



Award winners Catherine Gordon, Satria Arbai, and Edwina Ricci and Jodie Murphy, on behalf of the Language of Friendship event.

Inspirational citizens honoured

Maroondah's most remarkable community members were celebrated at an Australia Day event held at Ringwood Lake Park on 26 January.

Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Kylie Spears, announced the 2024 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year during a special awards ceremony, where 60 people also received their Australian citizenship.

Each year, our community is invited to nominate an individual or community group for the Maroondah Australia Day Awards, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community.

This year's recipients have been honoured for their remarkable impact on Maroondah and the wider community.

Citizen of the Year



Catherine Gordon was named 2024 Citizen of the Year. She has been a dedicated and tireless volunteer for the Maroondah Volleyball Association and wider community for many years. Catherine is a driving force in the growth of participation at all levels within Maroondah Volleyball and has also been involved in many programs, activities and fundraisers.

Catherine is passionate about inclusiveness and has been instrumental in ensuring the sport is equally accessible for all and promoting community engagement and social inclusion.

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Welcome to Maroondah news

Hello and welcome to the February edition of Maroondah news.

This is one of many ways that you can keep informed and engaged with the range of Council's services, events and programs.

We also provide other digital and print news publications, including our quarterly Maroondah news magazine, our eNewsletter and regular updates via our website and social media.

If you haven't already, visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au and subscribe to our regular eNewsletters, or keep up to date on our social media channels.

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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 are:

Monday 19 February

Monday 18 March

Monday 22 April

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 on time for the start of the meeting.** Agendas are made available on the Friday before the meeting date.

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 most Victorian public holidays.

Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

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

Get in touch with us



Phone 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598
SMS 0480 020 200



Live chat via our website
www.maroondah.vic.gov.au



Email
maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au



Subscribe to Maroondah eNews
via our website.



Scan the QR code to subscribe to Maroondah news, our digital community newsletter that features a range of news, consultations and events to keep you connected with what's happening in and around Maroondah.



**Please recycle
this publication.**



Maroondah City Council is certified for its organisational operations.

Meet your new Councillor for the Barnegeong Ward

Chris Jones was elected to the Barnegeong Ward in December 2023 following a by-election conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Cr Jones has lived in Maroondah for more than 16 years, is raising two children and plays an active role in a number of community groups and volunteer organisations.

Cr Jones holds a senior leadership role with a global software company and enjoys working through the challenges of digital transformation and its impacts on society. He is passionate about empowering community groups to deliver wellbeing for all residents and has served on the Board of the Yarrunga Community Centre.

As a Councillor, Chris is looking forward to supporting local business, maintaining our neighbourhood

character and continuing to ensure Maroondah is clean, green and sustainable.

Find out more about Cr Jones, or your Ward Councillor, by visiting Council's website.



Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

Following an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations in Victoria in recent weeks, it's important to stay safe and take precautions as needed, including:

- Wear a mask
- Get vaccinated: stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine
- Let fresh air in: open windows and doors when you can
- Get tested: if you have symptoms, take a rapid antigen test
- Stay at home: if you have COVID-19, you should stay at home for at least five days and continue to stay at home until you have no symptoms
- Take antivirals if eligible: if you are at risk of becoming very sick, you may be eligible for COVID-19 antiviral medicines. Please speak to your GP about this.

For more information, visit the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au/health-alerts/increase-in-covid-19-cases

Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid Antigen tests are available for purchase at your local pharmacy and some supermarkets.

PCR tests can be obtained by referral from your GP. Free tests are no longer available from Council's Customer Service Centres.

Boosters and vaccinations

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

Visit the Health Direct website www.healthdirect.gov.au to learn more and to find your nearest vaccination provider.

Tell us what you think!

Do you have a topic that you'd like to see covered in Maroondah news? Email us at news@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Continued from front page

Catherine has held regular sitting volleyball activities, increased cultural participation, held LGBTQIA+ events and is actively looking to develop wheelchair volleyball.

"I started our first-ever VolleyAll program, a full inclusion program for volleyball that can be played at the grassroots, everyday level for a child who has a disability, whether it's physical or mental. That's been a great program. I'm very passionate about getting all kids in our community involved," Catherine said.

