

Moving ahead

JUNE 2015

Western BACE:
Open for business

SPECIAL

**Council Budget
2015/2016**



A Proud Community Growing Together

Message from the Mayor

It's hard to believe that it's the end of June already. With the warmer months behind us, it's time to rug up and prepare for the chilly winter days ahead. It's been a busy few months in the City of Melton, as we've prepared the 2015/2016 Budget and launched a number of exciting projects and facilities. All of this has kept your Council very busy, as we've continued to provide those vital, everyday services you've come to depend upon us for.

We've included an extensive overview of our 2015/2016 budget in this edition of *Moving Ahead*, which I'm sure will answer any questions you have and help you understand where your rates money will be spent over the next year. You can also visit our website at melton.vic.gov.au to download your complete copy of the budget.

I am proud to report that the much anticipated opening of the Western BACE took place in May, along with the opening of the Bridge Road and Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centres and the re-opening of the newly refurbished Melton South Community House. These are very exciting facilities that will go a long way towards meeting the ever changing and growing needs of our vibrant and diverse community.

We also recently launched our new graffiti removal program; and our Healthy Food and Drink Guide. We commemorated the Anzac Centenary across the municipality, and marked Harmony Day and International Women's Day in style. Read more in the pages of this edition of *Moving Ahead*.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate the new Coburn Ward Councillor, Myles Bentley, who was officially sworn in at the Melton Council Chambers on Tuesday 1 April. Cr Bentley was declared successful following a countback of Coburn Ward votes from the 2012 Council Elections and we are excited to welcome him to our team. His passion, professionalism and dedication to our community have already been exhibited through his volunteer efforts and local work commitments and we look forward to his valued input throughout the remainder of this Council term.



Cr Sophie Ramsey
Mayor of the City of Melton



Your Councillors



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Budget 2015/2016



Each of us knows how difficult it is to balance the weekly budget. With bills to pay, household repairs to complete and unforeseen mishaps, it can be a stressful exercise, no matter how necessary. Well, it's no different for Council when it comes time to prepare its annual budget, especially as we have so many important services and critical infrastructure to deliver for our growing community.

After many months of careful deliberation, Melton City Council has prepared its 2015/2016 budget. Not unlike balancing the household books, Council's budgeting process was painstaking and thorough.

We provide over 120 services to the community across a number of areas including business development, aged care, maternal and child health, youth and leisure services, and we believe that the 2015/2016 budget can help Council continue to provide on-going investment in these critical services and programs.

The 2015/2016 budget is available on Council's website melton.vic.gov.au, or you can obtain further information from Council's Finance unit on 9747 7200.

A significant capital works program of \$25.4 million has been planned for 2015/2016. These works will deliver new, and renew existing, community infrastructure and other assets within the City of Melton.

The 2015/2016 capital works program includes a number of major projects including the following:

Project Description	Budget 2015/2016
Building and Building Improvements	
Burnside Heights Children and Community Centre	\$2,400,000
Redevelopment Aged Precinct in McKenzie Street, Melton	\$2,330,000
Melton Civic Centre redevelopment (Year 1)	\$900,000
Resale Centre expansion	\$400,000
Building upgrade program: community centres and pavilions	\$350,000
Roads, Drainage, Footpath & Bridge Works	
Annual resurfacing and periodic reseals	\$2,400,000
Streetscape improvements	\$2,000,000
Abbey Road Bridge construction	\$800,000
Footpaths replacement program	\$500,000
Street lighting (CEEP) program	\$491,000
Abbey Road construction: Toolern Creek to Ferris Road	\$447,000
Major traffic control works	\$150,000
Pedestrian crossing: Hume Drive/Calder Park Drive	\$125,000
Resale Centre car park	\$100,000
Recreational Projects	
Athletics and Hockey facility, Bridge Road Reserve	\$7,700,000
Passive reserve development program	\$290,000
Mt Cottrell Recreation Reserve rehabilitation works	\$200,000
Sports ground lighting maintenance program	\$200,000
Taylor's Hill West senior football and cricket ovals, tennis and netball courts	\$200,000
Playground upgrade program	\$100,000
Sports floors improvement program	\$100,000
Plumpton Aquatic Centre business plan & funding strategy	\$70,000
Others	
Minns Road retarding basin development	\$300,000
Library collection	\$200,000
Street tree planting program	\$200,000
Active open space vegetation renewal program	\$100,000

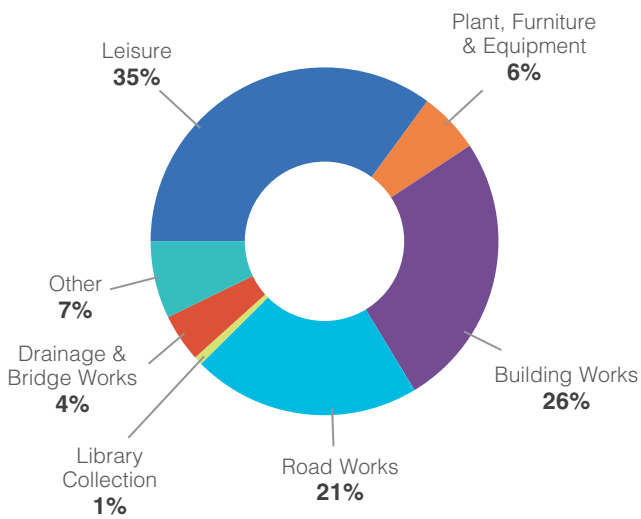
The capital expenditure program has been set and prioritised based on a rigorous process of consultation, strategy development and policy settings that has enabled Council to assess needs and develop sound business cases for each project.

