

Manningham Matters

August 2025

A future built together

Our 2025/26 Budget

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Shine a light on our community champions!

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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:
Local family enjoying
the newly upgraded
Hillcroft Reserve
playspace.



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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](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

As we continue to grow and evolve, it's essential that we stay true to the values and aspirations that make our community unique.

Our Council is guided by a clear roadmap – our long-term Community Vision and Council Plan. Driven by local voices, they guide the actions we will take to deliver better outcomes for Manningham. You can read more about our recently endorsed suite of strategic documents from page 4.

These strategic documents refer to the set of our 4 year planning documents that include the Vision, 4-year Council Plan, 4-year Action Plan, 10 year financial plan and the 25/26 Budget, which has a four year horizon.

Since our new council formed in November 2024 we have worked collaboratively with community, community groups and staff on these documents.

The Community Vision 2040 was prepared by the Manningham Community Panel to reflect our community's collective values, goals and aspirations for a brighter future.

Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all.

A resounding theme that emerged from the Community Vision is the celebration of diversity. This isn't surprising, given that it's one of the very admired traits that makes our community so vibrant. When we come together, sharing our unique perspectives, experiences and backgrounds, we create a rich tapestry of ideas and innovation.

I believe that every voice matters and our community is built on kindness, inclusivity and respect for all. By embracing and celebrating our differences, we foster a community that's both more inclusive and resilient.

Another theme that came out of community conversations was community safety. Manningham remains a safe municipality however we have all seen and heard about increasing incidents that make us feel uneasy.

While we will continue to work with Victoria Police and other organisations to increase community safety, there are steps we can all take in the community.

There are so many great opportunities for us to look out for one another and to be kind every day and I encourage you to seize them. Whether it's visiting your neighbour, saying hello on a walk, sharing a smile at the shops, or lending a listening ear or a helping hand.

Let's spread kindness and make our community a brighter, safer and more compassionate place where everyone can thrive – one small act at a time.



Warm regards,

Cr Deirdre Diamante
Mayor

Photo Competition winners revealed

After another year of incredible entries, we're excited to reveal the winners of the 2025 Photo Competition.

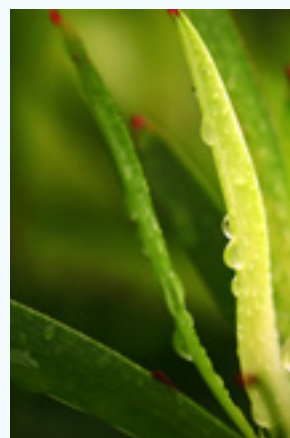
Voted by you, the members of our community, these winning photos were recognised for their creativity and representation of Manningham.

Each winner will receive a gift card valued at up to \$400 and will have their photo featured in our 2026 community calendar.

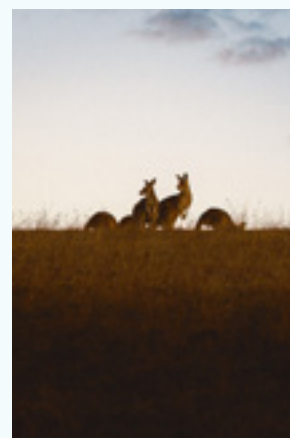
Thank you to everyone who participated and took the time to vote. Your involvement made this year's competition a true community celebration.

