



Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Kylie Spears (right) with Deputy Mayor, Councillor Linda Hancock (left).

## Cr Kylie Spears re-elected as Mayor for 2024/25

**Cr Kylie Spears was unanimously re-elected as Mayor for 2024/25 during a special Council meeting live-streamed to the Maroondah community on Wednesday 20 November.**

In her third term as Mayor, Cr Spears will be supported by Cr Linda Hancock, who was elected to the role of Deputy Mayor for the first time.

"It is an absolute honour to continue to represent our Maroondah community as your Mayor," Cr Spears said.

"I am committed to serving the people of Maroondah to the best of my ability with energy, passion, commitment and integrity. I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors – who all bring their own unique talents, experiences and perspectives and will share equally in the decision making."

As we enter the first year of this four-year Council term, Cr Spears said she looks forward to leading the newly formed Council to further enhance the Maroondah community.

"During the term we will be finalising our next community vision, Maroondah 2050. It will be a critical time for us to work together as we look to the future and ensure we are shaping a Maroondah that meets the needs, as well as capturing the hopes and aspirations, of our community," Cr Spears said.

### Welcome to Maroondah news

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

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

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

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

**Page 3: Celebrating 30 years  
of Maroondah**

**Page 4: Stay safe this summer**

**Page 6: Your new Council**



# Mayor's message

Welcome to the December edition of Maroondah news, and my first as the newly elected Mayor of Maroondah for 2024/25.

I am delighted to be leading Council in the first year of the new Council term. With the support of our Deputy Mayor, Cr Linda Hancock, and my fellow Councillors, I am so pleased to be serving our community with commitment, integrity and passion.

My fellow Councillors and I are looking forward to a productive and exciting year ahead, which will also pave the way for our four-year Council term. If you have lived in Maroondah for some time, you may notice some new faces representing your community!

As your Councillors, we value your ideas and input, so if you would like to share any ideas or discuss any issues, please get in touch with us. You can find out more about your Councillors on pages 6 and 7, or on Council's website.

It's a fantastic time to be part of Council, as we reflect on the progress made and plan for the future ahead. Did you know this month marks 30 years of the City of Maroondah, following the amalgamation of the City of Ringwood and the City of Croydon in December 1994? Take a trip down memory lane on page 3 and read more about Maroondah's highlights over the past three decades.

As we look towards the future, there are some great community events coming up in 2025. These include the presentation of our Maroondah Australia Day Awards and our Celebrate Maroondah events in February and March. Keep an eye on Council's website for details closer to the events.

You will also find some important health and safety information in this edition, including preparing for

bushfires, heatwaves, storms and flooding. I encourage you to read this information on page 4.

On page 9, you can read updates on some of Council's capital works projects, including redevelopment works at Karralyka, maintenance at Aquahub, the renewed playspace at Little John Reserve and the recycled water project at Barngeong Reserve, in partnership with Yarra Valley Water and the Level Crossing Removal Authority.

With the school holidays just around the corner, why not keep your children entertained by enrolling them in Council's school holiday programs at The Rings and Maroondah Nets. Places often book out quickly, so visit Council's website for details and to book.

You can also experience exciting exhibitions and shows as part of Maroondah's lively arts and cultural scene. Read about exhibition highlights on page 5, or visit the Karralyka website [www.karralyka.com.au](http://www.karralyka.com.au) for details on the 2025 Karralyka theatre season.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2025. Enjoy summer in Maroondah, and I look forward to seeing you out and about in our community!

Regards,

Cr Kylie Spears  
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 are:

**Monday 9 December**

Council meetings are open to the public and are promoted across a range of channels, with an open invitation to attend. **If attending in person, please arrive on time for the start of the meeting.** Agendas are made available 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.  
Open Tuesday 24 December, 9am to 1pm.  
Open Tuesday 31 December, 9am to 5pm.

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

Open Australia Day public holiday  
(Monday 27 January) 10am to 5pm.

### Croydon Service Centre

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

Closed on all weekends and public holidays, including Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day and the Australia Day public holiday (Monday 27 January).