Council believes this is a financially responsible budget, which would see a significant investment in service provision and infrastructure delivery across the City, and at its core, reinforces Council's commitment to continue to provide high quality services and infrastructure for our growing population.

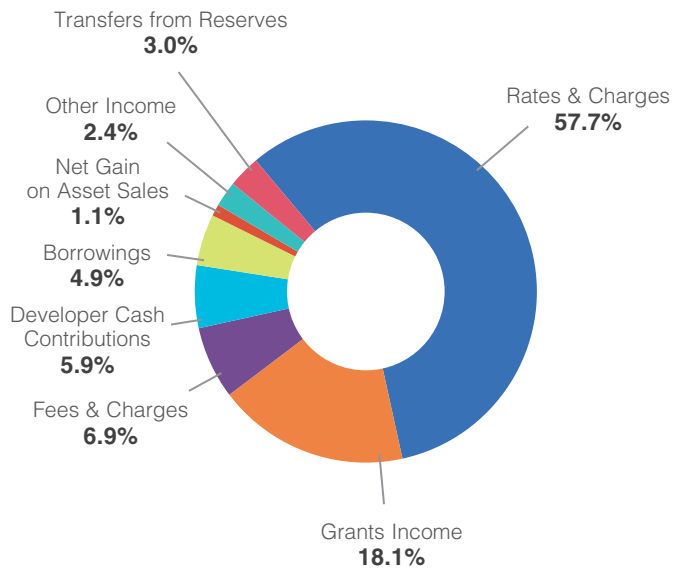
The 2015/2016 budget includes a modest 4.4% increase in the level of rates and charges. We have been very mindful to keep rates at a reasonable level, while balancing the need for increased service delivery and infrastructure to meet community expectations.

The Council pensioner rebate will increase by an additional \$5 to a total of \$70.

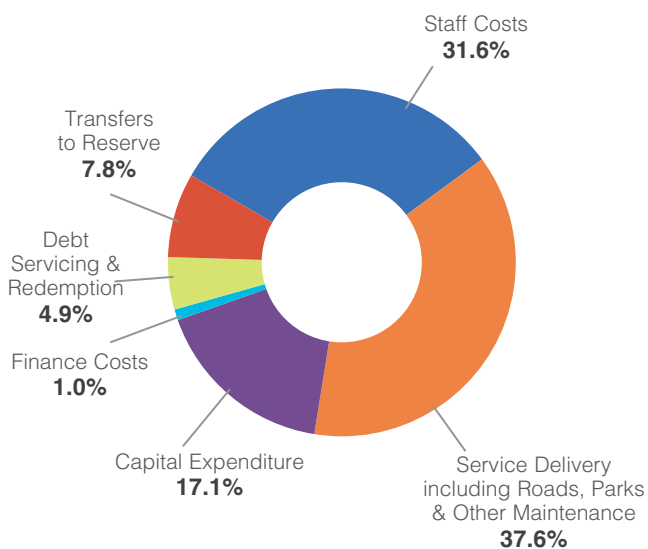
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY



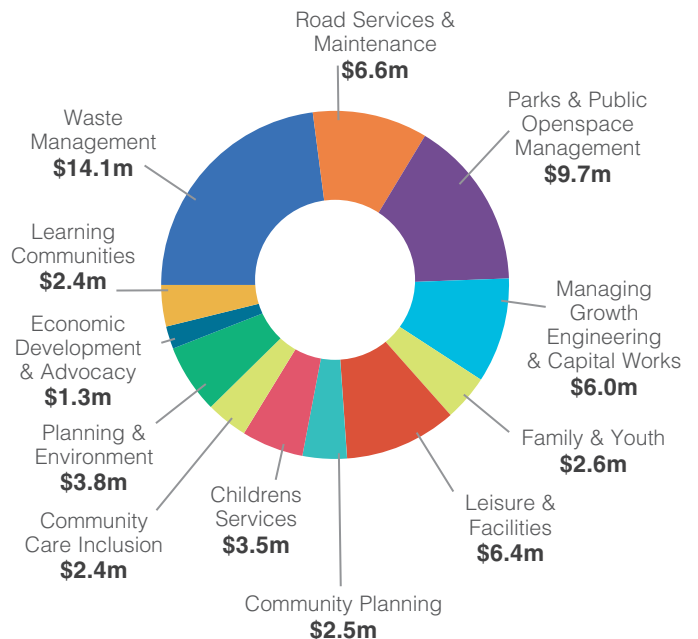
WHERE'S THE MONEY COMING FROM?



WHERE'S THE MONEY GOING?



SERVICE DELIVERY BY CATEGORY



Rates



Category	Differential	Average Rates 2014/15	Average Rates 2015/16	Net Change
General	100%	\$1,573	\$1,642	\$69
Rural Living	90%	\$1,932	\$2,016	\$84
Rural Land	72%	\$1,779	\$1,857	\$78
Urban Growth Land	75%	\$5,220	\$5,453	\$233
Development Land	100%	\$9,791	\$10,247	\$456
Commercial or Industrial Development Land	160%	\$5,639	\$5,888	\$249
Commercial or Industrial Vacant Land	200%	\$6,965	\$7,272	\$307
Retirement Villages	85%	\$986	\$1,030	\$44
Vacant Residential Land	150%	\$1,489	\$1,555	\$66
Extractive Industry Land	288%	\$67,950	\$70,939	\$2989

Rates instalment reminder

In late August, ratepayers will be issued their annual rates notice for 2015/2016 and are reminded that the first instalment is to be paid no later than 30 September 2015 to avoid interest being charged.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and are having difficulty in meeting your rates payments, please contact us to make an arrangement or discuss the financial hardship policy. For more information, contact Council's Rates Officer on 9747 7200.