manningham.vic.gov.au/photo-competition

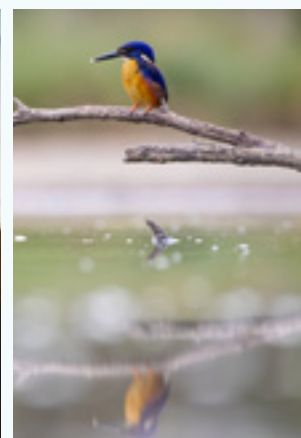
25 and under winners



First place: Ahsees L

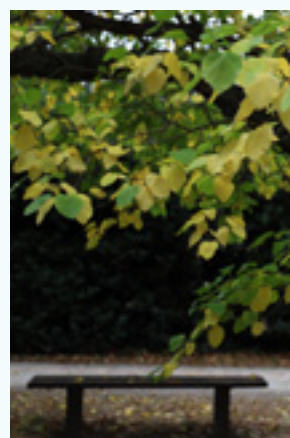


Second place: Mahmoud E

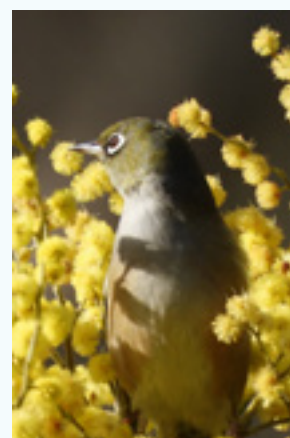


Third place: Caleb R

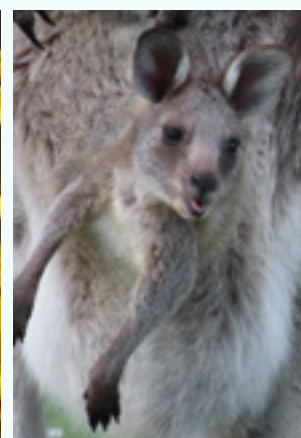
26 and over winners



First place: Patrick O



Second place: Alison R



Third place: Shirley B

Aquarena makes a splash

Aquarena's Swim School has been named Swim School of the Year 2025 by Aquatics & Recreation Victoria.

Congratulations! This incredible honour reflects the passion and commitment of the Active Manningham team.

activemanningham.com.au

Council meeting roundup

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

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS

May Council meeting

- In response to impacts of the North East Link Project, Council approved the implementation of parking restrictions along both sides of streets in most of the area south of Manningham Road in Bulleen. This follows community consultation in April.
- Council approved 'in-principle' the draft Council Plan, draft 2025/26 Budget, draft 10 Year Financial Plan 2025/26 to 2034/35 and the draft Revenue and Rating Plan.
- Council adopted the amended Road Management Plan.

June Council meeting

- Our Council Plan 2025-2029, 2025/26 Budget, 10 Year Financial Plan for 2025-26 to 2034-35 and Revenue and Rating Plan were endorsed by Council.
- Council endorsed the grant assessment panel's recommendations for the 2025 Annual Grant Program.
- Council noted the collaboration by the Eastern Regional Group of Councils (ERG) and ERG's 4-year draft Strategic Plan 2025-29.
- Council noted the record of Informal Meetings of Councillors.
- Council adopted the return of the 2025 General Valuation for all rateable and non-rateable leviable property within Manningham, as certified by the Valuer-General Victoria.
- Council declared properties to be Recreational Lands under the provisions of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963 and adopted Charges in Lieu of Rates for 2025/26.

The next Council meetings are scheduled for 22 July and 26 August 2025. Find out how to get involved and watch past Council meeting livestreams at

 manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

A future built together

We're pleased to present our newly endorsed suite of plans that will set the course for how our community will grow, adapt and thrive in the years ahead.

This includes our Council Plan 2025-2029 (which includes our Health and Wellbeing Plan) and our 2025-26 Budget, as well as our 10-year Financial Plan, Revenue and Rating Plan and Asset Plan.

Shaped by extensive community engagement throughout 2024 and 2025, these documents reflect the voices, priorities and aspirations of residents from across the community.

At the heart of this work was the deliberative Manningham Community Panel – a collaborative effort that brought together 37 community members to play a crucial role in helping determine key priorities for Manningham.

It started with a question: **What range and level of services are you prepared to pay for?**

Over a six-month period, Panel members immersed themselves in understanding our services and the challenges we face. They developed a wide range of recommendations covering themes such as community safety, transport, open spaces and more, as well as Manningham's Community Vision 2040.

Manningham is a harmonious, inclusive and safe community that is committed to sustainable growth, wellbeing, and innovation. We celebrate our diversity and natural environment whilst fostering a connected community that enriches the lives of all.

– Manningham Community Panel (2025)

The Panel's recommendations were formally adopted by Council and we've committed to implementing them to the fullest extent possible.

Broad community consultation informed both our strategic planning and the Panel's deliberations, ensuring that our plans are grounded in our community's values and priorities.

