



Council recognised Terri Verberne, Andrew Brownlie and Helen Parker OAM for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

Maroondah's highest honour

Three Maroondah community members have been conferred as honorary Freeman of the City.

Council bestowed the honour on Andrew Brownlie, Helen Parker OAM and Terri Verberne last month for their extraordinary contributions to the community.

Andrew Brownlie was recognised for significant contributions through his work with Rotary. He has been a member of the Rotary Club of Ringwood – now Maroondah – since 2002, holding leadership positions including serving as President twice and as Secretary 10 times, along with key roles within Rotary, including Chair of the International Committee, Chair of the Rotary Foundation, and Executive Secretary of the Rotary Club of Maroondah.

He has received numerous accolades, including the Trevor Smith Memorial Award,

the Victoria Award, the Deakin Citizen of the Year Award in 2023, and being recognised on nine occasions as a Paul Harris Fellow – Rotary's highest recognition. He has also received nominations for the Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award and the Maroondah Citizen of the Year Award, in 2024 and 2025, respectively.

"When I think about the Freeman of the City nomination, I see my fellow Rotarians and others I am involved with in the community. If it weren't for those Rotarians supporting things I felt were important, this would never have happened. I take solace that there was a raft of people that have been part of where I am today, including this award," Andrew said.

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Your guide to
Maroondah Festival 2025



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Help shape the
future of Maroondah



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Level up your composting

Welcome to the October edition of Maroondah news

In this edition, read about a range of community news, updates and events.

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 10am to 5pm on Tuesday 4 November
(Melbourne Cup public holiday)

Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

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

Read online

Scan the QR code to read our latest edition of **Maroondah news** online.



Scan the QR code to subscribe to **Maroondah eNews**, our digital community newsletter.



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.

CONNECT WITH US



Please recycle this publication.

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Helen Parker OAM was honoured for supporting and empowering pregnant women in need.

While raising her daughter as a single mother, Helen spent three years volunteering and leading a support program for women at her local hospital. She used her experiences to establish The Babes Project in 2009 to help ensure that no woman faced motherhood alone, confused or unsupported.

In 2019, Helen was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), while The Babes Project was recognised as Maroondah Business of the Year.

She continues to be inspired by the stories of women involved in The Babes Project.

“What keeps me going is that women can see the value – not only for themselves, but for other women, and what that means for them in the longer term. There’s nothing better than when they say, ‘Thank you for walking alongside me. This has made a difference.’”

Terri Verberne was acknowledged for contributions through Scouting and volunteering.

Since 2001, she has served as the 3rd Ringwood East Group

Leader and in other Scouts roles, including 3rd Ringwood East Joey Scout Leader, Maroondah District Commissioner, and, since 2023, Regional Commissioner for the Mount Dandenong Region.

Terri has also been dedicated to Heathmont Bowls Club since 2007, holding key positions including Committee President for 10 years, Deputy Chair, Member of the Board of Directors, and Chairman.

She has received various awards for her distinguished service and ongoing contributions, including Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year, Maroondah Citizen of the Year (twice), the Silver Koala and the Silver Emu.

“I have been fortunate to live in Maroondah for over 35 years, have volunteered in many capacities over those years and have greatly benefited from the experience. I’ve developed new skills, made friends, challenged myself and experienced the enormous sense of satisfaction and wellbeing. I am proud and fortunate to be part of this wonderful community, and I look forward to continuing to contribute in the years to come,” Terri said

Freeman of the City is the highest honour a Council can bestow on an individual. Only 12 people have received this distinction from Maroondah City Council. Visit Council’s website to learn more.



Scan the QR code to watch videos of Andrew, Helen and Terri as they tell their stories.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday 27 October, 7.30pm

For the purpose of adopting Council’s Annual Report

Wednesday 12 November, 7pm

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Monday 24 November, 7.30pm

Where: Council Chamber
Realm, Ringwood

Join online:

www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Council-meetings

If attending in person, please arrive on time for the start of the meeting.

