

Moving ahead

MARCH 2015

Taylor's Hill Men's
Shed Now Open!

2015 Pet
Registrations

Healthy Living
Programs



A Proud Community Growing Together

Message from the Mayor

It's budget time again, so let's take a few moments to look back on everything we've achieved this past year.

We've been working on delivering key infrastructure throughout the municipality, including the soon-to-be-opened, Western BACE, and the Bridge Road and Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centres. We've also started work on the Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve, stage one of the Bridge Road Sports Precinct and Burnside Children's and Community Centre.

We've helped local clubs and groups realise their goals through our Community Grants Program and have continued to delight residents with our community festivals. We also acknowledged our outstanding citizens through our Community Achievement Awards, Business Excellence Awards, Youth Advisory Committee Awards and Melton Heritage Awards.

Our leadership and innovation in the area of lifelong learning was acknowledged at an international level, with the City of Melton now recognised for its outstanding achievements, by the United Nations.

We've upgraded key facilities, carried out public open space improvement and tree planting programs, reduced our carbon footprint, and established a range of health and wellbeing programs including healthy eating workshops, sleep setting classes for new parents, and youth activities.

We've also been working on the plans and strategies that will guide the development of our community well into the future, including our Integrated Transport Strategy, Housing Character Assessment and no less than seven Precinct Structure Plans.

So, as you can see, it's been a productive and satisfying year, and it's easy to see why our community really is a fantastic place to live, work, learn and play.



Cr Sophie Ramsey
Mayor of the City of Melton



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On the cover: Sheddies enjoy the veggie patch at the Melton Men's Shed

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Light Bulb Moment



Melton City Council is offering free training for residents who would like to learn more about how to live comfortably and efficiently at home, save money on their energy bills and learn how to share this knowledge with our community.

There are also opportunities to have these presentations delivered to local businesses and professionals who work directly with the community.

If you would like to find out more about the upcoming sessions and our calendar of events, you can go to the website or call our Energy Efficiency Educator on 9747 7200 or visit melton.vic.gov.au/saveenergysavemoney

Watch the video online to hear the reviews of the training!

This activity has received funding from the Australian Government.

Local Small Business Accelerator Opening Soon

If you're a regular reader of Moving Ahead then you probably already know about the Western BACE project. But in case you haven't heard – the Western BACE is a multi-million dollar Commonwealth-funded Business Accelerator and Centre for Excellence. And it's opening right here in the City of Melton in just a few short weeks.

The Western BACE will be a hub for local small businesses, and will give them the opportunity to succeed by offering affordable rent as well as access to mentors, networking opportunities, and IT facilities. There are opportunities for businesses looking for short-term leasing and support, as well as for established businesses looking for a long-term lease at the Centre.

The Western BACE is expected to open in April, when the first tenants will move in and commence operation. If you're involved with a local small business and would like to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Western BACE then there's still time to register your interest and get involved. Head over to the Western BACE website for more info: www.WesternBACE.com.



▲ Budget 2015-2016

With the end of the financial year fast approaching, Councillors and staff have already immersed themselves in the demanding annual budgeting process, where Council will work to balance the demand for increased services and infrastructure from the community.

Melton City Council provides over 100 services and programs to the community across a range of areas including services for children, young people, businesses, older residents and families.

So, it's important that Council develops a robust and well balanced budget that provides continued investment in these vital services, as well as creating the opportunity to develop new programs and facilities.

As part of the budgeting process, residents and community groups were invited to speak to Councillors and Council officers at two budget engagement sessions held in early February. The sessions enabled Council to gain feedback on the services and projects Council should undertake over the next twelve months, and into the future.

The 2015-2016 draft budget, reviewed Council Plan, Council Action Plan and Strategic Resource Plan will be presented at the April 2015 Ordinary Council meeting, and are expected to be available for public inspection in May. The Section 223 committee meeting will take place on Thursday 4 June 2015 and the final budget will be presented to Council for consideration for adoption at the 23 June 2015 Ordinary Council meeting.

To find out more about Council's Section 223 Meeting, visit Council's website at melton.vic.gov.au

Healthy and happy families

Thanks to Macedon Ranges North Western Melbourne Medicare Local funding of \$300,000, Council's exciting Healthy Children Growing Together project, local families have lots of opportunities to get healthy and happy in 2015.

Preschools across the municipality will be hosting events for families on healthy eating and physical activity, while new and interesting activities in local parks will encourage kids and adults to explore our open spaces.

Parents will have access to information and cooking demos on fussy eating, introducing solids and healthy lunchboxes, as well as sessions on promoting active play for children.

