



Merri-bek
City Council



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بڑھاپا اچھے طریقے سے گزارنے کا پروگرام کے بارے میں جانیں، صفحہ 6

बुढ़ौली कल्याण कार्यक्रमको बारेमा जान्नुहोस्, पृष्ठ 6

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July/August 2026

Merri-bek Community News

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fortnightly rubbish

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Celebrating the people who make Merri-bek

Coburg parkrun won Community Event of the Year last year. A free, weekly, volunteer-run 5k that's been getting Merri-bek moving for over a decade. Nominations are now open for the 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards. Who's your local legend?

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, as well as to all First Nations communities, who significantly contribute to the life of the area.



Message from our Mayor

Councillor Nat Abboud

Welcome to your latest edition of Merri-bek Community News. Winter has settled in across Merri-bek, and it's still Waring, Wombat Season on the Wurundjeri calendar, a time to slow down and look after each other.

I'm happy to welcome Kate McCaughey as Merri-bek's new CEO. A local resident from the northern suburbs, Kate brings more than 25 years' experience in local government and community services.

This issue celebrates two vivid new murals in Brunswick and Glenroy, created as part of Council's Pride Pathway initiative. They're a reminder that everyone in Merri-bek belongs. Turn to page 4 to read more.

At our June Council meeting, we resolved to move to fortnightly rubbish collection from July 2027. To help households adjust, we have introduced larger standard bins, expanded concessions and provided additional support. Find out more on page 8.

Nominations for the 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards are now open. If you know someone who quietly makes life better for those around them, find out how to submit a nomination on page 3.

Also, our aquatic and leisure centres have programs for everyone this winter, see page 9.

And learn about our immunisation services on page 8.

Parks and open spaces across Merri-bek continue to be upgraded, check the back page for works near you.

Stay warm, and enjoy this edition.

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Accessible to everyone

We are committed to ensuring our communications are accessible to everyone in our community. If you require this magazine in an alternative format, please contact us on **9240 1111** or at accessibility@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

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Speak with us in your language



Per maggiori informazioni nella tua lingua, chiama il numero **9280 1911**

如需了解更多您语言版本的信息, 请致电 **9280 0750**

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Para saber más en tu idioma llama al **9280 1916**

لمعرفة المزيد بلغتك، اتصل
بالرقم **9280 1913**

Để tìm hiểu thêm bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn, hãy gọi **9280 1915**

اپنی زبان میں مزید جاننے کے لیے
پر کال کریں۔ **9280 1917**

अपनी भाषा में अधिक जानने के लिए,
9280 1918 पर कॉल करें

तपाईंको भाषामा थप जान्नुको लागि,
9280 1910 मा कल गर्नुहोस्

To speak with us in a language not listed here, please call **9280 1919**

Kendi dilinizde daha fazla bilgi edinmek için **9280 1914**'ü arayın

For more information visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language



Marcus Denny says his family has been enjoying the community atmosphere of Coburg parkrun for over a decade.

Celebrating the people who make Merri-bek

Every community has them. The volunteers who show up week after week. The organisers who bring people together. The quiet achievers whose contributions often go unnoticed.

Last year, Coburg parkrun was named Community Event of the Year at the Merri-bek Community Awards – a reminder of the many people and initiatives that make Merri-bek such a connected and vibrant place.

Every Saturday morning, before the rest of Coburg has finished its first coffee, hundreds of people gather along the Merri Creek for Coburg parkrun – runners, walkers, parents pushing prams, retirees, kids, first-timers.

The numbers alone tell part of the story: over 13,500 participants, 580+ volunteers who've given their time and 11 years of free weekly events.

However impressive these statistics are, they still don't capture the volunteers setting up cones before sunrise, the person finding their feet again one Saturday at a time, or the quiet ritual of coffee and a croissant after.

Coburg parkrun ambassador Marcus Denny has been participating with his family for over a decade. "My wife and I first did parkrun when our oldest son was still in a pram. It's evolved from there. There's such a sense of community on Saturdays."

He encourages anyone thinking about nominating an individual or group for the 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards to take the time.

"The awards recognise the unsung heroes out there week in, week out – like our Event Director Kate and her team – doing important work quietly. Our win also brought wider recognition for Coburg parkrun. More people found out about it. It was great."

