

Manningham Matters

February 2025

**Stay healthy
and active,
no matter
your age**

**Annual Grants open,
apply now**

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**Electric vehicle
charging coming soon**

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中文新闻

中文新聞

Notizie nella vostra lingua

Νέα στη γλώσσα σας

اخبار به زبان شما

الأخبار بلغتك



manningham.vic.gov.au



MANNINGHAM

A Manningham Council publication.

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Manningham Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land and waterways now known as Manningham.

Council pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and values the ongoing contribution to enrich and appreciate the cultural heritage of Manningham.

Council acknowledges and respects Australia's First Peoples as Traditional Owners of lands and waterways across Country, and encourages reconciliation between all.

Manningham Council also values the contribution made to Manningham over the years by people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.



COVER IMAGE: Members of the Seniors Happy Life Club taking part in a ballroom dance lesson.

Message from our Mayor

As I begin my term as Mayor for the year ahead, I'm committed to representing your interests and advocating on what matters to you.

North East Link Program (NELP) is having a significant impact on our community and we have growing concerns with construction continuing to increase in Manningham.

NELP closed Doncaster Park and Ride in January to make way for its redevelopment. Though we have made several requests, we're disappointed with the State Government's lack of alternatives for impacted commuters. We're advocating for more travel options to minimise disruption to you. Read more on page 15.

Although its redevelopment into a modern interchange is positive, the facility's current design falls short on future-proofing against increasing growth and demand. We have made a submission on the Doncaster Park and Ride Urban Design Landscape Plan and are advocating for a mixed-use transit-oriented development and more parking spaces with flexibility for population growth.

We'll also continue to raise your concerns with NELP about its construction impacts, including noise, dust, vibration and disruptions.

As a result of our ongoing advocacy, NELP will be redeveloping Bulleen Park. Construction will start in coming months, see page 15 for details. This follows the opening of Powerful Owl Park in August last year, where we negotiated with the State Government to deliver this facility in response to NELP's impact on our community.

We're proud to be representing you on a wide range of issues. A key activity for the first part of 2025 is developing Council's four-year plan, which will reflect our community's needs and aspirations. I'd like to thank our Community Panel members for your time and significant contributions in shaping our future direction.

We value community input so please speak to me or your Ward Councillor if you have any ideas or feedback on any of our plans or advocacy items.

Warm regards,



Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor

Vale Kevin Andrews

We express our heartfelt condolences at the passing of the Honourable Kevin Andrews in December 2024.

As the Federal member for Menzies for more than 30 years, Kevin was a long-standing advocate and supporter of our Manningham community. We extend our deepest sympathies to Margie and his family.

Welcome to the new look Manningham Matters

We've added some new features and changes to *Manningham Matters* this year, thanks to your feedback and suggestions. We hope you enjoy this issue's mix of Council and community news.

Find out more at

manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-matters



Community Panel recommendations to shape Manningham's future

The Manningham Community Panel handed over its recommendations to Council at its final meeting on 1 February 2025.

Through externally facilitated discussions and learning sessions, participants have delved into complex challenges to identify key priorities for Manningham.

This dynamic process will play a crucial role in ensuring that our strategic plans are grounded in the needs and aspirations of our community. The group's findings will help guide our strategic planning. This will include our four-year Council Plan, 10-year Asset and Financial Plans, and our Community Vision 2040.

Over the coming weeks, we'll prepare a response on each recommendation. This will include how each will be implemented, or the reasons for not supporting any recommendation. We're committed to implementing the panel's recommendations to the maximum extent possible.

Find out more and stay up to date at

yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/help-shape-manninghams-future



Sign up to eNews

Stay in touch with what's happening in Manningham by subscribing to our monthly eNewsletter.

manningham.vic.gov.au/subscribe

Have a great story?

Get in touch to submit a news story to *Manningham Matters* at

manningham.vic.gov.au/submit-a-story

Manningham Matters in your language

以您的语言阅读 *Manningham Matters* 中的故事, 请扫描二维码访问我们的网站。

以您的語言閱讀 *Manningham Matters* 中的故事, 請掃描二維碼訪問我們的網站。

Per leggere alcune storie di questo *Manningham Matters* nella tua lingua, scansiona il codice QR per visitare il nostro sito web.

Για να διαβάσετε μερικές ιστορίες από αυτό το *Manningham Matters* στη γλώσσα σας, σαρώστε τον κωδικό QR για να επισκεφθείτε τον ιστότοπό μας.

برای خواندن داستان‌هایی از *Manningham Matters* به زبان خود، کد QR را اسکن کرده یا از وبسایت ما بازدید کنید.

