



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek Community News

August 2025

In this edition

Dog Walking in Merri-bek pilot
Spotlight on Balam Balam Place
Recognising our community heroes

Ezgi and her dog Ollie love visiting their local park to get some fresh air and exercise.

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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.

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Message from our Mayor

Cr Helen Davidson

Hi everyone,

I'm excited to share with you this edition of Merri-bek Community News, which is full of important services that make a significant difference in the lives of many people in our community, from our youngest residents to our oldest, and even to our pets!

As our community is growing, so too is the number of dogs that have found loving homes in Merri-bek. This is why, in consultation with our community, we are piloting some ways to ensure our outdoor spaces are welcoming and safe for everyone, including our pets. To read more about the 'Dog Walking in Merri-bek' project, turn to page 6.

Supporting our older residents is a vitally important service that Council provides for our community. Turn to page 7 to read an update on our Aged Care and Community Support services and the advocacy we are doing to retain them.

Located in the heart of Brunswick, the newly opened creative and community precinct Balam Balam Place is already a thriving hub. The \$30 million precinct represents a major investment into our community, reflecting our commitment to provide vibrant and inclusive public spaces across our municipality. You can read more about Balam Balam Place on page 8.

You can also read about Council's free graffiti removal kits – yes, they are free! – and the support that we provide for businesses on page 10.

Despite the cold weather, there's so much happening across Merri-bek! I'd encourage you to find a cosy spot, grab a warm drink, and enjoy this edition of Merri-bek Community News!

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**

Για να μάθετε περισσότερα στη γλώσσα σας, καλέστε το **9280 1912**

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



An update on our Council Plan 2025-29

Councillors have been working hard to develop plans to reflect our community's aspirations. The Council Plan guides our work, decisions and strategic direction over the next four years. It outlines how we will turn the community-led Vision into a reality.

In February, a diverse 64-member community panel, including young people, met over three days to discuss what the future of Merri-bek could look like. They revised the Community Vision and presented it to the Councillors.

The Councillors drafted the 4-year Council Plan in line with the community aspirations that were outlined in the Community Vision.

The draft Council Plan (including the Community Vision and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan), was available for public feedback in July.

The draft 10-year Asset Plan and draft 10-year Financial Plan were also presented to Council in August and will be available for feedback on the Merri-bek Conversations website.

Your feedback will be used to identify any gaps in the drafts and finetune these strategic documents. The final Community Vision, 4-year Council Plan, 10-year Asset Plan and 10-year Financial Plan will then be presented at future Council Meetings for Councillors to consider adopting.

Many voices will have helped shape these Plans. Thank you to all who contributed with their feedback and participation.

Learn more at conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/strategic-plans

Draft Council Plan Themes

1

Care for nature
and climate
resilience

2

Healthy
and inclusive
communities

3

Beautiful
and liveable
city

4

Thriving
economy
and culture

5

Engaging and
responsible
council

We are committed to ensuring our communications are accessible to everyone in our community. If you require this issue of Community News in an alternative format please contact us at communications@merri-bek.vic.gov.au or 9240 1111

Help us review our Local Law

The Local Government Act gives Victorian councils the power to create local laws within their municipality. Local Laws are designed to protect and enhance public health, safety and amenity of the municipality and its residents and visitors. Councils use local laws to respond to issues and community needs. To find out more and to share your feedback, keep an eye out for our Local Law Review on Conversations Merri-bek.



Caring for dogs and cats

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first round of engagement, either online or at a pop-up, on our Domestic Animal Management Plan. The draft plan will be available on Conversations Merri-bek, and at our libraries and customer service centres from 15 September.

Follow the Conversations Merri-bek page to receive project updates.

Join conversations on Council activities that affect you



Visit
conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Did you know that you can get help with Council services in your language?

- Call our multilingual phone line on **9280 1919** to speak to Council staff in your language.
- You can also request an interpreter at any of our customer service centres or libraries.
- Contact us to request information in your language or in a different format (for example, large print, Braille, Easy Read and audio). We can organise this for free.