Join in: Coburg parkrun celebrates over a decade of free, weekly movement along the Merri Creek. Find out more at parkrun.com.au/coburg

Celebrate our local legends

The 2026 Merri-bek Community Awards are open for nominations now. It takes just a few minutes and could mean the world to the person or collective you're nominating.

Award categories include:

Volunteer of the Year

Youth Impact

Environmental Sustainability

Arts and Creative Expression

Diversity and Inclusion

Sport and Recreation Achievement

Community Initiative of the Year

Honouring Women

First Peoples Cultural Leadership

Nominations close 5pm Monday 24 August 2026. Winners announced Friday 9 October 2026.

Visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-awards to submit a nomination or to find out more about the 2026 Community Awards.





Image top: Michelle Guglielmo Park, Sydney Road, Brunswick.
Image bottom: Artwork by Marco Pennacchia, Glenroy Community Hub

Brunswick and Glenroy welcome vivid new murals

Two new murals have arrived in Merri-bek, and they're now a welcome part of the streetscape.

Council is proud to share the installations, celebrating Merri-bek's large and diverse LGBTIQ+ communities and the significant social, cultural and historical contributions they continue to make.

The works are part of Council's broader commitment to making Merri-bek a city where LGBTIQ+ people are visible, safe and celebrated. It's a vision that sits at the heart of Council's LGBTIQ+ Action Plan, developed in partnership with community members and a dedicated reference group.

In Brunswick, the Intersex-Inclusive Progress Flag design now spans the footpath outside Michelle Guglielmo Park on Sydney Road. Painted directly onto the pavement by Council, it's there for everyone moving through one of the suburb's busiest streetscapes.

At the Glenroy Community Hub, local artist Marco Pennacchia's wall mural brings the same vivid colours to a different scale and setting. It's a landmark for the local community that's already drawing positive attention.

“[These works] say to our trans and gender diverse communities in Merri-bek: you belong,” says Son Vivienne, CEO of Transgender Victoria. “Your safety matters, and your future is worth investing in.”

Experience them for yourself. Visit **Michelle Guglielmo Park, Sydney Road Brunswick**, and the **Glenroy Community Hub**.

For young people, by young people

Manuel, 16, from Coburg High, has lived in Merri-bek his whole life. So when the chance came up to edit the first issue of Youth Link – our new youth e-newsletter, run by Council's Oxygen Youth program – he didn't hesitate.

“I usually just try to put my hand up for anything,” he says.

A current Merri-bek Youth Ambassador, Manuel's already found a way to give back. “I really feel like I'm making a difference,” he says. “It's been amazing meeting like-minded young people at Oxygen too.”

The idea for Youth Link grew out of Council consultation with young people. The monthly newsletter is made for young people, by young people and includes local programs, events, jobs and leadership opportunities – with a different young editor each issue.

Manuel built his first issue around trying new things, putting in the work and seizing the moment.

His advice to other young people interested? “Just do it.”

Subscribe to Youth Link at **merri-bek.vic.gov.au/youth-link**, or better yet, get involved! Are you aged 12 – 24 and live, study, work or play in Merri-bek? Call Oxygen on **1800 699 688**.

The next editor could be you.

Manuel, Youth Link's first editor.





Age well this winter

Winter is a good time to check in. The colder months can make it harder to get out, stay connected and access the support you need.

Merri-bek City Council's Age Well Program is a free, friendly and confidential service that supports older people, their families and carers to stay informed, connected and empowered.

Our Age Well Planners offer personalised guidance to help you remain independent, make informed decisions, and confidently access the services, programs and opportunities that suit your needs and lifestyle.

We can help you:

- Navigate My Aged Care and understand how aged care supports work.
- Explore services and programs that match your interests and goals.
- Advocate for the services you need and discuss care options.
- Find social activities, exercise programs and volunteering opportunities.
- Improve your knowledge of health and wellbeing supports.
- Plan ahead with confidence for changing needs in the future.

Staying socially connected over winter makes a real difference. Getting out, meeting people and being part of something can lift your mood, boost your confidence and support your overall health and wellbeing.

Our Seniors Groups are always looking for new members and volunteers – and are a welcoming way to find your people, build friendships and stay engaged in the community.

