

# Our Achievements

## 2020-2024 Council Term





*Grounding and Connecting exhibition, ArtSpace at Realm, April 2024.*

*Front cover: Maroondah Edge, Council's new Indoor cricket training centre in the Jubilee Park sporting precinct, Ringwood, June 2023.*

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## Acknowledgment of Country

We, in the spirit of Reconciliation, acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah, where Indigenous Australians have performed age old ceremonies. We acknowledge and respect their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.





# A safe, healthy and active community



Visitors to the Parkwood Dog Park, Ringwood North

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Developed and implemented the *Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031*.
- Developed and implemented the *Health and Wellbeing Action Plan for 2021-2023 and 2023-2025*.
- Developed and implemented the *Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026*.
- Adopted the *Maroondah Stadium Sports Strategy* which provides a range of recommendations over a 10-year period.
- Opened Maroondah Edge, a new (\$4.5 million) 5 lane indoor cricket training centre that includes a half netball court, multipurpose room, and office space.
- Redeveloped Dorset Recreation Reserve (\$9 million) with a new multipurpose community and sports centre.
- Completed pavilion redevelopments at Silcock Reserve (\$5.5 million), Springfield Park (\$3.5 million), Cheong Park (\$1.8 million) and Ainslie Park (\$1.9 million) in Croydon.
- Completed pavilion redevelopments at Jubilee Park (\$3.5 million) and Proclamation Park (\$3.25 million) in Ringwood.
- Completed a pavilion redevelopment at JW Manson Pavilion (\$4.5 million) in Wantirna.
- Designed and constructed a new dog park at Parkwood Reserve in Ringwood North.
- Redeveloped the sportsfield at Town Park, Croydon and Russell Lucas Oval at Jubilee Park, Ringwood.
- Completed lighting upgrades at East Ringwood Reserve and Croydon Park.



- Developed and implemented the *Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan* in partnership with other levels of government, local organisations, and agencies.
- Supported community mental wellbeing during COVID-19 through online events, workshops and programs such as the Maroondah Lift project as well as the Mind Strength and Good Food, Good Mood presentations.
- Hosted a series of events to keep our community active, including Night Run and Run Maroondah.
- Engaged with the community as part of a comprehensive Maroondah COVID-19 Secondary Impact Assessment which provided Council with information about the impacts of COVID-19 on our community.
- Worked in partnership to deliver a range of mental health and wellbeing events including The Resilience Project, a public screening of *How to Thrive*, Mental Health First Aid training and mental wellbeing workshops and Mindful Walking programs.
- Supported activities aimed at reducing harm associated with family violence through workshops and partnerships including the 16 Steps to Respect Project, the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign and a social media self-defence workshop.
- Introduced a new community Local Law following extensive engagement with the Maroondah community.
- Implemented a new Wellness Suite at Aquanation for Reformer Pilates programs and redeveloped the Aquahub gymnastics facility.





# A prosperous and learning community



Maroondah Occasional Care, Croydon

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Worked in partnership with a range of organisations and neighbouring Councils to implement the *Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy* and strengthen the economic value of the Bayswater Business Precinct.
- Strategically planned enhancements to local neighbourhoods through a *Liveable Neighbourhoods Strategy* that will enable future infrastructure investment in local centres.
- Developed and implemented the *Maroondah Extended Outdoor Dining Policy* supporting local hospitality businesses to expand outdoor dining opportunities.
- Completed infrastructure upgrades to improve the amenity of shopping centres on Paul Street in Croydon; Loughnan Road in Ringwood; and Old Lilydale Road in Ringwood East.
- Worked in partnership to support the rollout of funded three and four-year-old kindergarten in Maroondah
- Delivered place activation projects in Ringwood East and Croydon South which included transforming infrastructure; amenity upgrades; and cultural and engagement activities.
- Provided BizHub support to businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and supported economic recovery from COVID-19 impacts through targeted projects and place management initiatives.
- Funded a new vehicle to support learner drivers participating in the L2P Driving Program.



- Facilitated an annual Kinder Expo to enable families to access educators from local kindergartens, understand available funding and learn about relevant application processes.
- Progressed regional advocacy and partnerships through the Eastern Regional Group of Councils (ERG).
- Hosted a series of BizHub events to support local businesses including Women on the Go, BizWeek and the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards.
- Received \$1.027 million from the Victorian Government as part of the Regulation Reduction Incentive Funding and the Business Acceleration Funding. The pilot project will simplify the permit application processes for businesses.
- Progressed key projects within both the Ringwood and Croydon Activity Centres, including the development of a landscape masterplan for Staley Gardens, commencement of the Maroondah Boulevard upgrade project and the Reignite Croydon Laneway Lights project.
- Provided library services at both Realm, Ringwood and Civic Square, Croydon which continued to see an increase in visitor numbers, loans and take up of other services and activities.
- Signed the Small Business Friendly Charter in partnership with 54 local councils to provide small business owners with the support they need to do business.