A number of sessions focusing on staying healthy while pregnant will also be available.

For more information, visit melton.vic.gov.au or contact Council's Healthy Children Growing Together Project Officer on 9747 7200.

Healthy Children Growing Together is funded through Macedon Ranges and North Western Melbourne Medicare Local.



Recognising our outstanding local volunteers

Council enjoys nothing more than celebrating the contribution volunteers make to our community. Volunteers play a crucial role in making our neighbourhoods safe and inclusive for all our residents, and without them, our great City wouldn't be half as great as it is. This year, Council recognised the selfless efforts of our local volunteers at our Australia Day Community Achievement Award presentations, and we thought you'd like to know a bit more about what makes these outstanding citizens so special.

▲ Citizen of the Year

Mr Gill Ellis

Gill, a returned Vietnam Veteran and passionate community volunteer, has been a friendly face to people of all backgrounds and abilities at the Melton Men's Shed over the past five years.

Gill's been crucial to the success of the Melton Men's Shed's Primary School Engagement Program and keenly supports the budding partnership with the local Aboriginal Men's Group.

Gill's engaging and friendly demeanour, and his passion for connecting blokes in the City of Melton, is an inspiration for his fellow sheddies and the community at large.



▲ Woman of the Year

Kellie McLaren

Kellie's commitment improving the health and wellbeing of young people through sport has been a defining feature of her 10 year involvement in the Melton Hockey Club.

Now the Club's CEO, Kellie's achievements have earned herself and the Melton Hockey Club esteemed awards through Hockey Victoria.

Kellie is an outstanding role model to young people, especially her three proud children, and her commitment to inclusivity has over time become a defining feature of the Melton Hockey Club.

▲ Young Person of the Year

Maddison Wood

Maddison, only 14, was one of 50 out of 400 people to be chosen to become a young leader through the Western Bulldogs Whitten Project last year, and has been instrumental in the formation of the first Caroline Springs Lakers girls youth rugby team.

Maddison is valued and respected by her peers and has championed lunchtime sporting competitions at her school.



▲ Community Project of the Year

BusyFeet Melton

The BusyFeet program is delivered by the Rotary Club of Melton Valley in close partnership with the Melton Specialist School, The Club at Caroline Springs, Instyle Dance Company and other community partners.

BusyFeet provides a special place for children of all physical and intellectual abilities to build friendships, dance and have fun while carers and parents can connect over coffee.

BusyFeet is run by an enthusiastic team who volunteer an estimated 550 hours each year to the project.



▲ Pet Registrations 2015: don't forget your fur babies!

It's that time of the year again when pet owners across the community are reminded to re-register their family pets by 10 April 2015. Under State legislation, every dog or cat aged over three months and residing in the City of Melton must be registered, or re-registered each year.

Some pet owners may be eligible for a discount on their registration if their animal has been de-sexed, is aged over 10 years, belongs to a domestic animal business or organisation, is a dog that has undergone training or is a working dog.

Animals not meeting any of these criteria will attract the full registration fee. All cats first registered after 2011 must be de-sexed.

Registration fees pay for a number of important Council programs and services, including animal management facilities, dog attack prevention programs and animal management staff.

Dog registration fees vary from \$18 to \$180 (sterilized dog: \$32), however there are discounts for pensioner's dogs and no costs for guide dogs. Cat registration fees vary from \$11 to \$66 (sterilized cost: \$22).

Council will be sending out re-registration forms shortly to owners of all domestic animals that are currently registered or were registered but failed to re-register in 2014 - 2015. If you no longer have a pet that is registered or was registered with Melton City Council, please let us know so we can update our records.

To find out more about registering your pet, and how to avoid penalties for unregistered pets, or to download an animal registration form, visit melton.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, you can pick up a Registration Form from the Melton or Caroline Springs Civic Centres or Melton Library and Learning Hub.

▲ Funding opportunities

Community groups are the lifeblood of our community. Run by volunteers who are passionate about helping others, these organisations understand local needs and provide services that enrich our quality of life.

Often, community groups need financial help to deliver their programs, so Council's Community Grants program is an important source of funding for groups that need a helping hand.

Community grants can be used for a variety of initiatives: establishing groups, purchasing new equipment or even preserving relics from by-gone eras. The opportunities are endless, and limited only by the imaginations of our local community groups and organisations.

For a full list of grants available and criteria requirements, please visit melton.vic.gov.au/grants





Are we WELL? Getting out and getting healthy in Hillside

Compared to Victoria, City of Melton residents:

- have poorer nutrition and physical activity levels
- have higher rates of obesity, smoking, diabetes and asthma
- have lower life expectancy
- experience higher rates of family violence.

