

Local Scoop

Your City of Whittlesea newsletter – August 2023



Making connections with Findon Road

In this edition:

Mernda Social Support opens **7**

24 hours in Council **8**

Cat confinement rules now in place **10**

Inside this issue



Road opening eases congestion



Ageing well with Mernda Social Support Centre



A day in the City of Whittlesea



New rules now in place for cats

Upcoming Council Meetings

- **15 August 2023**, 6.30pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
- **19 September 2023**, 6.30pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
- **17 October 2023**, 7.30pm
Galada Community Centre, 10A Forum Way, Epping
(Community forum from 6.30pm)

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

For the latest information about Council Meetings, including dates and how you can get involved, visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

Contact us

- 📍 Customer Service
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang
 - 🕒 Monday to Friday
8.30am – 5pm
 - ✉ Locked Bag 1, Bundoora MDC
VIC 3083
 - 📞 9217 2170
(including after hours emergencies)
 - 📞 National Relay Service: 133 677
(ask for 9217 2170)
 - @ info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au
 - 🌐 www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au
- 📱 📺 📷 📺 📺

Panel of Administrators



Lydia Wilson
Chair of Administrators



Peita Duncan
Administrator



Christian Zahra AM
Administrator

Contact the City of Whittlesea Administrators via email panel@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or phone 9217 2170.

We recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.



Free telephone
interpreter service
131 450

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



Margaret Clark and Margaret Ball, members of the local walking group Westfield Walkers, take a stroll along the Findon Road extension.

Road opening eases congestion

Residents are benefitting from more convenient connections to work, education, shopping and recreation facilities following the opening of the Findon Road extension.

The one-kilometre east–west link, which stretches from Williamsons Road to Plenty Road in South Morang, opened to cars, pedestrians and cyclists in early June.

The \$15 million project represents a major investment by Council in improving the local road network and easing congestion on McDonalds Road and around the Mill Park Lakes residential area.

In addition to the road, the project included construction of a shared walking and cycling path, a road bridge over the Mernda rail line and an underpass for the Yan Yean Shared Path, as well as street lighting, trees and drainage.

South Morang resident Margaret Ball has used the new road and she said it was clear it would cut down on travel times.

“It’s really convenient,” she said. “I definitely will be using it a lot,” she said.

Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said Council was committed to improving residents’ quality of life by ensuring they can travel safely and efficiently on the municipality’s roads.

“This road extension is a critical piece of infrastructure that will allow residents to spend less time in their cars, which will reduce congestion and benefit the environment,” she said.

“I thank all residents for their patience while this complex project was completed.”

The road opened with temporary traffic signals in place at the intersection of Findon Road and Williamsons Road, with permanent signals expected to be installed next year.

“It means I can bypass a lot of traffic congestion.”

– Margaret Ball, South Morang



The revamped grants program will be able to fund a wider range of community events.

Budget delivers funding boost

Increasing community grant funding, including for local seniors' groups, a greater focus on maintaining open space and trees, and more money for footpaths are just some of the highlights of the City of Whittlesea's 2023–24 Budget.

The \$371 million Budget includes an operating budget of \$296 million and a focused capital works program of \$75 million.

Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said the Budget was shaped following extensive community feedback.

"We asked our community what their priorities were and we used this information to shape the Budget. We then asked for their feedback again and received 71 formal submissions," she said.

Lydia said developing the Budget was a balance between delivering what the community needed now and ensuring financial sustainability into the future.

"We have carefully considered all the feedback as well as being cognisant of the financial pressures on community and on Council associated with rapidly increasing cost of living and successive interest rate increases."

Council delivers 147 services to the local community each year as well as building and maintaining essential roads, infrastructure and facilities.

