

Maroondah news

Your community newsletter



Autumn 2023



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



Mayor, Councillor Rob Steane

Mayor's message

Welcome to the autumn edition of *Maroondah News* and my first message of the year.

As Mayor of Maroondah, and with the support of our Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tasa Damante, and our fellow Councillors, we hope you had a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer with family and friends.

We were delighted to see residents of all ages on 26 January at Ringwood Lake Park for our first community event. It was an honour to present the Maroondah Australia Day Awards to outstanding citizens and events in our community, and to declare 66 Maroondah residents as Australian citizens during our citizenship ceremony. We look forward to seeing our community for plenty more events throughout the year.

With seating upgrades now complete at Karralyka, we are excited to see the launch of the 2023 theatre season. There are some spectacular shows coming up, with something for everyone to enjoy! Visit the Karralyka website for details and to book your tickets.

There are also some wonderful art exhibitions at Realm, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery and Wyreena Community Arts Centre, which I encourage you to visit.

Applications are opening soon for Council's Community and Arts and Cultural Grant funding programs for 2023/24. These funding programs are a fantastic opportunity for eligible, not-for-profit community groups to obtain support for development projects and small equipment purchases that

will benefit the community. You can find application details on Council's website.

In other exciting news, redevelopments have recently been completed at Dorset Recreation Reserve in Croydon. We look forward to formally opening the redevelopments and to seeing the Eastern Burmese Ethnic Community, Croydon City Soccer Club and the wider community enjoy them. Works are also continuing at JW Manson Reserve and the indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park, so we are keen to see these projects progress over the coming weeks and months.

Easter and the April school holidays will be here before we know it. Council's Vacation Care Program will be filled with fun and engaging activities to keep primary school aged children entertained. Places often book out quickly, so visit Council's website for details and to subscribe for updates.

As always, there are plenty of things happening in Maroondah for you to get involved in. Visit Council's website for updates on events, activities and programs near you.

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 are:

Monday 20 March

Monday 17 April

Monday 15 May

Council meetings are open to the public and are promoted across a range of channels, with an open invitation to attend. Agendas are made available on our website the Friday before the meeting date.

Council service centre 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 Labour Day and Easter Monday
10am to 5pm.

Closed Good Friday, Easter Sunday and
Anzac Day.

Croydon Library

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

Front page: Maroondah residents at Ringwood Lake Park, one of Maroondah's many wonderful places to play and gather. Learn about our new Play and Gathering Places Strategy on page 4.

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 us at 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 for the e-newsletter, visit our website and fill in your details – it's that easy.

While you're there, why not subscribe for 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

The information provided in this newsletter was accurate at the time of print. For the latest information, visit Council's website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Honouring Maroondah's top citizens

Maroondah's most inspirational community members were honoured at Ringwood Lake Park on 26 January. Sixty-six people also received their Australian citizenship during a special ceremony.

Our Australia Day Awards were announced, with Dennis Johnston named 2023 Citizen of the Year for his long-standing involvement with, and contribution to, Biala Ringwood. The organisation provides one-on-one support and care for special-needs children, as well as respite for local families and carers.

The 2023 Young Citizen of the Year Award was won by Jackson Smith and Alyssa Solidaga. They have both demonstrated exceptional leadership in the community as active members and mentors of the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate program and as Student Representative Council (SRC) captains at their school.

The Chin National Day Festival was awarded Community Event of the Year. It attracted around 4,000 members of the community in a celebration of the 74th Chin National Day. Cultural troupes from various tribes were brought together on this special occasion to promote understanding and a sense of identity and unity.

Congratulations to all our recipients and nominees. Visit Council's website to learn more about the 2023 award recipients and to nominate for the 2024 Maroondah Australia Day Awards.



Award winners Jackson Smith, Alyssa Solidaga, Kham Liam, on behalf of the Chin National Day Festival, and Dennis Johnston.

"This is beyond our expectations. We didn't even expect to be on the nominations list. We are very honoured and it's a great privilege," Kham Liam

"I was absolutely thrilled, delighted, surprised and very honoured on behalf of Biala to receive the award. I had no idea I would win," Dennis Johnston

Free COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests

Council is supporting the Department of Health's Community COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test Program by distributing free tests to all members of our community.

Maroondah residents are eligible to collect up to two free packets of Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) for each member of their household per visit. People with a disability or their carer can collect up to four packets of tests.

The tests can be collected from our Realm and Croydon Service Centres.

Community members can continue to collect their RATs as part of their participation in Council services and programs, including but not limited to:

- Maternal and Child Health Care
- In-Home Aged Care
- Immunisation



- In-Home Disability Support services
- Meals on Wheels

For more information, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

Careers @
Maroondah

Join our team

Are you thinking about a career change in 2023? Why not join our team!

Maroondah City Council is a flexible, progressive organisation that values people and offers competitive benefits and learning opportunities. There is a great range of casual, volunteering, part-time and full-time positions available, with excellent career opportunities and employment programs.