Did you know that significant health benefits can come from connecting with people in your local community? These can include reducing the risk of depression and heart disease and increasing how long we live.

Council wants to create opportunities for people living in our community to become healthy and happy, so, in 2015, the Hillside Community Centre has renewed its commitment to providing high quality programs that focus on enhancing mental and physical wellbeing.

Council has partnered with a number of organisations like the Australian School of Reflexology and Relaxation, Eating Disorders Victoria, Brahma Kumaris Australia and Amaze Victoria to deliver new and exciting programs throughout 2015.

Wellbeing and lifestyle programs on offer this year include Reflexology, Personal Styling, Yoga and Meditation.

So, why not take some time out from your busy, overscheduled life to participate in local, affordable, quality programs that will improve your health and maybe even make a few new friends along the way? By improving your health, you can contribute positively not only to your own wellbeing, but to the wellbeing of our whole community.

For more information about programs, explore Council's full Neighbourhood House program at melton.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodhouses

For bookings phone 9747 7200 or for more information email: hillsidecommunitycentre@melton.vic.gov.au

▲ Grant Spotlight: Excuse me, what's a furphy?

A furphy is Australian slang for a rumour or improbable story that's claimed to be absolute fact... much like an urban legend! The word comes from water carts designed and made by J. Furphy & Sons used to take water to Australian Army personnel during World War I in Australia, Europe and the Middle East.

The carts became popular as gathering places where soldiers could exchange gossip, rumours and fanciful tales—much like today's water cooler discussions... hence, the term furphy was born.

Did you know, that the City of Melton is home to its very own furphy (the tank, not the rumours), and recently the Exford Residents and Landowners Association (ERLOA) sought Community Grant funding to refurbish the historically significant water cart owned by the Association?

The Furphy Refurbishment project was developed to replace the existing, rusted water tank with a new stainless steel one, fit a new pump and service the old cart.

This unique and quirky project is a great example of how, with the assistance of Council's Community Grants Program, the community can come together to work on a project that not only uses community skills and expertise, but also keeps important elements of our local history alive and well for future generations to enjoy.



Taylors Hill Men's Shed Open for Business

Melton City Council is proud to announce the much anticipated opening of the new Taylors Hill Men's Shed, located at Morton Homestead.

This magnificent facility has been carefully designed to complement the beautiful setting of the Homestead, adding another exciting element to this historic site.

The new Taylors Hill Men's Shed provides men living in our eastern corridor the opportunity to become involved with their own locally based Shed, build friendships with neighbours, share ideas and rub shoulders with other 'Sheddies' including partnerships with the Melton Sheddies.

The new Taylors Hill Men's Shed provides a range of programs, tailored to the interests of the Taylors Hill Sheddies, including

woodworking, cooking, gardening, bike riding, games days, coffee and chat, men's health forums, community projects, bus trips and more.

Men's Sheds are a great community facility offering mateship, while building on men's health and wellbeing.

Want to find out more about the new Taylors Hill Men's Shed or the Melton Men's Shed? Contact the Men's Shed Development Officer on 9747 7200 or email mensshed@melton.vic.gov.au.

▲ Youth Programs:

Reconnect

Specifically for young people aged 12 – 18 years who recently homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, and their families. The Reconnect program provides confidential support to help young people in need.

Reconnect helps young people become more involved with their family, work, education, training and the community.

For more information on the Reconnect program, call 9747 5373 and ask to speak to the Reconnect Duty Worker.

6801 Youth Outreach

6801 Can assist young people between the ages of 12-25 with advice and support in the following areas: housing information, drug and alcohol referrals, transport options, education and employment advice, and community education.

The 6801 programs operates Friday and Saturday nights between the hours of 6pm-midnight and outreach workers can be contacted on 9743 6801, or weekdays during business hours on 9747 5373.

Youth Mentoring Project

Melton City Council's community and school-based mentoring program provides young people between the ages of 12 and 25 with an adult mentor to share recreational activities, fun and friendship. The program aims to develop the self-confidence and resilience of socially isolated young people; to expand their educational and vocational possibilities; and to strengthen their connection to family and community.

For more information phone 9747 5373.



▲ Rivers to Recognition

It was a busy close to 2014 with the launch of the regional Rivers to Recognition initiative and the adoption of Council's new Reconciliation Policy.

The Rivers to Recognition initiative is an outstanding partnership between local Councils in Melbourne's west, Reconciliation Victoria and GetUp Out West, to celebrate Aboriginal connections to country and encourage conversation around the proposed acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages in the Australian Constitution.