For more information in your language,
please scan the QR code or visit
📞 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language



Italian | Italiano

Sapevi che puoi ricevere aiuto per i servizi del Comune nella tua lingua?

- Chiama il **9280 1911** per parlare con il personale del Comune in italiano.
- Puoi anche richiedere un interprete nei nostri centri servizi o biblioteche.
- Hai bisogno di informazioni nella tua lingua o in un formato diverso (stampa grande, Braille, Easy Read, audio)? Contattaci. Questo servizio è gratuito.

Per maggiori informazioni, scansiona il codice QR o visita:

📞 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Nepali | नेपाली

के तपाईंलाई थाहा छ कि तपाईंले आफ्नै भाषामा नगरपालिका सेवाहरूको सहायता प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुन्छ?

- नेपाली भाषामा कुराकानी गर्न ९२८० १९१० मा फोन गरेर नगरपालिका कर्मचारीसँग कुरा गर्नुहोस्।
- तपाईं हाम्रा ग्राहक सेवा केन्द्रहरू वा पुस्तकालयहरूमा पनि दोभाषे अनुरोध गर्न सक्नुहुन्छ।
- के तपाईंलाई आफ्नै भाषामा वा फरक ढाँचामा (जस्तै ठूलो अक्षर, ब्रेल, सरल भाषा, अडियो) जानकारी चाहिन्छ? हामीलाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस्। यो सेवा निःशुल्क उपलब्ध छ।

थप जानकारीका लागि QR कोड स्क्यान गर्नुहोस् वा हाम्रो वेबसाइट भ्रमण गर्नुहोस्:

📞 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Turkish | Türkçe

Belediye hizmetleri hakkında kendi dilinizde yardım alabileceğinizi biliyor muydunuz?

- Türkçe konuşmak için **9280 1914** numarasını arayarak belediye personeliyle görüşebilirsiniz.
- Müşteri hizmetleri merkezlerimizde veya kütüphanelerimizde tercüman talep edebilirsiniz.
- Bilgiye kendi dilinizde veya farklı bir formatta (büyük yazı, Braille, Kolay Okuma, sesli) mi ihtiyacınız var? Bize ulaşın. Bu hizmet ücretsizdir.

Daha fazla bilgi için QR kodunu tarayın veya web sitemizi ziyaret edin: 📞 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Simplified Chinese | 中文

您知道您可以使用自己的语言获得市政服务的帮助吗？

- 拨打 **9280 0750**，与市政工作人员用普通话交流。
- 您还可以在我们的客服中心或图书馆要求口译员服务。
- 如果您需要以其他语言或格式（例如大字版、盲文、易读版或音频）获取信息，请联系我们。我们将免费为您提供支持。

更多信息，请扫描二维码或访问我们的网站：📞 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Arabic | عربي

عربي هل تعلم أنه يمكنك الحصول على مساعدة بشأن خدمات المجلس بلغتك؟

- اتصل على الرقم 9280 1913 للتحدث مع موظف يتحدث اللغة العربية من موظفي المجلس.
- يمكنك أيضًا طلب مترجم في مراكز خدمة العملاء أو في مكتباتنا.
- هل تحتاج إلى معلومات بلغتك أو بصيغة مبسطة مثل الطباعة الكبيرة أو النصوص السهلة الفهم - Easy read.

اتصل بنا، هذه الخدمة مجانية تمامًا i
لمزيد من المعلومات، يمكنك مسح رمز
الاستجابة السريعة أو زيارة موقعنا
الإلكتروني (QR)

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Greek | ελληνικά

Γνωρίζετε ότι μπορείτε να λάβετε βοήθεια από τον Δήμο στη γλώσσα σας;

- Καλέστε το 9280 1912 για να μιλήσετε με το προσωπικό του Δήμου στα ελληνικά.
- Μπορείτε επίσης να ζητήσετε διερμηνέα στα κέντρα εξυπηρέτησης πελατών ή στις βιβλιοθήκες μας.
- Θέλετε πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας ή σε διαφορετική μορφή (μεγάλα γράμματα, Μπράιγ, Easy Read, ηχητικό αρχείο); Επικοινωνήστε μαζί μας. Αυτό είναι δωρεάν.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες,
σαρώστε τον κωδικό QR ή
επισκεφθείτε: ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Urdu | اردو