Environmental Enhancement Rebate

Eligible landowners of properties larger than two hectares (approximately five acres), can receive a rebate on their rates if they meet the requirements of the Environmental Enhancement Rate Rebate Policy. The rebates are as follows:

Rural Living (2 to 10 ha)	→	25% of the Rates
Rural (>10 ha)	→	50% of the Rates
Urban Growth Zone (No Approval Precinct Structure Plans-PSP's)	→	25% of the Rates
Development Land (Approved Precinct Structure Plans-PSP's)	→	25% of the Rates
Maximum Rebate capped at	→	\$10,000 per property
Total Environmental Enhancement Rebate (EER) Cost to Council	→	\$1.7 million

Small Business Festival comes to Melton

WHEN? 12 August, 2015, 9:30am – 2pm

HOW MUCH? \$30/person

WHERE: Western BACE, 222 Ferris Road, Melton South

WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT THE SMALL BUSINESS FESTIVAL?

This is a great opportunity for small, home-based businesses that are ready to expand to the next level. The one day event is jam packed with workshops that focus on business growth, including: accessing grants, financing and, of course, the dreaded business planning process. Participants will get a chance to chat with

experts from State Government, banking and finance, and business. Lunch will be provided and networking will be key on the day.

You will also hear from guest speakers who will talk shop about all things small business, expansion and growth to help your business transition to the next level.

The day will be rounded out with a tour of the Western BACE, where you can see exactly what resources are available at this state-of-the-art facility.

To reserve your place at the 2015 Small Business Festival at the Western BACE, visit: melton.vic.gov.au/businessesevents

GRAND OPENINGS!

You can never have too many quality, community facilities, right? Melton City Council prides itself on creating great community hubs that meet the needs of our ever growing communities and help our residents lead healthy and happy lives.

Recently, Council opened three great facilities for the community to enjoy. Feel free to come along and check them out for yourself.



▲ Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre

The Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos MP, joined City of Melton Mayor, Cr Sophie Ramsey, to officially open the Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre on Wednesday 13 May.

The opening was a large community celebration attended by local families who were entertained by fairies, pirates and clowns. Children had the opportunity to explore the amazing outdoor space and experience all that the facility has to offer.

The Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre is located in Melton South, and provides kindergarten, maternal and child health, occasional care, vacation care, new parents groups, as well as other community programs and services not only to the Melton South community, but also Melton, Waterford, Eynesbury and Atherstone.

▲ Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre

Mayor, Cr Sophie Ramsey officially opened the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre (Clarkes Road, Brookfield) on Tuesday 19 May.

Local families that attended the launch had the opportunity to explore every room of the new facility and participate in a wide range of fun activities including arts and crafts, sports, music and more.

Much like its counterpart at Bridge Road, the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre provides kindergarten, maternal and child health, occasional care, and community meeting space for other programs and services.

To find out more about either the Bridge Road or Botanica Springs facilities, visit melton.vic.gov.au



▲ Melton South Community Centre Inc. @ the DJ Cunningham Centre

From its former home in Exford Road, Melton South Community Centre Inc. provided invaluable neighbourhood house and training programs to the local community for over 20 years.

In December 2014, Melton South Community Centre Inc. moved its services across the road to the DJ Cunningham Community Centre, which was officially opened by City of Melton Mayor, Cr Sophie Ramsey, on Tuesday 12 May 2015, after undergoing around \$210,000 in renovations and improvements.

Activities offered at Melton South Community Centre Inc. include language and cooking classes, arts, crafts and hobby groups, yoga, Bollywood dancing, building websites and computer courses for absolute beginners.

For more information about the classes and activities offered, visit melton.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodhouses



▲ Graffiti Response Service takes to the streets: 1 July 2015

What is the Graffiti Response Service?

The Melton Graffiti Response service has been established to combat unsightly graffiti within the City of Melton.

Why is graffiti such a problem?

Graffiti is ugly. It's unsightly. And it has no place in our community. Studies have even shown that public places defaced by graffiti (including tags), make people feel unsafe and that the affected area is uncared for.

What is Melton Council doing to remove graffiti?

Council's new Graffiti Response Service monitors graffiti hot spots, investigates graffiti reports and removes graffiti from public and private buildings, structures and fences.

My property has been vandalised by graffiti, what can I do?

If your property has been affected by graffiti you have a range of options.

- Call Council on 9747 7200 and arrange for the graffiti to be removed within 14 days, (48 hours if the graffiti is considered offensive).
- Book and borrow, at no charge, a Graffiti Systems Kit which includes a high pressure washer and products which can remove graffiti (for larger jobs).
- Contact Council's Operations Centre on 9747 7100 to collect a free, DIY Graffiti Removal Kit (for smaller jobs).

There's graffiti in my neighbourhood, what can I do?

If you want to report graffiti in your community, contact Council's Customer Service team on 9747 7200 or visit melton.vic.gov.au/graffiti

