

# Manningham Matters

June 2025

FIND YOUR  
2025/26  
WASTE  
CALENDAR  
INSIDE

**Have your say  
on our bike  
facilities**

**Community Awards  
nominations**

Page 3

**Staying happy and  
healthy as you age**

Page 12

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](http://manningham.vic.gov.au)



MANNINGHAM

A Manningham Council publication.



# IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 **Manningham Matters in your language**
- 3 **Message from our Mayor**
- 4 **Council meeting roundup**
- 5 **Have your say**
- 6 **What's on events calendar**
- 8 **Get involved at your local neighbourhood house or library**
- 10 **Local resident awarded Greek Herald 2025 Woman of the Year**
- 11 **Donvale students raise over \$22,000 for the World's Greatest Shave**
- 12 **Staying happy and healthy as you age**
- 14 **Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club named 2024 Good Sports Club of the Year**

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:  
Jack, a member of the Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club at Wonga Park Reserve



## Sign up to eNews

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

[manningham.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://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](https://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](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-matters-your-language)



Interpreter service **9840 9355**  
普通话 廣東話 Ελληνικά Italiano العربية فارسی

# Message from our Mayor

Following the recent Federal election, we look forward to working with the local members who will represent our community at a national level over the next three years.

The results of this election mean we will see a mix of new and returning members of parliament represent Manningham across the federal electorates of Casey, Deakin and Menzies.

Congratulations Aaron Violi, Member for Casey, Matt Gregg, Member for Deakin and Gabriel Ng, Member for Menzies.

In the lead up to the election, the Australian Labor Party made pledges on initiatives in Manningham, including:

- \$25 million for safety improvements at the Five-ways intersection in Warrandyte South
- \$3.5 million for the redevelopment of facilities at Sheahans Reserve Stadium in Bulleen
- \$187,500 for repairs to the Old Warrandyte Fire House
- \$50,000 for the Asian Cultural Festival, run by the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse.

This is a great outcome for our community and we now look forward to meeting with the local members about the timing and commitments for these initiatives.

We'll work closely with the Federal Government to deliver other critical projects that matter most to our community.

One of these is the Aquarena outdoor redevelopment. We remain hopeful that Federal funding will be available in the next budget and look forward to working collaboratively with the new Member for Menzies to ensure this vital project receives the support it needs to deliver lasting benefits for our community.

Funding to upgrade Domeney Reserve in Park Orchards was also raised during the election campaign. Improved sports field lighting would allow the growing female team to extend their training hours and continue their development. While there is presently no formal commitment, the need is pressing and we will work with our new Federal representative to identify and secure the support required to deliver these vital upgrades for our community.

Finally, we will proactively seek meetings with all of our Federal members to continue our strong advocacy on transport related projects, including a feasibility study for the High Frequency Busway along Doncaster Road and to encourage the State Government to make commitments around the North East Link Project.

As your local Council, we are proud to represent you. To find out more visit [manningham.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/advocacy)



Warm regards,

Cr Deirdre Diamante  
Mayor

# Shine a light on our community heroes

Nominations for the Manningham Community Awards open on Monday 16 June.

We're excited to launch our expanded community award program – recognising those making outstanding contributions in Manningham over the past 12 months.

Manningham Mayor, Councillor Deirdre Diamante said:

**“We want to shine a light on the incredible work being done for our community, by our community.”**

“By expanding the number of award categories, from five to nine, we can acknowledge and celebrate a broader range of contributions by individuals and groups that make Manningham a better place to live.”

## Manningham Community Award categories

- **\*Citizen of the Year:** Recognising an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the community through leadership, advocacy, or service that has had a lasting impact on the local area.
- **Doreen Stoves Excellence in Volunteering:** Honouring an individual who has shown exceptional commitment to volunteerism.
- **Active Community:** Acknowledging an individual or group that encourages active lifestyles, participation in sports and physical activity.
- **Ageing Well:** Recognising an individual or group that has contributed to enhancing the lives of older residents.
- **Artistic Achievement:** Celebrating an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the arts, fostering creativity and cultural expression.
- **Community Excellence:** Honouring a community organisation or group that has delivered outstanding programs or initiatives that contribute to the wellbeing, development and cohesion of the Manningham community.
- **Community Health and Wellbeing:** Recognising an individual or group that has enhanced health, wellbeing and resilience in the community.
- **Inclusive Community:** Recognising an individual or group that has worked to promote accessibility, inclusivity and diversity.
- **Young Achiever:** Recognising an outstanding young person who has shown leadership, innovation, or dedication to making a positive impact in their community.

\*Citizen of the Year will be determined by assessment panel.

Nominations close on Sunday 20 July. Winners will be announced on Thursday 11 September.

For more information and to nominate, visit our website.

[manningham.vic.gov.au/community-awards](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/community-awards)



# Council meeting roundup

Council meetings are the formal decision making forum for our Council.

## SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS.

### April Council meeting

- Council endorsed the Draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan for community consultation.
- Council endorsed Manningham's submission to Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy, lodged on 28 April 2025. It also noted the final strategy will be tabled in the Victorian Parliament in late 2025.
- Council endorsed the revised events within the Annual Councillor Event Program, which includes the Manningham Community Awards and Annual Grant Celebration.
- Council noted the proposal to continue the recognition of volunteers in two events, the Emergency Services Reception and Volunteer Recognition Evening.

