



Reef and Virginia explore the colourful new additions to the gymnastics stadium at Aquahub.

## Gymnastics is back in action at Aquahub

**The gymnastics program at Aquahub in Croydon is back in action, following recent works on the new and improved gymnastic stadium.**

The purpose-built facility opened for use in late May. It includes new additions such as a sprung floor, a Ninja Frame, a new foyer area and updated equipment, further enhancing the experience for gymnastics members.

Parents who have children in the gymnastics program are very excited about the redeveloped stadium.

"There's a lot of natural light, great ventilation and top-quality facilities," one parent said.

"I can't believe it – it's beautiful! I was shocked when I walked in," another parent said.

A third parent said, "My son was so excited to get onto the new equipment

that I couldn't hold him back! The new foyer is warm and comfortable and a fantastic viewing area for us parents."

Aquahub's stadium was redeveloped to meet growing demand for the gymnastics program, which has expanded in recent years.

The popular program is delivered by nationally qualified coaches and offers progressive foundation levels for participants aged 1 to 18 years, and beyond! An Access All Abilities program is also available for students with additional learning needs.

To learn more about enrolling in the program or about the redevelopment works, visit the Maroondah Leisure website or call Aquahub on 9294 5500.

### Welcome to Maroondah news

**Hello and welcome to the July 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 4: A look inside the 2024/25 Budget**

**Page 5: What's coming in 2024/25**

**Page 8: Plastic Free July Discovery Day**

## 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 22 July**

**Monday 19 August**

**Monday 16 September**

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](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



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.

## Stay well

**Protect yourself against the flu and COVID-19 by receiving your flu vaccine and staying up to date with your COVID vaccine.**

**You can receive the flu vaccine for free if you are:**

- aged 65 years and over
- pregnant
- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person over 6 months old
- a person with medical conditions that put you at increased risk of severe flu.

The free flu vaccine is also available for children and babies aged 6 months to under 5 years.

### Council flu vaccines

Council offers free flu vaccines to eligible persons through the National Immunisation Program (NIP), with dedicated flu vaccination sessions available at venues across Maroondah.



Payable flu vaccines are also available for those who are not eligible for the free flu vaccine.

Visit the 'Immunisation' page on Council's website to check eligibility criteria and to make a booking.

### COVID-19 vaccines

Council does not offer COVID-19 vaccines. You can find your nearest COVID-19 vaccination provider on the Health Direct website, [www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19)

For more information, visit the Better Health Victoria website [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/stay-well-this-winter](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/stay-well-this-winter)

## Help keep Maroondah clean

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

Have you witnessed any instances of illegal rubbish dumping near you? Deliberately discarding waste on streets, in parks or bushland, and near waterways can have significant consequences for the environment, wildlife and for the health and safety of our community.

Every year, 30 million dollars of Victorian ratepayer money is spent investigating and removing illegally dumped rubbish. Not only does illegal dumping cost Council a lot of money,



but it also impacts on the amenity of the local area and can even reduce the value of a property or area.

Illegally dumped rubbish is harmful to our local environment. It can enter stormwater drains and local waterways, attract insects and pests and may even pose a fire hazard.

Fighting illegal dumping of rubbish and waste starts with small steps. Report an illegal dumping site if you see one, or let us know if you notice someone in the act of dumping rubbish.

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

Scan the QR code or report online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue)



## 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](mailto: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.**

# Celebrating NAIDOC Week

In celebration of NAIDOC Week, which runs from 7 to 14 July this year, Council presents two exhibitions that showcase the culture and creativity of diverse First Peoples.

**NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Peoples cultures and histories and participate in celebrating the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.**

## Exhibitions

*Arise* features emerging First Peoples artists Emma Salmon, Njarala Paton, Garen Smith, Graham Patterson, Stacey Payten and Taylah Eid.

Presented by Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, *Grounding and Connecting: Indigenous Trees and The Dreaming* pays tribute to the profound bond between First Peoples communities and the earth.

You can experience *Arise* at Maroondah Federation Estate, Ringwood, and *Grounding and Connecting* in ArtSpace at Realm, Ringwood Town Square, until Sunday 14 July.

## Urban Art Tour

Council is also hosting a special 90-minute guided art tour on Saturday 13 July. Places are limited and registrations are essential. Visit Council's website to learn more and register.



## A new look at the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct

**More artist impressions of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct Hub are now available on Council's website!**

The artist impressions depict the next stage of works, which will focus on a new, inclusive and integrated hub to bring together a range of community services, programs and activities for people of all ages.

The space will serve as a central point for several community groups and will also include amenities such as a new library, café, meeting rooms, multipurpose spaces and a performance and event space, as well as Council's Croydon customer service centre.

The precinct will also retain the heritage frontage of EV's Youth Centre, paying tribute to Croydon's history



Artist impression

and character while ensuring the new spaces are modern, accessible and fit-for-purpose.

