

Maroondah news

Your community newsletter



Spring 2023



M A R O O N D A H

2050

Play your part in developing
a shared future vision for
Maroondah.

Find out more on page 3.



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



Mayor, Councillor Rob Steane OAM, with two of the 2023/24 Community Grants recipients.

Mayor's message

Welcome to the Spring edition of Maroondah news.

This will be my final printed Mayor's message for this Council term. It has been a pleasure to represent our community as Mayor over the past 11 months.

It's been a productive and rewarding year for Council, as outlined in our 2022/23 Annual Report. The Report reflects our key achievements and positive financial management over the past financial year, including delivering more than 120 services, programs and activities, delivering an extensive capital works program and continuing to provide support to our community as part of Council's ongoing plan for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. You can read the Annual Report on our website.

Council was also proud to receive positive feedback from our community in the results from the 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The survey revealed that Council is performing well across key areas such as community consultation, advocacy, customer service, overall direction, decision-making and value for money.

These results reflect Council's strong partnership with our community, and our work to represent and advocate for your needs. If you would like to discuss ideas or issues, please get in touch with me or my fellow Councillors.

You can find contact details for your Councillors on pages 10, 14 and 18, along with updates about what's happening across the Wards.

Planning is underway for Maroondah 2050, our next Community Vision. This vision will provide a roadmap to guide Council's work with our community, partner organisations and other levels of government to enhance Maroondah as a great place to live, work, play and visit. You can learn more on Council's website.

Save the date for Maroondah Festival 2023, our major event for the year, which is coming up on Sunday 12 November at Town Park in Croydon. I'm looking forward to seeing our community celebrating all that Maroondah has to offer, including food trucks, performers, activities, rides and market stalls.

Maroondah is filled with lots of other things to see and do, as well as plenty of opportunities to get involved. Visit Council's website for updates on events, activities and programs near you.

Cr Rob Steane OAM,
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 for spring 2023 are:

Monday 18 September

Monday 23 October

Wednesday 8 November

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Monday 20 November

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, arrive on time for the start of the meeting. Agendas are made available online on the Friday before the meeting date.

Council opening hours

Our Customer Service team is here to help. Please 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 all weekends and public holidays

Get in contact with us

- phone 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598
- email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au
- SMS 0480 020 200
- live chat via our website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

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.

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, please visit Council's website.

Developing a shared future vision for Maroondah

Council is calling on our community to share your thoughts, aspirations and ideas to help shape the future of Maroondah, as part of Maroondah 2050, our next Community Vision.

This vision will provide a roadmap to help our community and Council work with partner organisations and other levels of government to enhance Maroondah as a great place to live, work, play and visit.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities for you to have your say at various locations across Maroondah.

You can also join us at Maroondah Festival on Sunday 12 November as part of Café Consult, where you can share your feedback on Maroondah 2050 and a range of other consultations.



Scan the QR code to visit Council's Your Say Maroondah website, where you can learn about our next Community Vision and share what you hope our community will look, feel and be like in 2050.

Stay well

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.

If you are:

- 65 years and over, or
- aged 18 to 64 years and are at risk

and have not had COVID-19 or been vaccinated in the past six months, the 2023 COVID booster is recommended for you.

You may like to receive a 2023 booster if you are:

- an adult aged 18 to 64 years with no risk factors for severe COVID-19, or
- a child or adolescent aged 5 to 17 years who is at risk

and have not had COVID-19 or been vaccinated.

At risk adults and children include those with a disability, severely compromised immune system and complex or multiple health conditions, which increase their risk of severe COVID-19.

You may need additional doses based on your medical condition. Please speak with your healthcare professional.

Bookings

You can find your nearest vaccination provider on the Health Direct website, www.healthdirect.gov.au

Find out more

Visit the Department of Health website www.health.gov.au to learn more about the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

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

Free rapid antigen tests (RATs) are available at Council's Realm and Croydon Customer Service Centres. Visit Council's website for more information.



For more information about COVID-19 scan the QR code, or visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

2023 Community Satisfaction Survey results

The 2023 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results have been released, with a great report for Maroondah.

The survey was conducted by an independent market research organisation on behalf of the Victorian Government. The results show that Maroondah City Council continues to rate highly in comparison with average ratings for councils state-wide across key performance areas.

Survey respondents shared their feedback on Council's performance over the past 12 months, with the survey conducted between July 2022 and March 2023. A total of 400 Maroondah residents were randomly selected to share their views.

Council's overall performance continues to be rated in line with the average rating for Melbourne metropolitan councils and is rated statistically significantly higher (at the 95 percent confidence interval) than the state-wide average for councils.

When it comes to 'value for money', Maroondah rated 12 points higher (61) than the state-wide council average (49), while the rating for 'overall performance' for Council (64) was eight points higher than the state average (56).

Council's performance was also statistically significantly higher when measured against other Melbourne metropolitan councils and the state-wide average for a range of other indicators, including recreational facilities, arts centres and libraries, the appearance of public areas, general town planning policy, making decisions in the interest of the community, informing the community, waste management and traffic management.

Council will use the survey results to inform future service delivery planning and implementation, and will continue striving towards improving these services for the community.

Visit Council's website to learn more about the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.



Celebrating Maroondah's volunteers

Each of Maroondah's wonderful volunteers plays an important role and helps ensure Maroondah residents can access a range of services.

Graham and Bev volunteer with Maroondah Probus, which connects retirees with social opportunities and leisure activities.

They joined the group 19 years ago and have volunteered since then, with Graham currently serving his second term as President of the committee.

"It doesn't seem like work, it's fun for me, and if I can generate that for anyone else, that's a real plus," Graham said.

Bev enjoys "mixing with others", working together, and the friendships that volunteering can bring. She has assisted Graham with various roles over the years and said they "have enjoyed it all".

Jake has volunteered with Ringwood Football Netball Club for seven years, including serving as President for five years, along with coaching a junior team and serving on the junior committee.

"It's about the kids. We didn't have a junior club years ago. We've managed to build one up again and the kids will have somewhere to play now for years to come. It's going to be a legacy that will long outlast me," Jake said.

Longstanding Maroondah Symphony Orchestra committee volunteer Lyn enjoys sharing her skills with the community, building relationships and working collaboratively to achieve their goals.



Maroondah's volunteers were celebrated at an event earlier this year.

"You get so much more out of the time you spend doing something; volunteering enriches that experience. It's really about the relationships. Being on the committee and volunteering enables me to interact with everybody," Lyn said.

Bob and Bruce have volunteered for about six years with Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) Community Care through the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church. The organisation provides free food support for community members.

"It humbles you – that's the biggest thing I've taken from it," Bruce said.

"If you can do something to help someone – even the smallest thing – it's better than not doing anything," Bob said.

Visit Council's website to learn more about volunteering in Maroondah, including opportunities with Council and a range of community organisations and groups that could use your assistance.

Learn more [Visit Council's website to learn more about volunteering in Maroondah.](#)

2024 Maroondah Australia Day Awards

Nominations are open for the 2024 Maroondah Australia Day Awards.

The awards are presented each year at Council's Australia Day event in recognition of some of Maroondah's most outstanding residents for their contributions to the community.

