

APRIL 2025



City of
Whittlesea

Local Scoop

Your City of Whittlesea news

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Connect with us

- 📍 **Civic Centre, South Morang**
25 Ferres Boulevard
Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm
- 📍 **Whittlesea Service Hub**
63 Church Street
Monday to Friday, 9.30am–5pm
- ☎ **9217 2170**
(including after hours emergencies)
National Relay Service
133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)
- 📧 **Locked Bag 1,**
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083
- @ **info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au**
- 🌐 **whittlesea.vic.gov.au**



Upcoming Council Meetings

Tuesday 15 April, 6pm

Tuesday 20 May, 6pm

Tuesday 17 June, 6pm

Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang.

▶ **Meetings can be viewed live on the City of Whittlesea YouTube channel.**

For more information visit
🌐 **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings**

The information provided in this newsletter was accurate at the time of print.
Visit Council's website for the latest information.

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Your Councillors

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martin.taylor@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

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Visit our website to find out which ward you live in and who is your local Councillor.
🌐 **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Councillors**

CONNECTED COMMUNITY



ABOVE Dr Sarvesh Soni, Bill McGillivray, Zoe Brown, Jim Bannan and Zachary Melvaine received their awards at the Community Festival.



"These awards recognise the outstanding contributions of people in our community. I'd like to congratulate all our nominees and in particular our award recipients for their outstanding work in our community."

– Cr Deb Gunn
City of Whittlesea Community Awards Committee member

Celebrating local heroes

Meet the 2024 City of Whittlesea Community Award recipients.

Congratulations to our five deserving recipients, who received their award at the Community Festival on Sunday 16 March.



Citizen of the Year Dr Sarvesh Soni

An active member of the Whittlesea Interfaith Network, Dr. Soni is a strong advocate

for inclusivity and community and creating a space where people from all backgrounds feel valued, respected and heard. Dr. Soni is also dedicated to empowering individuals and fostering leadership development and has established a nationwide network to help budding entrepreneurs.



Senior Citizen of the Year Bill McGillivray

Bill has been a volunteer radio presenter with

88.6 Plenty Valley FM for 36 years. He leads PVFM's outside broadcasts, has served as treasurer for many years and is the emergency co-ordinator and liaison with local emergency response teams for PVFM. A mentor and role model, Bill supports and guides new volunteers.



Sustainable Citizen of the Year Jim Bannan

Jim has been a strong advocate and participant

in various conservation projects including the Friends of Plenty River Gorge and is a tireless volunteer with Parks Victoria. Jim is enthusiastic and knowledgeable and regularly responds to requests for help from landcare groups across the City of Whittlesea.



Young Citizen of the Year Zachary Melvaine

Seventeen-year-old Zachary is dedicated to

creating positive change. He is passionate about youth advocacy, focusing on health, inclusive sports and honoring veterans. Zachary is on the City of Whittlesea Youth Council and served as the former Youth Mayor. He is currently a Year 12 college captain at his school and a member of the Australian Army Cadets.



Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year Zoe Brown

As the driving force behind the Free to

be Me playgroup program, Zoe has transformed the lives of countless children with additional needs by providing a safe, welcoming and engaging environment for children and their families.

Inside this edition



Do the right thing with your waste

Arabic خدمة الترجمة الشفهية الهاتفية المجانية
Chinese Simplified 免费电话传译服务
Chinese Traditional 免費電話傳譯服務
Greek Δωρεάν τηλεφωνική υπηρεσία διερμηνέων
Italian Servizio di interpretariato telefonico gratuito



New Aboriginal Gathering Place taking shape

Macedonian Бесплатна телефонска услуга за преведување
Persian/Farsi خدمات مترجم شفاهی تلفنی رایگان
Punjabi ਮੁਫਤ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਸੇਵਾ
Turkish Ücretsiz telefonla tercümanlık servisi
Vietnamese Dịch vụ thông dịch qua điện thoại miễn phí



Message from the Mayor

Cr Aidan McLindon

Welcome to the April edition of Local Scoop.

Over the past few months, my fellow councillors and I have been out and about, attending local events, meeting with residents, and listening to your thoughts and ideas. We always appreciate the chance to say hi and hear what matters most to you.