Planning and early works on the next stage of development are continuing, with construction on this stage set to begin in 2025.

Scan the QR code or visit the 'Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct' page on Council's website to find out more or view the artist impressions.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Celebrate long-serving volunteers

**Nominations for the 2024 Bill Wilkins Volunteer of the Year Award are now open.**

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

Nominations close on Sunday 25 August. The winner will be announced in December at an event to recognise volunteers.

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

### Extended lighting continues at Town Park



**Enjoy extended lighting at Town Park athletics track in Croydon on Thursdays between 5.30pm and 8.30pm.**

With its flat track and access for prams and wheelchairs, Town Park is a popular venue for walking and running.

Did you know walking an average of 30 minutes or more per day can lower your risk of heart disease, stroke and Type 2 diabetes?

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

### Recognise outstanding community contributions

**Do you know someone who goes above and beyond for our community? Nominate them for a 2025 Maroondah Australia Day Award by Sunday 1 September.**

You can nominate an individual or young person, as well as a 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.



# A look inside the 2024/25 Budget

The recently adopted 2024/25 Budget will support the delivery of more than 120 services and programs; on behalf of the community, protect Maroondah's \$2.1 billion in community assets; deliver \$65.49 million of responsive and extensive capital projects; and provide an underlying surplus of \$3.2 million. It is a balanced, sustainable and responsible budget that will ensure a strong future for our community.

The 2024/25 Budget and Council Plan 2021-2025 (2024/25 Update) have been developed to align Council's key strategies with priorities, needs and aspirations of the community.

Both documents will continue to focus on initiatives and programs that are responsive to community priorities and needs, as well as providing support to our community.

## Priority actions

The Council Plan lists a range of priority actions to be undertaken by Council over the four-year period from 2021/22 to 2024/25.

Significant projects identified for delivery over the next 12 months include:

- Implementing the *Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* (including the *Health and Wellbeing Action Plan* and the *Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025*).
- Implementing the *Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy*.
- Designing the Karralyka redevelopment and undertaking staged works.
- Implementing Council's *Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031*, including the development of a Climate Change Plan.
- Implementing Council's *Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030*.
- Designing and constructing an activity centre car park in Ringwood.
- Working in partnership with the Victorian Government to continue to support the removal of level crossings at Dublin Road, Ringwood East and Coolstore Road, Croydon, and the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon.
- Developing a new Croydon Structure Plan (including urban design guidelines).

- Undertaking a staged development of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct.
- Developing the Customer Service Strategy 2025-2029 to continue to advance Council's commitment to be highly responsive and customer-focused.
- Working in partnership with the Victorian Electoral Commission to coordinate a Council Election in October 2024 for the 2024-2028 period.
- Advocating on key local issues on behalf of the Maroondah community in the lead up to the Australian and Victorian Government elections.

## Delivering vital community services

Council continues to receive significant recognition for the innovative and quality services it delivers.

These services are vital to the health and wellbeing of our community, and include:

- Occupational Therapist-led programs and groups supporting people impacted by too much clutter.
- Maternal and Child Health services delivered through seven centres across the municipality, including infant health checks and parent support groups, including a pilot program of groups connecting new dads.
- Immunisation services that deliver more than 8,000 vaccinations annually, for babies, children, secondary school age children and adults.
- Support to help people who have a disability navigate the Commonwealth NDIS system.
- Social Inclusion and Wellbeing Programs meeting the diverse needs and interests of older residents, including people with a disability.

- Services and programs for young people aged 10 to 25, including drop-in programs and support services.
- The creation and distribution of more than 48,000 Meals on Wheels every year, made possible with the support of volunteers
- Training and coordinating 95 school crossing supervisors who support safe passage to and from school at 73 school crossings across Maroondah.

## Capital works highlights

Council maintains \$2.1 billion in assets on behalf of the community, including 522 buildings and structures, 578 parks and reserves, 131 public playgrounds, 482km of local roads, 786km of stormwater pipes and 752km of footpaths.

Council has allocated \$65.49 million in the 2024/25 Budget to ensure our assets continue to meet the current and future needs of our community.

