

# WHITTLESEA TOWNSHIP AND SURROUNDS



## Whittlesea Township

Originally known as Upper Plenty it was renamed Whittlesea in 1864 after the town of Whittlesey in England.

Whittlesea Township within the rural north of the municipality covers an area of approximately 20 square kilometres. Whittlesea Township has a strong historical character much of which remains intact. Notable buildings include Whittlesea Primary School, Christ Church Anglican Church, various shops in Church and Walnut Streets and a number of original homesteads.

European settlement dates from 1837. In 1853 the first post office opened and in 1878 the first school opened, which is still home to Whittlesea Primary School.

The railway to Whittlesea Township opened in 1889 and operated for 70 years until train services were stopped in 1959.

## Surrounds

Whittlesea Township is surrounded by Eden Park, Yan Yean, Humevale and Kinglake West.

## Planning and development

Whittlesea Township is the major service centre for the surrounding rural/residential areas of Plenty and Kinglake Ranges.

### More information

Whittlesea Township and rural area plans and other planning and development plans, can be viewed at Council's website.



## Population

In 2015, it is estimated 5,094 people live in the Whittlesea Township. By 2036, the population is expected to grow to 7,220 an increase of 47 per cent.

The median age in 2015 is 37 which is expected to increase to 40 by 2036.

The 70 to 84 age group is forecast to experience the greatest change between 2015 and 2036 (an increase of 76 per cent).

### Births

In 2015, an estimated 65 children were born, on average one per week. By 2036, this figure is expected to increase to 88 births per year, on average 1.7 births per week.

### Diversity

The proportion of residents who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in Whittlesea is the highest in the municipality.

The two most common languages spoken at home other than English are Italian and Macedonian.

The most common countries of birth other than Australia are the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Italy.



## Families and households

In 2015, there are approximately 1,953 dwellings. This is expected to increase to 2,892 dwellings by 2036.

In 2015 the average household size is 2.7 people and is expected to remain the same in 2036.



In 2015, the proportion of households consisting of couples with children is 34 per cent. By 2036, this will have reduced to 31 per cent.

The Whittlesea Township has the highest rate of residents in the municipality who volunteer a slightly larger rate compared with Greater Melbourne (19 per cent vs 16 per cent).

### Employment

More residents are employed as technicians and trade workers than any other occupation – a higher proportion compared with Greater Melbourne (23 per cent vs 13 per cent).

There are more residents working in the construction industry compared with any other industry which is a higher proportion compared with Greater Melbourne (18 per cent vs 8 per cent).

### Education

In 2015, Whittlesea Township has a relatively large proportion of primary school aged children (11 per cent compared to 9 per cent across the rest of the municipality).

## Major surrounding features

- **Yan Yean Reservoir/Yan Yean Reservoir Park** managed by Melbourne Water. The Reservoir supplies the northern and central suburbs of Melbourne.
- **Toorourrong Reservoir/Toorourrong Reservoir Park (Whittlesea)** managed by Parks Victoria. Completely destroyed during the 2009 bushfires, the Victorian Government spent \$5.1 million rebuilding the park which re-opened to the public in late 2015 and is also home to the Whittlesea Bushfire Memorial.
- **Kinglake National Park** has 23,210 hectares of tall forests, fern gullies and rolling hills, an extensive network of walking tracks and other facilities, as well as vantage points offering scenic views. It protects almost 600 native plant species, over 40 native mammal and 90 native bird species.
- **Growling Frog Golf Course (Yan Yean).** The course has first class facilities including a restaurant and café, dedicated driving range, putting green, chipping green, practice bunker and more. The creation of a dedicated recycled water supply has ensured there will be plenty of water to keep the course maintained at the highest standard throughout the year.
- **Whittlesea Golf Club**, situated in the Humevale Valley, houses a challenging 18-hole layout for golfers of all standards.
- **Donnybrook Farmhouse Cheese Factory**, offers fresh dairy food and cheese. All products are hand-made on the farm from their very own cow's milk.
- **T H Hurrey Recreation Reserve (Yan Yean).** Facilities at this four-hectare park include four tennis courts (asphalt), a pavilion and changerooms, barbecues, picnic facilities, and a public toilet.
- **Tuttle Recreation Reserve (Wollert).** Facilities at this 2.16 hectare park include two public access tennis courts (synthetic grass), a pavilion and clubrooms, picnic facilities, barbecues and public toilets.



