



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

## Maroondah honours its top citizens

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

Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Rob Steane, announced the 2023 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year during a special awards ceremony, where 66 people also received their Australian citizenship.

Maroondah's Australia Day event is a chance to honour some of Maroondah's most outstanding residents and celebrate those becoming Australian citizens.

Each year we invite the community to nominate an individual or community group, someone who they think is deserving of a Maroondah Australia Day Award.

This year's recipients have been awarded for their leadership, resilience and passion for their community.

### Citizen of the Year – Dennis Johnston



Dennis Johnston

Dennis Johnston was "thrilled, delighted, surprised and very honoured" to be named 2023 Citizen of the Year for his long-standing involvement with and contribution to Biala Ringwood, an organisation dedicated to providing support and care for special-needs children up to 6 years old.

### 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](http://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.

**Monday 20 February**

**Monday 20 March**

**Monday 17 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 in time for the start of the meeting. Agendas are made available on the Friday before the meeting date.

## Council opening hours

Our customer service centres are here to help. Visit:

### 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 Library

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

### Get in contact with us



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



maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au



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via our website.



Maroondah news is 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.



Maroondah City Council



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Maroondah City Council

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The information provided in this newsletter was accurate at the time of print. Visit Council's website for the latest information.

# Become a School Crossing Supervisor

Help keep Maroondah's school students and the broader community safe when crossing roads around our schools.

If you enjoy working outside and being a visible part of your community, this role may be perfect for you. Perks include flexibility, no weekend work, school holidays off and an attractive hourly rate, along with the ability to make genuine connections in the Maroondah community.

School Crossing Supervisor Rima loves her role and encourages others to apply.

"I would highly recommend this role; I am outdoors all the time, and it has helped my energy levels. My community is so supportive and friendly. I think it's the most worthwhile job that I have done for a long time."



People over 18 from a variety of backgrounds are welcome to apply, whether you are a university or TAFE student, an older community member or a retiree. Applicants must have or be willing to apply for a Working with Children Check (WWCC).

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

## Help keep students safe

It's important that all road users are vigilant during peak drop-off and pick-up times to ensure the safety of students and their families.

### Play your part in road safety around schools

- Be aware of your surroundings and adhere to reduced speed limits from 8am to 9.30am and again from 2.30pm to 4pm in school zones on weekdays
- When the flags are displayed at a children's crossing, you **must stop** for all pedestrians, as well as those waiting to cross, whether a crossing supervisor is on duty or not
- You must come to a complete stop until the crossing is clear, even if there is no crossing supervisor
- Do not stop or park your car over any part of a school crossing
- Follow all parking restrictions, paying close attention to pick up and drop off zones and disability access parking

More information is available on Council's website [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/SchoolCrossingSafety](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/SchoolCrossingSafety)

### Did you know?

Our dedicated supervisors brave all weather conditions to ensure children's safety at 73 school crossings across Maroondah.

## 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](mailto:news@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

### continued from front page

Starting out in a voluntary capacity more than a decade ago and then joining Biala's Committee of Management serving in the role of Vice-Chair and later Chairman, Dennis has provided leadership on all aspects of the organisation at board and operational levels.

Dennis credits his service to Biala's "wonderful, selfless" team and to the "joy" of seeing the children they work with leaving "happy and ready for school".

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, Dennis showed impeccable leadership, resilience, care and initiative. Working with the committee, he led the development of 'Biala in the Home' as part of the organisation's respite program, ensuring that families continued to receive the support needed during lockdown.

This included arranging toys and other resources to be delivered to homes and maintaining regular phone contact with families, along with "responding to the community's needs and feedback" by providing additional services such as counselling and pastoral care, Dennis said.

### Young Citizen of the Year – Jackson Smith and Alyssa Solidaga



Jackson Smith and Alyssa Solidaga

Jackson Smith and Alyssa Solidaga are joint recipients of the Young Citizen of the Year award.

