the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan or read the plan on Council's website.

For more information about the Green Links Grants program, visit **www.water.vic.gov.au**



Be battery safe

Items with embedded batteries should never be placed in any bin. Be battery safe and take them to a local electronics drop-off point instead.

Items with embedded batteries can cause fires, endangering the safety of Council's waste collection truck drivers, waste processors and our community. Take these items to a local electronics drop-off point to safely dispose of them.

If it lights up, makes a sound, moves or needs charging, it probably has an embedded battery! Common items you might have at home that may contain an embedded battery include:

- Bluetooth speakers and headphones
- · electric toothbrushes
- e-scooters, e-bikes and hover boards

- flashing or light up toys, such as wands
- personal care devices, such as shavers
- powerpacks and portable charging devices
- remote controlled and ride-on toys
- cordless handheld or robotic vacuum cleaners
- vapes
- power tools
- wearable devices, such as smart watches, trackers and medical aids.

Visit the 'Electronic waste (E-waste)' page on Council's website to find a drop-off point for broken electronics.





Give your electronic waste a new life

Council's popular E-waste + more collection event is back again on Saturday 25 October, 8am to 2pm, to help Maroondah residents recycle 'hard to recycle' items.

Acceptable electronic (e-waste) items include any item with a battery or cord (excluding whitegoods or items that two people cannot pick up).

Along with e-waste, we can accept clean polystyrene, flattened cardboard, clean textiles and shoes, vapes, e-cigarettes, fluorescent light globes (including compact and tubes), household batteries, car batteries, and gas bottles up to 9kg.

Registration is essential and bookings are limited. Only residential quantities can be accepted. Bookings will open in the coming weeks and can be made via Council's website.

Keep an eye on our website for updates and to view the full list of acceptable items. You can also find out how your waste will be recycled.

Tips for bundled prunings collection

If you are booking a bundled prunings collection to dispose of larger prunings that won't fit in your food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin, we have some tips to ensure your collection goes smoothly.

To prepare prunings for collection, collect them into a bundle no wider than 30cm and no longer than 150cm. Items must be able to be lifted to shoulder height by one person.

Securely tie the bundle using natural string or twine (do not use synthetic materials or metal wire).

The weekend before your collection, place the bundles on the nature strip ensuring roads, driveways, footpaths, hydrants and pits are kept clear.

For a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the bundled prunings collection, visit Council's website.



Reminder

You must book your bundled prunings or hard waste collection before placing any items on the nature strip. Bookings can be made via the Council website, or by calling the Customer Service team on 1300 88 22 33.

News in Brief

GOLD POOL STATUS FOR AQUAHUB

Aquahub has achieved Gold Pool Status and a Gold Pool Endorsement Award for its high compliance and safety scores in a Life Saving Victoria Pool Safety Assessment.

Accreditation in Life Saving Victoria's Pool Safety Assessment program is recognised as a sign of excellence within the aquatics industry, so these fantastic results mean Aquahub is achieving the highest standards in aquatic safety and risk management.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au to learn more about Aquahub.

FUTURE PLANNING FOR CROYDON

At the July Council meeting, we adopted the *Croydon Activity Centre Structure Plan 2025* and the related *Development Contributions Plan 2025*.

The Structure Plan will help to guide the development and future of Croydon over the next 15 to 20 years by supporting population growth with well-planned opportunities for employment, education, housing, transport and physical environment and amenity.

The aim is to make Croydon a key centre where people will work, learn, live, shop, socialise and play.

DID YOU KNOW COUNCIL PROVIDES A BUSINESS COWORKING SPACE?

Situated in the heart of Ringwood, BizHub Coworking provides your business with the opportunity to operate and grow in a fully equipped open plan coworking space.

Enjoy third-level panoramic views of Ringwood, access to a state-of-the-art library, small business mentoring, networking sessions, and the full support of the BizHub team. Take advantage of a variety of accessible options from casual to premium memberships.

Visit the BizHub Maroondah website www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au to find out more or book a tour.



2024 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Marrianne Fry.

Help us recognise a remarkable volunteer

Nominations are closing on Sunday 12 October for the 2025 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award. Don't miss your chance to nominate via Council's website.

The annual award recognises long-serving volunteers who have made significant contributions to community or sporting groups in Maroondah.

Last year's recipient, Marrianne Fry, was celebrated for her incredible 60 years of volunteering in Scouting.