Visit the [Careers@Maroondah](https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/careers) page on Council's website to view current vacancies and to apply.

Get ready for Ride2School Day

Maroondah school children are encouraged to embrace a fun and healthy start to their day by choosing to ride, walk, scoot or skate to school as part of National Ride2School Day on Friday 24 March.

Walking or riding to school offers countless benefits – it's a great way for parents to spend quality time with their children and to practice road safety skills, while also promoting a more active, healthy lifestyle. It also reduces commuter costs and vehicle congestion around schools.

Aside from the physical benefits, research shows students who ride or walk to school are more focused and ready to learn!

To get involved in Ride2School Day, visit the 'Rides and events' page on www.bicyclenetwork.com.au. Parents and teachers can also email ride2school@bicyclenetwork.com.au to register their child's or school's interest. You can also ask your school what activities they are planning for the day.

Important tips to help your child get to and from school safely:

- Always hold your child's hand when you are crossing the road.
- Always cross at pedestrian crossings or at a corner. Wait for the lights and look in every direction to check there are no oncoming vehicles.
- Stop at driveways and check there are no cars reversing or entering.
- Start talking about road safety while your child is still in the stroller. Keep talking and practicing road safety as they grow up.
- Remember that children under the age of 12 and supervising adults can ride on the footpath.

- Ensure the bike is in good working order (check the handle bars, seat, chain, gears and brakes) before the day. Contact your local bike shop to book a bicycle service.
- Ensure you and your child wear a bike helmet when riding a bike or scooter, which is a legal requirement in Victoria.

Visit the [Cycling in Maroondah](#) page on Council's website for more tips on riding safely. You can also view the [Maroondah Interactive Transport Map](#) on Council's website to plan your route.

Help shape our new Play and Gathering Places Strategy



Connections matter

Connections provide us with a sense of belonging and purpose. Play and gathering together in our natural environment can foster those connections and create a thriving community. That's why Council is calling on our community to tell us where, why and how you play and gather.

Your feedback will help inform our Play and Gathering Places Strategy, with the vision to provide inclusive places within our open spaces that aim to cater for all cohorts within our community. These places will promote gathering, interaction, connection, wellbeing and liveability

while being thoughtfully and sustainably planned to honour Maroondah's natural environment and culture.

For more information or to provide feedback please visit yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au/play-and-gathering-places

Have your say by Sunday 12 March for your chance to win 1 of 10 \$50 Eastland gift vouchers!

Bookings opening soon for April Vacation Care program

The April school holidays will be here before we know it! Have you enrolled your child in Council's Vacation Care program?

Council provides a Vacation Care program for primary school-aged children every school holidays, with activities between 8am and 6pm weekdays (not including public holidays).

The program is child-focused, stimulating and fun, with a great range of recreational

experiences and opportunities on offer. Places are limited and often fill up quickly, so keep an eye on our School Holiday Program – Primary School webpage for updates on the April Vacation Care program. While you're there, save time and complete an online enrolment using the HubHello parent portal.



Once you have enrolled, you will be added to our mailing list for updates about future programs for 2023.

Pick up Pickleball at Maroondah Nets



Are you seeking a new, fun way to keep active? Why not try Pickleball at Maroondah Nets.

Pickleball is a low-impact racquet sport you can learn in minutes and play for a lifetime. It brings together badminton, tennis and table tennis to create a sport that is fun for all ages and skill levels. It becomes fast-paced and exhilarating at competitive levels!

The game can be played by two or four people and is played on a court using a lightweight solid paddle and aerated ball. As a low-impact sport, it's easy on the body, and helps to improve hand-eye coordination, flexibility, strength, speed, agility and balance.

Whether you are experienced in racquet sports or trying something new, Pickleball just might be the game for you. You can try Pickleball at Council's Maroondah Nets, with sessions available in the indoor, climate-controlled stadium.

For bookings, more details or to watch a video of Pickleball in action, visit www.maroondahleisure.com.au or call Maroondah Nets on 9298 4535.

You can also find out more about beginner lessons, social sessions and competitions.

Take a shot at basketball with The Rings

Help your child make a great start in basketball with a junior Bidy Ball program at The Rings.

The term-based programs provide an ideal way for children aged 3 to 12 years to learn the basics of basketball with experienced coaches in a safe, climate-controlled environment.

They also help children progress in a way that suits their interests and abilities while developing aerobic fitness and basketball skills, learning to play as a team and, of course, having fun!

Bidy Ball programs are broken up by age:

- Bidy Ball Intro: 3 to 5 years. A unique introduction to basketball for pre-schoolers.
- Bidy Ball Skills: 5 to 12 years. A fantastic introduction to basketball without full-scale competition. Mixed, girls only and all-abilities programs (for children with a disability) are available.
- Bidy Ball Play: for those who are ready for match play in a non-competitive environment. A great introduction before club competition.

Learn more and enrol online at maroondahleisure.com.au



Get into golf

Whether you're a first-time golfer or just brushing up on your skills and not sure how to start, Dorset Golf offers a clinic to suit your needs, with adult, women's and junior clinics available.