Submissions can be made for an individual or community group for their contribution to Maroondah, either in a professional or volunteer capacity.

Nominations close 5pm, Sunday 19 November 2023.

Visit Council's website to nominate for the 2024 Australia Day Awards or to learn more about the 2023 award recipients.



Bill Wilkins Volunteer Award nominations open

Named in honour of community stalwart Bill Wilkins OAM, this annual award recognises remarkable volunteers in our community who inspire others through their positive contributions to Maroondah.

Nominations close 5pm on Sunday 22 October 2023.

The winner will be announced at a special volunteer awards function in December.

Visit Council's website to learn more and to nominate a volunteer.

Much-loved supervisor hangs up her hat

After 44 years as a School Crossing Supervisor, Carmel Black retired at the end of Term 2.

A love of the local school community inspired Carmel Black to supervise the school crossing at Yarra Road Primary School in Croydon North. In June – over four decades later – Carmel hung up her high-vis jacket and stop sign for the last time.

The Yarra Road site school crossing was installed in 1979 after a two-year campaign by the school committee. Carmel offered to temporarily assist until the school crossing supervisor role could be filled, knowing it was essential for the school. What followed was an incredible 44 years of service, making Carmel one of Victoria's longest serving crossing supervisors in perhaps the longest 'temporary' position ever!

"I started the role, loved it, and I continued to do it. What inspired me the most was the children and keeping them safe, year in and year out." While there have been many highlights over the years, Carmel most enjoyed how much the students shared with her and the connections she built.

"The students tell me their achievements and I go to school activities like carols, productions and graduation nights. The Grade 6s want me to be there to say farewell to them before the next step of their life."

Principal of Yarra Road Primary School, Ken Darby, said Carmel made "tremendous contributions" to the school community.

"Carmel has become an iconic figure. Her innate ability to connect with everyone she encounters, her genuine care for the children's safety, her attentiveness to details, and her ability to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere have made her an invaluable asset to our school community."

"We are forever grateful for her unwavering dedication and service. She will be sincerely missed by the Yarra Road community."

Heading into retirement, Carmel said support from the school community was "a bit overwhelming" – a testament to the role she held for so many years.

"I haven't just been a school crossing supervisor; I've been part of the school team and part of the family."



School Crossing Supervisor Carmel Black at the Yarra Road Primary School crossing.

Did you know?

Council's 101 dedicated school crossing supervisors oversee 73 primary and secondary school crossings throughout Maroondah.

Supporting threatened species

A threatened species is on the rise in Maroondah, with a newly revitalised wetland.

The Dandenong Creek Project is a collaborative project between Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Maroondah, Knox, Monash and Greater Dandenong Councils. As part of the project, \$15 million is being invested over the next 10 years to revitalise billabongs and wetlands

along the Dandenong Creek between Heathmont and Dandenong.

The partnership project is aimed at improving the habitat and protecting vulnerable freshwater fish species including the threatened Dwarf Galaxias and the Yarra Pygmy Perch.

Council has worked closely with Melbourne Water to create a purpose-built wetland in Scott Street Reserve, Heathmont as one of 20 wetland habitats being created along the Dandenong Creek corridor that threatened native freshwater fish species from dedicated breeding facilities are being released into.

Rhys Coleman, Melbourne Water's Manager Waterways and Wetlands Research, said the scale of this project was a first for metropolitan Melbourne. "We are providing lots of options for the threatened fish species to feed and breed. It's an important step towards turning things around for these precious native wildlife species," he said.

To find out more about this project, visit the Melbourne Water website.



Threatened species such as the Dwarf Galaxias will benefit from the purpose-built wetland in Scott Street Reserve.

Meals on Wheels supporting residents to eat well

With nutritionally balanced meals and 'safe and well' checks, Council's Meals on Wheels service continues to provide essential support to those in the community who are experiencing difficulties preparing or cooking their own meals.

Council's Karralyka chefs work with dieticians to plan a range of menu options to ensure residents receive essential nutrients. Fresh and frozen meals are delivered by Council's Meals on Wheels volunteers, providing flexibility and convenience for clients. Meals on Wheels chef Richard said the service provides a diverse menu to ensure residents continue to eat well, even if they are experiencing difficulty preparing their own food.

"We have guidelines and come up with a menu that ticks all of the boxes. We plan the menu and work with dieticians to make sure that clients who can't cook for themselves are getting the right nutrition, carbohydrates, protein, dairy and so forth," Richard said.

"The menus are diverse and multicultural. Clients are loving the different and diverse foods, and the numbers are growing. We saw a 10 percent increase in the number of meals in the last financial year."

Residents Herbert and Frankie Mees took up Meals on Wheels in October 2019 and have been enjoying the meals ever since.

"It was the best move we could have made. If left to our own devices, we would probably choose meals that are easy to cook or that we particularly like, whereas from a general health point of view, we would be missing out on a greater variety of foods. Each meal has at least two kinds of vegetables," Herbert said. "It seems to be just the right balance," Frankie said. "And we love the meals. My favourites are chicken, quiche, lamb – nearly everything!"



Water saving program

Council will only be using recycled water for tree watering thanks to a collaborative project with Yarra Valley Water (YVW).

Council has partnered with Yarra Valley Water as the first customer to take advantage of its recycled water carting program, which will allow for 100% of recycled water to be used across the municipality for Council's tree watering program.

Under the trial program, Yarra Valley Water will be working alongside Council's Tree Maintenance and Renewal team to 'drought proof' Maroondah's tree watering program by using recycled water in place of drinking water. Council previously used potable water to irrigate trees during dry weather.

Water will be collected from Yarra Valley Water's Brushy Creek Filling Station and supplied to Council's municipal tree watering program.

With a changing climate and growing population, Council believes it is important to improve the way we manage water now so that current and future generations can benefit from secure water supplies and healthy environments.

Maroondah is proud to be part of a project that supports healthy ecosystems by reducing potable water consumption where we can.

The trial will run until early 2024.



Scan the QR code to visit the 'Meals on Wheels' page on Council's website and watch our video showing how a range of employees and volunteers bring Meals on Wheels to life.

Community health in the spotlight

World Environmental Health Day is being celebrated on 26 September.

Council's Community Health team is out and about every day working to keep our community safe and healthy. While this Council service may often go unnoticed, our Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) play a vital role in protecting, promoting, and improving the health of our community.

The team works closely with local food businesses to ensure they sell food that is safe to consume, and with personal care businesses to prevent the risk of transmitting infections through services such as beauty treatments, hairdressing and tattooing.

EHOs respond to concerns from the community and investigate requests that may impact community health. These can include pest harbourage, illegal accommodation, public swimming pool water quality, gastro and food poisoning outbreaks, prohibited smoking areas, tobacco retailer education, wastewater management and more.

The team proactively supports the community with information on emerging health concerns and preventative measures, and assists with emergency recovery. EHOs also offer an immunisation service to help reduce vaccine preventable diseases in the community.

While the team educates and supports businesses and the community, there are things you can do to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands regularly, particularly before you eat and after you have used the toilet
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Be considerate of your neighbours
- Report concerns that may impact the health of the community by calling Council on 1300 88 22 33.



