

OCTOBER 2025

Local Scoop

Your City of Whittlesea news

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elected to the
Lalor ward**

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major projects**

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**Piecing the waste
puzzle together**







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*Building
our community*

New centre opens soon Page 3

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 21 October, 6pm

Tuesday 18 November, 6pm


Tuesday 16 December, 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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 **Free telephone
interpreter service
131 450**

Your Councillors



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martin.taylor@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



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Bundoora Ward
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Cr Lawrie Cox
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☎ 9438 8082
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Cr Nic Brooks
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☎ 0400 752 042
nicholas.brooks@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Kirrip Ward
Vacant

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

Inside this edition



**Show of strength –
Community Grants program**



**Piecing the waste
puzzle together**

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

COVER STORY



COVER Local residents Dasham, Sonia and their children, Anhad and Abeer, are looking forward to the opening of the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook.
ABOVE Anhad and Abeer are excited to explore the library – just one of the many services that will operate out of the centre.

Centre to bring sense of belonging to community

Anticipation is building among Donnybrook residents as construction of the Murnong Community Centre nears completion. The \$11.4 million facility, located at 183 Olivine Boulevard, will cater to the rapidly growing suburb.

The multipurpose centre will offer lots of community services at low or no cost, including a mini-branch library giving residents access to Yarra Plenty Regional Library's extensive catalogue, as well as free Wi-Fi and flexible spaces to work, study, connect and relax.

Community groups and residents will be able to hold events or programs in either a large community hall or one of the multipurpose activity rooms.

The centre will also have a Changing Places facility to support people with high care needs, and an accessible public toilet available seven days a week.

Two kindergarten rooms will help meet the need for three- and four-year-old kinder, while Maternal and Child Health Services will be delivered from two consultation suites.

Local resident Nimi has lived in Donnybrook for two-and-a-half years with her husband Raj, son Dasham, daughter-in-law Sonia and grandchildren Anhad and Abeer.

She said her multi-generational family was looking forward to the sense of belonging and connection the centre would provide the community.

"There is a lot of expectation among people I talk to because we are looking for those spaces and that sense of belonging," she said.

"It will mean so much to have a place that is ours where we can run small events and workshops and enjoy that connectivity."

– Nimi, Donnybrook resident

Construction of the Murnong Community Centre is expected to finish by the end of the year and will open in early 2026.

Council has contributed \$4 million towards the centre, with the remainder funded by Victorian Government grants.

These include \$4.5 million from the Building Blocks Capital Grants Program, \$2 million from the Growing Suburbs Fund, \$709,500 from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program and \$180,000 from the Changing Places Program.



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



Message from the Mayor

Cr Martin Taylor

Welcome to the October edition of Local Scoop.

This month we welcome Cr Michael Labrador, who has joined us as the new Councillor for the Lalor Ward. Serving as a Councillor is both a privilege and a responsibility, providing a unique opportunity to represent and advocate for our community. On behalf of Council, I extend my congratulations to Cr Labrador. We look forward to working together to continue delivering the essential services, facilities, and opportunities our growing community needs. You can learn more about Cr Labrador on page 5.

I would also like to thank everyone who provided feedback on our draft Community Plan 2025–29 and Community Action Plan 2025–26. The Community Plan sets out Council's strategic priorities for the next four years, while the Action Plan focuses on what we will deliver in the first year. These plans will be presented at the October Council Meeting for endorsement, and I encourage you to read more about how community feedback has shaped these important documents on page 14.

Council's Waste Taskforce continues to address the challenge of illegally dumped rubbish across our municipality. With more than 200 reports each week, we are responding with a coordinated effort involving investigation officers, enforcement teams and cleanup crews. If you come across dumped rubbish, please report it at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter – it's quick, simple and makes a real difference.

As the weather warms, I encourage you to enjoy the wonderful parks, playgrounds, and open spaces across our City. Whether it's walking and cycling trails, play spaces for families, or tranquil reserves, there is something for everyone. A highlight is the newly opened Hill Top Playground and Splash Park, which is already proving popular with families.