لقراءة بعض القصص من مجلة *Manningham Matters* بلغتكم، يرجى مسح كود الاستجابة السريعة لزيارة موقعنا الإلكتروني.



manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-matters-your-language



Interpreter service **9840 9355**

普通话 廣東話 Ελληνικά Italiano العربية فارسی

Council meeting roundup

Manningham's newly elected Councillors met at the Annual Meeting of Council on 19 November. Two regular Council meetings followed in November and December 2024.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

Annual Meeting of Council, 19 November

- Councillor Deirdre Diamante unanimously elected as Manningham Mayor, and Councillor Andrew Conlon as Deputy Mayor for the year ahead.

November Council meeting

- Council received and noted the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation 2023-2024 Annual Report.
- Councillors were appointed to the various committees and external bodies for the 2024 and 2025 year.
- Caitlin Sanderson, our Landscape Maintenance Officer, was congratulated for receiving Landscaping Victoria's Apprentice of the Year Award in the Horticulture category.
- Local resident Margaret Kelly was acknowledged for 27 years of distinguished service with the Warrandyte Historical Society following her recent retirement.

December Council meeting

- Community Grants Assessment Panel was finalised with independent community members appointed for 2025-26. The updated Community Grants Assessment Terms of Reference were also endorsed for 2025-26.
- Our draft Manningham Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2025-2034 was approved for public consultation.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 25 February 2025.

Find out how to get involved and watch past Council meeting livestreams at

manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Grants bring community projects to life

Do you have a community project, event or initiative that could benefit from funding? Applications are now open for our Annual Grant Program.

If you're part of a community group, sporting club or not-for profit organisation, you could be eligible for a grant of between \$3,001 and \$20,000.

Our Annual Grant Program helps fund local initiatives, projects and activities that make a positive impact in Manningham. These include a diverse range of community-driven projects, such as arts programs, community gardens, festivals, events, wellbeing initiatives and inclusive multicultural activities.

Grants are available in the following categories:

-  Community Development
-  Festivals and Events
-  Arts
-  Healthy Ageing

The Manningham Toy Library was one of last year's successful recipients. The library received a grant to support its free 40th Anniversary Messy Play Day.

Toy Library Coordinator, Anlina Jones, said the event was a wonderful way to showcase the benefits of the group to the Manningham community.

"We love running messy play events, but it can be costly purchasing the equipment required. This grant was such an amazing opportunity for us and we can now really celebrate the 40 years of play at the toy library," Anlina said.

Applications for our Annual Grant Program are open until 5.00pm on Tuesday 11 March.

More information is available at our website, including an online recording of our Annual Grant Information Session.

manningham.vic.gov.au/grant-program



ABOVE: Back row from left: Cr Isabella Eltaha, Cr Peter Bain, Cr Laura Mayne, Cr Jim Grivas. Front row from left: Cr Geoff Gough, Cr Carli Lange, Cr Deirdre Diamante, Cr Andrew Conlon, Cr Anna Chen.

Introducing your new Councillors

Following the Council elections last year, we're pleased to introduce your new Councillors. Your Councillors will represent the Manningham community across all nine wards through to 2028.

TULLAMORE WARD – Cr Deirdre Diamante (Mayor)

Cr Deirdre Diamante has lived in Manningham for more than 40 years and believes in growing opportunities for local businesses and efficient spending of our rates on services and infrastructure that better connect the local community, suburbs and streets.

CURRAWONG WARD – Cr Andrew Conlon (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Andrew Conlon has lived in the Currawong Ward with his wife and family of eight children for over 20 years. A Manningham Councillor since 2016, Cr Conlon is passionate about improving local parks, playgrounds and streetscapes.

BOLIN WARD – Cr Geoff Gough

Cr Geoff Gough is Manningham's longest serving Councillor, representing our community since 1997. Cr Gough is committed to ensuring Council operates in an open and responsible manner to provide quality infrastructure and effective programs and services that are expected by our community.

MANNA WARD – Cr Peter Bain

Cr Peter Bain has been a local resident with his young family since 2002. Cr Bain has experience in executive and governance roles working in various fields including of health, education, international aid, aged care, disability and housing.

RUFFEY WARD – Cr Jim Grivas

Cr Jim Grivas has lived in Manningham for more than 25 years with his partner and three children. A previous Manningham Councillor, Cr Grivas is passionate about good governance and providing support services to diverse families, local businesses, sports clubs and volunteer organisations.

SCHRAMM WARD – Cr Laura Mayne

Cr Laura Mayne has lived in Manningham all her life. A Manningham Councillor since 2020, Cr Mayne encourages strong climate action, improved parks and open spaces and community infrastructure along with support for our community clubs, organisations and small businesses.

WALDAU WARD – Cr Anna Chen

Cr Anna Chen has lived in the Waldau Ward for more than 20 years and has been a Manningham Councillor since 2016. Cr Chen values equity, inclusion and positivity as well as the importance of understanding local issues, listening and working together for a better and safer community.