Progress on projects in your area

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

Colchester Road footpath construction and black spot lighting



Construction of footpath along the eastern side of Colchester Road in Kilsyth South, between Regency Drive and Collier Road, is taking shape.

Works include reconstruction of vehicle crossings and modification of stormwater drainage infrastructure to ensure compliance and safety. Street lighting improvements are also scheduled to begin shortly on Colchester Road to improve safety and amenity of the area. 18 new streetlights will be installed with a further five upgraded to meet requirements.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Black Spot Program.

Ringwood Activity Centre carpark



Construction of a new carpark in the Ringwood Activity Centre is proposed to begin in late 2023/early 2024.

Located at 1 Bedford Road, the carpark is proposed to provide additional parking spaces to reduce parking congestion on nearby local streets and at the station carpark. The remaining portion of the Blood Brothers storefront will be retained and relocated to a prominent position on the site, retaining the corner store significance of the original building.

This project is funded by the Australian Government.



Asset projects update



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

Keep an eye out for works underway or starting shortly:

- Laura Court, Bayswater North – playspace renewal
- Longview Reserve, Croydon South – playspace and court renewal
- Danielle Reserve, Heathmont – playspace renewal
- 1st Croydon Hills Scout Hall, Croydon North – room extension
- Croydon Oval, Croydon – sportsfield LED lighting upgrade
- Wyreena, Croydon – outdoor furniture replacement

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:

- Yarra Road, Croydon – road upgrades and footpath works
- Sonia Street and Mullum Mullum Road, Ringwood – drainage improvement works
- Bond Street, Ringwood – footpath construction
- Churchill Way, Kilsyth – accessible parking improvements

- Alexandra Road and Scenic Avenue, Ringwood East – flood mitigation works
- The Boulevard, Heathmont – drainage improvement works
- Crossman Drive, Croydon Hills – drainage improvement works
- Stirling Road and Toorak Avenue Intersection, Croydon – waste vehicle access improvements
- Towerhill Drive and Wonga Road intersection – accessibility improvements

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



- Charles Street and Kemps Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Fairview Avenue, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- Jubilee Park Carpark, Ringwood – carpark improvement works
- Morinda Street, Ringwood East – footpath construction
- New Street, Ringwood – Sherbrook Catchment Drainage Upgrades Stage 3
- Central Avenue, Bayswater North – road improvement works
- Starcross Avenue, Croydon – drainage upgrades
- Todd Court, Croydon – drainage improvement works

Do you want to know what is happening in your local area?

Council's website offers new mapping options which mean you can search your address and see what is happening around you – including capital works, public art and events.

To find out more, visit the My Area section of the website.

Scan the QR code to visit the 'Projects' page on Council's website to find out more.

Plan, prepare and play it safe

Community Safety Month is held every October and reminds us that we all have a role to play in keeping Maroondah a safe place to live, work, play and visit.

Emergencies can happen at any time

Being prepared for emergencies helps you and your family to recover afterwards.

- You are the person who is most responsible for your wellbeing before, during and after an emergency
- Emergencies could disrupt your life in ways you don't expect
- Preparing an emergency plan will help you feel more confident, in control and able to cope when an emergency happens.



Have an emergency plan

An emergency plan will help you think about what you will do if a fire, power outage, storm or flood happens at your home, or in your area.

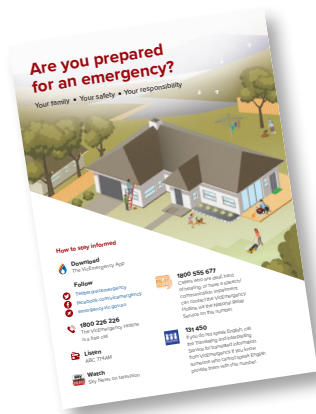
Your emergency plan can be used for all emergencies or disruptions. When making your plan, there are many options.

The plan should detail what you and your family will do before, during and after an emergency.

Make sure you share your written plan with the rest of your family and friends. Practicing your plan will help you remember what needs to be done during a crisis. It is also important to know your neighbours, or who on your street may require some assistance or who to check on in the event of an emergency.

To help you get started, visit the 'Preparing for emergencies' page on Council's website and download a copy of the *Are you prepared for an emergency?* booklet.

The booklet includes essential information to help you and your family know what to do before, during and after an emergency or significant event, such as house, grass and bush fires, heatwaves, storms, floods, power outages and infectious diseases, as well as important contact details.



How to stay informed

You can also get up-to-date information from:

- The Vic Emergency website, **[emergency.vic.gov.au/respond](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond)**, which includes a real-time Google Map display with emergency events
- **The Vic Emergency app**, which is the official Victorian Government app with fire warnings, information on planned burns and other types of incidents
- The Vic Emergency Hotline: **1800 226 226**
- ABC local radio: **3LO 774 AM**
- Eastern FM radio: **98.1 FM**
- The Ausnet Power Outages tracker: **www.outagetracker.com.au**
- Alerts from the Chief Health Officer on the Department of Health website: **www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/chief-health-officer**
These alerts advise the Victorian community of an issue that is urgent, poses an immediate threat to public health and requires an immediate response
- MaroondahConnect: **1300 88 22 33**



What you can do now

- ✓ Download the VicEmergency App on your smart phone and electronic devices.
- ✓ Save important contact numbers into your phone such as family and friends, Council 1300 88 22 33 and the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226.
- ✓ Make sure your house number is clearly visible and your driveway is accessible for emergency service vehicles.
- ✓ Write an emergency plan. You can find templates and more information on Council's website.
- ✓ If you have animals, make sure they are part of your emergency plan and consider where you will relocate them to.
- ✓ If you have special medical needs for continuous power supply, discuss this with your energy retailer.
- ✓ Practice your emergency plan with the whole family, including pets.
- ✓ Make copies of important documents such as passports, insurance papers and medical scripts. Save these electronically and ensure you back them up.
- ✓ Get insurance and review what it covers. Consider household, business and income protection insurance.
- ✓ Pack an emergency kit and keep it somewhere easily accessible. See the *Are you prepared for an emergency?* booklet on Council's website for ideas.
- ✓ Practice packing your car so you know how long it will take you in an actual emergency.
- ✓ Build connections in your local street and community. Talk to your neighbours about your emergency plans and see if there are ways you can assist each other. Look for local volunteering opportunities or other community groups you can get involved in.

Be storm and flood safe

Storms can occur anywhere and at any time, so it's important to plan for extreme weather events and be prepared.

Between October and March is considered storm season, with the increased risk of storm activity including strong winds, flash flooding, large hailstones and lightning. Flash flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall, and you may not receive an official warning.

Prepare for the storm season by pruning tree branches, mending loose roof tiles, clearing gutters and drains, and securing trampolines and outdoor furniture if a storm is predicted.

Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater, and find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.

A small car can float in just 15cm of water so driving on a flooded road could be the last decision you ever make. Visit the '15 to float' page on the SES Victoria website www.ses.vic.gov.au/news-and-media/campaigns/15-to-float to learn more.