The next Council meetings are scheduled for 27 May and 30 June 2025. Find out how to get involved and watch past Council meeting livestreams at

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)

## Help shape the future of domestic animal management in Manningham

We're reviewing our Domestic Animal Management Plan and seeking your input on the priorities for managing dogs and cats in Manningham.

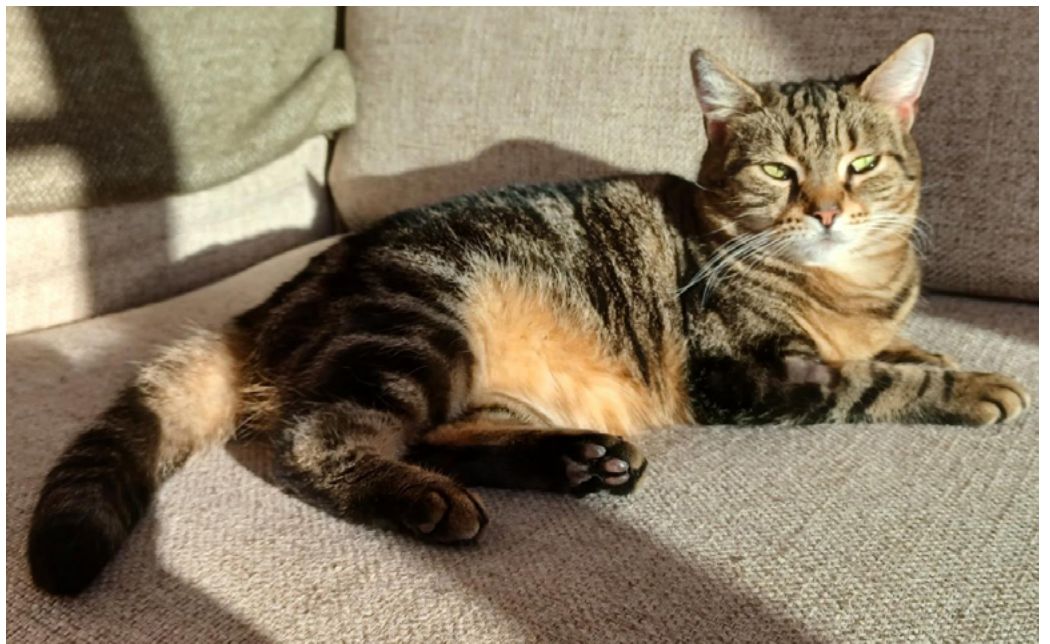
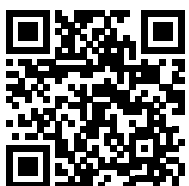
Let us know what you think about topics like pet registration, nuisance dogs and cats, dog aggression and attacks, dog walking in Manningham and more.

**Complete the survey by 5.00pm on Sunday 29 June.**

Your feedback will help inform the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029.

Learn more and have your say at

🔗 [yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/damp](https://yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/damp)







ABOVE: Young riders from the Warrandyte Mountain Bike Club at Wonga Park Reserve.

## Gear up for a better ride: Have your say on our bike facilities plan

We're planning improvements to bike facilities across Manningham and inviting your feedback on our draft Recreational Bike Facilities Plan.

The draft 10-year plan outlines eight proposed locations for improvements and includes a variety of bike park facilities to cater to all ages and skill levels.

Key features include: dirt jumps, pump tracks, flow trails and bike playgrounds.

### Proposed locations:

- Fitzsimons Reserve
- St Clems Reserve
- Jenkins Park
- Stintons Reserve
- Katrina Gully
- Wonga Park Reserve
- Morris Williams Reserve
- Zerbes Reserve

## Have your say on public toilet facilities in Manningham

We're reviewing Manningham's Public Toilet Plan and want to hear your thoughts and ideas!

As we plan for these facilities, we want to understand your feedback on recently installed public toilets and where in Manningham you would like to see more.



### Have your say

Complete our short survey before 29 June 2025.

Your feedback will help us create better public toilet facilities for everyone.

[yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/public-toilet-plan-review](https://yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/public-toilet-plan-review)



ABOVE: Local resident Jan at the Mullum Mullum Trail.

### Have your say

Review the draft plan and complete our short survey by 5.00pm, Sunday 22 June.

[yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/bike-facilities-plan](https://yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/bike-facilities-plan)

Your feedback will help shape the final Recreational Bike Facilities Plan.



If you would like this information in a different format, please contact us at

[manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au)

9840 9333



ABOVE: Tunstall Square public toilet.



# What's on

## COMMUNITY

**Saturday 7 June, Saturday 5 July, 8.00am to 1.00pm** **FREE**  
**Warrandyte Riverside market**

With over 180 stallholders, you'll find handcrafted wares and produce, be entertained by local buskers and enjoy a family day out in beautiful surrounds.

🏠 Stiggant Reserve, Yarra Street, Warrandyte

🔗 [warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au](http://warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au)



**Wednesday 11 June 7.00pm to 8.30pm**  
**Entertaining your cat indoors**

Join Jennah Rose and Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats for a 45 minute information session on keeping your feline friends entertained and happy indoors.