Finally, to stay connected with all that is happening across the municipality including major projects, events, and community engagement opportunities I encourage you to subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/enews.

Mayor Cr Martin Taylor

Councillors out and about



ABOVE Cr Cox and Mayor Cr Taylor at Teej Mela.



ABOVE Deputy Mayor Cr Zinni and Cr Lappin; Deputy Mayor Cr Zinni at National Tree Day; Cr Colwell at NAIDOC week.



ABOVE Cr Cox at Coffee with Council in Mernda; Deputy Mayor Cr Zinni, Mayor Cr Taylor and Cr Gunn at the National General Conference Canberra.



ABOVE Cr Lenberg, Cr Brooks and Cr Stow at Coffee with Council in Thomastown.



ABOVE Cr Michael Labrador was recently elected to represent the Lalor Ward.

New Councillor elected to the Lalor ward

Michael Labrador was recently elected to represent the Lalor Ward for the remainder of the current Council term. A by-election was held following a VCAT decision in May that the result for this ward in last year's Local Government elections was void.

“Having lived in the City of Whittlesea my whole life, I am deeply moved by the needs of our growing municipality.

As our population grows, I am highly interested in ensuring that everyone who lives here is proud of the area they live in and has a vested interest in the future and success of our community.

I am especially interested in uplifting our poverty-stricken, our hungry, our at-risk populations, our elderly and people with a disability, and our First-Nations populations.

Our community will be defined by our response to these groups.

"I want to ensure that everybody has the opportunity to aspire for a better life in the City of Whittlesea."

My love for the marginalised is reflected in my faith as a Christian, in my career as a physiotherapist helping to build people up, and as a parent who would love to see my children grow up to love every neighbour well.



Connect with Council

Information session for new residents

New to the City of Whittlesea?

Register your interest to learn more about your community, Council, and local services at our next new residents' information session.

Scan the QR code to register.



Sign up for

Your City of Whittlesea
e-news

Stay up to date on all the latest news with our monthly e-newsletters.



Subscribe at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/enews

PROJECT UPDATES



Reid Street car park upgrade

The Reid Street car park upgrade, behind the Gorge Road shops in South Morang is nearing completion, bringing more accessible parking for the local community.

The project includes expanding the car park, installing new lighting and improving pedestrian access. Additional works include new drainage, entry and exit points, landscaping, a loading zone and clear signage and line marking. These improvements will make it easier and safer for people visiting nearby community facilities and services.



Hillview Recreation Reserve upgrade

Recent lighting and surface upgrades at Hillview Recreation Reserve in Bundoora are delivering brighter nights and better play for the local community. New energy-efficient lighting is delivering improved visibility and supporting more evening use.

The synthetic soccer pitch has also been upgraded, providing a more durable, consistent and high-quality surface for players of all ages and abilities. These improvements make the reserve more accessible and enjoyable for everyone who uses it.

The lighting upgrade was fully funded by Council, while the pitch replacement was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government, which contributed \$500,000.

For more information on our major projects visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



Foothills Park upgrade

The upgraded play space at Foothills Park in Epping is creating a more welcoming and accessible place for families to enjoy.

New equipment includes slides, a swing and a rocker, along with timber seats and updated picnic settings. The existing barbecue and shelter have also been refurbished, providing more comfortable spots to gather and relax.

A new concrete path and gravel paths now make it easier to move around the park. These upgrades enhance the park's usability for people of all ages and abilities.



Hibiscus Park upgrade

Hibiscus Park in Bundoora has been upgraded. A new concrete path links the north and southeast corners, improving access across the park.

A multi-use court has been added for basketball, netball and four corners, along with a nature play area and new trees to boost shade and greenery.

The upgraded playground includes slides, swings, spring rockers, a see-saw and a retained shade sail for toddlers.

A new shelter area with a barbecue, picnic setting, drinking fountain and bin completes the space.