The Age Well Program is free for all Merri-bek residents aged 65+, or 50+ for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities. No referral needed. We're available by phone, or can meet with you at home or at our offices in Coburg, Glenroy and Brunswick.

Get in contact

To contact the team, call **9240 2270** or email agewell@merri-bek.vic.gov.au. You can also pop in to speak with our friendly staff at the Glenroy Community Hub on Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

Learn about our Age Well Program in English, Italian, Greek, Arabic, Turkish, Nepali, Simplified Chinese, Urdu and Vietnamese at [➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/age-well-merri-bek](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/age-well-merri-bek)

Information in your language



Visit: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/age-well-merri-bek

Email: agewell@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

9280 1911 Italiano	9280 1912 ελληνικά
9280 1917 اردو	9280 1913 عربي
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9280 1914 Türkçe	

Italian | Italiano

Programma invecchiare bene informazioni gratuite e consigli per le persone anziane di Merri-bek

Il personale del programma Invecchiare bene è qui per rispondere alle tue domande sul tipo di supporto e di opportunità disponibili.

In cosa possiamo aiutarti:

- Rappresentarti per farti ottenere i servizi di cui hai bisogno.
- Aiutarti a capire come funzionano i servizi, incluso My Aged Care.
- Trovare un fornitore di Home Care per aiutarti a rimanere indipendente a casa tua e nella comunità.
- Aiutarti a ottenere una verifica delle tue necessità se cambiano le circostanze.
- Scoprire attività sociali, programmi di attività fisica e opportunità di volontariato.
- Pianificare e fissare obiettivi per il tuo futuro.

Questo è un servizio gratuito e riservato. Puoi accedere a questo servizio direttamente, non occorre avere un'impegnativa.

Chiama per parlarci delle tue necessità.

Urdu | اردو

Merri-bek میں عمر رسیدہ لوگوں کے لیے مفت معلومات اور مشورہ

ہماری Age Well (ایجننگ ویل) ٹیم آپ کو دستیاب مدد اور مواقع کے بارے میں آپ کے سوالات کے سکتی ہے۔ جواب دینے کے لیے حاضر ہے۔ ہماری ٹیم آپ کو اور آپ کے خاندان کو ذاتی مشورے فراہم کر سکتی ہے۔ ہم آپ کی مدد کر سکتے ہیں:

- آپ کو مطلوبہ خدمات کے حصول کی وکالت کرنا۔
 - نیویگیٹنگ سروسز، بشمول My Aged Care
 - گھر اور کمیونٹی میں اپنی آزادی میں معاونت کے لیے کسی بوم کیئر فراہم کنندہ کو تلاش کرنا۔
 - اگر آپ کے حالات تبدیل ہو گئے ہیں تو آپ کی ضروریات کا جائزہ لینے میں آپ کی مدد کرنا۔
 - سماجی سرگرمیاں، ورزش کے پروگرام اور رضاکارانہ کام کے مواقع دریافت کرنا۔
 - اپنے مستقبل کے لیے اہداف کی منصوبہ بندی اور تعین کرنا۔
- یہ ایک مفت اور خفیہ سروس ہے۔ آپ کو کسی ریفرل کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔
- اگر آپ کو کسی ایسے معاملے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے جو یہاں درج نہیں ہے، تو پھر بھی ہم آپ کی مدد کر سکتے ہیں۔ اپنی ضروریات پر بات کرنے کے لیے براہ کرم ہمیں کال کریں۔

Nepali | नेपाली

बुढ्यौली कल्याण कार्यक्रम Merri-bek मा बसोबास गर्ने ज्येष्ठ नागरिकको लागि नि:शुल्क जानकारी र सल्लाह

हाम्रो बुढ्यौली कल्याण टोली तपाईंका लागि के सहयोग र अवसरहरू उपलब्ध छन् भन्ने बारेमा तपाईंको प्रश्नहरूको जवाफ दिन यहाँ उपलब्ध छ। हामी तपाईंलाई निम्न कुराहरूमा मदत गर्न सक्दछौं:

- तपाईंलाई आवश्यक सेवाहरू प्राप्त गर्नुको लागि वकालत गर्न
- My Aged Care लगायतका अन्य सेवाहरू प्रयोग गर्न
- घर र समुदायमा तपाईंको स्वतन्त्रतालाई सहयोग गर्न ज्येष्ठ नागरिक स्याहार प्रदायक (Aged Care provider) खोज्न

- यदि तपाईंको परिस्थिति परिवर्तन भएको छ भने तपाईंको आवश्यकताहरूको समीक्षा गर्न मदत गर्न
 - सामाजिक गतिविधिहरू, व्यायाम कार्यक्रमहरू र स्वयंसेवाका अवसरहरू पत्ता लगाउन
 - तपाईंको भविष्यको लागि योजना र लक्ष्यहरू तय गर्न
- यो नि:शुल्क र गोप्य सेवा हो। तपाईंलाई सिफारिस ल्याउन आवश्यक छैन। कृपया हामीलाई तपाईंको आवश्यकताहरू छलफल गर्न फोन गर्नुहोस्।

Sağlıklı Yaşlanma Programı Merri-bek'te yaşayan yaşlılar için ücretsiz bilgi ve tavsiye

Sağlıklı Yaşlanma ekibimiz yararlanabileceğiniz destek ve fırsatlarla ilgili sorularınızı yanıtlandırmaya hazır.

Size aşağıdaki konularda yardımcı olabiliriz:

- İhtiyacınız olan hizmetleri almanız için savunucunuz olarak hareket edebiliriz.
- My Aged Care gibi hizmetleri kullanmanıza yardımcı olabiliriz.
- Hem evde hem topluma karıştığınızda bağımsızlığınızı desteklemek için Evde Bakım sağlayıcısı bulmanıza yardımcı olabiliriz.
- Koşullarınız değiştiyse ihtiyaçlarınızın gözden geçirilmesine yardımcı olabiliriz.
- Sosyal faaliyetler, egzersiz programları ve gönüllülük fırsatlarını keşfetmenize yardımcı olabiliriz.
- Geleceğiniz için plan yapmanıza ve hedef belirlemenize yardımcı olabiliriz.

Bu hizmet ücretsizdir. Bu hizmetten yararlanmak için sevk almanız gerekmez.

Lütfen ihtiyaçlarınızı görüşmek için bizi arayın.

Πρόγραμμα Καλής Γήρανσης Δωρεάν πληροφορίες και συμβουλές για ηλικιωμένα άτομα στο Merri-bek

Η ομάδα του προγράμματός μας Καλής Γήρανσης είναι εδώ για να απαντήσει στις ερωτήσεις σας σχετικά με τις υποστηρίξεις και τις ευκαιρίες που είναι διαθέσιμες σε εσάς.

Μπορούμε να σας βοηθήσουμε με τα εξής:

- Να συνηγορήσουμε για εσάς για να λάβετε τις υπηρεσίες που χρειάζεστε.
- Να καθοδηγήσουμε τη διαδικασία πρόσβασης σε υπηρεσίες, όπως το My Aged Care.
- Να βρείτε έναν πάροχο Οικιακής Φροντίδας για να υποστηρίξει την ανεξαρτησία σας στο σπίτι και στην κοινότητα.
- Να σας βοηθήσουμε να επανεξετάσετε τις ανάγκες σας, εάν οι συνθήκες σας έχουν αλλάξει.
- Να ανακαλύψετε κοινωνικές δραστηριότητες, προγράμματα άσκησης και ευκαιρίες εθελοντισμού.
- Να σχεδιάσετε και να θέσετε στόχους για το μέλλον σας.

Αυτή είναι μια δωρεάν και εμπιστευτική υπηρεσία. Δεν χρειάζεστε παραπομπή.

Παρακαλούμε καλέστε μας για να συζητήσουμε τις ανάγκες σας.

