

Maroondah news

Your community newsletter



November/December 2023



Maroondah's new Mayor, Cr Kylie Spears, and Deputy Mayor, Cr Paul Macdonald.

Cr Kylie Spears new Mayor for 2023/24

Cr Kylie Spears was elected as Maroondah's 28th Mayor during a special Council meeting livestreamed to the Maroondah community. This is Cr Spears' second term as Mayor.

Cr Spears will be supported by Cr Paul Macdonald, who was elected to the role of Deputy Mayor. It is the first time he has held this position, which will provide support to the Mayor in a busy year ahead for Council.

"Representing the community is a privilege and I'm very much looking forward to doing so with energy, passion, commitment and integrity," Cr Spears said.

"I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for entrusting me to lead this Council and our vibrant and diverse City. Together I know we will continue to achieve the aspirations of our community and our collective goals."

Cr Spears thanked the outgoing Mayor, Cr Rob Steane OAM, for his strong leadership, commitment and enthusiasm for the Maroondah community over

the past twelve months, and outgoing Deputy Mayor, Cr Tasa Damante, for her support of the Councillor team.

As we enter the fourth year of this current Council term, Cr Spears looks forward to continuing and completing many of the projects envisioned back in 2020, and also starting some of the new projects aligned with the *Council Plan 2021-2025* and *Maroondah 2040*.

"This year will provide our community with one of the most important opportunities to shape Maroondah, as we consult on the next horizon of Maroondah 2050. We will be looking to the future, to review and develop a new community vision, consulting and working with our community, key stakeholders and partners to ensure that the new Maroondah 2050 vision captures the hopes and aspirations of all of us," Cr Spears said.

Welcome to Maroondah news

Hello and welcome to the November/December 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:

Monday 20 November

Monday 11 December

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 online on Council's website 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 Sunday 24 December, 10am to 1pm
Open Sunday 31 December, 10am to 5pm

Closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Croydon Library

5 Civic Square, Croydon
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Closed on all weekends and public holidays, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

Closed Sunday 24 December and Sunday 31 December.

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.



Maroondah City Council is certified for its organisational operations.

Supporting our community

Do you or someone you know need some extra support?

Council can help you access a range of emotional, practical and social supports if you are facing some difficulties or feeling lonely and isolated.

Council's friendly Customer Service team can refer you to a range of relief agencies and support services in Maroondah, including food relief, social support, mental health support, disability support, legal services and Council's MaroondahConnect program.

To find out more

Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 during business hours, email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au or visit the 'MaroondahConnect' and 'Community Wellbeing' pages on Council's website.



MaroondahConnect



Community Wellbeing

Be aware of asbestos

November is National Asbestos Awareness Month.

This highlights the dangers of asbestos-containing materials and aims to prevent asbestos-related diseases through awareness and education.

Fibres that make up asbestos are tiny but strong. When asbestos fibres are breathed in, they may remain deep within the lungs. They can lodge in lung tissue and cause inflammation, scarring, lung cancer and other asbestos-related diseases, which usually take many years to develop.

Materials that can contain asbestos include parts of buildings, cars, fibre cement sheeting and piping, vinyl floor tiles, electrical parts, brake pads in vehicles and more.

You can use the Victorian Government's Asbestos in Victoria website www.asbestos.vic.gov.au to learn more about identifying and managing asbestos safely. The site includes an interactive tool to guide you through possible locations for asbestos and provides practical guidance on how to safely manage or remove it.

If you suspect asbestos, do not touch it. It is a risk to your health, your family's health and the health of your community.

Visit the Environment Protection Authority Victoria website and the Victorian Government's Asbestos in Victoria website for more information and advice.

Merry Christmas!

On behalf of Council and our Councillors, we wish all Maroondah residents a very happy and safe festive season.

If you are travelling over the summer break, please take care and stay safe on the roads.



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



Please recycle this publication.

The best in the business



Building Better Brains Australia took home the Business of the Year award and the category award for Education, Training, Health and Lifestyle.

Congratulations to this year's Maroondah Business Excellence Award winners!

Building Better Brains Australia took out the 2023 Business of the Year award at the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards last month, along with the category award for Education, Training, Health and Lifestyle.

