Maroondah news



Your community newsletter

February 2025



Award winners Shannon Freeman, Heidi Butler-Moore, and Richard Royle, on behalf of Maroondah Rotary Club.

Outstanding citizens honoured

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

Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Kylie Spears, announced the 2025 Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year during a special awards ceremony.

Sixty Maroondah residents also took the Australian citizenship pledge before family and friends on the day. People from many different countries, including Norway, Vietnam, Japan, Nepal, China, India, Northern Ireland, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, New Zealand and England, embraced Maroondah as their new home.

Council invites our community to nominate an individual or community group for the annual Maroondah Australia Day Awards, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community.

The 2025 recipients were honoured for their incredible impact in Maroondah and across the wider community.

Citizen of the Year



Heidi Butler-Moore was named 2025 Citizen of the Year. Her transformative leadership as CEO of Glen Park Community Centre over the past

12 years has been pivotal in creating a stronger, more inclusive Maroondah community. Under her guidance, the centre has become a vital hub, offering essential services such as food relief, pre-employment pathways, health programs, and creative workshops.

A passionate advocate for social justice, Heidi fosters inclusion through LGBTIQA+ awareness seminars, community events, and initiatives such as the Proud Houses Project.

Welcome to Maroondah news

Thanks for reading the February edition of Maroondah *news*.

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

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

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

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Night

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Council meetings

Council meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month from 7.30pm in the Council Chamber at Realm and are live-streamed via Council's website.

Upcoming dates are:

Monday 17 February Monday 17 March **Monday 28 April**

Council meetings are open to the public and are promoted across a range of channels, with an open invitation to attend. If attending in person, please arrive 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



maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au



Subscribe to Maroondah eNews via our website.



PO Box 156, Ringwood, VIC 3134



Scan the QR code to subscribe to Maroondah eNews, 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.

Reignite Croydon Laneway Lights project unveiled

The Reignite Croydon - Laneway Lights project has transformed three laneways off Main Street, Croydon, into a captivating display of light and art. This exciting project features four striking light installations that provide a welcoming space for pedestrians.

Local artist Jasmine Grace is thrilled to have created her first permanent public artwork in a neighbourhood she knows well. Titled Life Reflected, the installation features eight illuminated circular mirrors that light up in response to movement, inviting passers-by to engage with their surroundings and capture their reflections.

"It's definitely an exciting and defining moment for me artistically to have produced a work that the community can enjoy for years to come." Jasmine said.

Alexander Knox's kinetic neon piece reflects the swaying motion of Wallaby Grass; Sam Songailo's intricate steel archway offers a sense of renewal and transition; and local artist Alinta Koehrer's collaboration with Kirsten Baade celebrates Indigenous flora.

This project has been developed in partnership with the Victorian Government, through the Living Local fund.



Kirsten Baade and Alinta Koehrer (Wurundjeri/Yorta Yorta), Light Stitches: Illuminating Croydon's Indigenous Flowers, 2024. Photo credit: Christian Capurro.

You can view the artworks and find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ReigniteCroydon

Pet registration renewals due soon

Pet registration is due by 10 April every year.

Owning a pet has many benefits. but also comes with some legal responsibilities.

Having your pet registered with your local Council is one of them. Registering your pet and ensuring they wear a Council tag will help with their safe return if they go missing.

Did you know you can receive your renewal notice via email?

You can either register to receive emails or create an account to manage and access your registration renewals online at any time. Find out more by visiting www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ PetRegistration

If you have moved or no longer have your pet, please contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or visit our website to update your pet registration details.

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.

Heidi has also driven partnerships with organisations like Eastland, Centrelink and EACH, enabling the delivery of essential services.

She has led innovative social enterprises like Café on the Park and Hungry 4 Success, which both provide employment opportunities for disengaged youth and long-term unemployed residents. Hungry 4 Success earned the 2023 Victorian Government Learn Local Awards for Partnerships.

"These initiatives change lives. When you can actually see that you're making a difference in people's lives, no matter how big or small, that's what keeps you going," Heidi said.

Heidi's efforts have positioned Glen Park Community Centre as a benchmark for neighbourhood houses across the region.

Young Citizen of the Year



Shannon Freeman received the Young Citizen of the Year award for making a tangible difference in the lives of those in need across Maroondah.