برنامج دعم المسنين

معلومات ونصائح مجانية لكبار السن في Merri-bek

فريق برنامج دعم المسنين الخاص بنا موجود هنا للإجابة على أسئلتك حول الدعم والفرص المتاحة لك يمكننا مساعدتك في:

- المناصرة للحصول على الخدمات التي تحتاجها.
 - خدمات التنقل، بما في ذلك My Aged Care.
 - البحث عن مقدم رعاية منزلية لدعم استقلاليتك في المنزل وفي المجتمع.
 - المساعدة في مراجعة احتياجاتك إذا تغيرت ظروفك.
 - اكتشاف الأنشطة الاجتماعية وبرامج التمارين وفرص العمل التطوعي.
 - التخطيط وتحديد الأهداف لمستقبلك.
- هذه خدمة مجانية وسرية. لا تحتاج إلى إحالة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة بشأن شيء غير مدرج هنا، ما زال من الممكن مساعدتك. من فضلك اتصل بنا لمناقشة احتياجاتك.

乐颐年 计划

面向 Merri-bek 市内长者的免费信息与咨询服务

我们的“乐颐年 (Ageing Well)”团队非常乐意为您解答有关支援服务以及如何获得这些服务的问题。

我们可以提供以下帮助：

- 为您争取所需的服务。
- 了解各种服务，包括 My Aged Care。
- 寻找居家护理服务提供者，支持您在家中和社区保持独立。
- 如果您的情况发生变化，我们将帮助您重新评估您的需求。
- 探索社交活动、锻炼项目和志愿服务的机会。
- 规划并设定您未来的计划和目标

这是一项免费且保密的服务。无需转介即可使用我们的服务。

请给我们打电话，谈谈您的需求。



Preparing for fortnightly rubbish, with extra support

Council has voted to move to fortnightly rubbish collection across Merri-bek from July 2027. To help households adjust, we have introduced larger standard bins, expanded concessions and additional support based on community feedback.

Merri-bek joins 26 other Victorian councils already on fortnightly collection.

Together with weekly food and garden organics (FOGO) collection, fortnightly rubbish will keep more food waste out of landfill and is expected to save ratepayers at least \$16 million over the next decade compared with weekly collection.

What's changing to help residents:

- Standard rubbish bins will increase from 80 litres to 140 litres.
- Rubbish bin sizes will range from 80 to 240 litres, with a maximum capacity of 480 litres (two 240L bins).
- Residents will be contacted in February 2027 to confirm their preferred bin sizes.
- Extra rubbish collections will be available on request for a fee.
- Shared rubbish bins at larger apartment buildings will continue to be collected weekly where fortnightly collection isn't suitable (adjusted charges will apply).
- We are also exploring other options, including paper FOGO caddy liners, nappy

recycling and expanded reusable nappy support.

- More education and outreach will be provided, including for multicultural communities and people living in units, townhouses and apartments.

Concessions for larger bins at no extra cost will be available to eligible households, including:

- Households with two or more infants in nappies (*new*).
- Homes with medical or disability needs that create extra waste.
- Larger households (*updated eligibility*).
- Pensioners (*updated eligibility*) (*new*).
- Homes with multiple foster animals (*new*).

The changes follow community consultation earlier this year and a trial in parts of Hadfield and Brunswick West. Residents particularly valued bin sizing options, clearer hygiene advice and bin-day reminders.

Find out more at

- ➔ [conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fortnightly-collections](https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fortnightly-collections)

Stay protected at every age

Council's immunisation service offers free and low-cost vaccines across all life stages – including catch-up vaccinations for children and adults who may have missed doses earlier in life.

For little ones The National and State Immunisation Programs cover children from birth through to adolescence. If you're not sure whether your child is up to date, your family doctor or Council immunisation nurse can check your records and fill any gaps.

For adults and older residents, flu season peaks in winter. Now is a good time to book your vaccine. Free flu vaccines are available under the National Immunisation Program for adults 65+, pregnant women, Indigenous people, and people with certain health conditions.

New to the area? If you've recently moved to Merri-bek, Council's immunisation service is a good first stop. Staff can help you understand what's available, check your vaccination history, and connect you with the right provider.

Pop-up clinics run every month throughout Merri-bek.

To book an appointment or find out more, call **9240 1111**, visit [merri-bek.vic.gov.au/immunisations](https://www.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/immunisations), or email immunisation@merri-bek.vic.gov.au





Stay active and healthy this winter

As the colder months set in, it's more important than ever to keep moving and look after your health and wellbeing. Our much-loved aquatic and leisure centres offer a range of accessible and welcoming programs to help you stay active throughout winter.