Sian Chambers-Vallance, CEO and Manager, and Tony Vallance, Co-Owner, accepted the award.

"We feel incredibly humbled and grateful for the opportunity and also the experience. The act of being seen by other amazing businesses and the judging panel, because we are doing something 'left of field', is a humbling and powerful moment to have as business owners," they said.

Category winners were also announced for Manufacturing and Technology; Construction, Trades and Related Supply Chain; Retail and Hospitality; Professional Services; and Innovation, Sustainability and Enterprise.

The annual awards, hosted by Council's BizHub team, showcase achievements of Maroondah businesses across key industry sectors and also provide opportunities for businesses to be recognised for their efforts, commitment and success.

Congratulations to all winners and finalists. You can read more about this year's awards on Council's website.

COVID-19 Update

2023 boosters

If it's been six months since your last COVID-19 vaccination or COVID-19 infection, you may be eligible to receive your 2023 booster.

Visit the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au to learn more or the Health Direct website www.healthdirect.gov.au to find your nearest vaccination provider.

Protect yourself and others

You can help protect yourself and others by wearing a high-quality, well-fitted face mask when unwell, receiving the 2023 booster, letting fresh air in when indoors and taking a rapid antigen test (RAT) if you have symptoms. If you have COVID-19, you should stay home for five days and continue to stay home until you have no symptoms.

Free rapid antigen tests

The Victorian Government is providing free rapid antigen tests (RATs) to our community. These are available at Council's Realm and Croydon Customer Service Centres. Visit Council's website for details.



Visit the BizHub Maroondah website www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au to subscribe to the BizHub newsletter for the latest business community news and updates, including grants, events, workshops and more.

Nominate a local hero

Maroondah Australia Day Award nominations are closing on Sunday 26 November.

These annual awards recognise outstanding community service, achievements and contribution to the local community, so consider someone you know who should be nominated for:

- Maroondah Citizen of the Year
- Maroondah Young Citizen of the Year
- Maroondah Community Event of the Year

Join us on Friday 26 January at Ringwood Lake Park at our Australia Day event and watch as Maroondah's local heroes are announced. You can also witness our newest community members take the pledge or oath to become Australian citizens.

The event provides an opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy free family-friendly activities including children's entertainment, rides and face painting.

Visit Council's website to nominate someone or to learn more about the event.



2023 Maroondah Australia Day Award recipients.

Have your say



Help establish the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink

Council is inviting our community to provide feedback on the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Draft Action Plan.

The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink has real potential to enable a variety of fauna to move along the creek and into nearby areas, so that more people in Maroondah can connect with nature as part of their daily lives.

The Draft Action Plan presents proposed actions to help build and sustain the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink as a functioning wildlife corridor, and to support our community in learning about the biolink and how to care for it.

We are calling on our community to complete our survey and suggest suitable locations for creating habitats and implementing the proposed actions outlined in the Draft Action Plan.

Visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website to learn more and to share your thoughts.

Consultation will close on Sunday 10 December.



Last chance to share your ideas for Maroondah 2050

Council has been working with our community to create Maroondah 2050, our next Community Vision. If you live, work or play in Maroondah and haven't shared your vision for the future yet, we want to hear from you!

You can take our quick poll or complete our survey for your chance to win one of ten \$100 Eastland vouchers. You can also share your ideas on our interactive ideas board, provide feedback at an upcoming pop-up consultation, or express your interest in joining the Maroondah 2050 Community Panel.

Visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website to learn more and share your vision for Maroondah towards the year 2050.

Consultation will close on Wednesday 6 December.



Visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website to share your thoughts www.yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au

You can also register your details to receive information on new consultations or updates on projects that interest you.

Changing the story



Council is proud to be supporting the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence once again.

This year's campaign is calling on everyone to change the story and create a future where everyone is safe, equal and respected.

The 16 Days of Activism runs from 25 November to 10 December. The global movement promotes gender equality and encourages people to take action to prevent gender-based violence.

Look out for Council's billboards supporting the state-wide 'Respect Is' campaign. Council is also hosting events to help members of the community identify potential warning signs of gender inequality and family violence and learn how to talk about respect and equality in relationships. Visit Council's website to learn more and register.

