



Charity organisation Feed One Feed All will use their grant to support community members facing food insecurity.

Grant funding supporting our community

Ninety local community and sporting groups are set to benefit from \$200,630 in Council funding as part of the 2024/25 round of community grants.

Each year, Council offers eligible not-for-profit groups, with limited access to financial resources, the opportunity to share in funding made available through its Community Grants Program, Arts and Cultural Grants Program, and Capital Funding for Community Groups scheme.

The funding will support valuable community projects and initiatives, help improve services, assist with small equipment purchases, and provide essential support to groups offering emergency relief to disadvantaged and marginalised people.

This year's recipients were celebrated at an event last month. Among them was Feed One Feed All (FOFA), a charity

organisation supporting community members facing food insecurity.

FOFA vice president Nicholas Lee said the funding was "critical" to FOFA continuing its vital work.

"With more people in the community financially strained by the rising cost of living, demand for food has skyrocketed, and it's getting harder for us to meet demand," Nicholas said.

The Emergency Relief Grant will enable the organisation to distribute approximately 2,000 meals to those in need, while also supporting other local food relief agencies.

[Continued on page 2](#)

Welcome to Maroondah news

Thanks for reading the August edition of Maroondah news.

This is one of many ways that you can keep informed and engaged with the range of Council's services, events and programs.

We also provide other digital and print news publications, including our quarterly Maroondah news magazine, our eNewsletter and regular updates via our website and social media.

If you haven't already, visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au and subscribe to our regular eNewsletters, or keep up to date on our social media channels.

- Page 3: Meals on Wheels is more than a meal**
- Page 5: Ringwood Clocktower's keeper**
- Page 8: Growing wellbeing together**

Council meetings

Council meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month in the Council Chamber at Realm and are live-streamed via Council's website.

Upcoming dates are:

Monday 19 August, 7.30pm

Monday 16 September, 7.30pm

Monday 14 October, 6pm, for the purpose of adopting Council's Annual Report

Council meetings are open to the public and are promoted across a range of channels, with an open invitation to attend. **If attending in person, please arrive on time for the start of the meeting.** Agendas are made available on the Friday before the meeting date.

Council Customer Service opening hours

Our Customer Service team is here to help. Visit us at:

Realm

Ringwood Town Square
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood
(opposite Ringwood Station)

Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm
Open Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 5pm
Open most Victorian public holidays.

Croydon Service Centre

Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

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

Get in touch with us



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



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



Email
maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au



Subscribe to Maroondah eNews
via our website.



Mail
PO Box 156, Ringwood, VIC 3134



Scan the QR code to subscribe to Maroondah news, our digital community newsletter that features a range of news, consultations and events to keep you connected with what's happening in and around Maroondah.



Please recycle this publication.



Maroondah City Council is certified for its organisational operations.

Continued from page 1

"For families struggling to put a meal on the table each night, FOFA meals provide parents peace of mind that their children are having at least one healthy, vitamin-packed meal that day," he added.

A podcast and online resources celebrating Chin culture will be made possible thanks to a community grant to local organisation Psylaw Incorporated.

Psylaw founder Raviana Salio said the project funding would make a significant impact, with the potential to extend beyond Maroondah.

The podcast aims to celebrate diversity and empower the Chin community in their integration into Australian society by embracing their heritage through ancestral stories and ways of life.

"Storytelling is a vital part of our cultural identity and traditions, so this project ensures these stories aren't lost and will be accessible to future generations," Raviana said.

FVREE, an organisation dedicated to supporting those affected by family violence, was awarded a Community Development Grant.

The funding will aid in launching a pilot project providing family violence education and volunteer assistance. In collaboration with Maroondah Toy Library, the project will also enable children to gain access to toys, offering them much-needed comfort and support.

Janene Evans, General Manager Services and Impact at FVREE, said the project aims to "improve the wellbeing of families experiencing family violence" while temporarily living in emergency accommodation.

"This grant will enable us to provide opportunities for children, young people and their families who have had to flee their homes due to family violence, to play and connect with one another despite this trauma. We hope to bring some fun and normality to the lives of these families in what is a very stressful and trying time," Janene said.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to learn more about community funding and grants.

