

Maroondah news

Your community newsletter



Winter 2023



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View Maroondah news online at
www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/MaroondahNews



Mayor Cr Rob Steane with artist Damian Vick, whose giant skink sculptures now adorn the exterior of the Devon Street Car Park in Croydon.

Mayor's message

Welcome to the Winter edition of Maroondah news.

It has been fantastic to see our community embracing the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service, which we launched last month. Maroondah residents can now place food scraps as well as garden waste into their green-lidded bins, which helps divert food waste from landfill and reduce greenhouse gases and will support Council's strategic aim of halving waste to landfill by 2030. You can read more on page 4, including some handy hints to help you make the most of your FOGO service.

With winter upon us, this edition includes key messaging to help you stay safe and warm. I encourage you to read this important information on page 12, which covers how to use wood heaters safely and some simple precautions we can all take to help prevent house fires during the colder months.

Council has been achieving some excellent progress in sustainability through our work with the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), which enables Councils to source clean renewable energy generated from Victorian wind farms.

Our work in this space has seen Council be certified as one of only 10 carbon neutral Councils in Australia. You can read more sustainability highlights on page 9.

This edition also shares how Council is working to protect biodiversity in Maroondah, including our upcoming tree planting season and the steps we are taking to protect our renowned tree canopy cover. If you're interested in sustainability and the environment, I encourage you read these stories, as well

as make use of our new recycling station at Realm in Ringwood and take part in the upcoming Plastic Free July challenge and our National Tree Day event next month.

There have been some exciting developments in Council projects across Maroondah, including the completion of the indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park. This state-of-the-art facility, to be named Maroondah Edge, boasts five lanes for indoor cricket training and will become a regional women's centre for excellence for cricket. I look forward to the facility opening in the coming weeks for use by the premier grade Ringwood Cricket Club, Cricket Victoria and the Ringwood District Cricket Association (RDCA). Read our Projects update on page 15 for more information.

As always, there are plenty of things to see and do and ways to get involved. Visit Council's website for updates on events, activities and programs throughout Maroondah.

Don't forget, my fellow Councillors and I are here to represent you and advocate for our community's needs. If you have any ideas to share or issues to discuss, please get in touch with us. You can find contact information for your Ward Councillors on pages 10, 14 and 18, along with updates about what's happening in each of the Wards.

Regards,

Cr Rob Steane
Mayor of Maroondah

Council meetings

Council meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month from 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Realm and are live-streamed via Council's website.

Upcoming dates for winter 2023 are:

Monday 19 June (includes adoption of Annual Budget and Council Plan)

Monday 17 July

Monday 28 August

Council meetings are open to the public and are promoted across a range of channels, with an open invitation to attend. **If attending in person, please arrive in time for the start of the meeting.** Agendas are made available online on the Friday before the meeting date.

Council opening hours

Our customer service centres are here to help. See our operating hours below or visit our website.

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 most Victorian public holidays. Open King's Birthday 10am to 5pm.

Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library
5 Civic Square, Croydon
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.
Closed on all public holidays.

You can also contact us by:

- phone 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598
- email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au
- SMS 0480 020 200
- live chat via our website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Stay in contact with us

Do you have Council business, but not sure how best to get in contact with us?

Our Customer Service team is available to chat over the phone on 1300 88 22 33, on 'live chat' via our website or you can send us a text message to 0480 020 200 or email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Our website also has several ways you can stay in contact, make a request and report matters to Council.

To make sure you're keeping up with the latest news and activities in Maroondah, why not subscribe to our fortnightly Maroondah News e-newsletter. It includes the latest Council news – delivered straight to your inbox! To subscribe to the e-newsletter,

visit our website and fill in your details – it's that easy.

While you're there, why not subscribe to Council's other e-newsletters? These newsletters provide news and updates from our Children's Services, Waste, Bushland and Arts teams, plus Maroondah Leisure, Karralyka, Wyreena Community Arts Centre and more.

You can also stay in touch and interact with Council on a range of social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), as well as have your say about projects on our Your Say Maroondah consultation website, yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Information provided in this newsletter was accurate at the time of print. For the latest information, visit Council's website.

Front page: Ashleigh and Geraldine are all smiles at Maroondah Night Run despite the cold winter conditions.

Level crossing removal

The Victorian Government Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) team is removing the dangerous and congested level crossings at Bedford Road, Ringwood; Dublin Road, Ringwood East; and Coolstore Road, Croydon and building new stations at Croydon and Ringwood East.

At Coolstore Road, updated designs have been released for the new transport hub, and works have started to prepare the site for major construction in late 2023.

As part of these works, bus stops to the north of Croydon Station have been temporarily relocated to Croydon Road and Kent Avenue. The station's northern car park is also closed until level crossing removal works are completed. Free, alternative car parking is available in the multi-level car park via Devon Street.

To explore the project in greater detail, visit the LXRP virtual information room: arup.com.au/pano/lxrp-coolstore-road/

At Ringwood, work is already underway and construction crews have set up site offices

in the Ringwood East Station car parks. Part of the car park will remain open throughout this year and most of next year, and a temporary commuter car park has been set up in Pratt Street, Ringwood, within walking distance of Ringwood Station.

When these level crossings are gone in 2025, there will be no boom gates between Ferntree Gully and the City on the Belgrave line, and the Lilydale line will be completely level crossing free. Croydon, Ringwood and Ringwood East will be safer, less congested and easier to get around.

For more information and to subscribe to LXRP updates, visit the Victoria's Big Build website at bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/level-crossing-removal-project



Looking towards the new Croydon Station from the pocket park on Main Street. Artist impression only, subject to change.



Flu vaccines now available

Council offers free flu vaccines to eligible persons through the National Immunisation Program (NIP), and payable flu vaccines are also available for those not eligible for the free flu vaccine.

You can receive the flu vaccination at immunisation sessions held at:

- Maroondah Federation Estate, Ringwood
- Aquahub, Croydon
- North Ringwood Community House, Ringwood North
- Arrabri Community Centre, Bayswater North.

Visit the 'Public immunisation sessions' page on Council's website for eligibility criteria, fees for the payable flu vaccine, and to make a booking.

Are you due for your COVID-19 booster dose?

If it's been six months since your last COVID-19 vaccination dose or COVID-19 infection, you may be eligible to receive your new booster.

The 2023 booster dose is available for everyone aged 18 and above, and at risk children between the ages of 5 and 17 years.

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends the 2023 booster for people at higher risk of severe illness, including everyone aged 65 and above, and people aged 18 and above who are at risk.

Maximise your protection from the virus and give an added boost to your immune system. Immunity wanes over time, so receive your booster dose to have added protection against COVID-19.

Bookings

You can book an appointment using the online Vaccine Clinic Finder at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Find out more

Visit the Department of Health website www.health.gov.au to learn more about the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

When can I get my booster?



FOGO is here!

Council's new FOGO service started in May. Maroondah residents are now diverting their food waste from landfill to help reduce greenhouse emissions, support sustainable food production and help achieve Council's strategic aim to halve waste to landfill by 2030.

After your FOGO bin is collected, your food and garden materials are taken to BioGro in Dandenong South. Here, your food and garden materials are shredded, and items that shouldn't be placed in the bin are removed. The decontaminated material is then composted and used on Victorian farms and gardens.