To find out more about storm safety, visit www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

Managing our stormwater

Significant rainfall events are becoming more common. Council's stormwater drainage network is designed to cater for the majority of storm events, but in significant events, the capacity of Council's stormwater drainage network can be exceeded.

This can lead to flash flooding with stormwater flowing over land, along roads, through reserves and through private property, depending on the landscape of the surrounding land.

Council endeavours to minimise the impact of flash flooding on private property and dwellings where possible and is actively working to map impacted areas.

Council's annual Capital Works Program also includes major investment in upgrading and renewing drains to lessen the risks of flooding.

Residents can help to minimise risk around their property by maintaining private property drainage systems, regularly cleaning gutters and not sweeping leaves and other debris down Council's stormwater drains.

You can learn more about stormwater management and flooding on Council's website.

Thunderstorm asthma

Grass pollen season brings an increase in asthma and hay fever. It also brings the chance of thunderstorm asthma. For people with asthma or hay fever, especially those who experience wheezing or coughing, thunderstorm asthma can be sudden, serious and even life-threatening.

If you've ever had asthma, talk to your doctor about how to protect yourself. Remember, taking an asthma preventer properly and regularly is key to preventing asthma, including thunderstorm asthma.

If you suffer from hay fever, see your pharmacist or doctor for a hay fever treatment plan and check if you should have an asthma reliever puffer – which is available from a pharmacy without a prescription.

And finally, where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms – especially during wind gusts that come before a storm. Stay indoors, keeping all doors and windows closed. If you have an air-conditioner, turn it onto recirculate.

You can use the Vic Emergency app to monitor the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast daily during grass pollen season.

For more about thunderstorm asthma, and how to protect yourself, visit www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Emotional support

Emergencies put a lot of additional stress on close relationships and families. Watch for social withdrawal and behaviour that is not normal for the person, including anger.

Children and adolescents may experience different emotions a lot later than adults. Violent or controlling behaviour can happen for the first time or these behaviours can increase or escalate after an emergency.

For more information, contact MaroondahConnect on 1300 88 22 33.

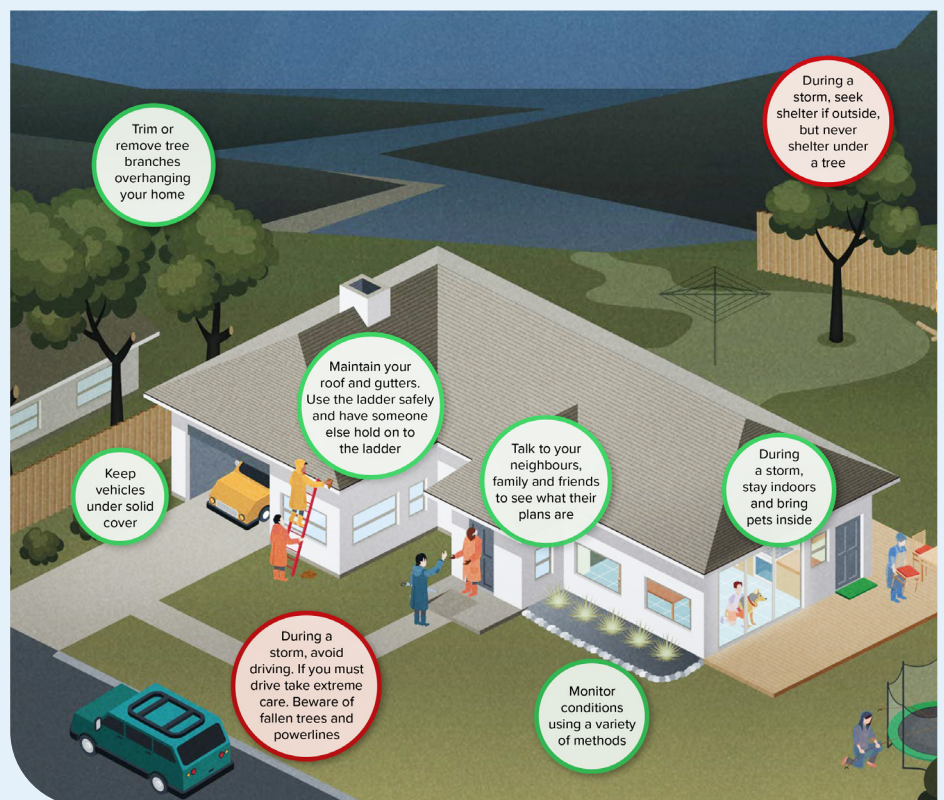


Illustration taken from the *Are you prepared for an emergency?* booklet, jointly supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments.

Learn more

To download a copy of the *Are you prepared for an emergency?* booklet, visit the 'Preparing for emergencies' page on Council's website.

Caring for our carers

It's National Carers Week from Sunday 15 to Saturday 21 October – a time we pay tribute to and acknowledge the tremendous work of the many unpaid carers in Maroondah who make an invaluable contribution to our community. There are support services available to assist Maroondah carers in their caring role, as a carer's emotional health is just as important as the care that they provide to someone.

Maroondah Carers Group

The Maroondah Carers Group is a free peer support group for carers living within Maroondah to share experiences, gain support from others, and be connected to other resources and activities to help them with their caring role.

The group, which is co-facilitated by EACH and Council, meets on the second Thursday of each month at Council's Kerrabee social support base in Croydon.

For more information or to speak to someone about joining the group, call Kerrabee on 9294 5531.

Pathways for Carers walks

Do you care for an older person or someone who has a disability or mental health concern?

Supported by VMCH, Pathways for Carers is a free program led by carers, for carers. It provides carers with the opportunity to walk, talk and share their experiences all while learning about support services available to them. Each walk is facilitated by a guest speaker/walker. Anyone who is a carer is welcome to join and is invited to stay on after the walk for a free morning or afternoon coffee/tea. Walks are suitable for all fitness levels and no bookings are required.

October and November walks:

- Tuesday 10 October, 9.30am
- Saturday 28 October, 1pm
- Tuesday 14 November, 9.30am
- Saturday 25 November, 1pm

For details or to join a walk, visit the What's On section of Council's website, or visit the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pathwaysforcarersvic

More than 10,800 (12%) of people over the age of 15 in Maroondah provide unpaid care to someone with a disability, long-term illness or who is elderly.

Barnggeong Ward

Your Councillors



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

As a mum, I am passionate about providing opportunities for families to strengthen their relationships, have opportunities to get out and about and improve their overall wellbeing. I'm so pleased that Council is hosting a series of Active Kids, Healthy Minds events this month for families with preschool and primary school aged children.

The events include outdoor games, fun on the indoor play equipment, swimming, yoga and mindfulness classes, which will encourage families to be physically active, a proven way to reduce stress levels, improve sleep and boost our moods.

So, if you're looking for something fun and active to do with your children, I encourage you to get involved. Visit Council's website to find out more and to register.

Bungalook Ward



Cr Tony Dib OAM JP
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Maroondah is home to some wonderful parks and playgrounds, which are enjoyed by community members of all ages and abilities. As part of Council's ongoing commitment to improve and upgrade our playground facilities, the playspace located in Chandra Avenue, Kilsyth South in the Bungalook Ward will be renewed in the coming months.