Anzac Centenary Commemorations

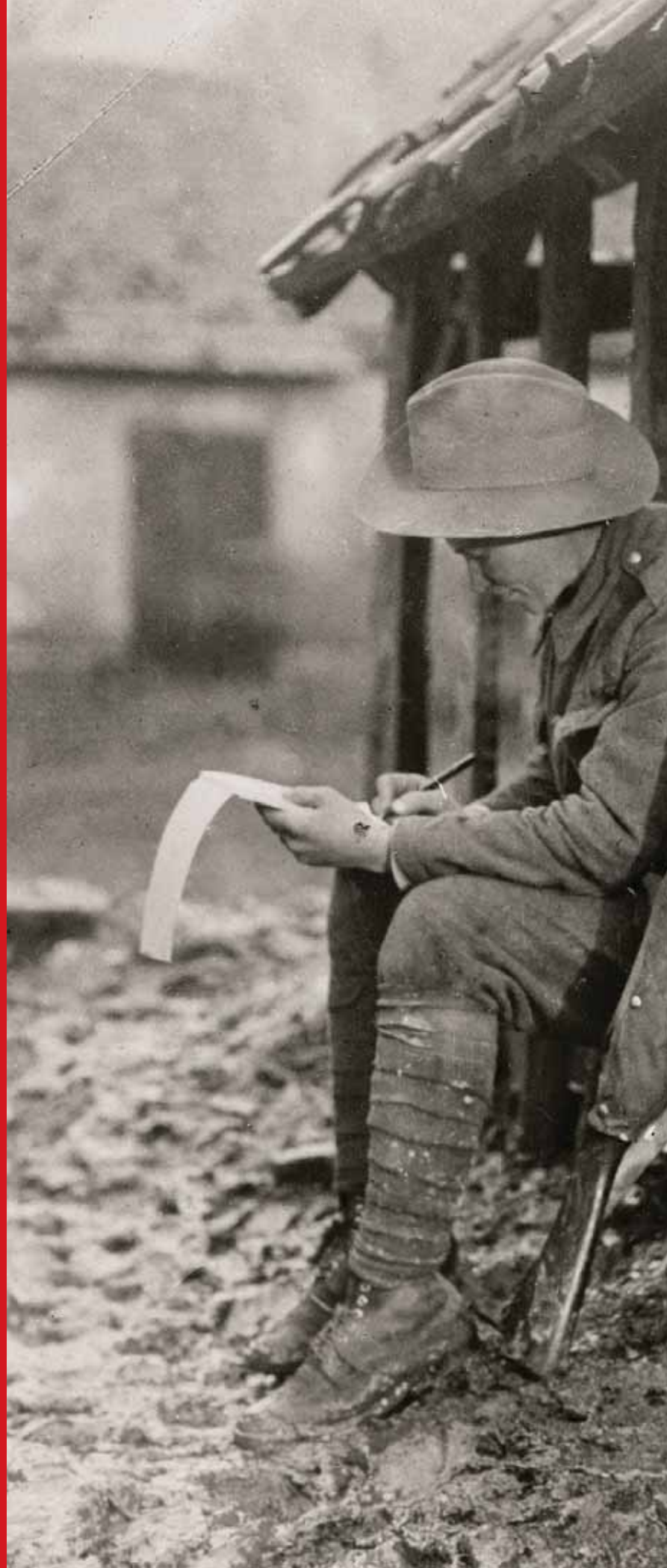
As dawn broke on Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April 2015, 100 years after our troops first landed at Gallipoli, thousands of residents gathered across the City of Melton to pay homage to the brave men and women who served during World War 1, World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor, the Solomons and other trouble spots around the world.

To mark the Anzac Centenary, Melton City Council hosted a number of unique activities for the community to take part in including two Dawn Services; free performances of Journey of Remembrance and We Will Remember Them (interactive tributes to our local Anzac heroes); and tours of war graves at the Melton Cemetery and Shrine of Remembrance (Melbourne).

In addition, Council unveiled a plaque officially naming the English Elm located adjacent to the War Memorial (High Street, Melton), the Unity Tree, to symbolise the unity, strength, history and progress of the City of Melton and its community.

Council also facilitated a unique display of white commemorative crosses – made by members of the Melton Men's Shed and installed on the lawns of the Melton Civic Centre – to remember our fallen heroes and help raise money for the Partners of Veterans Association.

Council is extremely proud of our local heroes and are ever grateful to those who helped preserve our nation and way of life through their sacrifice.





Diggers Rest War Memorial

Melton City Council has approved a request from the Diggers Rest Lions Club and the Diggers Rest Primary School to use Council land in the Diggers Rest Recreation Reserve for the establishment of a Diggers Rest War Memorial.

The new memorial is a collaboration project designed to commemorate Diggers Rest residents who died in wars that Australia fought in. The project will also see the establishment of a teaching garden at the memorial so that the Anzac tradition can be incorporated into the curriculum for the students at the Diggers Rest Primary School.

Funded jointly by the Commonwealth Government, Diggers Rest Primary School (via the ANZAC Centenary Grant), St. Ives Estate and the Diggers Rest Lions Club, the \$20,000 memorial is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.





Western BACE open for business

One of the most highly anticipated facilities purpose built for the development and growth of small businesses in Melbourne's western region is now open for business.

The Western Business Accelerator and Centre for Excellence (BACE) threw open its doors in early May, welcoming the first businesses poised to take advantage of the facilities, services and opportunities this state-of-the-art, Six Star Green Star rated facility has to offer.

The Western BACE was established to support and nurture small businesses by providing access to the resources, infrastructure and skills they need to grow.

It offers:

- offices and workshop spaces at discounted rental rates, month-to-month licensing and flexible co-working spaces for casual use by home-based business and micro-business looking for temporary workspace
- business mentors who provide expert advice and support business networking opportunities with other accelerator members and
- full access to all the centre's facilities including state-of-the-art IT hub, centre cafe, etc.





Key features of the Western BACE:

1. Encourage start-up businesses offering flexible rental spaces and workshop areas with month-to-month lease contracts.
2. Accelerate businesses by offering workshops, networking events, business mentoring, and goal-setting sessions.
3. Develop a centre for excellence providing research, training, and specialised teaching areas.
4. Provide a local base for established businesses looking for new local premises.
5. Encourage future development promoting the City of Melton by setting high standards and being a hub of activity.
6. Create a social hub featuring facilities like a public cafe with indoor and outdoor seating and spaces where the whole community is welcome.