What's On

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



18-26 Oct

CHILDREN'S WEEK ACTIVITIES

Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 October
Various dates, times and locations

A great range of free activities will be on offer throughout the week, including sessions on weekends and evenings, for families with children aged 0 to 12 years old.

All activities are free, but bookings are required for some events.

24-27 Oct

GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ

Friday 24 to Monday 27 October
Throughout Maroondah



Explore, discover and learn about Maroondah's rich biodiversity! Head to local nature areas and photograph biodiversity you can find, such as birds, insects, plants and fungi, and document your observations using the iNaturalist platform.

Council is holding nature discovery activities during the four days to help you explore, discover and learn about the rich biodiversity that Maroondah is home to. Bookings required.



25 Oct

E-WASTE AND MORE COLLECTION

Saturday 25 October,
8am to 2pm

This popular event is back again to help Maroondah residents recycle items with a battery or cord (excluding whitegoods); clean polystyrene; flattened cardboard; clean textiles and shoes; vapes; e-cigarettes; fluorescent light tubes/globes; household batteries; car batteries; gas bottles up to 9kg and fire extinguishers.

Registration is essential and bookings are limited. Only residential quantities can be accepted.

Visit Council's website to view the full list of acceptable items and to book.

31 Oct

HALLOWEEN AT WYREENA

Friday 31 October, 4.30pm
Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon



Hop on your broomstick and fly to Wyreena for enchanting family fun! Soak up the atmosphere in the Wyreena gardens and playspace, with free music and activities for the whole family from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Families and children aged 5 to 12 years are also invited to book and explore the Halloween House experience. Bookings essential.



13 Nov

CHANGE MAKERS

Thursday 13 November,
9.30am to 11.30am
(doors open at 9am)
Karralyka, Ringwood East

Join experts who are leading the way in accessible public transport for people with disability, who will discuss the challenges, innovations and best practice opportunities. The event, in recognition of International Day of People with Disability, features presentations, a panel discussion and mini expo of supportive organisations. Bookings required.



29 Nov

WYREENA MAKERS MARKET

Saturday 29 November,
9am to 2pm
Wyreena Community Arts Centre, Croydon

Join us for another popular Wyreena Makers Market featuring local artists and makers. Discover unique, hand-crafted gifts for the upcoming Christmas season or find something special for yourself. Enjoy wandering around the historic buildings and gardens while you shop and don't forget to try something delicious from The Conservatory Café.



Sunday 9 November
10am to 4pm
Town Park, Croydon

Maroondah Festival has something for everyone.
Here's a snippet of what to expect!

01/ Main Stage

10am Croydon Wind Symphony
10.40am COLOURZ
11.15am Welcome and
Official Opening
11.40am Lilydale High School
12.50pm Georgia Page
2pm Her Trash
3pm La Descarga

02/ Kids Kingdom Stage

10am TBA
10.45am Yarra Heights Dance Academy
11.30am Tinternvale Primary School
Choir
12.15pm Maroondah Calisthenics Club
12.55pm The Funtones
1.55pm CHPS Musical Excellence
Choir
2.35pm Braydon J. Taylor – Magician
3.10pm Jamie's Academy of Dance

03/ Community Stage

10am The Soopa Doopa Bush Band
10.30am Sing Australia
11am The Pleasant Pluckers
11.30am TBA
12noon Ringwood Highland Pipe Band
12.40pm Dance and Dash
1.10pm Croydon Community School
2pm O'Connor School of
Irish Dance
2.40pm Amanda Nicolaou Fitness
3.10pm Street Dance Studios
3.40pm Vibe Studios

04/ Cooking Stage

A range of cooking demonstrations from
around the world, 10am to 3.45pm.