# A vibrant and culturally rich community



Maroondah Festival 2023

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Continued implementation of the *Maroondah Arts and Cultural Development Strategy 2020-2025*.
- Redeveloped a laneway in Ringwood East with an Indigenous wall mural, *Dancing with Creation*, realised by Gunnai/Gunditjmarra/Yorta Yorta/Wiradjuri artist Robert Young and Wurundjeri/Yorta Yorta artist Simone Thomson. Footpath and planter boxes were painted by members of Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place.
- Worked in partnership to deliver a program of arts activations in Ringwood East and Croydon South.
- Commenced the staged redevelopment of Karrylyka including a renewal program that saw new theatre seating and carpet, and an improved loading dock
- Supported arts and cultural groups during COVID-19 including subsidies for hire of Council's cultural facilities; developed Council's Arts in Maroondah social media channels; and implemented other online information and opportunities for networking for individuals and groups.
- Continued support of cultural tourism and local creative industries through subsidised use of cultural facilities for local cultural groups and creative practitioners, for rehearsing and presentations, in addition to providing exhibition spaces.
- Celebrated First Nations art and culture in collaboration with the local community, artists, community leaders and Indigenous organisations including hosting Reconciliation Week activities.





- Continued to deliver a range of annual events and performances which included Maroondah Festival, Maroondah Carols and the Karralyka theatre season launch.
- Delivered public art commissions at the Croydon multi-level carpark and at Melview Reserve in Ringwood North, along with a mural at the GloBird headquarters in Ringwood.
- Continued to grow the Maroondah Art Collection with acquisitions from the annual Mayoral Art Exhibition.
- Hosted a series of Celebrate Maroondah events to bring the community together in our local parks and reserves.
- Installed a range of new public art pieces including: *Neighbourhood Tales* by Selina Ou; *Texture of Memory* created by four artists known as T-Collective – Simon Crosbie, Mig Dann, Yiwon Park and Jude Worters; *Our Plants, Our Heritage* by artists Leila Ashtiani, Sofi Dieu, Humaira Fayazi, Abouk Giir and Rahila Zeesan.
- Continued the successful Maroondah FReeZA program delivering high quality live music events for the local community and assisting young people to develop their event management and sound production skills.
- Celebrated the centenary of the main building at Wyreena Community Arts Centre as part of the National Heritage Festival, and continued to host a range of exhibitions, Music Café events, arts classes and workshops.



# A clean, green and sustainable community



*Reimaging Tarralla Creek Project, Croydon*

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Developed and implemented a new *Maroondah Sustainability Strategy 2022-2031*.
- Commenced development of a *Maroondah Climate Change Plan*.
- Prepared and implemented the *Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Action Plan* and identified eight biolink habitat corridors representing the best opportunities for improving habitat connectivity across Maroondah.
- Worked in partnership to enhance and reimagine Tarralla Creek, by transforming a two-kilometre section into a community open space and waterway.
- Commenced a partnership with Manningham City Council and Melbourne Water to enhance the Mullum Mullum Creek.
- Worked in partnership to redevelop the community garden at Central Ringwood Community Centre.
- Worked in partnership with specialised organisations to hold sustainability workshops on reusable nappies; composting; worm farming and bokashi.
- Implemented the *Waste, Litter and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-2030* including rollout of the new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.
- Conducted E-waste (+ more) collection days and launched our first recycling station at Realm where residential items including batteries, small e-waste items and xrays can be recycled.





- Developed a partnership agreement to convert landfill waste to green energy by becoming the first Victorian Council to contract the supply of municipal solid waste to a new thermal Energy from Waste (EfW) facility, which will be built in Maryvale in Gippsland.
- Introduced *Planning Scheme Amendment C148maro* to the Maroondah Planning Scheme to better preserve elements of Maroondah's post World War 2 history.
- Undertook a comprehensive review of the *Maroondah Planning Scheme* and introduced a *Local Policy Planning Scheme Amendment* as part of Council's commitment to environmentally sustainable design for planning, design and construction.
- Worked in partnership to create My Energy and Water Saver Kits for residents to access, to reduce their water usage.
- Established a nursery and seed farming program to conserve and support the growth of local indigenous plant species.
- Worked in partnership with Yarra Valley Water to enable use of recycled water for tree watering during dry weather.
- Launched a Street Tree Planting program along walk to school routes to enhance liveability and support active transport for children and families.
- Launched a Street Tree Renewal project with a whole of street approach to tree renewal to ensure consistency of species that are fit for purpose.



