

FEBRUARY 2025

Local SCOOP

Your City of Whittlesea news

**Delivering on
major projects**

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Meet your new Council

Pages 6 and 7

**Community Festival fun
for the whole family**

Pages 8 and 9



*Sporting dreams
centre court*

The new regional sports precinct breaks ground

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 18 March, 6pm

Tuesday 15 April, 6pm

Tuesday 20 May, 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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131 450



Message from the Mayor

Cr Aidan McLindon

I would like to introduce myself as the new Mayor of the City of Whittlesea.

Cr Daniela Zinni and I are honoured to have been elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months. We are pleased to lead a collective of councillors who have been elected to serve the community over the next four years and it is my hope that each of us are able to fulfil our duties without fear or favour.

Our focus will be to deliver the basic Council services brilliantly and that includes ensuring that everyone in our community is taken care of; including the most vulnerable who are struggling with living in fear, homelessness or food insecurity.

It's been a busy couple of months since Council elections with my fellow councillors and I completing our induction into local government and settling into our new roles. Collectively we are passionate about delivering for our community so please have a look at page 6 and 7 to learn a bit more about each of your newly elected representatives.

This year we will be delivering a new Council Plan which will outline our key priorities for our term in Council.

Our community has already been given an opportunity for feedback on what their priorities are and many have spoken to us as councillors or candidates, pre-election, and we will be doing further consultation to make sure the needs of our local community have been taken into account in this plan.

We will also be seeking your feedback on the Draft Budget 2025-26 and key plans such as the Asset Plan, Financial Plan and Road Management Plan.

We look forward to continuing to meet with residents in the community as we charter an action plan that is able to create opportunities for everyone.

You are most welcome to come along to our monthly Council Meetings or watch them on Council's YouTube channel. They are at 6pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

I look forward to serving our City and its 230,000 plus residents over the next four years to the very best of my ability.

Best wishes to your health and happiness for the year ahead.

Mayor Cr Aidan McLindon

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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



ABOVE Councillors from the City of Whittlesea visit the site of Mernda's new regional sports precinct.

New sports courts come to life in Mernda

The City of Whittlesea's newly elected councillors have toured the site where sporting dreams will be made for years to come.

The regional sports precinct in Mernda represents a significant investment by Council in the health and happiness of the community.

Featuring an indoor stadium with four multi-purpose sports courts and eight outdoor netball courts, the facility will be a hub for recreational and competitive play.

Other features of the indoor stadium include changerooms, accessible toilets, foyer, reception, kiosk, office space, storage areas and more.

Earthworks to prepare the site for construction of the courts are well underway and Council is expecting to award a construction tender this year.

City of Whittlesea Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni said her fellow councillors enjoyed the opportunity to visit the site at the start of February.

"This precinct will be so important in promoting healthy and active lifestyles among our residents. But more than that, it will help to build social connections among people from all walks of life in our growing communities."

– Deputy Mayor, Cr Daniela Zinni

"This is a project that has been years in the planning and to see it progressing so well is really exciting," she said.

Late last year, the Federal Government announced \$11.5 million in funding across two programs to support the construction of the courts.

The new regional sports precinct in Mernda will feature:

four multi-purpose sports courts in an indoor stadium

eight outdoor netball courts

changerooms and accessible amenities

kiosk, reception area and office space.

A \$10 million grant from the Thriving Suburbs Program will go towards the cost of the indoor stadium, while \$1.5 million from the Play Our Way Program will be put towards the outdoor netball courts.

This funding is in addition to a Victorian Government election commitment of \$10 million towards the indoor stadium.

The State Government has also contributed \$10 million from its Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution fund to help build the transport infrastructure surrounding the site.



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

CAPITAL PROJECTS



Granite Hills Major Community Park

Work on the Granite Hills Major Community Park – one of the largest projects in our capital program – is progressing well.

Construction of the wetlands and boardwalk is complete and work is continuing on the installation of many of the park's other features, including playgrounds, shelters and accessible toilets.

The project, which is supported by funding from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, is expected to be finished later in the year.



Gorge Road streetscape upgrade

Upgrades to the streetscape at the Gorge Road shopping precinct in South Morang will provide a better experience for traders and their customers.

The project, which started in November 2024, will improve the precinct's on-street car park, drainage system and raingarden, and will also include new walkways and decking. All shops will remain open as normal while the work takes place. The project is expected to finish in the coming months.