A well-respected volunteer, Marrianne is known for her friendly nature. Her dedication and kindness have had a widespread positive impact on our community and have encouraged young members to become the best citizens they can be.

"I now have great-grandchildren of young people who were once in my groups. Parents say, 'You have no idea what you have done for my child' and that's what keeps me going," Marrianne said.



2025 Maroondah Australia Day Award recipients.

Celebrating inspiring residents

Do you know someone who inspires others through their community service? Nominate them for the 2026 Maroondah Australia Day Awards.

These annual awards recognise outstanding community service at a local level – either a significant contribution or achievement – over the past year.

There are three award categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year or Community Event of the Year.

Visit Council's website to nominate by Sunday 19 October or to learn more about this year's recipients.

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Love life at Your Library

Croydon and Realm libraries have a jam-packed schedule of interesting and inspiring events to help you thrive this spring.

CROYDON LIBRARY

NDIS information and support sessions

Various dates and times (also at Realm Library)

Meet the author: Hilde Hinton Monday 15 September, 2pm

Meet the author: Beyond Green with Lesley Head

Wednesday 8 October, 10am

The happy place workshop for men: Reconnect. Recharge. Redefine

Wednesday 8 October, 6pm

Singing and Reminiscing – a place to connect

Monday 13 October, 10am

Vintage Verse: Poetry with U3A Wednesday 22 October, 1.30pm

Neil Lindsay: The impossible survivor Monday 10 November, 6pm

REALM LIBRARY

Morning tea in celebration of carers

Thursday 18 September, 10am

Resume writing and key presentation skills workshop for young people with disabilities

Friday 19 September, 2pm



Beyond the Realm

10 fantasty/sci-fi events throughout October

Free-hand nail art skills with Rosie

Thursday 13 November, 6.30pm

Beauty with Beth

Saturday 15 November, 2.30pm

Brush lettering for beginners with Nox Calligraphy

Monday 17 November, 10am

Heroism in the face of change and challenge with psychologist Lisa Ritchie

Tuesday 18 November, 6pm

Chinese brush painting with Echo Wu

Thursday 27 November, 5.30pm

Your Councillors



MCALPIN WARD Cr Nate Henderson

Mobile: 0437 969 722 nathaniel.henderson@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Council maintains more than 485 kilometres of local roads. Each year we deliver a program of works to keep them safe for our growing community.

It's great to see Council continuing to invest in maintaining and upgrading Maroondah's road network across the municipality, including important projects in McAlpin Ward.

Works are underway on the Ainslie Park Avenue reconstruction in Croydon, which will include drainage, kerb and channel, footpaths and naturestrips. Upgrades are also planned for Ruthven Way in Ringwood East, to deliver another safer, more accessible local road.

These projects are a great example of how Council continues to invest in vital infrastructure to support our community, now and into the future.

Visit Council's website to learn more.



TARRALLA WARD Cr Paul Macdonald

Mobile: 0436 001 760 paul.macdonald@maroondah.vic.gov.au

As one of Council's representatives on the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee, I'm proud to see the care and dedication that goes into preserving our local environment, including the Cheong Wildflower Sanctuary in Croydon.

Donated by the Cheong family in 1952, this Council-managed reserve supports rare native plants like White Stringybark and Love creeper, and provides important habitat for species such as Tawny Frogmouths and Ringtail Possums.

Thanks to the work of Council's Bushland Management team, the sanctuary is thriving, with ongoing weed control and revegetation helping it regenerate naturally.

In other news, look out for new historical signage being installed soon at Cheong Park, highlighting our rich local heritage.



WICKLOW WARD Cr Daniella Heatherich

Mobile: 0438 482 813 daniella.heatherich@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Thank you to local traders and the community for their valuable input as we continue planning the \$15 million Croydon Main Street Revitalisation project.

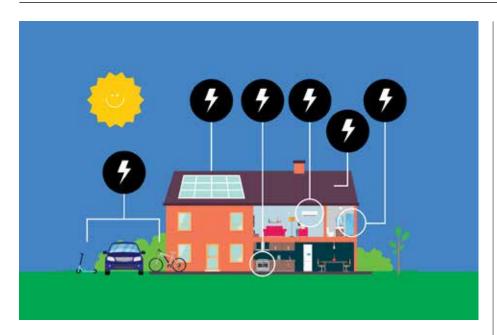
Council has been working closely with traders and the community to ensure the revitalisation works support businesses, residents and visitors alike.