# An accessible and connected community



*Croydon Station artist impression*

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Supported the planning, design and work to remove three railway crossings at Bedford Road in Ringwood, Dublin Road in Ringwood East, and Coolstore Road in Croydon as well as the construction of new stations at Croydon and Ringwood East.
- Delivered a new Croydon Activity Centre carpark providing 402 additional spaces and electric vehicle charging bays.
- Completed road and pedestrian safety improvements along Kalinda Road, Ringwood.
- Commenced construction of the Ringwood Activity Centre carpark that will provide 320 car spaces, including accessibility bays and electric vehicle charging bays.
- Worked with VicRoads to upgrade and signalise the intersection of Reilly Street and Wantirna Road in Ringwood.
- Implemented Australian Government funded road rehabilitation and drainage upgrades on New Street in Ringwood. Works included a missing length of footpath on the western side.
- Worked with VicRoads on improvements to Plymouth Road between Narr-Maen Drive and Yarra Road in Croydon Hills, including new traffic lights and pedestrian crossing at the Kirtain Drive intersection.
- Implemented local traffic management improvements at the Stirling Road and Toorak Road intersection in Croydon to improve access for waste vehicles and provide new pedestrian crossings to improve accessibility.





- Completed rehabilitation and upgrade works on Yarra Road, between Panorama Drive and Gatters Road in Croydon North and Wonga Park.
- Completed traffic assessments and preliminary design work for future improvements to the Old Lilydale and Carcoola Road intersection in Ringwood East.
- Improved footpaths and shared trails and completed 3.1 kilometres of footpath upgrades, constructed at a total value of \$1.1 million.
- Developed public transport travel enhancement plans for local activity centres.
- Implemented the Healthy Street project which focuses on 10 liveability aspects to local streets to determine how safe, welcomed, and relaxed people feel when walking or riding their bike.
- Implemented Australian Government funded enhancement and safety improvement works in Eastfield Road, Ringwood East. Works included construction of a footpath on the north side of the road and two pedestrian refuges, along with reconstruction of the existing kerb and channel.
- Continued to implement the Maroondah Parking Framework, and reviewed the Ringwood and Croydon Activity Centre Parking Strategies.
- Completed a study of the Eastfield Road, Railway Avenue and Morinda Street intersection in Ringwood East and submitted a successful \$1.3 million Black Spot funding application which will provide pedestrian and vehicle safety improvements.
- Consulted and developed a new *Transport Strategy 2024-2034*.



# An attractive, thriving and well built community



McAlpin Reserve, Ringwood North

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Progressed development of the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct, including the opening of the Community Hub that provides upgraded facilities for a range of community groups and services.
- Completed works at McAlpin Reserve in Ringwood North including a major playspace transformation, with inclusive play equipment, shelters, accessible parking and an improved entry.
- Completed works at Yarrunga Reserve in Croydon Hills resulting in safer spaces for pre-teens and young adults, a new pedestrian bridge and creation of new BMX jumps.
- Completed playspace renewal works at Nangathan Way Reserve, Croydon North; Cobain Reserve, Ringwood; Waterloo Reserve, Heathmont; Munro Street Reserve, Ringwood; Danielle Crescent Reserve, Heathmont; Laura Court, Bayswater North; and San Martin Reserve, Croydon North.
- Progressed development of a new draft *Croydon Structure Plan* and planning scheme amendment.
- Adopted a new *Heritage Action Plan* to ensure local heritage has greater protections.
- Worked in partnership to facilitate a sustainable approach to urban redevelopment in two identified residential precincts through the Greening the Greyfields project.
- Adopted the *Maroondah Flood Map* to improve understanding of flood impacts to local properties.





- Continued to develop flood mitigation solutions for central Croydon; New Street in Ringwood; Sherbrook Avenue catchment in Ringwood; and the Scenic Avenue and Wingate Avenue catchments in Ringwood East.
- Delivered the Tarralla Creek Stormwater Harvesting Scheme which provides irrigation for four sportsfields within the Croydon precinct, saving 13 million litres of drinking water per year.
- Completed the Tarralla Kindergarten and Maternal Child Health Centre redevelopment in Ringwood East.
- Enhanced community facilities including scout halls at HE Parker Reserve, Heathmont; BJ Hubbard Reserve, Ringwood North; Hughes Park, Croydon North; and North Ringwood Reserve, Ringwood North.
- Expanded and improved carparks at Dorset Recreation Reserve in Croydon; Springfield Park and Ainslie Park in Croydon; McAlpin Reserve and Parkwood Reserve in Ringwood North; and Jubilee Park in Ringwood.
- Developed enhancement plans for Woodland Park, Croydon South and Norwood Park, Ringwood North to ensure these open spaces continue to meet the evolving needs of the community.
- Participated in the 2021 Liveability Census with positive results indicating that residents valued the neighbourhood amenity, local businesses and open spaces in Maroondah.