French St Hall Neighbourhood House

French Street Hall Neighbourhood House in Lalor has a fresh new look, with upgrades making it more welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

The kitchen is now fully accessible and Disability Discrimination Act-compliant, making it easier to prepare meals for programs and events. A new hallway kitchenette gives visitors convenient access to tea and coffee, and the refurbished accessible toilet now includes a nappy change table and shower, making the venue more family-friendly.

The Neighbourhood House runs social groups, adult learning, and a weekly community lunch and food relief with St Vincent de Paul, providing a comfortable, accessible space for locals to connect and learn.



West Wollert Community Centre

Construction of the West Wollert Community Centre is progressing well, with wall and roof framing now underway following installation of services in the ground.

Set to open in late 2026, the centre will offer kindergarten rooms, Maternal and Child Health Services consulting spaces, a mini-branch library, community hall, kitchen, meeting rooms, gardens and outdoor areas.

Sustainability features include solar panels, rainwater harvesting and permeable paving.

The \$16.138 million project is jointly funded, with the City of Whittlesea contributing \$7,719,447, the Victorian Government \$8,250,000, and Melbourne Water \$168,663.

MAJOR PROJECTS



ABOVE Zoe and mum Leah are looking forward to a healthy Peter Hopper Lake.

Clear waters ahead

Living within walking distance of Peter Hopper Lake means that Leah and her daughter Zoe have been frequent visitors over the years.

They have seen the lake at its best, but too often at its worst, with long-standing water quality issues resulting in regular algae blooms.

As Council's project to revitalise the lake enters its final phases, the duo is looking forward to the lake returning to good health again.

"The lake is really a highlight of the local area when it's healthy – it's absolutely gorgeous. We're excited to go for walks and see the birds and have picnics."

– Leah, Mill Park

"There's not too many places you can go as a family and not spend money, so we're really looking forward to it reopening," said Leah, who is a member of the Friends of Peter Hopper Lake group.

Council's expert engineers and environmental scientists have worked with specialist consultants and are actioning a plan to improve water quality and end the cycle of algae blooms.

Completed last year, the first stage involved removing silt and other pollutants that had built up on the lakebed over many decades.

The second stage included the removal of the central island and construction of a gross pollutant trap to capture contaminants like rubbish and leaves before they enter the lake.

Installation of a sediment pond will also help prevent pollutants entering via stormwater, and aquatic plants and a raingarden will improve water quality by filtering the lake to remove excess nutrients.

An opening event is planned at the conclusion of the works.

The project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and the City of Whittlesea.



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

Intersection to drive better connections

The new signalised intersection at Plenty Road and Everton Drive in Mernda will deliver safer and smoother connections for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The project extended Everton Drive east to meet Plenty Road, easing congestion and improving access to local homes, schools, shops and community facilities.

It also provides direct access to the future regional sports precinct planned for the area and improves links to surrounding roads and shared paths.

The upgrade includes new traffic lights, pedestrian crossings and cycling infrastructure to improve safety and efficiency for all road users, and responds to the needs of Mernda's growing community, making everyday trips safer and faster.

The Victorian Government contributed \$5 million from its 2023 Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution Fund, with Council delivering the works in partnership with the State Government.

BELOW

The new intersection will provide safe and convenient access to the regional sports precinct.





ABOVE Brooklyn, Ibrahim, Alina, Tayla, Mildred and Rachel enjoy a recent Yarning Circle session.

Yarning Circle offers space to connect

The City of Whittlesea's weekly Yarning Circle is a welcoming space for First Peoples community members to come together, talk and connect in a culturally safe environment.

The Circle is held every Thursday morning at the Boori MCH Centre in Epping and will be one of the regular programs offered at the Aboriginal Gathering Place once it opens. It's a place to share stories, build relationships and strengthen community over a cuppa.

Yarning Circles are a long-standing tradition in many First Nations cultures. They centre on respectful listening, open conversation and connection through shared experience. The practice supports understanding, belonging and community-led healing.

For Karen, a proud Palawa woman, it's about connection and togetherness. A space to feel supported and heard.