Rivers to Recognition was officially launched at a concert on Sunday, 7 December at the historic Seaworks Building in Williamstown, and included performances by Radical Son, Frank Yamma, and Archie Roach.

To continue the conversation on the Constitutional Recognition proposal, Council hosted a community forum to encourage people to investigate different views held within our community; learn what the proposal actually means, and to openly discuss other ways the community can better recognise the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more generally.

In December, Council also adopted its new Reconciliation Policy, which drew together the views of participants in Council's Aboriginal community workshops and engagement sessions held last year. The policy is considered a foundation for the way Council progresses its reconciliation portfolio, especially in regards to Aboriginal employment and the acknowledgement of customary Welcome to Country protocols.

The policy will be implemented through annual Reconciliation Action Plans developed in partnership with the local Aboriginal community through Council's Reconciliation Advisory Committee.

If you want to know more about the policy or the Reconciliation Advisory Committee, visit melton.vic.gov.au for more info.

▲ Walk Safely to School Day

Walk Safely to School Day is an annual, national event when all primary school children are encouraged to walk and commute safely to school. It is a community event that promotes road safety, health, public transport and the environment.

This year, Walk Safely to School Day will be held on Friday 22 May and you're encouraged to participate.

Walk Safely to School Day:

- encourages parents and carers to walk to school with primary school age children and reinforce safe pedestrian behaviour.
- promotes the health benefits of walking and help create regular walking habits at an early age.
- ensures children, aged up to 10, hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.

- helps children develop the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature pedestrians.
- reduces the car dependency habits that are being created at an early age and which will be difficult to change as children become adults.
- promotes the use of public transport, therefore reducing the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles and the level of traffic congestion experienced around schools at drop off and pick up times.

Council supports primary schools to participate in Walk Safely to School Day through the 'It's Cool to Walk to School' Program.

To find out more about Walk Safely to School Day, visit walk.com.au/WSTSD/ or contact Council's Road Safety and Active Transport Officer on 9747 7200.



▲ Event Season 2014-2015: WRAP UP

The 35th Djerriwarrh Festival kicked off with over 1,000 people taking part in the beloved and festive Street Parade, featuring the theme Spring Time, Fun Time. With a Custom Car and Bike Show, a new Pet Expo, Get Active, Youth Zone and the hugely popular Community Showcase Ring, not even four seasons in one day could deter 35 000 residents from celebrating this time-honoured event. We welcomed the huge talents of Ms Murphy, Vanessa Amorossi and the Pierce Brothers, with an absolutely spectacular fireworks display concluding the day.

Held in the stunning surrounds of Hannah Watts Park, over 3,000 people were entertained by the dulcet tones of the ever suave, Kane Alexander, at this year's Carols by Candlelight celebration. The Melton City Children's Choir made their debut, performing alongside other community groups and schools but nothing could top the biggest surprise of all... a visit from the big guy himself – Santa! escorted by our own CFA in his very own fire truck!

Summersault proved to be a summer sensation as crowds in excess of 25,000 flocked to the heart of Caroline Springs to partake in the community's favourite festival. With a full array of amusements and rides, we wonder if it was the allure of superstars, Justice Crew, which sent a few hearts fluttering or

whether it was the other fantastic performers who joined us on the night, including Johnny Rollins, Ngaiire and Pierce Brothers. Yet again, the skies were brought to life with yet another jaw dropping fireworks display.

The Pop Culture program of events has really taken hold as a favourite amongst the community, having already offered a wide range of activities from silent movies, to candle making, to groovy movies and puppetry workshops. This year, even more great activities are planned including movie nights and children's activities.

For more information about any of Council's fantastic community events, visit melton.vic.gov.au/events



Carols by Candlelight



Carols by Candlelight



Australia Day



Australia Day



Pop Culture



Pop Culture



Djerriwarrh Festival



Djerriwarrh Festival



Djerriwarrh Festival



Djerriwarrh Festival



Summersault



Summersault



Summersault



Summersault



Fresh look for the Melton Visitor Information Centre

After over 13 years of faithful service to both the Melton community and visitors alike, the Melton Visitor Information Centre, in the Old Courthouse on High Street, Melton, is getting a fresh new look! Refurbishment works on the historic building are taking place until June 2015, creating a new interactive visitor servicing centre that features an exciting new Cafe space. The renovations will create a vibrant hub within Melton's prominent business district for visitors and the local community to meet and share stories about the many hidden gems and local attractions on offer within the City of Melton.