# An inclusive and diverse community



Reconciliation Week at Realm, Ringwood 2023

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Developed and implemented the *Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025*.
- Developed and implemented the *Disability Action Plan 2022-2026*.
- Continued implementation of the *Maroondah Reconciliation Action Plan*.
- Promoted intergenerational community connections through the GenConnect program.
- Provided support services for people with a disability, their carers and families.
- Continued to promote gender equality through a range of initiatives in line with Council's *Gender Equality Action Plan* such as embedding gender impact assessments into reviews of existing policies, programs, and services.
- Participated in the *Put her name on it* project which aims for gender parity in street and place-naming across the municipality.
- Supported our local culturally and linguistically diverse communities through Council's Maternal and Child Health services
- Provided support for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups during COVID-19 by providing information in a range of different languages; facilitating the provision of mental health training to two CALD community organisations; and worked with EACH to organise vaccination pop up sites.
- Worked in partnership with Monkami to continue to deliver the *Happy Day's* inclusive and intergenerational program.





- Acknowledged International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia and the Maroondah LGBTIQ+ community with messages on social media, along with an event for Council employees.
- Commenced a range of social support programs for community members who identify as LGBTIQ+ or are exploring their identity including MY Pride for those aged 10 to 13 years; SAGE for those aged 14 to 18 years; and Mature Rainbows for those aged 50 years and over.
- Hosted inclusive events at Aquahub and Croydon Memorial Pool including Poolside Pride and Summer Sundays.
- Launched a new dedicated youth online space with improved accessibility functions for all users.
- Worked in partnership with MensLine Australia on the DadConnect pilot program to provide opportunities for dads to connect with each other in the local community, share experiences and build relationships.
- Celebrated older people through the annual Seniors Festival and Old is Beautiful campaign.
- Continued to celebrate National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.
- Created a diverse image library as part of the Recapture Equity Project.
- Continued to host citizenship ceremonies during the COVID-19 pandemic, and re-established in person ceremonies over the past two years, as well as hosting Australia Day community events.



# A well governed and empowered community

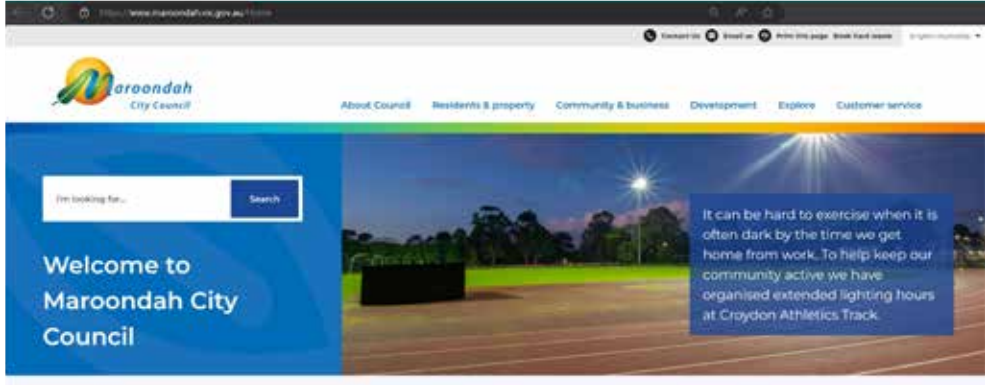


Customer service counter at Realm, Ringwood

## Snapshot of achievements 2020-2024

- Developed and implemented the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.
- Enhanced our provision of customer service and communications to the community with the *Customer Service Strategy 2021-2025*.
- Developed and implemented the *Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025*.
- Implemented a range of policy updates in response to the new *Local Government Act 2020*.
- Developed and implemented the *Maroondah Municipal Fire Management Plan 2023-2026*.
- Implemented *Council's Workforce Plan 2021-2025*.
- Continued to advocate to the Victorian and Australian Governments to seek funding for a range of significant projects that will benefit the Maroondah community. Commitments include \$35 million for major traffic improvements in Heathmont and Ringwood East; the Croydon Community and Wellbeing Precinct Cultural Hub; community and sporting improvements at Dorset Recreation Reserve, JW Manson Reserve and Maroondah Edge in Jubilee Park; \$750 million for the removal of level crossings at Dublin Road in Ringwood East, Bedford Road in Ringwood and Coolstore Road in Croydon
- as well as the construction of new stations at Ringwood East and Croydon. In addition, the Victorian Government committed \$1 billion towards a new Maroondah Hospital and Council is advocating to ensure improved outcomes from the project delivery.
- Provided a total of 309 community grants to not for profit community organisations and groups in Maroondah over four financial years totalling \$768,786.
- Implemented a suite of cybersecurity enhancements such as the Security Incident Event Management tool and a Cybersecurity Incident framework.