The Australian Government has provided the Western BACE project with \$14.62 million in funding through the Suburban Jobs Program, along with support from Federation University, Victoria University, Kangan Institute, Burbank and Lend Lease.

For more information about how you can get involved with this innovative and vibrant business hub, visit westernbace.com





Taylor's Hill Community Garden:

how one community got together to promote good health and local pride

In 2014, a pilot community garden was established at the Taylor's Hill Youth and Community Centre to engage local residents in community activities and promote health and wellbeing.

The garden is managed by local group, Edible Harvest Out West (EHOW), who are passionate about creating green community gathering places for everyone to access and enjoy.

EHOW run fortnightly community meetings, free monthly workshops and garden swap meets for the local community. They're currently working with Council to identify a suitable parcel of land to establish a permanent community garden site.

To find out more about how you can get involved with the Taylor's Hill Community Garden, visit melton.vic.gov.au

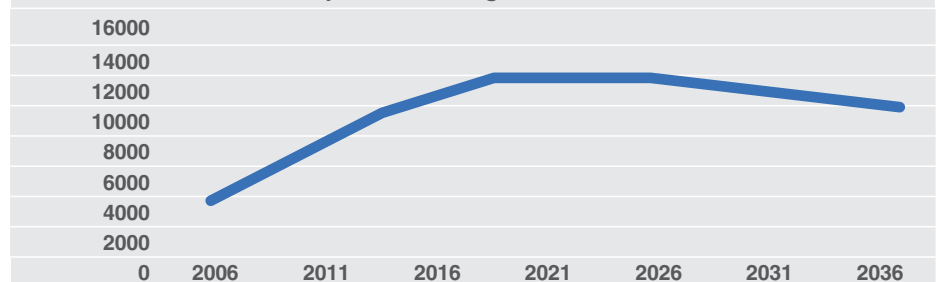
Introducing, Taylor's Hill

In this edition of Moving Ahead, we're very happy to shine the spotlight on one of our youngest communities: Taylor's Hill. Situated in the municipality's eastern corridor, Taylor's Hill has a population of around 13,300, of which, around 2,000 are primary and secondary schoolers.