05/ Cultural Demo Space

10.30am Welcome to Country
11am The Local Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'is of Maroondah
11.40am Mayuri Dance
12noon Falun Dafa Association of
Australia Victoria Branch
1pm Mady Keita's African
Drumming Academy
1.45pm Coco's Chinese Zither
Training Studio
3pm Falun Dafa Association of
Australia Victoria Branch

06/ Sporting Demo Space

10am No's Taekwondo
11am Aspect Motion School
of Dance
12noon Kakushinkan Karate
2pm The Ballet Studio



Keep up to date with all things Maroondah Festival!

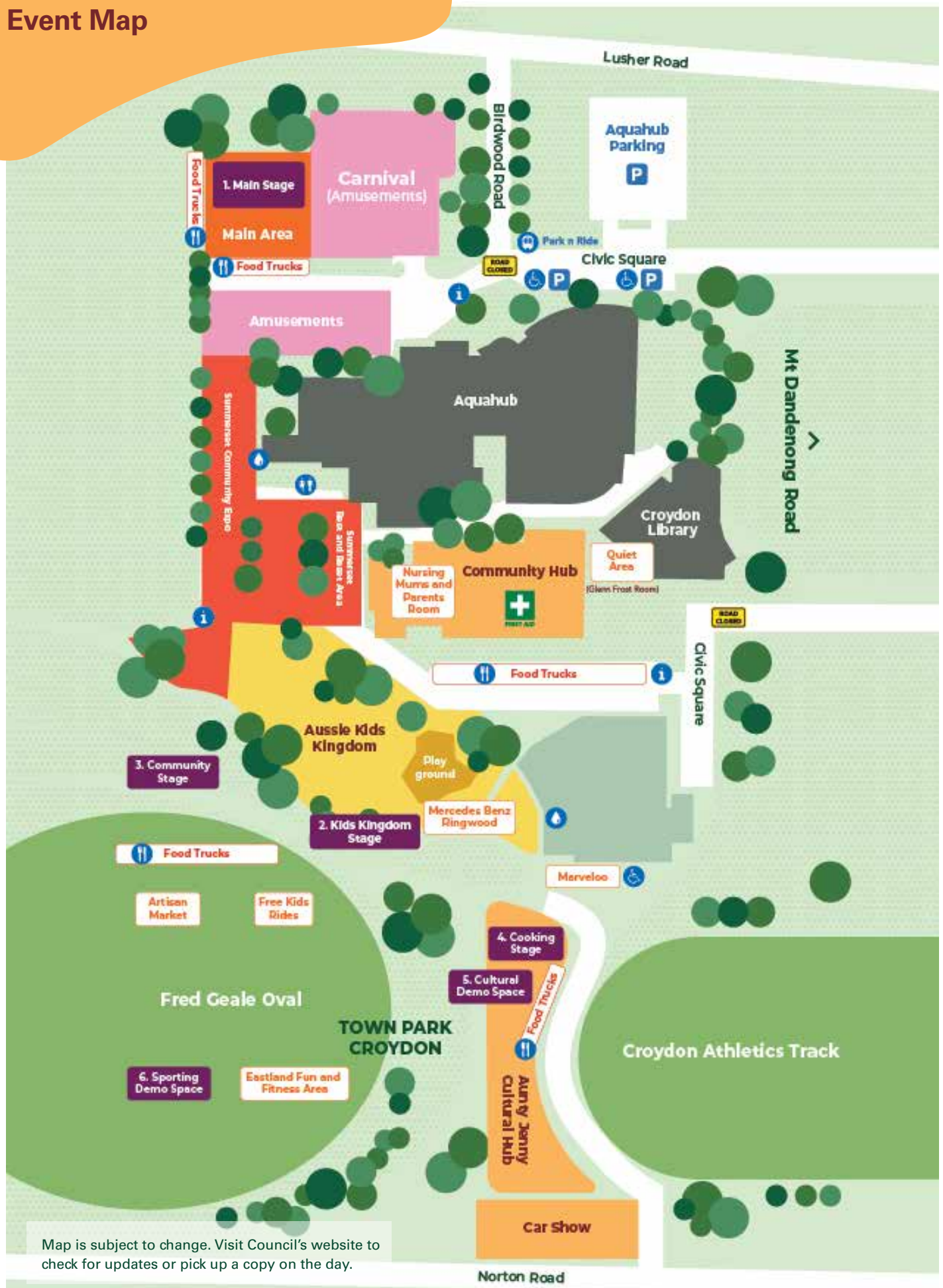
Subscribe to Maroondah eNews to receive Maroondah Festival information
straight to your inbox before the big day on Sunday 9 November.