Brooklyn, a proud Gamilaraay woman, says it's a chance to connect with other mums through culture.

"We do weaving, bracelet and jewellery making, use clap sticks with the children and talk about upcoming events like NAIDOC."

— Brooklyn

Each week, the conversation flows naturally, guided by the people in the room. There's no set agenda. Just a genuine chance to yarn, listen and be part of something meaningful.

Karen encourages anyone who hasn't been before to come along, especially families. She says it's a welcoming space for men too.

All First People community members are welcome to attend.



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

Programs for gathering space

With the Aboriginal Gathering Place at bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills nearing completion, focus has now shifted to the programs that will run once it opens.

The City of Whittlesea recently concluded a two-month consultation period in which residents provided their input into the types of programs they would like to see held at the Aboriginal Gathering Place.

Responses included programs, activities and services that:

- improve the health and wellbeing of First Nations communities
- share knowledge and empower people through social activities
- foster reconciliation, health and healing by improving access, equity and opportunity.

Council has conducted a number of programs this year, including Healthy Households, Employment Pathways, Thriving Together and Yarning Circle, to gauge interest in continuing these when the gathering place opens.

Opportunities for partnerships with education providers, registered training organisations, Aboriginal Community and Health Organisations are also being explored. Programs will be run out of the Aboriginal Gathering Place's range of indoor and outdoor multipurpose spaces, including large community events spaces, consulting suites and meeting rooms.

The Aboriginal Gathering Place, which is fully funded by Council, is expected to open to the public in the months ahead.

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



Artwork by Ash Firebrace, 2022

Show of strength

Fresh off winning the inaugural People's Choice Award at the 2025 Victorian Agricultural Shows Awards, this year's Whittlesea Show promises the perfect blend of education and entertainment.

Powered by volunteers from the Whittlesea Agricultural Society, and proudly supported by the City of Whittlesea's Community Grants program, the Show is held annually on the first full weekend in November.

The theme for this year's Show, which runs from 9am to 5pm on 1 and 2 November, is 'Careers in Agriculture'. It will feature fantastic food, free attractions and ample opportunities to feed your favourite farm animals.

Farm machinery and equipment from 1860-1950 will be on show and you will also be able to enjoy rides, market stalls, cooking and craft demonstrations, and live entertainment.

Whittlesea Agricultural Society president Jayson Munro said being recognised at the Victorian Agricultural Shows Awards

really illustrates how hard the volunteers at the Show work to bring this event together for the community every year.

"Without them, the Show simply would not happen," he said.

"The City of Whittlesea Community Grants program has been a wonderful support to the Whittlesea Show. This program has ensured we can continue this tradition and showcase our fantastic town and community to both locals and visitors."

— Jayson

"We are working hard to ensure the 2025 Whittlesea Show brings yet another year of traditional and fresh events and displays to ensure there is something for everyone."



You can find more Whittlesea Show information at whittleseashow.org.au
For details on our Community Grants program, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants

BELOW Whittlesea Agricultural Society president Jayson.



ABOVE Celebrate the colours of Diwali.

Festival of lights set to shine

Celebrate the Northern Diwali Festival with a vibrant display of cultural performances, food and entertainment.

Delivered by Mission Smile Inc, the festival has become a much-loved event on the community calendar.

"Northern Diwali offers a rich cultural experience for all ages, with energetic Bollywood dance workshops, colourful face painting and henna tattoos, fireworks, fire shows and roving circus acts," said Sunil Goel, President of Mission Smile Inc.

"It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy family-friendly entertainment, experience Indian culture, and connect with the local community in a lively, welcoming atmosphere."

This free event, now in its eighth year, is proudly supported by the City of Whittlesea and local businesses Metricon Homes and Bombay Real Estate.

"The City of Whittlesea's grants program has played a vital role in bringing Northern Diwali to life, ensuring the festival remains free and accessible to thousands of attendees each year."