With works scheduled to begin in October, the playspace will provide inclusive structural play elements that promote physical activity and social interactions, including a play unit for junior and teenage play, a spinner, a rocker and a swing unit.

I'm looking forward to seeing our community enjoy the renewed playspace. Visit Council's website to learn more about the project and other parks and playgrounds in Maroondah.

Jubilee Ward



Cr Mike Symon
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Golf participation rates are going strong in Maroondah. In 2022/23, more than 93,240 golfers took to the green at Ringwood Golf. These are our highest course attendance numbers since 1997/98.

To support the growing interest in golf, we also offer Golf Australia accredited community coaches at both Ringwood and Dorset golf courses. There's been a 68 percent increase in these very popular coaching sessions over the past 12 months. For those golfers looking for more technical coaching, there are also PGA qualified Golf coaches available for private lessons.

Maroondah is continuing to invest in the golf course at Ringwood, undertaking sand capping and drainage works on the 5th and 11th holes, and a laying a new concrete cart path on the 5th fairway.

Celebrate positive ageing

This October we celebrate older residents in our municipality. The 2023 Maroondah Seniors Festival celebrates positive ageing and wellbeing.

Maroondah residents aged 60 and over are encouraged to embrace all the festival has to offer, as well as the many and varied community groups available to them. It also provides the chance for our community to acknowledge the importance of older residents. The festival is being run in conjunction with the Victorian Seniors Festival and coincides with International Day of Older Persons on 1 October.

Wellbeing Expo and Community Luncheon

**Tuesday 24 October
9.30am to 12noon at Karralyka**

The free expo is an opportunity for Maroondah residents aged 60 and over to find out more about the opportunities and supports available to them. There will be a range of stallholders and prize giveaways.

Seniors who reside in Maroondah are also invited to a **free Community Luncheon on Tuesday 24 October from 12noon**, which will include a two-course meal and a special appearance by Jonathan Guthrie Jones. Tickets are limited and bookings are essential. Bookings open on Monday 18 September. For tickets, visit Council's website.



Seniors Transport Guide

If you're an older resident looking to use public transport but aren't sure where to start, pick up a copy of Council's Seniors Transport Guide. The guide includes information on senior travel discounts, using a myki card, transport options available and other helpful travel tips. It also contains information on catching public transport, such as trains, buses and trams.

The booklet is available at Council customer service centres, or you can download a copy from our website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Contact us on 1300 88 22 33 to request to have a copy posted to you.

Kerrabee dinners much more than a meal

Maroondah's older residents can enjoy great food, great company and great fun during dinner parties held at Council's Kerrabee social support base.

For a small fee, Maroondah residents aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, can enjoy a two-course meal, friendly conversations and entertainment. Transport options are also available to assist residents to feel confident to attend. For many, the dinner parties are much more than a meal.

"The parties are fantastic. It's so important for us to have this evening out. We'll get out to lunch with family, but we never get out of an evening, so it's just terrific," Beth said.

"I like the atmosphere at the parties," Andree said. "The friendly faces, the way we are looked after, and the effort put in."

The parties are part of Council's social inclusion and wellbeing program for residents who are eligible for funded programs through My Aged Care and who are 65+ years (50+ years if of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity) and have a support need or who are socially isolated.

The program offers a range of social opportunities and activities such as gardening, exercise, games, craft, outings, guest speakers and entertainers, and great conversations. There are also various groups including LGBTI+ peer social support, carer support, men's, women's and all-gender groups.

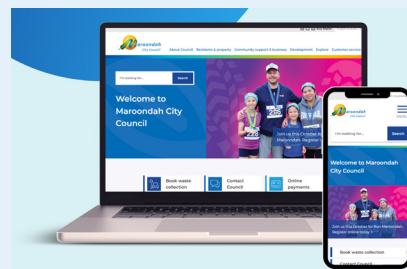
"The Council program is excellent. We're so lucky in Maroondah to have a program like this. The staff are excellent and the people are really friendly," Max said.

To find out more about the dinner parties and other range of programs available at Kerrabee, contact Jane, Council's Program Leader Social Inclusion and Wellbeing, on 9294 5531 or email kerrabee@maroondah.vic.gov.au

To find out whether you are eligible for My Aged Care, call 1800 200 422, visit www.myagedcare.gov.au, or contact your Home Care Package Case Manager.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Have you seen Council's new website?



Council's new website, which launched last month, is user-friendly and modern, with features that allow you to quickly complete tasks, learn about local services, see important announcements and find out what's happening in your area.

Features include improved forms and permit pages with step-by-step formatting, a new online mapping tool to see everything in and around your location, and an easy to use 'Your Maroondah' customer portal where you can manage your Community Directory listings and events in the one place.

Visit the new site at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Flu vaccines available

Council offers free flu vaccines to eligible persons through the National Immunisation Program (NIP), and payable flu vaccines are also available for those not eligible for the free flu vaccine.

You can receive the flu vaccination at immunisation sessions held at Maroondah Federation Estate in Ringwood, Aquahub in Croydon, North Ringwood Community House in Ringwood North, and Arrabri Community Centre in Bayswater North.

Visit the 'Public immunisation sessions' page on Council's website for eligibility criteria, fees for the payable flu vaccine, and to make a booking.

James N Stevens Scholarship applications open

Applications for the James N Stevens Scholarship are now open and will be accepted until Sunday 5 November.

The scholarship is a great opportunity for a local tertiary student to undertake a practical placement in Maroondah City Council, which will provide development opportunities, practical work experience and insights into a career in local government.

Visit the 'Careers' page on Council's website to learn more and apply.

Bridging the language gap

Maroondah's Kindergarten Outreach Program is helping to support children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds to enrol and participate in kindergarten.

The program supports children and families that have recently arrived in

Australia to enrol and participate in three and four-year-old kindergarten, transition to primary school, and to engage in other early childhood support services.

The program also supports CALD families who have recently arrived in Australia to access early childhood participation, and assists parents with accessing Maternal and Child Health services.

This helps children and families have a positive experience while settling into a new environment.

Feedback from a local kindergarten in Maroondah shows the benefits of the program in helping many Burmese families navigate their way through the complexities of school enrolment, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) applications, Kindergarten Inclusion Support applications and other important documentation.

In addition, the team has built safe and familiar relationships with many families and acts as a liaison between the kindergartens and families. "This led to many families gaining support that would otherwise have been missed by bridging the language gap," a teacher at Croydon Central Kinder said. Bilingual staff are also available to support families, with interpreters on hand if required.

To learn more, contact Council's Kindergarten Outreach Team on 9294 5739 or email outreach.program@maroondah.vic.gov.au

You can also visit the 'Children and families' page on Council's website.



Healthy minds through physical activity

Join us in the September school holidays for a series of fun Active Kids, Healthy Minds events for families with preschool and primary school aged children. Parents and carers are encouraged to take part and have fun too!

These events provide great opportunities for families to build on the knowledge and practical tips provided during last month's Strengthening Families webinar.

Come along and join the fun as you help support wellbeing in your family through improved communication, building positive relationships and strengthening resilience.