Here are some handy hints so you can make the most out of your FOGO service:

- Place garden material loosely in your FOGO bin so that it will be emptied completely
- Do not use any plastic bags, wrapping or string to contain or bundle your garden waste material

- Only use Council-supplied compostable liners for your food waste. Alternatively, you can place your food waste into your bin loose, or you can wrap your food waste in 1 to 2 sheets of newspaper or paper towel
- Place garden material with a heavy moisture content, such as freshly mown grass clippings, near the top of your bin to prevent sticking.

To find out what can go into your FOGO bin, and to view our video about what happens to your FOGO material, visit Council's website.



Get ready for Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution.

The Plastic Free July challenge provides resources and ideas to help participants (and millions of others around the world) reduce single-use plastic waste every day at home, work, school, and in the community. It can be as easy as picking one single-use plastic item to avoid or swap for a reusable alternative.

In 2022, by participating in Plastic Free July, Maroondah residents avoided 48,880kg of plastic waste. By choosing to refuse single use-plastics, we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities.

Visit Council's website for more information on how you can get involved in this year's Plastic Free July challenge.



New recycling station at Realm

You can now help to keep more waste out of landfill.

A recycling station is now available at the Realm Customer Service Centre. You can drop in and dispose of some of those hard to recycle residential items so we can recycle them for you.

You do not need to book in a time and date. Simply bring your items into the recycling station. If you are dropping off sharps or fluorescent light bulbs, please see Customer Service for assistance.

The recycling station can accept the following items in residential quantities:

- X-rays
- batteries (AA, AAA, C, D and 9V)

- compact fluorescent light bulbs (no tubes)
- CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes
- small e-waste items (mobile phones, chargers, cords, cameras, tablets, torches, smartwatches and cables)
- sharps containers (personal/household use only).

You can drop these items into the recycling station during the Realm Customer Service Centre's operating hours only:

- 9am to 8pm, Monday to Friday
- 10am to 5pm, Saturday, Sunday and most public holidays.

Visit the 'Recycling station at Realm' page on Council's website to learn more.



Protect our bushland

Maroondah's bushland reserves are home to important – and sometimes endangered – species of animals and plants.

The bushland areas are valuable and fragile, with species of flora and fauna that are vital to Maroondah's biodiversity. So, it's important that we all help preserve and protect them.

Did you know that simply walking through bushland areas can have negative impacts on the environment? This is because it can:

- damage sensitive vegetation
- suppress the germination of seedlings
- bring in and spread invasive weed species, pathogens and disease
- compact and erode soil.

Unauthorised dumping of green waste, such as lawn clippings, branches, weeds, leaves, soil and mulch, can also harm our bushland areas. Green waste dumping:

- introduces weeds and non-indigenous species, which can smother and out-compete indigenous species, which can then impact wildlife and natural ecosystem processes

- increases soil nutrients that indigenous plants do not like or need, as these plants have adapted to low soil nutrient levels
- can contaminate waterways, cause algal blooms, and affect aquatic life
- introduces disease, pathogens, and pests into sensitive environments
- can increase fuel load and fire risk.

You can help by sticking to designated paths when walking in Maroondah's reserves, and by ensuring you place green waste in your garden waste bin at home.

Visit the 'Bushland' page on Council's website to learn more about the importance of looking after our bushland reserves.

Have you seen unauthorised green waste dumping?

You can also report unauthorised green waste dumping to Council – if you see something, say something. Report via Council's website, in customer service centres or text us on 0408 020 200.



National Tree Day

National Tree Day is held on the last Sunday of July each year and encourages people to get their hands dirty and give back to their community.

Council is once again supporting the day by co-hosting a free planting day at Eastfield Park in Croydon with Friends of Tarralla Creek and the First Friends of Dandenong Creek.

Come along on Sunday 30 July at 10am and help plant 4500 plants to enhance the biodiversity and environment in the area. The planting day will take place at the end of Taylors Road, Croydon and along the Tarralla Creek Trail.

Visit Council's website to learn more.

Maroondah branches out with over 3000 new trees

Our Tree Maintenance Team will be out and about until September planting approximately 3000 new trees in Maroondah.

A mix of indigenous and exotic species will be planted along nature strips and walking trails, and in safe walk and ride to school zones. Maroondah's parks and reserves will also be benefiting from additional greening.

Trees and shrubs are planted annually throughout the city, either in place of plants that have reached their end of life or to build on Maroondah's leafy environment.

The optimal time for trees to be planted is during the cooler months when trees are not exposed to heat stress and can establish quickly.

This year's trees have been specifically chosen for their site suitability, environmental benefits, resistance to drought and ease of maintenance.

Factors such as tree height, neighbourhood character, proximity to powerlines and other infrastructure are also considered when selecting new trees. While Council maintains all new street trees planted, we encourage residents to water or prune any newly planted trees to ensure they remain as healthy as possible.

To request a tree to be planted on your nature strip or for more information, see the 'Nature strip trees' page on Council's website.



Did you know?

Research has shown that trees in urban areas can help to reduce heating and cooling costs in buildings and improve people's health and wellbeing.

Dealing with barking dogs

Dogs bark to express excitement, boredom, stress, anxiety or to defend their territory. Ongoing barking, or howling, however, can be distressing for neighbours and owners.

Council has developed a barking dog information booklet to educate residents and dog owners on the process for dealing with or reporting a barking dog.

The booklet, along with other informative resources, aims to resolve any issues as effectively and efficiently as possible.

To find out more about the process to report a barking dog, or guidance on managing your dog's barking, please visit Council's website and search for 'barking dogs'.



Helping furry friends in need



In partnership with Animal Aid and neighbouring Councils Knox, Yarra Ranges, Whitehorse and Murrindindi, Maroondah is now well-equipped to provide the best care for animals and the community during emergency events, with our Emergency Response Unit.

The trailer contains an array of items, including collars, harnesses, leads, cooling mats, blankets, treats, shade tents, a microchip reader, toys, animal containment pens and more.

As we are seeing more emergency events within our communities, it is important to be able to cater for many different needs during these times.

The trailer can be deployed at short notice to emergency relief centres, providing reassurance for our community that our furry friends are cared for in times of crisis.

Protecting Maroondah's biodiversity

Maroondah's natural environment is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of our community and its ecosystems, so everyone has an important role to play when managing and protecting our biodiversity.

The Biodiversity in Maroondah (2020) Volumes 1 & 2 report provides valuable insights into Maroondah's biodiversity and is being used by Council in its efforts to protect and manage our municipality's biodiversity and habitats.

Dr Graeme Lorimer, Director of Biosphere, was engaged by Council to provide the contemporary assessment of biodiversity in Maroondah as part of the Maroondah Vegetation Review that led to the adoption of the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* in March 2020.

A key component of the municipal-wide vegetation review was to establish an understanding of Maroondah's biodiversity – what species and ecosystems it comprises, where it is concentrated, and what threatens and sustains it.

While highly urbanised, Maroondah retains numerous small patches of remnant vegetation that provide important habitat for indigenous flora and fauna. However, as we face a growing population, increasing urban development and a changing climate, we must take further steps to protect our existing vegetation.

Volume 1 of the report provides an overview of Maroondah's biodiversity including what Council and the community can do to protect, restore and improve it.

Volume 2 identifies 109 current Sites of Biological Significance, with recommendations for their protection through planning provisions.

As a community, we need to work together to help manage and protect

Maroondah's biodiversity, recognising that our long-term wellbeing is inextricably linked to the health of our natural environment.