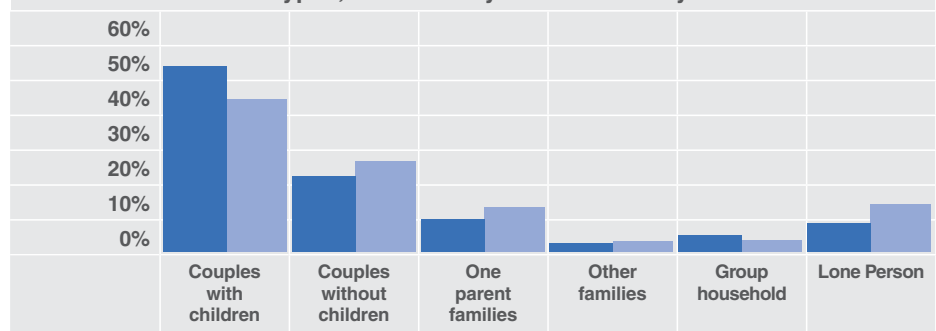
POPULATION

Population change 2006 - 2036



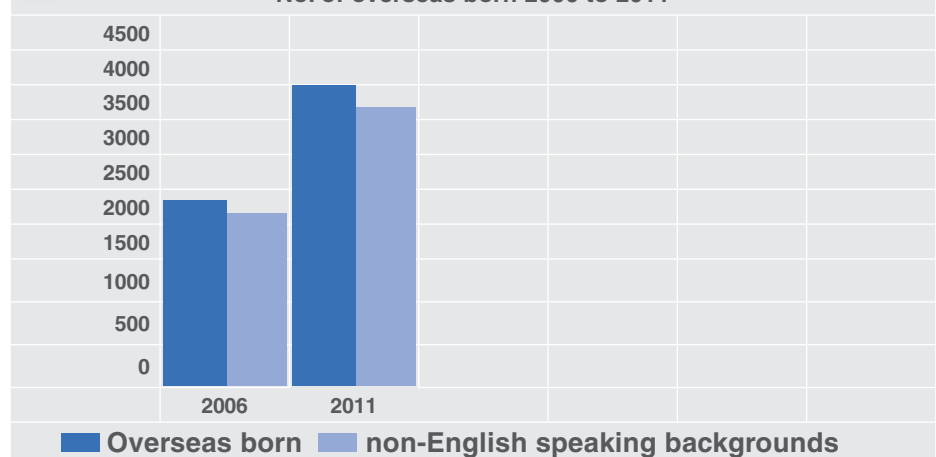
HOUSEHOLDS

Household types, 2011



DIVERSITY

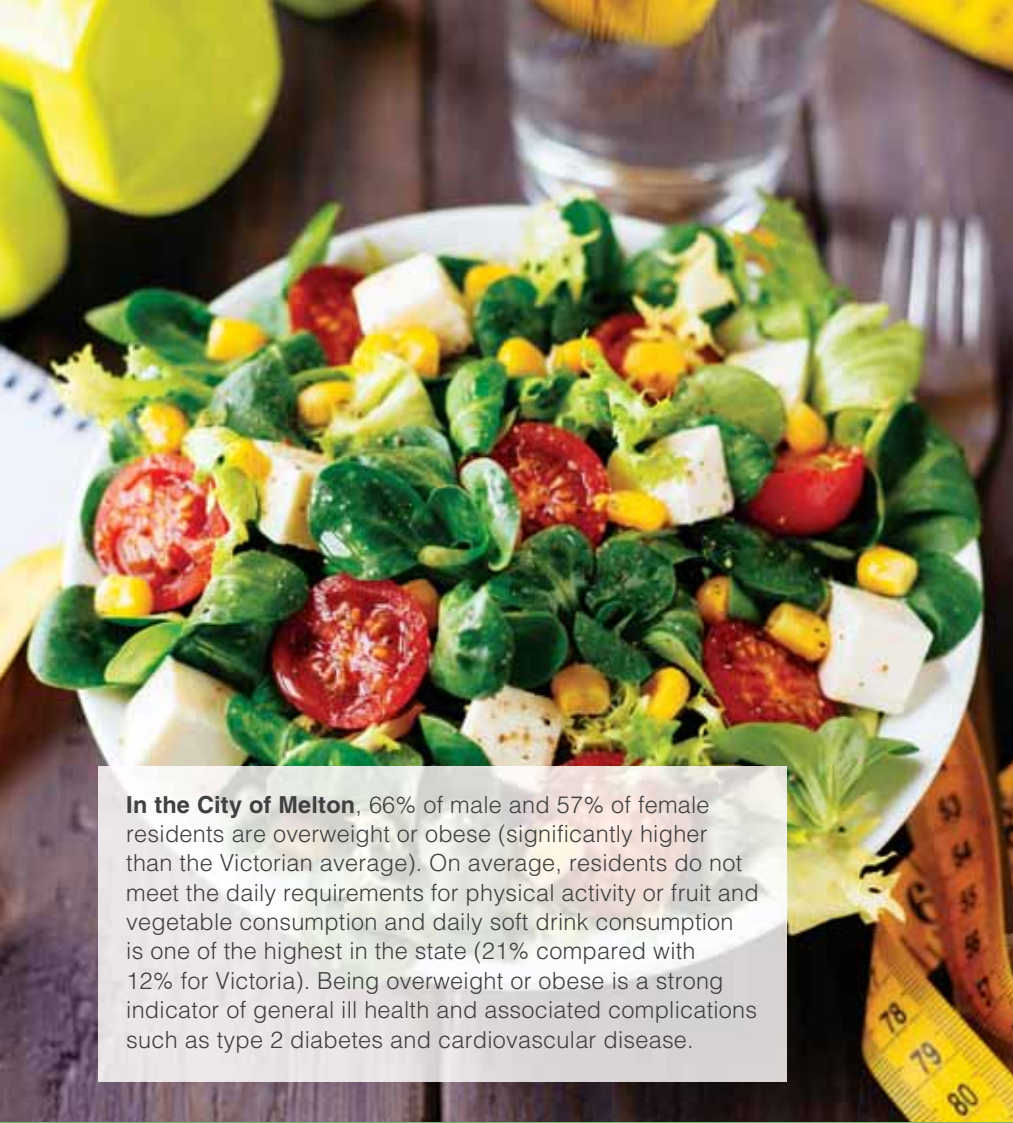
No. of overseas born 2006 to 2011



Between 2006 – 2011, the number of Taylor's Hill residents born overseas increased from 2,122 to 4,004 (around 34% of the total population). Residents from non-English speaking backgrounds increased by 1,607 to 3,680 (31.3% of the total population).

Around 48% of residents speak a language other than English and 18 people identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

To download your copy of Council's Community Profiles, or for further demographic information, visit: melton.vic.gov.au/demographics



In the City of Melton, 66% of male and 57% of female residents are overweight or obese (significantly higher than the Victorian average). On average, residents do not meet the daily requirements for physical activity or fruit and vegetable consumption and daily soft drink consumption is one of the highest in the state (21% compared with 12% for Victoria). Being overweight or obese is a strong indicator of general ill health and associated complications such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

▲ Healthy Food And Drink Guide

We all understand that a healthy lifestyle begins with exercise and a nutritious diet, but sometimes it isn't always easy to choose healthy food options, especially when catering for work and private functions.

As part of our Healthy Food and Drink Policy, Council has developed our *Healthy Food and Drink Guide* that contains healthy menu choices from local cafes, as well as catering tips and additional information about healthy barbeque options, and helpful links and resources.

Representatives from 12 local cafes submitted healthy menu options for the Guide and attended a two hour workshop where they learned about the principles of healthy eating.

Copies of the Guide are available online and at local businesses, schools and services.

Both the Health Food and Drink Policy and the *Healthy Food and Drink Guide* were developed based on the Victorian Government's Healthy Choices Guidelines, which use a traffic light system to categorise food and drinks:

- GREEN (Best Choice)
- AMBER (Choose Carefully)
- RED (Limit)

For more information, contact Council's Health Promotion Officer on 9747 7200 or check out our Facebook page: facebook.com/healthymelton

Volunteers celebrated

Volunteers are the lifeblood of most communities, and the City of Melton is no exception. Both Council and local groups rely on volunteers to deliver vital programs and support services that keep our residents healthy, happy and safe.

To thank our local volunteers, Council held a hugely successful Volunteer Week celebration at Windmill Gardens Receptions on Thursday 14 May. Over 60 Council volunteers attended alongside Council officers and Councillors. The evening certainly lived up to this year's National Volunteer Week theme of Give Happy, Live Happy with guests enjoying great conversation, fantastic food and some outstanding entertainment.

Volunteers, representing a number of Council services including Home-based Library Service, Youth Mentoring Program, Planned Activity Groups, Food Services, Neighbourhood Houses, and our Men's Sheds, enjoyed a delicious three course meal and were enthralled by inspirational speaker and author, Tristan Miller (renown marathon runner who completed 52 races, 52 weeks, in 47 countries). They were also treated to a hilarious performance by comedian Kim Huong Nguyen and received a host of door prizes including Tristan Miller's book *Run Like Crazy*.