The project is funded by the City of Whittlesea and the Victorian Government via a grant from its Growing Suburbs Fund.



Peter Hopper Lake revitalisation

The restoration of Peter Hopper Lake at Mill Park is progressing well, with work to drain water from the lake starting in January.

The current stage of works includes removal of the central island and construction of a pollutant trap, sediment basin and raingarden. It comes after more than 3000 cubic metres of silt was removed from the lakebed last year.

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



Wollert Central kindergarten on school site

A new kindergarten located on the Warrigirri Primary School site in Wollert, is on track to welcome children through its doors on the first day of term one in 2026.

Construction of the three-room kindergarten building is progressing well and work on the outdoor space and car park has begun.

The finished facility will deliver up to 198 new kindergarten places for the community.



Whittlesea Park improved access

Works to make it easier for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles to access Whittlesea Park are underway.

Construction of the Laurel Street path is complete and works on replacing the existing timber bridge over Plenty River with a concrete bridge began in January. The project will also deliver about 620 metres of new pedestrian and cycle paths, as well as rest stops, improved street lighting and signage.

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



Local road resurfacing program

Approximately 71,000 square metres of road resurfacing has been completed so far this financial year on roads including Graduate Road and Scholar Drive in Bundoora, Victoria Drive in Thomastown and Oakbank Boulevard in Whittlesea.

The annual resurfacing program aims to enhance road safety, durability and quality, ensuring better driving conditions for motorists.

A further 36,000 square metres of road across the City of Whittlesea will be completed by the end of June 2025.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES



"My children love the water and splashing each other so having this here will help us stay local and not have to pack up the car and travel."

– Nicole

ABOVE Nicole and children Hudson and Amelia are excited at the thought of having a splash park close to home.

Making a big splash

A revamped playground is set to make a splash among children and families when it is unveiled later this year.

The Hill Top Playground and Splash Park in Doreen will have a range of exciting new features catering for people of all ages and abilities.

The main attraction at the Landano Way site will undoubtedly be a 150 square metre splash pad featuring jets, misters and other water-based features.

The updated playground will have several slides, climbing nets, trampolines, cubby, rockers and basket, toddler and standard seat swings.

There will also be a focus on nature play with a trail, balance logs, boulders and steppers established under the park's existing trees.

Visitors to the playground will have access to a new public toilet and

Changing Places facility, as well as a new shelter with picnic tables.

Local mum Nicole said her two children, Amelia, 10, and Hudson, 8, were excited at the prospect of having a splash park on their doorstep.

Construction of the playground began in mid-January and work on the new car park will finish in February.

The playground will be closed to the public until works are completed in mid-2025.

The project is funded by the City of Whittlesea, the Federal Government through \$1.5 million from its Investment in Our Communities Program and the State Government through \$500,000 from its Open Space for Everyone – Better Parks and Playgrounds Program.

Road extension provides local relief

A road extension will make the morning and afternoon school runs easier for two school communities.

We have extended Baltrum Drive to serve the newly established Warrigirri Primary School and provide an alternative access point to Glowrey Catholic Primary School.

The 210-metre-long two-lane extension will help to reduce traffic congestion in the busy neighbourhood and provide safer pedestrian links. In addition to the road extension, the project also includes installation of street lighting and about 410 metres of concrete drainage.

The project is scheduled to be completed in March 2025.

The Victorian School Building Authority and Melbourne Water are contributing towards the cost of the roadworks and drainage respectively.



Sign up today

Keep up to date on City of Whittlesea news and events with our free e-newsletters:

- City of Whittlesea monthly e-news
- Arts and events
- Business news
- Rural news
- Sustainability.



Scan the QR code to find out more.



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

Your new Council



In November 2024, a new group of eleven Councillors were elected to represent the City of Whittlesea for the next four years. Meet your ward representatives.



MAYOR
Councillor
Aidan McLindon
Kirrip Ward

I was born in Darwin and grew up in Eden Park before moving to Queensland. In 2013, I returned to Victoria.

I joined the Army Reserves as an infantry soldier based at 9RQR.

I was elected to Logan City Council in 2004 and was appointed Chair of Environment and Sustainability in 2008.

I joined the Queensland Parliament in 2009 and served on the Law, Justice and Safety Committee and later, as a National Director before starting AMac Consultancy.

I have taught at both primary and secondary schools over the past 10 years and specialise in Student Wellbeing and the Performing Arts.