Open Tuesday 24 December, 9am to 1pm.  
Open Tuesday 31 December, 9am to 5pm.

## Get in touch



Live chat via our website  
[www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)



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



Email  
[maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au)



Subscribe to Maroondah eNews via our website.



Mail PO Box 156,  
Ringwood, VIC 3134



Maroondah City Council is certified for its organisational operations.

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

# Celebrating 30 years of the City of Maroondah

**Did you know that 30 years ago, the City of Maroondah was formed through the amalgamation of the former Cities of Croydon and Ringwood?**

The name 'Maroondah' is derived from two Aboriginal words, meaning "throwing" and "leaf", symbolising the area's natural beauty and honouring the deep connection the Wurundjeri Woivurrung People of the Kulin Nation have with this land as its traditional custodians.

Since its formation in December 1994, Maroondah has grown and flourished. Back then, the population was around 93,000, and the world was witnessing memorable events such as Nelson Mandela's inauguration as South Africa's first Black president, the launch of the PlayStation console, and the debut of the iconic sitcom *Friends*.

Today, an estimated 117,434 people call Maroondah home – more than would fill the MCG stadium! Maroondah's vibrant community is reflected in its thriving facilities, with more than 1 million annual visitors to its swimming pools, golf courses, and leisure centres, and nearly 3 million library books borrowed each year.

Over the past three decades, Maroondah has become home to a richly diverse and vibrant community. From hosting 28 Maroondah Festivals



*Crowds enjoying performances at Maroondah Festival 2004. This much-loved community event has been bringing people together since 1994.*

that bring people together, to hundreds of citizenship ceremonies welcoming countless people from all corners of the globe, the city has been a hub of cultural exchange and connection. Council has also helped champion best practice accessible toilets in Australia, with Maroondah now home to seven Changing Places facilities, which support community members with high support needs and their carers.

As we celebrate this milestone, we'd love to hear from you! What has been your highlight of the past 30 years in Maroondah? Join the conversation on our social media and check out some highlights from the past three decades.

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MaroondahCityCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/MaroondahCityCouncil) and Instagram [www.instagram.com/maroondahcitycouncil](http://www.instagram.com/maroondahcitycouncil)

For more interesting facts about Maroondah, see our 'Interesting facts' page on Council's website.

## Summer programs for young people

**Are you 12 to 25 years old and looking for something to do in the summer holidays? Why not try EV's Hangout, returning in the new year from Thursday 9 January.**

EV's Hangout runs each Thursday from 3pm to 6pm at EV's Youth Centre in Croydon. You can drop in and make new friends, play video games, pool or board games, chat with one of Council's youth workers, or take part in optional weekly activities.

If you can't make it on Thursdays, visit the 'Youth programs and support' page on Council's website to see if there are other programs for you.

As well as offering programs like EV's Hangout, Council's youth workers can help young people aged 10 to 25 with a variety of things, such as becoming employment ready, getting involved in

the community, connecting with mental health services, life skills and more. To access this service, you can submit a support request form on Council's website.

Our Youth Services team will continue to support Maroondah's young people and their families over much of the summer school holidays. To find out more, contact the team on 9294 5704 or email [youth@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

To find out more about EV's Hangout and other programs, visit the 'Youth programs and support' page on Council's website.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Bin collection continues over the festive season**

**Your general waste, food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and recycling bins will still be collected on a public holiday, even Christmas Day!**

Visit the 'Waste collection schedule' page on Council's website to find out what day your next residential general waste, recycling or FOGO bin collection service is scheduled. You can also print the 2025 Waste Collection Calendar.

**Support local businesses**

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

These centres and precincts have multiple retail, hospitality and personal services and employ 10,586 people – many of whom are local to the area. Purchasing from local retailers and service providers supports local jobs and the community, with local businesses often influencing the character of your neighbourhood. So why not try shopping locally, eating somewhere new and visiting local retailers this festive season?

Visit the 'Your local shops' page on the BizHub Maroondah website [www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au](http://www.bizhubmaroondah.com.au) to find your nearest shopping centre.