WESTERFOLDS WARD – Cr Isabella Eltaha

Cr Isabella Eltaha is a long-term local, dedicated to optimising outcomes for residents, small businesses and local community groups to ensure Manningham continues to be a place we love to call home. Cr Eltaha is a passionate community advocate and wants to improve essential infrastructure and public transport as well as protect our green spaces.

YARRA WARD – Cr Carli Lange

Cr Carli Lange is a long-term Warrandyte resident and has been a Manningham Councillor since 2020. Cr Lange is passionate about Manningham's Green Wedge, protecting local parklands, and supporting health and wellbeing services for families, young adults and older residents.

For more information about your local councillors, visit

manningham.vic.gov.au/councillors

What's on

COMMUNITY

Third Tuesday of each month, 9.15am **FREE**
Donvale Central Probus Club

Retired or semi-retired and looking to make new friends? Come along on the third Tuesday of each month to Donvale Central Probus Club.

There are monthly meetings with guest speakers and optional pub lunches. The club also runs day outings, walks, morning coffees, happy hours, theatre visits, book club, movies, trivia, tenpin bowling, barbecues and annual getaways.

📍 East Doncaster Baptist Church Hall, 47-53 Tunstall Road, Donvale
🌐 donvalecentralprobus.com

Sunday 23 February and 30 March, 8.00am to 1.00pm **FREE**

Tunstall Square Market

With up to 100 stalls, discover an eclectic mix of items from plants to clothing and crafts.

📍 Tunstall Square Shopping Centre, corner Doncaster and Tunstall roads, Doncaster East

🌐 warrantytedonvalerotary.org.au/Tunstall



Saturday 1 March 8.00am to 1.00pm **FREE**
Warrandyte Riverside Market

With over 180 stallholders, discover handcrafted wares and produce, enjoy local buskers and have a family day out in beautiful surrounds.

📍 Stiggant Reserve, Yarra Street Warrandyte

🌐 warrantyteriversidemarket.com.au



Saturday 8 March 10.00am to 3.00pm **FREE**
Heide Makers' Market

Heide Makers' Market showcase the work of up to 120 different makers each month – from artwork to tasty treats – there's plenty of reasons to make a visit to the Heide Market part of your weekend.

📍 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen
🌐 heidemarket.com

Wednesday 12 March 8.30am to 3.00pm

Book your spot for a trip to Puffing Billy

In partnership with Manningham Council, EV Strengthening Communities invites Manningham seniors to a day out at Puffing Billy in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges.

The event is open to Manningham residents, aged 65 and over. It includes bus transport to and from the Dandenong Ranges, a Puffing Billy return trip from Belgrave to Emerald, and lunch.

💰 \$50
📞 9870 7822 for bookings
🌐 ev.org.au

Saturday 15 March 10.00am to 2.00pm

Park Orchards Market

Find fresh produce direct from the Yarra Valley, exquisite crafts and quality urban wares.

📍 Park Orchards Primary School, corner Bowmore Avenue and Park Road, Park Orchards

💰 Gold coin to enter
🌐 parkorchardsmarket.com

Sunday 16 March 9.00am to 4.30pm **FREE**
Rotary Manningham City Family Festival

Presented by Rotary Manningham City, this annual community event features fun for all ages. There'll be kids' attractions including camel and pony rides and an animal farm.

You'll also enjoy stage performances, and community, craft and food stalls.

📍 Finns Reserve, Corner of Union Street and Templestowe Road, Templestowe Lower

🌐 rotarymanninghamcity.au

Tuesday 18 March 5.00pm to 9.30pm **FREE**

Persian Fire Festival

The annual Persian Fire Festival is a celebration of Chaharshanbe Suri, the ancient Persian festival of fire and light. It is held on the eve of the last Tuesday before the Persian New Year, Nowruz.

The event is presented by the Australian Iranian Society of Victoria.

Highlights include bonfire pits, authentic Persian cuisine, live music and dance, children's activities, art and craft stalls, henna face painting and more.

📍 Ruffey Lake Park, The Boulevard Doncaster East

🌐 aisov.org.au

Sunday 23 March 10.00am to 1.00pm **FREE**

Wonga Park Makers Market

Community members are invited to host a stall with pre-loved items, in the hopes of helping reduce textile waste. Local small businesses that repurpose materials to create their products are also welcome.

Come along and snap up a pre-loved bargain!