For the past three years, Shannon has been a familiar face at Meals on Wheels, delivering essential meals and brightening the day of residents. Shannon also plays an integral role in the home library service, ensuring that those who are housebound can still enjoy access to books and resources. She also lends her time to the Bayswater Salvos two days a week, offering practical support and a warm presence.

"I like the work. I volunteer most days of the week - on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday," Shannon said.

In addition to this, Shannon dedicates her time to Elderly Rights Advocacy, visiting nursing homes to provide companionship and comfort to residents.

"I like talking to the Meals on Wheels clients, and to residents in the nursing homes. I like meeting new people."

Shannon's volunteer work is a testament to her unwavering dedication to making her community a better place, and she continues to inspire those around her.

Community Event of the Year



The Maroondah Rotary Club Gala Night was awarded Community Event of the Year. The event, held on 15 June 2024 at Karralyka in Ringwood East, was a

key fundraising event aimed at supporting mental health initiatives in Maroondah and beyond.

In partnership with Eastland and Orion International Group, the event raised over \$30,000 to benefit local mental health programs, including the 'Employ Your Mind' initiative.

The evening featured powerful speeches from mental health experts, including Eastern Health CEO David Plunkett, and a special address by Samuel Johnson, co-founder of the 'Love Your Sister' campaign.



Maroondah residents following the citizenship ceremony

With over 50 years of community service, Maroondah Rotary continues to drive change and support mental health services in the region.

Richard Royle accepted the award on behalf of Maroondah Rotary.

"We had about 50 different businesses in the local Maroondah community support us, whether it was through donating items for auctions for raising money or coming along personally and buying tickets to the Gala.

"We recognised that mental health is a widespread issue ... When we started to go around to the community, it's amazing how many of them said, 'I have a relative or a friend who has a serious mental health issue, I'll support this'.

"We had a couple from the local community, the Cooper-Smiths, who generously donated \$25,000 towards the fundraising target. That demonstrates the real commitment to all of this."

Congratulations to our deserving recipients, nominees and citizens.

Visit the 'Community celebrations, citizenship and awards' page on Council's website to learn more about the Maroondah Australia Day Awards.

Who to contact during and after an emergency

Find out who to contact for help during and after an emergency, plus where to find the latest information.

Triple Zero - 000

Call for serious injuries, urgent medical health, or if your life or property is threatened.

Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) - 132 500

Call if a tree has fallen and damaged your home or vehicle or prevents you from leaving, if your roof is significantly leaking, or your property is flooded or about to flood.

VicEmergency Hotline - 1800 226 226

Call for emergency information and warnings, relief centre locations or to apply for emergency relief payments.

You can also visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Emergency Recovery Victoria -1800 760 560

Call for information about recovery programs that may be available after a major disaster, such as a bushfire, storm or flood. You can also visit erv.vic.gov.au

Power outages information

If your power goes out, you can use the AusNet Service Outage Tracker to stay up to date. You can also visit www.energy.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

Visit the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au for information about power outages and food safety.

Road closures information

For information on road works, road closures and traffic, visit traffic.transport.vic.gov.au or call 131 170. Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 for information on Council-owned road closures.

Other resources

Stay up to date with information from: ABC local radio - 774 AM Eastern FM radio - 98.1FM Subscribe to alerts from the Chief Health Officer on the Department of Health website www.health.vic.gov.au/ public-health/chief-health-officer Download the VicEmergency app

Council www.maroondah.vic.gov.au

Keep bins bag-free through 'loose' recycling

Did you know that the way you recycle can make a big difference?

When using your blue-lidded recycling bin, remember to keep items loose - avoid placing them inside plastic bags, cardboard boxes, paper bags or other packaging. Recyclables placed in a bag or box can't be sorted properly, leading to more waste and damage to sorting equipment.

Your actions at home ensure valuable materials stay out of landfill, contributing to new products being made such as planter boxes, glass jars and pizza boxes. You'll also be making it easier for Council to collect and process our recyclables.

Also, don't forget about batteries! Household batteries like AA, AAA, C. D, and 9V should never go in your kerbside bin.

