

Community news Project updates



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It's been a challenging year to say the least, with all of us impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Council has worked hard to develop innovative ways to deliver services under strict social distancing restrictions, and I'm pleased to say that our staff have done a wonderful job in supporting our community during this difficult time.

From running New Parents Groups and seniors' activities online, through to setting up our libraries' Click and Deliver service, delivering social support packs to our vulnerable residents, and running online workshops, courses and webinars, your Council has continued to prioritise your health and wellbeing at a time when you have needed us the most.

I'm proud to say that Council approved a COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy which will support residents who have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. This includes payment plans, short-term deferrals of rate payments, and is highlighted by a \$200 rate waiver for the fourth quarter of the 2019/2020 financial year, for eligible residents.

Our business community, in particular has been doing it tough, yet they have shown great resilience in the face of some extremely challenging circumstances. Now, as we return to business as usual, I call on residents to support our local businesses and buy local in the coming months.

As Mayor, it's been heartbreaking knowing that so many of our residents are suffering, but also heart-warming to see the strong community spirit that's alive and well in our City. For this, I'd like to offer all residents my sincere thanks, and ask that you stay safe, as we continue to navigate this global crisis.

Cr Lara Carli
Mayor City of Melton

WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO DO ONLINE

Melton City Libraries

There's lots to see and do online at Melton City Libraries. Enjoy English conversation classes, join our digital book club or participate in afterschool activities. You can also access thousands of books, magazines, newspapers and movies online.

- ▶ Visit melton.vic.gov.au/libraries to explore all our great online library services, or go to [facebook.com/cityofmeltonlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmeltonlibraries) to participate in online activities for adults and kids.

Melton Learning Directory

If you're looking for innovative and interactive online programs, then look no further than the Melton City Council Learning Directory.

Offering weekly classes and workshops, the Directory showcases local tutors and engaging content that's fun and educational for all, including cooking lessons, yoga, crafts and so much more.

- ▶ Visit meltonlearning.com.au or [facebook.com/MeltonLearning](https://www.facebook.com/MeltonLearning) for more info. All ages, all abilities... there's something for everyone on the Melton Learning Directory.

Venture Melton webinars, tutorials and watch on-demand videos

If you're looking for quality business-related webinars, tutorials and on-demand videos to develop your practical and creative business skills, then check out Venture Melton's super practical online tutorials that will have you energised and taking action the moment you finish.

You can start anytime you want, learn at your own pace—in your pj's, if you like!

- ▶ Get started, visit: vmbusinessnetwork.com and join for free!

COUNCILLORS AND WARDS

Your local Councillors are:

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Major Projects Update



MACPHERSON PARK, TOOLERN VALE

The first stage of the redevelopment of MacPherson Park is nearing completion.

This \$13.3 million project has been funded by Council, with a \$2 million contribution from the State Government through its Growing Suburbs Fund, and a \$100,000 AFL Victoria Grant.

The redevelopment features:

- community pavilion with change and meeting rooms to service the football, cricket and netball precinct
- new pigeon club and storage shed
- synthetic oval with sports field lighting
- netball court with lighting plus warm up multipurpose space
- new cricket net training facility featuring both synthetic and turf nets
- car park, footpaths, and landscaping.

Council will now prepare funding applications for Stage 2 of the redevelopment, which will include a new soccer pavilion and two sports grounds.

BLOOMSBURY DRIVE RESERVE, TAYLORS HILL

Start Date: September 2019

Completion Date: February 2020

This \$810,000 project was jointly funded by Council and the State Government that provided \$405,000 through their Growing Suburbs Fund.

The project delivered:

- new shelter with tables and chairs, drinking fountain, picnic and BBQ facilities
- play equipment and exercise equipment
- new sporting equipment including a basketball half court
- landscape works with planting of new shrubs, trees, turf and native grasses.

This project has upgraded a once underused reserve into a wonderful, modern play space and recreation area for children and adults to enjoy with their families and friends.



STAN PAYNE RESERVE, DIGGERS REST

Start date: February 2020

Completion date: late June 2020

The project, is jointly funded by Council and the State Government through their Growing Suburbs Fund, each contributing \$400,000.

The project will renew the dated reserve, enhancing the appearance and amenity of what serves as a gateway to the Diggers Rest community, and will include:

- new garden beds, trees and turf
- new bluestone paving
- renewal of some existing monuments
- replacing existing shelter and toilet
- new picnic tables, BBQ facilities and drinking fountain
- carpark adjacent the Bowls Club

Diggers Rest residents can look forward to an attractive, new look space to get active and enjoy the outdoors with works officially starting on upgrades to Stan Payne Reserve today.

MORTON HOMESTEAD PLAYSPACE, TAYLORS HILL

Completed: August 2019

This \$530,000 project was co-funded by Council, and the State Government who provided a \$265,000 grant through their Growing Suburbs Fund.