For more information and to register for Diwali visit

trybooking.com/DEJFV
Saturday 18 October, 12pm-9pm
Civic Centre lawns
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Piecing the *waste* puzzle together

We Love Where We Live and we all care about keeping our streets clean and safe. That's why we are dedicated to investigating and taking action on illegally dumped rubbish.

We investigate:

- ✓ pre-loved household items dumped on kerbs and in parks
- ✓ renovation and building materials dumped in public spaces
- ✓ private waste companies dumping household or commercial waste
- ✓ donations left outside charity shops and bins that become waste.

Our team conducts regular patrols, surveillance, and enforcement, while also supporting residents with education, services, and advice on reducing waste and how to dispose of unwanted household items.

Earlier this year, we investigated a case of illegal dumping in Wollert, with three incidents occurring across Sturgeon Place, Bindts Road and Farmer Way. Community reports and CCTV helped us link all three to the same vehicle, but the licence plate wasn't clear.

On the third occasion, everything changed when a local resident captured a clear photo and reported it to the

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), who passed it on to us. That single image was the missing piece that helped us identify who was behind the illegal dumping.

We traced the vehicle to someone living outside the City of Whittlesea and issued fines for all three offences – \$1,185 each, totaling \$3,555.

This case shows the real power of community. When we work together, sharing information and reporting issues, we can help find all the pieces of a puzzle.

If you have any details of people dumping rubbish in our community, report it so that Council and the EPA can continue to hold polluters accountable.

Dumped rubbish

See it **Report it**



Snap Send Solve app



9217 2170



whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter

Fined **3 fines - total \$3,555**



Recycle your e-waste for free

Got a broken lamp, hair dryer, or other small household electrical items? E-waste, including unwanted or broken items with a plug, battery, or cord must not be placed in your household rubbish.

These items, like toasters, computers, and TVs, contain harmful materials that can pollute the environment. Recycling them helps protect the planet and recover valuable materials.

You can drop off your e-waste for free during opening hours to:

- ✓ Heidelberg Materials, 55 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert
- ✓ SRS Metals, 304 Mahoneys Road, Thomastown

Alternatively, you can visit one of the City of Whittlesea's regular e-waste collection events, where unwanted small electrical items can be dropped off for recycling. Our next pop-up event will be held on:

Wednesday 15 October, 11am-1pm
Whittlesea Showgrounds car park,
30 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Whittlesea

Rethink waste. Every item has a future.

Discover the right place for your waste with our A-Z waste guide at

✓ **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/a-zwaste**



ABOVE Electric vehicle owner Bandu tops up his car at a fast charging station in Lalor.

Lalor plugs in to fast EV charging

Electric vehicle (EV) drivers in the City of Whittlesea can now charge up quickly and conveniently in the heart of Lalor, thanks to a new fast charging station installed at 300 Station Street.

The charger can add up to 120 kilometres of range in just 15 minutes, making it ideal for quick top-ups while shopping, working, or visiting nearby services. It's a boost for local EV users and another step towards a cleaner, greener municipality.

Fast, accessible charging helps reduce range anxiety and encourages more people to switch to electric vehicles, which means cleaner air and lower carbon emissions for the whole community.

Local resident Bandu says the new station has already changed his routine.

"Before, I had to plan my day around charging stops further away," he said.

"I can quickly top up right here in Lalor while I do my shopping. It saves me so much time and makes owning an EV even more convenient."

– Bandu

The installation supports Council's commitment to sustainable transport and targets set out in our Climate Change Plan and Sustainable Environment Strategy.

It also adds to a growing network of chargers across the municipality, with more locations under consideration in Bundoora and at community facilities.



For details on EV charging stations across the municipality,
✓ **explore.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Plan-your-visit/EV-charging-stations**
To learn about Council's Climate Change Plan, scan the QR code or visit:
✓ **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Climate**

Helping homes go electric and save money

Looking to cut energy bills and stay cool this summer?

The City of Whittlesea has joined Solar Savers, connecting you with trusted, affordable suppliers for home energy upgrades.