As a key part of the wider Croydon Activity Centre, this project will enhance connectivity, create safer and greener spaces, and improve accessibility in the area.

I'm proud to represent Wicklow Ward on the Maroondah Liveability, Safety and Amenity Committee, helping to ensure the community's voice is heard as these plans take shape.

For latest updates on this and other projects, visit Council's website.

MAROONDAHNEWS



Ways to boost your home's energy efficiency

The Solar Savers program has recently expanded, offering more ways for residents to make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.

Solar Savers is a local government initiative that helps residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes by connecting them with trusted providers. The program helps eliminate the challenges associated with researching energy upgrades and choosing reliable, affordable suppliers to complete the upgrades.

Thanks to the program's recent expansion, Maroondah residents can access a range of products to improve the energy efficiency of their home.

Options include split-system heating and cooling, induction cooktops, hot water heat pumps, insulation, draught proofing, electric vehicle (EV) chargers and home energy assessments – all through a panel of approved suppliers.

You can register for the free Solar Savers program via Council's website. Once registered, you can receive up to three quotes from trusted, accredited suppliers for each energy upgrade.

Visit the 'Solar Savers' page on Council's website to find out more.

Improving our street tree canopy

The Street Tree Renewal program aims to enhance the urban canopy in Maroondah by renewing street trees that do not meet growth standards or are reaching the end of their lifespan.

The program focuses on creating greener, more shady neighbourhoods that maintain Maroondah's well-known and loved leafy character.

In streets identified for renewal, residents are invited to provide feedback on planned works and tree species selection.

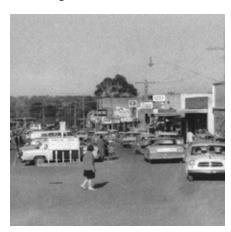
Trees in this program are planted in winter during the planting season. Now that spring has kicked off and we are moving into warmer weather, keep an eye out as newly planted trees start to grow and take shape!

For more information, search for 'Street Tree Renewal' on Council's website.



New heritage protections for Maroondah's post-war buildings

Maroondah's post-war heritage will be preserved for future generations, following the approval and gazettal of Planning Scheme Amendment C148maro by the Minister for Planning.



The amendment introduces new heritage protections for buildings and places that reflect the city's rapid growth and transformation after World War II – from family homes to churches, community halls and civic spaces.

This is the most extensive heritage review Maroondah has undertaken in over 20 years.

While older heritage places have long been recognised, this amendment helps address a gap in the protection of post-war development, which has often been overlooked. The process was guided by heritage research, expert advice and community consultation, including opportunities for feedback and public submissions.

These new protections support a stronger sense of place in our neighbourhoods, while ensuring Maroondah's identity and evolving story continues to be reflected in our built environment.

For more information and to view supporting documents, visit Council's website and search for 'Amendment C148maro'.

Croydon Library's new chapter

Council has received \$1 million in funding from the Victorian Government towards the development of the new library in Croydon.

The funding is from a state-wide pool of \$4 million as part of the Victorian Government's 2024/25 Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

This funding will assist Council in delivering essential elements of the new Croydon library that will be built as part of the Cultural Hub in the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP).

The Cultural Hub, which is located on the corner of Mt Dandenong Road and Civic Square, will serve as a central gathering place and offer a range of services for the community. The Hub will include the new library, Council's customer service centre, performance and events spaces, multipurpose rooms, meeting spaces, a café and more.

Sitting within the CCWP, the Cultural Hub will meet the needs of our community while increasing the



Your Library representatives; Deputy Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Linda Hancock; Mayor of Maroondah, Cr Kylie Spears; Minister for Local Government – the Hon. Nick Staikos; Sonja Terpstra MP; and Andrea Rowe (Public Libraries Ambassador) at the funding announcement.

accessibility of services and providing opportunities to promote learning, culture and social connection.

Construction is set to begin this month, with the project expected to be completed in 2027.

Visit Council's website to find out more about the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.





Help keep Maroondah beautiful

Have you spotted illegally dumped rubbish? Report it and help keep Maroondah clean and beautiful.

Rubbish that has been deliberately dumped on streets, in parks and near waterways can cause huge problems for the environment and community health.

Every year, \$30 million in Victorian ratepayer money is spent investigating and removing illegally dumped rubbish. Not only does illegal dumping cost Council a lot of money, but it also impacts on the amenity of the local area and can even reduce the value of a property or area.