This consultation included a community-wide survey last year where we heard from 1,260 community members about what matters most to you, as well as which three areas you think Council should focus on. We also held a series of targeted conversations with key groups and residents including young people, older adults, multicultural communities and partners.

Many community members also sent in their own ideas and suggestions through individual submissions.

Your insights gave us a strong and balanced view of our community's wants and needs and informed these important plans for our future.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. We're all part of the plan and your voices are shaping the future of our community.

You can find out more and view these documents at



 manningham.vic.gov.au/strategies-and-action-plans



ABOVE: Manningham Community Panel.

Council Plan 2025-2029

Building on the values that make our community thrive, our new Council Plan sets out what we will do to benefit the Manningham community – now and into the future.

We're committed to improving health and wellbeing outcomes for everybody who lives, works, learns and plays in Manningham.

This is why, for the first time, we're bringing the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan together. This approach will ensure that we achieve the highest standard of public health and wellbeing for our community and meet our legislated obligations.

The Council Plan sets out our priorities and goals across 5 themes and 10 strategic objectives.

Council Plan themes



Strategic objectives

- 1** Our community is safe, connected and inclusive
- 2** Our community is active and healthy with improved wellbeing
- 3** Our City is designed for safety, liveability and sustainable growth
- 4** Our infrastructure is fit for purpose and well maintained, and its utilisation is maximised
- 5** Our natural ecosystems are protected and thrive
- 6** Our environmental stewardship is at the heart of our programs and practices
- 7** Our economy is activated through partnering, promoting and enabling employment and investment opportunities
- 8** Our local businesses and community groups are supported to thrive
- 9** Our Council is effective, efficient and financially responsible
- 10** Our Council is innovative, well governed and values our community

With this plan, we're committed to delivering meaningful outcomes that reflect our shared goals and values.

Find out more at

manningham.vic.gov.au/council-plan

Our 2025/26 Budget

In 2025-26 we have set an operating budget of \$161 million to deliver more than 100 important services across Manningham.

For every \$100 we will spend this year, we will spend this much in each area.



**CAPITAL WORKS
PROGRAM**
\$29.78



**ROADS, FOOTPATHS
AND DRAINAGE**
\$7.74



**PARKS, GARDENS AND
SPORTSGROUNDS**
\$8.48



**PLANNING AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT**
\$8.45



HEALTHY COMMUNITY
\$4.32



**ARTS, CULTURE
AND LIBRARIES**
\$4.16



**COMMUNITY SUPPORT
AND DEVELOPMENT**
\$3.24



**COUNCIL OWNED
COMMUNITY
BUILDINGS**
\$1.96



**CUSTOMER SERVICE,
GOVERNANCE AND
ADMINISTRATION**
\$17.28



**RISK MANAGEMENT
AND INSURANCES**
\$2.86



**WASTE SERVICES
AND RECYCLING**
\$11.73

Investing in infrastructure

We're continuing to build a better Manningham with an extensive \$49 million capital works program in 2025-26, to maintain and enhance Council's \$2.8 billion of community assets.

Highlights of our 2025-26 capital works program include:

\$14 million for roads and bridges

Key projects:

- \$4.4 million for the Templestowe Route upgrade project
- \$4.3 million for general road resurfacing
- \$3 million for Jumping Creek Road upgrade in Wonga Park
- \$800,000 for Holloway Road improvements.

\$7 million for parks, open space and streetscapes

Key projects:

- \$1.9 million for playspace upgrades across Manningham
- \$600,000 to implement the Ruffey Lake Park Masterplan
- \$600,000 for the Burgundy Reserve upgrade
- \$500,000 for new bus shelters
- \$300,000 for a new Manningham Sensory Garden.

\$11 million for property works and acquisitions

This includes \$1.8 million for property acquisitions to create more open space opportunities.