"It wouldn't have been possible to do what we have done without the other person," Jackson said.

"It feels amazing to have received this award together, because we have done everything together," Alyssa said.

Jackson and Alyssa have both demonstrated exceptional leadership in the community as active members of Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocate program – a program that advocates for the inclusion of young people's voices through various projects and initiatives in Maroondah – as well as being Student Representative Council (SRC) captains at their school.

As Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates they assisted in planning and emceeding Maroondah's first Student Voice Forum and co-facilitated workshops. Together they also proposed, designed and delivered an interactive workshop about student voice for local Grade 5 students.

"It was a really rewarding experience," Alyssa said.

"It was really special to see the impact we had made," Jackson said.

Jackson excels in the performing arts and takes on leadership roles both on and off stage. He supports all aspects of his school's productions and was recently nominated for a Lyrebird Award and a Music Theatre Guild of Victoria award for his outstanding performance.

Alyssa is currently philanthropy captain for her year level and has been successful in the role of philanthropy prefect for her final year of school in 2023. Through her work as philanthropy captain, Alyssa has led the running of multiple charity events raising money for FightMND and Teach Us Consent.

Working alongside each other as Student Representative Council members, they continue to support their peers to take action within their school and to encourage positive change.

### Community Event of the Year – Chin National Day Festival



Kham Liam, on behalf of the Chin National Day Festival

The Chin Festival was the first Chin event to be held outdoors in Maroondah, attracting around 4000 members of the community in a celebration of the 74th Chin National Day.

Kham Liam accepted the award, which he said was "very surprising" and "very special for the Chin people".

"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."

The Chin people all over the world celebrate this auspicious day in their own way. Cultural troupes from various tribes were brought together on this special occasion to promote understanding, sense of identity and unity.

Held at Croydon Main Street on 20 February 2022, Kham said the festival provided the opportunity for all cultures to witness, celebrate and have a better understanding of the Chin culture, including "their communities, customs, traditional values and practices".

"It was very important for people in the Maroondah community to understand about the Chin, as well as the Chin being able to integrate into our multicultural society. The event and other Chin events will have a good impact on the community," Kham said.

**Congratulations to all our deserving recipients and nominees. Visit the Community celebrations, citizenship and awards page on Council's website to learn more about the Maroondah Australia Day Awards.**



### Maroondah welcomes 66 new citizens on Australia Day

Sixty-six Maroondah residents took the Australian citizenship pledge before family and friends on 26 January. People from many different countries, including Sri Lanka, Germany, Iran, Myanmar, Tonga, Lebanon, Thailand and United Kingdom, embraced Maroondah as their new home.

# Mayoral Art Exhibition: Call for entries



## Don't miss the 28th Annual Mayoral Art Exhibition at Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery!

The 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.

The theme for 2023 is *Interior | Exterior*. From architecture to open space or with portraits, depicting an outer appearance to capture an inner self, artists are invited to explore interior and exterior worlds. Artworks of all mediums are eligible to enter including photography, sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics.

All eligible artworks will be exhibited and a number of works will be selected for the Mayoral Acquisition and the Ringwood East Community Bank Acquisition.

Acquisitions will be announced at the exhibition opening on Thursday 30 March.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 3 March.

For more information on how to apply, visit Council's Arts grants, prizes and commissions webpage, [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ArtistOpportunities](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ArtistOpportunities)

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

## Try gymnastics at Aquahub and get two free weeks

Looking for a new activity for your children in 2023? Why not enrol them in gymnastics.



Gymnastics is an excellent foundation activity for children, uniquely contributing to general fitness, coordination, agility, strength, balance and speed in fun and exciting activities.

Aquahub in Croydon offers an extensive gymnastics program delivered by nationally qualified coaches in line with the Gymnastics Australia curriculum.