In addition to the physical changes, pop-up visitor information booths will be introduced at a number of sites across the City including CS Square Shopping Centre (Caroline Springs) and Eynesbury Homestead. Keep an eye out for a pop-up booth in your local area and chat to one of the friendly Volunteer Ambassadors about the many things you can do, places to see, and things to discover in your own backyard.

For assistance with visitor information during these improvements, you will find our Volunteer Ambassadors at the Melton Library and Learning Hub, otherwise call us on 9747 7300.

▲ Pride of Melton: Council seeks funding for Melton town centre revitalisation project

Melton City Council has submitted a funding application for \$6.75 million through the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF), for a major revitalisation of Melton's town centre.

The proposed \$13.5 million Pride of Melton project will deliver a number of upgrades to McKenzie and Palmerston Streets and Wallace and Bakery Squares, providing increased business investment and multifunction civic spaces including a town square, amphitheatre, cafe and improved open space.

The Melton Visitor Information Centre upgrade is part of the project and the retail core will be expanded and upgraded. Lighting will be improved and connections for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users will be enhanced.

Extensive consultation has already been undertaken for the project which has been designed to deliver a vibrant town centre within the Melton township and beyond.

The Pride of Melton project will revitalise the precinct and provide much improved pedestrian and bicycle access, generate employment and retail opportunities, create a place for events, play, relaxation, performances, outdoor dining and a safer precinct for all... creating a vibrant hub all residents can be proud of.

If the application is successful, Council would be required to match the funding dollar to dollar.

The outcome of Council's submission will be known in May 2015. Keep an eye out on Council's website for updates.



Planning update! Planning update! Planning update!

As always, Council's Strategic Planning team has been busily working away on the plans and strategies that will take our great municipality well into the future. Planning is a key element in ensuring that communities, roads and transport and the local environment can keep up with the persistent growth our municipality will continue to experience over the next few decades.

So, here's a snapshot of what's on the Planning table, with details about how you can contribute to making our community the best it can be now, and for generations to come.



▲ Integrated Transport Strategy

The comprehensive Integrated Transport Strategy we are currently preparing will ensure that the public transport and road network that connects the City of Melton meets our community's needs, now, and well into the future.

Council is set to release a discussion paper in April which will explore options for improving the City of Melton's transport system, and we are interested in knowing what your thoughts are on the identified options.

We will be holding a number of events in April where you can tell us your thoughts and ideas on what can be done to improve the transport system. You can also fill in an online survey to have your say at movingmelton.com.au

Council expects a draft of the Strategy to be available for comment in June 2015.

For further information about Council's Integrated Transport Strategy, contact our Strategic Planning team on 9747 7200, visit the website movingmelton.com.au or email us at MovingMelton@melton.vic.gov.au

▲ Housing Character Assessments

How our communities look and feel to you, our residents, is really important. So, following on from work prepared as part of Council's Housing Diversity Strategy 'House Smart', Council has introduced 'House Rules', Council's Housing Character Assessment and Design Guidelines, a project aimed at protecting the valued characteristics of our neighbourhoods and improving the design of housing in the City's established areas.

The project is being undertaken in stages. Stage 1, Housing Character Assessments, is now complete, having assessed the existing character of established residential areas. The Character Assessments can be viewed on the following website: meltonhouserules.com

Stage 2 of the project is currently underway and involves the preparation of Design Guidelines to enhance the character and improve the design of residential areas.

These guidelines will be tested at community engagement sessions in June 2015, so please check Council's website for more information and to have your say.

To learn more about the Housing Character Assessment & Design Guidelines project please visit: meltonhouserules.com. You can also contact our Strategic Planning team on 9747 7200 or email: houserules@melton.vic.gov.au



Precinct Structure Plans

Rockbank

The Rockbank PSP is the most advanced on the Metropolitan Planning Authority (MPA) current schedule, a draft version of which was out for comment over November – December 2014.

State agencies, landowners, developers and Council all lodged submissions regarding this PSP, which the MPA is currently considering. The PSP is expected to be finalised and adopted in the second half of 2015.

Kororoit and Plumpton

In November 2014, the MPA held consultation events for Kororoit and Plumpton PSPs. These sessions introduced a draft Future Urban Structure (Land Use Plan) to landowners and other key stakeholders. The MPA is now preparing the draft PSP which should be on exhibition in the first half of 2015, with a view to completing it by late 2015-early 2016.

Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains

Mt Atkinson and Tarneit Plains PSPs are progressing well with their relevant background reporting stages almost finished. A draft Future Urban Structure Plan is expected to be completed in the coming months.

In the meantime, please contact Council's Strategic Planning team on 9747 7200, if you have any queries.



