



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek Community News

September 2024



In this issue

**Discover the
significance of
Ballerrt Mooroop**

**Community
Budget Ideas**

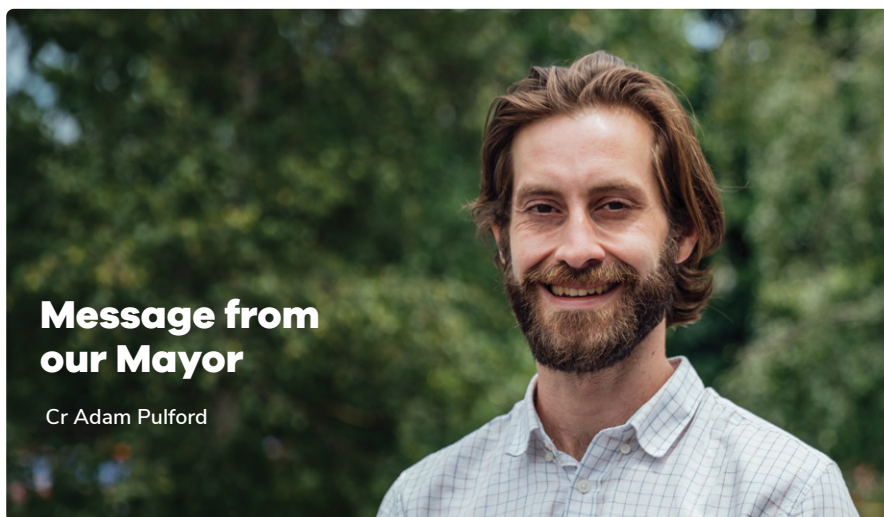
Love Sydney Road



Kiera Hunter and Mikayla George from Wurundjeri female dance group Djirri Djirri at the Ballerrt Mooroop site in Glenroy.

Read more on page 6.

- Message from the Mayor 2
- Our 2024-28 Budget 3
- Community Budget Ideas 4
- Love Sydney Road 5
- Celebrating Fawkner 5
- Fawkner Leisure Centre 6
- Ballerrt Mooroop in Glenroy 6
- Works in your area 7
- Your Merri-bek calendar 8



Hi and welcome to another jam-packed issue of our Community News.

As you'll be reading this before the October Council elections, I want to take a quick moment to thank you for the opportunity to serve as Mayor over the past year.

It has been a privilege to represent our thriving Merri-bek community and I'm so proud of the work we've done together to help make our community even better.

Over the past year, we've made huge progress on the \$36.8 million Fawkner Leisure Centre redevelopment that's set to re-open this coming summer (read more on page 6), as well as the Saxon Street community arts hub. We've advocated to the Victorian Government to transform Sydney Road with accessible tram stops and protected bike lanes and we have created new parks and green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

We're progressing changes to our local roads to make them safer for everybody, whether you're walking, riding, rolling or driving. And this winter we've been planting more trees in our community to cool our neighbourhoods and provide shade and a home for wildlife.

I'm also proud of Council's advocacy, alongside First Nations community members and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, for the State Government to transfer ownership of the Ballerrt Mooroop site in Glenroy back to Traditional Custodians. You can read more about this on page 6.

Also, check out just some of the events, festivals and workshops happening in Merri-bek on the back page. The much-loved Coburg Night Market is on in December, with its free live music, local shopping and food trucks!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as Mayor this year.

Following the October elections, the new Council will form in November, and the work continues.

Merri-bek Language Link

Italiano	Italian	9280 1911
Ελληνικά	Greek	9280 1912
عربي	Arabic	9280 1913
Türkçe	Turkish	9280 1914
Tiếng Việt	Vietnamese	9280 1915
नेपाली	Nepali	9280 0751
普通话	Chinese (Simplified)	9280 0750

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13 36 77 or relayservice.com.au

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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.

Our 2024–28 budget, investing in community

Council recently adopted its final budget of this Council term.

The budget features big-ticket community infrastructure, including the completion of the \$36.9 million Fawkner Leisure Centre Stage 1 revamp and the new \$29.0 million Saxon Street Cultural and Community Hub.

The budget also allocates \$23.6 million to improving parks, open space and streetscapes and \$4.6 million for delivering footpaths, bike paths and transport infrastructure.