هل كنت تعلم أنه يمكنك الحصول على مساعدة لخدمات المجلس بلغتك؟

- اردو میں بات کرنے کے لیے
پر کال کریں۔ 9280 1917
- آپ ہمارے کسی بھی کسٹمر سروس سینٹر
یا لائبریریوں میں بھی مترجم کی درخواست
کر سکتے ہیں۔
- کیا آپ کو اپنی زبان میں یا کسی مختلف
فارمیٹ (بڑی چھپائی، بریل، ایزی ریڈ،
آڈیو) میں معلومات کی ضرورت ہے؟ ہم
سے رابطہ کریں۔ یہ سروس مفت ہے۔
- کوڈ QR مزید معلومات کے لیے براہ کرم
اسکین کریں یا ہماری ویب سائٹ پر جائیں
➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Spanish | Español

¿Sabía que puede obtener ayuda con los servicios del Ayuntamiento en su idioma?

- Llame al 9280 1916 para hablar con el personal del Ayuntamiento en español.
- También puede solicitar un intérprete en cualquiera de nuestros centros de atención al cliente o bibliotecas.
- ¿Necesita información en su idioma o en un formato diferente (letras grandes, Braille, lectura fácil, audio)? Contáctenos. Este servicio es gratuito.

Para más información, por favor
escanee el código QR o visite
nuestro sitio web: ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Vietnamese | Tiếng Việt

Bạn có biết rằng bạn có thể nhận được sự giúp đỡ với Dịch vụ của Hội đồng bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn không?

- Gọi 9280 1915 để nói chuyện với nhân viên Hội đồng bằng tiếng Việt.
- Bạn cũng có thể yêu cầu thông dịch viên tại các trung tâm dịch vụ khách hàng hoặc thư viện của chúng tôi.
- Bạn cần thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của bạn hoặc theo một định dạng khác (in chữ lớn, chữ nổi Braille, Đọc Dễ, âm thanh)? Hãy liên hệ với chúng tôi. Dịch vụ này miễn phí.

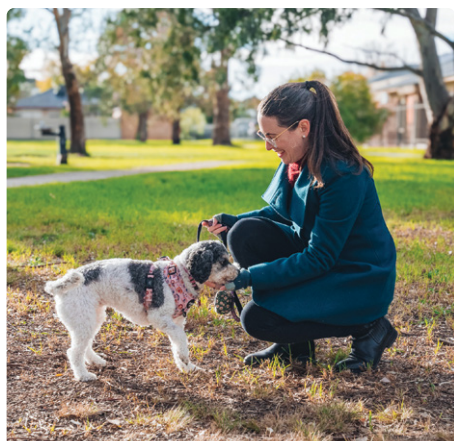
Để biết thêm thông tin, vui lòng
quét mã QR hoặc truy cập trang
web của chúng tôi: ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language

Hindi | हिंदी

क्या आप जानते हैं कि आप अपनी भाषा में काउंसिल सेवाओं से मदद प्राप्त कर सकते हैं?

- हिंदी में बात करने के लिए 9280 1918 पर कॉल करें।
- आप हमारे ग्राहक सेवा केंद्रों या पुस्तकालयों में भी एक दुभाषिया का अनुरोध कर सकते हैं।
- क्या आपको अपनी भाषा में या किसी अन्य प्रारूप (बड़ी छपाई, ब्रेल, आसान पढ़ाई, ऑडियो) में जानकारी चाहिए? हमसे संपर्क करें। यह सेवा मुफ्त है।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कृपया क्यूआर
कोड स्कैन करें या हमारी वेबसाइट पर जाएं:
➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/your-language



Elizabeth and her dog Molly love getting out and about in Merri-bek's parks.