**Volunteer with Bassline Productions**



**Applications are open for the Bassline Productions FReeZA program – a free event management and personal development program for 15 to 25-year-olds.**

Participants are professionally supported to plan and run live music and cultural events, learning skills in everything from booking bands and promotional skills to setting up or packing down an event, operating audiovisual equipment and more!

Visit Council's website to apply, view application dates or find out more.

# Stay safe this summer

Plan ahead and play it safe during the warmer months.

## Heatwaves

Heat-related illness can affect anybody, so it's important to learn how to protect yourself and others.

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

Council's website provides more information and resources, visit the 'Heatwaves' page to find out more. You can also visit the 'Survive the heat' page on the Better Health website: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

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

## Council services and appointments

If the Bureau of Meteorology/Chief Health Officer issues a Heat Health Warning, Council's Heatwave Plan will be activated, and some regular services may be reduced or cancelled to protect vulnerable members of the community.

Council will advertise any changes or contact those who are impacted. You can also call us on 1300 88 22 33 if you are unsure about a service being available.

## Power outages

If your power goes out, contact your electricity distributor and use the AusNet Services Outage Tracker [www.outagetracker.com.au](http://www.outagetracker.com.au) to stay up to date.

Remember to check on older family members, neighbours and friends to ensure they are safe, particularly if they live alone or there is extreme heat.

Visit the Energy Victoria website [www.energy.vic.gov.au](http://www.energy.vic.gov.au) for more information on power outages.

For information about power outages and food safety, visit the 'Food safety during power outages' page on the Department of Health website [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

## Bushfires and grassfires

All property owners should ensure their homes and properties (including vacant land) are fire ready in the lead up to the Fire Danger Period. This includes regularly maintaining your property to ensure fine fuels – such as branches, twigs, bark and leaves that have dropped to the ground – and other potential fire hazards are removed. You can place small branches, leaves, twigs and bark in your Food Organics and Garden Organics bin.

Visit the 'Fire ready in Maroondah' page on Council's website for more information.

## Watch out for the Fire Danger Period

The CFA declares the Fire Danger Period during periods of increased fire risk – usually from December to April each year. Keep an eye on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for updates and advice on how to prepare for bushfire season, including how to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan.

## Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System uses fire danger ratings to tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started, rather than the likelihood of a fire starting. The higher the fire danger rating, the more dangerous the conditions are and the greater the impact will be if a fire starts.

Check the Fire Danger Rating daily and leave early if the danger rating is Extreme or Catastrophic. This includes if you are travelling to high fire risk areas.

Council encourages everyone to use the VicEmergency website or app to monitor conditions, especially before travelling, or use the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) for daily fire danger ratings.

## Total fire ban days

Fires in the open air are legally restricted on CFA-declared total fire ban days, when the fire danger is extreme.

Visit the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) to find out what you can and can't do on days of total fire ban. The CFA also has a range of key fire safety resources translated into 12 languages.



## Storms and floods

Maroondah is a storm-prone area and experiences severe storm events all year round that can lead to property damage, flooding and injury. Visit the 'StormSafe' page on Council's website to learn about planning for extreme weather events and how to be prepared.

The State Emergency Service (SES) has developed local flood guides to explain local flood risks. View the Maroondah flood guide on the SES website [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

## How to stay informed

Get up-to-date information from:

**The VicEmergency website** [emergency.vic.gov.au/respond](http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond), which includes a real-time Google Map display with emergency events

**The VicEmergency app** which is the official Victorian Government app with fire warnings, information on planned burns and other types of incidents

**The VicEmergency Hotline**  
1800 226 226

**ABC local radio** 774 AM

**Eastern FM radio** 98.1 FM

**The Ausnet Power Outages tracker**  
[www.outagetracker.com.au](http://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](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/chief-health-officer)

**Council** [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)

Learn more

Visit the 'Preparing for emergencies' page on Council's website to find out more. You can also download a copy of the 'Are you prepared for an emergency?' booklet for ideas on preparing for emergencies, including packing an emergency kit and preparing an emergency plan.



# Arts in Maroondah

Don't miss these exciting exhibitions! Scan the QR code or visit the 'Exhibitions and arts events' page on Council's website to learn more and to view gallery opening hours.