Young Citizen of the Year



Satria Arbai received the Young Citizen of the Year award for his passion and dedication towards advocating for disability rights. He has worked hard to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by young people with a disability within the school community at Ringwood Secondary College.

Satria's active involvement in the student-led Ringwood Activists for Disability (RAD) group and presentations delivered to students have challenged misconceptions about people with a disability and promoted the importance of inclusiveness.

This advocacy has helped to improve the visibility of people with a disability within the school community and has made Ringwood Secondary College a more inclusive and supportive environment.

"At school, I got the opportunity to run a workshop on how to interact with someone with a disability and I also ran a project with the Ringwood Activists for Disability there. It made me feel really happy that I got to do something for the community," Satria said.

"I'm proud of our social media account educating people about disability and how to become a better ally for people with disability. It's really great."

Community Event of the Year



The Language of Friendship event was awarded Community Event of the Year. The sold out 'Language of Friendship' workshop was held at Eastland in February 2023 with over 700 bookings.

Presented in partnership with URSTRONG, Maroondah Positive Education Network and Communities of Wellbeing, the event showed parents how to support children to create healthy, feel-good social connections while using the 'language of friendship', including friendship tools such as

a friend-o-meter to rate friendships as healthy or unhealthy, friendship facts, friendship values and skills to talk through 'friendship fires' and disagreements. URSTRONG's whole-school friendship strategy was also recognised for improving the social climate in schools across the world by connecting over one million children, parents and teachers with the common language of friendship.

Edwina Ricci accepted the award and said, "The event was inspired by some research we did in 2019 ... and was the extension of the 'language of friendship'. The language of friendship is simple and easy to implement, and is a really important way for students to manage their own relationships, to be self-determined and have the language and skills to understand that friendships change and that's okay.

"It's four or five years down the track now and [the need] is still there, so that's a sign of something that is sustainable and having a great impact," Edwina said.

Congratulations to our deserving recipients, nominees and citizens.



Local residents with their Australian citizenship certificates.

Visit the 'Community celebrations, citizenship and awards' page on Council's website to learn more about the Maroondah Australia Day Awards.

Be Fire Safe this fire season

Weather can be unpredictable, so it's important to be fire safe and fire ready at all times, especially during fire season, with a higher risk of bushfires between December and February.

Follow these Dos and Don'ts to help keep you and your family safe during the fire season.

Do:

- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm with a 10-year battery
- Ensure you have discussed your fire safety plan with your family, friends and neighbours
- Prepare your property – mow your grass and remove anything flammable such as firewood, rubbish or weeds
- Check your house and contents insurance is up to date.

Don't:

- Leave cooking unattended
- Overload your power boards.

Check the CFA **Can I, Can't I?** guide for more information on what you can do during fire restrictions and days of Total Fire Ban.



Scan the QR code or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au to learn more and see information in your preferred language.

Watch



Scan the QR code to watch our videos with Fire Rescue Victoria and learn more about the Fire Danger Period and fire safety advice in Maroondah.

Get on your bike for Ride Maroondah!

Sunday 3 March

9am to 11am

Dorset Recreation Reserve

Join us for the inaugural Ride Maroondah – a 'wheelie' fun event where you can practice bike riding in a low stress, physical and fun environment with others.

Choose from the 1km Children's Ride Circuit or the 3.6km Family Ride Circuit. Participants can ride as many laps as they like between 9.30am to 11am.

After the ride, celebrate at the Event Village with plenty of children's activities, exhibits, demonstrations, and refreshments available. All ages and athletic abilities are welcome.

Visit Council's website to learn more and register. Registrations close on Wednesday 28 February.

Enter the Mayoral Art Exhibition

Council is inviting entries for the 29th Annual Mayoral Art Exhibition.



Theo Strasser, *Memoriam*, 2011, synthetic polymer paint and ink on paper, represents this year's theme, *Tangent*.

The Mayoral Art Exhibition is a fundraiser for the Bone Marrow Donor Institute, Croydon Branch and is supported by Maroondah City Council and the Ringwood East and Croydon Community Bendigo Bank. This year's theme is *Tangent*.

Artists are encouraged to think differently and experiment with their subjects, materials, or techniques. From realism to abstraction or traditional to contemporary, we invite you to explore new ideas and directions from your usual practice – to go on a 'tangent'.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 8 March. Artworks of all mediums are eligible to enter including photography, sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, and ceramics. Artists of all ages are encouraged to enter.