📍 Wonga Park Community Cottage Unit 1 9-13 Old Yarra Road Wonga Park

🌐 facebook.com/wongaparkcommunitycottage



Friday 28 March 5.00pm to 9.00pm, to Saturday 29 March 8.30am to 10.00pm **FREE**
Warrandyte Festival

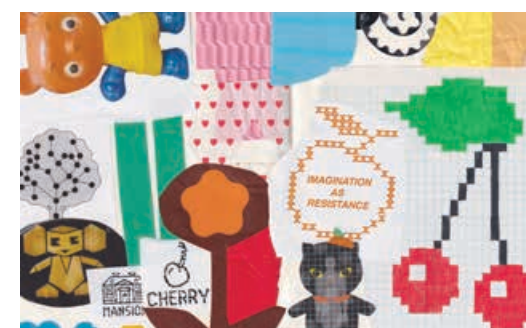
Join this local community festival for a fun family day out with food and entertainment, concerts, waterslides and whacky races.

Other events include a billy cart derby, kids' market, battle of the bands, a film feast, Rotary Art Show and more.

📍 Stiggant Reserve, Yarra Street Warrandyte

🌐 warrantytefestival.org

ARTS AND CULTURE



Until Saturday 5 April **FREE**
Pages of Me: A Bird, an Eye, Clouds, Ice cream

This multimedia project by artist Beci Orpin explores the journey of finding happiness through individuality and embracing one's unique self. Drawing from her textile-focused background, Orpin delves into mascot culture, crafting a larger-than-life mascot set within a large textile structure. The work also touches on themes of future nostalgia, luck (both good and bad), and femininity.

The exhibition invites viewers to get involved, encouraging them to create their own mascots based on the qualities they appreciate about themselves, fostering pride in their identity.

Image courtesy of the artist and Arts Manningham.

📍 Manningham Art Gallery 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/pages-of-me

ENVIRONMENT



Thursday 27 February 7.00pm to 8.30pm **FREE**

Small changes, big impacts: Starting your low-waste journey

Join Nanna Anna to learn about how simple choices and small changes in your daily life can make a big impact on your overall sustainable footprint.

📍 Manningham Function Centre 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/small-changes-big-impacts



Sunday 2 March 10.00am to 1.00pm **FREE**

Clean Up Australia Day – Koonung Creek Linear Park

Join us in taking positive, practical action against the litter and pollution that harms our local environment. We'll provide gloves, litter collection gear and a barbecue lunch to thank you for your contribution to a cleaner, healthier Manningham.

📍 Koonung Creek Linear Park 105 Leeds Street, Doncaster East

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/clean-australia-day

Saturday 22 March 8.00am to 4.00pm **FREE**

Waste Drop Off Day

See details on page 15.

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/waste-drop-off-day

Saturday 29 March 8.00am to 1.00pm **FREE**

Detox Your Home

A free service to help you safely dispose of your toxic, unwanted household chemical and hazardous waste. Bookings essential.

📍 Manningham Council Depot 620-628 Blackburn Road Doncaster East

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/chemical-and-hazardous-waste

WELLBEING

Saturday mornings 9.30am to 11.00am

Beginners Tai Chi

Learn the basics of Tai Chi with the Australian Oriental Martial Arts Tai Chi Inc. beginners' classes in Doncaster. Tai Chi's gentle, deliberate movements cater to diverse fitness levels and health conditions. Sessions are held on Saturday mornings during the school term.

📍 Doncaster Secondary College David Perry Hall, 123 Church Road Doncaster

💰 Beginner training classes are free for members. A membership fee of \$48 applies.

🌐 awcc.com.au

Wednesday 26 March 6.30pm to 8.30pm **FREE**

2025 Home Harvest series – with Author Connie Cao

As part of our 2025 Home Harvest series, gardener and author of 'Your Asian Veggie Patch', Connie Cao, will discuss how to grow, care for and harvest a diverse and delicious range of Asian vegetables.

We'll also host a food swap at 6.15pm, where everyone is invited to bring homegrown produce, seeds, cuttings, gardening magazines and more!

Home Harvest is a free, monthly home gardening program that will teach you how to grow fresh, nutritious and sustainable food at home.

📍 Manningham Function Centre 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/home-harvest

Get involved at your local neighbourhood house or library

There's plenty of opportunities to learn and stay connected at our local neighbourhood houses and libraries.

Every second Tuesday at Bulleen Library, every fourth Tuesday at Bulleen Plaza, 11.00am to 11.45am Italian Storytime

Stories and rhymes to support families with young children who wish to maintain a family language or learn an additional language.

Sessions only run during school terms. For children aged one to five years.

📍 Bulleen Library and Bulleen Plaza
79/109 Manningham Road, Bulleen

🌐 wml.vic.gov.au

Every Thursday from 20 February to 3 April 5.00pm onwards Dungeons and Dragons Club

If you've heard of Dungeons and Dragons but not sure what it's all about, or if you're a seasoned D&D player looking for a new group, you are most welcome in our new Warrandyte D&D Club! For ages 18+.

📍 Warrandyte Neighbourhood House
168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

🌐 warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au

Every Saturday, 10.30am to 1.00pm Knit and Connect! at Warrandyte Library

Join us for a weekly catch up and share ideas. Knitters of all abilities welcome – BYO knitting!

