



Moreland City Council

INSIDE MORELAND

SUMMER 2018



FAMILY DAY CARE CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

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Cover image: *Scarlett keeps cool at Pascoe Vale Family Day Care.*

Welcome to Inside Moreland

A message from your Mayor



Welcome to 2018's first edition of 'Inside Moreland'. I do hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and that you are entering the new year refreshed and hopeful about what the year ahead will bring for you and those closest to you.

The summer holiday period is a great time for reflection with many of us finding life a little slower and a touch less hectic than the rest of the year. Hopefully you will also have a chance to visit our pools for a swim and some rest and relaxation, and don't forget to 'slip, slop, slap'.

For those with children on school holidays, please keep a watchful eye on them, particularly around water. And for those who may have received a new bike for Christmas, please ride safely so everyone can return to school safe, well and rested – ready for a year of new learnings and developing friendships.

After 35 years of primary school teaching, I still love the genuine excitement that comes with children starting a new grade.

This edition of 'Inside Moreland' features a range of articles that I'm sure will provide you with some valuable summer reading. These include changes to Council's recycling service and the welcome addition of a second hard waste collection service this year. I'm confident this initiative will be well received by all residents.

We also celebrate and pay tribute to 40 years of Family Day Care operating in Moreland. We learn about exciting additions to Council's youth facility 'Oxygen', and are updated on works currently transforming Oak Park Aquatic Centre.

Also featured is an important timely reminder about the legal requirements for those with home swimming pools and the associated fencing needed.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors I wish all residents a year full of happiness, good health and much laughter and remind you that we are all available to assist you in any Council-related matters.

Happy reading!

Cr John Kavanagh
Mayor of Moreland

Pool safety barriers save lives

If you have a pool or a spa on your property, you need to be a life saver.

This doesn't mean wearing red and yellow gear and using a whistle. It means making sure your pool barriers – or fences – are maintained; an essential part of saving lives around water.

With summer shining bright, pools provide kids with hours of entertainment. Swimming also keeps kids healthy and active.

However, drowning is the greatest cause of accidental death in children under five in Australia. Even kids who know how to swim are at risk, so it is essential that pool safety barriers are in place.

It is a legal requirement that all swimming pools and spas – indoor,

outdoor, in-ground or above-ground – have compliant safety fencing and gates. This also includes inflatable pools deeper than 30cm.

It is your responsibility as the owner, occupier or tenant of a property with a pool or spa to ensure it is safe at all times. You should also be aware of your insurance policy liabilities on these matters.

Council inspects 100 private pools across Moreland annually.

Safety barriers for new pools require a building permit issued by an appointed building surveyor.

More information on this and householder obligations (including important information on maintenance) can be found at vba.vic.gov.au.

The gate in your pool's safety barrier should never be propped open – under any circumstances. It is also vital that there are no chairs, pot plants, tree branches or similar items positioned so that a child could climb over the barrier.

Of course, other key factors in water safety are the constant supervision of children whenever they are in or near water, and learning to swim.

The team at Active Moreland are experts at teaching swimming to all age groups.

Don't wait, sign up for swimming lessons now. Visit activemoreland.com.au to find out more.



Save lives this summer – make sure you have compliant safety fencing around your pool or spa.

Changes to your recycling service

From 1 October 2017 the rules for recycling in Moreland changed.

This means you can no longer put soft plastic packaging – including plastic shopping bags – in your kerbside recycling bin.

This is due to limited worldwide markets for soft plastics which is having a significant impact on the entire recycling industry.

You can take your bagged soft plastics to a REDcycle collection bin at your local Coles or Woolworths

supermarkets for specialist recycling.

A handy list of all soft plastics – for example plastic bags, bread bags, plastic film and bubble wrap – can be found at redcycle.net.au.

Moreland Councillor Dale Martin says that while wider forces are out of Council's control, the most important measure to reduce plastic waste is always avoidance.

"This is why Council is eliminating single-use plastics from our festivals and events over the coming year," said Cr Martin.

"Remember to bring your reusable fabric bags every time you shop and to always refuse plastic bags."

Find out more at moreland.vic.gov.au/recycling-collection or phone 9240 1111.

From 2018 there will be two hard waste collections in Moreland each year.

Find out more at moreland.vic.gov.au/hard-waste

MORELAND'S CHILDREN



Moreland City Council

MORELAND FAMILY DAY CARE

Local, flexible and affordable care for your children

- Small groups
- Available for children aged from birth to 12 years
- Provided in the home of a registered Family Day Care Educator.

Moreland's Family Day Care service provides flexible hours and small groups, with planned programs focused on helping children develop a sense of confidence, social skills and a connection with their community.

Rates compare favourably with other child care services and families may be eligible for Federal Government child care subsidies.