Biodiversity in Maroondah (2020) Volumes 1 & 2 report is now available to view on the 'Biodiversity and habitat connectivity' page on Council's website.



Crossing a new bridge

Heading into semi-retirement, Maroondah resident Sharon Amos was seeking a sense of purpose and responsibility. She decided to apply to become a school crossing supervisor and hasn't looked back.

Inspired by her late father, Tom Amos – a much-loved, longstanding crossing supervisor for Warranwood Primary – Sharon applied for the role after seeing the sense of purpose, connection and joy the role brought him.

"My father inspired me to apply, absolutely. He absolutely loved his crossing. It was the reason he got out of bed in the morning and it gave him a purpose, especially during COVID," Sharon said.

"When my father passed away, a lot of the Warranwood students came to his funeral dressed in their uniforms, and it was just beautiful. He was so loved by everyone in that community.

"I thought to myself, heading into semi-retirement, I want to have a purpose, some responsibility and a reason to get out of bed in the morning. That's what I'm going to do."

Sharon started as a school crossing supervisor earlier this year. Since then, she has enjoyed regular shifts at a variety of primary and secondary school crossings.

For Sharon, the role is "a terrific job" that provides a sense of purpose while "feeling like you're helping the community".

"I'm really enjoying it so far, and I'm really glad I applied. It's probably one of the best moves I've ever made.

"I've found the people I'm directly dealing with from Council to be very professional and very efficient."

Applications are currently open for school crossing supervisors. Applications are welcome from people over the age of 18 from a variety of backgrounds, including university and TAFE students, older community members and retirees.

Applicants must have or be willing to apply for a Working with Children Check (WWCC).

The role is a great way to build genuine connections in the community while enjoying perks such as flexibility, no weekend work, school holidays off and an attractive hourly rate.

"If you think it's something that would suit you, just go ahead and apply. Take the application process step by step. It's so rewarding at the end," Sharon said.



Sharon enjoys the sense of purpose her role brings.

Please visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CareersatMaroondah to apply or contact Team Leader School Crossings on 9298 4598 for more information.



Dates for your diary

Scan the QR code to visit Council's website for more information about these and other events. Are you hosting a community event? Visit our website and add your event to our online 'Events calendar'.



All Things Reusable webinar

Monday 19 June, 7.30pm to 9pm
Online via Zoom

Join us to learn all about the reusable alternatives to everyday household items. The presentation will show a range of reusable substitutes for items such as paper towel, tissues, make-up removal, plastic wrap, face wipes, shopping and produce bags, incontinence aids, cloth nappies and menstrual products.

Visit Council's website to register or learn more. The webinar link will be sent to registered attendees 48 hours before the session.



You Are A Doughnut

Tuesday 27 June, 11am and 2pm
Karralyka, Ringwood East

This brand new biological-musical-comedy-adventure explores the ins and outs of the human digestive system. Join rival biology teachers Oesoph A. Gus and Dewey Dean as they take you on an all-singing, all-dancing and all-clowning journey through every twisting tube and remarkable organ – with sketches, songs and science!

Tickets are \$25 each or \$88 for a Family Pass for two adults and two children. Visit the Karralyka website, www.karralyka.com.au, to book or find out more.



Saoirse at Wyreena Music Café

Friday 30 June, 7.30pm to 9.30pm
Wyreena Conservatory Café
13-23 Hull Road, Croydon

Saoirse are a vibrant vocal and dance group from Melbourne. Saoirse delight their audiences with their beautiful renditions of traditional Irish ballads and original works. The Café is fully licensed with allocated seating (maximum 50), so bookings are essential.

Tickets are \$35 each and include entertainment and supper. Book online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/wyreena-music-cafe or call 9294 5590.

Future-proofing Maroondah's leafy green character

Maroondah is made up of a diversity of trees of varying age and species that contribute to and define our city's leafy green character.

As we face increased density in urban development and the impacts of climate change, the need to preserve the health and sustainability of our tree canopy is becoming increasingly important.

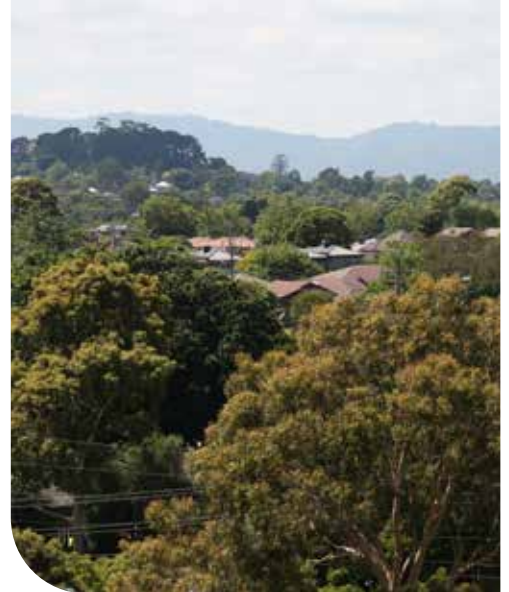
To achieve this, it is critical to provide conditions necessary for these trees to be able to establish, grow and live a long, healthy life.

Council's recently adopted Maroondah Minimum Standards for Canopy Tree Provision (2020) document serves as an important reference guide for Council, landowners, developers and the

community for managing and supporting the retention and growth of Maroondah's urban forest.

Backed by expert analysis and research, the document provides clear guidelines for managing the provision of new trees whilst planning for future vegetation that responds to the impacts of climate change, new development and that contributes to our biodiversity and liveability.

Visit Council's website to view the full document.



Did you know?

Maroondah boasts one of the highest tree canopy cover levels of all Melbourne metropolitan municipalities.

CRISP Nursery – 30 years and still growing!

CRISP Nursery is celebrating 30 years! The nursery has contributed immeasurably to the biodiversity of the region thanks to the strength of its many volunteers and extended network of bushland helpers and 'Friends of' groups.

In the mid-1990s, a small band of native plant enthusiasts living in Maroondah made history locally. They began a nursery that contained only seedlings propagated from plants occurring naturally in the local area.

They were the Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley, a group of volunteers who focused on improving the Mullum Mullum Creek environment. With no indigenous plants readily available for plantings, the need to source indigenous plants for Maroondah was identified – and so, the seed of an idea was sown!

In 1993, the Community of Ringwood Indigenous Species Plant (CRISP) Nursery was established in partnership with the former City of Ringwood, now Maroondah City Council.

Thirty years on, CRISP Nursery continues as a not-for-profit community organisation run by an ever-growing passionate group of local volunteers.

Annette and Stephanie, of CRISP Nursery, said ongoing community and Council support has been invaluable.

"We have wonderful support from our volunteers, who are involved in all aspects of the nursery management and day-to-day work. Some volunteers have been with us for many years. In fact, some of our founding volunteers are still active with the nursery today."

"The support from Council has also been invaluable – in particular, the Bushland team, who help us source plant material and purchase plants from us, and who support the 'Friends of' groups and homeowners to use indigenous plants for revegetation projects to enhance local biodiversity."

Each year, around 30,000 plants – including rare and hard-to-grow species – are propagated by CRISP volunteers and planted back into local parks and bushland reserves to boost remnant populations, improve amenity, and to revitalise and preserve wildlife corridors.

Thousands of these CRISP tubestock are planted annually over late autumn and winter with the help of Council's Bushland team.