For safe battery recycling:

- Tape the ends.
- Store them in a glass container (not airtight).
- Drop them off for recycling at Council's Recycling Station at Realm, or at Council's Croydon Customer Service Centre.

You can also visit the B-cycle website www.bcycle.com.au to find for your closest battery recycling location.

For more tips, visit Council's 'Recycling and Waste' webpage or visit the Sustainability Victoria website at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au



Fascinating digital garden installation

In the highly stimulating sensory landscape of contemporary life, we are often disconnected from the natural world yet hyperconnected. Can nature restore tranquillity to our minds and help us become more attuned to the ecosystems that sustain life on earth?

Soft Fascination, a digital installation in Artspace at Realm featuring audiovisual field recordings of a fascinating subtropical garden, invites us to consider just this.

The use of specialised recording equipment, such as microphones that record the internal resonance of trees or water, allows us to perceive this world beyond the limitations of our ordinary abilities, expanding our senses to enhance our ecological connectedness, empathy, attention, and even devotion towards the

You can view the exhibition until Sunday 9 March.



See full details, including upcoming workshops, at: www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ soft-fascination or scan the QR code.



Kindergarten Information Night

Do you have a young child and want to know more about kindergarten in Maroondah? Join us for the free Maroondah Kindergarten Information Night on Wednesday 19 March, 6.30pm at Karralyka in Ringwood East.

Kindergarten is available for all children in the two years before they start school, so parents and carers of children considering 3 or 4-year-old kindergarten are encouraged to attend.

The evening will be a great opportunity to learn about the variety of kindergarten programs in Maroondah, including standalone, long day care, community not-for-profit and private businesses. Presentations from Council and the Department of Education will cover key topics and answer common questions about how kindergarten works, available programs and initiatives, the Victorian

Government 'Best Start, Best Life' Reforms and information about how and when to enrol.

You can also learn more about the Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme in Maroondah, and how to apply for a place at a member kindergarten. Hear from the Maroondah Integrated Kindergarten's Association (MIKA) and their process for 2026 applications, which open on 1 March 2025 and close on 30 June 2025.

Council's Kindergarten Outreach team will also be on hand to support families



who may require translation assistance (Hakha Chin, Falam Chin, Burmese).

Bookings are not required; however, registering is encouraged to stay updated on event details.

Visit www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ kinder-info-night for more information.

You can also contact Council's Children's Services Project Officer on 9294 5740 or email childrens.services.events@ maroondah.vic.gov.au

Staying safe online

Tuesday 11 February is Safer Internet Day – a global day of action dedicated to raising awareness about online safety.

Whether it's accessing information, staying in touch with loved ones or shopping online, many of us rely on the internet for almost everything in our lives, so it's important to learn how we can all be safer online.

To make a start, visit the Victorian Government's eSafety Commissioner website www.esafety.gov.au for advice and resources tailored for children, young people, families, communities, educators and more.



Online safety for young people

Council's website includes a video called 'How can we be the best versions of ourselves in the digital world?"

The video features young people reflecting on their experiences with the digital world and how everyday things, like social media and technology, can have an impact on their mental health. They also share tips to help other young people stay

The video was created as part of the 'Being Your Best You' project, which aims to understand what is helpful in building the mental health, wellbeing and resilience of young people.



You can watch the video by scanning the QR code or visiting the 'Being Your Best You' page on Council's website.

Funding opportunities for our community

Council is hosting a range of information and drop-in sessions to help our community learn more about the 2025/26 Community Grants **Program and the Arts and Cultural Grants Program.**

The funding programs are a great way for not-for-profit community groups, artists, arts and cultural groups, and sporting clubs to seek Council's support for projects that will benefit the community.

Join us for a range of information and drop-in sessions to learn everything you need to know about available grants, including Community Development Grants, Arts and Cultural Grants, Small **Equipment Grants and Emergency** Relief Grants.

Sessions include:

- Grant writing workshop (in-person) on Wednesday 26 February, 5.30pm to 7.45pm at Realm in Ringwood Town Square
- Online information sessions on Tuesday 4 March, 7pm to 8pm, and Wednesday 5 March, 1pm to 2pm
- A Croydon drop-in session on Monday 17 March, 1pm to 3pm at Croydon Library



• Two drop-in sessions in Ringwood, on Wednesday 19 March, 5.30pm to 7.30pm and Monday 24 March, 10am to 12noon, both at Realm Library in Ringwood Town Square.