Toorourrong Reservoir

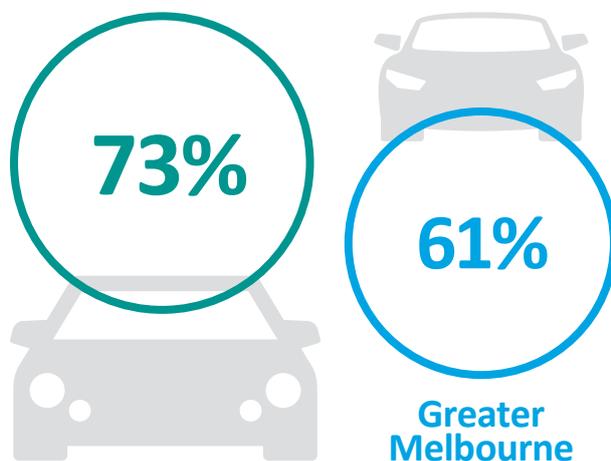


Church Street, Whittlesea Township

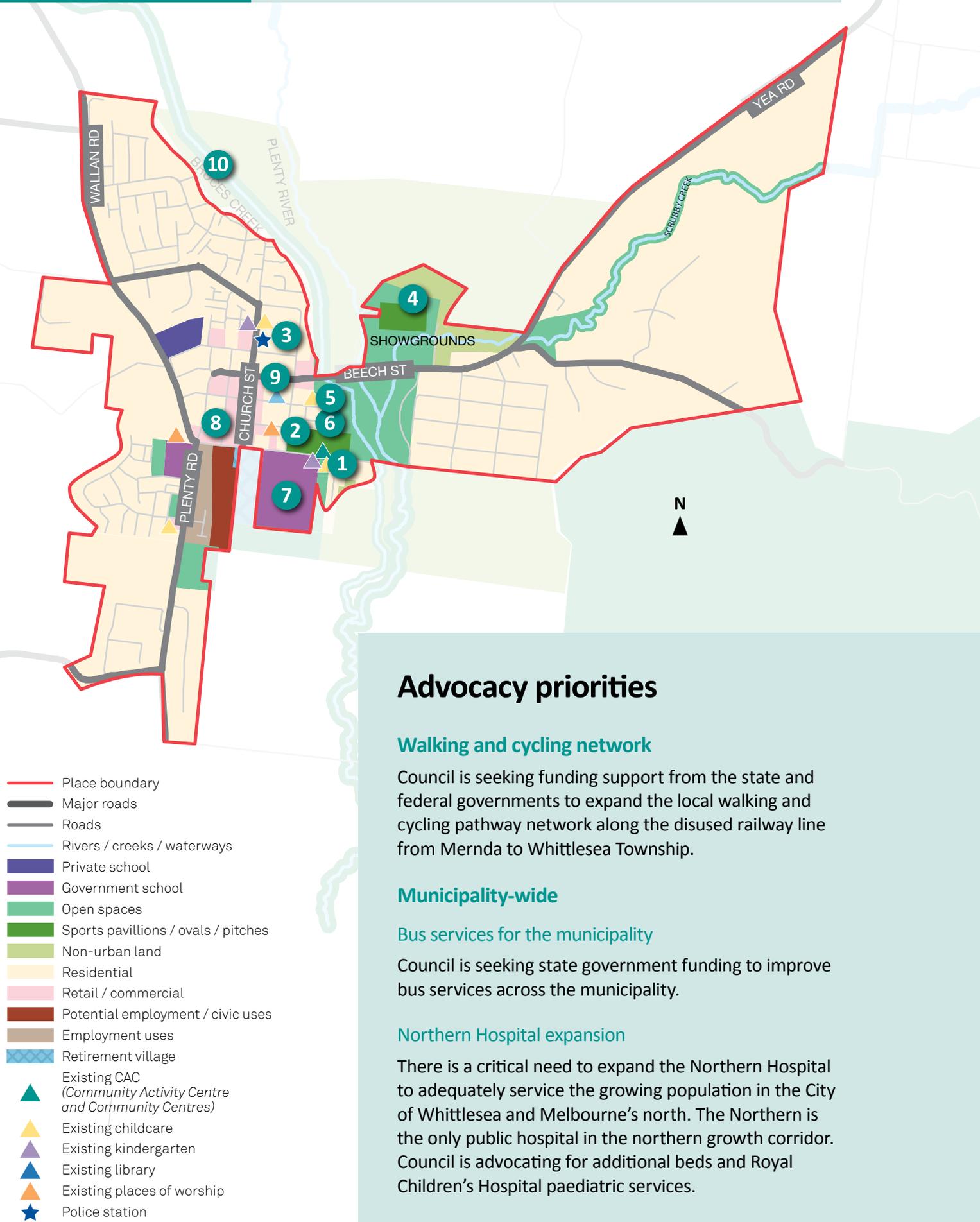
## Travelling in and out

Residents are more likely to drive a car to work compared with the broader population of Greater Melbourne (73 per cent vs 61 per cent).

There are more households with access to two or more vehicles compared to Greater Melbourne (61 per cent vs 51 per cent).



Whittlesea Community Activity Centre



## Advocacy priorities

### Walking and cycling network

Council is seeking funding support from the state and federal governments to expand the local walking and cycling pathway network along the disused railway line from Mernda to Whittlesea Township.

### Municipality-wide

#### Bus services for the municipality

Council is seeking state government funding to improve bus services across the municipality.

#### 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 Whittlesea Community Activity Centre**

Underwent a \$10 million dollar redevelopment reopening in 2014. It includes:

- a memorial hall with large kitchen that can cater for up to 200 people and be used for social functions
- two large meeting rooms
- a regional library, managed by Yarra Plenty Regional Library Service
- Maternal and child health program and consulting rooms
- long day care and kindergarten.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the Facility Coordinator on 9716 0542 or email [whittleseacac@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:whittleseacac@whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

### **2 Walker Reserve**

Includes Australian Football League/cricket ovals, tennis courts and a pavilion.

### **3 Whittlesea Community House**

The community house offers a variety of programs, activities and courses.

For more information on programs offered and schedules, visit the Whittlesea Community House website, email [wchi@whittleseach.com.au](mailto:wchi@whittleseach.com.au) or phone 9716 3361.

### **4 Whittlesea Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve**

Managed by the Committee of Management, covering nearly nine hectares, the showgrounds have four pavilions plus a football oval, pavilion and change rooms. The grounds are home to the annual Whittlesea Agricultural Show which is held on the first full weekend in November.