🏠 Friends of Manningham Dogs and Cats, 53-55 Aranga Crescent, Donvale

\$ Gold coin donation for Tails of the Forgotten Paws (our nominated charity)

🔗 [trybooking.com/CYVJY](http://trybooking.com/CYVJY)

**Saturday 21 June, Saturday 19 July 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](http://parkorchardsmarket.com)

**Sunday 29 June, Sunday 27 July, 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

🔗 [warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au/tunstall](http://warrandytedonvalerotary.org.au/tunstall)

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**Saturday 14 June 1.00pm to 4.00pm** **FREE**  
**World Knitting Day in Manningham**

The annual World Knitting Day event is a great opportunity for those who love knitting or would like to learn. Wool, needles and patterns will be available for all to use. Donations of wool would be appreciated. This is a free event and includes afternoon tea, there will be knitted items for sale.

🏠 Manningham Uniting Church and Community Centre 109 Wood Street, Templestowe

🔗 [manninghamuc.org/worldknittingday2025](http://manninghamuc.org/worldknittingday2025)

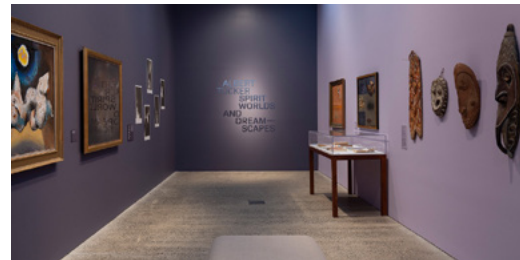
**Until Friday 20 July**  
**Blak In-Justice: Incarceration and Resilience**

This groundbreaking exhibition calls attention to the pressing issue of Indigenous incarceration in Australia and the crisis of deaths in custody. Guest-curated by Kent Morris (Barkindji), it presents works by leading First Nations artists including Vernon Ah Kee, Gordon Bennett, Destiny Deacon, Jimmy Pike, and Judy Watson, whose powerful responses are shown alongside the remarkable creative achievements of former and current prison inmates.

🏠 Heide Museum of Modern Art 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen

\$ \$25

🔗 [heide.com.au/exhibitions/blak-in-justice](http://heide.com.au/exhibitions/blak-in-justice)



Installation view, *Albert Tucker: Spirit Worlds and Dreamscapes*, 2025, photographs: Christian Capurro.

**Until Sunday 31 August**  
**Albert Tucker: Spirit Worlds and Dreamscapes**

*Spirit Worlds and Dreamscapes* explores Albert Tucker's lifelong fascination with spiritual and esoteric ideas and how he integrated his belief in invisible forces into his art.

🏠 Heide Museum of Modern Art 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen

\$ \$25

🔗 [heide.com.au/exhibitions/albert-tucker-spirit-worlds-and-dreamscapes](http://heide.com.au/exhibitions/albert-tucker-spirit-worlds-and-dreamscapes)

## ENVIRONMENT

**Saturday 19 July 3.00pm to 5.00pm** **FREE**  
**School holiday movie screening: Just Eat It**

Grab a free popcorn and take a seat! An eye-opening and funny documentary that will have you re-thinking your food habits.

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events/movie-screening-just-eat-it](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/events/movie-screening-just-eat-it)

🏠 Doncaster Playhouse, 679 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

**Saturday 5 July 10.00am to 11.30am** **FREE**  
**Kids clothing swap**

A clever and thrifty way to update your wardrobe without hitting the shops. Drop off an item of clothing to pick up another – up to eight items per person. Clothing should be suitable for ages zero to 12.

🏠 Ajani Centre, 284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events/kids-clothing-swap](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/events/kids-clothing-swap)

**Tuesday 1 July, 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

### **Waste Less: Effectively managing your waste**

Join Nanna Anna for a free talk on managing household waste, including food, water, textiles, energy, and more! Get practical tips and ideas, including a waste audit checklist. Register now, spots limited!

📍 Manningham Function Centre  
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events/waste-less-effectively-managing-your-waste](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/events/waste-less-effectively-managing-your-waste)



**Saturday 14 June  
10.00am to 12.00pm**

**FREE**

### **Make your own beeswax wraps**

Join Emma Grace, an artist and sustainable craft teacher, for a free hands-on workshop. Learn how to make beeswax wraps to keep food fresh and hygienic without the use of single-use plastics such as cling wrap. Register now, spots are limited.

📍 MC Square, 687 Doncaster Road  
Doncaster

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events/make-your-own-beeswax-wraps](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/events/make-your-own-beeswax-wraps)

## **WELLBEING**

**Thursday 24 July  
10.00am to 11.30am**

**FREE**

### **Cancer Screening and Early Detection Information Session**

This is a free session for older adults, presented by Cancer Council Victoria and BreastScreen Victoria. This session will cover information on keeping yourself and your family healthy, the free national screening programs, how to undertake free and easy screening at home or at a clinic and more. Bookings essential.

📍 Domeney Recreation Centre,  
52 Knees Road Park Orchards

📞 9840 9230

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/events)

## **BUSINESS**

**Tuesday 10 June, Tuesday 8 July,  
7.15am to 8.45am**

### **Manningham Business Network Breakfast**

Join us for some business-to-business fun networking, as we share, learn and grow together by building greater brand awareness of our companies within the local community.