Find out more at moreland.vic.gov.au/family-day-care

Interested in becoming a Family Day Care Educator?
Phone 9240 2300 or visit Council's website.

Taking your rates online

It's now easier and faster to access your Moreland rates information online.

Thanks to a new online portal, Moreland residents can now access their rates notices at any time via eNotices.

When you receive your hardcopy third instalment rates notice in late January, you'll notice something new listed, called eNotices.

To register to access all your rates notices in the one place and to receive notification of instalments by email, all you need to do is visit the online portal and enter your details – including your full name and property assessment number (found on the top right corner of your notice).

If you already receive your rates notice via email, you'll automatically be redirected to the new portal to access your account.

There's no extra charge, and once you register you'll no longer receive a paper notice in the mail.

Find out more at moreland.vic.gov.au/electronic-rates-notice

Family Day Care celebrates 40 years

Moreland City Council is proudly celebrating 40 years of Family Day Care this year. It's a milestone for early childhood education and care, and also an opportunity to thank the inspiring people who made it possible.

Back in the late 1970s – when Moreland was made up of the local government areas of the City of Brunswick, City of Coburg and southern part of the City of Broadmeadows – Brunswick Council decided to investigate new childcare options for children aged 0 to 12 years.

One of these options was Family Day Care – a more flexible childcare service where children are cared for in the homes of professional Childhood Educators.

At the time, this was a positive move towards supporting women to return to work. Family Day Care programs were tailored to individual women, children and families, rather than the other way around.

Linda Rowe was part of the team responsible for establishing the Family Day Care service at Brunswick Council in 1977. She was aware of only two other Family Day Care services in the area at the time.

“I think there was one [Family Day Care service] in Fitzroy and another one in Flemington – which I worked at before coming to Brunswick – so it was quite an exciting initiative,” says Linda.

The idea of caring for children in the home really started out as stay-at-home mothers ‘swapping’ their children so they could work.

This was fine if you had a network of friends or family, but for those who were new to Australia or had moved away from their support networks, this wasn't always possible.

For Lyn Szilagyi, who worked with Linda at Council in the early days, this idea of a supportive community was what initially appealed to her.

“When I had my first child, I was living in Carlton. I didn't really know anyone and it was quite isolating,” says Lyn. “Then I moved to Brunswick and my neighbours became my friends; I saw how childcare in the home was a perfect opportunity.”

With Moreland's diverse community and increase in casual and shift work, Family Day Care has never been so relevant.

Council's investment in Family Day Care is about family, flexibility, informal outings and convenience for working parents.

“It is also about helping our more vulnerable members and building a stronger community,” says Moreland Councillor, Annalivia Carli Hannan.

In 2014, Moreland Family Day Care was assessed against the National Quality Standard and achieved the highest possible rating of Exceeding National Quality Standard.

Educators are qualified early childhood education and care professionals, and parents are eligible for government benefits and subsidies.

For more information
moreland.vic.gov.au/family-day-care or phone 9240 1111.



The women behind establishing Family Day Care in Moreland, Lyn Szilagyi and Linda Rowe at Bridges Reserve in Coburg.

Oxygen Youth Space grows

Oxygen Youth Space is the first dedicated building for young people in Moreland.

The idea for the new youth centre was originally brought to life by the Oxygen Project – launched by Council in 2009.

The overall Project has been overseen by The Oxygen Committee – a group of young people who provide Moreland City Council with advice and thoughts on issues that affect young people in the area.

Currently comprised of ten members, the Committee's made up of young Moreland community members aged 14 to 25 years old.

Coburg resident Gary Mao has been on the Oxygen Committee for almost four years. He says being involved in the committee process has taught him a lot.

"It's been a really great opportunity to learn how a committee runs, and there are so many roles to participate in," Gary says.

Located in Gaffney Street, Coburg North, Stage 1 of the Oxygen Youth Space opened in July 2013.

In 2017 it's just recently more than doubled in size – with more space for young people to network, learn new skills, socialise or to just relax in a safe environment.

"A lot of young people drop in all the time" Gary adds. "It's a great, friendly place to get homework help and to chat to friends. It's better than sitting at home in front of the computer," he laughs.



Oxygen Committee member Gary Mao at the recently extended Oxygen Youth Space.

The Oxygen Project is dedicated to both boosting and creating youth spaces and services in Moreland. Oxygen is committed to giving young people – Moreland's future – the important opportunity to be heard.

The project also encourages young people to be actively involved with community decision-making. Young people on the Oxygen Committee worked hard to find out what their peers wanted to see in the Oxygen Youth Space.

The result? Stages 2 to 4 of the building were completed in November, a reflection of the needs and aspirations of young people, service providers and the wider community.