\$2 million for drainage upgrades

\$3 million for footpaths and cycleways

\$10 million for recreational and community facilities

Key projects:

- \$2.4 million for the Wonga Park Netball Court redevelopment and floodlight upgrade
- \$1.9 million for Donvale Bowls North Field redevelopment
- \$400,000 for converting sports field floodlights to LED
- \$300,000 for Bulleen Tennis Court resurfacing and floodlights
- \$200,000 for Warrandyte Reserve Cricket Net upgrade
- \$2 million for plant and equipment including public artworks.



 manningham.vic.gov.au/budget



Upgrading our parks for the future

Did you know that Manningham is home to over 60km of shared trails, 300 individual parks and reserves, 165 play spaces, numerous picnic areas and walking paths?

Our Parks Improvement Program sets out a plan to upgrade all of our parks and playspaces over the next 20 years.

This plan ensures our parks and playspaces remain accessible and enjoyable for everyone, both now and into the future. It will also ensure that facilities stay in good condition and adapt to changing community needs.

We gather feedback from our community to help guide these improvements.



To find out more about our Parks Improvement Program, visit

 manningham.vic.gov.au/parks-improvement-program

Works underway along Templestowe Route

We're upgrading the road network around Templestowe to create a more vibrant and liveable community for residents, visitors and businesses.

The Templestowe Route Upgrade will update local infrastructure to provide safer, better-connected public spaces in the area.

Works have begun along Anderson Street in Templestowe and will include road reconstruction, upgrades to drainage, new local footpaths, street lighting and landscaping, as well as a new pedestrian operated signal crossing.

You can expect some traffic changes and detours while the works are underway.

Works will continue through to mid to late 2026.



 yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/templestowe-route-upgrade



Templestowe Village is lucky to be home to many local shops, cafes and services that give it a unique charm and character.

All local businesses will remain open and accessible throughout the works.

The shops along Anderson Street, between James Street and Wood Street, can be easily accessed via the back car park or the front footpaths.

What's on

COMMUNITY

Third Tuesday of each month, 9:15am

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, as well as day outings, walks, morning coffees, happy hours, theatre visits, book club, movies, trivia, tenpin bowling, barbecues and more. Contact Noelene on 0468 491 891.

📍 East Doncaster Baptist Church Hall, 47-53 Tunstall Road, Donvale

🔗 probussouthpacific.org/donvalecentral

Tuesday 12 August

7:15am to 9:00am

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

💰 Members free or \$35 for non-members

🔗 mbn.asn.au

Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 August

11:00am to 4:00pm

Salami Festa

Join in the fun at the Salami Festa! Enjoy live entertainment, Italian food and drink stalls, cooking demonstrations, and the chance to enter the homemade salami competition.

📍 Veneto Club, 191 Bulleen Road, Bulleen

💰 Adults \$15, children under 12 are free

🔗 venetoclubmelbourne.com.au



Wednesday 17 September

7:00pm to 8:30pm

FREE

Parenting seminar with Dr Michael Carr-Gregg

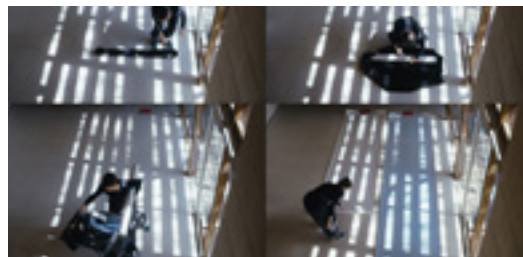
The seminar will provide practical advice and strategies to help parents, carers and professionals have constructive conversations with young people. Dr Carr-Gregg is a psychologist, author and broadcaster, renowned for his expertise in adolescent and family psychology and has written 19 books. Registrations essential.

📍 Manningham Function Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

💰 Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/lgbtqa-seminar

ARTS AND CULTURE



29 March to 5 October

Izabela Pluta: Lumina at Heide

In her site-specific project, Lumina Izabela Pluta builds on her ongoing interest in temporality and place, using photography as a dynamic process to investigate the fluid intersections of time, memory and impermanence.

📍 Heide Museum of Modern Art, 7 Templestowe Rd, Bulleen

💰 Adults \$25

🔗 heide.com.au/exhibitions/izabela-pluta-lumina



13 August to 18 October

FREE

Mirrors by Katrin Koenning

A new solo exhibition by visual artist Katrin Koenning intimately explores connection and belonging through a deeply personal and immersive constellation of images drawn from the artist's archive across time and space. Image courtesy of the Artist.