Highlights of the Budget:

- Opening the library at the Mernda Town Centre and commencing work on the library hub at Kirrip Community Centre in Wollert
- Launching a Whittlesea Services Hub in Whittlesea township to make it easier for residents in the northern part of the municipality to communicate and transact with Council

- Commencing the design and site preparation of the Regional Aquatic and Sport Centre
- Continuing the construction of Granite Hills Major Community Park
- Commencing construction of the Aboriginal Gathering Place
- Delivering a multi-faceted program to tackle illegal rubbish dumping and improve the overall appearance of our new communities
- Developing a new Community Local Law to reflect the community's views on how we want to show respect for one another, protect our people and our local environment
- Revamping Council's Community Grants program to ensure a wider and more equitable distribution of funding with an overall increase of 33 per cent (\$0.66 million) to \$2.69 million
- Funding to support local business including a grants program, industry development programs and an Agri-Food Action Plan to attract investment in the sector
- Finalising the renewed Epping Central Structure Plan to ensure the precinct continues to thrive as an employment, housing, retail, health and education hub.

You can view the City of Whittlesea's 2023–24 Budget and Community Plan Action Plan 2023–24 at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/budget

Bringing the vision to life

The City of Whittlesea *Community Plan Action Plan 2023–24* brings to life our community's Whittlesea 2040 vision of *A Place for All* by identifying 56 priority actions for Council to deliver this financial year. Actions are listed under the goals of Connected Community, Strong Local Economy, Sustainable Environment, Liveable Neighbourhoods and a High Performing Organisation.

Some highlights:



Continuing to upgrade public toilets



Developing a business grants and incentive program



Improving conservation reserve fire management planning and operations



Making it easier to interact with Council by building a customer portal, adding more online services and upgrading the City of Whittlesea website.



Clockwise from top left: Administrator Christian Zahra AM at the Youth Summit; Administrator Peita Duncan speaks at a Citizenship Ceremony; the Sorry Day ceremony was a time to reflect; Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson at the National Volunteer Week event and at a Refugee Week event.

Out and about with our Administrators

We have had the pleasure of connecting with many different parts of our community this winter at a range of events.

Recently, more than 220 students from 18 schools in the City of Whittlesea came together for the 2023 Youth Summit on Environmental Sustainability. The event was co-designed by a group of passionate young people and was a wonderful opportunity to listen to their voices. The event sparked powerful conversations and left everyone who attended motivated to tackle the sustainability challenges ahead.

We also attended Refugee Week celebrations at our Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre in South Morang. This year's theme was Finding Freedom and attendees enjoyed cultural art, music, dance and traditional food. The City of Whittlesea supported several events to mark this important week, which enabled

people to tell their stories. At the City of Whittlesea we recognise and celebrate the enormous contribution our refugees make to our community identity and culture.

In May we marked National Volunteer Week with a thank you event for our local volunteers where we awarded certificates to those who had achieved five and 10 years of volunteering service with the City of Whittlesea. These people are the backbone of our community, and it was a wonderful opportunity to formally thank all those who selflessly give their time and energy to support our community.

We also recognised National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week. On Sorry Day, we joined with our community members for a heartfelt

ceremony to honour the Stolen Generations. National Sorry Day is an opportunity to reflect on the tragic consequences of past laws, practices and policies that separated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. It is also a time to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation.

We then celebrated NAIDOC Week from 2 to 9 July when the City of Whittlesea held a variety of events for the community to celebrate our Aboriginal community and local culture.

If you have any matters you would like to discuss at any time, you can reach the Administrators at panel@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Grants boost for local communities

A new community grants program launched this month will ensure more funds are available to more people in the City of Whittlesea to support local programs, projects and activities.

Council has endorsed a new Community Grants Framework that includes the introduction of all-year-round grants, with approval rounds conducted on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said Council had also increased the total amount of funding available for community grants by 33 per cent in the 2023–24 financial year.

“This new grants program will enable us to better partner with our community to support the brilliant work being done by many organisations and individuals in our community,” Lydia said.

You can find out more about the new Community Grants program including details about eligibility at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants



The Lalor Warriors Cricket Club was supported by a community grant in 2019.

Supporting seniors to stay strong

The Seniors Exercise Park in Thomastown can help you find your inner strength, balance, flexibility and mobility at any age.