📍 Warrandyte Library, 168 Yarra Street
Warrandyte

🌐 wml.vic.gov.au

Find out more about Manningham's neighbourhood houses at manningham.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses

Find out more about Manningham's libraries wml.vic.gov.au

Every Tuesday from 25 February to 25 March 10.30am to 11.00am Tiny Tots at The Pines Library

Simple stories, nursery songs, rhymes and a craft activity especially designed for babies and toddlers up to three years old. Sessions only run during school terms.

📍 The Pines Library, Reynolds Road and Blackburn Road
Doncaster East

🌐 wml.vic.gov.au

Every Tuesday from 25 February to 25 March 4.00pm to 5.00pm Lego® Club Warrandyte

Do you love Lego®? We supply the bricks, you bring the imagination! Join in the fun of these weekly sessions. Runs during school terms. For ages five to 10 years.

📍 Warrandyte Library, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

🌐 wml.vic.gov.au

Every Thursday from 27 February to 3 April 10.00am to 11.00am English Conversation Circle at Doncaster Library

Practice general English-language skills in a relaxed, friendly and safe environment. Meet other adults who are learning English as an additional language. These sessions are led by our friendly volunteers. People from all cultural backgrounds welcome.

📍 Doncaster Library, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🌐 wml.vic.gov.au

Discover your neighbourhood house: Pines Learning

For more than 45 years, Pines Learning has provided educational programs to empower people in our community. Read on for the latest news and opportunities.

New outdoor play area at The Pines Early Learning, Doncaster East

Developed with a Building Blocks grant provided by the State Government, this inclusive play space is designed to support children of all abilities, encouraging motor skill development in a safe and engaging environment.

Pines Early Learning delivers an integrated, free 3 and 4 year old kindergarten program in a long daycare setting.

Smaller class sizes allow educators to understand each child and tailor their learning experiences and their family grouping. This approach enables siblings to play and learn together, strengthening bonds.

For more information about the programs, visit

🌐 pineseearlylearning.com.au



Recent expansion to MC Square

Pines Learning recently opened a new space at MC Square in Doncaster, expanding its services from The Pines in Doncaster East.

There's a wide range of community programs, courses and qualifications available. These include English as an Additional Language, Skills to Apply for Work, Pathways to Further Study and Employment and much more.

Tamara, who is currently enrolled in the Business Administration Skills program, said it has improved her confidence.

"I now know I have valuable skills and knowledge to take to any job. The trainers are amazing so supportive and knowledgeable," Tamara said.

Joining a program can also foster connections, reduce isolation and empower you to reach your personal and professional goals.

Find out more at

🌐 pineslearning.com.au/all-courses

New course offering to support a community of like-minded women

The Thrive Program aims to bring together women who are on a shared path to personal growth and fulfillment and wish to build a life filled with purpose, positivity and authentic connections.

The aim is to empower participants to connect with true self, strengthen bonds within the local Manningham community and cultivate a deeper sense of belonging and fulfillment.

This free five-session program is designed specifically for women aged 60 and over, living in Manningham.

For more information or to enrol, visit

🌐 pineslearning.com.au/2024/the-thrive-program-free

This program is supported by a Manningham Council Community Grant.

Experience the best local talent this summer

We hope you're enjoying our Find Your Local Summer Celebration events, which will continue through to early March.

Our talented creative artists have taken centre stage at local activity centres across Manningham.

From visual displays to captivating performances, the program of events and activities is showcasing the artistic spirit of our vibrant neighbourhoods.

For the full schedule, visit our website, or follow us on Instagram.

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/find-your-local-summer

@findyourlocalmanningham



Manningham Asian Cultural Festival

Sunday 9 March, 10.00am to 10.00pm

Join us on Sunday 9 March for an exciting new festival to celebrate our diverse community and unique local businesses.

The Manningham Asian Cultural Festival is happening at Doncaster Reserve, next to Jackson Court Shopping Centre.

We're a proud major sponsor of this new event, which is an initiative of the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse. The not-for-profit association is responsible for the highly successful Lunar New Year Festival in Box Hill.

We're expecting up to 10,000 people. Featuring cultural performances, street food, family friendly activities and finishing with a fireworks display – it will be a great day out for all.

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/asian-cultural-festival

🌐 abaw.org.au





ABOVE: Members of the Seniors Happy Life Club taking part in a ballroom dance lesson.

Helping you stay healthy and active, no matter your age

HEALTHY AGEING

Whether you're an older person, or caring for someone who is, our Healthy Ageing team is on hand to support you.

The team can assist you with useful information and local services available in our community. We want to help you stay connected by linking you with local clubs and community groups, sharing information about events and activities you can get involved in and keeping you informed about what's going on in Manningham for older adults.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Our Healthy Ageing team is available Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm.