Until  
**24  
Jan**

## Revealing the Line

Until Friday 24 January

Maroondah Federation Estate  
Gallery, Ringwood

*Revealing the Line* brings into public view rarely seen or exhibited artworks produced by Studio 4 Artists in their regular fortnightly life drawing sessions held at Maroondah Federation Estate in Ringwood.

The exhibition invites viewers in to see the workings and processes behind a life drawing session. Life drawing is a discipline, both in its own right and as a foundation for wider art practices.



Until  
**24  
Jan**

## Mutualism: a place called Bungalook

Until Friday 24 January

Maroondah Federation Estate  
Gallery, Ringwood

Drawing on the history of antimony mining in the Maroondah region during the nineteenth century, this exhibition explores a symbolic link between its industrial past and a critically endangered species of the present: the Kilsyth South Spider-orchid, of which only three plants are known to survive in the wild.



Until  
**26  
Jan**

## Encounters by Morganna Magee

Until Sunday 26 January

ArtSpace at Realm  
Ringwood Town Square

This exhibition brings together recent bodies of work by celebrated Australian artist Morganna Magee, *extraordinary experiences* (2020-ongoing), *Beware of people who dislike cats* (2023) and *The Paddocks* (2024-ongoing).

This work responds to the notion of encounters between humans and animals and the ways in which humans connect with each other and the natural world.

## Cool off at Croydon Memorial Pool

**Croydon Memorial Pool is open for the outdoor pool season, which runs until Sunday 30 March 2025.**

Soak up the sun in the outdoor pool, leisure pool or toddler pool, or relax with family and friends on the lush green lawns. The kiosk offers a variety of food and drink items, including healthy choices, making Croydon Memorial Pool the perfect place for a summer's day.

Visit the Maroondah Leisure website [www.maroondahleisure.com.au](http://www.maroondahleisure.com.au) to view opening hours over the festive season, including public holidays.



## Celebrate Maroondah events



**Join us to celebrate everything great about the City of Maroondah. Council's Celebrate Maroondah series will return in February and March 2025.**

These events are filled with fun for the whole family and provide an opportunity to get together as a community, meet your local Ward Councillor and find out what's happening in your area.

The ever-popular outdoor movie night will return, along with a dogs' day out in partnership with Animal Aid, and a superhero event.



Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for more details soon [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CelebrateMaroondah](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/CelebrateMaroondah)

# Your new Council

**Maroondah City Council elections were conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission on Saturday 26 October 2024.**

The declaration of the poll was conducted by the Victorian Election Commission and took place at 2pm on Monday 11 November 2024.

Maroondah has nine wards, with one representative elected in each ward.

As part of their role Councillors are appointed to represent Council on a number of external and Council-hosted advisory committees and groups.

To find out more about the new Council, visit Council's website or read on.



**Cr Chris Jones**  
**Barangeong Ward**  
**Mobile: 0418 109 015**  
**chris.jones@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Chris was elected in December 2023 following a by-election and returns to the role following the 2024 Council election. He has lived in Maroondah his entire adult life, raising two children, and playing an active role in a number of community groups and volunteer organisations.

Chris is passionate about empowering community groups to deliver wellbeing for all residents.

As a Councillor, Chris seeks to encourage local business, maintain our neighbourhood character, and to ensure Maroondah is clean, green and sustainable.



**Cr Catherine Gordon**  
**Bungalook Ward**  
**Mobile: 0447 538 636**  
**catherine.gordon@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Catherine and her husband Chris have lived with their family in Maroondah for over 20 years.

Catherine is a healthcare professional who has a keen interest in local sports. She is Secretary of Maroondah Volleyball and sits on the Board of Volleyball Victoria.

This is Catherine's first term on Council and she looks forward to bringing her skills and experience to ensure a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment for our community.



**Cr Claire Rex**  
**Jubilee Ward**  
**Mobile: 0476 010 752**  
**claire.rex@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Claire has lived in Ringwood for five years, raising two children, one at a local secondary school and one who is studying nursing. She is an IT change manager, who enjoys exploring Maroondah's open spaces with her dog Remy.