Programs include casual play sessions for children from 1 to 5 years and weekly recreational classes for

children 1 to 12 years. They are non-competitive but still goal-based in skill levels, so children can celebrate their development without pressure or the need for expensive clothing.

Aquahub is offering two free weeks when you sign up for their gymnastics program from 13 February to 5 March, so it's a great time to join.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website for details or to book a free trial.

## Join us for Poolside Pride

Aquahub is rolling out the rainbow carpet as we host the LGBTIQ+ community for a one-night only, pride-filled extravaganza on Saturday 11 February from 6pm to 9pm! LGBTIQ+ people of all ages, their friends, families and allies are welcome.

Come enjoy the fun and sun at Aquahub in a safe and inclusive environment, in the company of your LGBTIQ+ peers.

Tickets are \$5 each and provide you with access to the pool and activities at this very special, one-off event.



There will also be LGBTIQ+ group fitness classes, performances, community service stalls, a free Rainbow Paddle Pop for all attendees and a Conversation-and-Chill Area in the sun. Rainbow dress is encouraged, but strictly no body paints or glitter.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website for more information and to purchase your ticket.

[www.maroondahleisure.com.au/Events/Poolside-Pride](http://www.maroondahleisure.com.au/Events/Poolside-Pride)

# Maroondah Kinder Expo

Do you have a young child and want to know when you should enrol them for 3 and 4 year old kinder? Join us at the Maroondah Kinder Expo on Thursday 2 March, 6pm to 8pm at Karralyka, Ringwood East, to find out more.

This free event is a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to learn about Maroondah Integrated Kindergarten Association (MIKA, Maroondah's central enrolment system) and Maroondah Kindergarten Outreach Program.

You can also speak with:

- Representatives from Council and local MIKA kinders
- Council's Maternal and Child Health Nurses

- Council's immunisation staff
- Council's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Coordinator

Council's Kindergarten Officers will be onsite to support families who may require translation assistance (Hakha Chin, Falam Chin, Burmese).

Visit Council's event page for more information, or contact Council's Children's Services Project Officer on 9294 5740 or email [childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrens.services.events@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Aquanation a Platinum Pool for the third year running



**Aquanation has achieved Platinum Pool Status for the third year in a row and also achieved a Gold Pool Endorsement Award for its 100% compliance score in a Life Saving Victoria Pool Safety Assessment.**

Accreditation in Life Saving Victoria's Platinum Pools Program is recognised as a sign of excellence within the aquatics industry, so these fantastic results mean Aquanation is achieving the highest standards in aquatic safety and risk management.

### Rates payment due

**If you have elected to pay your rates in one lump sum, a reminder that payment is due by 15 February 2023.**

If paying in instalments, your quarterly reminder notice will arrive soon, with the third instalment due by 28 February 2023. Please contact Council if you have any questions.

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

### Fire preparedness



**Property owners are reminded of their responsibility to regularly maintain the land around their homes and properties in summer and during periods of hot weather to reduce the risks of fire.**

This includes removing and clearing up fine fuels, such as long grass, branches and fallen leaves, rubbish, garden mulch piles, paint, flammable materials, and other potential fire hazards.

Visit the Fire Ready page on Council's website for more information.

## Did you know?

**MIKA Kinder enrolments for 2024 will open on 1 March 2023 and close on 30 June 2023.**

## Connections matter

### Help shape our new Play and Gathering Places Strategy.

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, for details about attending an onsite consultation or to provide your feedback, visit [yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au/play-and-gathering-places](http://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!**



# What's On

To view more events and activities in Maroondah, visit the *What's On in Maroondah* section of Council's website.



8  
Feb

## Midnight and the Flickering Wilds by Born in a Taxi

Wednesday 8 February  
to Sunday 12 March

ArtSpace at Realm  
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood

Enjoy an exciting new project by Born in a Taxi, who return to Ringwood with their riotous humour and physical theatre. The artists will create an installation and performance exploring the moment at midnight where yesterday and tomorrow collide, a crack in time, where the unknown resides and shadows hide imaginative flights of fancy.