To learn more about volunteering and how you can get involved in your community, contact Council's Community Participation and Engagement Coordinator on 9747 7200 or visit melton.vic.gov.au





▲ Caroline Springs Storm Water Re-Use Project: conserving our natural resources

Australia is one of the most drought prone countries in the world, and while rainfall shortages tend to hit inland areas the hardest, coastal regions, including our major cities, are also frequently at risk.

This makes potable (drinking) water one of the most valuable commodities we have.

Council is doing its bit to minimise its use of potable water in the upkeep of our parks and reserves. That's why our new, storm water re-use project will not only save rate payers money, but will also help preserve our valuable drinking water for future generations.

We are working with City West Water to use Lake Caroline to capture and store stormwater for use at the Caroline Springs Recreation Reserve. The additional water captured will be pumped to underground storage and used to irrigate the sportsgrounds and surrounds at the Civic Centre Library and the Caroline Springs Leisure Centre.

This project will reduce the amount of potable water currently used on the ovals by 30 megalitres, resulting in a savings of \$30,000 in water costs that would otherwise be incurred by the community.

To find out more about what Council is doing to reduce its environmental footprint, visit melton.vic.gov.au

▲ van den Hende permanent memorial, Eynesbury

In July 2014, five members of Eynesbury's van den Hende family tragically lost their lives when Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was brought down over Ukraine.

Council, with support from Eynesbury residents and family members, have erected an enduring memorial, consisting of a plaque and five trees planted together, to respect the memory of the van den Hende family, on the Walhalla Drive Reserve, Eynesbury.

One tree featuring orange flowers, has been planted to remember Hans, a loyal Dutchman; another with bright pink flowers, for Shaliza, paying tribute to her vibrant personality, with three white trees each respecting the innocence of children lost in this terrible tragedy.

The beautiful trees and plaque are poignant reminders of a local family lost under tragic circumstances, gone but never forgotten, by Eynesbury residents and the greater Melton community.



▲ Community Partnership Program: Sensory Garden

In 2014, Council introduced its Community Partnership Program to help local groups and organisations work together to develop projects that build strong partnerships and social networks for our community.

This year, Council financially supported projects from a variety of cultural groups with participants of different ages and abilities. One of the most interesting projects was one that paired residents from a facility catering to the needs of adults with disabilities with VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) students and horticulturalists to build a sensory garden at Djerriwarrh Community House.

The garden was showcased at this year's Harmony Day celebrations, where a hanging garden of edible plants suspended in recycled plastic bottles, designed and made by the students, was on display.

The Community Partnership Program also features in an original film produced by Council to promote program benefits to individuals and the broader community. The film will be screened at Council's 2015 Share Event to coincide with the opening of subscriptions for the 2015/2016 Community Partnership Program.

To find out more, visit our website at melton.vic.gov.au/grants

Getting healthy in the City Of Melton: outdoor gym equipment

Keen to get fit and healthy but just can't afford those expensive gym memberships? Well, Council is very pleased to announce that residents now have another option to help them embark on their journey to a healthier, happier lifestyle.

Exercise promotes better sleep, controls weight, helps combat health conditions and diseases (like type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol), improves your mood and boosts energy. That's why Council is installing outdoor gym equipment at Navan Park, Melton West, and Lake Caroline Reserve, Caroline Springs, to help get residents out and about and stay fit in our community.

The new equipment includes four exercise stations at each reserve, each featuring three activities, like steppers and leg presses.

The project has been funded by a State Government grant of \$80,000 with the remaining \$55,000 being funded by Council. The equipment will provide the community with the opportunity to increase activity levels and enjoy the parks and reserves.





▲ Careers Expo 2015

Don't know what you want to be when you grow up?

Interested in exploring different jobs and finding what suits you best?

Are you a student, apprentice or job seeker looking for some career help and guidance?

Then Council's 2015 Careers Expo might just have all the answers you're looking for.

Brought to you in partnership with the Western Edge Cluster and local secondary schools, this fun, information-packed Expo provides young people (including parents, guardians and carers) with an opportunity to explore different fields and network with employers, training providers and professionals from a range of industries.

Browse information stalls where you can meet with industry

professionals; discuss future educational plans and employment aspirations, and get some valuable insight into your career options.

The 2015 Careers Expo will be held on Monday 20 July from 10am - 3pm at the Melton Community Hall, 232 High Street, Melton.

For more information please contact Council's Youth Program and Events Officer at yse@melton.vic.gov.au or phone 9747 7200.

▲ Council welcomes funding for Melton town centre works

Melton City Council has welcomed the announcement of \$200,000 in State Government funding to go towards the Melton town centre revitalisation project.



The funding will go towards stage 1 and 2 of the project that will deliver works in the vicinity of the Courthouse and Palmerston Street, Melton.

The revitalisation of the Melton town centre is a priority for Council that will help us to enhance the amenity and pedestrian access in the centre of Melton.

The Melton Town Centre Revitalisation Project will provide much improved pedestrian and bicycle access to the Melton Library and Learning Hub and create a place for events, play, relaxation, performances, outdoor dining and a safer precinct for all.

As reported recently in *Moving Ahead*, Council submitted an application to the Federal Government for \$6.75 million for stages 1 - 4 of the Melton Town Centre Revitalisation Project. Unfortunately, this funding application was unsuccessful, however Council will investigate other ways to fund this highly desirable community initiative.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Looking for something for the kids to do over these school holidays? Well, look no further, because Council is holding a variety of activities and workshops for kids of all ages and teens.

▲ Teenage Holiday Program 2015

For young people aged 12 – 17 who live, work or go to school in City of Melton, Council's teen holiday program runs fun, affordable activities in a safe and nurturing environment.