Claire looks forward to ensuring appropriate development in the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre and an accessible and safe environment in Maroondah.



**Cr Nathaniel Henderson**  
**McAlpin Ward**  
**Mobile: 0437 969 722**  
**nathaniel.henderson@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

This is Nate’s first term on Council. He lives in Maroondah with fiancée Keely and Rottweiler, Bronson. In his spare time he enjoys playing golf.

As the owner of a family business, he has a keen interest in supporting other local businesses to thrive and encouraging our community to shop and source services and trades locally.

He is also passionate about protecting the municipality’s green leafy environment so that our bushland areas and open spaces remain great places for our community to enjoy.



**Cr Paul Macdonald**  
**Tarralla Ward**  
**Mobile: 0436 001 760**  
**paul.macdonald@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Paul has been a Councillor for a combination of 15 years, three years with the former City of Croydon and 12 years with the City of Maroondah.

Paul grew up in Maroondah and now lives here with wife Kathy. He is a licenced plumber and gas fitter who has worked in the government and private sectors and has successfully operated his own local business for over 30 years. Paul is actively involved with community groups, including a number of volunteer roles.

Paul cares about our community and enjoys working with his fellow Councillors to help solve future challenges. Paul was Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.



**Cr Daniella Heatherich**  
**Wicklow Ward**  
**Mobile: 0438 482 813**  
**daniella.heatherich@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Daniella has called Maroondah home for over 20 years, raising her two children, who attended local schools.

Daniella has spent her working career in health and helping others, as a nurse, fitness instructor and qualified naturopath. She is currently working in disability and mental health support.

This is Daniella’s first term on Council. She is focused on fostering a connected, compassionate community and bringing people together.



**Cr Kylie Spears – Mayor**  
**Wombolano Ward**  
**Mobile: 0436 003 660**  
**kylie.spears@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

This is Kylie’s third term on Council following her election to the former Arrabri Ward in October 2016.

Kylie is married to Malcolm and has two daughters and has successfully run her own local business for the past 14 years. She is a qualified workplace trainer and assessor with more than 15 years of event management experience; is President of ALGWA National; sits on the Board of Netball Victoria and is a member of the Local Government Victoria – Gender Equality Advisory Committee.

Kylie was Mayor for 2023/24 and has served as Mayor for 2020/21.



**Cr Linda Hancock – Deputy Mayor**  
**Wonga Ward**  
**Mobile: 0473 194 871**  
**linda.hancock@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Linda has lived in Maroondah for more than 30 years, raising two children with husband Rob. She plays an active role in community safety, as well as working with local school and sporting communities. This is her second term on Council.

As a keen walker Linda has completed two Camino walks to raise awareness for mental health and the benefits of an active lifestyle.

As a Councillor she enjoys bringing community groups and organisations together to achieve greater outcomes and improve the perception of safety in our community.



**Cr Rob Steane OAM**  
**Yarrunga Ward**  
**Mobile: 0407 519 986**  
**rob.steane@maroondah.vic.gov.au**

Rob has lived in Maroondah for more than 30 years. He and wife Linda have two adult children in nursing and the Army. Rob runs his own local business, is active in the community, and has been on a number of school and community organisation committees.

Rob is interested in community safety, community engagement and ensuring development in Maroondah is well designed, sustainable and responsive to community needs. Rob has been a Councillor for 16 years, representing the former Wyreena Ward for three terms, and the Yarrunga Ward for one term. He has served as Mayor three times.

# Thank you to our volunteers

Each December, Council hosts a recognition event to thank and celebrate our wonderful volunteers.

Whether it's delivering a meal, assisting isolated residents to feel connected and cared for, helping young people get their drivers licence or improving our community and bushland reserves, volunteers generously give their time to make a difference in the lives of others.

This year, Council is presenting special milestone awards to those who have volunteered with Council for 10 years through to 50 years. These include Patricia Game for 50 years as a Meals on Wheels volunteer, Dr Graeme Lorimer for 35 years as a Friend of Bungalook Conservation Reserve, and Aneese McGrath, who has volunteered with the Maroondah Seniors Register for 10 years.