Through its countless revegetation projects with schools and communities, CRISP has also provided a space for social interaction and meaningful work, education and awareness around the importance of protecting Maroondah's natural environment.

CRISP Nursery is located at 17 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. Visit their website at www.crispnursery.com.au or call 9879 3911 to learn more.



Renewable energy agreement powers savings at Maroondah

Council is making substantial cost and emissions savings by powering its municipal offices, community buildings, sports grounds and streetlights with 100 per cent renewable energy.

Maroondah is one of 51 Councils to have switched to renewable energy through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), which enables Councils to source clean renewable energy generated from Victorian wind farms.

In the first year of joining VECO, Maroondah and fellow VECO Councils have collectively saved \$2.6 million in energy costs, while local carbon emissions have been cut by around 5900 tonnes. Not only does this benefit the environment, but it means savings can be redirected to other Council services and programs.

Launched in July 2021, VECO is the largest-ever emissions reduction project undertaken by local government in Australia. The collective investment in Victorian renewables has delivered partnering Councils with cheaper electricity under a 9.5-year deal with supplier Red Energy.

From July 2021, that renewable energy has been used to power Council-owned infrastructure, such as community venues, leisure centres and sports grounds.

Through the collective buying of renewable energy, Councils have already saved around 172,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions – the equivalent of powering up to 35,000 homes or taking 66,000 cars off the road each year.

Maroondah's VECO investment is not only helping Council to reduce its operating costs, but also ensures we maintain our status as a Carbon Neutral organisation – further helping us to achieve our emissions reduction.

To learn more, visit the VECO website www.veco.org.au

Solar savings

Council is also taking part in the Solar Savers Program thanks to our partnership with the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA).

The program supports Maroondah residents, including homeowners, renters and businesses, who would like to install rooftop solar and battery storage, connecting them with technical advice and information about available rebates.



Renewable energy is being used to power Council-owned buildings and infrastructure.

Rooftop solar is great for reducing electricity costs and greenhouse gas emissions, especially if you:

- use appliances during the day
- work from home
- spend 3 to 4 days at home each week
- care for someone in need

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

Did you know?

In 2020, Maroondah City Council was certified Carbon Neutral by Climate Active. To date, Maroondah remains one of only 10 carbon neutral Councils in Australia.

Pool and spa registration helping to keep our community safe

More than 4400 swimming pools and spas have been registered in Maroondah since the introduction of Victorian Government regulations in December 2019.

Council's Building Services team has worked extensively with our community to ensure successful registration of private pools and spas, and we thank residents for their cooperation which has resulted in a high compliance rate.

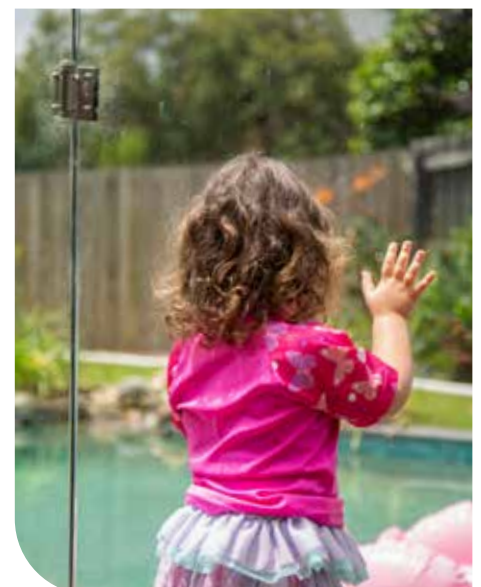
Of the 4713 pools/spas identified in Maroondah, 4426 have been registered. A further 550 pools and spas have since been removed by property owners.

A survey by the Victorian Auditor General Office (VAGO) into Victoria's 79 Councils has examined how effectively Councils have implemented private pool and spa safety barrier regulations.

The VAGO survey highlighted the success of Council's Building Services team in implementing and managing the compliance program, which is critical in ensuring the safety of the Maroondah community.

The survey findings will now form part of a 'Regulating Private Pool and Spa Safety' report to be delivered to Parliament.

If you have not yet registered your pool or spa or lodged your Certificate of Barrier Compliance, you can still do so by visiting Council's website or calling us on 1300 88 22 33.



Preventing elder abuse

Thursday 15 June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Any older person can be affected by elder abuse, and it can happen anywhere. Although the media reports incidents of elder abuse in aged care settings, most incidents are carried out by family members, both within aged care settings and at home.

There are many different types of elder abuse, including neglect, verbal, psychological, financial and social abuse. Unfortunately, an older person can be affected by more than one type.

Some ways to help prevent elder abuse include staying connected with trusted family and friends and the community, planning living arrangements, wills



and Power of Attorney documents, and developing a support network of trusted people and professionals who can provide independent advice. If you need help, ask for it as soon as possible.

You can find out more through the Eastern Community Legal Centre website eclc.org.au

Help

If you need help, you can contact the following services for support:

- Eastern Community Legal Centre – call 9285 4822
- Seniors Rights Victoria – call 1300 368 821
- National Elder Abuse Hotline – call 1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)

In an emergency, call Victoria Police on 000.

Barnegeong Ward

Your Councillors



Cr Marijke Graham
Mobile: 0418 109 015
marijke.graham@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Council is encouraging residents to take part in the 2023 Plastic Free July challenge to help reduce plastic pollution.

To help you get started, Council is hosting a free All Things Reusable webinar on Monday 19 June, with information on reusable substitutes for paper towel, tissues, make-up removal, plastic wraps, nappies and more. Visit our website to learn more and register.

You can also visit Council's new recycling station at Realm and recycle items such as X-rays, batteries, CDs and DVDs, sharps containers and small e-waste items like mobile phones, chargers, cables and smartwatches, which are hard to recycle at home. You can drop these items into the recycling station during Realm's opening hours. Visit our website for details.

Bungalook Ward



Cr Tony Dib OAM JP
Mobile: 0438 515 089
tony.dib@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Maroondah is lucky to be home to two public golf courses, Ringwood Golf and Dorset Golf, with Dorset Golf in the Bungalook Ward in Croydon.

For those looking to have a hit of golf during winter, playing conditions will now be more enjoyable following recent improvement works at Dorset Golf. As part of Council's capital works program, the front nine holes now have improved drainage, sand capping and cart path extensions.

These improvements mean there will be improved drainage in flood prone areas, less surface water on the fairways and easier navigation around the course for an improved playing experience for the avid golfer. Further improvement works to the back nine holes are scheduled to be undertaken in 2024.

Jubilee Ward



Cr Mike Symon
Mobile: 0436 002 080
mike.symon@maroondah.vic.gov.au

It's been exciting to see the transformation of JW Manson Reserve in Wantirna, with local clubs now using the new sporting pavilion and cricket nets.

The double storey pavilion features a balcony area with views of both ovals, as well as female-friendly and accessible amenities, a 200 square metre multipurpose space, kitchen, bar and kiosk.

Five synthetic cricket nets have also been installed in the reserve as part of the project.

These facilities help ensure that Council can continue to meet the growing demands for high-quality sporting facilities that can cater for increased participation, including female participation, in sport in Maroondah.

These projects have been funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government and Cricket Victoria.

Art exhibitions

Don't miss these fantastic exhibitions at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood, on display until Friday 23 June.

