



MEDIA RELEASE

4 July 2019

Open House – Melton Library and Willows Homestead

Take a behind the scenes look at Melton Library and Willows Homestead as part of the Open House Melbourne circuit later this month.

Melton Library and Learning Hub will be an open book to visitors during the event, allowing people to explore unique aspects such as the recording studio as well as sustainable design features that won the library national recognition.

The building was the first library in Australia to achieve a Five Star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. It uses 52 per cent less electricity, 60 per cent less gas, 82 per cent less water, and represents a reduction of 45 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions than standard buildings of its kind.

The building's principal architect will present a feature design talk together with Council's Strategic Portfolio Coordinator. A walkthrough of the library will follow.

Library staff will also run regular tours which will provide additional insight into the building.

Meanwhile, Melton's historical Willows Homestead will take visitors back in time.

The heritage-listed homestead, built in the mid-1850s, is a rare example of an intact building from the original era of farming in the Melton area and the oldest surviving Victorian-style homestead in Melton.

Visitors can see inside the bluestone and mud construction, view the exterior of surrounding historic buildings and wander the gardens during Open House.

The Melton District Historical Society will support self-guided tours of the Willows and will answer any questions about the homestead's history and architecture.

"This is a rare opportunity to explore parts of Melton Library and the Willows not normally open to the public and to have your questions answered by experts," City of Melton Mayor Cr Bob Turner said.



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“Come along, and you’ll see and hear for yourself exactly what makes Melton Library a frontrunner in architectural and sustainable design, and what makes the Willows such a significant part of Melton’s history.

“Together, these buildings represent Melton’s historic past and its innovative present and I look forward to sharing this with many visitors during Open House.

“Open House showcases some of Melbourne’s most impressive places and it’s a credit to Melton that we have two buildings worthy of inclusion.”

Open House Melbourne is a celebration of architecture and aims to share knowledge on the impact of good design to help ensure Victoria remains liveable and vibrant.

Two hundred building and landscape projects will participate in the event on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July.

Event details available at openhousemelbourne.org/

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Melton Library and Learning Hub

Open House: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July, 10am – 3.45pm
Tours: Guided daily, 10am, 11am, 12pm (Saturday only), 1pm, 2pm, 3pm
Architect talk: 12pm Sunday
Kids activity: Special Storytime on Saturday 27 July, 11am

Willows Homestead

Open House: Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 July, 12 – 4pm
Tours: Self-guided

ENDS

Melton City Council media enquiries (not for publication): Kylie Kitchen – Media and Communications Officer on (03) 9747 7132.