▲ Community Road Safety Forum: Keeping everyone safe on our roads

Keeping residents safe on our roads is a key priority for Melton City Council. Each year, we see too many people killed or injured in accidents; the trauma of which has a devastating effect on family, friends and the wider community. So, Council is proactive in its determination to educate local drivers about their responsibilities on our roads and keep our streets fatality free.

Council holds two highly regarded Community Road Safety Forums each year and drivers, in particular young drivers, are encouraged to attend with their parents.

The forums highlight the need to take a shared responsibility as road users to make it safe for everyone who shares our roads and freeways.

They also provide a platform for victims of road trauma to share their stories and the devastating effect road trauma has on their lives, and the lives of their loved ones.

The forums provide road safety information and influence young drivers to make better choices when getting behind the wheel of a car and highlight key responsibilities in keeping passengers safe and consider the safety of other road users.

Council's next Community Road Safety Forum will be held on Wednesday 6 May at Catholic Regional College (Melton).

If you're interested in attending, and making a difference to the safety of our roads, Contact Council's Road Safety and Active Transport Officer on 747 7200 for further information, or visit melton.vic.gov.au



▲ Melton Re-Sale Centre Expansion Underway

Many of you will be familiar with Council's Re-Sale Centre, located at the Melton Recycling Facility in Ferris Road, Melton South. The Centre gives a second life to household goods like furniture, kitchen goods, books, toys and clothing. Residents can drop these off for free seven days a week, and it's a great place to find a bargain!

Council believes even more items and materials can be saved from landfill, if the Re-Sale Centre was large enough to accommodate more goods that our community no longer have a use for. So, Council has pleasingly secured \$200,000 in State Government funding to expand the Re-Sale Centre and make it an even greater asset for the Melton community.

With environmental and financial savings for everyone, the expansion of this facility will create an improved zone, maximise indoor space and increase outdoor space for materials including timber and metal.

The project is now well under way, with concept plans drawn up and a community consultation session held last month. Residents were invited to share their ideas on what kinds of household items and building materials they would like to see available for re-sale.

Updates on the progress of the project will be available throughout the year at melton.vic.gov.au/waste

Council's tree planting program greening our neighbourhoods

Those of you who have been getting out and making the most of our long, summer days will certainly have noticed the marked increase in the number of new trees and shrubs popping up throughout our community.

Council has an extensive tree planting program that improves the look and feel of neighbourhoods, while providing shade and attracting wildlife. Over 2,000 trees have been planted in the last year across the City, including Melton, Diggers Rest, Caroline Springs and Rockbank, to name a few.

Council also has a responsive tree planting program for residents who'd like a tree planted on their nature strip. If you are willing to water the tree regularly to help establish it and would like more information, contact Council on 9747 7200.





▲ Vacation Care program to relocate to new Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre

Council's very popular Vacation Care program will be relocating from Mt. Carberry to the new Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre in Melton South, in 2015.

The Vacation Care program provides a secure, fun and friendly program for primary school aged children during the holidays. Each program encompasses a wide variety of activities including excursions to ensure children are engaged and active within the community and can explore the world around them. In the centre we provide activities like art and crafts, games, sports, music, cooking, theme days and imaginative play.

Vacation Care operating dates for 2015 at Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre:

- Monday 29 June to Friday 10 July
- Monday 21 September to Friday 2 October
- December 2015 to January 2016: to be confirmed

For more information about Council's Vacation Care program and how your child can participate, visit melton.vic.gov.au

▲ Breast Feeding Support Service

Having a baby isn't always easy and sometimes, new mothers need a little help when it comes to taking care of their precious bub.

Council offers an extensive Breastfeeding Support Service to all families living within the City of Melton. It's free and offers office visits, breastfeeding clinic, telephone support and some home visits conducted by trained Lactation Consultants (IBCLC) or a Breastfeeding Support Nurse.

Over the past five years Council's Breastfeeding Support Service has assisted more than 2,000 women with breastfeeding information and advice, and also helped women who have made the decision to wean.

Jodie Spiteri, from Taylors Hill, couldn't recommend the service more highly. "It would have upset me not to breastfeed," Jodie says.

Jodie was experiencing weight and feeding issues with her third baby, Emily. Council's Maternal and Child Health nurse attended for a home visit when Emily was six days old and recommended Council's Breastfeeding Service that Jodie attended that very day. "It made a big difference" Jodie says. "By the time I left the clinic, I was at ease and knew what I was doing was fine. The Lactation Consultant gave me new techniques that really helped. The clinics are great."

The Breastfeeding Support Service operates most weekdays between 8.30 am to 4.30 pm, and the Breastfeeding clinic operates between 10am and 2pm on Thursdays (alternating between Springside Children's and Community Centre, Caroline Springs and Melton Library and Learning Hub, Melton).