Sound and Syncopation: Katie Stackhouse

Sound and Syncopation is an exhibition of sculpture, painting and video installation by Katie Stackhouse. These new artworks are drawn into dialogue to delve into concepts and processes of symbiosis, co-authorship, decay and renewal. The title refers to the musical term of syncopation: a disturbance or interruption of the regular flow of rhythm. The works explore processes that living entities and elemental forces undergo as they constantly move in and out of rhythm and synchronise and shape one another.



Katie Stackhouse, *Syncopation I* and *Syncopation II*, 2021, bronze, patina, cotton dyed with Ballee leaves (Cherry Ballart).

Overstory: Karen Neal and Bron Elmore

Drawn together by their love of birds and the natural environment, printmaker Karen Neal and painter Bron Elmore present *Overstory* – an exhibition in response to the artists' exploration of local reserves throughout Maroondah and the birds and plants that inhabit these beautiful ecosystems.



Karen Neal, *Looking Up*, 2019 linocut print and mica powder.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC Week is celebrated during the first week of July each year in recognition of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, which runs from Sunday 2 July to Sunday 9 July this year, Arts in Maroondah presents a new exhibition, Mulum Mullum Community Blak Art, at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, Ringwood.

This multi-disciplinary, open call exhibition by First Nations artists from the Mulum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place community will be on display from Monday 3 July to Friday 1 September, with a special launch event during NAIDOC Week on Thursday 6 July from 6pm to 8pm.

Visit Council's website for details and to RSVP.



The Artistic Magnitude of Mulum Mullum, Mulum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Gallery 1 at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, 2022. Pictured are artworks from Amanda Wright and the MMIGP Men's Group.

Maroondah Tennis Strategy adopted



Council formally adopted the Maroondah Tennis Strategy on 20 March 2023.

The strategy explores key considerations that may influence tennis participation in Maroondah.

Priorities include strengthening our partnership with Tennis Victoria, improving tennis infrastructure and investing in resources to assist the long term sustainability of tennis clubs.

Actions will also focus on supporting inclusive opportunities for social and casual play to ensure that tennis continues to thrive in Maroondah.

Visit Council's website to read the strategy.

Australian Liveability Census

Share your thoughts in the Australian Liveability Census – the largest social research project in Australia!

Your feedback will help us consider the needs, values and goals of our residents when planning future programs, initiatives, facilities and more.

Visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au to share your thoughts by 30 June 2023.

Run Maroondah



Run Maroondah is coming up on Sunday 8 October, so save the date and start training!

This family-friendly event is designed for all ages and athletic abilities, and is all about challenging yourself in a supportive environment.

Keep an eye on Council's website to register.

Stay safe this winter

Winter brings more preventable house fires than any other season, as we turn to heaters, electric blankets and hot water bottles to warm up.

Victoria's fire services respond to more than 3,000 house fires across the state each year – many of these are caused by heating systems, appliances and equipment, and accidents like these could be prevented by taking simple precautions, such as:

- **Heaters** – Always check your heater is safe to use. Never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended. Ensure fireplace embers are extinguished before leaving your house or going to bed. Gas heaters should be professionally serviced at least every two years by a licensed or registered gasfitter.
- **Electric blankets** – Inspect your blanket carefully before plugging it in. Look for tears, exposed wires, or scorch marks, and discard the blanket if you see any signs of damage. Faulty electric blankets can overheat, cause an electric shock, spark, and potentially cause a fire. Always turn off blankets before going to bed or leaving the house.
- **Hot water bottles** – Around 200 people in Australia are admitted to hospital each year with serious burns related to hot water bottles. Hot water bottles can lead to third degree burns if used incorrectly.



Don't overfill or use boiling water to fill your bottle. Do not lay or put weight on a hot water bottle, as the pressure may cause it to leak or burst.

- **Drying clothes** – Never use heaters to dry clothes or shoes. Keep clothing, curtains or toys one metre away from heaters. Children's clothing with 'low fire danger' label is still flammable, so always keep children away from open heat sources.
- **Smoke alarms** – Most importantly, ensure you have enough suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure you test them regularly.

Use the 'Home Fire Safety Checklist' on the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Tips for using wood heaters safely

Did you know that using wood heaters incorrectly can impact air quality and potentially compromise our health?

There are ways you can increase the efficiency of your wood heater, reduce the air pollution it produces, and protect the health of people, including those with compromised respiratory systems such as asthmatics, older residents and children.

Regularly check your chimney to see how well your fire is burning and increase the air supply to your fire if you notice smoke coming from the chimney, as your fire should only smoke when you first light it and when you add extra fuel.



To minimise possible risks caused by smoke, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) advises:

- regular cleaning and maintenance
- burning dry wood with a bright flame
- not cramming the firebox
- not allowing the fire to smoulder overnight
- never burning rubbish or treated wood.

If you are purchasing a wood heater, ensure it has a compliance plate showing that it meets Australian Standards.

If you are concerned about smoke from your neighbour's wood heater, try talking to them first, as they may not realise there is a problem.

You can also call Council's Environmental Health Unit on 1300 88 22 33 to report your concern.

For more tips to reduce smoke from wood heaters this winter, visit the EPA website www.epa.vic.gov.au

Healthy swimming etiquette

When visiting Council's Maroondah Leisure pools, you can be confident knowing that they are safe, enjoyable and hygienic places to swim.

Our pools at Aquahub and Aquanation use salt chlorination, meaning that they are gentler on eyes, clothes, hair and sensitive skin.

Our team works to ensure that the pools are up to the highest hygienic standards, but we need our community's help to keep the pool this way so that everyone can enjoy their swim.

This means following a few simple healthy swimming rules:

- use bathroom amenities before swimming. Regularly check young children and those vulnerable every 30 minutes for extra toilet breaks
- babies and young children must wear a swim nappy if they are not toilet trained. Please ensure that they are fitted correctly and changed regularly. Swim nappies are also available from the front desk at our pools
- please do not swim if you or someone you are with is feeling unwell.

Pools require additional cleaning when soiled, which can limit access to the pools for a minimum of 30 minutes and up to 24 hours.

Pool closures impact, on average, up to 400 people a day and can result in cancellation of swimming lessons or aqua programs, so it is important to remember:

- toilet first, swim second
- ensure children wear a swim nappy if they are not toilet trained. Check and change regularly
- don't swim if you are sick or have been sick in the past 14 days.

For more information, visit the Maroondah Leisure website, www.maroondahleisure.com.au



Don't let a little poo shut down the pool

Don't let the cold stop the fun these holidays!

Maroondah Leisure school holiday programs

School holiday programs at Maroondah Leisure's stadiums are a fun way to keep your child active, entertained, up-skilled and social during the school holidays – no matter the weather. It's also a great way to make new friends while enjoying activities led by expert coaches.

The popular programs are tailored to children aged 5 to 12 years and a number of sports are available, including basketball, volleyball, netball, Futsal (indoor soccer), multi-sports and tennis. Sessions run for six hours each and families can book for individual or multiple days, as activities are varied to keep children engaged.

Registrations for each holiday program are now open.

To book, visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au



Wyreena Community Arts Centre

Wyreena Community Arts Centre hosts a range of family-friendly creative activities to keep children entertained during the school holidays. From pottery to painting, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

Visit Wyreena's School Holiday Program page on Council's website for details or call 9298 4487.

Parenting information sessions

Council offers information sessions for parents, grandparents and carers in Maroondah to support families in their parenting journeys with children and young people.

