



**Merri-bek**  
City Council

# VCE Vocational Major

**Council Project Opportunities**  
**March 2025**



# 1. The Adaptation Game

---

**Learn about how climate change will affect Merri-bek now and in the future.**  
**Develop climate resilience through play.**

---

Developed by Council in partnership with researchers and creatives, The Adaptation Game (TAG) is based on real science about how climate change will affect Merri-bek.

Participants will play out real-world ways to prepare and protect their home, family, community, and environment. It's an innovative way for community members to talk about and respond to the impact of climate change in their neighbourhoods.

You can watch a video of TAG being played on YouTube: [TAG: The First Game](#)

In development and coming soon, TAG for schools, to include a teacher-ready learning pack that can be used in high school.

## The Opportunity

To board game is available to borrow from Merri-bek Libraries. These kits are designed so people can play the game in their own homes, community groups and schools.

You could:

- Host an in-class game
- Host a peer-led game for the wider school community
- Create strategies that encourage people to take action after playing the game

*Council Project Lead: Sustainable Communities*

# 2. Community Litter Collection

---

**Learn skills in event planning and risk assessment.**  
**Engage in a practical activity outdoors, with a visible positive outcome.**

---

Merri-bek City Council partners with the Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) to support the community to self-organise litter collection events.

MCMC provides support in the following ways:

- Safety induction training
- Provision of litter collection equipment
- Education sessions on the impact of litter to the Merri Creek

## The Opportunity

After completing a safety induction session with MCMC, you could:

- Develop a detailed litter collection event plan
- Host and participate in a litter collection event at school or in the community
- Analyse collected litter and identify the source and come up with a prevention plan or program (e.g. a slurpee cup from 7 Eleven)

*Council Project Lead: Towards Zero Waste*

### 3. Sustainable Period Care

---

#### Design a behaviour change initiative to promote greener choices.

---

Merri-bek City Council offers a subsidy for reusable period products via [Greener Everyday](#). This initiative is part of our efforts to achieve a Zero Waste and Zero Carbon Merri-bek by 2040.

Zero Carbon Merri-bek is a community and council movement to achieve a safe climate for all of Merri-bek.

The aim is to engage all members of our community including residents, businesses, schools, local community groups, as well as Council itself, to take action to transition our community to zero carbon.

#### The Opportunity

The 2024 audit of curbside rubbish bins found that disposable nappies and period products make up 13.5% of this waste stream. When these products breakdown in landfill they release methane, a potent greenhouse gas emission which contributes to climate change. Reusable products like moon cups, period undies and cloth pads can help to reduce the amount of period products ending up in landfill.

- Design a marketing/awareness building campaign or education initiative to promote the use of reusable period products and the Greener Everyday subsidy
- Design a behaviour change initiative identifying possible barriers and enablers
- Host a discussion/brainstorm other example of gendered waste  
What implications are there for inclusion and equality when talking about this topic?

*Council Project Lead: Towards Zero Waste*

### 4. Green My Plate

---

#### Help reduce landfill in Merri-bek and evaluate the effectiveness of a real world project.

---

Green My Plate is a reusable crockery service designed to reduce single use plastic waste from events and public venues ending up in landfill. Merri-bek City Council has been partnering with Green My Plate at Glenroy Festival.

#### The Opportunity

Council will collect data from Glenroy Festival with the aim to demonstrate a reduction of waste as a result of using Green My Plate. Using this data you could:

- Analyse the data and write your own evaluation report
- Brainstorm other opportunities within our community where Green My Plate could be implemented
- Explore the feasibility of implementing a reusable crockery system at your school and develop a proposal
- Host an event at your school using reusable crockery to teach your peers about the importance of minimising single use plastic waste.

*Council Project Lead: Towards Zero Waste*

## 5. Citizen Science - iNaturalist

---

**Connect with Nature.**

**Explore and share your observations from the natural world.**

---

iNaturalist is a citizen science app that enables community members to contribute to biodiversity science. Contributions are shared with global networks enabling scientists to use your data for research.

### **The Opportunity**

Using iNaturalist you could:

- Plan and host a Bioblitz event with your school community challenging your peers to find and record as many species as possible in a given timeframe.
- Independently or in small groups you could record your own observations over a period of time and compare and discuss your findings as a class
- After recording your observations conduct further research into the species you have found including information about their habitats, and conservation considerations.

*Council Project Lead: Conservation Programs Team*

## 6. PETAL

---

**Research & design a behaviour change initiative to increase teenage girls' participation in sustainable and active transport**

---

In 2024, Merri-bek City Council partnered with Monash University to research barriers to young women's participation in bike riding in Victoria through the PETAL (Pedalling Towards Active Living) Research Partnership. We know that the transport sector is currently the fastest growing emissions sector in Australia, that youth inactivity, independence and health are severely impacted by our culture of car-dependency, and that young women are disproportionately affected.

Young women play a critical role in promoting a shift towards active and sustainable modes of transport, particularly bike riding. This program of research aimed to understand young women's travel behaviour, and design behavioural interventions that support them to adopt and sustain bike riding as a mode of transport in our local area.

You can read the report here – [PETAL Report](#)

The PETAL research project only surveyed women aged 18-29 years old. Council is interested in understanding specific barriers and enablers of bike riding amongst high school aged girls (ages 12-17), and we are wanting to explore intervention ideas tailored to support their unique needs.

### **The Opportunity**

- Review global research and survey/ interview female-identifying students within your own school community to develop a research report addressing behavioural, cultural or infrastructural barriers specific to teenage girls and bike riding
- Design a behaviour change initiative or marketing campaign informed by the research to increase female students' receptiveness to or participation in bike riding
- Host a workshop with Council to present the findings and intervention ideas

*Council Project Lead: Sustainable Communities*

## 7. Ready or Not? Let's Talk Resilience

---

### Help build the resilience of your family and community

---

In Merri-bek, we are already beginning to experience the impacts of a changing climate—from more intense rainfall to more hot days. Some groups are more vulnerable than others, depending on factors like age, health, or social connections. Building resilience is not just about infrastructure—it's about people knowing the risks, having a plan, and supporting one another. By fostering local conversations and practical action, we can help ensure our community is ready to face whatever comes next.

#### **The Opportunity**

- Conduct research on what climate and emergency risks impact Merri-bek and what makes different groups at-risk to the impacts of [climate](#) and [emergencies](#).
- Help folks at your local senior centre, a parents group, or a club that meets at your local library develop [Personal emergency plans](#). Another option is to learn to facilitate and host a Climate Café with resources from [Climate for Change](#).
- Reflect on your experience, identify what practical things people can do to be more prepared, and think of ways how to help make that happen

*Council Project Lead: Climate Resilience*