I am passionate about creating opportunities for the next generation and have a desire to seek natural justice for the people.

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DEPUTY MAYOR
Councillor
Daniela Zinni
Bundoora Ward

As a proud resident of the City of Whittlesea, I have had the privilege of experiencing firsthand the incredible diversity of families in our community.

As a parent myself, I am committed to raising my children here, surrounded by the vibrant culture and strong sense of community that makes the City of Whittlesea so special.

I believe that every child deserves to have their voice heard and valued. It is essential that we provide services that are well resourced for them.

My vision is to see our children grow and thrive in the City of Whittlesea, staying connected to their roots and giving back to the community that has raised them. By working together, we can build a brighter future for our kids, one that is full of opportunities, and a sense of belonging.

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Councillor
David Lenberg
Epping Ward

As a proud resident of the City of Whittlesea for the last eight years, I'm passionate about building a connected, inclusive community. I share my life with my loving partner, supportive family, and two lively Labradors who bring joy and keep me grounded. I also love to travel, experiencing diverse cultures and bringing fresh perspectives to my work.

With over 25 years of experience in business, I bring expertise in leadership, strategic planning, and delivering customer-focused solutions.

I'm dedicated to building a thriving City of Whittlesea through open governance, better services and celebrating cultural diversity. From expanding green spaces to tackling illegal rubbish dumping, my focus is on creating a safe and welcoming community for everyone who calls it home.

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david.lenberg@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Lawrie Cox
Ganbu Gulinji Ward

I moved to the City of Whittlesea area in 1977, living in Lalor, Epping, and now Wollert. This area is my home and where I've married and raised my children.

I served on the Shire of Whittlesea Council from 1979 to 1986, including a term as Shire President. I returned to the City of Whittlesea in 2016 and served as Mayor in 2018. My priority has always been representing the community where I've chosen to live.

Professionally, I represented Air Pilots for 28 years and, since retiring, I've worked as an Industrial Relations consultant and an Independent Company Director/Trustee for Superannuation for 34 years. I also volunteer as a Justice of the Peace.

As our region develops, we need essential infrastructure to support growth. I look forward to representing residents throughout my council term.

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lawrie.cox@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Stevan Kozmevski
Lalor Ward

I have been a proud resident of the City of Whittlesea since 1968, living with my family in Lalor.

I began my career with the Railways and have dedicated 47 years to this industry. As a member of the Rail, Tram, and Bus Union, I served as a Divisional Secretary on the Executive until 2023.

I am a graduate of Thomastown Secondary College and have served on the School Council at the College and have been School Council President for 22 years.

In March 1997, I was elected as an endorsed ALP Councillor for the City of Whittlesea and served for 22 years, including two terms as Mayor.

I've witnessed the City of Whittlesea's remarkable growth and understand the vital services and infrastructure needed to support its expanding population.

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Councillor
Jarrod Lappin
Mernda Ward

I moved to the City of Whittlesea five years ago with my family and we couldn't believe how lucky we were. The incredible diversity of the community and the beautiful surrounding environment made us feel at home and welcome.

My passion for local government is driven by a commitment to making a positive impact in the community. I am committed to ensuring we have accessible infrastructure and services, that our environment is protected and thriving and that our community is connected and supported.

As our community grows and adapts, I want to make sure that everyone can play their part and feel at home. The City of Whittlesea has incredible opportunities and I'll be working to ensure we make the most of them.

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Councillor
Blair Colwell
Mill Park Ward

I have proudly lived in Mill Park and the City of Whittlesea for over 40 years, witnessing firsthand how the community has developed and flourished into the place it is today. I am beginning my first term as a Councillor, bringing 25 years of experience in Local Government, primarily in Community Services and Youth Work.

As a Community Health Board Director, a member of the Northern Hospital Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and a Basketball Victoria Tribunal Member, I bring a range of skills in governance.

I am passionate about social justice, promoting reconciliation and Aboriginal affairs, building a cohesive community for all, and supporting the health and wellbeing of children and young people. I aim to ensure that Whittlesea continues to have thriving, connected children, young people, and families.

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blair.colwell@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Christine Stow
North Ward

I grew up in our municipality and have seen the area change from farms to the busy growth corridor it is today. I have a deep connection to the area and understanding of the issues.

My background was in Forensic and Environmental Science then Medical sales. It all changed when I had my second daughter and found out she has a muscle condition.