📍 Manningham Function Centre 699  
Doncaster Road, Doncaster

💰 Free for members and first-time visitors, \$35 for non-members

🔗 [manninghambusinessnetwork.au/future-events](https://manninghambusinessnetwork.au/future-events)

### **Share your events for older adults with us**

We're seeking events to be included in our local activity guides for Dementia Action Week and Seniors Month later this year.

If your group, club or organisation is planning a free or low-cost event or activity in recognition of these significant dates, let us know!

Our local activity guides will help older people, people living with dementia, carers and family members find fun and affordable events and activities across Manningham.

Event submissions can be made on our website until Monday 23 June.

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/share-events-older-adults](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/share-events-older-adults)

Dementia Action Week is from Monday 15 to Sunday 21 September, while Seniors Month is held from 1 to 31 October each year.

For more information or support, contact our Healthy Ageing Team on **9840 9230**.



## **Dig into National Tree Day**

National Tree Day is back!

This year, we're inviting you to join our community tree planting day on Sunday 27 July at Mullum Mullum Reserve.

This is a fantastic opportunity to help enhance a vital habitat corridor along the creekline and surrounds.

With your help, we aim to plant more than 3,000 young indigenous plants. These plants will improve biodiversity, create vital wildlife corridors and promote a healthier creek environment.

Bring your family and friends for a rewarding morning of planting and environmental stewardship. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the future of the Mullum Mullum Creek.

### **What to bring**

We'll provide all the tools, equipment and plants. All you need to bring is a water bottle and any snacks!

### **When and where to meet**

**Sunday, 27 July  
10.00am to 12.00pm**

📍 Mullum Mullum Reserve  
Corner Springvale Road and  
Reynolds Road, Donvale

Enter via Reynolds Road, Donvale. Parking is available at the Mullum Mullum sports precinct. The planting area along the creek trail will be clearly marked with signage and marquees.

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/events/national-tree-day-mullum-mullum-reserve](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/events/national-tree-day-mullum-mullum-reserve)



# Your 2025/26 Waste Calendar is here

In Manningham, your green lid food and garden organics (FOGO) bin is collected every week. Your yellow lid recycling and red lid garbage waste bins are collected every fortnight, on alternating weeks.

To help you keep track of your bin collection days, we have provided a calendar for the year ahead.

There are no changes to the schedule so you can stick to your usual routine. We alternate between two bin collection areas in Manningham.

**Simply pull out the insert, cut along the dotted line and place your calendar on your fridge or in a handy spot for easy reference. Your new calendar is the same colour and area as your last year's calendar.**

If you're unsure about your bin collection area and day, you can easily check by entering your address at:



[manningham.vic.gov.au/  
bin-collection](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/bin-collection)

For assistance, contact us on

📞 9840 9333

✉️ [manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au)

This does not apply to private waste collection services.

## Our position on a glass recycling bin

We're one of 32 Victorian Councils asking the State Government to reconsider its plan to make glass recycling bins mandatory for all households by 1 July 2027.

While we fully support recycling, we're concerned about the high costs this extra bin would place on our community. It's expected to cost \$4 million to implement, plus an extra \$27 per household, per year.

Last year, we joined other Councils in writing to the Victorian Minister for Environment to share the findings from an investigation into glass recycling. The study found that adding wine and spirit bottles to the Container Deposit Scheme could offer the same environmental benefits as a fourth bin, without extra cost for residents.

**As part of our advocacy for Manningham, we have also submitted a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria to remove the *Circular Economy Act* provision that makes a glass-only kerbside bin a requirement.**

We're calling on the State Government to listen and consider if there are smarter, more cost-effective solutions.

For more information, go to

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/news/our-position-glass-only-recycling-bin-service](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/news/our-position-glass-only-recycling-bin-service)

## Join the challenge this Plastic Free July!

Single-use plastics are a big problem for our planet. Every year, we produce more than 400 million tonnes of plastic globally. That's about the same as the weight of all the humans on earth!

Unfortunately only about 10 per cent of plastic gets recycled, meaning most of it ends up as litter, hurting our parks, waterways, animals, and even our health.

You can make a difference this July by swapping single-use plastics for reusable items. Last year, 174 million participants helped cut 390 million kilograms of plastic waste.

What will be your ins and outs? Here's some to think about:

### INS

- ✓ Reusable coffee cups and cutlery
- ✓ Reusable water bottle
- ✓ Bar soaps
- ✓ Sealing food in lidded containers or beeswax wraps
- ✓ Buying foods in bulk

### OUTS

- ✗ Single-use coffee cups and containers
- ✗ Buying bottled water
- ✗ Liquid soaps
- ✗ Sealing food with cling wrap
- ✗ Buying foods in soft plastic packaging

🔗 [plasticfreejuly.org](https://plasticfreejuly.org)



# Get involved at your local neighbourhood house or library

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

**Thursday 12 June, 7.00pm to 8.00pm**

## Building Financial Confidence with Jenny Rolfe-Wallace and Natasha Janssens

Gain practical insight and tools to help take control of your financial wellbeing with experts Jenny Rolfe-Wallace, host of *It's Not About The Money* podcast and Natasha Janssens, author of *Wonder Woman's Guide to Money*.