Experienced coaches run through a different topic each month and cover everything you need to know, including chipping, pitching, putting, bunkers and full swing.

All you need is some comfortable footwear and clothing, and the willingness to try. Come along, meet new people and fall in love with the game of golf.

Golf carts are also available to hire for a modest fee – perfect for all golfers, especially those less mobile, who could use some support to enjoy their much-loved game.

To book or learn more, visit www.maroondahleisure.com.au/Our-venues/Dorset-Golf or call the golf shop at Dorset Golf on 9294 5555.





Claire Bridge, *The Escape*, 2009, oil on linen, Maroondah City Council Art Collection

Don't miss the Mayoral Art Exhibition!

Now in its 28th year, the annual Mayoral Art Exhibition is a fundraiser for the Bone Marrow Donor Institute and is supported by Maroondah City Council and the Ringwood East Community Bendigo Bank.

Visit Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery from 20 March to 28 April to view a range of artworks exploring this year's theme, *Interior | Exterior*.

From architecture to open space or with portraits, depicting an outer appearance to capture an inner self, artists have been invited to explore interior and exterior worlds.

A number of works will be selected for acquisition for the Mayoral Acquisition and the Ringwood East Community Bendigo Bank Acquisition. The Mayoral Acquisition will become part of the Maroondah City Art Collection. Announcement of both acquisitions will be made at the exhibition opening on Thursday 30 March.

Visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/exhibitions for more information.

Arts and Cultural grant funding applications opening soon

Artists, arts and cultural groups and organisations are invited to apply for a share in funding to support their projects through Council's Arts and Cultural Grant Funding Program for 2023/24.

The grants provide support for projects at any stage of the creative process and reflect the rich diversity of the Maroondah community. Grant applications open on Tuesday 14 March and close at 4pm on Friday 28 April 2023.

The funding can be used for a wide range of projects including creative development and presentation, arts and cultural

programs, and the activation of new arts and cultural spaces.

The Arts and Cultural Grant Funding Program is part of Council's Community Grant Funding Program, which aims to deliver community-driven projects, initiatives and events that increase Maroondah's profile and participation within the arts.



2021/22 grant recipients Jazz Notes produced Jazz at the Lake at Ringwood Lake Park with support from Council's funding program.

All grant applications must be submitted online via SmartyGrants, which can be accessed through Council's website.

Visit Council's website for application details, guidelines and criteria. For more information, email the Community Cultural Development Officer, at maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au or call 1300 88 22 33.

Community groups invited to apply for funding grants

Are you a not-for-profit group in need of funding assistance to buy equipment or deliver a program, project or event in Maroondah?

Applications for funding assistance through Council's 2023/24 Community Grants Funding Program open on Tuesday 14 March.

Funding is available for not-for-profit, incorporated groups on an annual basis to assist with projects or programs that make a positive contribution to the Maroondah community.

Groups can apply for funding through three grant categories: Community Development Grants, Small Equipment Grants Scheme and Emergency Food Relief Grants.

Applications can be made online until 4pm, Friday 28 April, with applicants being advised of the outcome of their application and funds distributed in July.

For information on eligibility and assessment criteria, tips for completing grant applications and funding conditions, visit Council's website or contact our Community Development Officer on 1300 88 22 33 or email communitygrants@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Exciting times for projects in Maroondah

Projects in Maroondah are progressing well, with some major upgrades recently completed as part of Council's \$51.69 million Capital Works Program.

Dorset Recreation Reserve



The brand-new facilities at Dorset Recreation Reserve in Croydon have recently been completed. The first-class soccer facilities include two full-size soccer pitches, a synthetic turf field and a natural turf field, multipurpose courts and a large double story pavilion with viewing platform, multipurpose space, change rooms and accessible amenities. The space will be enjoyed by the Eastern Burmese Ethnic Community, Croydon City Soccer Club and wider community for many years to come. This project has been funded by Council in partnership with the Australian Government and Victorian Government.

Indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park



Jubilee Park in Ringwood is set to become a hub for cricket in the east, with construction of the new indoor cricket training centre nearly complete. Expected to be finalised over the coming months, the facility will be fully accessible and include five-lanes of indoor cricket nets for clubs to utilise during the off season and wet weather, along with an indoor multipurpose area, lockers, accessible amenities and office space. This project is funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Town Park sports field redevelopment



Following the installation of a new stormwater harvesting system in Croydon, the Town Park sports field in Croydon is undergoing redevelopment. These works will include new drainage, irrigation, sand profile and goal posts and will be topped with drought-tolerant couch grass for all year-round usage. This project is funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

JW Manson Reserve pavilion redevelopment



Redevelopment of JW Manson Pavilion in Wantirna, owned by Maroondah City Council, is currently underway. The new pavilion will include female friendly player and accessible facilities, a first-aid room, a multipurpose room, kitchen, bar and kiosk, balcony, and covered veranda. The building modules that have been built off site will soon be delivered and installed over the coming months, reducing construction time and disruption. This project is funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