All eligible artworks will be exhibited and a number of works will be selected for the Mayoral Acquisition and the Ringwood East and Croydon Community Bendigo Bank Acquisition. Both acquisitions will be announced at the exhibition launch at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery on Thursday 4 April.

For more information and how to apply, visit the 'Arts grants, Prizes and Commissions' page on Council's website.

The exhibition will run from Tuesday 2 April to Sunday 4 May.

Poolside Pride returns

Poolside Pride is back for its second year! Aquahub is rolling out the rainbow carpet to host the LGBTIQ+ community for a one-night only, pride-filled extravaganza on Saturday 17 February.



LGBTIQ+ people of all ages, their friends, families and allies are welcome to join in the fun from 6pm to 9pm.

Enjoy a splash in the pool or hang out in the sunshine in a safe space for all members for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Tickets are \$7 each and provide you with access to the pool facilities at this very special, one-off event.

Maroondah Leisure members on a Swim Plus, Fitness Plus, Lifestyle or Wellness Plus membership can attend for free.

There will also be LGBTIQ+ group fitness classes, and a Conversation-and-Chill Area in the sun. Rainbow dress is encouraged, but strictly no body paints or glitter.

Visit Council's website for more information and to purchase your ticket.

Exciting future for gymnastics at Aquahub



Works are underway to redevelop the Aquahub stadium into a purpose-built, industry leading facility to meet the needs of the growing gymnastics program.

The redeveloped stadium will feature state-of-the-art equipment, sprung flooring and an airbag, enhancing the experience for gymnastics members.

The gymnastics program at Aquahub is specifically designed for children 1 to 16 years of age and is delivered by nationally qualified coaches, offering progressive foundation levels to build your child's skills.

The project is expected to be completed in April. Don't miss your chance to reserve your place in this fun-tastic fitness program at Aquahub!

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website at www.maroondahleisure.com.au or scan the QR code for updates or to reserve your place in the gymnastics program.



Maroondah Kinder Expo

Kinder enrolments can be confusing, but the Maroondah Kinder Expo is here to help!



Maroondah Kinder Expo Wednesday 13 March, 6pm to 8pm Karralyka, Ringwood East

The free event is a great way to learn about kindergarten in Maroondah, available funding and the central enrolment system for standalone kindergartens in Maroondah (Maroondah Integrated Kindergarten's Association – MIKA).

You can also learn about the Maroondah Kindergarten Outreach Program and see displays by local kindergartens.

There will be presentations from kindergarten experts at 6.15pm and 7.15pm so you can have your questions answered.

Council's Kindergarten Outreach employees will be onsite for families who may require translation assistance (Hakha Chin, Falam Chin, Burmese).



Scan the QR code or visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/kinderexpo for more information.

You can also contact Council's Children's Services Project Officer on 9294 5740 or email childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au

MIKA kinder enrolments for 2025 open on 1 March 2024 and close on 30 June 2024. To learn more visit the MIKA website at www.mika.org.au

Mindful Walking is back!

Join our popular Mindful Walking program and learn mindfulness practices to help reduce stress and anxiety while improving your overall mental wellbeing.



In partnership with Yarrunga Community Centre and facilitated by Angela Harris, this four-part series will take you on a journey of connection and exploration.

The walks take participants through quiet and serene bushland using these natural surrounds to enhance mental health while learning various mindfulness practices. Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions to receive the maximum benefits of the program, although this is not compulsory.

Participants should be comfortable walking short distances on gravelled or grassed pathways.

Visit Council's website to learn more and to book. If you require assistance to attend this event, please contact Council's Community Wellbeing Facilitator on 1300 88 22 33.

Program details

Dates: Tuesdays 27 February, 5 March, 12 March and 26 March (no session on 19 March)

Time: 9.30am to 10.30am

Location: Yarrunga Community Centre, Croydon Hills

Cost: \$20 per person, covering all four sessions and a light morning tea after each session.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MCH appointments on Saturdays

A limited number of Saturday appointments are now available for Council's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) service, providing more flexibility for families.