Rates notices arriving soon



Maroondah ratepayers will soon receive their 2024/25 rates notice.

Ratepayers will also receive a four-page brochure that highlights how rates are allocated and information about some key capital works projects that are planned for this financial year.

If you wish to pay your rates by instalments, the first instalment should be paid on or before 30 September 2024.

If you are paying your rates in one lump sum, the full payment is due on 15 February 2025. Visit the 'Rates' page on Council's website to learn more about rates in Maroondah.

Prefer to receive future rates notices via email?

Council offers an eRates alternative where your rates notice is delivered to your nominated email address.

By registering for this service, you will have access to the eRates portal, where your past and current rates notices are stored.

Visit the 'Receive your rates or animal registration notices by email' page on our website to register.

Tell us what you think!

Do you have a topic that you'd like to see covered in Maroondah news? Email us at news@maroondah.vic.gov.au

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

Recognising Homelessness Week



Council is recognising Homelessness Week from Monday 5 to Sunday 11 August this year.

Held annually, the week raises awareness about the impact of homelessness and aims to build community support and government commitment to end homelessness.

Raising awareness about homelessness is important because a secure home is the foundation on which we build so many things – good health, an education for children and the chance to be a part of the local community. When everyone has a home that meets their needs, our neighbourhoods become better places for all of us to live.

Did you know that Maroondah City Council is one of 13 members of the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter? The Charter aims to address

the need for increased social housing and a more effective, integrated and supported homelessness service system.

The Charter is hosting a webinar on Thursday 8 August for local service providers, community organisations and anyone else interested in learning more about homelessness, especially the issues impacting people 55 and over.

To book, contact event lead City of Casey Council on 9705 5200 or homelessness@casey.vic.gov.au

Visit Council's website for more information about the Charter. You can also use Council's online Community Directory to find out about community support and relief agencies available in Maroondah.

Nominations closing soon for volunteer recognition award

Don't miss your chance to nominate a long-serving volunteer for the 2024 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award.

Presented annually, the award celebrates significant contributions made by long-serving volunteers in the Maroondah community.

2023 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Terri Verberne encouraged others to volunteer.

"Volunteering is such an important thing in our community. We all benefit as a community and what you put in as a volunteer, you get back tenfold."

Nominations close on Sunday 25 August. The winner will be announced at a volunteers recognition event in December.

Visit Council's website to submit your nomination or to learn more about previous recipients.



2023 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Terri Verberne.

Meals on Wheels: more than a meal

National Meals on Wheels Day is recognised on the last Wednesday of August each year and celebrates the invaluable contribution that Meals on Wheels volunteers make throughout Australia.

Council's 94 Meals on Wheels volunteers generously give their time to deliver nutritionally balanced meals and 'safe and well' checks to Maroondah residents who are experiencing difficulties preparing their own meals.

For many clients, the volunteers provide much more than a meal.

"The volunteers are fantastic. They're always positive, always nice and have got time to talk to us," Frankie, a Meals on Wheels client, said of Council's Meals on Wheels volunteers.

Our Meals on Wheels volunteers come from all walks of life and include individuals, couples, people who are

supported by their carer, a group from a Special Developmental School, Eastern Ranges School, and more.

For many, their volunteering role is a great way to help others and make genuine connections in the community.

"The clients are so appreciative of what we do. I would recommend to anyone to be a part of this service," said one Meals on Wheels volunteer.

"Meals on Wheels is a fantastic service. It is a privilege to be part of something that is so essential for local residents," said another Meals on Wheels volunteer.



Visit Council's website or call us on 1300 88 22 33 to find out more about Meals on Wheels.



Scan the QR code to watch our Meals on Wheels service in action.

Cats, gardens and recycling bins love cardboard

Australians use 230kg of paper and cardboard products per person, each year, so it's important to recycle cardboard correctly.

This ensures cardboard can be turned into new products such as newspapers, recycled toilet paper, kitty litter and insulation. It also means we are saving water, energy and trees in the process.

Handy recycling hints

- Tear large cardboard boxes into smaller pieces and place these in your recycling bin. This prevents large cardboard boxes from becoming stuck in your bin.
- Piles of flattened cardboard cannot be recycled through hard waste collections, so take large amounts of cardboard to a local recycling centre. Visit Council's website to find one near you.
- Take your excess cardboard to Council's free e-waste and more collection events. The next event will be held in October. Keep an eye on Council's website for updates.