Engineering works update



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

Check out the works that have recently been completed in your area:

- Tintern Avenue, Croydon South – road and pedestrian safety improvements
- Langley Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction and waste collection improvements.
- Kent Avenue, Croydon – road resurfacing
- Parsons Street, Croydon – parking improvements and footpath construction
- Eastfield Road, Ringwood East – infrastructure enhancement works
- Alexandra Road and Scenic Avenue, Ringwood East – flood mitigation works

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

- Ainslie Park Carpark, Croydon – carpark construction
- Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon South – carpark improvements
- Yarra Road, Croydon footpath works – final stage
- Hendra Grove, Sunhill Road, Sang Court, Ambrie Avenue, Ringwood – footpath construction
- Jubilee Park Carpark – carpark improvement works
- Anzac Street, Croydon – footpath construction
- Eastfield Road, Croydon South – footpath construction and pedestrian refuge
- Churchill Way, Kilsyth – disabled bay parking improvement
- Gardini Avenue, Ringwood – shared user path construction

Visit the Projects page on our website to find out more and see other projects in progress.

Helping older residents feel safe and connected

Community and health

Maroondah Police Seniors Register



Are you an older resident in Maroondah? Have you considered joining the Maroondah Police Seniors Register?

The Register is a free program run by volunteers to help residents living in Maroondah to feel safe and connected with their community. The program aims to give residents, relatives and friends peace of mind, knowing that someone is looking out for them.

People on the Register receive fortnightly or monthly calls from volunteers, who check on their welfare. The Register also contains people's emergency contact details, such as next of kin or a doctor, which are entered into a confidential list that can be used by emergency services to contact key people if there is an emergency.

Members of the Register can also receive newsletters to stay updated on local activities and safety information, along with invitations to one or two social outings per year, to help maintain a sense of connection to the community.

To find out more about joining the Register or about becoming a volunteer, call 9298 4569 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 12 noon), email seniorsregister@maroondah.vic.gov.au or visit Council's website.

Kilsyth to Croydon South water mains renewal project

Melbourne Water is replacing sections of the water mains between Dunrossil Drive, Kilsyth to Yarraduct Place, Croydon South.

The water mains are between 80 and 100 years old and reaching the end of their service life, so these works are essential to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for residents in and around Maroondah, now and into the future.

Preliminary works will commence in the coming months, with construction starting by mid-2023. Work will take approximately 18 months to complete.

To find out more about the project and any disruptions that may impact you, visit the Melbourne Water website www.melbournewater.com.au/M155

Level crossing removal update

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

At Coolstore Road, updated designs for the new transport hub and Croydon Station will be released early this year, with major construction kicking off later in 2023.

At Bedford Road, Ringwood, major construction works will start early this year. Crews will be on site in the coming months to set up construction sites.

Boom gates at Bedford Road, Dublin Road and Coolstore Road will be gone and the new Ringwood East and Croydon stations will be open in 2025, reducing congestion for the thousands of vehicles that drive through each of these level crossings every day, and providing improved public transport options for commuters

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



Looking west at the new Ringwood East Station. Artist impression, subject to change.

FOGO kits are coming

Council will be delivering a free FOGO kit to Maroondah households from mid-March in preparation for our new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection service.

Each kit contains a kitchen caddy, a roll of compostable caddy liners and an information pack, to help residents collect food waste in their kitchen and carry it to their FOGO bin. Using the Council-supplied compostable liners will keep your kitchen caddy clean and tidy while ensuring your food scraps are contained in your FOGO bin.

You do not need to do anything to have your FOGO kit delivered – kits will be delivered to Maroondah households from mid-March to the end of April.

All residential garden organics bins should now have a new lime green lid, in line with Victorian Government regulations. If yours hasn't been changed yet, please contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 so that we can arrange for it to be changed over.

Visit Council's website to learn more about the upcoming FOGO service.



Information sessions

To help households make the most of the new FOGO service, Council's Waste Education team is running information sessions throughout April and May.



For more information and to register, scan the QR code to visit

Council's Community Waste Education webpage.

Waste education workshops



Council hosts a range of community waste education workshops throughout the year to help our residents learn more about a variety of topics, including:

- recycling correctly
- composting and worm farming at home
- reducing food waste
- avoiding and reducing plastics
- reducing waste at home

Sessions are often presented by guest speakers and can also be run for community groups on request.

Scan the QR code to visit the Community Waste Education page on Council's website and find out more.

While you're there, why not subscribe to the Waste and Sustainability e-newsletter to stay updated on upcoming workshops, events and waste news.



Don't let aluminium foil your recycling

Did you know that aluminium foil can be recycled in your blue-lidded recycling bin?

Aluminium is a valuable material that requires a large amount of energy and resources when it is made, so it's important to recycle it correctly and ensure it can be reused.

Creating a soft drink can, for example, from recycled aluminium uses 95% less energy than producing one from raw materials.