Activities include excursions to some of Melbourne's most loved holiday hot spots, including Melbourne Zoo, Galactic Circus, Gold Class movies, Funfields, AFL games, go carting, luna park, laser tag and paintball, and activities at our Melton Youth Facility, including scavenger hunts, pool competitions, cooking sessions, dodge ball and much, much more.

How much does it cost? Programs vary from FREE - \$25

How do I find out more? Call our Youth Program and Events worker on 9747 7200 or email: jaimiev@melton.vic.gov.au



▲ Vacation Care @ Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre



Melton City Council's Vacation Care program is now operating from the new Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre, a state-of-the-art facility that provides large, inviting indoor play spaces which flow through to the natural outdoor environment allowing plenty of exploring, discovering and learning for children.

Activities are designed for primary school aged kids, from 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding Public Holidays) and range from excursions to Art Masters and an indoor sports centre, to crafting classes, dress up days, karaoke, library visits and movie screenings.

This term's program runs from 29 June 2015 to 10 July 2015. For more information, call the Vacation Care team on 9747 7200 or email vacationcareprogram@melton.vic.gov.au

▲ Melton Libraries

Our local libraries come alive over the school holidays with activities, workshops and programs for all ages.

Both the Caroline Springs Library and Melton Library and Learning Hub will hold holiday activities from Monday 29 June to 10 July, including arts and crafts, special interest clubs and groups, Tween programs, entertainment and much, much more.

To find out more about any of these school holiday programs, visit Council's website: melton.vic.gov.au



EVENT WRAP UP

The City of Melton has been buzzing lately, teaming with loads of events that celebrate everything from cultural harmony through to business excellence and giving kids a voice. Here's a quick recap of some of the great activities that we've run in the past couple of months.



▲ Harmony Day 2015

More than 1,000 people attended Council's 2015 Harmony Day celebrations on Saturday 21 March, at the Caroline Springs Library. Activities included a multicultural photo exhibition, information stalls, musical performances and workshops, Tai Chi, Zumba and much, much more.

Winners of the Neighbourhood House Art 4 Kids competition were announced, Thai and Indian foods were on offer, as was Ethiopian and a wide range of kids' activities.

Women In Business luncheon

Witchmount Estate Winery provided a stunning backdrop for this year's Women in Business luncheon held on Thursday 5 March. More than 130 guests gathered, networked and celebrated women's contribution to our local community.

This year's guest speaker, Kristina "Kikki" Karlsson, founder and creative director of international fashion stationary label kikki.K, shared her personal experiences and important business tips in her highly motivational keynote presentation, and treated guests to her truly inspirational story.





▲ Forum tells grown-ups to listen up

Encouraging government and community organisations to include children in their decision making was the focus of a unique forum held in Melton on Tuesday 17 March.

Attendees heard from expert presenters who shared the practical skills and information needed to effectively engage children in decision making.

The Listen up Grown Ups Consulting Children Forum was an initiative of Ballarat, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Melton and Wyndham Councils, Western Metro Department of Education and Training (DET) and Kurunjang Primary School.

For more information, visit Council's website: melton.vic.gov.au/consultingchildren

To find out what else is happening in our community, visit melton.vic.gov.au/events

▲ Business Excellence Awards: the height of success

Over 300 local business representatives gathered at Tabcorp Park on Friday 1 May to celebrate business excellence and our local entrepreneurial spirit at the 2015 WestWaters Hotel City of Melton Business Excellence Awards. More than 38 finalists were honoured across 11 industry and seven major categories, ranging from Best Home-based Business to the prestigious WestWaters Hotel Business of the Year Award.

Melton City Council would like to congratulate all the finalists and winners of the 2015 WestWaters Hotel City of Melton Business Excellence Awards, in particular Quest Caroline Springs who took out the coveted Business of the Year award, and The House of Kukla Hair and Beauty Salon, for receiving the Mayoral Achievement Award.

For a full list of the winners and sponsors visit melton.vic.gov.au

For more information on a range of business training and networking events for local businesses and new businesses looking to establish in the City of Melton, visit melton.vic.gov.au/businessawards or follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @VentureMelton





▲ Super Saturdays are here!

Love a bargain? Love freebies even more?

Come along to Super Saturdays... your opportunity to pick up FREE goods on the last Saturday* of each month from the Re-Sale Centre, located at the Melton Recycling Facility (33 Ferris Rd, Melton South). Super Saturdays help make space for incoming goods, which means fresh and interesting bargains can be found all year round!

Super Saturdays may offer one type of item or several similar items, such as clothes, books, crockery (limit of ten items per type, per person applies). Availability is subject to stock levels, so visit melton.vic.gov.au/waste for further information.

**Events are scheduled for the last Saturday of the month unless otherwise advised due to public holidays etc.*

Back To Earth, a living success

Putting your green waste to good

The Melton Botanic Garden has reached an exciting milestone with the completion of its Southern African-themed beds. And these special plants have a secret ally for their survival.

Organic material from kerbside collections and Melton's transfer station undergoes an intensive maturation process, transforming it into fine grade compost. Each of the Botanic Garden's trial beds benefits from between 10% and 50% of this valuable product.

The success of these trial beds demonstrates how important it is for everyone to "get it right on bin night" by only putting acceptable garden waste into green bins. You can learn more at backtoearth.vic.gov.au. This project is supported by the Victorian Government's Metropolitan Organics Strategy Fund.

The Garden in Tullidge Street, Melton, welcomes visitors seven days a week. The on-site nursery is open Tuesdays 10am-1pm.

Visit fmbg.org.au or call 9743 3819 for details.