Illegally dumped rubbish is also harmful to our local environment, as dumped rubbish can enter stormwater drains and local waterways, attract insects and pests and even pose a fire hazard.

You can help by reporting illegally dumped rubbish.

Scan the QR code or visit the 'Request a service or report an issue' page on Council's website to report it.



Save the date for Maroondah Carols!

Join in the fun on Saturday 6 December, 6pm to 10pm, at Town Park in Croydon.

Maroondah Carols is a free event that welcomes our community to come together and celebrate the festive season.

This event has been a community highlight for over 25 years, celebrating our connectedness, our Maroondah community groups and local businesses.

Join us for pre-show entertainment from 6pm, followed by the chance to sing along to all your favourite festive songs. Don't miss the spectacular fireworks display at approximately 9.30pm!

Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for more details closer to the event.





Making progress in Maroondah

As part of Council's \$46.03 million Capital Works Program, projects are continuing to take shape.

FACILITIES

Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct



Artist impression of CCWP Cultural Hub

Early works have started onsite to build the Cultural Hub as part of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct (CCWP) project. Hoarding is up to allow for site preparation and demolition works.

As part of Council's ongoing work to support local community groups through these works, Croydon RSL has now moved into their new temporary location at 15 Civic Square and EV's Youth Centre has moved into the Community Hub at 7 Civic Square.

Early works have also started at Keystone Hall to build the Multipurpose Hub as part of the precinct. Hoarding is up to allow for site preparation and demolition works, with service works currently underway.

Find out more online about the CCWP project at

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CCWP

ROADS

Ainslie Park Avenue road renewal

Road construction works have commenced at Ainslie Park Avenue in Croydon to renew the road surface.

The works include reconstruction of the concrete kerb and channel, vehicle crossovers, footpath segments and asphalting of the new road pavement.

New stormwater drainage infrastructure is also included in the works. This project is due for completion in late November, subject to weather.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ainslie-park-avenue-road-works

Traffic safety improvement works in Ringwood



In response to a history of crashes at the Eastfield Road, Railway Avenue and Morinda Street intersection, traffic signals will be installed to improve community safety. These important changes will improve pedestrian access, resolve sight distance issues and increase visibility for motorists.

As part of these works, the speed limit on Railway Avenue will be reduced to 50 km/h, allowing for the safe operation of traffic signals and improving safety for motorists and pedestrians.

Funded under the Victorian Government's Black Spot Program, the project is due for completion in December.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ eastfield-road-safety-improvements

OPEN SPACE

Lipscombe Park playspace renewal



Works are starting soon to renew the playspace at Lipscombe Park in Croydon.

The new playspace will feature two large play units, two slides, two upper body elements including monkey bars and track slide, standalone elements including spinner, see-saw and rocker and swing set.

The renewal is due to kick off from late 2025 and is scheduled to take 8 to 10 weeks to complete, subject to weather.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/
Lipscombe-playspace-renewal





Learn more

Scan the QR code to visit the 'Maroondah projects' page on Council's website to find out more and see other projects in progress. Enter your location to find projects near you.

Celebrating 50 years at North Ringwood Community House

For 50 years, North Ringwood Community House has been a hub of learning, friendship and support – a place where people come to learn, grow and feel part of something.

What began as a small neighbourhood learning space has grown into a vibrant, purpose-built centre offering accredited training, creative workshops, wellbeing programs, and social groups for all ages and abilities.

"As the only community house that is a registered training organisation in Maroondah, we've supported hundreds of people to gain nationally recognised qualifications, find meaningful employment and build new career paths," said CEO Helen Ferguson.

"People walk through our doors and feel seen, heard and valued. We offer more than just courses or services – we offer connection, care and a chance to be part of something bigger."

A 50th anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday 16 November from 10am to 2pm at Parkwood Community Hub on Tortice Drive, with a chance to connect, reflect and celebrate the milestone.

To learn more, visit the North Ringwood Community House website www.nrch.org.au



Historical image, supplied by North Ringwood Community House.

Your Councillors



WOMBOLANO
WARD
Cr Kylie Spears
Mayor

Mobile: 0436 003 660 kylie.spears@maroondah.vic.gov.au

I encourage you to connect with nature by exploring some of our Ward's lesser-known parks and reserves this Spring – you might just find a hidden gem!

FJC Rogers Reserve and Herman Pump Reserve bring together conservation and recreation activities, being home to playgrounds, walking trails and rare and significant plants including lilies and orchids.