Visit Council's website for details and to register for the grant writing workshop or an online information session (no bookings are required for the drop-in sessions).

Applications for Council's 2025/26 grants programs open on Monday 3 March and close on Sunday 13 April.

Visit Council's website to learn more and register.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rates payment due soon

If you have chosen to pay your rates in one lump sum, a reminder that payment is due by Saturday 15 February 2025.

For those paying their rates by instalment, the third instalment is due by Friday 28 February 2025.

There are a range of payment options available including online, BPAY, direct debit, phone, or in-person at Australia Post or one of Council's service centres. For more information, to make a payment, or to receive future rate notices via email, please visit our website.

Safeguard your vehicle with the Crime Stoppers 'Safe Check' tool



Crime Stoppers Victoria's free 'Safe Check' tool offers residents a simple way to safeguard their vehicles.

The tool offers easy-to-follow tips to help prevent theft, such as always locking your car, securing your keys, not leaving valuables in your car, parking in well-lit areas and using extra security features such as alarms or steering wheel locks. These small but effective actions help keep your vehicle and community safer.

For more personalised safety tips, visit www.crimestoppersvic.com.au/ safecheck

Local volunteering opportunities

Are you looking for volunteering opportunities in the community? Try using the Virtual Volunteer Navigation Hub.

EV Strengthening Communities (formerly Eastern Volunteers), supported by Maroondah City Council, is encouraging the community to visit their new Virtual Volunteer Navigation Hub.

The Hub is a portal where Maroondah residents can register and receive assistance to find local volunteer roles within our community.

To find out more, visit site-volunteerregistration.powerappsportals.com

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'.



Superhero Sunday

Sunday 9 February, 12noon to 3pm Athelstane Reserve, 18-20 Athelstane Drive, Ringwood North

Grab your cape, assemble your squad, and join us for a day of extraordinary fun and heroics at our superhero-themed Celebrate Maroondah event! There will be a free sausage sizzle, plus ice-cream and coffee available for purchase on the day. Pack a picnic and enjoy making crafts while being entertained by our roving superhero performers.

This event is free to attend and no bookings are required.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to find out more.



MHFA course for carers

Fridays 21 and 28 February, 9.30am to 4pm Realm, Ringwood Town Square

Council is hosting a free two-day Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training course for Maroondah carers. A carer is an unpaid person who looks after a family member, partner or friend who needs help due to illness, fragility, disability or mental health. A three-year Mental Health First Aid certificate is provided upon completion. Places are limited, so book early.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to book or find out more.



Movie night - Inside Out 2

Saturday 22 February, from 6.30pm Charles Allen Reserve, Hull Road, Croydon

Join us for a night of family fun, as part of our Celebrate Maroondah event series. Bring a picnic to share with family and friends as you enjoy crafts, face painting and roving entertainment. Purchase coffee and ice-cream from onsite vendors to snack on during the free movie screening at 8.15pm. This event is free to attend. No bookings are required.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to find out more.



Recipe Swap

Thursday 27 February, 2pm to 3pm Croydon Library, 5 Civic Square, Croydon

Join us at Croydon Library for a monthly casual get-together to chat about food and cooking!

This fun and social event is a great opportunity to share your favourite recipes and discover new ones to add to your personal collection.

No bookings required – just come along to Croydon Library.



Scan the QR code. call Your Library on 9800 6430 or visit the Your Library website www.yourlibrary.com.au to find out more.



International Women's Day Breakfast – save the date!

Wednesday 5 March, 7.15am to 8.45am Karralyka, Ringwood East

Secure your spot for our Maroondah International Women's Day Breakfast, celebrating this year's theme 'Accelerate Action'. Celebrate women's contributions to workplaces, families and communities with a group of friends or family members in a positive, supportive and celebratory environment. Tickets cost \$25 per person. Bookings are essential and close on Wednesday 26 February unless booked out earlier.



Scan the QR code, visit Council's website or call 1300 88 22 33 to find out more.