Visit Council's website for more information.



5  
Mar

## Celebrate Maroondah at Ride Yarrunga

Sunday 5 March  
12 noon to 3pm

Yarrunga Reserve  
6 Barwon Court, Croydon Hills

Hop on your bike and enjoy a fun day at Yarrunga Reserve, with music, roaming performers and a sausage sizzle, plus coffee and ice cream available to buy from onsite vendors.

Meet your Yarrunga Ward Councillor and check out Council's improvements to the Reserve, including the high-quality, purpose-built bike jumps that were formally opened in September 2022.

Visit Council's website to find out more.



18  
Mar

## Chin Arts and Multicultural Festival

Saturday 18 March  
12 noon 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.



## New lids for garden organics bins

**New lime green lids are being placed on Maroondah's garden organics bins as part of Council's transition to the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service. Here's what to do to ensure your lid is changed too:**

1. On your normal waste collection day, place your garden bin out on the kerb – even if it is empty.
2. If it has not been changed at the end of your normal collection day, *please bring your bin in and put it back out on the kerb on your next organics collection day.*
3. Please continue to put your bin out – even if it is empty – on each garden organics collection day until the lid is changed to lime green.
4. If your bin is structurally damaged and needs replacing, our crews will leave a sticker on the lid of your garden organics bin, asking you to leave it out for three more days so the whole bin can be replaced.

We can't change your bin for a new one unless it's empty. Please don't place more garden waste into your bin until we have changed your old bin over.

5. If your bin lid has not been changed to the new lime green lid by 25 February, please contact Council.

Visit Council's website for more information on the FOGO service, which starts in May 2023.



## Did you know?

**Council runs regular community waste education workshops on a variety of topics. Sessions can be run for community groups on request. Scan the QR code to find out more or subscribe to the Waste and Sustainability newsletter for updates.**



## Single-use plastics ban

**Problematic single-use plastics are now banned from sale or supply in Victoria in a Victorian Government initiative to reduce plastic pollution.**

The ban came into effect on 1 February and applies to single-use plastics such as drinking straws, cutlery, plates and other items made from conventional, degradable, and compostable plastics, along with food service items and drink containers made from expanded polystyrene.

These items make up one third of the litter we see in our environment – and remain for a long time as pollution, harming wildlife and contaminating our environment and food.

The sale and supply ban applies to businesses and organisations including not-for-profits, government, sports clubs, schools, and others that are incorporated. Individuals who need single-use plastic drinking straws due to a disability or for a medical need can still purchase and use these items.

You can prepare for the ban by choosing reusable alternatives and bringing your own straw, coffee cup, water bottle, cutlery and containers for takeaway.

Learn more:

[www.vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics](http://www.vic.gov.au/single-use-plastics)

# 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 are operational. The precinct boasts two full-size soccer pitches, one synthetic and one grass, multipurpose courts and a large double story pavilion with viewing platform, multipurpose space, change rooms and accessible amenities. The space has been transformed into first class soccer facilities for the Eastern Burmese Ethnic Community, Croydon City Soccer Club and wider community to enjoy. This project has been funded by Council in partnership with the Australian Government and Victorian Government.

## Indoor cricket training centre at Jubilee Park



The construction of the new five-lane indoor cricket centre at Jubilee Park in Ringwood is well underway. The steel structure, roofing and external fit out is complete, with internal works taking shape and expected to be completed by April/May. The centre will be a state-of-the-art indoor cricket training facility for the East, funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

## JW Manson Reserve pavilion redevelopment



JW Manson Pavilion in Wantirna, owned by Maroondah City Council, is being redeveloped with demolition of the existing building and site preparation recently being completed. The building modules that have been built off site will soon be delivered and installed on site, reducing construction time and disruption. 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. This project is funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.