Sharing our parks with people, pets and nature

From March to May this year, Council ran community engagement for the 'Dog Walking in Merri-bek' pilot program, which is designed to find better ways to share our parks and reserves with dogs, dog-walkers and others.

We thank the more than 1800 residents who shared their ideas and perspectives through surveys, in-person events, meetings with community members and through emails and submissions. Those who responded shared their desire for our public spaces to feel safe, accessible and welcome to every Merri-bek resident.

Key themes among the replies were responsible dog ownership (keeping dogs under effective control and picking up after your dog), enforcement of rules and the importance of dog-walking to physical and psychological wellbeing. The project team made some changes to the initial proposal to reflect your ideas, and we are now implementing the changes across the 8 pilot parks.

You can tell us your feedback on these changes until December, for more information visit conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/dog-walking

Meet Sajid – his household's FOGO fixer

Fawkner's Sajid Nazir puts his family's food waste into their beloved FOGO bin.

Fawkner's Sajid Nazir JP and his family are among thousands of households who are making the most of Council's move to weekly food and garden organics (FOGO) bin collections.

Sajid, who lives with his wife and two children, has found a simple system that works for his family. They keep their kitchen caddy on the benchtop and empty it into the FOGO bin every few days – no liners, just loose food scraps.

"It's my job at home to empty the kitchen caddy into the FOGO bin," Sajid says.



"I feel good knowing our food waste is being turned into compost instead of going to landfill. It only takes a little effort, and it's helped reduce waste in our rubbish bin."

Remember, plastic bags and food packaging do not belong in the FOGO bin in Merri-bek, even if the bags are labelled as compostable. Many households find it helpful to line the bottom of their kitchen caddy with newspaper or paper towel instead.

Learn what goes in your FOGO bin merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fogo

We're trialling a new way to reduce waste

It is costing more and more to send waste to landfill, so reducing what we put in our rubbish bins is more important than ever before. By using the Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) and recycling services correctly, we can divert waste from landfill. This will decrease the amount of money paid to the Victorian Government's landfill waste levy, with cost savings for Merri-bek ratepayers.

That's why we are trialling fortnightly rubbish bin collections in two areas of Merri-bek – parts of Hadfield, and Brunswick and Brunswick West.

Council is working with households and businesses in the trial areas to put more food and garden items into weekly FOGO bins, instead of rubbish bins. Processing food and garden waste costs less than taking waste to landfill – and it creates valuable compost. We are supporting families in the trial areas to find the right sized bin for them, taking into account needs such as nappies, larger households and medical waste.

More than 20 other Victorian councils have already moved to fortnightly rubbish collections. In 2026, Council will consider what we learned from this trial and whether or not to transition our rubbish service to fortnightly collections.

You can find out more about the trial by visiting conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/rubbish-trial



What are Council rates and how are they used?

Every time you step outside, you're seeing Council at work, from roads, footpaths and streetlights to sporting facilities, libraries, aged care and more.

Council rates are paid by property owners every year to fund these essential services, provided by Council to keep our neighbourhoods safe, clean, and connected.

How are your rates calculated? First, we work out how much it costs to fund all services across Merri-bek for the year.

Then, we total up the value of all rateable properties in the area. Dividing the total cost of services by this total property value gives us what is called the 'rate in the dollar'.

Next, your individual property's value is multiplied by this 'rate in the dollar' to work out your share.

Additional charges are also collected on behalf of the State Government, and waste and recycling collection costs are added to your final bill.

Your rates help make sure your local area is supported, maintained, and ready for the future. They fund the roads we drive on, the services we rely on, and the places we all enjoy, making Merri-bek the great place it is to live.

If you'd like to find out more,

➔ visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/rates



Subscribe to My Merri-bek eNewsletter

Want to receive news and updates straight to your inbox?



Council provides help for older people to remain in their homes for longer.

Advocating for our aged care services

Did you know that more than 13% of people in Merri-bek are aged over 65?

Council delivers high-quality in-home aged care services to our older residents thanks to Federal Government funding through the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP).