Some of the other key highlights of the budget in 2024-25 are:

- A capital-works program of \$92.7 million, to build new and improve existing community infrastructure and maintain community assets
- Investing in environmental sustainability, including providing grants to support low-income households to install insulation and solar panels at home.
- Roads and carparks renewal and maintenance (\$18.9 million)
- Delivering the final year of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Read more at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/budget

Our budget at work





Community Budget Ideas: Your Voice, Your Impact

Twelve-year-old Maxine recently sent in a submission to our Community Budget call out, requesting more drinking fountains to be installed in shopping strips across Merri-bek.

We are so excited to share that Maxine's submission was one of the successful submitted Community Budget Ideas selected for the 2024-25 Budget.

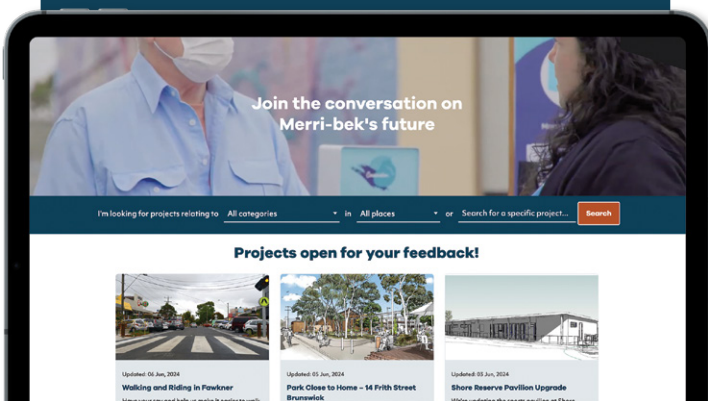
Thanks to Maxine's advocacy, we're investing \$60,000 towards installing drinking fountains in shopping strips, promoting hydration and convenience for all.

A dedicated Youth Connector, Maxine also actively shares council information among her peer groups and networks for feedback, also printing flyers to display on her high school noticeboard.

Championing not only young people in Merri-bek, but the broader community Maxine says:

"More drinking fountains across Merri-bek will mean fewer plastic water bottles, keeping waste off the street. The fountains will also provide a clean, free source for homeless people so no one in our community goes thirsty."

Head online to join conversations about Council activities that affect you at conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au



More on the Community Budget Ideas Program

Last year, we invited Merri-bek residents, community groups, sporting clubs, businesses, and organizations to suggest projects, initiatives, and programs that Council could include in the upcoming budget.

1220 people participated in Stage 2 engagement, with 415 supporting their three favourite projects online and 808 people doing the same in-person at 5 pop-up locations.

Thanks to your active participation and valuable input, we've allocated \$399,000 towards the Community Budget Ideas initiatives included in the budget.

Here's how your ideas have been incorporated:

- **\$150,000** to accelerate the installation of sunshades over Merri-bek's playgrounds, ensuring safer and more enjoyable play spaces for children.
- **\$40,000** towards installing more seats along walking routes to the shops, making it easier for everyone to take a break and rest.
- **\$60,000** for installing drinking fountains in shopping strips.
- **\$59,000** for the "Take the Next Step Merri-bek" domestic violence prevention program, addressing an important community need.
- **\$60,000** for a half-court basketball ring in Glenroy, encouraging active lifestyles and community engagement.
- **\$30,000** for a free basketball court and soccer field for all of Fawkner, providing inclusive recreational opportunities.

Your ideas have directly influenced these positive changes, demonstrating the power of community collaboration. Thank you for helping shape a brighter future for Merri-bek.

To learn more visit conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/community-budget-ideas-2425



Sydney Road business owner, Dr David Cannon of Brunswick Chiropractic

Love Sydney Road

Love Sydney Road is our new program to clean up and beautify an iconic part of Merri-bek - the Sydney Road shopping strip from Brunswick Road, Brunswick to Bell Street, Coburg.

We want it to be a great place for people to live, work, visit and enjoy.

You told us this section of Sydney Road needed some love and we've listened.

Through Love Sydney Road, we are:

- Street cleaning daily from Monday to Friday.
- Also cleaning public spaces of Victoria Street Mall, Dunnes Lane, Page Street, Coburg, and the Brunswick Mechanics Institute and Sparta Place, Brunswick
- Removing graffiti from public infrastructure and buildings.
- Supporting local traders through help with shopfront improvements and more.
- Creating two new murals as part of our RenuWall public art program.