You can also reuse cardboard at home as weed matting or to create a cat scratching post or pet toys. Smaller pieces of plain brown cardboard can be placed into your compost bin or used as a blanket in a worm farm.

Cardboard is also great for children's play and craft, so ask your local kindergarten or childcare centre if they would like your cardboard boxes.

Visit Council's website for more recycling and waste disposal tips.

Experience Croydon in a new light

Keep an eye out for new artworks illuminating three laneways adjacent to Croydon Main Street, as part of the *Reignite Croydon – Laneway Lights* project.

Supported through the Living Local Fund, the project includes captivating works by local artist Jasmine Grace, Sam Songailo, Alexander Knox, and a collaboration between Alinta Koehrer (Wurundjeri/Yorta-Yorta) and Kirsten Baade.

To celebrate the project, there will be a variety of events, including walking tours and an official launch in September. Visit Council's website for event details and to register.

The *Reignite Croydon – Laneway Lights* project is delivered by Maroondah City Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.



Scan the QR code or visit the 'Reignite Croydon - Laneway Lights project' page on Council's website to see a map of where you can view the artworks.

Join our Active Kids, Healthy Minds event

Save the date for our fun-filled outdoor games day in the September school holidays and help improve your family's health and wellbeing.

Join us at Town Park, Norton Road, Croydon, from 12noon to 3pm on Wednesday 25 September for a range of outdoor games and activities, including golf, gymnastics, football, basketball, volleyball, cricket, giant games, hula hoops and an obstacle course.

The day is suitable for families with pre-school and primary school aged children, but physical activity improves body and brain health and helps build resilience in people of all ages, so parents and carers are encouraged to take part and have fun too!

Pack a picnic lunch and enjoy the leafy surrounds of Croydon Town Park. A coffee van will be on site from 12noon to 3pm.



You can also take part in school holiday activities with Your Library at Realm Library and Croydon Library.

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



Scan the QR code or search for 'Active Kids' on Council's website to register for event updates from Wednesday 14 August.

Ringwood Clocktower's keeper

Meet Ron, the person behind Ringwood's most recognisable face.

Ron, 78, has been maintaining the Ringwood Clocktower for 30 years. He served an apprenticeship in England, is a Craft Member of the British Horological Institute and is also a member of the Watch and Clockmakers of Australia Guild.

"Clocks and mechanical items have always been the passion of my life, and I have worked on clocks and watches dating as far back as the 15th century," Ron said.

The Ringwood Clocktower was originally located at the intersection of Maroondah Highway and Warrandyte Road and was later moved to its current position to reduce congestion.

The bell of Ringwood Clocktower is unique in that it is a striking bell, not a chiming bell. This means the bell itself is stationary and the sound is created by a small hammer hitting the outside of the bell.

"Old clocks are like old cars, they need regular maintenance and can be very cantankerous, but these old clocks are a pleasure to work on and always provide a new challenge."

Freestanding clocktowers are rare in Victoria these days. Most old clocks have had electric motors fitted to replace the mechanical motor and Ringwood Clocktower is no exception. Although this makes it a lot easier to maintain, the clocktower still needs regular maintenance to allow it to run on-time.



Inside the clocktower are three small floors, all accessed by ladders. Ron used to climb these ladders to the top of the clocktower while wearing his backpack full of tools. Now, he uses a rope to pull his tools up to the top. Some days, Ron will go up and down the clocktower up to 40 times!

The Ringwood Clocktower also pays tribute to fallen heroes of war and plays an integral role as the backdrop to yearly Remembrance Day and Anzac Day services.

A small, manicured garden filled with pansies surrounds the Ringwood Clocktower. During quiet times of the day, Ron finds it is a lovely spot to sit and reflect.

"It's a very nice area here in the summer to watch time go by."



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to watch a video of Ron at the Ringwood Clocktower.

Look after Maroondah's natural environment

Please dispose of rubbish responsibly – our natural environment depends on it.

Do you live near a reserve, bushland or creek and see litter all the time? Litter has a much worse impact than you might think.