There will also be displays at Realm and Croydon Libraries, with books from a variety of genres that focus on family violence, gender equity and respectful relationships.

Visit Council's website to learn more. If you or someone you know needs support, call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) for 24/7 confidential counselling, support and safety planning. In an emergency, call 000.

Barneong Ward by-election update

Following the resignation of former Councillor Marijke Graham, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will be holding a by-election for the Barneong Ward.

Voting in the Barneong Ward by-election will be by post.

How to vote in the by-election

The VEC will post ballot packs to all enrolled voters for the

Barneong Ward from Tuesday 14 November, 2023.

Follow the instructions on the ballot pack to complete your vote.

Make sure you post or hand-deliver it to the election office before 6pm on Friday 1 December.

Visit the 'Maroondah City Council, Barneong Ward by-election' page on the Victorian Electoral Commission website www.vec.vic.gov.au for details.



Stay safe in the heat

Heat-related illness can affect anybody. Learn how to protect yourself and others.

During extreme heat, drink plenty of water, take it easy and stay indoors. If you need to go out, wear a hat and sunscreen and stay in the shade. Never leave children, older people or pets in cars, as cars can heat to dangerous temperatures quickly.

Council's website provides more information and resources on how to cope with extreme heat and heat-related illness. Visit Council's 'Heatwaves' page to find out more or visit the 'Survive the heat' page on the Better Health website: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

If you are experiencing a heat-related illness emergency, call 000 for life-threatening emergencies or NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 for 24-hour health advice.

Council services and appointments

If the Chief Health Officer issues a Heat Health Warning, some regular Council services may be reduced or cancelled to protect vulnerable community members.

Council will contact those impacted. You can also call us on 1300 88 22 33 if you are unsure.

Power outages

If your power goes out, contact your electricity distributor and use the AusNet Services Outage Tracker www.outagetracker.com.au to stay up to date.

Visit the Energy Victoria website www.energy.vic.gov.au for more information on power outages.

Food safety

The most important thing during a power outage is to try to keep food cold or frozen. If food is still cold to the touch (less than 5°C), it is safe to use.

Before and after a power failure:

- Once cold or frozen food is no longer cold to the touch, it can be kept and eaten for up to four hours and then it must be thrown away. If it is raw meat, it should be cooked before it is eaten.
- Eat hot food within four hours of it being heated or throw it away.
- If power is restored when frozen food is still frozen solid, the food is safe.

For more information, visit the 'Food safety during power outages' page on the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au

Challenge yourself with FReeZA

Applications are closing soon for the Maroondah FReeZA program.

FReeZA is a free event management program for 15 to 25-year-olds.

Participants are professionally supported to plan and run five live music and cultural events throughout the year, gaining practical experience in organising events, including booking performers, promotion and risk management, and staffing them, such as setting up, packing down, door sales, café and stage management.

In 2023, events included *Horrorwood*, a horror film and theatre spectacular, Bassline Open Mic Night to highlight local talent and a Teen Jesus and Jean Teasers all-ages gig.

Previous crew member Harley said the program provided the opportunity to extend her knowledge in a field of interest.



"I learnt how to use the sound and lighting decks, which was a brand-new skill. I also got to meet a lot of new people and I've learnt how to generally run an event," Harley said.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Supporting growth in stadium sports

Council has adopted a Stadium Sports Strategy.

The strategy highlights key considerations that impact sports such as basketball, netball and volleyball within Maroondah. It also provides recommendations to help associations and clubs further improve accessibility, following increased participation in these sports and population growth within Maroondah.

You can read the strategy on Council's website.

Make a splash this summer



The outdoor pool season opens once again at Croydon Memorial Pool on Saturday 18 November, so get ready to make a splash!

The 50m outdoor pool is heated to 28 degrees, making it a great option for fitness training and lap swimming. There are also aqua aerobics classes, a leisure pool and a toddler pool, while the snack-filled kiosk and picnic areas mean fun for the whole family.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website or call 9294 5630 for opening hours.

Support local businesses

There's something for everyone in Maroondah, with more than 30 local shopping centres and retail precincts across the city.