The free service partners with families to offer information, guidance and support in all areas of the parenting journey. The MCH team conducts infant/child physical, developmental and wellbeing assessments, provides resources for parents and offers information sessions for sleep and settling and nutrition programs, which you can enrol in via Council's website.

Call 9294 5777 to book an appointment or visit Council's website for more information.

Rates payment due soon

If you have elected to pay your rates in one lump sum, a reminder that payment is due by 15 February 2024.

For those paying their rates by instalment, the third instalment is due by 29 February 2024.

Council offers a range of rates payment options. Visit our website for details.

International Women's Day



Secure your spot for the International Women's Day Breakfast on Wednesday 6 March at Karralyka.

Enjoy a wonderful morning amongst friends while you hear from our inspiring guest speaker, Dr Shona Bass, from Eastern Volunteers and an "original Matilda".

Bookings are essential and will close on Monday 26 February. Visit Council's website to book.

Visit Council's website for more events, including the *Culture Warriors* artist talk with Aunty Zeta Thomson, Simone Thomson and Alinta Koehrer, and the *Sweethearts, Rule Breakers and Money Makers* display and concert celebrating Australian women in jazz.



What's On

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



Music in the Park

Saturday 24 February
4pm to 8pm
Ringwood Lake Park, Ringwood

Join us for an evening of music from a variety of genres that the whole family can enjoy!

There will be face painting and roving entertainment, with ice cream and coffee available to purchase onsite.

This is one of our Celebrate Maroondah events, which provide an opportunity to get together as a community, explore our local open spaces and find out what's happening in your area. Entry is free and no bookings are required.

Visit Council's website for more information.



Insurance Check Information Session

Tuesday 27 February
1.30pm to 3pm
North Ringwood Community House, Ringwood North

Join Eastern Community Legal Centre for this free session covering information that aims to prevent legal problems from arising and reduce the risk of your insurance claim being denied in the event of an environmental event.

Participants are encouraged to bring insurance policy documents for personal reference during the session. You will not be asked to share this information.

Registrations are essential. Bookings close Monday 19 February. Visit Council's website to book or learn more.



Hope by Soweto Gospel Choir

Sunday 3 March
4pm to 5.30pm
Karralyka, Ringwood East

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 to the Civil Rights Movement of Martin Luther King's 1950s America.

Hope includes rousing South African freedom songs and beautiful renditions of works by legendary artists James Brown, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin.

Tickets from \$79.90 per adult or from \$69.90 for concession. Visit the Karralyka website or call 9870 2888 to book.

Community Grants information sessions

Council is hosting information sessions to help our community learn more about the 2024/25 Community Grants Program and the Arts and Cultural Grants Program.

The funding programs are a great way for artists, arts and cultural groups, and not-for-profit community groups to seek Council's support for projects that will benefit the community.

Join us online on Tuesday 5 March, 12noon to 1pm, or Wednesday 6 March, 7pm to 8pm, to learn everything you need to know about available grants, including Community Development Grants, Arts and Cultural Grants, Small Equipment Grants and Emergency Relief Grants.

Both sessions will cover the same topics, including key dates, grant criteria, how to compile your budget, hints and tips for writing a strong application, and Council requirements, such as Child Safety and Public Liability Insurance.

You can also ask questions about the grant application process.

Applications for Council's 2024/25 grant programs open on Monday 4 March and close on Sunday 14 April.

Visit Council's website to learn more and register.

Grant writing workshop

Learn how to write grant applications that give you the best chance for success with expert consultant and grant writer Debby Maziarz.

The workshop is on Tuesday 20 February, 6pm to 8.30pm, at Realm in Ringwood. It is open to any Maroondah-based community group, organisation or artist and will be relevant across a broad array of funding programs.

Bookings are essential and cost \$20, \$10 for concession card holders and students, or free for those meeting hardship requirements.

Visit Council's website for details or to book.



Walk and Draw Workshop hosted by 2023/24 Arts and Cultural Grant recipient Angharad Neal-Williams.

Making progress in Maroondah

As part of Council's \$65.77 million Capital Works Program, projects are continuing to take shape.

Facilities

Construction on the Ringwood Activity Centre carpark at 1 Bedford Road is continuing this month.

Preliminary service relocation works are currently taking place to prepare the site for the next stage of works.