## Tarralla Creek Stormwater Harvesting system



Council's first major stormwater harvesting project is nearing completion. This system will capture, store and treat stormwater to replace potable water for irrigation of four Council sports fields in Croydon, saving approximately 13 million litres (five Olympic sized swimming pools) of drinking water per year. This project is funded in partnership with the Victorian Government, Yarra Valley Water and Melbourne Water.

## 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:

- Devon Avenue, Dresden Avenue, Erica Crescent, Leoni Avenue and Viviani Crescent, Heathmont – Footpath construction
- Belle Vue Avenue, Pearwood Street and Lavender Street, Ringwood – Footpath construction
- Langley Street, Ringwood East – Footpath construction and waste vehicle access improvements
- Gardini Avenue, Ringwood – Shared user path construction
- Tintern Avenue, Bayswater North – Road and pedestrian safety improvements
- Kathleen Close, Bayswater North – Local area traffic management improvements
- Civic Square, Croydon – Accessible parking improvements
- Angus Avenue, Ringwood East – Erosion mitigation works
- Maygrand Close, Kilsyth South – Waste vehicle access improvements
- Natanya Way, Kilsyth – Waste vehicle access improvements

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

- Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon – Carpark improvements
- Alexandra Road, Scenic Avenue and Vista Avenue, Ringwood East – Flood mitigation works
- Eastfield Road, Ringwood East – Infrastructure enhancement works
- Yarra Road, Croydon North – Road renewal and final stage of footpath construction
- Ainslie Park Reserve, Croydon – Carpark construction
- Kent Avenue, Croydon – Road resurfacing
- Sunhill Avenue, Hendra Grove, Sang Court and Ambrie Avenue, Ringwood – Footpath construction
- Anzac Street, Croydon – Footpath construction

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

# Taking care of business

Join the BizHub team each month for Business Bites – a great opportunity to network with other Maroondah businesses, share challenges and learn from local experts.

Business Bites is launching on **Tuesday 28 February, 12.30pm to 1.30pm**. The February session provides business tips on how to protect your business from cyber criminals.

The Virtual IT Department, 2022 Maroondah Business Excellence Awards Finalist, will provide tangible tips about cybersecurity to help your business. Tickets are \$15 per person and include a light lunch. Visit the BizHub Maroondah website or scan the QR code for details and to book.

BizHub also offers a great range of services and resources to assist local businesses to develop and grow, along with workshops, networking opportunities, mentoring, events and more.

**Save the date for these upcoming workshops:**

- Starting your small business  
Tuesday 7 March, 9.30am
- Maximising your marketing  
Thursday 30 March, 9.30am



Visit the BizHub Maroondah website or scan the QR code to find out more.



## Heathmont 100-year Celebration

**Sunday 26 February  
1pm to 4pm**

**HE Parker Reserve, Heathmont**

Join your Jubilee Ward Councillor for a family fun day as we celebrate this special milestone with our community and local organisations. There will be free rides, face painting, a sausage sizzle and entertainment to enjoy!

Visit Council's website to learn more and for details about all of our Celebrate Maroondah events.



### Your Councillors

Barnggeong Ward

Bungalook Ward

Jubilee Ward

McAlpin Ward

Tarralla Ward



**Cr Marijke Graham**  
0418 109 015



**Cr Tony Dib OAM JP**  
0438 515 089



**Cr Mike Symon**  
0436 002 080



**Cr Suzy Stojanovic**  
0429 916 094



**Cr Paul Macdonald**  
0436 001 760

Wicklow Ward

Wombolano Ward

Wonga Ward

Yarrunga Ward



**Cr Tasa Damante**  
**Deputy Mayor**  
0438 704 819



**Cr Kylie Spears**  
0436 003 660



**Cr Linda Hancock**  
0473 194 871



**Cr Rob Steane**  
**Mayor**  
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](http://maroondah.vic.gov.au) email [maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto: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)