Together, this year's special milestone award winners have volunteered for a total of 595 years with Council – a remarkable effort!

Aneese has "truly enjoyed" building connections with volunteers and people on the Register and hopes to continue for "many years to come".

"I've made lovely friendships with some of the people I talk to fortnightly, and I

know the families are very grateful for our calls and concerns for their parents."

Aneese's highlights have included home visits to help people sign up for the Register, and delivering Christmas hampers to people who were going to be alone for Christmas.

"[The deliveries] certainly made their day, as well as ours ... It was definitely a highlight," Aneese said.

Resident Bronwyn is one of many people who value Maroondah's volunteers. Bronwyn receives meals through Meals on Wheels and said "the meals are great and a life saver. The volunteers are wonderful and delightful".

To all our volunteers, thank you!



Patricia Game is being recognised for 50 years as a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

## Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award

**Council will soon be announcing this year's recipient of the Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award.**

The award is presented each year to a volunteer who has provided excellent volunteer service and had a positive impact on the Maroondah community.

Council established the annual Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award in 2019, in honour of Bill Wilkins OAM and his extraordinary 75-plus years of volunteering in Maroondah.

Sadly, Bill passed away in September this year, but the award continues to honour his remarkable impact on the Maroondah community. You can read more about the award and Bill's legacy on Council's website.

Keep an eye on Council's website for details on this year's recipient.

## News, events and updates for residents aged 50 years and over

**Are you 50 years of age or above? Sign up to Council's new Growing Older and Living Well eNewsletter for news and updates.**

The newsletter is a great way to stay in touch with everything that is happening at Council and around your community, including events, social groups, activities and programs. You can also find out more about support services available in Maroondah, so you can stay connected, maintain independence and maximise your health.

As always, your privacy is important.

When you sign up for the Growing Older and Living Well eNewsletter, you will not be asked for extensive personal details – only what we need to know to provide you with relevant, reliable information.

## Bring joy to your bins this Christmas

During the festive season, your general waste, Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and recycling bins will still be collected on a public holiday, even Christmas Day! For your waste collection schedule and information on what can and cannot be put in your bins, visit Council's website.

To bring joy to your bins, neighbours and truck drivers, please follow these guidelines when placing your bins out for collection:

- Put your bins on the nature strip by 6am on the day of collection or the night before collection.
- Bring your bins back in within one day of collection.
- Keep your bins below 40kg.
- Keep your bin lids closed to prevent litter.
- Do not place electronic waste or batteries in any bin.

Consult the 'A-Z guide of waste disposal' on Council's website for options to dispose of items like polystyrene, batteries, Christmas trees and more.



# Growing older and living well



Scan the QR code or visit [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/growingolderlivingwell](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/growingolderlivingwell) on Council's website to sign up.



# Making progress in Maroondah

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

## Facilities

### Aquahub works



Council is undertaking essential maintenance works on the Aquahub pools and sauna until March 2025. The works include re-tiling the 25-metre pool, grouting maintenance in the surrounding tiled areas, ventilation improvements in changing areas, replacement of stainless steel fittings, general maintenance of the plant room and general tidying up of surrounding assets. There is currently no access to the spa, sauna and pools. The health club and group fitness studios are open during works and the gymnastics program is operating as usual. Find out more online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/AquahubRetilingProject](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/AquahubRetilingProject)

### Karralyka redevelopment works



Works are underway at Karralyka to upgrade the foyer and bar area. These works form part of the broader staged redevelopment project over several years. At the completion of the works visitors will enjoy a new expansive, light-filled foyer and bar area to enjoy pre- or post-show drinks, an indoor/ outdoor area perfect for the warmer months and an extended function space, perfect for cocktail-style events. There is restricted parking and building access during the works. Find out more online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/karralyka-foyer-works](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/karralyka-foyer-works)

## Drainage

### Barnegeong Reserve recycled water



In October, Council collaborated with Yarra Valley Water and the Level Crossing Removal Authority to extend an existing recycled water main in Croydon to Barnegeong Reserve. This project was delivered as an offset to the use of drinking water as part of the level crossing removal projects in the region, enabling Council to water the Barnegeong Reserve sports field with recycled water instead of drinking water. This project supports our sustainable approach to managing Council-owned green open spaces in Maroondah.