Do you have questions about how My Aged Care works? We can explain the Australian Government-funded aged care system, known as My Aged Care, and guide you through the process of assessment and finding local service providers to support your unique needs.

Phone us on **9840 9230** or email healthyageing@manningham.vic.gov.au.

Stay up to date with what's happening in Manningham for older residents, families and carers by joining our mailing list.

manningham.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing

WHAT'S ON

We have a range of clubs and groups in Manningham that provide social and recreational opportunities for older people. Speak to us about ideas for a local club that's a good fit for you or your family member. Remember, you don't need to be a member of a club to take part in the wide range of events and activities on offer across Manningham.

See our events calendar for more information

manningham.vic.gov.au/events

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT

Are you a club or organisation in Manningham that caters to the interests of older people? If so, we want to hear from you.

Get in touch with us to see how we can assist in spreading the word about your upcoming events.

manningham.vic.gov.au/find-clubs-older-adults

Join our commitment to become a Dementia-Friendly City

HEALTHY AGEING

Are you a local business, organisation, community group, or resident passionate about supporting people living with dementia?

Become a Dementia Australia-endorsed "Dementia Friend" and help make a meaningful difference in our community.

We're proud of our ongoing commitment to work towards becoming a more Dementia-Friendly City in Manningham.

Through Dementia Australia's Community Dementia Friendly Training, we hope to provide a pathway for participants to gain knowledge and skills to create inclusive, supportive spaces for those living with dementia and their carers.

To register, visit

dementia.org.au/get-involved/dementia-friendly-communities

For more information and assistance, contact our Healthy Ageing Team

healthyageing@manningham.vic.gov.au

9840 9230



Image credit: Charlie Kinross.

Discover new public artwork at Ruffey Lake Park

If you've visited the Boulevard Hill Lookout at Ruffey Lake Park recently, you may have noticed a striking new addition to the landscape.

EllipseCircleView, 2023 is a captivating new public artwork by renowned artist Natasha Johns-Messenger, installed in June last year.

Natasha said: "I hope this piece encourages people to slow down, take a moment to look through, and experience the environment in a different way."

Inspired by the stunning panoramic views of Ruffey Lake, the artwork incorporates simple and elegant geometric forms, inviting visitors to pause and reflect on the natural beauty of the surrounding parkland.

To learn more about this artwork and our public art program, visit

manningham.vic.gov.au/discover-our-public-art

This project was commissioned by Manningham's Public Art Program and delivered as part of the Ruffey Lake Park Landscape Masterplan.

What are emergency markers?

Emergency markers are signs that can help provide critical location information for emergency responders.

While they come in various shapes and sizes, they each have a unique code made up of three letters and three numbers.

This code will assist emergency responders to pinpoint your exact location in an emergency. It will also direct you to the nearest vehicle access point.

Be sure to keep an eye out for these markers throughout our parks, trails and reserves.

What to do in an emergency

If you're involved in or witness an incident:

1. Call 000
2. Provide the emergency marker identifier
3. Follow any instructions from the emergency operator

Find out more at

manningham.vic.gov.au/know-emergency-markers

Help develop our Nature Plan 2025-2040

We're developing a Nature Plan to help protect and enhance our natural environment over the next 15 years and we want to hear from you.

The plan will respond to challenges such as habitat loss, climate change and biodiversity decline and set a clear direction for a sustainable future for generations to come. It will identify Manningham's bushland areas, landscape scale habitat connections and tree canopy, and provide recommendations to enable our natural environment to thrive.

Share your priorities and ideas for protecting our environment

You're invited to complete our short online survey or to register your interest for a community workshop. Your insights will help inform our Nature Plan 2025-2040, supporting a healthy and resilient future for Manningham.

To get involved, visit

yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/nature-plan





ABOVE: Members of the creative group The Poseidoniate, from left Jamie Gallos, Christina Savopoulos, John Tzelepis. Photo credit: Danial Oveisi @ov3isi

Celebrating the migrant experience through art

YOUNG PEOPLE

The migrant experience is one that many Manningham residents can resonate with.

This rings true for The Poseidoniate, a team of young Manningham-based creatives. Christina, Jamie and John met at university and discovered they shared a passion for migration and Greek culture in Australia.

The group wanted people to have a better appreciation of the first generation who migrated here and be able to discover what their lives looked like. And so, the idea for their first creative exhibition was born.

Having grown up in the local area, the group explored themes of migration, in particular post war Greek migrants who settled in Melbourne suburbs like Doncaster in their recent exhibition 'Kalos Irthate'.

“Originally the idea was for the exhibition to be in a gallery space but the opportunity to use my yiayia’s [grandmother’s] house was better, as it was more authentic and allowed visitors to be immersed in the exhibits,” Christina said.