In her quest to manage her diabetes and high cholesterol, 70-year-old Thomastown resident Helen decided to put the positive effects of exercise to the test. When she learned about the free Seniors Exercise Park in her neighbourhood, she eagerly joined the program.

Designed specifically for older individuals, the park offers a variety of exercise stations aimed at improving strength, balance, flexibility and mobility. Beyond the physical benefits, the park also provides a space for socialising and having fun.



Helen enjoys the health benefits and social side of her workout at the Seniors Exercise Park.

Helen found that exercising not only helps her health conditions but also makes her feel better overall.

“I feel stronger and more confident. I feel happier outside in the fresh air. I feel completely different,” she said.

Exercising outdoors has been proven to have significant benefits for mental and physical health, including mood enhancement and stress reduction.

The City of Whittlesea encourages seniors to visit the park, where trained volunteers will be available weekly from Tuesday

15 August, between 10am and 11.30am to assist and guide participants with the equipment. Bookings are not essential but preferred, either by email leap@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or by phone on 9407 5940.

The Seniors Exercise Park is located at 36 Barry Rd, Thomastown.

“It gets me out of the house and I get to meet new people.”

– Helen, Thomastown



Whittlesea U3A health and wellbeing program leader Mick Trim, president Glen Wall, venue coordinator Christine Czerny and treasurer Peter Rodaughan outside the new facility.

Ageing well with Mernda Social Support Centre

The new Mernda Social Support Centre is set to offer a range of programs designed to support people's independence and improve mental and physical health.

An ageing population, coupled with the rapid growth of the municipality's northern suburbs, highlighted the need for services aimed specifically at older residents.

The \$2.69 million facility, located at 70 Mernda Village Drive, features three activity rooms, kitchen, consulting room, staff office, outdoor barbecue area and accessible amenities.

A number of accredited allied healthcare providers will run programs from the centre, such as exercise classes for older adults and dementia and memory programs for those experiencing cognitive decline.

Services commenced in July, with more services becoming available by September.

Community groups, such as Whittlesea U3A, also intend to use the facility. Whittlesea U3A has about 670 members and 80 tutors and activity leaders running more than 100 educational, social and physical activities.

Whittlesea U3A president Glen Wall said the Mernda Social Support Centre would be a trusted place where people can go to access services from a number of providers.

"We are focused on health and wellbeing and, in particular, teaching seniors to use technology to enable them to connect to the broader community," he said.

"But we are also collaborating with a number of service providers and

sharing access to older people for the benefit of all."

City of Whittlesea Administrator Christian Zahra AM said there was strong demand for a fit-for-purpose social support facility serving the northern suburbs.

The City of Whittlesea contributed \$1.45 million towards the project, while the Victorian Government provided \$1.24 million through its Growing Suburbs Fund.

The centre was built in accordance with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and Australia Dementia-Friendly guidelines and has a number of sustainability features, such as an in-ground water tank, double-glazed windows, LED lighting and gas-free appliances.

Priority access to services will be given to residents aged 65 years and over and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents aged 50 years and over.

Community members and organisations can book the centre's specialist facilities by emailing communityfacilities@whittlesea.vic.gov.au or calling 9217 2170.

"The suite of services that will be offered at the Mernda Social Support Centre will help our older residents maintain their independence and continue to be active participants in the community."

– Administrator Christian Zahra AM

A day in the City of Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea delivers more than a hundred services each day to its 236,764 residents. Take a look behind the scenes at just some of the services we provide.



6am

Kerbside waste collections begin.

Our trucks collect more than 4,000 bins per day.

TRAC and Mill Park Leisure also open at 6am on weekdays.

6,600 members stay fit here.

7am

Street sweeping and maintenance crews begin inspecting, cleaning and repairing local roads.

7.15am

Our home-care workers assist people to get ready for their day.

We provide home help for 1,800 people.