I became involved in advocating for what is now NDIS and advocated for Carers running support and community groups. I get it. I've worked across government, community and with Council to bring services: the satellite school in Whittlesea and support services for families.

With a background in science, I am adaptable across many areas of Council and Community.

📞 9438 8090
christine.stow@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Deb Gunn
Painted Hills Ward

I have lived in the City of Whittlesea on and off for most of my life. I have watched our city grow and develop and wish to be an integral part of its future.

I have worked in the Disability Sector for the past 33 years, performing a number of support, leadership and management roles.

I am an active member of my community, volunteering with the Doreen CFA and RSL.

You will often see me doing community engagement amongst other activities.

With membership on a number of Committees, I have experience and an understanding of good governance and the desire to see our council functioning again. I would like to see the City of Whittlesea working effectively and efficiently for the residents, making this a city of choice for people to live.

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deb.gunn@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Martin Taylor
South Morang Ward

I am an experienced leader, dedicated advocate, and proud South Morang resident. With a career spanning law, emergency services, the military, and both private and public sectors, I bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to my role.

My background includes serving as a Barrister and Solicitor, Senior Counsel Assisting, General Counsel, with Victoria Police, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, as a Major in the Army Reserve, and as a volunteer with St John Ambulance. I hold qualifications in law, policing, management, education, and paramedical science, reflecting my commitment to service and excellence.

My priorities include enhancing road safety, improving community facilities, advocating for sustainable development and working towards a vibrant, inclusive future for the City of Whittlesea.

📞 0448 904 630
martin.taylor@whittlesea.vic.gov.au



Councillor
Nic Brooks
Thomastown Ward

Born and raised in the northern suburbs I love the area and want to see it flourish as a thriving business district with a happy, healthy and connected community that is proud of where they live.

My current role is General Manager for a Security & Technology company. For the last seven years I have co-owned and operated a NDIS registered provider specialising in vehicle occupant safety solutions. With 20 years of corporate experience, I have been part of high performing teams for domestic and global businesses.

My hope for the City of Whittlesea is a council that supports local living and employment, aiming to increase local job opportunities. Promoting smart urban design for sustainable and connected communities understanding the ongoing cost of living and housing crisis.

📞 0400 752 042
nicholas.brooks@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Free event Community Festival

Sunday
16 March
2025
11AM
UNTIL
5PM

Civic Centre lawns, 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang

Come along to the City of Whittlesea's biggest celebration — a day filled with fun, connection, and activities for all ages!

- live music and entertainment
- cultural performances
- cooking workshops
- arts and crafts activities
- theatre shows
- ageing well activities
- community and market stalls
- food trucks
- family zone with face painting
- youth zone
- a pet expo.

Join us for a lively day celebrating our vibrant community. Don't miss this chance to make great memories with family and friends.



For all the details, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/CommunityFestival

The City of Whittlesea is dedicated to hosting sustainable events.

Marveloo Mobile Accessible Restroom on site



Parking is available at Civic Centre, however we encourage you to carpool, use public transport or ride to the festival.



Highlights

Theatre performances

Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre

Velveteen Rabbit

1pm and 3.30pm, Yan Yean Theatre

A thoughtful and hilarious reimagination of the 100 year old book *The Velveteen Rabbit* with a target audience aged 4 - 12. Bring your favourite snuggly toy to the show.



Dr Hubble's Bubbles

12pm and 2.30pm, Woodstock Theatre

This fun event for the whole family features square bubbles, flaming bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, exploding bubbles and the biggest bubbles you'll ever see!



Stage performances

Mitch Tambo
1.10pm, Youth Stage



Australian World Music Star Mitch Tambo is a 'new voice for a generation,' producing music that bridges cultures and resonates globally. His rendition of *You're the Voice* surpassed 1 million streams, marking the first time a song in the Gamilaraay language has reached this milestone.