Follow these tips before placing aluminium foil into your blue-lidded recycling bin to ensure it can be used again:

- Scrunch foil into a ball about the size of a tennis ball
- Scrape food residue off your aluminium trays (these do not need to be scrunched into a ball)



- Save foil from chocolates, such as Easter eggs, and roll it into a ball. Keep adding to it until it is about the size of a tennis ball

To find out more about what materials can be recycled in your blue-lidded bin, visit the Recyclables collection page on Council's website.

Did you know?

Recycling 1kg of aluminium prevents 20kg of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Do your bit and place aluminium foil in your blue-lidded recycling bin.

Electric mowers an energy win

Council recently started using an electric ride-on-mower at Ringwood Lake Park and Wyreena Community Arts Centre – an exciting step towards more environmentally friendly mowing options for large areas.

Powered by electricity rather than petrol or diesel, the new mower’s environmental savings are the equivalent of taking about 1500 cars off the road!

Along with being more environmentally friendly, the electric mower is safer to operate, has fewer maintenance and service costs, and is quieter than traditional mowers, meaning a more enjoyable experience for people who visit the areas around Ringwood Lake and Wyreena.

Council also recently purchased an electric-powered robotic mower for the grassed areas around Aquanation.

It is hoped that Council can roll out additional robotic mowers at other Maroondah Leisure venues such as Aquahub.



While electric ride-on mowers cannot be used in all of Council’s grassed areas yet, it is hoped that more mowers can be used in the future as the technology progresses.

In the meantime, the electric and robotic mowers are a great step towards more environmentally friendly options for maintaining grassed areas in Maroondah.

Barneong Ward

Bungalook Ward

Jubilee Ward

Your Councillors



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

To help us develop our new Play and Gathering Places Strategy, we are inviting residents to tell us where, why and how they play and gather. We want to hear from everyone who uses these spaces.

The feedback will be used to develop the strategy and action plan, which will inform how we create and maintain our open spaces. The aim is to provide inclusive places that cater for everyone in our community. These places will promote gathering, interaction, connection, wellbeing and liveability, while being thoughtfully and sustainably planned to honour Maroondah’s natural environment and culture.

My young children love to play outdoors, so I am very passionate about this Strategy. I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas via Council’s YourSay Maroondah website by Sunday 12 March.



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

I am delighted the redevelopment of Dorset Recreation Reserve in Croydon is complete, with the Eastern Burmese Ethnic Community and Croydon City Soccer Club enjoying the first-class soccer facilities.

This exciting project brings our sporting and cultural communities into one multi-functional pavilion. We have worked closely with the community groups to ensure that their needs are catered for, including making the space inclusive for all with accessibility options and female-friendly changerooms. I’m sure the new facilities will also help to attract new members into the sports.

Spectators will enjoy the best seat in the house, with views of the playing fields and the iconic Dandenong Ranges.

I’m looking forward to watching some upcoming games and am pleased Council can provide such wonderful facilities for our community.



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

There’s been good infrastructure news in the Jubilee Ward, including the new traffic lights at Wantirna Road and Reilly Street in Ringwood. After years of advocacy from Council, it’s great to see this Australian Government funded project complete, ensuring improved safety for cars and pedestrians.

I am also looking forward to the completion of the new indoor cricket training centre in Jubilee Park. Expected to be completed in the coming months, the state-of-the-art facility will boost the existing offerings of the incredible sporting and leisure precinct in Jubilee Park, which includes facilities for local cricket, football, tennis, soccer, croquet, children’s playgrounds and Aquanation.

Visit Council’s website to learn more about Maroondah’s sporting facilities and traffic improvements throughout our city.

Do the right thing and pick up after your dog

Did you know that not picking up after your dog can have unpleasant impacts on those around you?

Council has recently launched an education campaign, including a video, to remind dog owners to carry a bag, pick up after their dogs and ensure dog poo is placed in a bin.

The campaign also includes new signage and footpath decals in Council parks, reserves and open spaces, and new stickers on the bins at our two dog parks

at Eastfield Reserve and Parkwood Reserve. The stickers have QR codes that residents can scan to report when the bins are full.

Scan the QR code to watch the video or visit Council's website to learn more about responsible pet ownership.



Pet registration renewals due in April

Do you own a cat or dog? A friendly reminder that your pet registration renewal is due annually on 10 April.

Registration is an important part of responsible pet ownership and helps to keep track of your pet. All dogs and cats must be registered and microchipped by the age of three months. Microchipping provides an extra level of protection should your pet's collar become detached, and greatly improves the chances of your pet being returned to you if they become lost.

If you recently welcomed a new furry friend to the family, don't forget that you need to have them microchipped and registered with Council.

It is also a requirement that your pet wears its Council-issued registration tag at all times. The tags are lifelong, so they are not re-issued when you renew your registration.



There are many payment options available, and owners registering their pet for the first time can do so online, or in person at one of Council's service centres. You can either register to receive emails or create an account to manage and access your registration renewals at any time.