8.15am

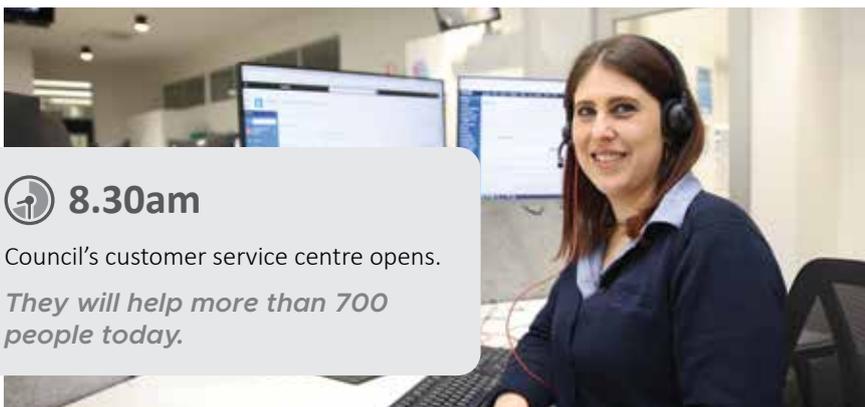
Excited three- and four-year-old children are dropped off at kindergarten.

Kinder is free at our 43 Council-run kindergartens.



9am

Our 20 Maternal and Child Health centres open, ready to see babies and children at their key milestone checks. We have 61 dedicated nurses, who last financial year conducted close to 27,000 appointments with families.



8.30am

Council's customer service centre opens.

They will help more than 700 people today.

9.30am

Our rapid-response crew pick up dumped rubbish on a roadside after a resident reported it online.

 **10am**

The wat djerring Animal Facility is open seven days. Since October 2022, more than 3,000 animals have come through the doors to be reclaimed or rehomed.



 **3pm**

We have more than 200 school crossing supervisors at 58 schools in the City of Whittlesea, ensuring our youth are safe crossing the roads during busy school pick-up time.

10.30am

Our street-tree team is planting new trees along a residential street as part of our Street Tree Renewal Program.

11am

A local seniors group has booked out a meeting space at Kirrip Community Centre. There are 30 Council-run venues available for hire across the City of Whittlesea.

11.30am

Today 140 new citizens will be welcomed into the community at one of our regular Citizenship Ceremonies. Last financial year, we welcomed 5,000 new citizens.

12pm

Locals chat to our Engagement team at a shopping centre about future projects.

Last financial year we consulted community on 98 different projects.

12.30pm

Our pop-up e-waste collection begins, with residents able to drop off small household appliances with a cord, plug or battery for recycling.

That's around 800kg of e-waste diverted from landfill.

1pm

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families meet at Jindi Family and Community Centre for a free playgroup session. Community and supported playgroup sessions are held across the municipality.

3.30pm

Young people aged 12 to 18 drop in to a Chill Out event hosted by our Youth Services team at the Epping Community Centre. Young people enjoy board games and activities over hot chocolate and toasties during the school year.

4pm

A resident uses their special MLAK (master key) to access the Changing Places toilet facility at the All Abilities Play Space in Mill Park.

5pm

Members of our LEAP Program (Let Everyone Actively Participate) get together for a social connection evening and dinner at the Barry Road Community Activity Centre. The LEAP Program provides a variety of regular programs including golf, exercise programs and outings for people aged 50 years and over.

 **7pm**

The last public immunisations session takes place for the day.

We provide almost 15,000 vaccines each year at schools, workplaces and public sessions.

9pm

Local sporting groups finish training during the week at our outdoor sporting grounds.

10pm

Mill Park and Thomastown Libraries close at 10pm on a Thursday. Later this year, a new library will open in Mernda.

Our libraries loan around 600 books per day.

11.30pm

The team at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre (PRACC) tidy up after another great show.

Almost 42,000 people attended shows at PRACC last year.



Visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/lovewherewelive or scan the QR code to find more ways we can assist you today.



New rules now in place for cats



Since 1 August 2023, new rules are in place for cats.