Squid Nebula
3pm, Lawn Stage

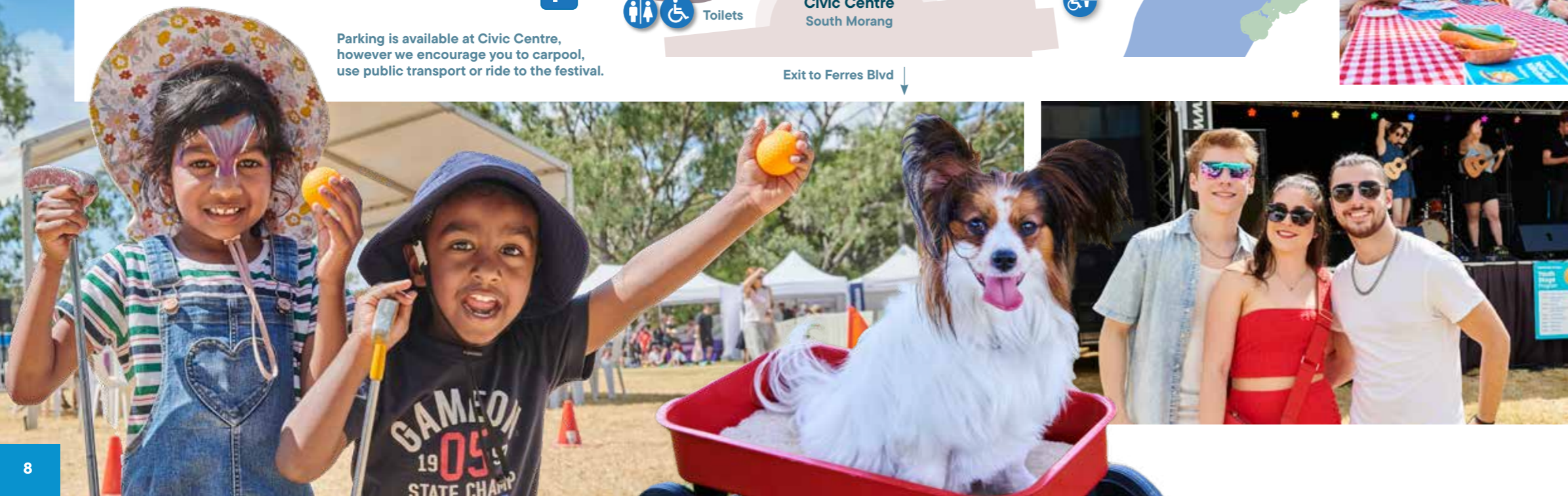
Fronted by the hypnotic soul vocals of Noongar musician Bumpy and backed by a band that includes members from Quality Used Cars, Bohjass and Jake Amy's band, Squid Nebula have made their way from regular residencies for Cherry Bar's Soul Night on AC/DC lane in 2015 to sets at Loch Hart, Strawberry Fields and St. Kilda Festival.



Local Food Discovery cooking demonstrations

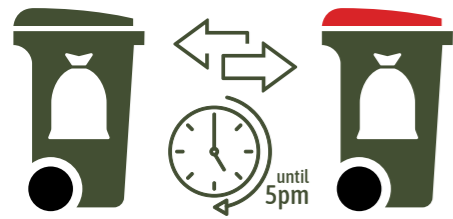
Emelia Jackson

MasterChef Australia winner Emelia Jackson will transform the finest produce grown in the City of Whittlesea into delicious dishes. A passionate baker, Emelia first wowed audiences as a Season 6 finalist before claiming the MasterChef title in 2020.



Better sorting with new-look rubbish bin lids

Starting in May this year, we will be rolling out replacement rubbish bin lids across the City of Whittlesea to bring us into line with the Victorian Government's new standard bin lid colours.



If your rubbish bin currently has a dark green lid, it will be replaced with a red lid.

Simply place your bin out on your regular collection day and leave it there until 5pm. Our team will handle the rest.

This change will standardise bin lid colours across Victoria, making it easier for you to correctly sort your waste and identify the rubbish bin – even if you move house, visit friends or family, or travel within the state.



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



Did you know...

More than one third of what is put into rubbish bins could have been composted, recycled or repurposed?



You can make sure waste is not lost to landfill by choosing the right bin.



Before placing an item in the rubbish bin, visit the A-Z Guide to Waste and Recycling on our website to find out the best place for your waste.



Often there's a local and free option for items.



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

Taking action on trashy behaviour

Our dedicated Litter Enforcement Team investigates all illegally dumped rubbish. Community reports help our investigations, which often lead to fines.

Most people in our community do the right thing in disposing of waste, using many services to get rid of waste and recycling throughout the year. However, a small number of individuals and businesses choose to illegally dump rubbish on our roadsides, nature strips and parks.