If you have moved or no longer have your pet, please let Council know so that our records can be updated.

To find out more, contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or visit Council's website.

Need a new tag?

Replacement tags are available free of charge by calling 1300 88 22 33 or visiting any of our customer service centres.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Planning for future housing needs



As our population changes, so does the need for more diverse, affordable and quality housing.

Council's recently adopted *Maroondah Housing Strategy: 2022 Refresh* seeks to guide development so that additional housing can be provided while protecting our environment and neighbourhood character.

The 2022 Refresh builds on previous work undertaken in the 2016 Maroondah Housing Strategy while acknowledging trends and changes in Maroondah's population and planning for housing needs.

Learn more on Council's website.

Make a splash at Croydon Memorial Pool



Take advantage of the last few weeks of warmer weather and enjoy a swim outdoors at Croydon Memorial Pool before the outdoor pool season ends on Sunday 2 April.

Croydon Memorial Pool is an outdoor facility and seasonally opens during the warmer months.

Opening hours during March and April are:

- Monday to Friday, 6am to 10am and 4pm to 7.30pm
- Weekends from 8am to 12noon
- Labour Day, Monday 13 March, from 8am to 6pm

Please note that operating hours may be subject to change. To find out more, visit www.maroondahleisure.com.au

New sculpture in Melview Reserve

Discover Council's latest public art commission, *Da Ancient One*, located at Melview Reserve in Ringwood North.

The latest addition to Council's public art collection, *Da Ancient One*, by artist Alexander Knox, features the distinctive local Tawny Frogmouth which is known to nest in the area.

The sculpture depicts the Tawny Frogmouth as a wise ancient totem, welcoming visitors to the park. It is much easier to spot than its living counterparts, who are nocturnal

and camouflage in camouflage in the trees where they perch.

Alexander Knox is a highly regarded Australian artist, widely known for producing large-scale facade artworks and kinetic sculptures.

Da Ancient One is now a full-time resident at Melview Reserve, in Melview Drive, Ringwood North.



Alexander Knox: *Da Ancient One* 2023
stainless steel, bronze and concrete.

Did you know?

Maroondah's public spaces are home to numerous artworks. You can learn more on the Public Art in Maroondah page on Council's website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Explore/ArtsInMaroondah/Arts-things-to-see-and-do/Public-Art-in-Maroondah

McAlpin Ward



Cr Suzy Stojanovic
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As a member of the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink reference group, I encourage you to get involved in the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink project, which will encourage indigenous animals and plant species back into the area.

To support this project, you can volunteer with a community environmental group caring for a bushland reserve or create a small habitat on your property to support local animals. You can install a bee hotel for blue-banded bees or tussocky indigenous grasses with logs and rocks for blotched blue tongue lizards. Or visit CRISP Nursery in Ringwood for advice on what to plant to attract specific insects, birds and animals.

The City Nature Challenge (28 April to 1 May) is a great way to support the environment by documenting Maroondah's biodiversity. Visit Council's website for details.

Tarralla Ward



Cr Paul Macdonald
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Our ward is home to the Eastfield Dog Park – one of Maroondah's two fully-fenced dog play areas. With a time-out zone, rock mounds, sand pits, agility equipment and more, it's ideal for dogs! But for everyone's safety, remember some basic rules.

Always supervise your dog and ensure they respond to basic commands, including returning when called. Pay attention to their body language and interactions with others to ensure they are safely enjoying the park. Please ensure you pick up after your dog.

Always keep your dog's lead with you, even in off-leash areas, and leash them before exiting the dog park. Please don't bring food or dog toys, and don't visit if your dog is unvaccinated, aggressive or 'on heat'.

Visit Council's website to learn more about responsible pet ownership.

Wicklow Ward



Cr Tasa Damante – Deputy Mayor
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Croydon has been a hive of activity, with local community groups relocating to their new space in the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.

The former Council offices have been renovated to provide fit-for-purpose spaces for community groups including U3A Croydon, Meals on Wheels, Maroondah Community Assist and Croydon Senior Citizens Centre. Further enhancement works are still to come in the precinct, but it is great to see so many community groups cohabitating in a new space that is easily accessible for the community members who utilise their services.

Visit Council's website to learn more about the project, which has been funded by Council in partnership with the Australian Government.

Be part of the global effort to protect our nature plants and wildlife

Help shine a spotlight on Maroondah's remarkable urban biodiversity by joining us for the 2023 City Nature Challenge, from Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May.

During the four-day challenge period, the Maroondah community is encouraged to document their observations of the wild plants and animals found in their local area (such as a nearby creek, a local reserve or in their own backyard) using the free iNaturalist mobile app.

By participating in the City Nature Challenge, not only will you be learning more about local nature, you'll also be helping to make Maroondah a better place to live – for you and other species.

Thanks to our community's participation in the 2021 and 2022 City Nature Challenges, we're continuing to work together to build a record of the stunning biodiversity found in Maroondah, which increases our ability to manage and protect it.