Litter pollutes the environment and can kill wildlife. It contaminates natural waterways and blocks stormwater drains.

Litter also poses a risk to public health, and costs ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars a year in removal costs.

But you can make a difference. Help us protect Maroondah's natural



environment – report littering behaviour and litter in bushland areas and reserves. Remember, penalties apply for littering.

Visit Council's website to learn more about the impacts of littering.



Scan the QR code or report littering online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue

NEWS IN BRIEF

Save on energy costs

The Solar Savers program can help you to save on your energy bills, reduce your electricity consumption and become more energy efficient.

The program helps households and businesses install quality, affordable solar panels and solar batteries. The program has been extended for Maroondah residents and includes new, energy efficient ways to heat and cool your home, such as energy efficient split systems for heating and cooling and heat pump hot water systems.

Visit the 'Solar Savers' page on Council's website for details.

Make the most of extended lighting



Council's extended lighting program gives you more opportunities to exercise at night.

The lights will be on at Town Park athletics track in Croydon every Thursday between 5.30pm and 8.30pm until early October. The track is flat, making it ideal for walking and running, with pram and wheelchair access.

Visit the 'Walking in Maroondah' page on Council's website to learn more about the benefits of walking.

Maroondah Australia Day Award nominations closing soon

If you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community, nominate them by Sunday 1 September.

The awards celebrate outstanding local community service, with three award categories: Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year. You can nominate an individual, young person or community group for their contribution to Maroondah in a professional or volunteer capacity.

Visit Council's website to submit your nomination or to learn more about the 2024 award recipients.

What's On

Visit Council's website for more information about these and other events.

Hosting a community event? Visit our website and add your event to our online 'Events calendar'.



Art classes for older people

Mondays from 5 August, 10am or 1pm
Maroondah Nets,
154 Heathmont Road, Heathmont

A new weekly class for creating unique art. No artistic ability is required and all equipment is provided. The classes are part of Council's Social Inclusion and Wellbeing program. From \$7.22 per session per person (fee may vary depending on eligibility for individual funding). Places limited. Registrations essential.



Scan the QR code to visit Council's website or call 9294 5531 to learn more.



A treasure trove of life hacks with Your Library

Various dates and times in August,
from Monday 5 August
Realm Library, Ringwood Town Square

This August, come and learn the secrets to an easier, more efficient life. From greater energy efficiency, to decluttering your space, digitising documents, mastering your finances or planning your dream getaway, Your Library has the tools to help you conquer it all!



To book or find out more, scan the QR code or call Your Library on 9800 6430.



Impacts of gender stereotypes on learning and development

Wednesday 14 August, 7pm to 8.30pm
Online

Discover how gender stereotypes can affect children's self-esteem, aspirations, and behaviour. Learn practical tips and strategies to promote gender equality and inclusivity at home. Suitable for parents and carers of children aged 0 to 12 years.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to register.



Victorian State Ballet - Beauty and The Beast

Friday 16 August to Sunday 18 August,
various times
Karralyka, Ringwood East

A must-see, stunning full-length classical ballet production of the traditional fairy-tale story. Tickets are \$49 per adult, \$44 for concession or \$39 per child (2 to 15 years old).



To book or find out more, scan the QR code or call Karralyka on 9870 2888.



Run Maroondah

Sunday 20 October, 9am to 12noon
HE Parker Reserve, Heathmont

Save the date for Run Maroondah! Join in the fun at this family-friendly event where all ages and athletic abilities are welcome. Options include the 15km or 10km run, the 5km run/walk, and the kids' 1.2km race.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for details and to register.



Maroondah Festival

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

Save the date and get ready for a fun day filled with music, delicious food, thrill rides and community activities.

Are you a community organisation or commercial vendor interested in getting involved? Apply now via Council's website.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for details in the coming weeks.

Report dumped rubbish

Report illegally dumped rubbish and help keep Maroondah clean and beautiful.

Every year, 30 million dollars of Victorian ratepayer money is spent investigating and removing illegally dumped rubbish.

As well as costing Council a lot of money, waste that has been deliberately discarded on streets, in

parks or bushland and near waterways has significant consequences for the environment, wildlife and for the health and amenity of our neighbourhoods.