🏠 Online via Zoom

💰 Free, registration required

🔗 [wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Whats-On-Guide](https://wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Whats-On-Guide)

**Thursday 19 June, 10.30am to 11.30am**

## Iranian Cooking Demonstration with Mahshid Babzartabi

Experience a special Iranian cooking demonstration with chef and author Mahshid Babzartabi. A survivor of political persecution, Mahshid shares her journey of resilience through exceptional food and storytelling.

🏠 Doncaster Library, MC Square, 687 Doncaster Road Doncaster

💰 Free, registration required

🔗 [wml.vic.gov.au](https://wml.vic.gov.au)

**Friday 13 June, Friday 27 June, 1.15pm to 4.00pm**

## Mah Jong Club

Create new friendships and enjoy a game of Mah Jong with experienced and new players. Mah Jong is a game of skill, strategy and luck. No experience necessary. The group meets fortnightly on Fridays.

🏠 Warrandyte Neighbourhood House Level 1/168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

💰 \$20 to join for the year.

🔗 [warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/service-page/2025-mah-jong-club](https://warrandyteneighbourhoodhouse.org.au/service-page/2025-mah-jong-club)

**Friday 4 July, 2.30pm to 4.00pm**

## Diet and Food Habits for Seniors

Join Dr. Mitra Zarrati for practical advice on how nutrient-rich meals and balanced eating habits can boost vitality, support brain health, and promote an active, healthy lifestyle for those aged 50 and over.

🏠 The Pines Library, corner Reynolds Road and Blackburn Road East, Doncaster

💰 Free, registration required

🔗 [wml.vic.gov.au](https://wml.vic.gov.au)

**Saturday 14 June, 10.00am to 12.00pm**

## Create Your Own Worm Farm

Learn all about how a worm farm can help you create fertile soil to help your plants thrive. Supported by Bunnings and Manningham Council.

🏠 Ajani Neighbourhood House, 284 Thompsons Road Templestowe Lower

💰 Free

🔗 [events.humanitix.com/create-your-own-worm-farm](https://events.humanitix.com/create-your-own-worm-farm)

**Tuesday 15 July, 2.00pm to 3.00pm**

## Musculoskeletal Health Australia Arthritis presentation

Learn about the muscles, bones and joints that keep us moving, and get tips on exercise, nutrition, medication, surgery and taking charge of your health.

🏠 Ajani Neighbourhood House, 284 Thompsons Road Templestowe Lower

💰 Free

📞 Call 9850 3687 to register



## Explore Manningham and get fitter with the Koonung Bushwalking Club

The Koonung Bushwalking Club was formed 40 years ago by local residents with a passion for natural bushland.

The club welcomes new members who are interested in exploring natural bush areas in and around Manningham, while improving their fitness.

Activities include day walks at different experience levels, base camps and even interstate walking trips.

### Upcoming meeting dates

Wednesday 18 June (AGM), Wednesday 20 August and Wednesday, 15 October.

Club meetings are held at 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start. The Pines Learning and Activity Centre (Rooms 13 and 14) 520 Blackburn Road in Doncaster East.

🔗 [koonungbushwalkingclub.org.au](https://koonungbushwalkingclub.org.au)

Photo credit: Ross Kimber.



ABOVE: (From left to right) Maya and Olivia.

## Kindness in action: Local students lead the way

### YOUNG PEOPLE

Two inspiring young residents, Maya and Olivia, have launched a project to engage local students in activities that promote kindness.

*The Kindness Fever Project*, aims to encourage young people to make a positive impact through various activities. It brings students together to learn about the value of kindness and its benefits for individuals and community.

After proposing the idea to their school, Templestowe Park Primary School has supported the girls' vision – with plans to host a Kindness Day in the coming months.

Through the initiative, Maya and Olivia have introduced activities such as 'The Kindness Tub', where students can anonymously write compliments to one another that are read out aloud in class. They've also invited their peers to participate in 'The Kindness Stones', where students write a kind message on stones that are placed in the classroom or schoolyard.

The girls are now working on some new ideas to spread this initiative to other venues, including Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre and Mullum Mullum Stadium.

**“Hopefully our project will encourage kindness in people and this will create a ripple effect to spread kindness throughout the entire world,” said Maya and Olivia.**



ABOVE: Varvara Athanasiou-Ioannou AM with her award.



## Local resident awarded Greek Herald 2025 Woman of the Year

### CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Templestowe resident Varvara Athanasiou-Ioannou AM has been recognised for her contribution towards education and inclusion – recently named by *The Greek Herald* as the 2025 Woman of the Year.

**Varvara migrated to Australia from Epirus in Greece at the age of 19, not speaking English. Her journey of resilience and perseverance fuelled her passion for lifelong learning, leading to a fulfilling career spanning education, human resources and lecturing at university in diversity and inclusion.**

Two decades ago, Varvara founded the Food for Thought Network Inc (FFTN), a community organisation run by volunteers. FFTN runs awareness raising forums on current issues for women in the areas of work, family, health and wellbeing, as well as language and culture.

During COVID, Varvara launched the Greek Women and Friends Global Forum, which became the catalyst for organising the Inaugural Global Women and Hellenism Conference in Greece in 2024. This event united thought leaders, scholars and professionals from across the world to celebrate and elevate the contributions of Hellenic women and their friends.