We have been hearing your feedback on what you think Council needs to focus on as part of our community consultation on our new Community Plan. This important document will set our focus over our elected term and ensure that we are delivering the specific services and facilities, projects and programs the City of Whittlesea community needs.

We are also working through the complex process of our first full budget; ensuring that we strike the right balance between delivering important services while acknowledging that many people are doing it tough. More information about this will be available shortly.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a citizenship ceremony where I was pleased to see so many people who have decided to call the City of Whittlesea home, taking the official pledge to become citizens.

I also enjoyed another celebration of our multi-cultural community, the Holi festival, which is the Hindu festival of colours which traditionally welcomes the northern hemisphere spring. It was a great day of celebration in South Morang.

If you'd like to learn more about Council, you can tune in to Plenty Valley FM each Thursday afternoon around 4pm for our regular Council chat segment. Our Council Meetings, on the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm, are livestreamed and you are welcome to attend in person too.

Finally, I would like to wish all those who celebrate a very happy Easter and Orthodox Easter as you spend time with family and friends.

Mayor Cr Aidan McLindon

Councillors out and about



ABOVE Cr Lenberg, Cr Lappin, Cr Brooks, Cr Colwell, Cr Cr Stow, Cr Taylor, Cr Gunn, Cr Kozmevski and Cr Cox at the City of Whittlesea Community Festival.



ABOVE Cr Colwell with Australian Music Star Mitch Tambo at the City of Whittlesea Community Festival; Cr McLindon and Cr Zinni presenting the Senior Citizen of Year Community Award; Cr Brooks, Cr Stow and Cr Gunn (from second left to right) at the Local Food Discovery space at the Community Festival.