These important and diverse projects include:

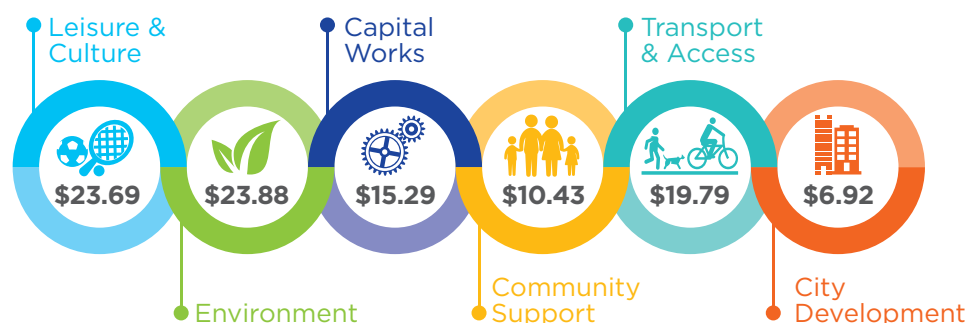
- Improving accessibility at our facilities
- Road sealing and reconstruction works
- Footpath replacement and construction works
- Stormwater and drainage renewal
- Sportsfield resurfacing and lighting
- Playground renewals and bridge replacement works in our reserves.



## Total income

	\$ Millions	Approx. % of the total
Rates & Charges	\$111.67	56%
Capital Grants	\$26.71	13%
User Fees	\$33.13	17%
Operating Grants	\$9.03	4%
Contributions monetary	\$7.70	4%
Statutory Fees & Fines	\$6.14	3%
Other	\$5.39	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$199.77</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenditure per \$100



# What's coming in 2024/25

Check out some highlights of Council's Capital Works projects planned for 2024/25.



## Barnggeong Ward

- \$310K Lincoln Road Path Construction
- \$50K Evans Reserve Play and Gathering Place Improvement (Half-court and Decking Renewal)
- \$3M Holloway Road reconstruction - Yarra Road to Lyons Road (joint with Manningham Council)



## McAlpin Ward

- \$250K Mullum Mullum Creek Trail Improvement
- \$50K Quambee and Parkwood Reserves Enhancement Plan
- \$100K Mt Dandenong Road Service Road (Bayswater Road to #102) Footpath Construction



## Wombolano Ward

- \$2.2M Karralyka Foyer Construction
- \$250K Bedford Road and Fremont Street Drainage Infrastructure Upgrades
- \$700K Victoria Street Reconstruction



## Bungalook Ward

- \$250K Grayswood Reserve Play and Gathering Place Improvement
- \$234K Dorset Golf Fairway and Tee Improvements
- \$50K Canterbury Gardens (Arrabri) Enhancement Plan



## Tarralla Ward

- \$1.4M Eastfield Road/Railway Avenue/Morinda Street Signalisation\*
- \$400K Newell Street Reconstruction
- \$70K Tintern Avenue Shopping Centre Improvements



## Wonga Ward

- \$1.3M North Ringwood Sportsfield Reconstruction
- \$500K Maroondah Highway Boulevard Upgrade (staged)\*
- \$400K Evelyn Road Improvement Works (Footpath Construction, Intersection Alterations and Resurfacing)



## Jubilee Ward

- \$400K Heatherdale Road Resurfacing (joint with Whitehorse Council)
- \$100K City Road Easement Drain Upgrade
- \$100K HE Parker Tennis Club Lighting Upgrade



## Wicklow Ward

- \$30M Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct – Hub A Redevelopment
- \$450K Croydon Memorial Pool Improvements
- \$200K Lionel Crescent Flood Mitigation



## Yarrunga Ward

- \$300K Maroondah Highway (Yarra Road to Alice Street) Footpath Construction – Boundary with Wicklow and Barnggeong Wards
- \$250K Kardinia Crescent Reconstruction
- \$250K Jumping Creek Revitalisation – Stage 1

*\*subject to external funding*



Learn more

Scan the QR code or visit the 'Projects' page on Council's website to view more Capital Works projects.

# 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'.



## EV's Hangout

Weekly on Thursdays, 3pm to 6pm  
From Thursday 4 July  
EV's Youth Centre, Croydon

EV's Hangout is a free social drop-in program for people aged 12 to 25 years. Make new friends, play video games, pool or board games, chat with one of Council's youth workers, or take part in weekly activities.



To find out more, scan the QR code, visit Council's website or call 9294 5704.



## Children are Stinky

Tuesday 9 July, 11am and 2pm  
Karralyka, Ringwood East

*Children are Stinky* challenges children to step on stage and prove themselves worthy, smart, coordinated and imaginative against ridiculous circus performers. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$88 for a family pass (two adults and two children).



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



## Living life to the full

Monday 22 July, 10am to 11am  
Croydon Library, Croydon

Join Occupational Therapists Paula and Nantzee to learn how to care for your back, conserve energy, manage pain, and stay safe and independent when carrying out your daily activities. Discover strategies to continue doing the things you enjoy.



To book or find out more, scan the QR code or call Your Library on 9800 6448.



## National Tree Day

Sunday 28 July, 10am  
Eastfield Park, Croydon

Council is once again supporting National Tree Day by co-hosting a free planting day with Friends of Tarralla Creek and the First Friends of Dandenong Creek. Join us from 10am and help plant 4,000 plants to enhance the biodiversity of Tarralla Creek. Registrations are essential.