Also a published author, Varvara's book *'HER VOICE: Greek Women and Their Friends'* shares personal and professional stories from Hellenic women.

Varvara has contributed extensively to education, co-authoring the Greek Curriculum Project and over 60 childrens' books for the Education Departments of Victoria and South Australia. She has also designed and taught university courses relating to diversity and inclusion.

Through her work, Varvara has shaped policies and served as a community representative in the Manningham Access and Equity and Diversity Committee for six years. She has also empowered emerging leaders and built global networks that transcend borders. Her mission remains clear: to be a voice for the voiceless and to continue inspiring the next generation of women.

### This latest recognition adds to Varvara's growing list of accolades:

- Member of the Order of Australia (AM) (2024)
- GIWA Finalist, Social Responsibility (2023)
- Manningham Volunteer of the Year Award (2022)
- Swinburne University Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award (2018)
- Victorian Honour Roll for Women and HACCI Award (2003)

Congratulations Varvara!

Photo credit: Effy Alexakis.





## Donvale students raise over \$22,000 for the World's Greatest Shave

YOUNG PEOPLE

The Year 12 students of Whitefriars College in Donvale took part in this year's World's Greatest Shave, raising an incredible \$22,399 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Organised by the students, the event was filled with energy and excitement as students, teachers and supporters gathered to watch their peers shave and chop their hair to support those affected by leukaemia and other blood cancers.

College Captain, Declan (pictured above), was excited to take part.

**"It's a way for us to give back and make a real difference. We've come together as a year group to help people going through tough times and it feels amazing to know we've made an impact," Declan said.**

This year's World's Greatest Shave at Whitefriars College is an inspiring example of young people in Manningham coming together to support a great cause.

The funds raised help the Leukaemia Foundation continue its vital research and provide support for those affected by blood cancers.



ABOVE: Members of the Wonga Park Netball Club Under 9s team.

## Netball players celebrate big win for Wonga Park

These members of the Wonga Park Netball Club have a reason to celebrate – their courts will soon be getting a major upgrade.

Works are planned to start at Wonga Park Reserve mid-year 2025. The upgrade will include the reconstruction of the netball courts, along with new floodlighting, fencing, player shelters and extra space for basketball.

A new courtside facility will be built as part of stage two of the project, which will include toilets, a multipurpose change space and scorer's shelter. Wonga Park Netball Club spokesperson Jeanette Morriss said;

**"We are just so excited. It's going to be amazing for our entire community, particularly women and girls in sport, helping to create a much safer and inclusive space for them, and for recreation and play."**

The upgrade is part of the Wonga Park Reserve Masterplan and will ensure the courts comply with the latest Netball Victoria and industry guidelines.

The works are being funded with a \$1.47 million grant through the Australian Government's Play Our Way program, as well as Council's 2025/26 capital works budget.

[manningham.vic.gov.au/wonga-park-netball-courts-redevelopment](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/wonga-park-netball-courts-redevelopment)

## Seed Library – Edible Plants at Warrandyte Library

Share seeds with your community at our new Seed Library. A seed library is where the library lends seeds instead of books.

Step 1 – "Borrow" seeds for free

Step 2 – Plant and tend to your crops

Step 3 – Return some seeds from the yield

Donate seeds (fruit, vegetables or herbs only) saved from your garden or leftover seeds from store purchased packets. Grow your gardening knowledge at our regular, inspiring events and workshops.

The Seed Library is available at Warrandyte Library. Visit to find out more information and borrow your first packet of seeds.

Find out more about your local libraries at

[wml.vic.gov.au](https://wml.vic.gov.au)



ABOVE: Members of the Seniors Happy Life Club.

## Staying happy and healthy as you age

Staying connected and active is an important part of living well into your older years.

There's a range of things to think about and remember as you, your friends or family members age. Some of these include considering your safety and how to stay active and socially connected in your community.

## Looking after your mental health

Your mental health is just as important as your physical wellbeing, and taking proactive steps to care for your mind can lead to a happier, healthier life.

### Local support services

Our friendly Healthy Ageing team can assist older Manningham residents and their support networks to:

- access government – funded supports and services
- find local clubs and community groups
- navigate My Aged Care
- stay connected on what's happening in Manningham.

### Community centres and groups

Joining a local group or activity at one of Manningham's community centres can boost your mood, reduce isolation and help you form new friendships.

### Carer support

If you are a carer, we can connect you with resources and networks to help manage stress and maintain your own wellbeing, while caring for others.

### Tips for everyday mental wellbeing

- Regular physical activity can improve your mood and reduce stress. Join a local exercise classes specifically for older adults.
- Social connections are vital. Reach out to friends, family, or neighbours, or join a community group.
- If you're feeling overwhelmed, talking to someone can make all the difference.

## Preventing falls and staying active

As we grow older, maintaining safety and mobility is essential for a healthy, fulfilling life. Here are some simple ways to help prevent falls and stay active.

### Preventing falls

Falls are a leading cause of injury for older adults, but many are preventable with simple changes.