These centres and precincts have multiple retail, hospitality and personal services and employ 10,586 people – many of whom are local to the area.

Purchasing from local retailers and service providers supports local jobs and the community, with local businesses often influencing the character of your neighbourhood. So why not try shopping locally, eating somewhere new and visiting local retailers this festive season?

Visit the 'Your local shops' page on the BizHub Maroondah website www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au to find your nearest shopping centre.

Applications are closing soon, so visit Council's Youth Services website www.maroondahyouth.com.au for more information and to apply.



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'.



Great Southern Bioblitz

Friday 24 to Monday 27 November
Throughout Maroondah

Explore, discover and learn about Maroondah's rich diversity.

Head to local nature areas throughout the four days and photograph biodiversity you can find, such as birds, insects, plants and fungi, and document your observations using the iNaturalist platform. Your observations help increase biodiversity data available for local environmentalists, scientists and natural resource managers, improving our ability to understand and protect local biodiversity.

Visit the 'Great Southern Bioblitz' page on Council's website to learn more.



Maroondah Carols

Saturday 2 December
6pm to 10pm
Town Park, Croydon

Join us for Maroondah's much-loved Christmas carols event. The event is the perfect opportunity to get together and celebrate the festive season, with pre-show entertainment from 6pm followed by the Maroondah Carols Band from 7.30pm.

There will also be food trucks onsite, a free kids' zone and some fantastic fireworks to light up the Maroondah night sky. There will be Auslan interpreters at this event.

Visit Council's website to learn more.



Change Makers – International Day of People with Disabilities

Wednesday 6 December
10am to 12noon
Karralyka, Ringwood East

Join us as we recognise International Day of People with Disabilities and hear from three local advocates who are leading the way in employment for people with disabilities. There will also be a mini expo of relevant organisations at the event. A light morning tea will be provided.

Visit Council's website to learn more and book.

Summer holiday fun

Looking for ideas to keep the family entertained over the summer holidays? Look no further!

Maroondah Leisure holiday programs

Holiday programs are available for children aged 5 to 12 years at The Rings and Maroondah Nets.

School holiday programs are a fun way for children to stay active, with basketball, netball, tennis, Futsal (indoor soccer) and multi-sports on offer.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au for booking dates and details.



Make a splash at Maroondah's aquatic facilities

People of all ages and abilities can enjoy the facilities at Aquanation in Ringwood. With lap swimming, children's splash play, a diving platform, waterslides, a learn to swim pool and a warm water pool, there's something for everyone.

If you're seeking some sunshine, the outdoor Croydon Memorial Pool is a great place for lap swimming, leisure or even a poolside picnic on the lawn.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website or call 1300 88 22 33 for opening hours, timetables and bookings.

Libraries

Why not visit Croydon Library or Realm Library in Ringwood Town Square? Both offer a range of print, audio and video materials, internet access, holiday activities for school children, book clubs, community programs for adults, and more.

Visit the Your Library website www.yourlibrary.com.au to find out more.

Parks and playgrounds

Maroondah is home to a great range of parks, playgrounds and reserves for all ages.

There are walking paths, bike paths, picnic areas and barbecues, sports facilities and more, so whether you're seeking relaxation, recreation, sport or fun, our parks and playgrounds are sure to be popular with your family.

Visit the 'Parks and playgrounds' page on Council's website to find one near you.

Golf

Whether you're brushing up on your skills or picking up a club for the first time, Ringwood Golf and Dorset Golf offer a clinic to suit your needs.

Experienced community coaches and PGA professionals run individual lessons as well as adult, women's and junior clinics to cover chipping, putting, pitching, bunkers, full swing and more. Golf carts are also available to hire for a modest fee.

To book or find out more, visit the Maroondah Leisure website www.maroondahleisure.com.au or call Ringwood Golf on 9298 4500 or Dorset Golf on 9294 5555.



Progress on projects in your area

As part of Council's \$65.77 million Capital Works Program, progress on projects is taking shape.

Sherbrook Catchment Drainage Upgrades – Stage 3



Stage 3 works for the Sherbrook catchment drainage upgrades in New Street, Ringwood have recently been completed, with the installation of new major infrastructure to mitigate flooding in the precinct.