Recently, a developer reported rubbish dumped from a large truck onto vacant land in Wollert, providing important details including the truck's registration number, CCTV footage and information from others.



ABOVE It is simple for residents to report dumped rubbish on Council's website.

We investigated this evidence, tracking the truck back to a company that was hired to remove rubbish from a property locally and dispose of it properly. We compiled enough evidence to issue the maximum \$10,000 fine.

Since June 2024, we've issued more than \$85,000 in fines for illegally dumped rubbish.

To help us take action on illegal dumping, when reporting an issue, you can share identifying information such as a vehicle registration number.



To report dumped rubbish, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/litter

Where does *our* food and garden waste go?

Have you ever wondered what really happens to the food scraps and garden clippings that you and your family put in your green-lidded bin?

It's all being turned into valuable compost that helps our community grow. Local farms, kindergartens and community gardens are already benefiting from this compost and more are lining up to receive some.

In 2024, residents helped stop more than 19,377 tonnes of food and garden waste from going to landfill, where it can take decades to break down and releases harmful gases.

We're proud to say that our community is getting it right, nearly all of the time. The City of Whittlesea resident's food and garden waste bins have a 2.5 per cent contamination rate.

To make things easier and provide you with more options for waste disposal, we also provide every household, including renters, two free hard rubbish collections and a range of free and discounted waste vouchers each year.



Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn what belongs in your green bin whittlesea.vic.gov.au/food-and-garden-waste-bin

BELOW Emily and Cortni from RePurpose It in Epping with compost made from local food and garden waste.



The top 3 contaminants in resident's food and garden waste bins were:



hard rubbish
(book a free hard rubbish collection or visit our website for more disposal options)



bagged general rubbish
(place in your red bin)



nappies
(place in your red bin)

If you are still struggling with having enough room in your bins, we can help you to find a solution that works best for your household including free options. Visit our website to explore the many options available to help you get your waste to the right place.



ABOVE More than 5,000 native trees and shrubs were planted at Quarry Hills Parkland as part of our Conservation Reserves Tree Planting Program.

Back to nature in Quarry Hills

Through the ongoing dedication of local residents and community groups working in partnership with Council, Quarry Hills Parkland is being steadily restored.

Throughout winter and early spring, more than 5,000 native trees and shrubs were planted as part of our Conservation Reserves Tree Planting Program.

The program is restoring the native eucalypt and granitic hills woodland vegetation once cleared from the park, which includes eucalypts, drooping sheoaks, and silver banksias which were removed in the 1930s.

The project improves habitats for local fauna like the Krefft's glider and helps increase tree canopy cover.

With over 25,000 more trees and shrubs planned for the next planting season through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action funded BushBank program, Quarry Hills is set to continue to flourish.

You can explore Quarry Hills on the new Connecting Trails. The walking and cycling trails showcase the beauty of the parkland with mountain and city views, and highlight the parklands significance to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri Willum Clan.



For more information visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/connectingtrails



Park smart and help keep our kids *safe*

Parking safely near schools is vital to ensure the safety of children and support the flow of traffic during busy drop-off and pick-up times.

By parking correctly, we can increase visibility for children and drivers, decreasing the risk of accidents and creating safer roads for our kids to get to and from school.

Our parking officers regularly patrol school zones to help ensure safety is maintained.

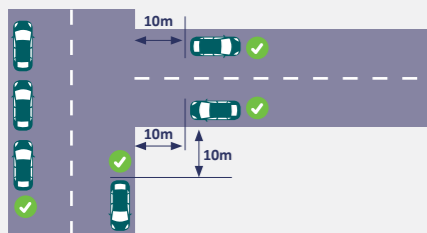
Let's all do our part around schools – take a few extra minutes to find a legal parking spot and make safety a priority.



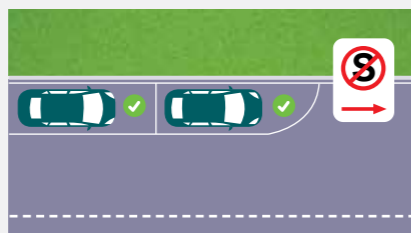
For more information scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/Services/SchoolParking

When parking near schools, here are a few rules to remember:

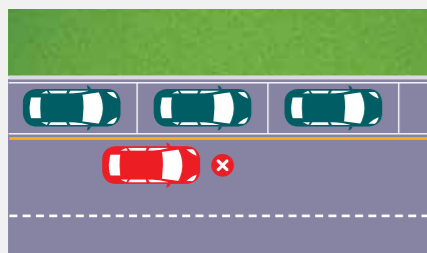
✓ Stay clear of school crossings and intersections



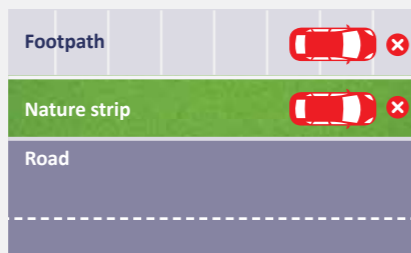
✓ Park in designated areas – don't stop in a no-stopping zone



✗ Don't stop on the side of the road marked with a yellow edge line



✗ Don't park on footpaths or nature strips



Stay safe, informed and be prepared

Emergencies can happen at any time and affect anyone.

They can be big or small, and depending on where you live, you might be at higher risk for certain emergencies like fires or floods. It is important that you understand what types of emergencies you may face and how to prepare for them.

A series of short, informative videos to help you prepare for emergencies are available in ten languages on our website.



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

Download the VicEmergency app for the latest updates.



Online portal for residents

Our new online Customer Portal is making it easier for you to interact with us.

From reporting issues, updating your contact details, accessing your waste and disposal voucher or making payments, you can now easily do all this and more online, at a time that is convenient to you.

Simply log in to the Customer Portal on our website – you can find the button in the top right hand corner of the home page or under Quick Links on a mobile device.



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

Rosco's journey from pound to loving home

When Rosco first arrived at the wat djerring Animal Facility, he was a shy dog, but with the care and attention of the dedicated team, he soon blossomed.

Rosco, with his playful nature, boundless energy and love for cuddles captured everyone's hearts and made him a favourite among the staff.

The team at the wat djerring Animal Facility were incredibly friendly and supportive, helping us find our forever fur baby, Rosco.

– Donna, Whittlesea

Whittlesea resident Donna visited the facility and was taken by Rosco's fun personality.

"He has settled in beautifully and brings so much joy with his loving temperament and playful energy," she said.



Find your new best friend – Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/AnimalFacility

The wat djerring Animal Facility is managed in partnership with Merri-bek and Darebin councils.

BELOW Rosco has found his fur-ever family.



The wat djerring Animal Facility:



reunite lost pets with their owners



care for lost, stray, abandoned, and surrendered animals



promote pet wellbeing and responsible pet ownership



offer an adoption service to give animals a new start



Shine a light on local business excellence

Do you run or work in a business that deserves recognition?

The 2025 City of Whittlesea Business Awards are now open for nominations!

This is your chance to celebrate the contribution local businesses make to help our city thrive. From excellent customer service to innovative practices, these awards recognise the best in business across the City of Whittlesea.

Don't miss the opportunity to highlight the hard work and dedication of local businesses. Nominate your business today, or encourage your favourite local business to apply.



For more information or to nominate scan the QR code or visit

whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessAwards

Nominate a local hero

Nominations are open for the City of Whittlesea Community Awards

The awards recognise outstanding contributions in our community across five categories: Citizen, Young Citizen, Senior Citizen, Access and Inclusion Citizen, and Sustainable Environment Citizen or Group of the Year.

Last year's Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year, Norma said, "Winning the award was a special moment for me, it made me feel grateful and humbled."

"I am committed to continue to make a positive impact through my work and volunteering."

Nominations close on Wednesday 5 March, with awards presented at the Community Festival on Sunday 16 March.



To nominate a local hero, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityawards



ABOVE Norma was named last year's Access and Inclusion Citizen of the Year.

Let's talk



We love chatting to our community and getting your valuable feedback on the many important projects we are working on.

We are currently running a series of focus groups and discussions with our community on the Community Plan, Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan. Feedback from these focus groups will help us shape these important documents and inform our investment and delivery of critical services and essential infrastructure.

Keep an eye out for your opportunity to have your say on the following plans in the coming months:

- Draft Budget 2025-26
- Financial Plan 2026-35
- Road Management Plan 2026-29
- Revenue and Rating Plan 2026-29
- Asset Plan 2026-35



To have your say, scan the QR code or visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Have your say on kinder

Are you a parent or carer with children under 6? We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts to shape kindergarten services in the City of Whittlesea.

Complete our quick survey by Monday 31 March and help us make kindergarten even better.