These free or low-cost sessions are presented by respected and inspiring speakers and cover an extensive range of topics relevant for all age groups. Whether you are seeking information about kinder enrolments or guidance around teenage safety, our annual program is carefully planned to respond to a range of current issues across a mix of online and in-person sessions. Support for educators is also available through our Professional Learning Program.

Visit the Council's website to find out more and to register for a session.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Poisonous mushrooms



Beware of poisonous mushrooms, including Death Cap mushrooms and Yellow-staining mushrooms.

Consuming a Death Cap mushroom may result in death. Cooking, peeling or drying the mushrooms does not remove or inactivate the poison and there is no home test to distinguish safe and edible mushrooms from poisonous mushrooms. **You should remove any mushrooms from your garden to prevent young children and pets from eating them.**

Learn more on the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au

Maroondah Business Excellence Awards

Maroondah Business Excellence Awards



Nominations open on Monday 3 July for the 2023 Maroondah Business Excellence Awards!

Hosted by Council's BizHub team, the awards celebrate the achievements of Maroondah businesses across key industry sectors including Manufacturing and Technology, Professional Services, and Retail and Hospitality. Providing an opportunity for Maroondah businesses of all sizes and types to be recognised for their success and commitment, the awards also provide tools, tailored advice and feedback for all entrants.

Visit www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au for nomination dates, all of the award categories and entry details.

Reusable Nappy Program

Council is working with 13 other Melbourne Councils to develop a targeted education program that will increase the use of reusable nappies and reduce waste to landfill.

The program, led by Glen Eira City Council, will offer families and expectant parents more support to learn about and use modern reusable options, following the findings of a collaborative Reusable Nappy Feasibility Study that Maroondah took part in last year.

Visit Council's website to learn more.

Providing exceptional care

Maroondah Occasional Care has received an exceptional rating from the Victorian Government.

Maroondah Occasional Care is a flexible, high-quality childcare service for children from 6 weeks to five years of age.

The Council-run service offers permanent bookings as well as casual/emergency bookings based on availability, giving families the opportunity to attend work or appointments, or for children to socialise with others in a mixed-age setting. The service is delivered by highly qualified educators, who offer a program based on the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards (NQS) to ensure it is stimulating, developmentally appropriate and responsive to children's individual needs and interests.

The centre recently achieved an Exceeding National Quality Standard (NQS) rating in a National Assessment undertaken by the Department of Education – the highest rating a service or program can achieve under the National Quality Framework.

The Department noted that the children's sense of security and confidence at Maroondah Occasional Care was greatly influenced by the support and respectful connections that exist between educators, children and families, as well as between the educators themselves.

The service was also recognised for its inclusive partnerships with children and families, positive workplace culture and organisational values, sustained commitment to professional development and support of educators, and environments that enhance children's learning and growth.

Find out more:

Visit the 'Occasional Care' page on Council's website, call Maroondah Occasional Care on 9298 4673 or email occasional.care@maroondah.vic.gov.au



McAlpin Ward

Tarralla Ward

Wicklow Ward

Your Councillors



Cr Suzy Stojanovic
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As Chair of the Maroondah Access, Inclusion and Equity Advisory Committee, I'm looking forward to expanding my work with community representatives and local service providers to build on Council's range of strategies, policies and plans.

It is important that Council continues to lead by example and create a community where people feel connected and safe to be their authentic self.

To support our community, Council hosts or supports programs for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The programs support people to build positive, meaningful connections while nurturing our vibrant, diverse community by providing opportunities for inclusion and participation.

Visit Council's website to find out more about these programs and our work around inclusion, access and equity.



Cr Paul Macdonald
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Exciting things are happening in the Tarralla Ward, with Council recently formally endorsing the enhancement plan for Woodland Park in Croydon South.

This endorsement will see staged works and improvements take place in the area over the coming years and will include large open space, viewing area, enhanced playspace and picnic zone.

I would like to thank the residents surrounding the park and users of the area who took the time to have their say on the future of the area. Your feedback has helped to inform the final enhancement plan and will ensure Woodland Park will meet the future needs of the area for many years to come.

I can't wait to see the space transform over the coming years. You can keep up to date with the project on Council's website.



Cr Tasa Damante – Deputy Mayor
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Choosing the right kindergarten for your child might seem like a daunting task. But if you're looking for support, Council's website is a great resource to help you choose, including information on enrolment, funding and the variety of kinder program settings in Maroondah, including stand-alone community kinders and long daycare and childcare centres.

Subsidies are available to support families to access kinder, including funding through the Victorian Government and subsidies through the Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) and Koorie Kids Shine programs.

Visit Council's website to learn more or talk with Council's Maternal and Child Health nurses, our Kindergarten Outreach Officer or a local early childhood educator to help you decide which kinder option is best for your family.

Progress on projects in your area

As part of Council's \$51.69 million Capital Works Program, progress on major projects is taking shape.

JW Manson Reserve pavilion redevelopment



The redevelopment of JW Manson Reserve pavilion in Wantirna is complete. The double storey pavilion, complete with balcony and views of both ovals, features female-friendly and accessible facilities, large multipurpose space, kitchen, bar and kiosk, and will now be well utilised by local soccer, AFL and cricket clubs.

Five new cricket nets have also been installed as part of this redevelopment. These projects are funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Town Park sportsfield redevelopment



Following works to install the Tarralla Creek stormwater harvesting system, the sportsfield that sits within the athletics track at Town Park has been upgraded. The project includes new drainage, irrigation and drought tolerant couch grass.

The turf is now going through the establishment period before it can be used mid-year by local soccer clubs while the athletics track is open for users. This project is funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park



The five-lane indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park, to be named Maroondah Edge, is complete and will be open in June.

The multi-use facility will be used by Ringwood Cricket Club, Cricket Victoria, Ringwood District Cricket Association (RDCA), Ringwood Football Netball Club and Ringwood Spiders All Abilities Sports Club.

East Ringwood Reserve lighting upgrade



Located on the corner of Mt Dandenong Road and Dublin Road, new lighting has recently been installed at East Ringwood Reserve. The four LED sportsfield lights on 27 metre poles will illuminate the oval to 200 lux using LED lamp heads.

The lighting is concentrated on the oval and ensures that any spill light is controlled and minimised in accordance with Australian Standards, making it safer for players to train at night.

The lighting will accompany the other high quality facilities at the Reserve, following increased demand for female participation in sport, and will assist with a more enjoyable and better quality experience for all players. This project was funded by the Victorian Government.

Engineering works update



Council is continually improving Maroondah's roads, drains and footpaths to ensure the safety and accessibility of residents and visitors.

Check out works recently completed in your area:

- Tintern Avenue, Croydon South – road and pedestrian safety improvements
- Eastfield Road, Ringwood East – infrastructure enhancement works
- Alexandra Road and Scenic Avenue, Ringwood East – flood mitigation works
- Ainslie Park Carpark, Croydon – carpark construction
- New Street, Ringwood – pedestrian safety improvements
- Hendra Grove, Sunhill Road, Sang Court, Ambrie Avenue, Ringwood – footpath construction
- Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon South – carpark improvements
- Yarra Road, Croydon – road resurfacing, drainage and footpath works

The following works are currently underway or expected to start shortly:

- Bond Street, Ringwood – footpath construction
- Churchill Way, Kilsyth – accessible parking improvements
- Jubilee Park Carpark, Ringwood – carpark improvement works
- Lionel Crescent, Croydon – drainage improvement works
- New Street, Ringwood – RMAC Sherbrook Catchment Stage 3 drainage upgrades
- Stirling Road and Toorak Avenue Intersection, Croydon – waste vehicle turnaround improvements
- The Boulevard, Heathmont – drainage improvement works



Scan the QR code to visit the 'Projects' page on Council's website to find out more.