Simply download the iNaturalist app, check out our many natural reserves, parks and trails, and log your observations. The data compiled will include the number of different species identified as well as total observations.

For more details, visit Council's Discovering Nature webpage at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Development/Natural-Environment/Discovering-nature or www.citynaturechallenge.org

NEWS IN BRIEF

Switch off and support Earth Hour



Council is encouraging the community to turn off all non-essential lighting and electrical appliances for one hour on Saturday 25 March in support of Earth Hour.

The global movement sees millions of people in more than 190 countries switch off their lights in support of our planet's future.

Visit Council's website to learn about our initiatives to become carbon neutral.

Increasing opportunities for grassroots sport



An update of the Melbourne East Sport Recreation Strategy was recently endorsed by Council to help shape planning for sport and recreation across the region over the next 10 years.

The Strategy has been developed to support and guide Melbourne East Councils and stakeholders in the planning and delivery of regional level sport and recreation facilities and shared recreation trails.

It aims to increase participation in sport and recreation activities, provide facilities that can accommodate future demand, as well as create increased opportunities to bid for and host regional, state and national sporting events, resulting in economic benefits to communities.

The Strategy is an update of the 2016 strategy which established the region's first coordinated and collaborative approach to sport and recreation planning developed in partnership with seven eastern region councils.

For more, visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

16 Steps to Respect mosaics installed

Have you seen the new mosaic installations at the Croydon and Ringwood police stations?

The mosaics were created as part of the 16 Steps to Respect Project, a partnership between Council, Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service, Victoria Police and Eastern Community Legal Centre.

The collaborative project brought men, women, elders and young people together to talk about what respect looks like, as part of the *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* campaign that ran from 25 November to 10 December 2022.

The tiles were gifted to Victoria Police and installed in Croydon and Ringwood police stations earlier this year.

Along with this partnership, Council supported the *16 Days of Activism* campaign by displaying billboards around Maroondah expressing messages of safety, non-violence, respect and gender equality.

The messages were developed with local partner organisations and members of

our Indigenous community, two Burmese communities and women with disabilities.

Council also shared social media posts in support of Women's Health East's *Together for Equality and Respect (TFER)* regional campaign and supported Respect Victoria's *Respect Women: Call it Out (Respect Is)* social media campaign.

You can learn more about our action in this space on our website, along with support services and resources available in our community.



Inviting businesses to Think Big in 2023

Maroondah BizWeek 'Think Big' will be held Monday 1 May to Friday 5 May, offering a range of business workshops and events particularly suited to small and medium businesses.

Mark your diary and invite colleagues and contacts to attend a variety of workshops, events and networking sessions. With many free or low-cost sessions, the offerings include:

- Small group sessions on marketing, best practice social media, creating content and measuring success
- Free 1:1 mentoring sessions allowing a business to work through their challenges or gain tailored advice with a business expert
- Value-add events providing the opportunity to learn and network with other local and like-minded businesses
- Training in leadership development and Human Resources (HR) topics including building culture, how to write great job ads, and snapshot HR compliance such as business mental health obligations, strong contract frameworks and ideas around hybrid working

With the full BizWeek 2023 'Think Big' program due to be released in April, visit the BizHub website for regular updates on what's coming.
www.bizhub@maroondah.vic.gov.au



Wombolano Ward

Wonga Ward

Yarrunga Ward

Your Councillors



Cr Kylie Spears
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Celebrations are underway to mark 100 years since the naming of Heathmont as a suburb. The festivities began with our Heathmont 100-year Celebration at HE Parker Reserve in February. Thank you to everyone who attended this special milestone.

As Chair of the Heathmont 1923 – 2023 Planning Committee, I have been working with local sporting clubs, senior citizens, traders and local historical groups to plan events and activities for residents to get involved, engage with local organisations and clubs, and learn more about Heathmont's history. It's been fantastic to see such passion and enthusiasm from our community!

Keep an eye on Council's website for updates throughout the year. You can also visit the Explore tab on our website to learn more about Maroondah's rich history.



Cr Linda Hancock
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Norwood Reserve is home to Council facilities and a large open space. Since the removal of decaying pine trees in 2020, Council has been working to enhance the open space and improve the reserve.

Council consulted with local user groups, residents and the wider community to develop a draft enhancement plan, which was presented for community feedback earlier this year. Key elements include planting habitat to attract native small mammals and birds, planting indigenous canopy trees and creating a children's garden and play elements.

Thanks to all who provided feedback. Council will soon begin work on the final detailed design, with staged works to follow over the coming years.

If you haven't already, you can view the draft plan on Council's YourSay Maroondah website.



Cr Rob Steane – Mayor
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It's exciting to see safety improvement works progressing along Plymouth Road between Narr-Maen Drive and Yarra Road in Croydon Hills.

After many years of advocacy, this project is being delivered by VicRoads. It will see new line marking to create two lanes in each direction on Plymouth Road, and Golden Ridge Drive will be widened. There will also be new traffic lights installed at the Kirtain Drive intersection and at the school crossing near Midhurst Road. This will improve safety for pedestrians in the area- most importantly, families and students coming and going from the local schools. Works are expected to continue until June, so visit the VicRoads website for updates.