- Supported the provision of emergency relief to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting organisations to operate during peak periods of COVID-19 lockdown and heavy restrictions; coordinating community meals and material aid parcels; working to secure weekly food supply of food produce; providing information on COVID-19 restrictions, testing options and vaccination availability; and rollout of rapid antigen tests to local emergency relief agencies.
- Engaged the community to have their say on a broad range of projects ranging from enhancement plans, infrastructure projects, and strategy and policy development.
- Implemented the Child Safe Standards in line with new Victorian Government legislation.
- Expanded e-services for Statutory Planning providing a more efficient and transparent planning process.
- Led advocacy to become a *Connected Community* through the implementation of pilot programs to bring together the digital and physical world.
- Redeveloped the Maroondah City Council website.
- Ensured Council's service delivery is enabled through fit for purpose IT equipment and infrastructure.
- Expanded *Maroondah news* delivery with additional newsletter collection points in high traffic community spaces as well as offering new targeted email campaigns.
- Increased the range of payment options for the community to use across multiple Council services.
- Implemented Council's Information Technology Strategy.

# Sector and industry recognition and awards



*Walking Sports at Maroondah Nets, Ringwood*

## Council received many sector and industry recognition awards over the past four years.

### Winner

- Cricket Australia Awards (2023-2024 - Community Facility of the Year - Maroondah Edge
- National Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards (2023) - Community Engagement Success of the Year - FOGO roll-out campaign.
- Victorian Early Years Awards (2022) - Creating Collaborative Community Partnerships - GenConnect.
- Victorian Tennis Awards (2022) - Local Government Award - pilot Council for the Thriving Tennis Communities project and recognition of our club engagement and development of the Maroondah Tennis Strategy 2022-32.
- Planning Institute of Australia Awards (2022) - Stakeholder Engagement Award - Healthy Streets project.
- Project Management Achievement Awards (2022) - Construction/Engineering category - Devon Street Carpark in Croydon.
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects - Victoria and National (2023) - Reimagining Tarralla Creek.
- LGPro Corporate Planning Awards (2022) - Corporate and Community Planning Award - Maroondah COVID-19 Recovery Plan.
- AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards (2020) - Infrastructure Category - Eastern Regional Trails Strategy.
- Planning Institute of Australia Excellence Awards - Victoria (2020) - Healthy Active by Design Category - Healthy and Active Neighbourhood Project.

### Commendation

- LGPro Positive Ageing and Wellbeing Awards (2023) - Outstanding Project/Program Non Grant Based - GenConnect
- Planning Institute of Australia Climate Change and Resilience Awards (2023) - The Schools First project.





- Planning Institute of Australia Victoria Awards for Planning Excellence (2023) – Strategic Planning Project – Greening the Greyfields project.
- Victorian Landscape Awards (2022) – Croydon Town Square.
- Planning Institute of Australia Awards (2021) – Community Wellbeing and Diversity Award – Be Kind Maroondah initiative.

- Planning Institute of Australia Awards (2021) – Climate Change and Resilience Award – Participation in VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration.

**Finalist**

- AILA National Landscape Architecture Awards (2020) – Civic Landscape Category – Croydon Town Square.
- Master Builders Excellence Awards (2021) – Excellence in Construction Category – Realm administration offices.
- Premier’s Sustainability Awards 2023 – My Energy and Water Saver Kits – in partnership with Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils.

- LGPro Active Ageing and Wellbeing Awards (2021) – Outstanding Program/Project (non-grant based) Category Finalist – Walking Sports.
- Main Street Australia Awards (2021) – Main street Public Space and Streetscape Design Award – Ringwood East Place Activation project.
- LGPro Awards for Excellence (2022) – Service Delivery Initiative Category – Maroondah’s Social Technology Project known as VERA (Virtual Engagement Recreation Activities).
- LGPro Awards for Excellence (2021) – Indigenous Community Partnership Category – Reconciliation Week Program.





Construction in progress of the Ringwood Activity Centre carpark, May 2024