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

Kindergarten applications now open – and it's free!

Families can access up to 15 hours of free kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children close to home.

With more than 40 kindergartens across the City of Whittlesea, including two new kindergartens opening in 2026, it's easy to find a local option at no cost.

Kindergarten is a fun and exciting place where children build social skills, develop a love for learning, and make new friends.

Give your child the best start – apply now for three-year-old kindergarten in 2026 and four-year-old kindergarten in 2027.



To apply or find your nearest kinder scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder
For information about free kindergarten in your language visit vic.gov.au/kinder/translations

"My son loves hands-on activities like arts and crafts, songs, and storytime at kindergarten."

Since starting, he's become more social. It's been amazing to see his confidence grow in such a safe, enriching environment."

– Vera, a local parent



Kinder open days

Join our open days to meet the teachers and see the learning environment:



Thursday 27 February
5.30pm–7.30pm



Saturday 1 March
9.30am–11.30am

Major upgrades for kindergartens in Lalor, Epping and Mill Park

Three local kindergartens are getting major upgrades.

These improvements will create 194 new kindergarten places, making early education more accessible for families.

Dalton Road Kindergarten in Thomastown, Derby Meadows Preschool in Epping, and The Stables Kindergarten in Mill Park will all benefit.

Derby Meadows and Dalton Road will also include maternal and child health services providing families with a one-stop space

for essential services. This is part of the \$24.25 million Building Blocks Partnership and supports the Best Start, Best Life reform.

The Victorian Government has contributed \$13 million to this project, with additional funding from the City of Whittlesea.



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

What's on this season

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

Conservation Walk and Talk Series

Walks run between February and July
Various locations

This series of fun and educational walks explore flora, fauna and history of local places within the City of Whittlesea. Topics include the history of Quarry Hills, fauna of the gorge, family bushwalking and mushroom identification.



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

Pop Up Bush Playgroup

Tuesday 18 March, 10am–2pm
Laurel Street, Whittlesea Park, Whittlesea

Join Eco Explorers for a fully facilitated, family playgroup in nature and explore, create and discover the environment around us. Registrations are not required. Children must be supervised at all times.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events for details.

Get ready for an unforgettable show

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

We're thrilled to unveil a spectacular 2025 line-up of performances featuring incredible musicians, children's shows, comedy, dance and theatre – there's something for everyone!



Scan the QR code to purchase tickets and view the show list pracc.com.au

Celebrating Cultural Diversity Week

Wednesday 19 March, 10am–1.30pm
Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre
35 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Celebrate the diverse cultures that make our community vibrant. Enjoy multicultural music, art, dance performances and delicious food from around the world. RSVP by 14 March for catering purposes.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/CDW to book.

Nature Discovery Walk

Sunday 6 April, 10am–2pm
Harvest Home Recreation Reserve
(enter via Harvest Home Road, Epping)

Learn about nature in this facilitated walk. Children take part in activities and receive a stamp for their nature passport. Registrations are not required. Children must be supervised at all times.



Scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events for details.



Positive Ageing programs

We have a diverse range of programs to keep you healthy and independent for longer.

No matter your interests or abilities, you're sure to find something – from physical activities to social events – these programs are a great way to stay active, make new friends, and enjoy life. Designed for residents aged 50 and older.

For more information, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LEAP or [9217 2170](tel:92172170) and select option 4.

Raising Children sessions

We run programs and short courses for parents and carers of children of all ages.

Upcoming sessions include:

- **Communication Development**
Tuesday 4 March
- **Pop-Up Playgroup**
Wednesday 5 March
- **Parental Self-Care**
Wednesday 5 March
- **Nourishing Little People and Oral Health Care**
Tuesday 18 March
- **Read, Play and Connect**
Thursday 20 March
- **Parenting toddlers session**
Thomastown – Thursday 27 March
Mernda – Monday 31 March

For full details and to book, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familytraining



Silvie Paladino

The season begins with Morning Melodies starring Silvie Paladino as she performs some of her favourite songs and musical numbers.

Wednesday 5 March, 11am
Cost: \$24 full | \$22 concession
\$20 for groups of 10+

Community Festival

Free event

Sunday
16 March
2025

11AM
UNTIL
5PM

Civic Centre lawns, 25 Ferres Blvd, South Morang
📍 whittlesea.vic.gov.au/CommunityFestival