Longview Reserve Playspace Renewal



This project includes the renewal of equipment, pathways and furniture as well as soft landscaping celebrating the nearby Cheong Wildflower Sanctuary

The replacement of ageing assets will enhance the nature play of the area and make the playground safer and more accessible for all users.

Asset projects update



Council's Capital Works Program ensures our assets meet the needs of our community now and into the future.

Recently completed works:

- Laura Court, Bayswater North – playspace renewal
- Danielle Reserve, Heathmont – playspace renewal and landscape improvements
- Croydon Oval, Croydon – sportsfield LED lighting upgrade
- Wyreena, Croydon – outdoor furniture replacement
- Solar Power Systems – Ainslie Park, Proclamation Park

Keep an eye out for works underway or starting shortly:

- Cantala Reserve, Ringwood North – playspace renewal
- Chandra Reserve, Kilsyth South – playspace renewal
- St Johns Ambulance Hall, Croydon – accessible ramp
- Solar Power System – Kevin Pratt Pavilion
- Central Ringwood Community Centre, Ringwood – community garden
- Jubilee Park, Ringwood – Changing Places toilet
- Aquahub, Croydon – Gymnastics
- 1st Croydon Hills Scout Hall, Croydon North – room extension



Engineering works update

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

Check out works recently completed in your area:

- Colchester Road, Kilsyth South – footpath construction
- Charles Street and Kemps Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Starcross Avenue, Croydon – drainage upgrades
- Henty Court, Croydon – drainage upgrades
- Tintern Avenue, Bayswater North – school crossing upgrade
- Yanggai Barring Reserve, Warranwood – pedestrian bridge replacement
- Towerhill Drive, Frederic Drive, Tyson Court, Baron Court, Major Street, Tunbury Avenue, Hendra Grove, Tania Court, Ringwood – road resurfacing works
- Rosebank Avenue, Albany Close, Balmoral Road, Ringwood North – road resurfacing works
- Bronhill Road, Ringwood East – road resurfacing works

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

- Emerald Street, Ringwood – road reconstruction and drainage upgrades
- Nelson Road, Croydon – drainage upgrades
- Dixon Avenue, Croydon – drainage upgrades
- Morinda Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Fairview Avenue, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Highton Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Rupert Street, Ringwood – footpath construction
- Central Avenue, Bayswater North – road improvement works



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.

New life for pizza boxes

Did you know that empty pizza boxes can go in your blue-lidded recycling bin?



Council's recycling processor now has Australia's first drum pulper, which will help keep even more cardboard out of landfill and turn it into new packaging, including new pizza boxes.

Make sure the boxes are empty before you place them in your recycling bin. The recycling process will remove small amounts of grease or crumbs.

You can also place these items in your recycling bin:

- other cardboard and paper
- hard plastic bottles and containers
- glass bottles and jars
- steel cans
- aluminium cans and foil
- aerosols.

You can tear and crush large cardboard pieces to save space and help prevent the cardboard from becoming stuck in your bin or in the truck.

Remember to put your items in your recycling bin loosely, not bagged, as plastic bags cannot be recycled by Council's recycler and can damage the machinery.

For more handy recycling tips, visit the 'Recyclables collection' page on Council's website.

Upcoming events

Reusable Nappy Workshop

Thursday 30 November
11am to 12.30pm
Knox Civic Centre, Wantima South

Council is partnering with our neighbouring Councils to offer a free workshop to help new families and caregivers make the switch to reusable nappies. Attendees will receive tools and support to help make the switch.

Urban Nanna's Festive Hints and Ideas

Thursday 30 November
6pm to 7.30pm
Maroondah Federation Estate, Ringwood

Join Anna the Urban Nanna for this free event and learn low-waste and eco-friendly ideas for gift-wrapping, home decorating and waste-savvy recipes.

Visit Council's website to learn more and register for these events.

Your Councillors

Barnggeong Ward (vacant)

For all enquiries relating to Barnggeong Ward, please call Council on 1300 88 22 33.

See information on the upcoming by-election on page 4.

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
Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon



Please recycle

Realm
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood Station)

 **Maroondah**
City Council