Yoga and mindfulness classes at Aquanation

Thursday 21 and Tuesday 26 September

Come along to indoor yoga and mindfulness classes at Aquanation, Greenwood Avenue in Ringwood.

Classes are at various times and grouped by age. \$10 per child. A parent or carer must stay with their child for the session. Bookings are essential.

Outdoor games at Town Park

Wednesday 20 September 12noon to 3pm

Bring the kids and join us for free outdoor games at Town Park, Norton Road in Croydon.

Indoor play gym and swim at Aquahub

Wednesday 27 September 12noon to 2pm

Join us at Aquahub for free fun on the indoor play gym equipment and a swim.

Bookings are essential.

Children's Week Twilight Picnic

Thursday 26 October, 4pm to 7pm
Town Park, Civic Square, Croydon

Join us for our free Children's Week event! Bring a picnic and enjoy interactive activities for young children and their families, entertainment and handy information for families. Visit Council's website for the full event program.



Visit Council's website www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/activekids to learn more or to register for these events.

Quality FOGO waste means quality compost

Council's Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service is helping to turn your food and garden waste into rich compost. But sometimes, the wrong items can end up in a FOGO bin.

The most unwanted items that can't go in your FOGO bin include:

- bagged garbage
- flexible/soft plastics
- rubber bands, cling wrap, food wrapping and stickers
- kitty litter and pet waste
- cardboard
- soil
- ash
- treated timber

These items can become caught in the compost processor's machinery, pose a health and safety risk for the processor's staff, or end up in compost used by farmers to grow your food. By making sure these items stay out of your FOGO bin, you're helping create quality compost for Victorian farmers.

You can also help by ensuring you only line your FOGO caddy with Council-supplied compostable liners.

Visit Council's website to learn how these items affect the composting process and how to dispose of them correctly, plus what can go in your FOGO bin.



No Waste Cooking Workshop

Wednesday 27 September
Arrabri Community House
10am to 11.30am

Did you know 20 percent of food purchased by Australian households ends up in the bin? Join Open Table at this free cooking workshop and learn simple ways to help reduce food waste in the home. Discover how to get creative with vegetable scraps and excess seasonal produce, plus pick up some money-saving tips and tricks along the way. Spaces are limited and registrations essential.

Visit Council's website to find out more and register.

Composting, Worm Farming and Bokashi Introduction

Saturday 14 October
Central Ringwood Community Centre
1.30pm to 2.30pm

Join our Waste Educator as we introduce you to three different composting systems. Discover which system best suits your household, learn the basics for setting up each system and the Dos and Don'ts for a successful compost.

Visit Council's website to find out more and register.

Get into golf

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's the perfect time to get into golf.

Whether you're a first-time golfer or just brushing up on your skills and not sure how to start, Ringwood Golf and Dorset Golf offer a clinic to suit your needs. Experienced community coaches and PGA professionals run individual lessons and adult, women's and junior clinics, covering chipping, putting, pitching, bunkers, full swing and more. Golf carts are also available to hire for a modest fee – perfect for all golfers, especially those less mobile and who could use some support to enjoy their much-loved game.

Course improvement works at Dorset Golf earlier this year, included improving drainage, sand capping and cart path extensions, have reduced surface water on the fairways, allowing easier navigation around the course.

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

Have you visited the Maroondah Leisure online golf store yet?

The online store, OnCourse, has an extensive range of golf apparel and equipment, including clubs, bags, balls, buggies, clothing, shoes, gloves and more from a range of popular brands. Make your first OnCourse purchase and receive 10 percent off all products in our online store when you use the code RINGDOR10. Visit the 'Golf shop' page on the Maroondah Leisure website to access OnCourse, www.maroondahleisure.com.au

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aquahub a Gold Safety Pool



Aquahub in Croydon has been awarded a Gold Pool Endorsement from Lifesaving Victoria. A Gold Safety Endorsement is awarded to a facility that achieves a compliance score of 100 percent and a safety score greater than 95 percent. The endorsement highlights the facilities achieving the highest standards in aquatic safety and risk management.

Run Maroondah



Join us on Sunday 8 October at HE Parker Reserve in Heathmont for Run Maroondah 2023! This event encourages individuals and families to take part in physical activity together and have fun. Available events include the 15km or 10km run, the 5km run/walk, and the kids' 1.2km race.

Visit Council's website for more information on the event or to register. Registrations close on Friday 29 September, so get in quickly!

Save the date for the Great Southern Bioblitz

Explore, discover and learn about Maroondah's rich biodiversity as part of the 2023 Great Southern Bioblitz.

Head to local nature areas from Friday 24 November to Monday 27 November and photograph the 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 'Discovering Nature' pages on Council's website to learn more.

Croydon Library turns 50!

Half a century on, Croydon Library is still proving as popular as ever.

With over 30,000 members and one of the largest loan borrowings of all the Your Library branches, it's easy to see why it is consistently rated as one of the most popular branches and a highly valued community service. Croydon Library was opened on 15 October 1973. Today, the library welcomes over 86,000 visitors each year and specialises in historical material and maintaining the local history, genealogy and military history collections. The library also houses the Croydon Historical Society.

To celebrate Croydon Library turning 50, there will be a family fun day on Sunday 15 October at the library from 12noon to 5pm, with games, craft activities, performances by Carp Productions and opportunities to share your memories of the library.

There will also be a series of other events between 15 and 21 October. Visit the 'Croydon Library Turns 50! Series' page on the Your Library events website for details.

Croydon Library is one of Maroondah's two major libraries, the other being Realm in Ringwood Town Square. Both libraries are managed by Your Library, which also provides services to Knox and Yarra Ranges.

Our libraries continue to prove to be a vital asset that offer residents not only universal access to information but also a safe space for social interaction, digital connection, lifelong learning and rich cultural experiences.

Your Library offers a host of downloadable resources for members that can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days

a week. Members can browse from more than 60,000 free eBook and eAudiobook titles for adults, teens and children, as well as eMagazines, board games, DVDs, music and more.

To find out what's on at Croydon Library and facilities offered, call the branch on 9800 6448 or visit www.yourlibrary.com.au/locations/croydon-library



Did you know?

In 1996, the Croydon Library was the first branch to receive internet access in the Eastern Region.

Your Councillors

McAlpin Ward



Cr Suzy Stojanovic
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suzanne.stojanovic@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Maroondah Festival is just around the corner on Sunday 12 November, so now is your chance to get involved.

If you belong to a cultural group, sports team, arts organisation or community group, we want to hear from you! From cultural displays and performances to cooking demonstrations or hosting a stall, this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your traditions, skills and passions, and share these with your community.

By celebrating our unique talents, heritage and shared values, Maroondah Festival allows us to learn more about each other. This understanding fosters a safer, more diverse and inclusive community where people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and identities can be their authentic selves. Visit Council's website to find out more.

Tarralla Ward



Cr Paul Macdonald
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If you're a resident aged 60 or older, I encourage you to attend Council's free Seniors Wellbeing Expo at Karrylyka, Ringwood East, to learn about opportunities and support available. The event, on Tuesday 24 October, will also include stallholders and prize giveaways. You can find out more on Council's website.