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



## Solar Savers information session

Wednesday 7 August, 11am to 12noon  
Realm, Ringwood Town Square

Join this free session to learn more about how the Solar Savers Program can help you make the most of solar power for homes and businesses. Information on new energy efficient ways to heat and cool your home will also be provided.



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



## Bohemian Nights at Wyreena Music Café

Friday 30 August, 7.30pm to 9pm  
Wyreena Conservatory Café  
13-23 Hull Road, Croydon

Ernie Gruner (violin, mandolin, vocals) and Phil Carroll (accordion, vocals, ney) play Gypsy, Klezmer, Turkish, French, Italian, Russian, jazz and tango music. Tickets are \$43 per person and include entertainment and supper.



To book or find out more, scan the QR code or call Wyreena on 9294 5590.

## Protect Maroondah's natural environment

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

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.

Learn more about the impacts of litter or report online at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/report-an-issue)



# Making progress in Maroondah

As part of Council's \$65.49 million Capital Works Program, projects are continuing to take shape.

## Facilities

### Ringwood Activity Centre car park



Construction continues at 1 Bedford Road in Ringwood to build the new Ringwood Activity Centre car park. The c.110-year-old heritage Blood Brothers building has been moved to its new home on the southeast corner of the site. There will be significant ground work completed on the rest of the site before any building work can commence. Watch a video of the heritage building being moved by visiting [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Ringwood-Activity-Centre-carpark](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Ringwood-Activity-Centre-carpark)

### Aquahub improvement works



The gymnastics redevelopment at Aquahub was completed in May and the program is in full 'swing' again.

The works to renew the roof and replace air handling units are also complete, with the Aquahub gym reopening last month. We thank our members for their patience while these important works were taking place.

Plan your next workout and find the health club opening hours at [www.maroondahleisure.com.au/Opening-Hours](http://www.maroondahleisure.com.au/Opening-Hours)

## Drainage

### Sherbrook Drainage Catchment Upgrades



Works are nearing completion in Charter Street, Ringwood as Council's stormwater drainage network is upgraded in the Sherbrook Catchment, which encompasses a significant portion of the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre (RMAC). Council has been working closely with adjacent businesses to minimise the construction impacts as much as possible during these major upgrades.

Find out more at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/RMAC-drainage-upgrade](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/RMAC-drainage-upgrade)

## Pathways

### New pathways in Croydon North

New pathway works are complete at Hughes Park in Croydon North. The new shared user path runs alongside Maroondah Highway from the west entrance of Brushy Park to the entrance of the wastewater treatment plant to the east. The works also include two new raised pedestrian crossings at the Brushy Park Hall entrance and at the Hughes Park entrance. These works will provide safer access to the facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and those with accessibility requirements.

Find out more at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/newfootpaths](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/newfootpaths)

## Roads

### Emerald Street, Ringwood



Road improvement works on Emerald Street in Ringwood are complete. Council has upgraded the deteriorated road pavement, kerb and channel, and has replaced drainage infrastructure as part of this project. The new road surface will provide a safer and more enjoyable driving experience for residents and the local community.

This project is jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government through the Roads to Recovery Program.

## Open space

### San Martin Reserve playspace



The upgraded playspace at San Martin Reserve in Croydon North is now open for play!

The playspace features a brand-new play unit, two slides, two swings, a spinner, a rocker and monkey bars.

Find out more at [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/San-Martin-Reserve-Playspace](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/San-Martin-Reserve-Playspace)



Learn more

Scan the QR code to visit the 'Projects' page on Council's website. Find out more and see other projects in progress.

# Plastic Free July Discovery Day at Realm!



Council has partnered with Your Library to host the Plastic Free July® Discovery Day at Realm on Friday 5 July from 10am to 2pm. On the day, there will be guest speakers and workshops, activities for the kids, plus interactive displays, and a mini market with a variety of stallholders.

You can learn how to make your own reusable produce bags and deodorant, discover simple reusable alternatives, and sign up to take a Plastic Free July pledge. Children will have a chance to colour in their very own reusable bags or join the Plastic Free July Storytime.

Workshop facilitators and guest speakers include:

- The Everyday Recycler
- The Urban Nanna
- Mademoiselle Organics
- Zero Waste Victoria



Pick up your Plastic Free passport on the day and complete at least three actions for your chance to win one of three Plastic Free July packs.

Participation in all activities and workshops is free. Registrations for workshops or guest speaker sessions are essential, and AUSLAN interpreters are available upon request.

Whether you attend a workshop or take a pledge, you will receive

resources and ideas to help you reduce single-use plastic waste every day.

Scan the QR code or visit Council's website for more information about the Plastic Free July Discovery Day, to register for workshops and speaker sessions, or to sign up and take a Plastic Free July pledge.



## 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](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)