The services we offer include in-home support, delivered meals, home maintenance, transport services, and social groups. These services allow older community members to maintain their independence and stay in their homes for longer.

Council provides high standards of care and support for some of the most vulnerable older members of our community. Our staff provide more than just a service, they also develop trusting relationships with residents and are an important social connection for people who often live alone.

The Federal Government has committed to extending the CHSP to at least July 2027, however the longer-term future of this program is uncertain.

We call on the Government to recognise the program's important role in caring for older community members and to commit to continuing funding the CHSP permanently.

For more information about our services and your eligibility, visit ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/olderpeople or call My Aged Care for a referral on 1800 200 422.



Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie's mural 'Always', featuring colours of the Aboriginal flag, pays tribute to the Traditional Owners of the land on which Council built Balam Balam Place.

Balam Balam Place: the new home of creativity and community

If you haven't visited Balam Balam Place in Brunswick yet, finding the entrance is simple – just look for the big, colourful mural by Kamilaroi artist Reko Rennie.

The new \$30 million cultural and community hub nurtures local creatives, provides welcoming spaces for community groups, and facilitates workshops and events for all ages.

Since it opened in March, more than 11,000 people have visited the site, says precinct manager Joseph Norster.

"Much like Merri-bek, visitors of Balam Balam Place come from all walks of life, all corners of the globe," Joseph said.

"Balam Balam Place is more than just a building, it's a vibrant space where creativity meets community."

"We're proud to welcome everyone and watch this hub grow into a true heart of Brunswick."

The Home Economics Coffee Shop is a great spot to grab a snack and stay caffeinated, the First Nations Blak Dot Gallery features must-see art exhibitions, and green outdoor spaces are bathed in sunshine.

There are affordable shared desks for use any day of the week, perfect for freelancers, remote workers, or anyone who wants a change of scenery. And there's plenty to look forward to with the Summer Program for 2025-26 adding lots of free events and activities for everyone to enjoy.

Want to find out more or see what's happening at Balam Balam Place?

Visit ➔ balambalamplace.com.au





The Merri-bek Community Awards are a great way to recognise people's contributions to our community.

Nominations are open for the Merri-bek Community Awards

Do you know a person or project making a difference in Merri-bek?

Help us shine a light on the individuals, groups and organisations who help make our community stronger, more inclusive, creative and sustainable.

From dedicated volunteers and young changemakers to cultural leaders and sustainability champions, the Merri-bek Community Awards recognise outstanding contributions made over the past 12 months.

There are 10 award categories:

- Community event of the year
- Collaborative partnerships award
- Contribution to arts and culture award
- Contribution to sports award
- Youth contribution award
- Environmental sustainability achievement award
- Volunteer of the year award
- Honouring women in Merri-bek award
- Access and inclusion
- Lisa Bellel award for contribution to reconciliation activities

Anyone who lives, works, studies, plays or volunteers in Merri-bek is eligible.

Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 1 September.

Submit your nomination by collecting a form from your local Merri-bek library or Civic Centre or online: merri-bek.vic.gov.au/merri-bek-awards



Parking Fines Refund Scheme now open

Council has now launched the Parking Fines Refund Scheme for eligible motorists.

As we announced on 17 June 2025, Council is committed to fixing the historical administrative error where some parking fines for 11 minor infringement types were charged the full penalty unit without a formal Council resolution to do so.

Motorists who received a parking fine between 1 July 2013 to 11 June 2025 for the 11 minor types of parking fines below, can apply for a refund of the overcharged amount.

The 11 types of parking fines affected are:

1. Overstaying a green sign (Parked for period longer than indicated)
2. Parked fail to pay and obey instructions on sign
3. Stopped contrary to a No Parking sign
4. Parked not completely within a parking bay
5. Stopped on a bicycle parking area
6. Stopped on a motor bike parking area
7. Parked contrary to requirement of parking area
8. Parked not at an angle of 45 degrees
9. Parked not at an angle of 90 degrees
10. Parked long vehicle exceed minimum number of bays
11. Parked wide vehicle exceed minimum number of bays

This scheme will be available for 12 months, until 2 July 2026, to allow eligible motorists to apply for a refund of the overcharged amount.