You can also join a local environmental volunteer group, such as the Friends of FJC Rogers Reserve or Friends of Herman Pump Reserve, and help protect our green spaces while strengthening your sense of community and overall wellbeing.

Visit Council's website to find out more about Maroondah's parks and reserves and how you can volunteer.



WONGA WARD Cr Linda Hancock Deputy Mayor

Mobile: 0473 194 871 linda.hancock@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Work is almost complete on stormwater drainage infrastructure improvements behind Mullum Mullum Primary School in Ringwood – an important project to protect the surrounding community from flooding.

Located on Council-owned land along Mullum Mullum Road, the infrastructure has been designed to capture and slow stormwater during heavy rain, reducing the risk of flooding to nearby homes, schools and streets.

Once complete, it will improve drainage and safety during storms and enhance the amenity of the area for residents, students and visitors.

This project is another example of Council's commitment to building infrastructure that keeps Maroondah safe, functional and thriving.

Visit Council's website to learn more.



YARRUNGA WARD Cr Rob Steane OAM

Mobile: 0407 519 986 rob.steane@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Yarrunga Community Centre has been an important place in our Ward for many years, providing a safe space for connection and belonging while delivering accessible, affordable programs, social groups and education opportunities for residents of all ages.

I'm excited that the new elevated deck at the community centre is officially open and already a great addition to our community.

Set against the backdrop of Yarrunga Reserve, this accessible outdoor space is designed for everyone to enjoy – from classes and gatherings to weddings and special events.

This \$250,000 Council-funded project is a wonderful example of how we continue to invest in spaces that bring people together.

Visit Council's website to find out more.

Visit your local community centre or neighbourhood house

Maroondah's local community centres and neighbourhood houses offer a range of affordable programs, courses and activities in a supportive, friendly environment.



ARRABRI COMMUNITY HOUSE Saturday 15 November, 10.30am to 1pm

Greek Cooking Workshop Cost: \$65

Join us for a delicious hands-on workshop exploring the flavours of traditional Greek cuisine. In this session, you will learn how to prepare Greek chicken with lemon rice and the classic dessert baklava. Perfect for food lovers of all skill levels who want to expand their home cooking repertoire.

Contact: 9720 0877 Visit: www.arrabri.org



GLEN PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Wednesday afternoons (ladies' class) and Friday mornings (open class), starting 8 October

Carpentry: Intermediate Cost: Fees payable by the term

Learn to construct intermediate woodwork projects, work with others, and develop use of carpentry hand tools. New learners are welcome and encouraged to enrol. Pathways include further education, volunteer opportunities, paid employment.

Contact: 9720 5097

Email: office@glenparkcc.com.au



NORTH RINGWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSE

Sunday 16 November, 10am to 2pm

50th Anniversary Open Day Cost: Free

Come and celebrate North Ringwood Community House's 50th Anniversary. There will be live music, food trucks and plenty of activities and demonstrations throughout the day.

Contact: 9876 3421 Visit: www.nrch.org.au



CENTRAL RINGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Friday 24 October, 7.30pm

Trivia Night Tickets: \$25 per person or \$200 for a table of 8

Get ready for a night of laughs, friendly competition, and great company! Bring your friends or join a table on the night — everyone is welcome. There will be fun games between rounds, prizes to be won, and plenty of good vibes. BYO food and drinks. Light snacks provided. Don't miss this fantastic night out!

Contact: 9870 2602

Visit: www.crccinc.org.au

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place



MULLUM MULLUM INDIGENOUS GATHERING PLACE

Supports and facilitates a variety of cultural activities and programs that incorporate art, music, language and storytelling, providing a culturally safe and inclusive space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel connected and empowered.

Contact: 9725 2166 Visit: mmigp.org.au



YARRUNGA COMMUNITY CENTRE Mondays, 10.15am to 11.15am

Chair Exercise – New Class Cost: Fees payable by the term

This class is perfect if you have balance issues or are recovering from an injury and still want to keep up exercising.

Contact: 9722 8942

Visit: www.yarrunga.org.au

Learn more

Visit the 'Community and Neighbourhood Houses' page on Council's website.





Sunday 9 November 10am to 4pm Town Park, Croydon



www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ Festival Come and experience all our community has to offer, with food trucks, rides, free activities, stage entertainment, market stalls and so much more!







GET IN TOUCH WITH US



Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

Realm

179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood



Mail

PO Box 156, Ringwood, VIC 3134



Live chat via our website

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au



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