### **5 Whittlesea Swimming Centre**

The centre is owned by the City of Whittlesea, and managed by Whittlesea YMCA.

It includes a 25 metre heated outdoor pool plus smaller pools for toddlers and learners and is open from 1 November to 31 March each year.

For more information, see the Whittlesea Swim Centre website or call 9716 2137.

### **6 Whittlesea Skate Park and BMX Dirt Track**

The skate park is suitable for skateboard, BMX and scooter riders with the adjoining BMX dirt track suitable for riders of all ages and abilities.

### **7 Whittlesea Secondary College**

The state government has allocated \$4.7 million to upgrade the secondary college facilities.

On site there is the Whittlesea Recreation Centre, which includes two basketball/netball courts available for community sports use out of school hours.

### **8 Church Street, Whittlesea**

In 2015 Whittlesea Township's main hub and popular shopping strip, Church Street, underwent a \$3 million redevelopment with significant upgrades to drainage, footpaths and street furniture and the installation of road crossings for pedestrian safety.

### **9 Whittlesea Courthouse**

#### **Visitor Information Centre**

Built in 1864, it features the single lock-up cell built in 1959. The restored Whittlesea Courthouse is one of the oldest remaining buildings in the area, providing local arts and crafts for sale and historical and visitor information at hand.

For more information, see the Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre website or phone 9716 1866.

### **10 Bruces Creek Recreation Reserve Master Plan (DRAFT)**

Council has developed a draft master plan for Bruces Creek Recreation Reserve, located to the north east of the intersection of Blackflat and Wallan Roads, Whittlesea. The master plan will guide future development of two sporting ovals, four netball courts, a multi-purpose pavilion and other recreational activities.

The timing for development of the reserve will depend on several factors including community demand, need and cost.

To view the draft master plan visit Council's website.