Festival hotline 9294 5604 | #maroondahfestival2025
www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Festival

Program is subject to change. Visit Council's website to check for updates or pick up a copy on the day.



Maroondah Festival 2025 Event Map



News in Brief

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from passionate community members and business representatives who would like to join a range of advisory committees.

These committees aim to build partnerships that enhance arts and culture, community wellbeing, natural environment and liveability and inclusion in Maroondah, as we work towards delivering the *Maroondah 2050 Community Vision*.

Visit Council's website for more information on each committee and to submit your Expression of Interest by Sunday 12 October.

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE FOR THE MAROONDAH YOUTH AWARDS

Do you know a young person who deserves to be recognised for their strength, resilience or accomplishments?

The annual Maroondah Youth Awards are a great way to celebrate the unique contributions and achievements that young people aged 10 to 25 make to our community.

The awards focus on young people's creativity, teamwork, leadership and personal resilience.

Nominations close on Friday 17 October.

To find out more or nominate a young person, visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/youth

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE DRAFT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Following community consultation in March 2025, Council has prepared the draft *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029*.

The plan will inform Council's animal management service priorities over the next four years.

Whether you are a pet owner or not, have your say on the draft plan by Friday 10 October.

Find out more and have your say online at yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au/damp



Help shape the future of Maroondah

Share your thoughts on consultations currently open for feedback from our community.

Provide your feedback on our draft Customer Experience Strategy



Great customer service is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to making every interaction easier, friendlier and more helpful. Help us improve by sharing your thoughts on our draft *Customer Experience Strategy 2025-2029*.

The draft strategy provides a framework to ensure we continue delivering services that are accessible, innovative and responsive – whether you're contacting us online, on the phone, or in person.

Thank you to those who provided feedback last year as part of our 'communicating and connecting with our community' consultation. We are now inviting community members to share feedback on the draft document before the strategy is finalised.

Visit the Your Say Maroondah website yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au to view the draft strategy and provide feedback by Friday 17 October.

Inform the Creative Maroondah Strategy

Council is seeking your feedback on how you currently engage with Council's arts and cultural facilities and creative offerings and what you would like to see prioritised in the future.



Your feedback will help to inform the preparation of the *Creative Maroondah Strategy 2026-2030*, which will provide a vision, priorities and implementation framework for creative service delivery, and will expand on the current *Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-2025*.

The new strategy will include the full suite of Council's creative facilities and offerings, comprising Wyreena Community Arts Centre, ArtSpace at Realm, Maroondah Federation Estate Gallery, arts development and activation, precinct planning, public art and civic art collections, Karralyka theatre and function services, community halls, Maroondah Federation Estate and K-Cafés.

Visit the Your Say Maroondah website yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au to have your say by Friday 14 November.

Visit Council's website to learn more
www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Making progress in Maroondah

As part of Council's \$46.03 million Capital Works Program, projects are continuing to take shape.

