



THOMASTOWN



Local history

Thomastown is thought to have been named after the Thomas family who began market gardening in the area in the 1840s. The number of residents was small until the late 1800s, spurred by the opening of the railway to Whittlesea in 1889. Intact buildings of Westgarthtown, including a Lutheran Church and cemetery, are evidence of German/Wendish settlement which commenced in 1850. Significant development occurred in the post-war years, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s.

Planning and development

Thomastown is around 15 square kilometres in size, although known as a residential area, it has a significant industrial area.

Council adopted the master plan for Thomastown and Lalor Shops in December 2011. The Plan includes street improvements to shopping areas (improved landscaping, seats, shelters and bike facilities).

More information

All planning and development plans can be viewed at Council's website.





Population

In 2015, it is estimated 21,400 people live in Thomastown with a 21 per cent increase forecast by 2036 to 25,800.

The median age in Thomastown is 38 and this is expected to remain the same by 2036.

The age group forecast to experience the greatest change between 2015 and 2036 are residents aged between 70 to 84 (33 per cent).

Births

An estimated 245 children will be born in 2015 (four births per week on average). By 2036, it is expected to increase to 294 births per year (five births per week on average).

Diversity

More than two thirds of residents speak a language other than English at home and over half the population were born overseas. Most common languages spoken other than English are Macedonian, Italian and Arabic.

Families and households

In 2015 there are approximately 7,750 dwellings and this is expected to increase to 9,450 dwellings by 2036 with an average household size of three people.

About 37 per cent of households consist of couples with children and about 14 per cent are single parent households.

Employment

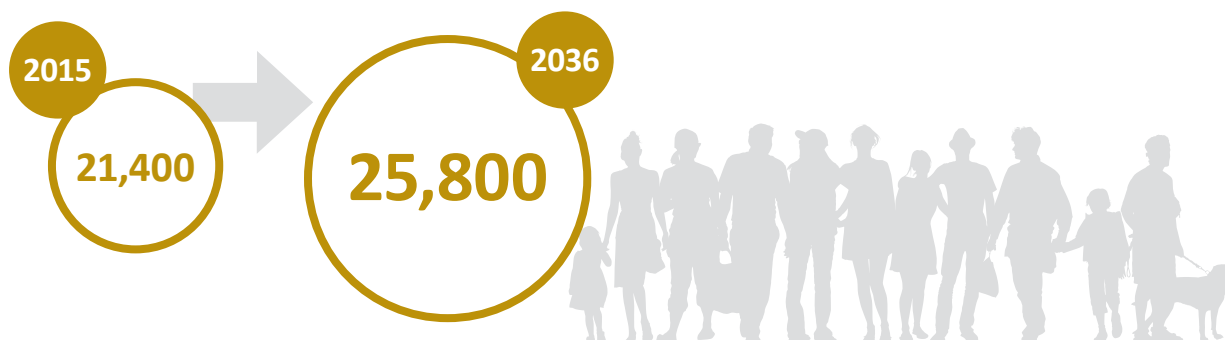
More Thomastown residents work in manufacturing than any other industry.