For further information, contact Council's Breastfeeding Support Service on 9747 7200 or visit our website at melton.vic.gov.au





Community Profile: Melton South

Each year, Council produces a suite of Community Profiles that provide a wealth of user friendly information about our community: who we are, where we're from and what we do.

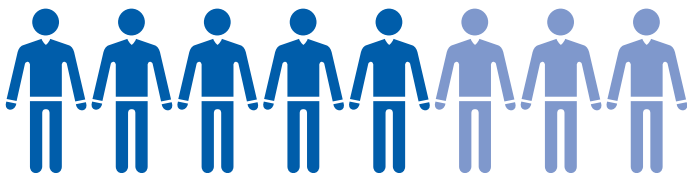
A number of Profiles are currently available, including:

- City of Melton
- Melton
- Melton East
- Melton South
- Burnside – Burnside Heights.

Population group profiles currently available include: **Older People** and **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse People**, with several new Profiles to be developed over the next six months.

In this edition of Moving Ahead, we'd like to showcase one of our Community Profiles and highlight one of our key communities: Melton South.

This diverse neighbourhood has a current population of 9,492, but by 2031, will grow to more than 13,000. **(an increase of over 30%).**



Between 2012 and 2013, Melton South was one of the fastest growing outer suburbs in Victoria, increasing by 9.5% (City of Melton, 4.3%). Melton South is a young community, with a median age of 33 (Victoria, 37), and 68% of the population aged less than 49 years.

There are more than 3,100 households in Melton South:



25% couples with children
(City of Melton, 43%)



21% couples without children
(City of Melton, 21%)



18% one parent families
(City of Melton, 13%)



25% lone persons
(City of Melton, 16%)

Between 2006 and 2011, the number of overseas-born residents increased from 1,457 to 1,699 (+242) which represents 19% of the total population. People from non-English speaking backgrounds increased by 306 to 1,103 (12.4% of the total population), with the top three countries of birth being Malta, India and the Philippines (3.3% of the total population).

There are 87 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people living in Melton South, around 639 primary and 482 secondary aged kids. Thirty per cent of residents have completed Year 12 (City of Melton, 46.5%) and one in ten residents are involved in some form of volunteer work.

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

▲ Linking Melton South: how a local community came together to promote local pride



Linking Melton South is a community initiative that celebrates the uniqueness of one of Melton's most diverse neighbourhoods.

The project brought together young artists who designed and painted a huge community mural at Kurrajong Crescent Reserve, near the Coles Shopping complex.

Linking Melton South is a wonderful example of a proud community growing together with events such as the 'Party in the Park' (November 2014) attracting residents from all ages and cultural backgrounds.

Linking Melton South runs regular community events in the area – contact Djerriwarrh Health Services on 9361 9360 for more information.

Capital Works update: Keeping you up to speed on major building project developments in our community

Burnside Children's and Community Centre

- Located on corner of Lexington Dve and Montmarte Bvd in the Modeina development, the Burnside Children's and Community Centre will include three 25 place kindergartens, one 33 place occasional care facility, one maternal and child health office, staff office and amenities, public amenities and one community room.
- Construction commenced in March 2015 and will be completed in December 2015 and kindergarten and children services programs will commence in 2016.
- **The total cost for this project will be approximately \$4.5 million of which, \$1.6 million was received from the State Government.**



Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve

- Located in Long Tree Dr, Claret Ash Bvd and Weeks Ave in Melton West, the Arnolds Creek Recreation Reserve includes a warm-season, grass sports area that can accommodate two AFL grounds, with cricket wickets, and lighting.
- The area also provides flexibility for three flat fields (for soccer, lacrosse or rugby) and includes practice cricket nets, a sealed shared footpath and car parking for 82 cars.
- The Arnolds Creek Pavilion incorporates senior and junior home and away change rooms, social room, kitchen, public toilets, internal and external storage, reception office, tribunal room, four offices, kitchenette, umpire change room and a first aid room.
- Ovals will be available for training in April 2015, ready for the 2016 season.
- Pavilion construction commenced in August 2014 and is scheduled for completion in June 2015.
- **The total cost for this project will be approximately \$6.2 million of which, \$650,000 was received from the State Government.**



Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre

- Located in Clarkes Road, Brookside, the Botanica Springs Children's and Community Centre includes three 25 place kindergartens, one 25 place occasional care facility, two maternal and child health offices, professional consulting rooms, staff office and amenities, public amenities and one community room.
- Construction was completed in December 2014 and kindergarten and children services programs commenced in January this year.
- **The total cost for this project was approximately \$6.5 million of which, \$2 million was received from the State Government.**