- **Home safety:** Ensure walkways are clear of clutter, use non-slip mats in wet areas, and install handrails in locations like bathrooms and stairs. Good lighting throughout your home also reduces trip hazards.
- **Footwear matters:** Choose sturdy, non-slip shoes to reduce your risk of slipping.
- **Health check-ups:** Regular eye and ear checks can address issues that may affect balance. Discuss any dizziness or mobility concerns with your doctor.

### Active ageing

Staying active helps maintain strength, balance and flexibility.

- **Exercise regularly:** Activities like walking, yoga, swimming or tai chi can improve muscle strength, coordination and overall well being.
- **Join a group:** Keep moving and connected with a local class or group.
- **Stay consistent:** Even small movements like stretching or light gardening can make a big difference.

The Healthy Ageing team is hosting another Falls Prevention session in 2025. To learn more, visit our website.

For more information on local services, visit [manningham.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing) or contact the Healthy Ageing team on **9840 9230**.





## Together, we can stop elder abuse

### HEALTHY AGEING

Elder abuse is everyone's business. Join us in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people in our community.

Elder abuse comes in many forms – financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual or social.

WEAAD is held annually around the world on Sunday 15 June. We'll be recognising the day by hosting a free community forum on Thursday 19 June to help empower and advocate for the rights, safety and dignity of older people.

### Healthy, Happy and Wise: Healthy Ageing Forum

Thursday 19 June, 9.30am to 12.00pm

Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

This forum will feature local experts, information stalls, support services and more, all designed to support older adults to age well in Manningham.

Expert speakers will share their insights on ageing and how to live and stay healthy. A panel discussion will highlight opportunities for awareness and action, to help ensure older residents feel safe, valued and supported in our community. Key topics will include financial literacy, retirement planning, elder rights, housing and active living.

Enjoy a free morning tea and opportunities to network and meet new people.

For bookings: call **9840 9230** or **[manningham.vic.gov.au/healthy-happy-wise](http://manningham.vic.gov.au/healthy-happy-wise)**

### Where to seek help and support

If you or an older person you know is experiencing abuse, please reach out for assistance by calling:

- Emergency services: 000
- Seniors Rights Victoria: 1300 368 821
- Eastern Community Legal Centre: 1300 325 200
- Australian Human Rights Commission: 1800 353 374

## Find social connection and learning opportunities with Access Health and Community

Access Health and Community's Ageing and Social Support Program offers a range of activities and outings for people over 65 in the Manningham area.

Activities include trivia, art appreciation, book club, armchair travel, and card games, as well as a group specifically for seniors who are carers. Refreshments are provided.

The groups are run out of Currawong Bush Park Function Centre in Doncaster East, and Greythorn Community Hub in Balwyn North. They also run popular bus outings to different areas of Greater Melbourne, with trips to Cowes, Mornington, and Warragul coming up soon.

Your first session with us is free to try so come along and join in the fun!

For more information, including fees, please visit **[accesshc.org.au/services/ageing-and-social-support](http://accesshc.org.au/services/ageing-and-social-support)** or call **9006 6580**.

To access our groups, you will need a referral to Access Health and Community from My Aged Care. To get started, phone **1800 200 422**, or visit **[myagedcare.gov.au](http://myagedcare.gov.au)**





ABOVE: Left to right: Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club President Travis Rankin and club administrator Prue Luke with Daniel Di Fiore from Good Sports.

## Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club named 2024 Good Sports Victorian Club of the Year

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

The Park Orchards North Ringwood Parish Junior Football Club has been named 2024 Good Sports Victorian Club of the Year. It also earned runner-up for the Mental Health Excellence Award.

The Good Sports program supports community sporting clubs to set up a better environment to help tackle challenging topics such as alcohol, drugs, smoking, mental health and safe transport.

The event acknowledged clubs and their dedicated volunteers for their passion in building strong communities, promoting healthy lifestyles, and minimising the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs.

Sharks Junior Football Club President Travis Rankin said that the club joined the Good Sports program after the COVID lockdowns, with a strong focus on mental wellbeing and reconnecting players and families.

**“Since becoming part of Good Sports, we’ve strengthened our alcohol and drug policies and made mental health support a central focus,” said Travis.**

The club encourages open conversations and works hard to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health.

It provides mental health first aid training for parents and volunteers, as well as educating on topics that can help their wellbeing.

Travis believes that the club’s recognition reflects its ongoing dedication to creating a safe, healthy and welcoming environment for all.

**“This award is a testament to the tireless efforts of our volunteers, committee members and families who share our vision for a supportive and inclusive culture,” he said.**

 [goodsports.com.au](https://goodsports.com.au)



Doncaster Squadron cadets carry the flag at a recent Citizenship Ceremony.

## Flying high with the Australian Air League

The Australian Air League Doncaster Squadron is a vibrant hub for young people with a passion for aviation leadership, teamwork and community service.

Each year, the squadron offers an exciting calendar of activities, including flying and gliding days that give young cadets hands-on experience with both powered and non-powered aircraft.

It plays a big part within the Manningham community, with cadets regularly assisting at citizenship ceremonies and volunteering at local ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

Cadets can earn up to 60 different badges, covering subjects from aircraft recognition and space flight to leadership and community service.

It provides them with a valuable edge and life skills that go well beyond the hangars.

The squadron welcomes young people over the age of eight from all backgrounds and genders to join.