This is along with continuing our daily street sweeping, and our rubbish collection services.

Sydney Road business owner, Dr David Cannon of Brunswick Chiropractic, knows the value of street beautification.

A mural painted on his building, commissioned by the Sydney Road Business Association, helps minimise graffiti and tagging.

"We've been very lucky so far to be on the receiving end of street beautification. Anything Council can do to improve the vibe of Sydney Road is a good thing for traders, residents and visitors," said Dr Cannon.

Love Sydney Road has been developed with community input, including feedback from local traders and through contributions to our Community Budget Ideas program.



Ruth Hitchens working with young artists

Celebrating community and creativity in Fawkner

Fawkner Primary School students are embarking on a special artistic journey to create a site-specific clay artwork, to be unveiled at 2024 Fawkner Festa on Sunday, November 17.

The collaborative project celebrates the school's rich history and diverse community through research, reflection, and hands-on experimentation with ceramics and collage.

Renowned for their work in community arts, artists Ruth Hitchens and Hira Salman will mentor the students, guiding them to bring their creative visions to life.

This partnership not only introduces the students to the medium of clay but also offers an enriching experience in artistic expression and community engagement.

The artwork will be presented both at Fawkner Primary School and at the Fawkner Festa, celebrating the students' creativity and hard work.

Mark your calendars!

When:

Sunday 17 November 2024, 11 am to 3 pm

Where:

CB Smith Reserve, Jukes Road, Fawkner

Learn more at

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fawkner-festa

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Subscribe to My Merri-bek eNewsletter





The significant \$36.6 million redevelopment is well underway.

A bright future for Fawkner Leisure Centre

Exciting changes are taking place at Fawkner Leisure Centre, one of Merri-bek City Council's 6 Aquatic and Leisure Centres.

With a significant \$36.6 million redevelopment underway, the centre will reopen for the 2024-25 summer season, promising a host of new and improved facilities that will cater to the diverse needs of the community.

Following extensive community consultation, we're excited to announce the latest significant milestones:

- Completion of the outdoor 50m and water-play pools
- Extension of the gym, new program space and group fitness studio
- Updated foyer, reception and café lounge area
- Near-completion of southern building structure
- New sauna, steam room and spa
- Significant landscaping progress

The redeveloped centre will be more accessible, and environmentally friendly and provide increased options for all ages and abilities to participate in a healthy and active lifestyle.

For project updates visit conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fawkner-leisure-centre-refurbishment



Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder Uncle Bill Nicholson and our MC for the day, Uncle Charles Pakana, Victorian Aboriginal News Editor and Journalist, took part in Djirri Djirri dance workshop at Ballerrt Mooroop Day 26 May 2024.



Discover the significance of Ballerrt Mooroop in Glenroy

The Ballerrt Mooroop site, located on the former Glenroy High School site, is a place of important cultural and historical significance for First Nations peoples.

That's why Council has been advocating for the State Government to give the Hilton Street site to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to use for education and cultural purposes for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Merri-bek and Hume.

Initially transformed into the Koori Open Door Education (KODE) School and later known as Ballerrt Mooroop College, it has been a significant educational and cultural precinct for young Aboriginal people.

Ballerrt Mooroop means Strong Spirit in Woi-wurrung.

The site is currently owned by the State Government but is leased to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Council has been working together with the Wurundjeri to transform the Ballerrt Mooroop site into a thriving community hub. We're proud to have received the Reconciliation Victoria Maggolee Award back in May for this work.

During the 2024 Reconciliation Week, we celebrated Ballerrt Mooroop Day on-site, with over 400 people attending. This event highlighted the community's recognition of the site's importance.

Uncle Charles Pakana, Victorian Aboriginal News Editor and Journalist, says Ballerrt Mooroop is an important site to bring the community together.

"From a reconciliation perspective, Ballerrt Mooroop stands strong within Victoria as a place that supports the coming together of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members in the spirit of cultural respect, education and collaboration," he said.

All visitors are invited to respect and cherish Ballerrt Mooroop, a site of great cultural and historical significance.