Bridge Road Children's & Community Centre

- The Bridge Road Children's & Community Centre opened for operation in late January.
- The building contains three kindergarten rooms and high quality outdoor playspaces. One kindergarten session is running at present, expanding to two as enrolments increase (66 children when full).
- Council operates an Occasional Care facility for up to 25 children.
- Maternal Child Health operates one nurses office, which will expand to two as demand increases.
- The building also provides a large community room, kitchen, outdoor deck and garden.
- Council's Vacation Care program has also been relocated to this facility.
- The building will promote Council's sustainability aims through solar electricity generation, efficient heating and cooling systems, and use of recycled water.
- Footpaths along the south side of Bridge Road, including links to existing residential and future public transport, will be constructed in May.
- Further tree planting and landscaping along the entry road and car park will be carried out in May.
- **The total cost for this project was approximately \$6.2 million of which, \$1.5 million was received from the State Government.**



Bridge Road Sports Precinct

- Works have begun on Stage 1 of the Bridge Road Sports Precinct.
- This project will provide the community with new athletics track and field facilities, hockey pitches, community pavilion and storage building.
- The site will be extensively landscaped with trees, garden, grassed areas and spectator viewing mounds.
- The project will extend the existing entry road into the precinct and build additional car parking, and will include a network of footpaths and shared use paths, linking the site with the existing Toolern Creek path, Bridge Road Children's and Community Centre, and allowing links to the future school, residential developments, and regional park.
- Works will be completed by June 2016.
- **The total cost for this project will be approximately \$10.5 million of which, \$1.3 million was received from the State Government.**

Libraries: So much more than just bricks and mortar

Connecting with the Melton Library Service doesn't necessarily mean entering one of our branches. Our libraries offer a diverse range of literacy and learning materials through an extensive e-Collection, as well as a convenient Home Library Service for eligible residents.

e-Collection & Digital Literacy Classes – paperless reading, learning, literacy and fun for you!

E-Reading

- Borrow from a range of 1000's of e-books, browse current magazines on your iPad through Zinio, listen to audio books while you drive, relax or work or read daily newspapers from around the world on Library Press Display.

Online learning

- Take a language course, get crafty, or sign up for a computer skill tutorial from anywhere in the world (or your home!). There are a host of fun, educational and informative online resources for children as well.

Watch a film

- We're excited to announce the introduction of a brilliant e-Resource called Indieflix. Available now, this premier online streaming service will provide library members access to award winning, independent films, shorts and documentaries from around the world straight to your computer, tablet or smart phone through a web browser. A library card and internet connection is needed.

Training session

- Navigating new technology and using the internet can be a frustrating exercise. Melton Library Service is dedicated to improving the skills and confidence of residents using computers and mobile devices by offering a range of training sessions for beginners throughout the year.

Our website

- Check the website and our Off the Shelf library newsletter for up to date information about current training opportunities or bring in your mobile device to a library branch for assistance with downloading eBooks, accessing Zinio or Library Press Display.

Explore more of what is available by visiting melton.vic.gov.au/libraries

▲ Home Library Service

Did you know that the City of Melton offers a free home library service to eligible residents?

- Free service for eligible residents who are unable to visit our libraries due to ill health, frailty or disability. Full time carers are also eligible, as are nursing homes and hostels within the City of Melton.
- Deliveries are done once every four weeks by our dedicated volunteers.
- Home Library Service patrons have access to all the library's collections, including Care Collection, large print, audio books, community language materials, magazines, DVDs, and our friendly, helpful staff will make selections for you each month.
- Currently deliver to 25 residents in their own home and 17 residents in four nursing homes across the City. Deliveries are also made to residents in Retirement Villages.

If you are interested in receiving the Home Library Service or know someone who would benefit from this service, please contact the City of Melton Library Service on 9747 5300.



▲ Local History Digitisation Project



This innovative program sees documents, images and correspondence with local, historical significance scanned and made available for all the community to browse and enjoy. It really takes the hard work out of local research!

Over 100 items have been scanned and uploaded to our library website for easy access, 24/7. Topics covered include pioneering families, history of local schools, architecture, Aboriginal history, agriculture and migration.

Volunteers from the Melton Family History Group scan the items, and the Melton Historical Society are kindly lending us their collection to be scanned and digitised.

We welcome members of the public to visit the library with photos and documents that are relevant to the City of Melton's history.

For more information, contact Council's Library Service on 9747 5300 or visit melton.vic.gov.au/localhistory