Personal training for all at Maroondah Leisure

Personal trainers at Maroondah Leisure are passionate about helping clients of all ages and abilities to achieve their fitness goals through programs tailored to meet individual needs.

Michael Schultz is among Maroondah Leisure's 60 personal training clients, having worked with Personal Trainer Chris White for nine months.

Michael, who is an above-knee amputee, began personal training after completing rehabilitation following his amputation. He signed up for personal training because he wanted "some help getting fit and strong to run".

Since then, Chris and Michael have worked together to develop his personal training program, consistently evaluating and building on the program to ensure it continues to challenge Michael as he progresses and strives to achieve his goals.

"It's difficult to push yourself hard enough and to know what your limits are, so I have enjoyed having someone to do that for me.

"Having Chris's insight, enthusiasm, expertise and personal desire to work out what works for an above-knee amputee has meant that I have been challenged every step of the way and he keeps finding new and interesting ways to push me," Michael said.

"Working with Michael is a real privilege. His determination to give everything a go and tackle every challenge persistently is inspiring," Chris said.

Michael's program concentrates primarily on proprioception, which is the sense that lets us perceive the location, movement, and action of parts of the body. The program also focuses on how to manipulate the position of Michael's prosthetic for the best advantage to the rest of his body.

With support, encouragement and guidance from Chris, Michael has achieved great results.

"The culmination of this has been Michael completing consecutive Turkish Get Ups – an exercise that is difficult for most people and involves getting up from flat on your back using careful foot positioning and weight redistribution to stand while holding a kettlebell," Chris said.

"I'm now running, which I hadn't done for 20 years. My balance has improved immeasurably, as has my ability to control my prosthetic side. My overall strength has also increased across all muscle groups, and we've been able to increase my VO2 significantly," Michael said.



Michael Schultz with personal trainer Chris White.

With running down-pat, Michael is now working towards his current goal, one-legged weightlifting.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au to learn more about personal training at Aquahub and Aquanation.

Walk with extended lighting

Council has reintroduced extended lighting at a popular walking location in Maroondah until Wednesday 27 September.

With the cold weather and fewer daylight hours upon us, the extended lighting program aims to provide more time for residents to exercise outdoors at night.

Walking is a popular form of physical activity for people of all ages, and with good reason! Walking for 30 minutes five times per week can help you to:

- reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes
- manage weight, blood pressure and blood cholesterol
- prevent and control diabetes
- maintain bone density, reducing the risk of osteoporosis and fractures
- improve balance and coordination, reducing the risk of falls
- reduce stress and maintain physical and mental health.

You can access extended lighting at Town Park Athletics Track, Croydon, on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6pm to 8pm.

Why not become a Get Active Victoria member? This Victorian Government program provides access to a range of resources, tips and tools for being more physically active. You can also set goals and track your activity.

Visit the Get Active Victoria website, www.getactive.vic.gov.au, to sign up and find out more.

Visit the 'Walking in Maroondah' page on Council's website to learn more about the benefits of walking and to find a walking path or trail near you.



New home for Merrindale pop-up park furniture

Ainslie Parklands Primary School students have been enjoying some colourful new additions to their grounds after Council recently donated furniture from the pop-up park at Merrindale Shopping Centre to the school.

The Merrindale pop-up park, installed in late 2021 as part of the Victorian Government's COVIDSafe Outdoor Activation Program, provided an outdoor space for the community to gather when indoor gatherings were restricted.

After seeing her children enjoy the furniture at Merrindale pop-up park, Ainslie Parklands Primary School parent Jane Bennetts approached Council with the idea to repurpose the equipment by donating it to the school.

"We value sustainability, creativity and low waste, so this project has been wonderful for the school. All the nooks make an exciting place for play and work," Jane said.

Principal of Ainslie Parklands Primary School, Jane Capon, said the furniture has been "a wonderful addition," providing "another area for learning and for play".

"The students look for opportunities to use and play on the furniture. It also has lots of seating for outdoor learning. It is a calm, quiet and beautiful place to learn," Jane said.

The furniture features modular-designed seating and play equipment, with students of all ages experiencing the new space as a place for exploring, outdoor learning and relaxation.

The students are now looking forward to painting the furniture in colours inspired by the gum trees on the school grounds, giving the furniture longevity and a connection to its new home.



Merrindale pop-up park furniture has found a new home at Ainslie Parklands Primary School.

Swim program supporting young people from diverse backgrounds

Council is proud to partner with Migrant Information Centre to deliver a learn to swim program for young people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Funded by Lifesaving Victoria and the Victorian Government, the program offers subsidised lessons for young people from Hakha, Zomi and Karen Chin communities to help decrease their risk of drowning.

The 8-week program is held at Aquahub in Croydon and sees students develop a better understanding of the dangers

around water, improved swimming abilities and increased knowledge of water safety and survival skills.

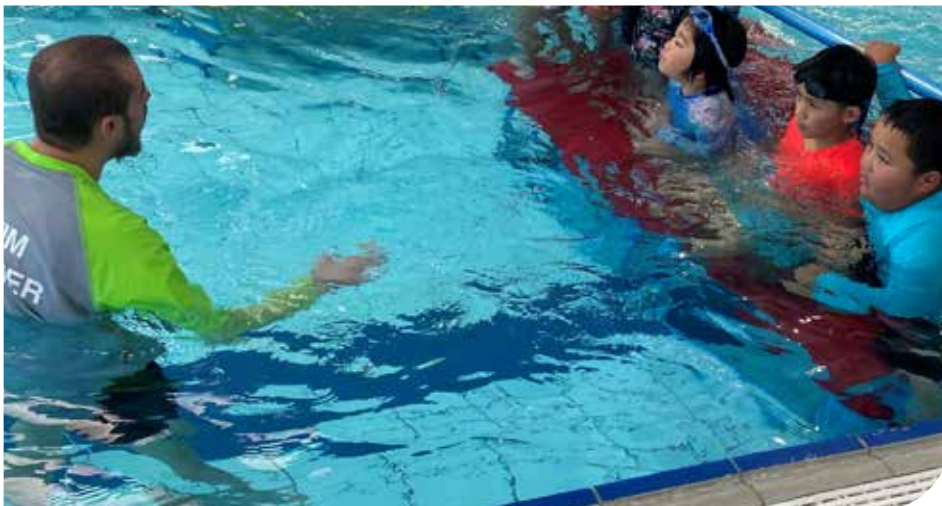
With a fantastic attendance rate of over 90 percent, Esera from Migrant Information Centre said the program has been well-received by students and their families.

"I have received verbal feedback that the program is fantastic. As soon as Tuesday comes, the kids all look forward to attending their swimming lessons. The parents ask if there will be another program next year, so the feedback is positive. All the staff are fantastic and the kids learn a lot from them."

Aquahub Swim Teacher Oscar said the program is a rewarding experience for teachers, too.

"I really enjoy teaching migrant students. I have taught a few different groups over the past six months, with a focus on teaching the students as many swimming and survival skills as possible. The students are engaged and eager to learn, and their parents are supportive," Oscar said.