Illegally dumped rubbish can enter stormwater drains and local waterways, attract insects and pests

and may even pose a fire hazard, impacting our local environment.

You can help by reporting illegally dumped rubbish.

Report via Council's website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue

Making progress in Maroondah

As part of Council's \$65.77 million Capital Works Program, projects are continuing to take shape.

Pathways

New pathway in Ringwood



New footpath is planned to be built in Ringwood along Harrison Street and Wildwood Grove. These works will improve accessibility and make the area more pedestrian-friendly.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/newfootpaths

Drainage

Sherbrook Drainage Catchment Upgrades



Major drainage works as part of the Stage 4 Sherbrook Drainage Catchment Upgrades are now complete. The next and final stage of works is the road renewal, indented parking and accessibility improvements within Charter Street from New Street to Market Street, Ringwood.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/RMAC-drainage-upgrade

Roads

Little John Road



Road renewal works at Little John Road in Warranwood have recently been completed. These works included road resurfacing and the reconstruction of the splitter island to improve its functionality and increase road safety.

Maroondah Highway service road



Construction of the Maroondah Highway service road between Dampier Grove and Hillcrest Avenue in Ringwood is scheduled to begin next month. These works will upgrade the former gravel road to an asphalt road, with new kerb and channel.

These works will also include footpath improvement works. Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Maroondah-Hwy-service-road-works

Open space

Bungalook Playspace renewal



The playspace at Bungalook Reserve in Bayswater North has been renewed and is now open for play. The playspace features a new multi-age play unit, slides, climbing wall, monkey bars and two swings.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Bungalook-Reserve-playspace-renewal

Facilities

3rd Ringwood East Scout Hall

Roofing improvements are currently underway at the 3rd Ringwood East Scout Hall on Knaith Road in Ringwood East. These vital upgrade works will ensure the hall can be enjoyed by our community for years to come.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/3rd-Ringwood-East-Scout-Hall-improvements

Yarrunga Community Centre deck upgrade



Construction is about to kick off at Yarrunga Community Centre to build a new outdoor deck. The deck will expand the current room capacity to allow for outdoor events. The deck will face out towards the water, showing off the unique flora and fauna in the reserve.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Yarrunga-Reserve-deck-upgrade



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. You can also enter your location to find projects near you.



Growing wellbeing together

Join us for our free Growing Wellbeing Activity Day at Realm and in Ringwood Town Square on Wednesday 2 October, in recognition of World Mental Health Month.

This is just one of the ways that Council is raising awareness about the importance of positive mental health and wellbeing for community members of all ages and backgrounds.

Join us and experience ways to look after your mental health and wellbeing while discovering tips for supporting your family and friends to thrive too.

There will be a range of organisations in attendance so you can also learn about some of the local mental health and wellbeing support services and programs available to you.

There will be fun, free activities for all ages, including:

- Urban art walk
- Light and sound show in ArtSpace at Realm
- Active kids activities
- Art therapy talk and activities
- 'Get active around the Library' challenge



- Yoga bunnies storytime with Your Library
- Create your own pet rocks
- Positive ageing activities and information

This event is presented by Council in partnership with Eastland, EACH, Your Library and Communities of Wellbeing.



Visit Council's website for more information and to register your interest in the event. Bookings are required for some activities.

Your Councillors

Barnggeong Ward



Cr Chris Jones
0418 109 015

Bungalook Ward



Cr Tony Dib OAM JP
0438 515 089

Jubilee Ward



Cr Mike Symon
0436 002 080

McAlpin Ward



Cr Suzy Stojanovic
0429 916 094

Tarralla Ward



**Cr Paul Macdonald
Deputy Mayor**
0436 001 760

Wicklow Ward



Cr Tasa Damante
0438 704 819

Wombolano Ward



**Cr Kylie Spears
Mayor**
0436 003 660

Wonga Ward



Cr Linda Hancock
0473 194 871

Yarrunga Ward



Cr Rob Steane OAM
0407 519 986

Maroondah City Council is committed to providing equitable service to all in our community.

Please contact us on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 if you would like to receive this newsletter in a different format.



Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598, online at maroondah.vic.gov.au email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au or visit one of our service centres.

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