All cats in the City of Whittlesea are now required to be confined to their owner's property or under effective control when outside the property, and all cats being registered for the first time must be desexed.

These new regulations, which were endorsed by Council and supported by the community, will help protect and enhance the welfare and safety of cats in our municipality and create a more harmonious environment between pets, people and other animals. While this has been a big change for some cats and their owners,

the benefits of keeping cats confined include keeping them safe from other animals or being harmed by cars or other dangers. In addition, keeping cats from roaming outside of their property means that local birds and wildlife are also kept safe.

Council will continue to provide pet owners with help over the coming months to adjust to the new rules:

- Online resources such as videos to help you build your own cat enclosure
- Subsidised desexing.

For information and support visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/cats

New name for our animal facility

The Epping Animal Welfare Facility has a new name: wat djerring Animal Facility.

The name *wat djerring*, meaning 'we together', was chosen after consultation with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWWCHAC).

City of Whittlesea Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said the new name represented a new era at the facility which was relaunched last year under the management of the City of Whittlesea, in partnership with Merri-bek and Darebin councils.

"The facility operates as the pound for the three councils and we wanted a more inclusive name that acknowledged the cultural heritage of the land and reflected the purpose of the facility: to reconnect people with their pets and to give animals a fresh start," Lydia said.

"The new name, pronounced *wot jerring*, is a meaningful rich name that really captures the strong values our community places on pet ownership and in so doing helps to bring to life the vision for a new beginning for the facility. While the name has changed, the great service provided to our pets at the facility has not."

The new name is complemented with a compelling new visual brand designed by Aboriginal artist De Greer-Yindimincarlle at YindiArtz that represents how an animal can flourish and thrive with love and care, despite the challenges of its journey.



Animal Attendant Liam Le Page, City of Whittlesea Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson, Darebin Mayor Julie Williams and Merri-bek Mayor Angelica Panopoulos.

wat djerring Animal Facility

20 Companion Place, Epping 8401 6200
animalfacility@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Opening hours

Monday: 10am-4pm

Tuesday: 10am-4pm

Wednesday: 12pm-6.30pm

Thursday: 10am-4pm

Friday: 10am-4pm

Weekends and public holidays:
 10am-2pm

Closed Christmas Day, Anzac Day and Good Friday.





Local resident Michelle Mallia sits at one of the new, permanent table settings in Mill Park.

Out with the old, in with the new

Have you seen our new outdoor dining areas?

Thanks to State Government funding received during the pandemic, Council installed temporary outdoor dining furniture in three locations across the City of Whittlesea – Oleander Drive, Mill Park; Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen; and Church Street, Whittlesea.

The outdoor settings proved to be so popular with the community and

shop owners that Council has now replaced the temporary tables and chairs with permanent furniture at each of the three locations.

Mill Park cafe owner Cathie Fazzolari loves the new furniture.

“The installation of the new outdoor seating adds an inviting feature to the cafe and street as a whole. Against the Grind cafe consider ourselves to be a community-oriented cafe that enable our customers to enjoy

the space with friends, family and their furry friends,” said Cathie.

If you are out and about, be sure to take a seat and enjoy an outdoor dining experience. You can even scan the QR code on the furniture to find out about all the other wonderful places to see and things to do in the City of Whittlesea.

This work has been made possible through funding from the State Government.

Destination: Whittlesea

Bringing more visitors to the City of Whittlesea means more customers for local business.

The new *City of Whittlesea Destination Plan 2023–2026* provides direction for tourism development and growth within the City of Whittlesea that will support a stronger local economy for our tourism industry and local businesses and services.

To view the Destination Plan, scan the QR code or visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/plans



Yan Yean Reservoir.

Greening Whittlesea

Did you know that the City of Whittlesea manages more than 115,000 trees throughout the municipality?

Each year, Council plants more than 4,500 trees in streets and across our parks and reserves.