We're also hosting our Community Luncheon for Maroondah residents aged 60 and over. The lunch includes a two-course meal and a special performance. Bookings are limited for this popular event, so visit Council's website or call 1300 88 22 33 to book.

Visit Council's website to learn more about these events, as well as opportunities and support services available for Maroondah's older residents.

Wicklów Ward



Cr Tasa Damante – Deputy Mayor
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Whether it's driving on a local road, playing in the park, picking up a library book or having your bins emptied, Council provides a range of services for our community. These are made possible as part of Council's annual rates and charges.

Council supports residents from birth into their senior years, providing more than 120 services to the local community. Services include maternal and child health, aged and disability, youth, immunisation, environmental health, animal management, statutory planning and building services. Council also maintains footpaths, shared paths, buildings, parks, reserves, sporting facilities and public toilets.

You can learn more about rates allocation in the 2023/24 Budget and Rates brochure or on Council's website.

Spring into school holiday fun!

There are plenty of things to see and do in Maroondah during the September school holidays.

Maroondah Leisure

There's a great range of holiday programs available at The Rings and Maroondah Nets for children aged 5 to 12 years.

School holiday programs are available for basketball, netball, volleyball, tennis, Futsal (indoor soccer) and multi-sports. The programs are a fun way to stay active and social during the school holidays.

To find out more and book, visit the 'School Holiday Programs' page on the Maroondah Leisure website, www.maroondahleisure.com.au



Wyreena Community Arts Centre

Wyreena Community Arts Centre is hosting a range of creative activities to keep children entertained during the school holidays.

From pottery to painting, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Keep an eye on the 'Wyreena School Holiday Program' page on Council's website to view the Spring brochure and to enrol in program sessions.



Parks and playgrounds

Whether you are seeking relaxation, recreation, sport or fun, Maroondah's great range of parks, playgrounds and reserves are sure to be a hit.

There are walking paths, bike paths, picnic areas and barbecues, sports facilities and more.

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



Dates for your diary

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



Selina Ou: Neighbourhood Tales

Until Sunday 17 September

ArtSpace at Realm, Ringwood Town Square

Neighbourhood Tales is an exhibition of photographs produced in Maroondah and surrounding suburbs between 2020 and 2022 by Selina Ou in collaboration with her two sons, who appear in each of the images.

The exhibition is a compelling series of images that is intensely personal and universally relatable.

Visit Council's website to learn more and view opening hours.



Cora Browne's Spoonbill Royale at Wyreena Music Café

Friday 29 September, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Wyreena Conservatory Café, 13-23 Hull Road, Croydon

Cora Browne's Spoonbill Royale features players with backgrounds in hot swing, jazz, Celtic folk, rock 'n' roll and surf guitar. The stories will be entertaining and the music will be a riotous collaboration of joy and mastery.

The Café is fully licensed with allocated seating (maximum 50), so bookings are essential. Tickets are \$40 each and include entertainment and supper.

Visit Council's website to book or call 9294 5590.



Body Safety education for parents and carers of young children

Thursday 12 October, 7.30pm to 9pm

Online

Join ChildSafe Australia for this free webinar to learn how body safety and consent education empowers children to decrease the likelihood of them becoming victims of abuse and helps them to develop respectful relationships as they grow into adults.

Bookings are essential. Visit Council's website to book or learn more.

Walk your way to improved wellbeing

Did you know that mindful walking can reduce stress and anxiety, improve sleep and overall mood, and is great for mental wellbeing? No wonder Council's Mindful walking program is so popular!

The Mindful walking program began in March 2022 as a four-week trial program to help Maroondah residents improve their mental wellbeing. It quickly grew to a six-week series following enthusiastic feedback from participants and has run once per term ever since.

Mindful walking combines the health benefits of walking with building relationships and mindfulness. This helps participants to practice mindfulness anywhere and at any time as they connect with their bodies, minds and the world around them.

Facilitated by Council and LifeConnect, the program aims to teach people a variety of mindfulness practices so they can use the ones that suit them best.

Strategies include relaxation techniques, connections with the body, mind and senses, focusing on the five senses, practicing the principles, and stopping the mindless inner chatter.

The program also provides opportunities for participants to learn more about the range of activities and programs on offer



at Council's Community Centres and through LifeConnect. Participants such as Catharina have found the program beneficial.

"I would sincerely like to thank Council for putting this wellbeing program on; it is wonderful. I also participated in the Science of Stress workshop in 2022.

It has put me on a good path to wellbeing," Catharina said.

Visit Council's website to learn more about the program and to join the waitlist.

Use your strengths during challenging times

Tuesday 10 October, 7pm to 8.30pm, at Karralyka, Ringwood East.



In recognition of World Mental Health Day, join us for a presentation by Lea Waters, AM, PhD – psychologist, researcher, speaker and author, on how to use your strengths during challenging times.

Lea Waters holds a PhD in Organisational Psychology and has been a psychology researcher at The University of Melbourne for 27 years.

Lea Waters was the founding Director of the Centre for Positive Psychology at The University of Melbourne and is a world leader in this field, with over 120 research publications.

Don't miss this opportunity to join Lea Waters and learn about strength-based approaches to mental health and using your strengths as a buffer during challenging times.

Bookings are essential. Tickets cost \$10 per person, \$20 per family or \$10 per livestream booking.

This event is presented in partnership with Communities of Wellbeing, Your Library, EACH and Neamii National.

For more information, contact Council's Community Development Officer on maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au or 1300 88 22 33.

Save the date for Maroondah Carols

Save the date and join us on Saturday 2 December 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. Singalongs encouraged!

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

Join us at Town Park, Croydon from 6pm. Visit Council's website to find out more.



Have your say – Croydon’s future



Following community consultation in 2021 on what Croydon means to you, Council has prepared the Croydon Major Activity Centre Draft Structure Plan for community feedback.

The Draft Structure Plan includes a shared vision for the area, six key themes across nine precincts in Croydon, and key objectives to help guide growth across high-quality streets, laneways, public open space, heritage character, creek and wetland areas, and amenity.

We would like to hear your thoughts on the vision for the area, six key themes and elements of the Draft Structure Plan.

You can share your ideas and feedback online via our interactive map, complete an online or hard copy survey or express your interest in attending a workshop.

Visit www.yoursay.maroondah.vic.gov.au/croydonmac-structure-plan

Consultation closes on Tuesday 3 October.

World class cricket heading to Ringwood

Save the date to watch the Melbourne Stars take on the Sydney Sixers at Jubilee Park on Wednesday 8 November.

Australian superstars such as Meg Lanning, Ellyse Perry, Alyssa Healy, Ash Gardner, Annabel Sutherland, Kim Garth and Phoebe Litchfield will headline the Women’s Big Bash League (WBBL) match at Jubilee Park.

The match follows the development of Maroondah Edge indoor cricket training centre, which opened its doors in June.

The unique centre includes five lanes for indoor cricket training, making it a one-of-a-kind facility in the Eastern Region and the first of four indoor cricket training hubs to be built in the Melbourne metropolitan area. It’s fantastic to see the new facilities helping to further raise the profile and skills of Maroondah’s cricketers and meeting the needs of many clubs throughout our community.