Solar Savers makes it easy to upgrade your home. Through the service you can access:



split system heating/cooling



heat pump hot water



induction cooking



Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers



insulation and draught proofing



home batteries, rooftop solar and more.



For more information scan the QR code or visit
✓ **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/solar-savers**



City of Whittlesea

Solar SAVERS



ABOVE Council offers free desexing, microchipping and registration to support residents who care for stray cats.

Free care for furry freeloaders

Have you recently encountered a stray cat roaming the streets, and wondered how you can help them find their forever home?

The City of Whittlesea, with support from Animal Welfare Victoria, offers a free desexing, microchipping and one year of registration to support residents who care for cats that aren't officially theirs, but rely on them for food, shelter and safety.

Local resident Elizabeth and her family recently took up this offer after coming across a kitten at her local park.

"She was at a park near our street, and we decided to put out some food. She ended up coming to my house and walked through the gate and explored the backyard," said Elizabeth.

"She had no collar, nothing. That's when we started to worry that she was a stray."

"We heard that Council could assist in desexing stray cats and then we could adopt her. I was so happy to do it."

Now she's best friends with our other cat. Seeing her become part of the family has been beautiful."

– Elizabeth



If you can't adopt, Council can also help rehome strays through our animal care partners.

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

Our 24-hour cat confinement policy aims to create a safe and friendly environment for everyone. If you repeatedly see registered cats roaming, please let us know.

Know your weather risks and prepare ahead

While the weather might still be cool, it's a good time to start preparing for the upcoming summer season.

Below are some handy things to keep in mind:

Emergency preparedness

- **Have a plan ready**
Know what to do if there is a fire near you. Be aware of risks near nature reserves. Never drive towards smoke or fire, and keep roads clear for emergency services.
- **Home emergency checklist**
Have an emergency kit with essentials like a home emergency plan, first aid kit, torch, batteries, radio, phone chargers, important documents, medications, water, food and pet items.

Be aware of our prescribed burning program

Council and the Wurundjeri Narrap Rangers undertake planned burns to reduce fire risk. We publish the dates and locations for planned burns on our website and social media.

Emergency contacts

- Fire, Police, Ambulance: 000
- Flood and storm emergencies: 132 500

Stay updated

- Download the VicEmergency App
- For fire bans and ratings, visit cfa.vic.gov.au
- For floods and storms, visit ses.vic.gov.au

For more resources to help you stay safe, visit

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/emergency



ABOVE An artist impression of the planned intermodal hub at Beveridge.

Stage is set for freight hub

Delivery of the first stage of the transformative Beveridge Intermodal Precinct is on track after the approval of new planning controls in August.

The decision means that works commencing on Stage 1A of the project, which involves building a permanent rail connection to the freight corridor and an interim intermodal terminal, are a significant step closer.

The Beveridge Intermodal Precinct is located in the municipality's north-west and will be a freight and logistics hub adjoining the Melbourne-Albury-Sydney rail corridor.

The precinct is expected to contribute an estimated \$2.5 billion annually to the state's economy and deliver increased employment opportunities to the region.

The interim terminal, to be delivered by the Australian Government-owned National Intermodal Corporation, will be capable of handling up to two 1,800-metre interstate freight trains a day.

Council has long supported the precinct in recognition of its potential to support a growing population through valuable new jobs.

Council had made a submission to the Minister for Planning, who is responsible for the project, on the planning proposal, supporting the project however recommending that the planning controls be strengthened to manage traffic and environmental impacts.



ABOVE
Kinder is free to attend.

It's not too late to apply for kindergarten

The countdown to 2026 is on and there's still time to enrol your child in a kindergarten near you.

Places are available and it's free to apply and attend.

We are also excited to welcome families into two new learning spaces opening in January 2026:

- **Wirrigirri Kindergarten**
in Wollert, a brand-new purpose-built centre
- **Murnong Kindergarten**
in Donnybrook, with additional kinder rooms to meet the growing demand.

From creative play to early literacy, our kindergartens give children the skills and confidence they need for school and beyond.