From swimming lessons for all ages and abilities, to group fitness options like Reformer Pilates, there are plenty of ways to build strength, improve fitness and keep motivated in a supportive environment.

Whether you're getting back into a routine or trying something new, our leisure centres are here to help you stay active, connected and feeling your best this winter.

Our leisure centres and pools

We have 6 leisure and aquatic centres, offering something for every member of the family.

Coburg Leisure Centre | Bridges Reserve, Russell Street, Coburg is a year-round facility with heated indoor pools, spa, steam room and sauna, family change village, gym, group fitness classes and cafe. ☎ 9354 3504

Fawkner Leisure Centre | 79 – 83 Jukes Road, Fawkner is our newest centre offering heated indoor and seasonal outdoor pools, swimming lessons, aqua aerobics, a spa and a steam room and sauna, plus an accessible 24/7 gym, cafe, and group fitness classes. ☎ 9358 6600

Pascoe Vale Outdoor Pool | 7 Prospect Street, Pascoe Vale is a seasonal pool open 1 December to 31 March, with a 33m solar-heated pool, shaded learner's pool, toddler's water-play feature and diving pool. ☎ 9354 1723

Brunswick Baths | 14 Dawson Street, Brunswick offers year-round indoor and outdoor pools, a spa, sauna and steam room, a gym accessible 24/7, reformer Pilates, group fitness classes and personal training. Note: the outdoor 50m pool is currently closed for maintenance until late September 2026. ☎ 9381 1840

Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool | 50 Murray Road, Coburg North is a seasonal outdoor pool open from 1 December to 31 March, with a 50m pool, learner's pool, shaded toddler's pool and diving pool. ☎ 8311 4600

Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre | 563a Pascoe Vale Road, Oak Park offers a 24/7 gym, reformer Pilates, group fitness classes, and a seasonal outdoor area with a large pool, kids' water splash pool and water slides. The outdoor 50m pool is currently open early mornings and evenings for lap swimming and morning deep-water running classes. ☎ 8311 4600

All centres are accredited Watch Around Water facilities supervised by qualified lifeguards, and most offer accessible facilities, concession pricing and the Companion Card Program.

For opening hours, prices and memberships, visit ☎ active.merri-bek.vic.gov.au or give us a call.

Your neighbourhood, in your inbox

Good things happen to people who subscribe. Free events. Open grants. Park upgrades. New murals. The My Merri-bek e-newsletter is how locals stay one step ahead.

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Ilias (left) and Leonidas outside Leonidas's home, named Pentalofos after his Greek home village.

Community Connectors: helping Merri-bek's diverse communities stay informed and connected

For many residents, the most trusted source of information isn't a website or flyer – it's someone they know from their community.

More than 1 in 3 Merri-bek residents speak English as a second language. It's one of the many strengths of our diverse community, and a key reason Council information needs to be accessible and inclusive.

That's where Merri-bek's Community Connectors program makes a difference.

Merri-bek's 20 Connectors represent more than 11 communities and languages, sharing Council news through trusted networks and bringing community feedback back to Council.

Ilias Vogiatzis has been a Merri-bek Community Connector for two years, representing the Greek community. He says the role is more nuanced and fulfilling than he expected.

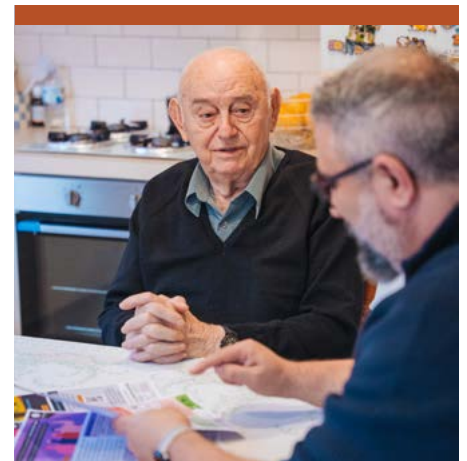
"It's not only about meeting people from different countries and languages. It's about how you communicate what you take from council back to your community."

Ilias has learned that a flyer alone isn't always enough – some community members and groups can't read English, few use smartphones, and genuine conversation is what works.