To find out more, please visit merri-bek.vic.gov.au/parking-fines-refund-scheme or scan the QR code.





Supporting our children, young people and families

Council is developing a new four-year plan to support children, young people and families in Merri-bek. We want every child to have a strong start, feel safe, succeed in education and to have opportunities to participate and thrive in our community. We're asking community members about their biggest challenges and where there might be gaps in support for new parents, infant health, services for young people, and access to health, education and recreation. You can fill out our survey by visiting [👉 conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au](https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au)

Helping people help others

Homelessness Week falls in August, and Council has developed a Homelessness Strategy to prioritise human rights and offer more practical help. You can find new resources on how to help people experiencing homelessness including a downloadable information guide by visiting [👉 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/homelessness](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/homelessness)

Our libraries are books and more

Everyone knows that libraries have books, but did you also know that Merri-bek Libraries members can also access all kinds of great online resources such as music, movies and online newspapers? Members can learn more than 70 languages through the Mango Languages website, watch movies through Kanopy and Beamafilm, or read ebooks and audiobooks through Borrowbox and Libby. You can also entertain the kids with videos of Australian storytellers reading books through StoryBox Library. Go to your library or check out our website for more information.

👉 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/libraries



What permits do I need for my business?

Thinking of starting or growing a business? Council is here to make it easier.

With local knowledge and practical insights, we support businesses at every stage, from navigating Council processes, identifying what permits you need, connecting you with retail and trader support programs, to help you open your doors sooner.

We can also recommend upcoming events and workshops, help you explore industry growth and investment opportunities and link you into visitor economy initiatives and business referrals.

To learn more, follow us on:

f @businessmerribek **@** @business_merri_bek

visit [👉 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/business-permit-finder](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/business-permit-finder) or call us on 8311 4131.



Help to remove graffiti – for free

Council is responsible for keeping our public spaces clean by removing graffiti from public toilets, playgrounds, street furniture, footpaths, bridges, and all Council-owned and managed property. In partnership with the Department of Justice, weekend graffiti removal and paint-overs are happening regularly across our community.

Did you know that if graffiti occurs on your home or business, free graffiti removal kits and paint vouchers are available. These kits work on most surfaces, and removing graffiti quickly helps prevent repeat tagging.

To remove your unwanted graffiti, pick up your free kit today from any Customer Service location. For more information visit [👉 merri-bek.vic.gov.au/graffiti](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/graffiti)

Scan the QR code to hear more from the Mayor on our graffiti removal kits.



Playground upgrades, Tate Park, Pascoe Vale

Park upgrade works will soon commence following community consultation. The upgrades will make Tate Park a more inviting place to spend some quality quiet time, or a place to visit with family or friends. The small playground is dated and will be removed. Locals can still enjoy play area facilities at Esselmont Reserve.



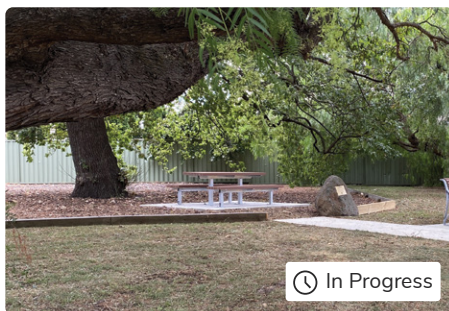
New energy-efficient lighting, Dunstan Reserve, Brunswick West

Council has spent \$330,000 upgrading light towers at the sports field with new energy-efficient LED lighting. This new design complies with Australian Standards and helps us stop lights from staying on beyond operating hours and from spilling onto nearby properties.



Lines and signs for better safety, Louisa Street, Coburg

Minor line-marking and sign works in the laneway next to the Louisa Street car park are now complete. This work was in addition to the car park re-sheeting, which was delivered in 2024. These \$239,000 improvements better meet the needs of businesses in the area and address road safety requirements.