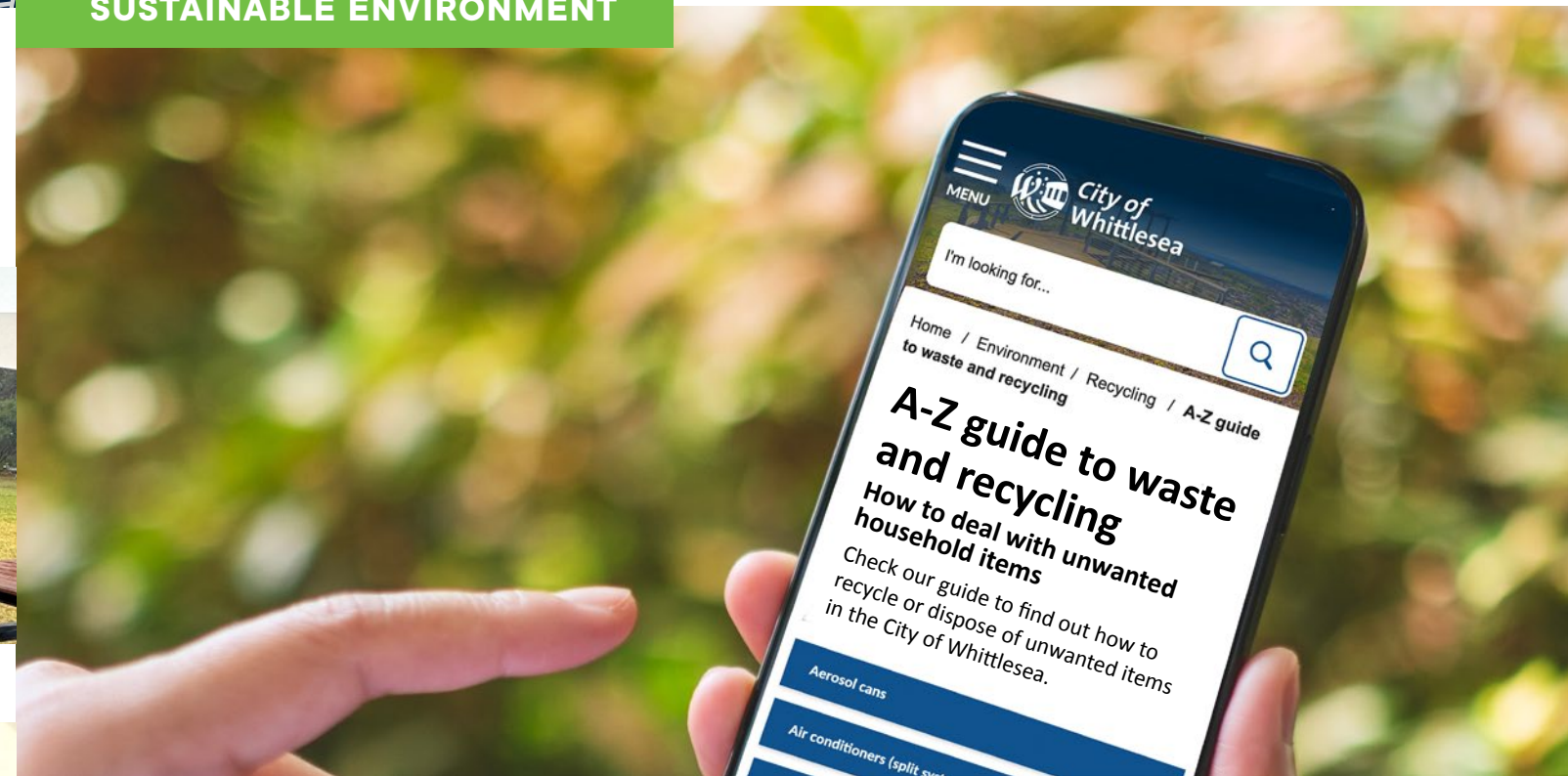


ABOVE Cr Zinni (far left), Cr Lenberg (second from left) and Cr Taylor (far right) with the City of Whittlesea Business Advisory Panel.



ABOVE Cr Zinni (far left) with City of Whittlesea Art Exhibition award winners; Cr Lenberg, Cr Taylor, Cr McLindon, Cr Kozmevski and Cr Cox at the BAPS Hindu Temple, Mill Park, new year celebrations.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



Do the right thing with your waste

Planning ahead is free, dumping rubbish costs everyone.

When waste is dumped illegally where it doesn't belong, we must use valuable resources to clean it up. This time and money to deal with dumped rubbish could instead go toward providing more of what you love in our neighbourhoods.

Find a local and affordable option for your waste. By using our free A-Z Guide to Waste and Recycling, you can make sure your unwanted items end up in the right place.

Thinking of buying a television or flat-pack furniture?

Leftover packaging illegally left by the kerb can blow into traffic or onto footpaths, creating hazards.

✓ **Recycle your cardboard and e-waste for free at the Wollert Landfill (Heidelberg Materials) or check out our website for the next recycling pop up.**

Do you have a new couch on the way?

Illegally dumped couches attract pests, vandalism and can block roads and paths.

✓ **Before your new couch arrives, book a free at home hard rubbish collection.**

Planning a home or garden renovation?

Dumping leftover bricks and concrete is a hazard and can block drains. Dumping green waste in our parks and open spaces can spread weeds and looks messy.

✓ **Download your brick and rubble or green waste vouchers online for free recycling drop off locally.**

By choosing these easy alternatives, you can help keep our neighbourhoods clean and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Find the best option for disposing of any item by visiting Council's website.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/a-zwaste

Did you know...

Each financial year, households (including renters) can access:

 **2 free hard rubbish collections**

 **1 discounted general waste voucher**

 **4 free green waste vouchers**

 **4 free timber waste vouchers**

 **2 free brick and rubble vouchers**

 **Free drop off points for e-waste**

 **Free drop-off recycling stations for batteries, medicine packets, small e-waste and more**

 **Free fixes for specific items at volunteer-run repair cafes**

PROJECT UPDATES



Plenty Road/Everton Drive intersection

Construction of a new intersection providing access to the future regional sports precinct in Mernda is expected to finish in late 2025. The project includes a 100 metre extension of Everton Drive and a new signalised intersection with Plenty Road that will help to improve traffic flow around Mernda and provide a safe access point to the future sports precinct.

The State Government has contributed \$10 million from its Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution fund towards transport infrastructure for the precinct.



Regional Sports Precinct

At its March Council Meeting, Council considered tenders for the construction of the main works for the regional sports precinct in Mernda including four indoor sports courts, eight outdoor courts, and outdoor pavilion car park and landscaping.

For the latest information visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/regionalssportsprecinct

The Federal Government has committed \$11.5 million towards construction of the indoor stadium and outdoor courts, while the State Government has committed \$10 million towards transport infrastructure and a further \$10 million for the indoor stadium.



Partridge Recreation Reserve, Lalor

The conversion of Partridge Recreation Reserve's grass pitch into a FIFA-accredited synthetic surface will give soccer players extra time to play and train. The upgrade, due to be completed in the coming weeks, will see usage double to about 40 hours a week in a win for competitive and recreational players.

In addition to the pitch upgrade, the project includes new lighting, fencing and pathway connections from Partridge Street to Monash Street.

The redevelopment is fully funded by Council.



Murnong Community Centre

Progress is being made on the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook, with the steel framework up and roof works nearing completion. Works on the internal partitions and car park are currently underway and the centre is due to open in early 2026. The centre will have a two-room kindergarten, maternal and child health services, mini-branch library, community hall and more.

The City of Whittlesea is delivering this centre with support from the Victorian Government through its Building Blocks Program, Growing Suburbs Fund, Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and Changing Places Program.



Findon Road/Williamsons Road intersection

Works to install permanent traffic lights to improve safety and flow at the busy Findon Road/Williamsons Road intersection are progressing well.

Major drainage, kerb and channel and road works on the southern side of Findon Road have been completed and asphalt works are underway. The project, which is expected to be finished in the coming months, will make it easier for motorists to access important local destinations, such as Marymede Catholic College and Middle Gorge railway station.



Playground upgrades

Families will enjoy the results of exciting upgrades to parks across the municipality through our 2024-25 Renewal of Playgrounds program.

Notable projects underway include a revamp of Foothills Park in South Morang, as well as upgrades to Hibiscus Park in Mill Park. Other recently upgraded parks include Wombat Corner Park in Mernda, Towerhill Park in Doreen, and Bushmans Park in South Morang.

The renewals of the Towerhill Park, Foothills Park and Bushmans Park playgrounds are supported by the Australian Government.

MAJOR PROJECTS



ABOVE The Aboriginal Gathering Place at Quarry Hills parklands is expected to be finished in mid-2025.

Aboriginal Gathering Place taking shape

The Aboriginal Gathering Place at Quarry Hills Parklands will create a welcoming, inclusive and culturally safe space for the region's First Peoples when it opens later this year.

That is the view of Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group (WAGPAG) co-chair Karen Bryant, who has been a long-time advocate for the project.

Construction of the Aboriginal Gathering Place on Wurundjeri Country at the parklands started in July 2024 and is expected to be finished in mid-2025.

The project features a range of indoor and outdoor multi-purpose spaces, including large community event spaces, consulting suites, meeting spaces and quiet rooms.

Works on the concrete slab finished in December 2024 and the steel framework went up in January before attention turned to the roof, doors and windows.

A significant part of the parkland's redevelopment has been the installation of support infrastructure to the Aboriginal Gathering Place and Granite Hills Major Community Park.

Construction of an access road, car park and car park lighting, and installation of water, sewer and power services at the site are also progressing well.

"As a long-time advocate for the Aboriginal Gathering Place, seeing it finally come to life fills me with a deep sense of pride, accomplishment and emotion," Karen said.

"The Gathering Place coming out of the ground signifies more than just a physical structure being built, it embodies the cultural, social and spiritual aspirations of the Aboriginal people in this region."

— Karen, WAGPAG co-chair

Inside the Aboriginal Gathering Place visitors will experience murals, carvings and sculptures by Aboriginal artists representing Dreaming stories, while outside the landscape will feature native plants and bush foods.

Council is fully funding the facility's construction.

Upgrade to provide boost for traders

Customers will soon enjoy greater comfort and convenience when visiting the Alexander Avenue shopping precinct in Thomastown.

Work to upgrade the popular retail precinct started in January and is expected to be finished in the coming weeks.

The project is delivering improved car parking, including two accessible parks and a new pedestrian crossing over Boronia Street at the intersection of Alexander Avenue.

New seats, picnic setting, bins, drinking fountain and garden beds for trees and vegetation will make the strip a more attractive place to stop and spend time.

A shared cycle and pedestrian path connecting to Nick Ascenzo Reserve will ensure the shopping strip is more easily accessed by people on foot and bikes.

This project is supported by a \$200,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Living Local Suburban Grant program and \$256,670 from the Road Safety Program 2023-2025.

BELOW Works are nearing completion at the Alexander Avenue shopping precinct in Thomastown.



For more information on our major projects, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



For more information, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/aboriginalgatheringplace



ABOVE Council's Community Leadership Program helped local resident Najam to strengthen The Hiking Tribe which helps migrants explore nature, make friends and feel at home in Australia.

Building connections through hiking

Wollert resident Najam UsSaqib has turned his love for nature and community into a hiking group that helps migrants feel welcome and connected.

Najam and his friend Hassan created The Hiking Tribe, but it was through the City of Whittlesea's Community Leadership Program that Najam gained the skills to strengthen and expand the group into a thriving volunteer-led community.

The group gives migrants a chance to explore nature, make friends and feel at home in Australia. They organise hikes, bike rides, camping trips and rock-climbing adventures, helping people share stories, support each other and improve their wellbeing.

Najam says the Community Leadership Program gave him the skills to start and manage this volunteer group—and he highly recommends it to others.

"The program helped me develop leadership skills to manage a volunteer group effectively. I learned how to create an inclusive and positive community, resolve conflicts and inspire future leaders."

— Najam UsSaqib

The free Community Leadership Program helps locals develop practical skills and

knowledge to start community projects and get more involved. It is for people who want to lead community projects, build networks, and learn more about local government.

Expression of Interest for the program is now open and closes on Monday 12 May, with the program starting in early June. People of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

2025 Community Leadership Program

Expressions of Interest now open.

- Free program for locals passionate about leading community projects and building networks
- Develop leadership skills to make a difference in your community
- Gain practical skills, personal development, and insights into leadership streams



To learn more or to apply, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/leadingchange

Calling young musicians and event planners

Do you know a young musician who wants to perform locally?

Our FReeZA program is looking for young musicians aged 12 to 25 years for paid performances at local events, festival or concerts.

Love event planning?

We are also looking for young people aged 12 to 25 to join the FReeZA committee and help organise live music events.

Gain hands-on experience, build self-confidence and develop professional connections while exploring future education and career pathways in the music industry.



Scan the QR code to learn more

youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

FReeZA is a Victorian Government initiative that supports young Victorians to plan and run alcohol, drug, smoke and vape-free events for other young people.



Play, learn and grow with playgroups

Playgroups are a great way for parents, caregivers and children to come together, have fun and make new friends.

Held in community spaces, playgroups are a great way to help kids learn and grow through fun activities and social time.

For parents and caregivers, playgroups offer a chance to build friendships, share parenting tips and feel reassured about their child's development.

They create an inclusive and welcoming space where everyone, no matter their background, can feel a sense of belonging.

"Playgroups have given me so much support over the years."

— local parent

Being part of a playgroup can make a real difference for families. It helps break isolation, brings people together and provides a space to share experiences and challenges.

"Playgroup always made our day better. It helps so many parents and children to make new friendships," said a local parent who has been part of a playgroup for years.

BELOW Playgroups are a great way for families to make new friends.

Community playgroup leader training

Thursday 24 July, 10am–1pm

Are you currently a community playgroup volunteer, have a passion to become one or would like to find out more about what is involved?

Then come along to our community playgroup leadership training where you will meet other volunteers, learn all the tips and tricks for starting up a community playgroup and build your confidence in becoming a community playgroup leader.

Learn more by visiting whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups



Find a playgroup near you. Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups



Book in for your boosters

As winter approaches, now is the perfect time to get your annual flu vaccine.

Protect yourself this winter and boost your immunity by booking in at one of our public immunisation sessions.



Scan the QR code for more information.



Have you applied for kinder in 2026 and 2027? It's free to apply and free to attend.

Not only is kindergarten fun, but it also helps children develop social skills and a love of learning. It all starts with kindergarten.

Apply for 3-year-old kindergarten in 2026 and 4-year-old kindergarten in 2027 now. Limited places are available for this year too.



For information on how to apply, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder

Grants program helps car show go full throttle

Car enthusiasts, start your engines! The Killer Cars Melbourne 2025 Show & Shine event is taking place on Friday 25 April at the Waterview Recreation Reserve in Mernda.

Proudly supported by the City of Whittlesea Community Grants Program, this family friendly event features one of Melbourne's largest displays of classic cars and motorbikes.

Do you have a great idea for a community project?

Learn more about how you can apply for a community grant for your project or event.

Grants information session
Thursday 8 May, 6pm-7pm

Miller Community Centre
11 Mill Park Drive, Mill Park

Grant writing workshop
Tuesday 13 May, 6pm-8pm

Riverside Community Centre
Doreen Rogen Way, South Morang

To register visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants

Visitors can also enjoy live music, kids entertainment, drag car and race car startups, food and coffee, as well as a range of trade displays and market stalls.

Michael Garzia, from Killer Cars Melbourne, a local enthusiasts car club based in the City of Whittlesea, said the event is expected to be bigger and better than last year.

"We had a record crowd last year, and the financial assistance provided by the City of Whittlesea Community Grants Program, has allowed us to improve event management with extra traffic control, first aid, security, and entertainment," said Michael.

BELOW Michael and John from Killer Cars Melbourne are looking forward to an even bigger event this year.

ABOVE Local resident Michelle is concerned about the mobile black spot areas in Donnybrook.

Bridging the digital divide: A call for better connectivity

Many residents and businesses in the City of Whittlesea continue to struggle with poor mobile and internet connectivity, impacting safety, business and daily life.

The City of Whittlesea recently commissioned a study on mobile coverage across the municipality to ensure that we have current and accurate information to underpin our advocacy efforts for funding to improve our mobile services.

The study found that 10 per cent of locations have unusable network quality, emergency markers lack coverage and critical facilities suffer from inconsistent service.

As part of our ongoing advocacy, the City of Whittlesea collaborates with all levels of government to ensure essential services are available and to support improvements in community infrastructure.

We are calling on the Victorian and Federal governments to invest in eliminating mobile black spots, upgrading telecommunications sites, and ensuring emergency internet access at key community locations.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Julia's passion helps to change food waste to liquid gold

Julia's neighbourhood is full of beautiful olive trees. It's easy to spot the green olives dotted among the silvery leaves.

Each year, olive trees around our community grow full of fruit, but many olives go unpicked.

Julia collects olives and preserves them traditionally with care, but she knew more could be done when she saw the food waste on the ground. She reached out to Council and, thanks to her passion, the City of Whittlesea is joining CERES to bring Olives to Oil to life on Saturday 17 May.

Everyone in the community is invited to sign up and then bring their locally harvested olives for CERES to press into oil. Through the process you can learn about harvesting and pressing and also take home delicious local olive oil.

BELOW Resident Julia has teamed up with CERES and Olives to Oil to press locally harvested olives into oil.

For Julia, this is about more than just olives – although hers are delicious. It's about reducing food waste and bringing her diverse community together.

"I love when different cultures and different age groups are getting together. Food brings people together."

—Julia

For generations, olive trees have connected neighbours with many families keeping traditions alive, while others have discovered the joy of food preservation. With CERES and Olives to Oil, everyone can be part of this experience.



Places are limited. To register scan the QR code or visit
ceres.org.au/olives-to-oil



Circular Fashion Market

Sunday 18 May, 10am-1pm
Council Offices
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Did you know that fashion production makes up to 10 per cent of the world's carbon emissions? And that 85 per cent of all textiles end up in landfill each year?

Why not help curb the environmental impact of fast fashion and snap up a unique bargain at the same time at our pre-loved clothing market. Combining affordability, sustainability and style, you can get your latest fashion find and give pre-loved items a second chance.



To express your interest as a stallholder, visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events

Conservation Walk and Talk series

Back for its second year, the Conservation Walk and Talk Series invites you to explore some of the City of Whittlesea's most stunning open spaces while learning from experts.

A series of free guided walks offer a unique opportunity to discover fascinating facts about native plants, wildlife and conservation efforts in your community. A variety of topics are on offer in May and June.



To register visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events





ABOVE An artist's impression of the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct (supplied by National Intermodal)

Region on track for economic boost

Construction of the first stage of the highly anticipated Beveridge Intermodal Precinct is a step closer after the City of Whittlesea provided its support to the project and feedback on key planning controls.

Located in the north-west of the municipality, the Beveridge Intermodal Precinct will house a freight and logistics hub linked to the Melbourne-Albury-Sydney rail corridor.

The facility will allow for more freight to be moved by rail between Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, increasing productivity and reducing road congestion.

"We are excited for this project to progress to the construction stage and for our community to start reaping the benefits of this substantial investment."

- Mayor, Cr Aidan McLindon

The economic benefits of the project are expected to be substantial, with the creation of new local jobs and an estimated \$2.5 billion to be added to the state's economy each year.

Council has long advocated for the facility and is working with National

Intermodal Corporation, which is delivering the project, to ensure a robust environment management framework to minimise any impacts during construction.

In February, Council endorsed a submission to the Minister for Planning that aimed to ensure environmental, cultural heritage and transport infrastructure issues were addressed.

The first stage of the project will see construction of a permanent rail connection to the rail freight corridor and an interim intermodal terminal.

Planning for subsequent stages will continue throughout 2025 in conjunction with the National Intermodal Corporation and Victorian Government.



For more information visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/major-development-projects

explore City of Whittlesea

It's all *here*

Your next local adventure awaits!

Discover the best of our region with the new Explore Whittlesea website – your ultimate guide to local sights and experiences.

Whether you're a long-time local, a new resident, or just visiting, our new website makes it easier than ever to explore the vibrant sights, tastes and experiences that make our city special.

Watch videos showcasing stunning natural attractions like Plenty Gorge, family-friendly parks, diverse dining and unique local businesses. Plus, dive into our rich history, arts and culture.

Looking for weekend plans, a new favorite café, or scenic walking trails? Explore Whittlesea is your go-to for memorable outings and fresh adventures – all in one place!



Your journey starts here – come and explore! Scan the QR code or visit

explore.whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Keeping our community safe

Did you know that Council's Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) conducted more than 2,500 inspections at local businesses last year?

From restaurants and accommodation facilities to aquatic centres and tobacco retailers, our EHOs make sure our community is kept safe and healthy.

They are out and about safeguarding public health and supporting local businesses through a wide range of activities, including conducting inspections, providing guidance on health regulations and ensuring compliance with safety standards.

They make sure food and tobacco businesses follow food safety regulations, check public places are clean and safe and help prevent the spread of diseases, check

pool water quality, and manage things like noise, waste, air quality and pest control to protect the environment.

For food businesses, EHOs also offer invaluable assistance throughout the registration process.

They review floor plans, conduct progress inspections during construction, and perform final assessments to ensure compliance with health standards before granting registration.

"The guidance and assistance provided by the Environmental Health Officers was instrumental in our successful opening."

– local restaurant owner

We work together with businesses to ensure public safety and help them navigate the sometimes complex regulatory requirements.

"Their thorough inspections and clear communication gave us confidence that we were meeting all health standards, allowing us to focus on delivering quality service to our customers," a local owner shared.

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/publichealth

Key highlights



1,300+ food safety inspections – ensuring safe dining for everyone



220+ public health wellbeing checks – maintaining hygiene and safety standards



107 tobacco test purchases – protecting young people from illegal sales



16 aquatic facility inspections – keeping pools safe and compliant



97 food complaint investigations – addressing hygiene concerns quickly



ABOVE Shae-Leigh from St Ivy Café receives valuable guidance from a Council Environmental Health Officer.



Finalists announced

The wait is over! We're excited to announce the finalists for the 2025 Business Awards.

The awards recognise outstanding businesses that demonstrate excellence, innovation and a strong commitment to our community.

Winners will be announced at the Business Awards night on Thursday 29 May at Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre. Tickets on sale from Monday 14 April – join us in celebrating our local businesses.



To see the full list of finalists and book your tickets, visit

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessAwards

Your insights matter

The Community Insights Study helps the City of Whittlesea track local trends to ensure our community remains a great place to live. Each survey explores different aspects of community life.

The next study opens Tuesday 29 April. Participants are randomly selected and will receive a letter or email with details. By taking part, you'll be helping us better understand residents' experiences.

Keep an eye on your inbox or mailbox – we appreciate your time and insights.



For more information, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityinsights



ABOVE Your feedback at community pop-ups, focus groups or through our Engage Whittlesea platform has played a key role in shaping Council's plans and priorities.

Have your say

Your voice matters. We're shaping the future of our community, and your feedback is helping review our vision and guide key plans that will shape Council's priorities over the next decade.

We'd like to thank everyone who provided feedback. Whether you contributed at a community pop-up, participated in a focus group, or engaged through our Engage Whittlesea platform, your input has played a key role in shaping our draft plans.

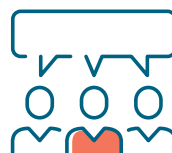
The following draft documents will soon be available for your feedback:

- Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-29
- Financial Plan 2026-35
- 2025-26 Budget.

Work is also continuing on our new Community Plan. We expect to have this available for your feedback in June/July.

Engagement that has helped shape these plans

More than **1000** people told us what their priorities are



3 community focus groups were held in February



To have your say, visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Have your say
Sign up and help shape our community

engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au



What's on this season

These events may be subject to change – please check whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events for the latest information.

Know your City bus tour – Positive Ageing Program

Friday 2 May, 9.30am–3pm

Our bus tours are designed to provide people aged over 50 with an opportunity to explore the offerings available within the City of Whittlesea. Whether you are a lifelong resident of the City of Whittlesea or have just moved to the area, our tour offers you a chance to discover hidden gems like walking trails.

To book, call 9217 2170 and press option 4.



Learn more about upcoming sessions at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LEAP



Bringing Up Kids

Wednesday 7 May, 10am–1pm
Lalor Library, 2A May Road, Lalor
FREE

The Bringing Up Kids event will bring together local community agencies to provide a day of fun and information on their services, programs and events offered in the City of Whittlesea for your family and children. A wide range of activities for children will be provided on the day.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events to register.

For general information email familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Scraps to Soil – Compost Festival

Saturday 10 May, 9am–12pm
Creeds Farm Living and Learning Centre
2 Snugburgh Way, Epping

Learn how food scraps become garden gold. A free morning of fun workshops, tasty no-waste meal prep tips and a deep dive into the magic of composting. Plus, fun activities for the kids.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events to register.



IDAHOBIT celebration

Thursday 15 May 1.30pm–3.30pm
Council Offices, Great Hall,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Join us as we mark International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Hear from Archie Beetle, Founder and CEO of Queer Town, on being a good ally, and enjoy face painting, a photo booth and light refreshments.



Registration essential. whittlesea.vic.gov.au/IDAHOBIT-Celebration

PRACC on show

Plenty Ranges Art and Convention Centre
35 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang



Victoria Mantynen – Morning Melodies

Wednesday 7 May, 11am

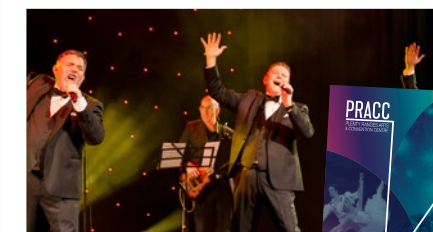
Join the incredible Victoria Mantynen as she pays tribute to the unforgettable songs from musical theatre. Showcasing songs from *Les Miserables*, *Chess*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Showboat*, *Oliver* and more.



CAPOW Moments of Magic

Friday 20 June, 7pm

Join us for an intimate, funky soiree celebrating our rich creative, cultural community. From performers to visual artists, to musicians, to digital artists and everything in between and beyond.



Tenori Morning Melodies

Wednesday 2 July, 11am

Tenori's singers David Kidd, Stewart Morris and Andrew Pryor bring fun and sophistication to classics from the worlds of Opera, Musical Theatre, Jazz and everything in between.



Book your tickets at pracc.com.au



PRACC

PLENTY RANGES ARTS
& CONVENTION CENTRE

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM 2025



TRASH TEST DUMMIES

School holiday show
TUESDAY 15 APRIL, 11AM



COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW

THURSDAY 8 MAY, 7.30PM



RACHEL BECK

Both Sides, Morning Melodies
WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE, 11AM



FRITZ

School holiday event
THURSDAY 10 JULY, 11AM



CRESCENDO

A Classical Music Showcase
WEDNESDAY 20 AUGUST, 7PM



SWAN LAKE

by the Victorian State Ballet
SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM



35 Ferres Boulevard,
South Morang
✉ info@pracc.com.au
☎ (03) 9217 2317
🌐 pracc.com.au

Box Office Hours:
9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday

Stay connected
📱 @plentyrangesarts



**City of
Whittlesea**