Visitors were able to walk through the house in Doncaster, with each room dedicated to a different aspect of the migrant journey; the move to Australia, building a life in Melbourne, and reflecting on the journey 50 years later.

“We found documents, images and other items that our grandparents had kept from when they first migrated to Australia. We felt they were a vital part of the Greek-Australian migrant journey that many families can relate to.”

“As a group, we want to situate the lives of Greek-Australians today, alongside the journeys of the Greek migrants from the mid-twentieth century,”

“We hope our work inspires others to learn more about their own family histories and to find out more about their experiences migrating to and subsequently creating a new life in Australia.”

Stay up to date on the group’s projects by following them on Instagram and Facebook [@theposeidoniate](#).

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In Manningham, 44 per cent of residents were born overseas and more than 46 per cent of residents speak a language other than English at home.

A great part of living in Manningham is the rich cultural diversity, however many still face racism and discrimination in their daily lives.

We acknowledge the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racism on Friday 21 March. It recognises that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and wellbeing of their societies.

Recognised as a Welcoming City, we support our cultural diversity through creating safe environments to foster a sense of belonging and participation for all members of our community. We’re also working with VicHealth to support children, young people and their families to enhance all aspects of wellbeing and race-based inclusion.

If you’re a leader of a cultural group or interested in learning about upcoming cultural activities, we invite you to sign up to the Manningham Multicultural Network or Community Strengthening eNewsletter.

manningham.vic.gov.au/local-multicultural-communities



ABOVE: Templestowe resident Alex and his family at the Australian championships.

Community member spotlight: Alex’s story

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

When Templestowe local Alex was asked how he wanted to celebrate his 50th birthday, the answer was simple – to compete in a bodybuilding competition.

Alex was no stranger to fitness. He has maintained a healthy diet and lifestyle ever since he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, 25 years ago.

“I’ve always tried to exercise and stay healthy, but as I was approaching my 50th I wanted to challenge myself and compete,” Alex said.

Understanding that training would be a significant undertaking, Alex’s family supported him every step of the way. He started training at local gyms including Aquarena, where his wife also works as a swim teacher.

As well as working full-time as a civil engineer, Alex committed to nine months of cardio and strength training. He followed a strict diet and trained five hours a day, six days a week.

He competed in the ICN bodybuilding state competition in August, winning three gold, two silver and two bronze medals across seven divisions. Following this, Alex entered the national competition where he went on to win two gold and two bronze medals. He then competed across six divisions at the International World Championship.

The outcome was beyond Alex’s expectations. He said putting his body and mind to the test was challenging, but well worth it. It’s clear his journey has inspired others too.

“People around me started to change their mentality and their habits – making small changes to be more active,” Alex said.

Alex refuses to let his condition hold him back. “Living with type 1 diabetes affects my everyday life, and it’s something I’ll always have to manage and consider. But no matter what condition you have, we can all take action and be better,” he said.



ABOVE: Gardening program participant, Maria.

Connection through gardening with Kevin Heinze Grow

Over the last 45 years, Kevin Heinze Grow has delivered therapeutic horticulture programs for people of all ages and abilities.

Its mission is to create opportunities for meaningful inclusion and positive personal development through connection to nature and community.

Maria has participated in the program for almost three years and said: “I was a keen gardener before my health scare. So, when my speech pathologist recommended the program I saw a way to continue that without pressure.”

“It’s very relaxing. We support each other. Having the friendship there goes a long, long way,” she said.

Maria believes Kevin Heinze Grow is a lifeline for those feeling isolated.

“If you’re seeking a social outlet or have an interest in gardening, Kevin Heinze Grow provides that – being able to participate here has been very comforting.”

To learn more or enrol in the Grow Program for 2025 visit

kevinheinzegrow.org.au

9848 3695



ABOVE: Artist impression of Evie Networks chargers at Tunstall Square.

New electric vehicle charging stations coming soon

Owning an electric vehicle (EV) will soon be more convenient, thanks to nine new public EV charging stations we're rolling out in Manningham from mid 2025.

Better still, the chargers will be powered by 100 per cent renewable energy, through government accredited GreenPower.

The new public EV charging stations aim to address the increasing use of electric vehicles and demand for charging, especially following new legislated vehicle standards.

We're also responding to community support for local public charging facilities, as revealed in our 2023 Manningham community survey.

The public charging network will help ensure that EV charging is accessible and practical. It will also reduce our transport emissions, boost local business with enhanced car parking and increase EV drivers' long-distance confidence.

We've partnered with JOLT Charge and Evie Networks to deliver public EV chargers at local commercial, recreational and tourist destinations.

Visit manningham.vic.gov.au/electric-vehicle-charging to find out where your closest charging site will be.