Dogs' Day Out

Saturday 22 March, 11am to 3pm Parkwood Oval, Ringwood North

Join us for a 'pawsome' Dogs' Day Out in partnership with Animal Aid. There will be activities for our four-legged friends, experts on hand for advice, demonstrations and more.

There will also be a free sausage sizzle, along with ice cream and coffee to purchase from onsite vendors at this free outdoor event for dogs and their humans. Please note, all dogs are required to be on a lead during this event.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website to find out more.

Making progress in Maroondah

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

Facilities

Karralyka redevelopment works



Foyer extension works at Karralyka in Ringwood East are progressing. The Cassini artwork has been moved to its new position and the main structure of the building extension and roof has been constructed. The community will soon be able to enjoy a new expansive, light-filled foyer and bar area, an outdoor area perfect for the warmer months and an extended function space. These works are due for completion in May 2025.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ karralyka-foyer-works

Aquahub retiling project



Works to renew the Aquahub pools and sauna are nearing completion. The old pool surface has been removed, new waterproofing has been applied and new tiling has been laid. This project is due for completion by late March 2025.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ aquahub-retiling-project

Roads

Victoria Street reconstruction works

Infrastructure improvements in Ringwood East are commencing this month. Modifications are being made to the intersection at Victoria Street and Railway Avenue and a new pathway is being constructed on the west side of Victoria Street. Improvements to kerb and channel, stormwater drainage and road surface are also included.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ victoria-street-reconstruction-works

Solar projects



Maroondah City Council is certified Carbon Neutral and embraces clean energy solutions. Solar panels are being installed across several Council buildings to reduce our environmental impact. Solar panels have been installed at CRISP Nursery in Ringwood, East Ringwood Senior Citizens' Centre Hall and Catomore Hall at Wyreena in Croydon. A new 5kw solar system is due to be installed at Glen Park Community Centre in Bayswater North this month.

Find out more about Council's carbon neutral certification online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ Carbon-neutral-Council

Open space

Grayswood Reserve skate precinct



Following community consultation in June 2024, construction is underway to build a new skate precinct at Grayswood Reserve in Kilsyth South. The purpose-built facility is designed to meet the needs and skill levels of local users. Skaters, bike riders, scooter riders, roller bladers, roller skaters and other wheel users will be able to enjoy the renewed facilities.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ Grayswood-Reserve-skate-precinct

Pathways

Shasta Avenue and Russet Road, Ringwood East



Infrastructure improvements in Ringwood East are nearing completion this month. A new pathway has been constructed on Shasta Avenue and Russet Road. These works also include kerb improvements, new streetlights, road resurfacing and renewal of street trees.

Find out more online at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/ shasta-russet-streetscape-works



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.



FOGO liner deliveries start in February

Food Organics and Garden Organics

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) kitchen caddy liners will soon be delivered to Maroondah residents who didn't previously decline to receive them.

Deliveries will take place from Wednesday 19 February to Friday 28 March 2025. Each household will receive 150 compostable liners. If you haven't received your delivery by Monday 31 March, please get in touch with Council's Customer Service team.

If you run out of liners before your delivery, you can pick up a free top-up pack from one of Council's Customer Service Centres. A reminder slip will appear when only a few liners are left, so please wait to see this before collecting a top-up pack.

Put your liners to good use by collecting your food waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, seafood, bones, plate scrapings, dairy and grains and placing in your FOGO bin.

To ensure your food scraps are processed into quality compost, please only use the Council-supplied liners.

For more information on what can and can't go in your FOGO bin, visit Council's website.

> Wednesday 19 February to Friday 28 March



Barngeong Ward



Cr Chris Jones 0418 109 015

Bungalook Ward



Cr Catherine Gordon 0447 538 636

Jubilee Ward



Cr Claire Rex 0476 010 752

McAlpin Ward



Cr Nathaniel Henderson 0437 969 722

Tarralla Ward



Cr Paul Macdonald 0436 001 760

Wicklow Ward



Cr Daniella Heatherich 0438 482 813

Wombolano Ward Wonga Ward



Cr Kylie Spears Mayor 0436 003 660



Cr Linda Hancock **Deputy Mayor** 0473 194 871

Yarrunga Ward



Cr Rob Steane OAM 0407 519 986

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

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









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

Croydon Service Centre Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon



