

AUGUST 2025

# 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 19 August, 6pm**

**Tuesday 23 September, 6pm**

**Tuesday 21 October, 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.

♻️ Printed on PEFC™ certified paper using vegetable inks.

 **Free telephone interpreter service**  
**131 450**

## Your Councillors



**Mayor Cr Martin Taylor**  
South Morang Ward  
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martin.taylor@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



**Deputy Mayor Cr Daniela Zinni**  
Bundoora Ward  
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daniela.zinni@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



**Cr David Lenberg**  
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**Cr Lawrie Cox**  
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**Cr Deb Gunn**  
Painted Hills Ward  
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Thomastown Ward  
☎ 0400 752 042  
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**Kirrip Ward**  
Vacant

**Lalor Ward**  
Vacant

Visit our website to find out which ward you live in and who is your local Councillor.

🌐 **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Councillors**

## COVER STORY



**ABOVE** The Aboriginal Gathering Place at bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills will promote reconciliation and healing.

# New space opening soon

The Aboriginal Gathering Place at bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills will stand as a testament to years of community-led persistence and advocacy when it opens in the coming months.

Construction of the Aboriginal Gathering Place has entered its final stages and the centre will soon begin offering activities, programs and services to First Peoples and the wider community.

Located on Wurundjeri Country, the Aboriginal Gathering Place is fully funded by the City of Whittlesea and an important part of its long-held commitment to reconciliation and self-determination.

The centre features a range of multipurpose spaces, including large community events spaces, consulting suites and quiet rooms inside, and an amphitheatre and yarning circle outside.

The building and landscape designs honour the First Peoples' enduring cultural and spiritual connection to its location within the bunjil nganga Parkland.

Reaching this point would not have been possible without the advocacy of Elders, mob and the Whittlesea Reconciliation Group and Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group over more than 20 years.

That spirit of community-based collaboration will continue after the centre opens, guiding the support offered to improve cultural, health, education and employment outcomes for First Peoples.

In late May, Council launched a two-month community consultation process calling for input from residents to inform the types of activities, programs and services available.

City of Whittlesea Mayor, Councillor Martin Taylor said establishing the Aboriginal Gathering Place was a

monumental achievement of which the community should be proud.

*"The Aboriginal Gathering Place is the culmination of many, many years of hard work and I want to thank everyone who has been involved for their dedication."*

– Mayor, Councillor Martin Taylor

"It is because of this advocacy that we will soon have a safe and inclusive space for our community to connect, share knowledge and promote reconciliation and healing," he said.



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

## Inside this edition



**Playground ready to make a big splash**



**Don't waste your good intentions**

**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

**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 Martin Taylor

### Welcome to the August edition of Local Scoop.

As Mayor of the City of Whittlesea, I am pleased to share with you some of the key highlights and developments that continue to shape our vibrant and growing community.

Over the past few months, my fellow Councillors and I have had the privilege of being out and about across the municipality. From attending local events to engaging in meaningful conversations at our monthly Coffee with Council and newly launched Connect with Council forums, these opportunities to hear directly from you, our residents, are at the heart of our commitment to responsive, community led leadership.

We recently adopted several significant documents that will guide the future of our city, including the Community Vision, 2025-26 Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan, and our 10 Year Asset Plan. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation process. Your feedback was instrumental in shaping these plans and ensuring they reflect the needs and aspirations of our diverse community.

We are now seeking your feedback on the draft Community Plan, a four-year roadmap that will set out Council's priorities and actions. I encourage everyone to get involved and help shape the future of our city. Details on how you can participate are available on page 5.

I am excited to see across the municipality, exciting projects are progressing, including the recent opening of the upgraded Hill Top Splash Park and Playground in Doreen, and the commencement of stage two of the Mernda Regional Sports Precinct. These initiatives underscore our commitment to investing in spaces that promote connection, wellbeing, and an active lifestyle for all.

As we look forward to the warmer months of spring, I invite you to explore our events calendar, there's always something to see, experience, and enjoy across the City of Whittlesea. And if you are looking for something truly unique, I encourage you to experience the wonder of Walking Thomastown, a community celebration you can learn more about on the back page.

Mayor Cr Martin Taylor

# Councillors out and about



ABOVE Cr Brooks and Mayor Cr Taylor at the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival in Thomastown.



ABOVE Deputy Mayor Cr Zinni, Cr Lenberg and Mayor Cr Taylor at the Gorge Road streetscape opening event; Mayor Cr Taylor at the Whittlesea Bakehouse, winners of Australia's best sausage roll.



ABOVE Mayor Cr Taylor at Thomastown Neighbourhood House; Cr Colwell and Cr Stow chat to residents at Coffee with Council in Mill Park.



ABOVE Mayor Cr Taylor and Cr Gunn join with State Member for Yan Yean Lauren Kathage and Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell on a visit to the upgraded Hill Top Splash Park and Playground; Cr Lappin and Cr Lenberg join grant recipients to celebrate Council's Community Grants program; Cr Cox and Mayor Cr Taylor attend a citizenship ceremony.



## COMMUNITY PLAN

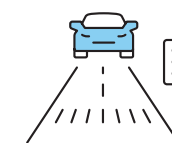


Whittlesea  
2040  
*A place for all*

# Your voices are helping shape our Community Plan

Reflecting our community's hopes, priorities and aspirations for our city over the next four years, the draft Community Plan 2025-29 has been developed following months of community engagement.

More than 1,300 people have taken part in online surveys, in-person conversations or detailed and deliberative focus groups, telling us what matters most to you for our city. This is what you told us:



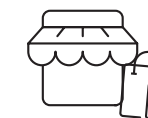
Roads, transport and footpaths



Arts, culture and events



Parks, playgrounds and open space



Support for local business



Community facilities



Ageing well and youth services



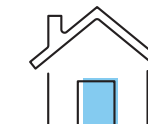
Community safety



Waste management



Health and wellbeing



Housing

These priorities have set the foundation for this plan and what we will deliver over the next four years.

## Have your say

Our draft Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26, which also incorporates our Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, is currently open for your feedback.

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the 12 themes presented and the strategic priorities that have been identified for each.

You can come and see us at one of our community pop-ups across the municipality, or you can provide your feedback online.

Consultation closes on 31 August.

Visit our Engage platform to have a read of the plans, find a pop-up location and provide your feedback.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityplan](https://engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityplan)



## PROJECT UPDATES



### Reid Street car park upgrade

The Reid Street car park in South Morang is set for an upgrade, with more parking, better lighting and added shade on the way.

The project will expand the car park to 85 spaces, replace existing lights with energy efficient LEDs and add new trees to provide natural shade. Works are due to be completed in the coming months.

This project follows the recent completion of the Gorge Road streetscape upgrade, further improving access and the look and feel of the area.



### Darebin Creek Trail lighting

Late evening and early morning runs, walks and rides are now safer along the Darebin Creek Trail in Epping, between Cooper Street and Greenbrook Drive, thanks to new solar lighting. Twelve lights have been installed so far, with plans to add three more along the shared user path.

The improved lighting helps people clearly see the path ahead, making it easier to navigate and reducing the risk of trips and collisions. It also gives trail users a greater sense of safety and freedom to enjoy the area outside of daylight hours.



### Sporting net upgrades

New and improved sporting nets are helping make local games safer and more enjoyable.

A ball-catching fence has been installed at RGC Cook Reserve in Thomastown and the cricket nets at Olivine Recreation Reserve in Donnybrook and AF Walker Reserve in Whittlesea have both been extended.

At Olivine, the roof of the cricket nets was extended by three metres and AF Walker saw a three-metre extension to its nets, both improving protection for players and spectators.



### Whittlesea Township Park upgrades

Whittlesea Township Park is now easier for people of all ages to enjoy thanks to some recently completed upgrades.

The works include a new 10-metre concrete bridge over the Plenty River, 620 metres of concrete-shared paths, improved lighting and signage and accessible routes for emergency vehicles and people walking, running, cycling, or using prams or mobility aids.

*The Victorian Government, through its Growing Suburbs Fund, matched Council's \$500,000 contribution to the project.*



### Peter Hopper Lake

Works at Peter Hopper Lake are progressing well, with major components like the sedimentation pond, drainage works and island construction nearing completion.

Additional silt removal is expected to begin shortly, with the pump well to be finalised once this stage is complete.

The project is tracking well overall and is expected to be completed later in the year.

*This activity is funded by the City of Whittlesea and the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program.*



### Hendersons Creek Wetland Park and Playground

Residents can now enjoy a brand new play and recreation space at Hendersons Creek Wetlands next to The Promenade in South Morang.

The upgrade includes a modern playground, fitness equipment, a sheltered seating area and natural play elements. The pathways, including the shared user path connection to The Lakes Boulevard and pedestrian crossing, are complete.

*This project was funded by the Victorian Government via the Open Space for Everyone – Better Parks and Playgrounds Program.*

## MAJOR PROJECTS



**ABOVE** Amelia and Sophie are excited to explore the upgrades at Hill Top Splash Park and Playground in Doreen.

## Playground ready to make a big splash

Having provided feedback on draft plans to upgrade the Hill Top Splash Park and Playground, sisters Amelia and Sophie couldn't wait to road test the new features. And the verdict? It's fair to say it exceeded expectations.

The \$2.6 million upgrade of the park in Landano Way, Doreen was recently completed, delivering a modern, family-friendly precinct in tranquil surroundings.

One of the major attractions is a new 150 square metre splash pad containing jets, misters and other water-based features. However, visitors will have to wait patiently for the warmer weather to arrive later in the year before the water features become operational.

In the meantime, there is still plenty to keep children of all ages occupied, with the large new playground featuring an array of slides and swings, climbing nets, a trampoline, cubby and much more. The upgraded park has a focus on nature play, with a trail, balance logs, boulders and steppers installed under the park's established trees.

A new shelter with picnic tables ensures parents can sit in comfort and watch their children play, while a car park extension, public toilet and Changing Places facility for people with higher needs rounds out the additions.

Amelia and Sophie's mum Steph said while the park was already a favourite with her family, the upgrade would see them visit even more regularly.

*"The girls have been really keen to see it finished because they took part in the [community consultation] and voted on some of the features."*

*– Steph, local resident and mum*

"It's just so nice to have spaces like this where you can go as a family and get off your screens," she said.

*The project was funded by the City of Whittlesea with support from the Australian Government through \$1.5 million from its Investing in Our Communities Program and the Victorian Government through \$500,000 from its Open Space for Everyone – Better Parks and Playgrounds Program.*



For more information, visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects)



**ABOVE** Bowie explores the new off-leash dog park at Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor.

## Dog parks deliver a barking good time

**The completion of two dog park projects in Lalor and Wollert has set tails wagging among the canine community.**

Dog owners and their pooches are enjoying the benefits of a new off-leash park at Allumba Park in Wollert and an upgraded off-leash park at Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor.

Visitors to Allumba Park can take their pets off-lead in a fully fenced area with a quiet zone, shelters, drinking fountains, park furniture and garden beds.

The upgraded park at Whittlesea Public Gardens also features a fully fenced area containing a quiet zone, improved surfaces, shelters, drinking fountains, new furniture and landscaping.

The City of Whittlesea currently has 13 off-leash dog parks across the municipality, providing dogs and their owners a perfect place to stay active, have fun and connect with fellow pet lovers.

*The Allumba Park project received \$500,000 and the Whittlesea Public Gardens project \$340,000 from the Victorian Government's Open Space for Everyone – New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program. The City of Whittlesea contributed \$80,000 to the Whittlesea Public Gardens dog park project.*

To find your nearest dog park visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/dogparks](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/dogparks)



For more information on our major projects visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects)





ABOVE An investigation into the illegally dumped household items on McDonalds Road, Epping is underway.

# Our waste taskforce in action

*We Love Where We Live* and we all agree that illegally dumped rubbish is unsafe, unfair and expensive for everyone to manage.

## That's why we launched a dedicated waste taskforce earlier this year.

We're taking strong action, with a targeted response around hotspots and our much-loved streets, parks, roadsides and other open spaces.

## What we're doing

Since our waste taskforce began in February, we've:

- ✓ Reduced dumped rubbish collection times for completed investigations to just two days
- ✓ Inspected more than 6,750 properties through targeted, unannounced compliance checks
- ✓ Issued 129 notices to offenders to clean up their waste
- ✓ Issued \$68,183 in extra fines for non-compliance with clean up notices.

With more than 200 reports of dumped rubbish each week, our coordinated approach includes investigation officers, enforcement teams and operational clean-up crews, as well as teams working on education.

Investigations can be complicated but with witnesses in the community, doorbell or security camera footage, Council's CCTV and other information from community reports we can often track the waste back to the offender.

At the same time, we're on the front foot supporting you to get your waste to the right place by:

- ✓ Launching an ongoing education campaign
- ✓ Distributing flyers about the two free hard rubbish collections each year in hotspot areas
- ✓ Updating our website to improve accessibility to waste information and services
- ✓ Promoting our range of free and discounted waste services to the community.

## Dumped rubbish

**See it** **Report it**

**Snap Send Solve app**  
**9217 2170**  
**whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter**



**LOVE**  
where we live

**Planning ahead is free. Dumping rubbish costs everyone.**

Discover the free and easy ways to get your waste to the right place.

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



ABOVE David discusses waste disposal with a kerbside compliance officer in Whittlesea.

# Don't waste your good intentions

David is one of many residents in the City of Whittlesea who has happily taken a minute to learn the right way to bin it.

Our kerbside compliance officers have been hitting the streets in recent months to help locals ensure their waste ends up in the right place.

Putting your item in the correct bin protects the environment, reduces costs and means less waste is sent to landfill as it can be recycled into new products and materials.

When things are put in the wrong bin, the whole bin can end up in landfill. Hazardous items, like batteries, can cause fires and damage collection trucks. The wrong thing in the wrong bin costs everyone.

Unfortunately, efforts to do the right thing sometimes go to waste. For example, we often see bagged recyclables in the recycling bin (yellow lid).

These items are treated as general rubbish and sent to landfill when they aren't loose.

David welcomed the opportunity to chat with one of our officers in Whittlesea.

*"It was great to get some positive feedback and it's awesome to know so many of our neighbours are doing the right thing too."*

– David

On rare occasions when a bin can't be emptied due to incorrect items, our officers will help you book a one-off collection after the contamination is removed.

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



ABOVE Samuel takes part in the nature strip garden program.

# Greening Whittlesea

**Trees add beauty to our streets, parks and backyards. But they also do so much more. Trees cool our neighbourhoods, clean our air, support native wildlife and create peaceful places for us all to live and play.**

On National Tree Day last month, we planted new trees in Brunton Park Conservation Area, Mernda. Residents across our city were invited to celebrate the day through community plantings, or by organising their own planting at home.

We're committed to increasing the number of trees in our community by 20 per cent by 2040. This goal is at the heart of *Greening Whittlesea*, our vision to grow a healthier, greener community together.

Everyone has a part to play. Whether you're planting a sapling at home, using leaves as free mulch, or taking care when gardening around street trees, every bit helps.

Ready to dig in? You're invited to plant your own tree at home to be part of the magic.

## Start by exploring tips on our tree hub.

We're building a place for your tree stories, your planting pledges, tips and advice, as well as our celebrated Favourite Tree Competition. Together, we're growing something amazing.

Scan the QR code or visit  
**engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/trees**





ABOVE City of Whittlesea Youth Mayor Kaynat speaks about leadership with Ash (left) and Nandana (right).

# Empowering young women to lead and make change

Confidence. Connection. Leadership. These are just some of the outcomes of the Young Women's Leadership Program, run by the City of Whittlesea.

This free, 10-week program is open to young women aged 14 to 20. It helps participants build confidence, develop leadership skills, and connect with others in a safe and supportive space.

The program includes workshops, group discussions and guest speakers from the local community. Topics include women in leadership, gender equality, mental health, healthy relationships and self-confidence. You will learn useful skills, share ideas and hear from inspiring women who are making a difference.

*"The Young Women's Leadership Program gave me a safe space to reflect, share and learn. It opened up conversations we don't often get to have and gave me the confidence to use my voice and grow into a better version of myself."*

– Kaynat, Youth Mayor

Since 2019, 62 young women have participated, with many taking on leadership roles in City of Whittlesea programs like the Youth Council or community events.

In 2025, former participant Kaynat became City of Whittlesea Youth Mayor – a great example of what's possible.

"As Youth Mayor, I carry those lessons with me and I believe this is an experience every young woman should have," she said.

Whether you're looking to grow your confidence, further develop your leadership skills, or build lasting friendships, this program is for you.

Register for the Term 4 program by emailing [youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:youth@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)



Follow @whittleseayouth on Instagram to stay updated on opportunities and programs to support young people.

## Fun way to make friends

Looking to meet new people, give back to your community, or just get out and have some fun?

The City of Whittlesea's Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC PYP) is offering exciting new activities, and we are looking for both volunteers and participants to get involved.

It's a great way to build friendships, improve wellbeing and feel more connected.



### Upcoming programs:

- **Cinemagic** – catch a movie at Village Cinemas and enjoy lunch and conversation.
- **Lunch and Learn** – share ideas, learn something new and enjoy a great meal.
- **One-on-one outings** – go for a walk, coffee or visit with someone who prefers quieter catch-ups.

### Become a volunteer

Volunteers help make the activities welcoming and fun. You could be a friendly face, a good listener, or just someone who cares. Volunteers must be 15 years or older.

To learn more visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/HACCPYP](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/HACCPYP)

# Mernda sports hub brings the game to players

The regional sports precinct in Mernda is poised to provide a welcome home-ground advantage to future generations of players.

Conveniently located off Plenty Road, the precinct will be a central hub for people from across the region to play the sports they love close to home.

The precinct's second stage is underway and will deliver an indoor stadium with multipurpose sports courts and outdoor netball courts with lighting.

There will also be a range of supporting infrastructure for players and staff, including changerooms, reception, outdoor pavilion, car park and landscaping.

We know many participants, including junior girls and boys, are currently having to travel outside the municipality to play popular sports like netball and basketball.

Whittlesea local and rising Melbourne Vixens star Tara Watson knows how

difficult it can be to have to travel long distances simply to train and play.

"Having this just down the road for all the kids in the future will be amazing and I think it's a great, positive step for the future of netball," she said.

*"I think the precinct will definitely help inspire young girls, and young boys as well, to play netball."*

– Tara

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



For more information, visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects)

BELOW The new regional sports precinct in Mernda will offer more opportunities for locals to stay active and enjoy sport close to home.



ABOVE Jack with Ginger the pony and equine therapist Adrienne.

## A dose of Ginger helps students

Ginger the pony is proving to be a hit with students at Donnybrook Primary School as part of their new Equine Assisted Learning program.

With the support of a City of Whittlesea Community Grant, the new program is helping target students' social and emotional needs as they interact with Ginger.

Working with a skilled facilitator, students work on a range of skills including self-regulation, expressing feelings and needs, boundaries and healthy relationships.

School Principal Dave Williams said many of the students show calmer behaviour in the classrooms, are better able to solve problems and more able to express their thoughts and emotions.

"The program has benefited a wide range of students including a number of students who are neurodiverse, and many students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds," he said.

"We're incredibly grateful to have received a Community Grant from the City of Whittlesea this year."



To find out more information, scan the QR code or visit

[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants)



# Budget to deliver for *our* community

Improvements to roads, parks and open space, community safety and support for young people, older adults and local businesses are just some of the key services and projects to be delivered as part of the City of Whittlesea's 2025-2026 Budget.

**The Budget provides \$111 million to build, upgrade or expand key infrastructure across our city, including:**

- ✓ The next stage of construction of the regional sports precinct in Mernda
- ✓ Completion of the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook
- ✓ Upgrade of Peter Hopper Lake in Mill Park
- ✓ Commence the upgrade of Huskisson Reserve multipurpose facility
- ✓ Delivery of local road restoration and resurfacing
- ✓ Ongoing road and playground upgrades across the municipality.

**Extensive community consultation helped shape the Budget, with more than 1,100 community members sharing their views through online surveys, pop-up sessions, focus groups and formal submissions.**

## We have invested in your top five priorities:



**\$57m**  
for roads, public transport advocacy and footpaths



**\$51m**  
for parks, playground and open space



**\$50m**  
for recreational, leisure and community facilities



**\$8m**  
for community safety



**\$2m**  
for arts, culture and events



For more information on the Budget 2025-26 scan the QR code or visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/budget](https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/budget)



## Caring for our pets

**Thank you to everyone who provided their feedback or participated in a community focus group to help us shape the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-30.**

We're currently using your feedback to develop the draft plan. We will then share the draft plan for further community feedback later this year.



Find out more by scanning the QR code or visit [engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/DAMP26](https://engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/DAMP26)

# Adventure awaits in your backyard

Looking for something fun and different to do on your weekends? Whether you're up for adventure, keen to try new foods, or just want to hang out, the City of Whittlesea has some hidden gems to explore.



**Adventure outdoors**  
Pack a picnic and go exploring! Walk the trails at Yan Yean Reservoir or take in the views at Kinglake National Park. It's the perfect time of year to get outside and enjoy nature.



**Eat your way around town**  
Grab a bite at one of the tasty spots on the local food trails. Find your new favourite café – there's so much to discover.



**Hit the market**  
Head to the Whittlesea Monday Market for a fun morning out. There's fresh food, cool handmade products and even pony rides and an animal farm on public holidays – perfect for families.



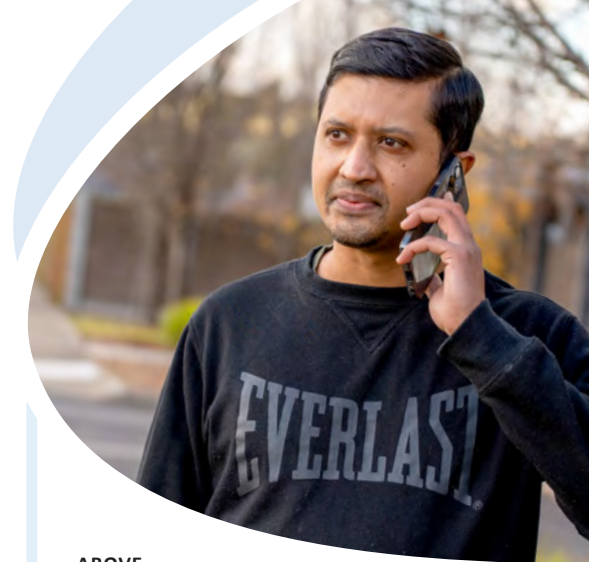
**Step back in time**  
Check out Ziebell's Farmhouse – it's like walking into the 1850s. With old buildings and pretty gardens, it's a great place to learn about the area's German pioneer history.



**Get creative**  
From art exhibitions to hands-on workshops, the City of Whittlesea has plenty of ways to get inspired. Keep an eye out for public art and local events that show off our amazing community talent.



Plan your next adventure in the City of Whittlesea, scan the QR code or visit [explore.whittlesea.com.au](https://explore.whittlesea.com.au)



**ABOVE**  
Local resident Rahman contributes valuable insights to help improve mobile black spot coverage in the area.

# Better phone and internet for everyone

**The City of Whittlesea is working hard to make phone and internet services better for all residents.**

Many people who live, work or play in our local area have problems with mobile coverage and internet that drops out. Some schools, health centres and busy roads even have no service at all.

This makes it hard to study, work, run a business, or call for help in an emergency.

That's why we're asking the State and Federal governments and phone companies to:

- Fix black spots where there is no coverage
- Improve service in homes, businesses and along major roads
- Make sure phone towers keep working during power outages.

We need your help to show the impact this is having on our community. Sharing your experience can help us fight for better services for everyone in Whittlesea.



To have your say, scan the QR code or visit [engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/telco](https://engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/telco)



**ABOVE** The Darebin Creek play area is a great space to explore with children.





ABOVE Help keep our furry friends at wat djerring happy with your donations of toys and bedding.

# Paws for thought

Have you got old towels or bedding lying around that you no longer need? The wat djerring Animal Facility needs donations to help with the pets in their care.

## We're looking for donations of:

- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Towels, facewashers or microfibre cloths
- ✓ Blankets, bedding, sheets and pillowcases (no pillows or doonas)
- ✓ Pet toys or pre-loved teddies in good condition
- ✓ Pet bedding (preferably washed)
- ✓ Pet food/treats.

Your generosity makes a world of difference to animals in need. Any donations can be dropped off at 20 Companion Place, Epping during opening hours.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/AnimalFacility](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/AnimalFacility)



## Help keep our footpaths safe and clear

We all want our streets to be safe and easy to walk along. One way we can help is by keeping plants and trees on our property trimmed, so they don't block the footpath.

If branches or bushes grow over the path, it can be hard for people, especially those using prams, mobility aids or walking with kids, to get by safely.

Trees and plants also shouldn't hang lower than 2.5 metres over footpaths or drop fruit and leaves that could cause someone to slip.

We encourage everyone to check their gardens regularly and trim back anything growing onto footpaths.

Let's work together to keep our neighbourhoods clean, safe and welcoming for all.

For more information, call 9217 2170, or visit  
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LocalLaw](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LocalLaw)

## What's on this season



### Monthly morning tea at Thomastown Library

From 11am, every Monday (except during the school holidays)  
**Thomastown Library, 52 Main Street, Thomastown**

Come along to our free monthly morning teas hosted by Thomastown Library and Thomastown Neighbourhood House and enjoy a short guest talk and plenty of conversations. Everyone's welcome.



Visit the YPRL website for more details  
[ypri.vic.gov.au/events](https://ypri.vic.gov.au/events)

### Growling Frog 20-year anniversary

Saturday 30 August  
**Growling Frog Golf Course, 1910 Donnybrook Road, Yan Yean**

Known for its inclusive programs and welcoming atmosphere, the Frog invites everyone to a free community golf day. Join the fun and discover why it is one of the City of Whittlesea's most treasured assets.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events)



### Seniors Festival

Thursday 2 October  
**Seniors Festival Launch**

The City of Whittlesea hosts many events and activities during October for the Seniors Festival. There is something for all ages and abilities. Join in the fun!



Scan the QR code or visit  
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival)



### Emergency Services Expo and Blessing of the Fleet

Saturday 4 October, 10am–12pm  
**Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre 35 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang**

Bring the whole family for a fun and free day out at the Emergency Services Expo, featuring the 29th Annual Blessing of the Fleet.

- Explore emergency vehicles
- Meet local heroes
- Watch live demos
- Enjoy kids' activities and giveaways.



Scan the QR code or visit  
[whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events)

## PRACC on show

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



### Crescendo A Classical Music Showcase

Wednesday 20 August, 7pm

Experience an unforgettable evening of exceptional musical artistry as local classical musicians take the stage in the breathtaking recital *Crescendo*.



### Swan Lake by the Victorian State Ballet

Saturday 20 September, 7.30pm

With a cast of internationally recognised artists, *Swan Lake* is choreographed by Victorian State Ballet's director Michelle Sierra. Don't miss this unforgettable experience set to Tchaikovsky's score.



### Danielle Matthews Morning Melodies

Wednesday 1 October, 11am

Award-winning vocalist Danielle Matthews sings the hit songs of the legendary Shirley Bassey, including *Goldfinger* and *Diamonds Are Forever*.



Book your tickets at  
[pracc.com.au](https://pracc.com.au)

## HOW TO SPOT AND AVOID SCAMS.



## Stay safe from scams

Learn how to spot scams and report them, in your language.

Scamwatch, an Australia Government initiative, has developed a range of free resources in 22 languages to help you and your loved ones stay safe from scams.

Visit [scamwatch.gov.au/translated](https://scamwatch.gov.au/translated) or call 131 450 to use an interpreter.







City of  
Whittlesea



# WALKING THOMASTOWN

30 AUGUST 2025  
6PM - 9PM

From Main Street Recreation Reserve to  
Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden

- live music and entertainment • cultural performances
- art and light installations • lantern making and more

 [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/walkingthomastown](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/walkingthomastown)

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inc.

THOMASTOWN  
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
the heart of our community

Thomastown  
Recreation &  
Aquatic Centre

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REGIONAL LIBRARY