We love our trees, and we know our community does, too. They add colour and vibrancy to our streets, parks and gardens, and give shade and cooling in the warmer months of the year, encouraging people to head outdoors. In fact, trees have been shown to cool surface temperatures by up to 20 degrees in the shade in summer and can become an oasis during heat waves.

Trees also provide a home for native birds and wildlife, and improve air quality in an efficient and cost-effective way.

While Council plants and maintains street trees and those in parks and gardens, here are some ways you, too, can help keep our city green:



Vishwaneth and Ray plant street trees in Doreen.

- Look after any trees on your property, including any trees you have on your nature strip
- If you don't have a nature strip tree, request a new tree to be planted
- Protect trees from damage and report any instances of vandalism or damage to trees
- Plant more trees and shrubs on your property
- Get involved in Landcare and 'Friends of' groups or other tree planting activities. Keep an eye on the events page of our website for upcoming planting days.



All our wonderful trees contribute to a more liveable and sustainable future.

Find out more about the Greening Whittlesea Strategy at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/plans

Getting set for summer

Here's your checklist to ensure that your pool and spa are safe and ready for the warmer months ahead.

 **Fencing** Pools and spas must be surrounded by a permanent safety barrier. Safety barriers must be maintained all year round. Use the Victorian Building Authority's self-assessment checklist to ensure barriers remain compliant. It's also a good idea to ensure there is nothing nearby that can be used to climb the fence, like pot plants or garden furniture.



Mernda residents Tia and Monique check the pool before the warm weather.

 **Hard covers** A great way to reduce danger is to use a hard cover when your spa is not in use. Hard covers cannot be used in place of a fence.

 **Maintenance** Your pool and spa, pump and equipment should all be regularly checked to ensure they are in good condition.

 **Supervision** It's vital that anytime a young child is near your pool or spa, they're closely supervised by an adult and within arm's reach.

Following these steps will help keep your pool and spa safe for the whole family and allow you to relax and enjoy its benefits in summer. Find out more at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/pools

Spotlight on illegal dumping

Over the coming months, you will see a range of new signs popping up across the City of Whittlesea as we continue our fight against illegally dumped rubbish.

As we head into spring-cleaning season, residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for people illegally dumping rubbish and report it to Council. Council's litter enforcement officers and rapid response team will also be patrolling the streets in an effort to help keep them clean.

How you can help:

- Use Council's free hard rubbish collection to get rid of large items. This is available to rate payers and renters
- Report illegal dumping at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter, call 9217 2170 or scan the QR code.



Illegally dumped rubbish in Wollert.

Working towards a sustainable future

Over the past 10 years, we've made substantial progress towards our goal of creating a sustainable environment in the City of Whittlesea.

Here are just some of the highlights:

- As of July 2021, Council now uses 100 per cent renewable electricity in all our facilities, services and streetlights
- Approximately 25 per cent of all electricity used in Council facilities is produced by on-site renewable energy systems



Solar panels on Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre.

- We provide a Sustainable Land Management Rebate Scheme and Environmental Works Grants Program to provide financial support to rural landowners to help them protect and enhance vegetation on their property
- Alternative water supplies are installed for a number of Council's public open spaces, using a mix of recycled water and stormwater
- We are now diverting approximately 1,800 tonnes of waste per month from landfill with the introduction of a kerbside glass recycling bin and a user-pay food and garden waste bin.

We are committed to working with our community to become a net zero emissions city by 2036. Find out what else we have planned and how you can help at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/environmentstrategy

Whittlesea Park plan takes shape

The vision for Whittlesea Park has become clear after a master plan guiding decision-making for the next decade was adopted in June.

The Whittlesea Park Master Plan contains 13 key recommendations designed to make the park a must-visit place for people of all ages.

The master plan was developed in collaboration with the Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserves Committee of Management.

Some of the planned improvements to be undertaken in the coming years include an upgraded playground and off-leash dog park.

There are also plans to install a new circuit path and pedestrian bridges, improve car parking and access to the precinct, build new public toilets and adopt a tree strategy.