To find out more, please visit [www.airleague.com.au](https://www.airleague.com.au) or Doncaster Squadron's Facebook page.





ABOVE: Café Coordinator Hayden (left) started his journey as a volunteer and now mentors a team of volunteers (with Daniel and Carmen), ensuring the Hub café is a welcoming and inclusive environment.

## A Manningham café that's making a difference

Over the past 10 years, the Hub Café has become a thriving meeting place for locals at the Ajani Community Hub.

Providing opportunities for adults with disability to volunteer and gain barista and hospitality experience, the café is helping people get ready for future employment while supporting locals to stay connected.

Tony is a regular visitor and said the café is a great place to catch up with friends.

**“We come here every week after class and share our stories. We feel less alone, especially when we have someone to talk to about life's little, and sometimes not so little, speedhumps,” Tony said.**

You can visit the Hub Café at

🏠 Ajani Neighbourhood House, 2/284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower



## Turning turf into treasure

We're giving a second life to synthetic turf that was previously bound for landfill.

Working with RE4ORM, we will recycle the synthetic turf into eco-friendly products at their new facility.

We've been stockpiling old covers for the past three years in anticipation of the launch.

It marks another step forward in our ongoing commitment to sustainability.

It supports environmental innovation and circular economy solutions that benefit our community.

## Meet Manningham's fussy eating monsters

Keep an eye out for some fussy eating monsters on our waste education van, helping students and the community learn how to sort waste, increase recycling and reduce landfill.

We're working with local schools, kindergartens and early learning centres to deliver fun, free waste education sessions on using your FOGO bin, recycling right, composting and understanding waste services. Teaching kids these habits early supports long-term, sustainable waste management in our community.

You'll see the monsters on our waste education van at community events like the Warrandyte Riverside Market, or on our waste compactor truck collecting rubbish from parks and reserves. If you see them out and about, come and say hello!



ABOVE: Spencer in our waste education van.

If you're interested in having us visit your school or community group, contact our waste team on **9840 9333** or at **waste@manningham.vic.gov.au**





## Add some sparkle to our 2025 Carols by Candlelight

Save the date! This year's Manningham Carols by Candlelight will be held on Friday 12 December at Ruffey Lake Park.

We're inviting performers, mobile food vendors, community groups and stall holders to be part of the festive fun.

More than 10,000 people attended last year's carols, so don't miss your chance to get involved in the biggest event of the year.

Expressions of interest are now open until midnight, Sunday 15 June.

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/carols-eoi-2025](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/carols-eoi-2025)

**Find  
support**

Find information on wellbeing support services.

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/find-support](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/find-support)



### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 30 June, 7.00pm

Tuesday 22 July, 7.00pm

Tuesday 26 August, 7.00pm

🏠 Council Chamber  
Manningham Civic Centre

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)

### CONNECT WITH US

📘 [facebook/ManninghamCouncil](https://facebook/ManninghamCouncil)

📷 [instagram/ManninghamCouncil](https://instagram/ManninghamCouncil)

🔗 [manningham.vic.gov.au](https://manningham.vic.gov.au)

This publication is part of our commitment to improve communication and engagement with residents. While every effort is made to ensure that information included in *Manningham Matters* is accurate at the time of publishing, details are subject to change. Manningham Council and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without any flaw and therefore disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on information contained in this publication.



*Manningham Matters* is printed on Sumo Laser, an environmentally responsible paper manufactured under the ISO14001 Environmental Management System, using elemental chlorine free pulp. Sumo Laser is FSC Certified Mix pulp.

This publication is produced carbon neutral.

### CONTACT US

📍 Manningham Civic Centre  
699 Doncaster Road  
Doncaster, Victoria 3108

Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm. Closed public holidays.

✉ Manningham Council  
PO Box 1, Doncaster, Victoria 3108

☎ 9840 9333

📞 9848 3110

🔗 [manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au)

## YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cr Deirdre Diamante  
**TULLAMORE WARD**  
Mayor

🔗 [deirdre.diamante@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:deirdre.diamante@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0413 584 047



Cr Andrew Conlon  
**CURRAWONG WARD**  
Deputy Mayor

🔗 [andrew.conlon@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.conlon@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0425 732 238



Cr Geoff Gough  
**BOLIN WARD**

🔗 [geoff.gough@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:geoff.gough@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0412 345 081



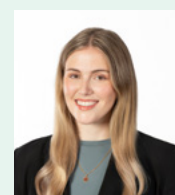
Cr Peter Bain  
**MANNA WARD**

🔗 [peter.bain@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.bain@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0429 841 013



Cr Jim Grivas  
**RUFFEY WARD**

🔗 [jim.grivas@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:jim.grivas@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0437 613 076



Cr Laura Mayne  
**SCHRAMM WARD**

🔗 [laura.mayne@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:laura.mayne@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0447 981 010



Cr Anna Chen  
**WALDAU WARD**

🔗 [anna.chen@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:anna.chen@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0429 470 051



Cr Isabella Eltaha  
**WESTERFOLDS WARD**

🔗 [isabella.eltaha@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:isabella.eltaha@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0478 370 939



Cr Carli Lange  
**YARRA WARD**

🔗 [carli.lange@manningham.vic.gov.au](mailto:carli.lange@manningham.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 0433 256 840