WORKS PLANNED

- Drainage improvements and footpath construction works are planned for Smithdene Avenue, Ringwood East
- Road and pedestrian safety improvements are planned within the school zone of Mullum Mullum Road, Ringwood between Byron Street and Panfield Avenue

WORKS UNDERWAY

- Footpath construction works are underway in Kubba Road, Kubis Drive and Werac Drive, Ringwood North
- Road construction works are underway at Ainslie Park Avenue, Croydon

WORKS COMPLETED



- Road construction works are complete at Glynne Road, Warranwood
- Road renewal works are complete at Murray Place, Ringwood



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



Exciting upgrades are complete at Bedford Road shopping centre in Ringwood East. Upgrades include:

- Footpath renewal works, improving safety and accessibility
- New garden beds, hoop edging and trees and shrubs to brighten the area
- Extra seating and bike racks
- Upgraded accessible parking spaces
- Freshly marked car bays

Thank you to local businesses and shoppers for your patience and support during these important works.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/bedford-road-upgrades



Learn more

Scan the QR code to visit the 'Maroondah projects' page on Council's website to find out more and see other projects in progress. Enter your location to find projects near you.

Your Councillors

YARRUNGA WARD

Cr Rob Steane OAM
0407 519 986



MCALPIN WARD

Cr Nate Henderson
0437 969 722



WONGA WARD

Cr Linda Hancock
Deputy Mayor
0473 194 871



JUBILEE WARD

Cr Claire Rex
0476 010 752



WOMBOLANO WARD

Cr Kylie Spears
Mayor
0436 003 660



BARNGEONG WARD

Cr Chris Jones
0418 109 015



WICKLOW WARD

Cr Daniella Heatherich
0438 482 813



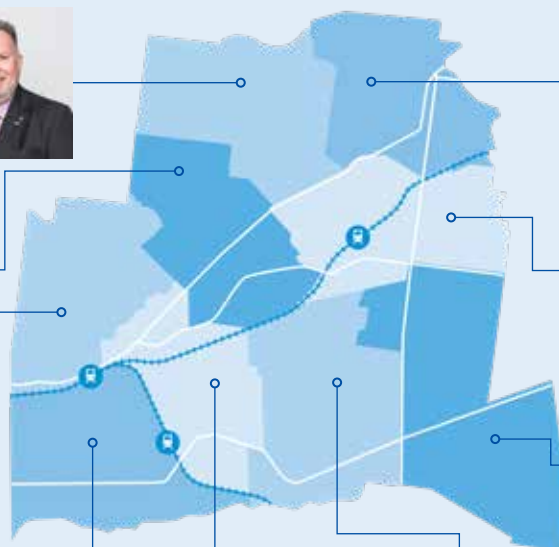
BUNGALOOK WARD

Cr Catherine Gordon
0447 538 636



TARRALLA WARD

Cr Paul Macdonald
0436 001 760





Level up your composting

On Thursday 16 October, permaculture and sustainability educator Anna the Urban Nanna will be running a Composting and Worm Farms workshop at Maroondah Federation Estate in Ringwood.

In this free, hands-on workshop, Anna will help you understand how to get your compost ratios right in simple, straightforward language. She will also explain the basics of different composting systems to find the right one for your needs.

But that's not all – did you know that Compost Revolution offers Maroondah residents up to 60 per cent off the cost of a new composting system, as well as free delivery? For a green cone solar composter or tumbler composter, that's a saving of over \$100!

So come along to our composting workshop, get inspired to start composting, work out which composting system is right for your home, and take advantage of your Compost Revolution discount to get ready for this growing season!



Bookings are essential. Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to book.

Celebrate the festive season at Maroondah Carols

Join in the fun on Saturday 6 December, 6pm to 10pm, at Town Park in Croydon.

Maroondah Carols is a free event that welcomes our community to come together and celebrate the festive season.

This event has been a community highlight for over 25 years, celebrating our connectedness, our Maroondah community groups and local businesses.

Join MC Lucy Holmes for a magical night of entertainment and sing along to all your favourite festive songs, with performances by Samantha Du Rennes, Jonathan Guthrie-Jones, Lauren Neivandt and Julian Dunham.

Visit the kids' activity zone and don't miss the spectacular fireworks display at approximately 9.30pm!



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for more details closer to the event.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US



Croydon Service Centre
Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon
Realm
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood



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



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



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



Maroondah City Council is certified
for its organisational operations.