Families from migrant or refugee communities who are interested in enrolling for future terms in the youth swimming program can find out more on the Migrant Information Centre website miceastmelb.com.au or call 9285 4888.



Exciting future for Norwood Reserve and Woodland Park

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on our draft enhancement plans for Norwood Reserve and Woodland Park.

The plans were endorsed in March 2023, with staged works and improvements to take place over the coming years.

The enhancement plans were developed based on feedback from key stakeholders and members of the community, to help ensure both Norwood Reserve and Woodland Park meet the future needs of our community.



Norwood Reserve

Norwood Reserve in Ringwood North has an open space area that is currently under-utilised, so proposed improvements anticipated for the coming years include:

- a flexible open space
- canopy trees, understory and avenue planting
- nature play elements
- improved signage, seating areas and car parking.

Visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website to view the enhancement plans for Norwood Reserve and Woodland Park.

Woodland Park

The Woodland Park precinct is a significant open space area in Croydon South. Proposed area improvements include:

- a flexible open space
- a viewing area
- re-vegetation and buffer planting
- a picnic zone
- public amenities
- enhanced play and gathering places, such as areas for wheel play, games, nature play and structured play
- car parking and signage improvements
- improved connections for walkers who use the loop trail.

Wombolano Ward

Wonga Ward

Yarrunga Ward

Your Councillors



Cr Kylie Spears
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Works are underway to remove the dangerous and congested level crossings at Dublin Road in Ringwood East and Bedford Road in Ringwood as part of the Victorian Government's Level Crossing Removal Project (LXR).

While there may be disruptions during the works, it's really important that we continue to support our local businesses. Dedicated parking will be available for shoppers, so please continue to visit our traders and businesses in Ringwood East.

While you're there, you can use Stamp Me, the LXR team's free loyalty app to reward local shoppers for making purchases over \$10 at participating businesses in Ringwood East, with a \$10 voucher rewarded for every nine stamps collected. Visit the LXR website for more details.

Visit Council's website for information on other projects in Maroondah.



Cr Linda Hancock
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Whether you're hosting a community event, a meeting for work or looking for somewhere to host a social function, there are a range of Council-owned rooms, facilities and halls available for hire. These range from scout halls and sporting clubs to community centres and meeting rooms.

If you're involved in a not-for-profit community organisation, Council also has a standard Community Facilities lease and licence agreement, to support groups with access to facilities and meeting spaces.

Visit the 'Halls and facilities for hire' page on Council's website to find a facility near you. The page has a handy search function that allows you to search by capacity or features, and you can also choose the 'map view' to find a space near you.



Cr Rob Steane – Mayor
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Volunteers are an essential part of our community. Whether it's delivering a meal, helping isolated residents get out and about, working with young people or helping to care for our bushland reserves, volunteers provide their service out of generosity and knowing they are helping someone else.

If you're interested in volunteering, Council's website lists a range of opportunities, with flexibility to fit into your schedule. Whether you can assist for a couple of hours a month or on a weekly basis, all volunteering efforts are welcomed and appreciated. Visit our website to learn more.

You can also use the Community Directory on our website to search for a range of Maroondah-based community organisations and groups seeking volunteer support.



Supporting women in business to be bold!

The 2023 Maroondah Women On The Go (WOTG) is coming up on Wednesday 19 July and everyone is welcome!

It's set to be another great event, with inspirational speakers who are 'Bold in Business' and keen to share their stories and tips.

WOTG provides an opportunity for local networking, practical ideas for your business and an opportunity to connect with like-minded professionals.

Run in partnership with Knox City Council and Yarra Ranges Council, the event will

bring together business owners and leaders across the region.

Join us for brunch at Karralyka, Ringwood East, on Wednesday 19 July from 9.30am to 12noon and gain practical ideas on how to be Bold in Business.

Visit www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au/WomenOnTheGo to learn more or purchase your ticket.



Love your local library

Croydon and Realm libraries have a range of exciting programs lined up for the winter months.

From Lego, gaming and trivia to carer support, financial management and wellbeing workshops, there's something to interest everyone!

You can stay up to date with the latest news and upcoming events from Your Library via their monthly eNewsletter, delivered directly to your email inbox.

Visit www.yourlibrary.com.au or call Croydon Library on 9800 6448 or Realm Library on 9800 6430 to find out more.

Help shape Maroondah's heritage planning protection



The findings of our Heritage Study Review – *Amendment C148maro* are now available to view.



Main Street, Croydon, in the 1960s (source: Croydon Historical Society, *Croydon Then and Now*)

Council is committed to improving our built environment by protecting places of heritage value.

Today, Edwardian and interwar-era buildings and places form an important part of our city's heritage, with many people also appreciating post-war structures for their architecture and design.

Council recently completed a municipal-wide Heritage Study Review with a focus on Post World II heritage.

As part of this review, more than 100 properties – including 36 individual places, one group listing and three precincts – have been assessed as meeting the threshold for heritage planning protection.

Planning scheme amendment (Amendment C148maro) has now been prepared to give effect to the Heritage Study Review recommendations that focus on preserving Post World War II heritage precincts and places.

The planning process for a Heritage Overlay has several steps in place to ensure property owner and stakeholder views are considered prior to the application of heritage protection.

Council is now inviting anyone who may be affected by Amendment C148maro to make a submission, with consultation closing on Tuesday 27 June 2023.

To find out more about the public exhibition for Amendment C148maro, visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website at www.yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au

KARRA



GOLDEN

Friday 7 July, 8pm

Tickets: \$59 per adult, \$55 for concession card holders or groups of 10+

All that glitters is gold in this glistening musical mixtape from the award-winning creators of *Christmas Actually* and *There's Something About Music*.

Golden unites superstar vocalists Luke Kennedy (*Swing On This*, *The Voice Australia*) and Irena Lysiuk (*Your Song*, *Are You Lonesome Tonight*), with piano virtuoso Damian Sim, for a musical celebration of contemporary music's golden hits.

Journey through a treasure trove of Hollywood and Broadway's most-loved soundtracks and relive iconic music moments from your favourite films and stage shows, including *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *The Sound of Music*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *A Star Is Born* and many more.



FROZEN JR.

Mountain District Musical Society

Wednesday 27 September to Saturday 30 September

Tickets: \$25 per person or \$95 for a family pass (2 adults and 2 children)

The enchanting modern classic from Disney is ready for your Broadway Junior stars!

Frozen JR. is based on the 2018 Broadway musical, and brings Elsa, Anna, and the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

A story of true love and acceptance between sisters, *Frozen JR.* expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa.



SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR

Wednesday 25 October, 7.30pm

Tickets: from \$79.90 per person

Hope is an all-new concert by 3-time Grammy® - winning Soweto Gospel Choir - celebrating the music of protest and freedom; from Mandela's South Africa, back to the Civil Rights Movement of Martin Luther King's 1950's America.

Opening with a rousing program of South African freedom songs, *Hope* then echoes down through time to the USA, with beautiful renditions of the protest music of the Civil Rights Movement, including works by legendary artists James Brown, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder and the one-and-only Aretha Franklin.

L Y K A



THEATRE SEASON 2023

For more information or to book, please visit the Karralyka website at www.karralyka.com.au or call 9870 2888.

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.

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Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598, online at maroondah.vic.gov.au email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au or visit one of our service centres.

Croydon
Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

Realm
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood Station)