Whittlesea Agricultural Society member Judy Clements was on the master plan working group and



The Whittlesea Park Master Plan will bring enormous benefits for user groups and the community.

said “enormous benefits” would flow both socially and economically from the plan.

“We’re fortunate to have a significant parcel of land in the centre of Whittlesea township ... and this is a great opportunity to realise a vision and take it forward for future generations,” she said.

“The Committee of Management is a completely volunteer group and we take

our role very seriously, so to have a shared vision with Council is very positive.”

Administrator Peita Duncan said the master plan would be delivered in stages, subject to future budgets and grant allocations.

“This master plan promotes a healthy and active lifestyle and the planned improvements will meet the needs of residents of all ages for years to come,” she said.

Have your say

We’re committed to giving you the opportunity to have a say on projects and programs that impact you.

Council’s engagement website engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au allows Council to actively involve the community in decision-making so we can work together to reach our Whittlesea 2040 vision – *A Place For All*.

Sign up to be notified of new projects that match your suburb and interests, so that you can have your say on what matters most to you. Scan the QR code to register today and help shape our city’s future.



Sign up today

Keep up-to-date on all the City of Whittlesea news and events that matter to you with our range of free e-newsletters:

- Accessibility
- Arts and events
- Business news
- Grants and training
- Rural news
- Sustainability
- *Local Scoop* digital

Scan the QR code to find out more.



What's on

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



September school holiday activities

Council has an exciting array of fun and low-cost or no-cost activities for young people aged 10 to 17 years across the municipality throughout the upcoming spring school holidays.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our Baseline School Holiday program.



Bringing Up Kids Expo

Tuesday 12 September, 10am–1pm
Mill Park Library, 394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

The free Bringing Up Kids Expo will bring together family support agencies to provide information on services, programs and events offered in the City of Whittlesea for your family and children. A range of fun activities for kids will be provided on the day.

This event is facilitated by City of Whittlesea and service providers.

Scan the QR code to register.



Annual art exhibition

Expressions of interest close
Monday 18 September, 5pm

Expressions of interest are now open for artists wanting to enter their works in the City of Whittlesea's annual art exhibition in November.

The theme for the 2023 exhibition is *The webs we weave*. Artists are invited to reflect on connections in our lives and our communities from local through to personal, from cultural to global, and the way those connections find form.

Successful applicants will be notified in early October.

Scan the QR code for more information.



Artwork: Detail from *Spectrum*, by Lucy Cleary.

Walking Thomastown – new date announced

Saturday 2 September 2023
From Main Street Recreation Reserve to Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden

Gather at dusk and explore the world around you as you walk from Main Street Recreation Reserve, along Edgars Creek, through Ziebell's Farm Museum and Heritage Garden.

Be amazed by the breathtaking array of light installations, sculptures, art, music, performances, soundscapes, and family-friendly entertainment and activities.



Basic mending and textile repairs workshop

Saturday 19 August 2023, 10am–11.30am

Learn basic sewing skills at this no-cost, in-person workshop, which is part of the City of Whittlesea's Sustainable Communities Workshop Series.

The session will cover repairing a button, patching clothes, hemming to adjust length, reusing old fabrics to create something new and sewing machine skills. All attendees will receive a travel sewing kit and reference materials to take home. We will also discuss fast fashion and the steps you can take to prevent fabrics from ending up in landfill.

Scan the QR code for more details and to register.



Preparing for kinder and school – Arabic session

Thursday 7 September, 10am–11.30am
Free online event

Arabic-speaking families are invited to join us for a free information session about helping children prepare for kindergarten and school.

This session is facilitated by Foundation House.

Scan the QR code to register.





Walking Thomastown

**SATURDAY 2
SEPTEMBER
6PM – 9PM**

**FROM MAIN ST RECREATION RESERVE
TO ZIEBELL'S FARMHOUSE MUSEUM
AND HERITAGE GARDEN**

arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Proudly supported by Thomastown Precinct Action Group