### Norwood Reserve



Drainage works at Norwood Reserve in Ringwood North have recently been completed. These works form part of the Norwood Reserve Enhancement Plan that was endorsed by Council in March 2023. The existing retarding basin at the north east corner of the site has been expanded to aid in managing stormwater storage during intense rainfall events. Find out more online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/norwood-reserve-enhancement-plan](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/norwood-reserve-enhancement-plan)

## Open space

### Little John Reserve



The playspace at Little John Reserve in Warranwood has been renewed and is open for play! The playspace includes a main play unit, two slides, two-bay swing unit, monkey bars, spinner and rocker and track slide. The basketball and netball court has also been renewed and a new picnic table and bench seat installed. Find out more at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/little-john-reserve-playspace-renewal](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/little-john-reserve-playspace-renewal)

## Roads and pathways

### Shasta Avenue and Russet Road works



Infrastructure and streetscape improvement works are underway in Ringwood East. The works will include the construction of a footpath along the southern and eastern sides of Shasta Avenue and the south side of Russet Road, as well as asphalt road resurfacing works along both Shasta Avenue and Russet Road. Find out more online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/shasta-russet-streetscape-works](http://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.



# 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'.



7  
Dec

## Maroondah Carols

Saturday 7 December, 6pm to 10pm  
Town Park, Croydon

Celebrate the festive season at Maroondah Carols. This free event includes pre-show entertainment, wonderful performers, the Maroondah Carols Band, delicious food vendors, a free kids' zone and a spectacular fireworks show that will up the Maroondah night sky.



No bookings required.

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



11  
Dec

## Life Stories

Wednesdays from 11 December  
(excluding public holidays), 1pm to 3pm  
Bill Wilkins Lodge, Ringwood

Document your memories and connect with others through lived experience. For Maroondah residents aged 50 and over, through Council's Social Support Program. To register, call Council's Social Inclusion and Wellbeing team on 9294 5531 or email [kerrabee@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:kerrabee@maroondah.vic.gov.au)



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



11  
Dec

## Pitch Perfect

Wednesdays from 11 December  
(excluding public holidays), 10am to 12noon, Bill Wilkins Lodge, Ringwood

Connect, have fun and give your soul a lift. No experience needed. For Maroondah residents aged 50 and over, through Council's Social Support Program.

To register, call Council's Social Inclusion and Wellbeing team on 9294 5531 or email [kerrabee@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:kerrabee@maroondah.vic.gov.au)



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



26  
Jan

## Australia Day event and awards

Sunday 26 January, 9am to 2.30pm  
Ringwood Lake Park

Watch as the winners of the 2025 Maroondah Australia Day Awards are announced at our Australia Day event. You can also witness our newest community members take the pledge or oath to become Australian citizens.



Enjoy free family-friendly activities from 10.30am, including children's entertainment, rides and face painting.



1  
Feb

## Poolside Pride

Saturday 1 February, 2pm to 5pm  
Aquanation, Ringwood

Aquanation is rolling out the rainbow carpet to host the LGBTIQ+ community for a pride-filled pool party extravaganza! LGBTIQ+ people of all ages, their friends, families and allies are welcome! Have a splash in the pool or hangout in the sunshine in a safe space for all members of the LGBTIQ+ community.



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



21  
Feb

## The Explorers Geelong Vintage Market

Friday 21 February, 9am to 4pm,  
Departing from Croydon Library,  
Civic Square, Croydon

Join this trip as part of monthly active and informative tour guide style day trips for Maroondah residents aged 50+. Visit an indoor market selling every imaginable vintage, retro and collectable item you could hope for.



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

## Summer holiday fun

### Council's website is your starting point for school holiday fun!

Maroondah Leisure's stadiums offer school holiday programs to keep children active, entertained and social as they enjoy activities led by experienced coaches. Tailored sports programs are available for children aged 5 to 14 years.