Learn more about Ballerrt Mooroop at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/ballerrt-mooroop

NORTH EAST WARD



Recently completed

Summerbank Reserve, Fawkner

We've upgraded the park to be more accessible for toddlers and younger children, adding a double swing with a sling and joey seat, a junior slide and much more. The community can now also enjoy additional shade, nature play, new picnic areas for families along with fitness equipment.



Recently completed

Public toilet updates, Fawkner

We recently upgraded 7 public toilets on Jukes Road, Fawkner. The new toilets are safe, accessible, clean, and environmentally sustainable. They have improved fixtures and are open to the community daily from 6am to 6pm, 7 days a week.

NORTH WEST WARD



In Progress

Rayner Reserve Pavilion, Oak Park

We want our sports and recreation facilities to be places our entire community can enjoy. As part of this, we are upgrading Rayner Reserve Pavilion, Oak Park. People using the pavilion will benefit from a new accessible toilet, gender-inclusive changing rooms and more.



Recently completed

Brearley Reserve, Pascoe Vale

The public toilets at Brearley Reserve have been refurbished with a complete lighting and electrical upgrade, replacement of damaged fixtures, new inclusive signage and new paint. The toilets are now more inclusive for all members of the community.

SOUTH WARD



In Progress

Frith Street Park, Brunswick

The wait for the new park is almost over! You can now see new native trees and a bouldering wall under wraps, plus other great stuff like the basketball and Futsal half-court – all included in response to community feedback. Stay tuned for information about a special opening event we're organising with fun activities and refreshments.



In Progress

Michelle Guglielmo Park, Brunswick

Community feedback has shaped the park design, currently under construction, which includes new trees, timber decks, bench seats, a lawn area, a drinking fountain, a canopy with integrated artwork and a film projector. The new community park should be ready for all to enjoy in November 2024.

Join the conversation on a range of projects at

conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au

NORTH EAST WARD



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Your local Councillors

EVENTS



Carols by the Lake 2025: A magical evening by the water

Join us for Carols by the Lake, a beloved summer tradition at the picturesque Coburg Lake. Bring your family and friends to sing along to beautiful carols, enjoy a picnic, or sample delicious food from our on-site vendors.

When: Saturday, 7 December, 6pm to 9pm

Where: Coburg Lake Reserve, Gaffney St, Coburg North

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/carols-by-the-lake



Coburg Night Market is back for 2024!

A highlight of summer in Melbourne's north! Young and old come to enjoy food, music, family-friendly activities, and unique local products.

When:

Friday, December 13
5 pm to 10.30 pm

Saturday, December 14
12 pm to 10.30 pm

Sunday, December 15
12 pm to 8.30 pm

Where: Bridges Reserve, Coburg

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/coburg-night-market

BINS



2024 waste collection calendar

View and download your own personalised bin calendar from our website.

If you don't own a printer, the team at our customer service will happily print one out for you. They are located in Glenroy Community Hub, Merri-bek Civic Centre and Brunswick Town Hall.



➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/waste-calendar24

ARTS AND CRAFTS



Saturday 'Sewcial' at NECCHi Neighbourhood House

This monthly social sewing event is for making friends, learning skills and sharing a cuppa.

When:

First Saturday of every month.

Where: NECCHi East Coburg Neighbourhood House, 32 Nicholson St, Coburg

Cost: \$5 per session (FREE for members)

All welcome.

➔ events.humanitix.com/2024-necchi-membership

LIBRARIES



Conversation Café

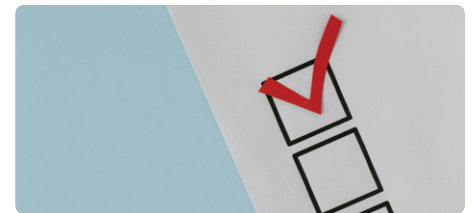
Would you would like to practice your English? Or take part in interesting intercultural conversations? Come sit and chat in a friendly and relaxed group.

When: Every Thursday
7.30pm to 8.30pm

Where: Glenroy Library, 50 Wheatsheaf Rd, Glenroy

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/libraries or call us on ☎9240 1111

UPCOMING ELECTIONS



The next local council elections are being held by postal ballot this October.

Key dates:

Mailout of Ballot Packs

Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October 2024

Close of Voting

6pm on Friday 25 October 2024

Election Day

Saturday 26 October 2024 (no in-person voting)

Learn more at ➔ vec.vic.gov.au