Sustainability to shine: Inspired Living Series returns

Discover fascinating insights and opportunities in the sustainability space with our Inspired Living Series in 2025.

Last year, our five keynote events attracted more than 1,300 people between March and November. After receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback, with 94 per cent of survey respondents wanting to attend similar events in the future, we're excited to deliver another inspiring program this year.

What's coming up?

We'll explore eco adventuring with YouTuber Beau Miles and Cezary from *Two Birders, Two Bikes*. Climate psychologist Bronwyn Gresham will explain how to create a climate positive narrative for the next generation, while renowned chef Jo Barrett, will talk all things sustainable food. Electrifying your home will also feature, as well as investigating zero waste living with advocate Lindsay Miles.

See the full program and save the dates in your diary.

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/inspired-living-series



Electrify your life: go all-electric

You can create a healthier living space and contribute to a cleaner future by upgrading to energy-efficient electric appliances.

This includes the use of electric ovens, stovetops, gas heaters, water heaters and cars. You can switch to renewable energy by installing solar panels or choosing GreenPower.

Making the switch has never been easier with free resources, webinars and information sessions available.

Through our partnership with Solar Savers, you can access installers and government discounts.

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/electrify-your-life

For free advice and a quote, contact Solar Savers directly on **1300 548 598**.

Waste Drop Off Day

**Saturday 22 March
8.00am to 4.00pm**

Have items that can't go in your household bin? We'll take care of recycling them for you!

Only the following items will be accepted:

- ✓ small e-waste
- ✓ IT and TV equipment
- ✓ computer accessories
- ✓ game consoles and electronic toys
- ✓ DVD and CDs (no VHS tapes)
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ clean polystyrene (no pellets or balls)
- ✓ smoke alarms
- ✓ fluorescent tubes and CFL globes
- ✓ paint tins and spray cans (10 litres maximum)
- ✓ gas bottles
- ✓ household and car batteries
- ✓ flattened cardboard (one car boot load per person).

Limits apply and bookings essential. Location provided upon registration.

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/waste-drop-off-day



ABOVE: Artist impression of the Bulleen Park redevelopment.

Bulleen Park redevelopment

Major redevelopment works at Bulleen Park are set to start in the coming months.

The upgrades will provide brand new sporting and recreation facilities for sporting clubs and community use, including:

- two new replacement pavilions
- realignment and redevelopment of the three existing sports ovals
- sports field lighting, cricket nets and fencing
- new trees and vegetation
- upgraded playground equipment and park amenities
- improvements to pedestrian connectivity between the new main carpark and pavilions
- reconfigured car parking.

The redevelopment is being delivered by Development Victoria on behalf of North East Link Program. It aims to mitigate community impacts as construction ramps up for the North East Link tunnels.

The sporting and recreation facilities will remain open for community use while the redevelopment is underway. It's expected to be completed by 2028.

These upgrades will encourage greater activity levels, involvement, and connection for people of all ages and abilities.

Doncaster Park and Ride closure

Doncaster Park and Ride closed on 12 January 2025, with temporary bus stops now in place along Doncaster Road.

This is part of North East Link Program's upcoming redevelopment of the facility. Once completed, it will connect to the Eastern Busway – a new dedicated busway along the Eastern Freeway.

Doncaster Park and Ride has been a valued service for many years. It's provided convenient parking and bus services for hundreds of commuters daily.

We recognise its closure will have significant community impacts.

Though we have made several requests to NELP, we're disappointed with the State's lack of alternatives for impacted commuters. We'll continue to advocate on your behalf to improve alternative commuter options and minimise disruption.

We encourage you to check before you travel and plan your journey via the PTV Journey Planner.

You can view our submission at

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/north-east-link

For North East Link Program construction information and updates, contact **1800 105 105** or visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/north-east-link.

International Women's Day 2025: Continuing the march forward for gender equality

Join us at this year's International Women's Day Breakfast for an opportunity to celebrate, connect and reflect.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr Emma Fulu, is a world-leading expert on gender equality and ending violence against women and girls. She has worked for the United Nations and other global programs.

Dr Fulu will speak to this year's International Women's Day theme, 'March Forward: It's time to turn promises into progress'.

She will be joined by a panel of guest speakers who will bring their lived experience and individual lens to this important discussion.

Tickets are now available and we look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday 6 March, 7.30am to 9.30am Manningham International Women's Day Breakfast

🏠 Manningham Function Centre
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

💰 Tickets \$25, including a plated breakfast

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/IWD



Find support

Find information on
wellbeing support services.

🌐 [manningham.vic.gov.au/
find-support](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/find-support)



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 25 February, 7.00pm

Tuesday 25 March, 7.00pm

Tuesday 29 April, 7.00pm

🏠 Council Chamber
Manningham Civic Centre

🌐 [manningham.vic.gov.au/
council-meetings](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)

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