Leonidas is one of the community members who receives regular updates from Ilias in his first language about Council services and programs, helping him to stay informed, connected and engaged with Council. He has lived in Merri-bek for around 60 years, after growing up in the Greek village Pentalofos.

"Leonidas is an unofficial Community Connector," laughs Ilias. "He is very humble, however, and would not say that." Ilias continues to say that Leonidas shares Council information he receives from Ilias with his friends, also keeping them informed.

For anyone interested in making a positive impact in their community, Ilias's advice is simple: "Give it a go. You'll meet people from different cultures you wouldn't otherwise meet, in a very safe space. It is really worth your time."



Interested in becoming a Community Connector?

If you speak English and a community language, have strong connections within your community, and live, work, study, play, or volunteer in Merri-bek, we'd love to hear from you.

To learn more about the program and express your interest, visit

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-connectors





**Ama Algorithmus
(Mother Algorithm)**

This installation by Axel Garay explores the mysticism surrounding algorithmic technology and the unseen influence of digital systems in contemporary life. Free entry.

➔ **1 August to 25 October 2026**
Counihan Gallery
233 Sydney Road, Brunswick
9389 8622 | counihangallery@merri-bek.vic.gov.au



Youth Take Over Nights

Young people get the run of Glenroy Library for the night – with fun activities, yummy food, and a safe and inclusive space to enjoy with friends. Supervised by council staff. Parent-free. Free. Bookings required.

➔ **Friday 4 September 6pm to 8pm**
Glenroy Library,
50 Wheatsheaf Road
8355 4029 | libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au



Chair yoga

Join a qualified chair yoga and meditation teacher for breathing exercises, gentle seated stretches and guided meditation. Free. Registration required.

➔ **Tuesday 25 August
11.30am to 12.30pm**
Coburg Library, Corner Victoria
and Louisa Streets
9353 4000 | libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au



Lyn's Friday ride

Join a friendly, cruisy community ride exploring shared paths and quiet roads in Fawkner, with plenty of stops to enjoy the view and have a chat. Free cuppa and biscuit at Fawkner Neighbourhood House after the ride. Free. No need to book.

➔ **Every Friday, 10.15am**
Fawkner Neighbourhood House
79 Jukes Road, Fawkner
0422 074 743 | committee@morelandbug.org



Council meetings

Did you know that we livestream and record our Council meetings?

Councillors make decisions on behalf of the community, and residents can submit questions or statements online to be read out.

➔ **Upcoming meetings: Wednesday 12 August and
Wednesday 9 September at 6.30pm**
Online at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/livestream-meetings
(Council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month)

Works in your area



Ivan Page Reserve, Glenroy

The park now has a picnic setting, sand pit and a new shade sail. Shade trees and garden beds have also been added, along with new play equipment suitable for a range of ages. The park was recently re-opened in June for all to enjoy.



Park upgrade, McCleery Reserve Pascoe Vale

McCleery Reserve's park and play upgrade is progressing well. A sawcut bluestone pedestrian connection now links the two reserve areas, and new play equipment, fencing and edging are nearing completion ahead of reopening.



Holbrook Reserve new pavilion, Brunswick West

A modern, eco-friendly sports pavilion has arrived at Holbrook Reserve, with gender-inclusive changing rooms, accessible bathrooms and community social space. Power upgrades are underway.



Wetlands works, Glenroy and Pascoe Vale

New wetlands are being designed at Fran Street and Moonee Boulevard reserves in Glenroy, and Austin Crescent Reserve in Pascoe Vale, supporting wildlife and creating peaceful places to connect with nature. Learn more at conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/wetlands



Morris Reserve, Pascoe Vale South

Park upgrades are underway. Two new fitness stations are now ready for use: one focused on upper body strength, the other on cardio and strength training. A solar light has also been installed near the Marsden Avenue laneway to improve pathway lighting.



New hockey pitch, McDonald Reserve Coburg

We're investing \$3.5 million, including \$468,000 from the Victorian Government, in a new hockey pitch at McDonald Reserve in Coburg, with lighting and shelters to support the Brunswick Hockey Club and the area's growing hockey community.

Your local Councillors



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Cr Sue Bolton

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Box Forest Ward

Cr Chris Miles

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Brunswick West Ward

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Bulleke-bek Ward

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