The carpark will provide additional parking spaces for commuters, residents and visitors and reduce car parking congestion at the station carpark and in nearby streets.

Council is also championing the heritage elements of the building, with the original Blood Brothers portion of the building to be repositioned on the site, retaining its corner-store significance.

The project is due to be completed in late 2025.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Ringwood-Activity-Centre-Carpark



Drainage

As part of Council's ongoing commitment to reducing the impacts of flooding on properties and the community, stage 4 of the Sherbrook Drainage Upgrade project is planned to start in March.

The works will include the installation of 280 metres of reinforced concrete drainage pipes at depths ranging from 2 to 4 metres, plus the construction of 16 new drainage pits.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/RMAC-drainage-upgrade

Roads



Road improvement works along Evelyn Road in Ringwood North are set for completion this month.

The works include:

- new footpath construction on the west side of the road (between Loughnan Road and 3 Evelyn Road)
- kerb and channel replacement
- additional stormwater drainage improvements
- road pavement reconstruction.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Evelyn-Road-rehabilitation



Road improvement works have kicked off in Emerald Street in Ringwood.

Council is upgrading the deteriorated road pavement and kerb and channel from Great Ryrie Street to Thomas Street.

Pedestrian connectivity improvements will be completed at the intersection of Emerald Street and Ford Street and new drainage infrastructure will also be included.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Emerald-Street-Works

Open space

Works on the Bedford Road Community Garden are now complete, with the garden available for the community to plant indigenous plants and edible foods like vegetables and herbs.

The garden beds will also be used during Council workshops and programs. They will assist in developing skills like propagating, grafting, seed raising, identifying plants, pests and weeds, preparing soil and more.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Bedford-Park-Community-Garden



Pathways

New footpaths have been recently constructed in Morinda Street, Highton Street, and Fairview Avenue in Ringwood East. These footpaths will improve pedestrian safety and accessibility in the area.

The addition of these footpaths will not only enhance the overall infrastructure of the neighbourhood but also promote a healthier and more active lifestyle for local residents.

Find out more at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/newfootpaths



Find out more

Scan the QR code to visit the 'Projects' page on Council's website. Find out more and see other projects in progress.

Deliveries of FOGO liners starting in March

Maroondah residents who did not previously decline to receive Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kitchen caddy liners will receive their annual supply between **Wednesday 13 March and Wednesday 17 April**.

Each household will receive one roll of 150 liners. If you run out of liners before then, you can collect a top-up pack from Council's Realm and Croydon Customer Service Centres for free.

Please contact Council's Customer Service team if you have not received your liners by Thursday 18 April or if you no longer want to receive your annual supply. As an alternative to liners, you can line your FOGO caddy with either sheets of paper towel or newspaper or put items in loosely.

Remember to keep using Council-supplied compostable liners if you are still using liners and only put acceptable items into your FOGO bin.

A full list of acceptable items can be found on Council's website.

This will ensure your food and garden waste gets turned into quality compost so it can be used by Victorian farmers to grow food.



Detox Your Home



Saturday 23 March, 9am to 3pm
Maroondah City Council
Operations Centre, Croydon

Did you know that household chemicals cannot be disposed of in your waste bins or hard waste service? Dispose of your unwanted and toxic household chemicals safely at this free event.

Detox Your Home is a free and convenient service for households run by Sustainability Victoria, with events around Melbourne. All Detox Your Home events are drive-through and contactless and you can attend any event in Melbourne.

Registration is essential for all Detox Your Home events. For all event details and to register, visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Your Councillors

Barneong Ward



Cr Chris Jones
0418 109 015

Bungalook Ward



Cr Tony Dib OAM JP
0438 515 089

Jubilee Ward



Cr Mike Symon
0436 002 080

McAlpin Ward



Cr Suzy Stojanovic
0429 916 094

Tarralla Ward



Cr Paul Macdonald
Deputy Mayor
0436 001 760

Wicklow Ward



Cr Tasa Damante
0438 704 819

Wombolano Ward



Cr Kylie Spears
Mayor
0436 003 660

Wonga Ward



Cr Linda Hancock
0473 194 871

Yarrunga Ward



Cr Rob Steane OAM
0407 519 986

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.



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 Service Centre
Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

Realm
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood Station)