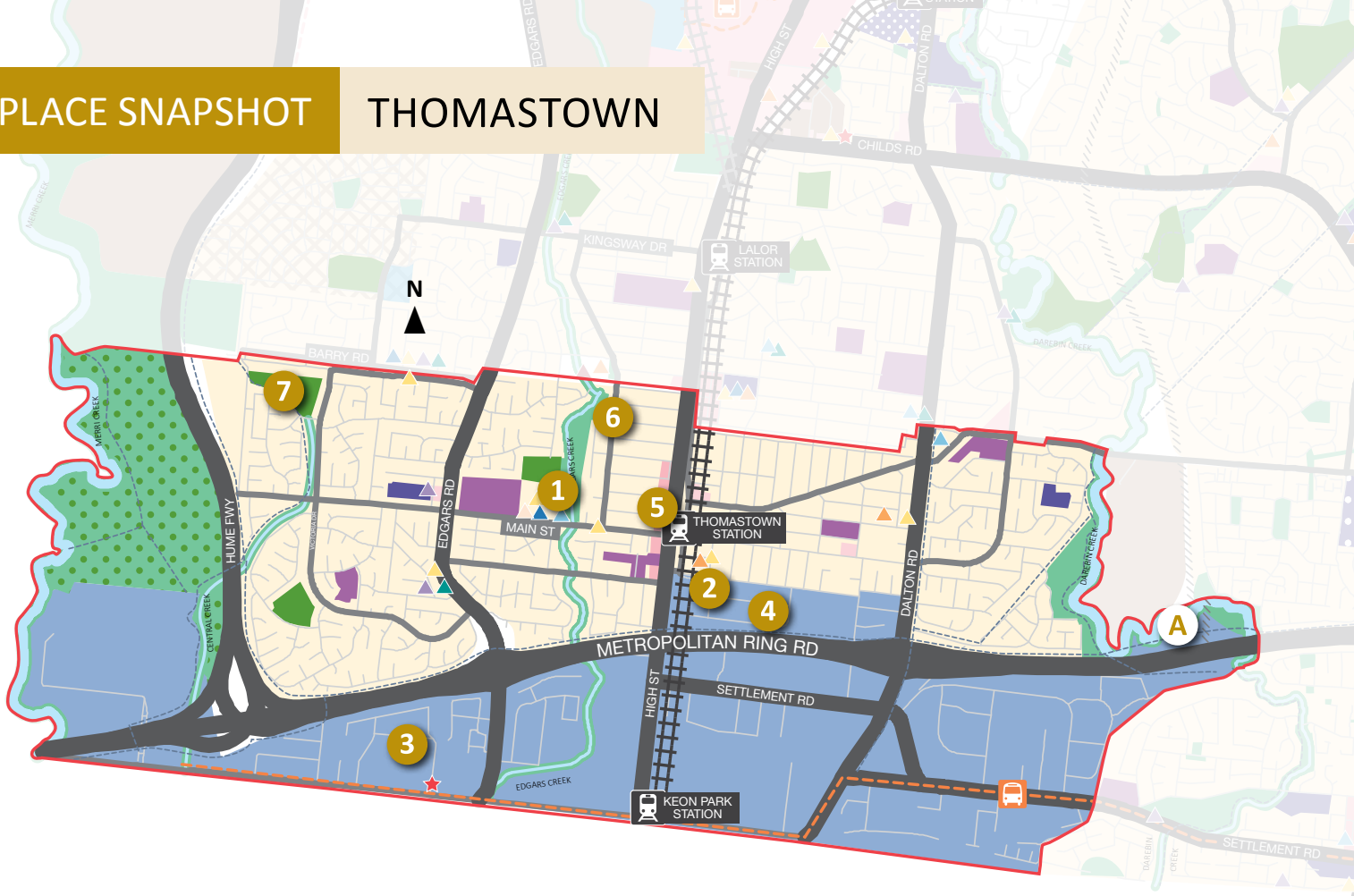
Education

A small percentage attend school (pre-school, primary or secondary) due to the high proportion of residents aged over 60.

Travelling in and out

Less than half of all households have access to two or more motor vehicles and 67 per cent of residents drive a car to their place of work.





Advocacy priorities

A E6 construction from Metropolitan Ring Road to Bridge Inn Road

Council is seeking state and federal government funding to construct the 11 kilometre E6 road to alleviate congestion on Plenty Road and High Street and Epping Road. The new E6 could be capable of carrying more than 60,000 cars per day.

Municipality-wide

Bus Services for the Municipality

Council is seeking state government funding to improve bus services across the municipality, particularly between newly developed areas to employment centres.

Northern Hospital expansion

There is a critical need to expand the Northern Hospital to adequately service the growing population in the City of Whittlesea and Melbourne’s north. The Northern is the only public hospital in the northern growth corridor. Council is advocating for additional beds and Royal Children’s Hospital paediatric services.

1 Main Street Thomastown has several learning and recreation facilities:

- Thomastown Library
- Thomastown Neighbourhood House based at the library
- Thomastown Recreation and Aquatics Centre: This Council-owned leisure and fitness facility underwent a multi-million dollar redevelopment and is fully accessible to all users
- Bubup Wilam for Early Learning: Provides services for Aboriginal children and families, this includes long day care, kindergarten, playgroups, Elders community meetings and training opportunities
- Thomastown Main Street Recreation Reserve includes two AFL/cricket ovals, mixed sports use training facility and pavilion
- Thomastown West Primary School
- Thomastown Secondary College.

2 Thomastown War Memorial

Twenty one plaques are located in the Thomastown War Memorial area to commemorate the former pupils of the Thomastown Primary School who served in World War I.

3 Thomastown Industrial Area

The industrial area, covers more than 600 hectares or six square kilometres, includes over 2,500 properties and provides employment for over 8,000 people.

4 Meridian Business Park

The park comprises over 70 warehouses, a two level office complex and a premium catering retail facility in the estate, previously known as the Goodyear Tyre Manufacturing Plant. The Business Park is conveniently located between High Street and Dalton Road.

5 Thomastown High Street improvements

Improvements to streets and public areas such as seating, shelters and bike facilities are planned for Thomastown High Street shops.

6 Westgarthtown

Located within Thomastown and Lalor, Westgarthtown is a heritage site of state significance. It was a former dairy farming settlement established in 1850 by German and Wendish immigrants. Many of the bluestone heritage buildings and structures remain including:

- Victoria's oldest German immigrant building. Ziebell's original farmhouse, barn and other buildings have been restored by the City of Whittlesea. These represent the heart of Ziebell's original 102 acre farm, named The Pines, the largest at Westgarthtown. Built between 1851 and 1856, with 61cm thick stone walls, the house is a typical German farmhouse design
- a Lutheran cemetery and Australia's oldest operating Lutheran Church (1856).

7 R.G.C Recreation Reserve

Includes two soccer pitches, a pavilion, playground and walking trails.



Thomastown Calvary Lutheran Church (1856)