The development includes:

- new playground equipment with accessible pathways and nature play areas
- BBQ facilities, picnic tables with chess boards, and shelter
- exercise equipment
- community garden which is being maintained by the Taylors Hill Men's' Shed.

This project has transformed this once vacant space into a vibrant play and recreation area that's sure to appeal to so many residents for years to come.



COVID-19: Council's response to the worldwide crisis



Relief announced for City of Melton ratepayers

Ratepayers who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 can now benefit from a new rates waiver introduced by Council earlier this month.

Eligible ratepayers can apply for a waiver of \$200 for the fourth quarter 2019/2020 rates.

This adds to Council's recently implemented COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy, which provides a number of assistance options for people experiencing financial difficulty due to COVID-19 impacts. Both residential and business ratepayers can access assistance in the form of payment plans, payment deferrals, and waivers of penalty interest.

To apply, fill out the online form at melton.vic.gov.au/raterelief or email the Revenue team at revenue@melton.vic.gov.au

Day-to-day transactions? Get online!

Did you know that you can renew your pet registrations, book a hard waste collection, pay your rates or service invoices, and submit a planning application on the Melton City Council website?

Visit melton.vic.gov.au and not only can you pay invoices, but you can access a wealth of information about our community, including local events, learning and training opportunities, community grants and much, much more.

At this stage Council Customer Service Centres are not open, but our team will continue to provide services to residents online or over the phone on 9747 7200.

What's reopening and when

The COVID-19 crisis severely impacted the way Council delivered its services to residents. Most community facilities, including our Civic and Operations centres, libraries, youth facilities, sports grounds and community centres, closed to the public in March, and many of our regular services either stopped, or had to be offered in new ways.

The good news is many of these facilities have now re-opened, or are about to re-open shortly, and residents can once again enjoy some of the great services and programs Council offers.

Visit melton.vic.gov.au/covid19 for full details of facility openings and hygiene protocols we've put in place to ensure community safety.

Melton Hospital update

Exciting news! Planning is underway with the State Government investing \$2.4 million to plan the number, type and range of services offered at the new Melton Hospital.

More than 21,000 people supported Council's campaign to build a Melton Hospital in 2018, and together, we have helped champion the funding to develop a vital business case.

Residents now have the chance to share their experiences, and tell the State Government what's working well with the current health services in Melton, what isn't, and what services they'd like to see delivered in the future.

Your answers will help shape the range of services offered at the new Melton Hospital, and ensure it meets the needs of our growing region now, and well into the future.

Council continues to advocate to the State Government to acquire land in Cobblebank in 2020, begin construction in 2022, and to have a fully operational hospital by 2026.

To participate, visit:
engage.vic.gov.au/future-health-care-melton



Waste Services: what's new?

Are you Good to Go FOGO?

Around 60 per cent of everything that goes into red bins is food and garden waste—so the less we send to landfill, the better it is for our environment. Putting food and garden organics (FOGO) in your green bin means it can be turned into compost and be used in gardens, parks and farms.

From 1 July 2020, any food scraps you'd normally put into your Council red bin, can be put in your green bin. That includes plate scrapings, fruit, veggies, meat, bread and, of course, leaves and lawn clippings.

No Green Bin? No worries!

You can order a green bin by calling our Customer Service team on 9747 7200.

For more information, visit melton.vic.gov.au/fogo

Book a hard waste collection online

Been doing a little cleaning during lock-down? Need to get rid of some household items that are still in good condition? The good news is that you can now book your Hard Waste collection online.

Homeowners and tenants in our City are entitled to one hard waste collection from their home, or up to two visits to the recycling facility, each year.

Find out more about hard waste or book your collection online by visiting melton.vic.gov.au/hardwaste





Open for Business

Supporting local businesses during COVID-19

Council's Economic Development and Tourism team has been working hard on achieving some really positive outcomes for local businesses during the COVID-19 crisis, through their Venture Melton program and Open for Business campaign.

The team are offering free membership to our Venture Melton Business Network until the end of June 2021, giving local businesses access to a suite of programs and support services that include online workshops, a dedicated website chock-full of information and resources, and tailored business advice.

They've also developed the Open for Business campaign in response to COVID-19 which offers free promotion in our local papers and the Melton City Much More Facebook page and app.

Nearly 1,000 local businesses have been contacted as part of the campaign, 80 Open for Business A-frames have been distributed throughout the community, five online webinars have been delivered, and more than 200 businesses have been promoted in the Brimbank and Melton Star Weekly newspapers.



Image: Mayor, Cr Lara Carli (centre) with Baz and Omar from Notorious Burgers, Caroline Springs

To find out how Council can support your business, visit melton.vic.gov.au/business