Your Library also hosts a variety of activities and workshops, while junior golf clinics are available at Ringwood Golf and Dorset Golf.

You can also enjoy the summer sunshine and public art in Maroondah's beautiful parks, playgrounds and reserves.



Visit the 'Children's activities and programs' page on Council's website to find out more.

# Reverse vending machines in Maroondah

**Maroondah residents can return their eligible cans and bottles for a 10-cent refund as part of the Victorian Government's Container Deposit Scheme.**

Two new reverse vending machines are now available in Maroondah:

- Hughes Park, Maroondah Highway, Croydon North
- Croydon Memorial Pool car park, Springfield Avenue, Croydon

Increase your recycling efforts and help reduce litter while making some extra change. Anyone can return their eligible bottles and cans at any of the collection points across Victoria.

To find your nearest drop-off location, to find out more about what you can return, or for more information about the scheme, visit the CDS Vic website [www.cdsvic.org.au](http://www.cdsvic.org.au)



## Bring in the festive season at Your Library

Join in the fun at these festive activities at Realm and Croydon Libraries.



### Ukulele performance and sing-along

**Croydon Library**

Gather your friends and family and visit Croydon Library from 10am to 11am on Monday 9 December for a performance of popular songs and Christmas favourites, with Croydon U3A's ukulele group.

Participants are encouraged to wear their favourite festive clothing and sing-along at this all-ages event.



### Festive activities for families

**Croydon Library and Realm Library**

Visit Croydon and Realm Libraries until Friday 13 December for your fill of festive, family activities.

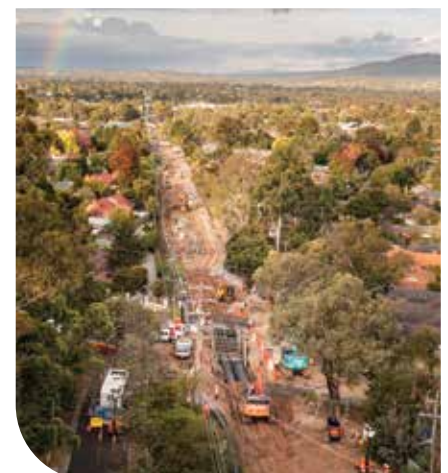
With Storytime sessions, sensory play, Lego and craft, there is something for everyone!

## Kilsyth to Croydon water mains renewal update

**Croydon and Kilsyth residents are enjoying water from brand new water mains and walking and riding on a new shared use path between Bayswater Road and Norton Road.**

The remaining sections of the Carrum to Warburton Trail are planned to open in February, with further planting works to follow in Autumn.

To find out more about the project, visit the Melbourne Water website [www.melbournewater.com.au/services/projects/kilsyth-croydon-water-main-renewal](http://www.melbournewater.com.au/services/projects/kilsyth-croydon-water-main-renewal)



Learn more

To find out more, visit the Your Library website [www.yourlibrary.com.au](http://www.yourlibrary.com.au) or call Croydon Library on 9800 6448 or Realm Library on 9800 6430.



# KARRALYKA

## 2025

# THEATRE

# SEASON

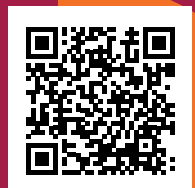
## ON SALE NOW

**Tickets on sale now for the 2025 theatre season at Karralyka!  
Join us for a year of unforgettable entertainment.**

The new line-up offers something for everyone – top music acts, dance, comedy, captivating children's theatre, and the return of our cherished Morning Music series.

For more information or to book, scan the QR code, visit the Karralyka website at [www.karralyka.com.au](http://www.karralyka.com.au) or call 9870 2888.

[www.karralyka.com.au](http://www.karralyka.com.au)



Contact Council on 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598, online at [maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://maroondah.vic.gov.au) email [maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au) or visit one of our service centres.

**Croydon Service Centre**  
Croydon Library, Civic Square, Croydon

**Realm**  
179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood  
(opposite Ringwood Station)



Please recycle this publication.