Free kinder funded hours can be different depending on the service your child attends. Funded hours range from five to 15 hours for three-year-olds and 15 hours for four-year-olds.

In 2026, the City of Whittlesea will begin delivering Pre-Prep for eligible children. Pre-Prep offers children more hours to learn and socialise through play.

Don't miss this chance to give your child the best start.



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



Your *Voices* have shaped our Community Plan

Our Community Plan, which incorporates our Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, is the roadmap for what we will deliver over the next four years. The Community Action Plan sets out the actions that we will focus on this financial year.

The draft plans were developed following months of community engagement and were presented to you for your feedback throughout August this year.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts through the online survey, in-person pop-up events or in our focus

group. We have used this feedback to inform the final documents.

Our Community Plan 2025-29 and Community Action Plan 2025-26 are due to be presented at the October Council Meeting for endorsement.



To view the engagement summary, scan the QR code or visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityplan

BELOW Your voices help shape and inform a range of our upcoming projects and plans.



Checking in on your priorities

We have also just completed the first phase of our annual community consultation, which allows us to track any changes in your priorities.

The feedback from this consultation helps inform a range of upcoming projects and plans, including our 2026-27 Budget, Community Action Plan 2026-27 and our Strong Local Economy Strategy.



For more information on these plans scan the QR code or visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cp2026

Let's talk

Have your say
Sign up and help shape our community

engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What's on this season



Youth take over Mill Park Library

Friday 10 October, 6pm-9pm
Mill Park Library,
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

Join us for a Youth Take Over at Mill Park Library. Come along and enjoy a night of music, games, food, fun and a chilled-out vibe. This is the perfect opportunity to hang out with your friends while the library is all yours to explore.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/youthevents

Children's Week Westfield Plenty Valley Spectacular Pop Up

Wednesday 22 October, 10am-1pm
Kids Zone, Westfield Plenty Valley,
415 McDonalds Road, Mill Park

Enjoy a range of activities and fun for all the family to celebrate Children's Week including a range of crafts, story time, face painting and more.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining



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



Know your city bus tour

Friday 24 October, 9.30am-3pm
Departs from Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Our bus tours are designed for people aged 50 and over, offering a unique opportunity to explore the many experiences the City of Whittlesea has to offer. From hidden walking trails to fascinating historical sites and more, each tour uncovers local gems while building connections, strengthening community, and sharing knowledge.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LEAP



Carols by Candlelight

Friday 12 December, 6pm-9pm
Terrace Lawns, Civic Centre,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Pop on your Santa hat, pack a picnic and come along to sing all your favourites with our Carols Community Choir.

Enjoy the food trucks and fun activities or pick up those last-minute Christmas presents at the twilight market. Plus a special appearance from Santa!



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/carols



ABOVE
Join in the Biketober fun!

Biketober 2025 is here

Biketober is back to promote the joys of bike riding in the City of Whittlesea.

Whether you're new to cycling or a seasoned rider, Biketober activities are a perfect way to stay active, meet new people and enjoy the outdoors.

Join in the fun for Biketober 2025:

- ✓ Sign up at lovetoride.net/whittlesea
- ✓ Ride for 10 minutes or more and log your rides: every journey counts

We're also offering bike skills training sessions to help you participate in Biketober:

- ✓ Hands-on bike maintenance workshop
- ✓ Adults path-to-road skills program

These sessions are part of the Learn to Ride Behaviour Change Program 2025-2026 and are designed to build riding skills and encourage long-term sustainable travel.

Additional workshops will run until April 2026.

- ✓ Female-only learn to ride sessions
- ✓ Children learn to ride program
- ✓ Build confidence in riding your bike on a shared path.



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

Seniors Festival 2025

1 – 31 October

Celebrate the spirit of
our senior community
with a month full of
events, activities,
and connections.

For ages 50 and above



**CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE**

For enquiries call

☎ 03 9217 2170, option 4

Discover the full program

🔗 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival



Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025