Upgrading park facilities, Joe Mallia Reserve, Oak Park

The refreshed park space at Joe Mallia Reserve in Oak Park now has extra park furniture, including a picnic setting. We have also retained the heritage seat in the \$37,000 works. Now that the weather has changed, we will be planting more new garden beds to be ready for spring.



Road reconstruction and planting, McPherson Street, Coburg

The nature strips have been planted with native species that will flourish and strengthen biodiversity. Works in this street also included road reconstruction and drainage upgrades and present a total value of \$448,000.



Reserve drainage improvement works, Gowanbrae Court, Gowanbrae

A recently completed \$270,000 drainage construction project at Gowanbrae Court helps with better flood management. It includes the upgrade of new drainage pipes and pits.



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Your local Councillors



Chatty Cafe at Glenroy Library

Craving a conversation? Head to Glenroy to chat over a cuppa and make a friend or two. Chatty Cafe brings the community together for friendly conversation, English practice and social connection. No booking is required, and refreshments are provided. For more information, call Glenroy Library on **8311 4100** or email libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Contact us before the event if you have any access requirements to fully participate.

When: Fridays, 11am to 12:30pm

Where: Glenroy Library,
50 Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy



Turkish/Nepalese Storytime

Enjoy stories, songs and crafts for children in Turkish or Nepali, at Glenroy Library. For more information call Glenroy Library on **8311 4100** or email libraryevents@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Turkish Storytime: 10:30am
Thursday, 4 September
Thursday, 2 October

Nepali Storytime: 6:30pm
Wednesday, 20 August
Wednesday, 3 and 17 September
Wednesday, 1 and 15 October

Where: Glenroy Library,
50 Wheatsheaf Road, Glenroy



Heavy body history: Merri-bek Collection and Recent Works

Curated by Maya Hodge, a proud Lardil curator and writer, *heavy body history* highlights the power of art to disrupt colonial narratives, honour bloodlines, and inspire future generations. The exhibition draws connections among pieces from the Merri-bek Art Collection and other works. This exhibit runs from Saturday 9 August 2025 to Sunday 26 October 2025.

When: 11am to 5pm Wednesday to Saturday, and 1pm to 5pm on Sundays

Where: Counihan Gallery,
233 Sydney Road (inside
Brunswick Town Hall), Brunswick



Providing local businesses with business skills workshops and networking sessions

Did you know Merri-bek runs a regular program of business workshops? We're finalising topics for 2025-26, so look out for workshops focused on enhancing your business, such as using AI for businesses, digital marketing and making your business more sustainable. The workshops are suitable for all experience levels, so come learn, connect and thrive!

To see the resources available for events and networking, visit ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au

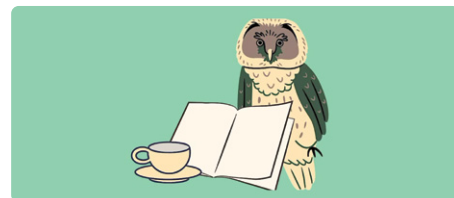


Connections and Neighbourhood Programs for over 65s

Council offers a range of opportunities to enrich the lives of older people.

Social connections and activities create perfect opportunities to move more, communicate and enjoy life better. Participation requires a referral through MyAgedCare. The Lively Intergenerational Program pairs older people with helpers aged 18–25, promoting companionship and practical assistance.

Council also has more than 70 senior citizens groups from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. For details contact Aged and Community Support on **9240 2302**.



Short Fiction Reading Group at Fawcner Library

Are you looking for a book club but don't have the time for a whole book? Join the short fiction reading group at Fawcner Library. Each month group members read a different short story at home and discuss it in the library. The texts cover a variety of topics, genres and authors. Discussions cover what the group liked, didn't like and what the stories made them think about. Printed copies of stories are available at Fawcner Library or online. Call **9355 4200** to register your interest.

When: 10:30am-11:30am,
third Thursday of each month

Where: Fawcner Library,
Jukes Road, Fawcner