You can learn more about other projects in Maroondah on Council's website.

Maroondah's nature guardians start early

Students from Ellie V. Pullin Pre-School in North Ringwood have been keeping a watchful eye over their local patch during their bush kinder sessions.

The students became disheartened by the amount of rubbish and dog poo in the reserve, so they decided to do something about it.

They wrote to Council's Revegetation and Community Team for support, to which our team said yes! Signs made by the children were placed in the reserve to remind people to do the right thing.

It's great to see young children taking an interest in our natural environment.



Did you know?

Brought to you by Council's Revegetation and Community Team, our Nature News e-newsletter informs and inspires a connection with and care for our natural Maroondah environment. Visit the eNews page on Council's website to sign up and stay up to date with current and future community projects, environmental volunteer activities and events, and articles about the importance of a healthy environment.

Dates for your diary

For more information about these and other events, please visit Council's website.



Chin Arts and Multicultural Festival

Saturday 18 March
12noon to 7pm

Croydon Main Street
Croydon

Enjoy this summer festival and celebrate an afternoon of cultural performances from members of Maroondah's Chin and Multicultural community.

There will be plenty to see and do, including traditional wrestling, cultural dances, singing, traditional food stalls, craft tables, children's face painting and a fashion parade.

Visit Council's website for more information.



Thursday's Child at Wyreena Music Café

Friday 24 March
7.30pm to 9.30pm

Wyreena Conservatory Café
13-23 Hull Road, Croydon

Treat yourself to an evening of intricate jazz harmonies, little-known folk gems and contemporary a cappella tunes with Thursday's Child as they kick off the second Music Café performance of the year. Meet Claire, Mel, Robin, Luke and Tim as they take you on a vibrant journey of stunning tunes and exquisite musicianship.

The Café is fully licensed with allocated seating (maximum 50), so bookings are essential. Tickets include entertainment and supper. Bookings can be made online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/wyreena-music-cafe or call 9294 5590.



Food and Garden Organics service (FOGO) – Q&A session

Saturday 29 April
10.30am to 11.30am

Realm Library (The Cave)
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood

Learn more about our new FOGO service coming in May! This is your opportunity to have all your questions answered about putting your food waste to good use. From March 2023, Council will deliver FOGO kits containing a caddy, a roll of 150 compostable liners and an information pack to each household with a residential waste collection service. The FOGO service will divert food waste from landfill, turning it into nutrient-rich compost for use on Victorian farms and gardens.

See 'FOGO Information Session' on Council's website to book your spot or call 1300 88 22 33.

Karralyka's spectacular shows

Karralyka continues to delight and excite audiences of all ages in 2023 with the launch of an incredible new theatre season program. With shows from Broadway to comedy and song, and everything in-between, you can experience a spectacular line-up of Australia's best talent.

It's not too late to get your tickets to cheeky international smash hit, *The Naked Magicians*, performing two shows on Saturday 18 March.

There is something for everyone in April with *The Poems Prayers and Promises of John Denver*, a tribute with Darren Coggan, jaw-dropping entertainment extravaganza *Cirque Mother Africa*, and the laughs begin with *Stephen K Amos: Before and Laughter*. The comedy continues as Karralyka presents the *Melbourne International Comedy Festival* roadshow, returning for another year. Keep a look out in May for a jam-packed show of stellar line-up favourites alongside the most talked-about breakthrough comics of the moment.

The wait is over as Karralyka welcomes touring production *The Australian Bee*

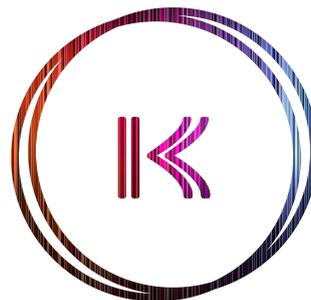
Gees Show on 4 May. Rescheduled from last year, this 25th anniversary tour is the definitive live celebration of the wonderful music written by the brothers Gibb. Then, back by popular demand, experience an amazing evening of live audience psychic insights with Mitchell Coombes, Messages from Spirit, on 20 May. Plus, *The Sound of Music* presented by the Mountain District Musical Society from 26 May to 4 June.

Karralyka will play host to *Golden*, a treasure trove of Hollywood and Broadway's most-loved soundtracks on 7 July. This sets the scene for more incredible entertainment in the second half of the year including ARIA award-winning artist Katie Noonan performing Joni Mitchell's *BLUE* in September.

Karrakids also has a bumper season of

shows and the theatre welcomes back seniors to its popular Morning Music program, with music and complimentary tea, coffee and treats throughout the year.

Visit www.karralyka.com.au to view the full 2023 theatre season and book your tickets. Karralyka is on Mines Road, Ringwood East.



The Naked Magicians



Cirque Mother Africa



Stephen K Amos: Before and Laughter

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)