The space is now home to a kitchen for budding foodies, expanded office areas and an inviting internal courtyard. The new multipurpose area is also big enough for performances, rehearsals and other group activities.

From free singing workshops, VCE master classes and sessions on resume writing – as well as open mic nights and pool competitions – Oxygen Youth Space has become a much-appreciated and highly valued resource.

In addition to the range of activities on offer, the space also helps young people access a range of support services, if needed.

In line with Council's commitment to sustainable design, the building is fitted with a rainwater tank, solar hot water system, double-glazed windows, LED lighting and the world's first bladeless ceiling fan.

The exciting building is made up from premade modules designed by Council and Modscape – first constructed in a factory, before being transported to the site and installed with a crane.

The now complete Oxygen Youth Space is a testament to the hard work, vision and community spirit of the Moreland Youth Services team, Moreland City Council, the Oxygen Committee and all the young people who've been part of creating this exciting and unique space.

Young people (aged 14 to 25) are welcome to drop into the Oxygen Youth Space Monday to Friday between 3 and 5.30 pm.

See moreland.vic.gov.au/youth-programs for a full list of what's on offer at Oxygen.

Diving into the new Oak Park Precinct



Mayor, Councillor John Kavanagh, at the Oak Park Precinct – soon to cater to more than 220,000 visitors each year.

If you've passed by the Oak Park Aquatic Centre on Pascoe Vale Road in the past few months, it's likely you've noticed some major construction action.

In fact, the old pool and buildings have now completely disappeared and the sparkling new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Precinct is taking shape.

The \$27.3m project – Moreland Council's largest ever capital works project – is the first to be funded entirely by the community, with no assistance provided by the State or Federal Governments.

Opened in 1966, the much-loved Oak Park pools have been enjoyed by thousands of local visitors on Melbourne's scorching summer days. As one of Moreland's six aquatic centres, the new Oak Park Leisure Centre will cater for over 220,000 participants each year.

The new precinct is more than just a new pool. When it opens in late 2018 – just in time for the summer season – visitors will be

able to choose from three new outdoor heated pools, including an impressive 50-metre eight-lane pool, a learn-to-swim pool, and a children's play pool with beach entry and water-play equipment to keep the kids busy.

For thrill-seekers, the old water slide has been dismantled to make way for two new ones, including an exhilarating raft water slide.

Moreland's aquatic and leisure centres play an important part in keeping residents happy and healthy. With this in mind, the new precinct will be accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, including accessible change rooms and an entry ramp for the 50-metre pool and learner's pool.

Moreland Mayor, Councillor John Kavanagh, says Moreland's aquatic centres provide important opportunities for the community to stay connected.

"There are so many great social programs at our local pools that are open and safe for all. I encourage

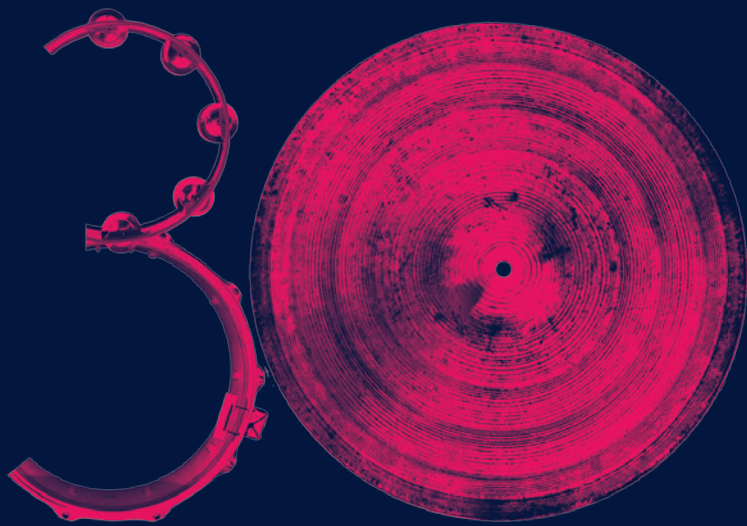
everyone to visit, even if it's just to test the water."

If you're not a keen swimmer, then the 24-hour gym, health club and group fitness space might be more your speed. With new change rooms, more space for socialising, a kiosk and retail space, staying fit and healthy has never been this easy.

There will also be a much-needed new sports pavilion, landscaped outdoor areas and car parking.

In the meantime, everyone is welcome to cool down at the Pascoe Vale outdoor pool, Coburg Olympic Outdoor Pool and Fawkner Leisure Centre outdoor pools, which all have extended hours to cater for the closure of Oak Park this summer.

Stay up to date on the progress of the Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Precinct at moreland.vic.gov.au/oak-park-aquatic-centre.



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