[Learn more](#) Visit the Melbourne Stars website to learn more and to view the fixture www.melbournestars.com.au

Level Crossing Removal Project update

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



Aerial view of works to remove a level crossing and build a new transport hub in Croydon.

Across Ringwood and Croydon, major construction works are now well underway, with some of the new infrastructure starting to take shape.

As the project team continues to work, there will be temporary road, rail and pedestrian disruptions in Ringwood East and Croydon. These include a closure of Dublin Road near the level crossing from early September until mid-October, so that construction crews can completely rebuild the part of Dublin Road that will sit over the rail trench.

The Ringwood East shopping village will be open for business and can be accessed via Eastfield Road during Dublin Road works.

Visit the Big Build Victoria website at bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions to learn more.

By 2025, there will be no boom gates between Ferntree Gully and the city on the Belgrave line, and the Lilydale line will be level crossing free.

[Learn more](#) Stay up to date and sign up for email updates at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe



Walks for all

Did you know that Maroondah has four accessible walks published by Victoria Walks? This is the most in any Victorian municipality!

These walks offer paths that are accessible for all users:

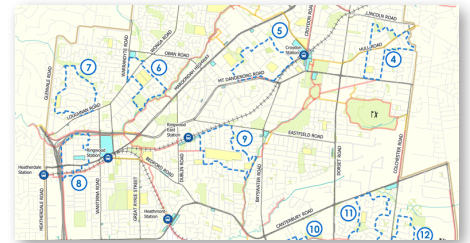
- McAlpin Reserve in Ringwood North
- Town Park and Tarralla Creek in Croydon
- Ringwood Lake in Ringwood
- Croydon Park in Croydon

Victorian walking paths have recently been turned into digital walking maps by Victoria Walks and Scope Australia as part of a project giving people with disability greater access to nature walks.

The walking maps also list features and points of interest for each walk, with information on accessible parking options,

Changing Places, accessible toilets, nearby public transport, drinking fountains, rest areas, seating and more.

Visit the 'Parks and playgrounds' page on Council's website to learn more about all they have to offer.



You can view the digital walking maps on the Walking Maps website, www.walkingmaps.com.au/accessible-walks

Wombolano Ward

Your Councillors



Cr Kylie Spears
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Local businesses are a driving force in our community, creating employment opportunities, helping to diversify our city and contribute to our local economy and community identity.

The annual Maroondah Business Excellence Awards give the community the opportunity to support and celebrate the hard work and dedication of Maroondah's businesses. Thank you to everyone who nominated businesses that they think have made a positive impact in Maroondah.

There are six categories this year, ranging from manufacturing and technology, construction and trades to retail and hospitality and innovation, sustainability and enterprise. I look forward to seeing the winners announced in October. Visit the BizHub website for more information on these awards.

Wonga Ward



Cr Linda Hancock
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Earlier this year, Council installed a seat in BJ Hubbard Reserve in Ringwood North following feedback from a resident who enjoyed walking there but needed a place to stop and rest.

As a representative on the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee and the Maroondah Liveability, Safety and Amenity Committee, I am pleased that Council was able to respond to our community's needs and install the seat to support a range of community members.

Whether you're a person with a disability, an older resident or simply enjoy sitting and reflecting, the seat is a great addition to the reserve and adds to Council's work to improve accessibility, inclusion and liveability in Maroondah.

Visit Council's website to learn more about accessibility, inclusion and liveability in Maroondah.

Yarrunga Ward



Cr Rob Steane OAM – Mayor
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Yarrunga Community Centre in Croydon Hills plays such an important role in connecting our community with social activities and courses for people of all ages and abilities. It also has a range of facilities available to hire, with multipurpose rooms and a large recreation hall.

In exciting news, as part of Council's 2023/24 Capital Works Program, an elevated deck will be built overlooking the lake area. This will provide additional space for functions and activities for the range of groups that use the centre.

The deck will be designed and constructed with surrounding vegetation in mind and is expected to begin in early 2024.

Keep an eye on Council's websites for updates on the project.

Get involved at Maroondah's community centres

Maroondah's community centres provide opportunities to learn, share, grow, meet others and have fun. With a broad range of affordable programs, courses and activities available, the centres bring people together in a friendly, supportive environment. Here are some of the great programs on offer.



Glen Park Community Centre offers a pathway to employment training program.

Arrabri Community House

Discover Your Passion for Early Childhood Education

Find out what it takes to succeed, explore study options, and determine if this path aligns with your aspirations.

When: 10am to 2pm each Wednesday from 18 October to 15 November (five sessions)

Cost: \$80

Contact: call 9720 0877 or visit www.arrabri.org

Central Ringwood Community Centre

Community Day at Central Ringwood Community Centre and the Bedford Park Community Garden

Take part in activities including a Bike Care and Repair program, Clothes Swap, Food Swap or purchase some beautiful wares made from reclaimed materials in our Upcycling Program. Activities vary each month.

When: Third Sunday of every month, excluding school and public holidays, 10am to 12.30pm

Cost: Free

Contact: call 9870 2602 or visit www.crcinc.org.au

Glen Park Community Centre

Hungry 4 Success – Training

A pathway to employment training program co-designed with Café on the Park, Glad Group and Eastland to provide industry specific skills required for employment in guest/customer services, cleaning, security, maintenance and hospitality.

When: 9.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 October to 2 November (four weeks)

Cost: \$74

Contact: call 9720 5097 or office@glenparkcc.com.au

North Ringwood Community House

BollyX

This Bollywood inspired dance fitness program uses interval training to give you a full body workout while having fun!

When: 10am to 11am on Saturdays

Cost: \$14.50 per session, with bookings by the term

Contact: call 9876 3421 or visit www.nrch.org.au

Yarrunga Community Centre

Living Longer Living Stronger

Exercise classes especially for the over 50s to help keep you mobile enough to keep up with your grandchildren and do all your other favourite activities!

When: Classes run every weekday

Cost: \$92.50 for 10 weeks

Contact: call 9722 8942 or visit www.yarrunga.org.au

Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP)

Supports and facilitates a variety of cultural activities and programs that incorporate art, music, language and storytelling, providing a culturally safe and inclusive space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to feel connected and empowered.

Contact: call 9725 2166 or visit www.mmigp.org.au

Learn Locals

Maroondah has many pathways for adults to pursue further learning, including our community centres and U3A.

Maroondah's Learn Locals offer pre-accredited and accredited vocational education and training (VET) courses in a friendly environment to assist people in their career pathways and to gain employment.

Whether you're looking to pursue a hobby or further your studies, local community centres offer a whole host of educational programs, classes and courses that encourage personal and artistic development – often for a fraction of the cost of alternatives, and sometimes free.

Visit the 'Community centres' page on Council's website to find out more.

Learn more

For more information on these activities and many more, visit the 'Community centres' page on Council's website.



2023 MAROONDAH FESTIVAL

Sunday 12 November | 10am to 4pm
Town Park, Norton Rd, Croydon

Live music | Food trucks | Artisan market | Thrill rides
Community, sustainability and youth areas!

1300 88 22 33 | www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Festival

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 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)