📍 Manningham Art Gallery, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

💰 Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/mirrors



Wednesday 20 August

Heide Museum

Seniors of Manningham are invited to join us at EV Community Transport, to visit the Heide Museum of Modern Art. Price includes transport, admission and a local lunch. Please note date is subject to change due to availability.

📍 Heide Museum of Modern Art, 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen

💰 \$35 to attend

🔗 **EV Community Transport** on **9870 7822** or email customerservice@ev.org.au

ENVIRONMENT



Tuesday 2 September
7:00pm to 8:30pm

FREE

Fight food waste with scryptastic cooking

Join permaculture and sustainability educator, Anna The Urban Nanna, to learn why and how to flip your relationship with food waste for good, by adopting 'scryptastic' approaches in the kitchen. Registrations essential.

📍 Manningham Function Centre, Function Room 3, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

\$ Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/events/fight-food-waste-scryptastic-cooking



Saturday 13 September
10:00am to 11:30am

FREE

Kids Toy Swap

Swapping is a clever and thrifty way to update your child's toys without hitting the shops.

It saves you pennies and the planet too! Suitable for children aged 2 to 8 years.

Registrations essential.

📍 Ajani Community Hall, 284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

\$ Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/events/kids-toy-swap

Wednesday 24 September

FREE

10:00am to 11:30am

Seed bombs and paper workshop

Join sustainable craft teacher and artist Emma Grace for a free hands on workshop to learn how to make seed bombs. Participants will get an introduction to germination, learn the benefits of flowers and see a demonstration on how to make seed paper. Suitable for children aged 5 to 12 years. Registrations essential.

📍 Manningham Function Centre, Function Room 2, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

\$ Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/events/seed-bombs-and-paper-workshop

Sunday 14 Sept and Sunday 5 October
8:00am to 4:00pm

FREE

Garden Waste Disposal Days

Do you live in a bushfire prone area? Then you can book into our Garden Waste Disposal Days to help you dispose of excess garden waste and prepare your property for the bushfire season. Registrations essential.

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

\$ Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/events/garden-waste-disposal-days

WELLBEING

Sundays, starting 6 July
3:00pm to 4:00pm

Sensory Quiet Time 2025

This is an initiative designed to provide a calm and relaxing environment for our patrons. It aims to support individuals with sensory processing issues, autism, anxiety, dementia, and anyone who prefers a quieter and more tranquil pool experience.

📍 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, 139/153 Williamsons Road, Templestowe Lower

\$ Aquarena entry fee, free for members

🔗 activemanningham.com.au/sensory-quiet-time-in-august-2024

Saturday 26 July 2025

Various times available on website

Safely Engaging with Water for our multicultural community

The Safely Engaging with Water program is a supportive introduction to swimming lessons designed for adults who may not have experienced being in a pool before.

This 10-week program creates a safe, inclusive environment for adults from multicultural communities to learn about water safety and develop basic swimming skills.

📍 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, 139/153 Williamsons Road, Templestowe Lower

\$ \$100 upfront for 10 lessons

🔗 activemanningham.com.au/safely-engaging-with-water-for-our-cald-community



The last Sunday of each month
8:15pm to 10:00pm

Women's only evenings at Aquarena

Women of all ages and backgrounds are invited to come together for a relaxed, empowering night of fitness and connection.

Held on the last Sunday of each month, this evening is designed exclusively for women to enjoy access to the pool, along with new additions: a Dance Fusion group fitness class and Open Gym access. Kids, including boys under six, are welcome.

All programs are run by female-only staff.

📍 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, 139/153 Williamsons Road, Templestowe Lower

\$ Casual entry is \$8.80 for adults and \$7.70 for children. Free for members.

🔗 activemanningham.com.au/womens-only-swimming-evenings

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.

First Thursday of every month 6:30pm to 8:30pm Life Drawing

A foundational drawing class including a live model, allowing artists to observe and capture the human form in various poses.

📍 Ajani Neighbourhood Centre, 2/284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

💰 \$35 per session or 3 classes for \$100

🔗 events.humanitix.com/ajanilife-drawing

Thursday 7 August, 11:00am to 11:45am Auslan storytime

Join us for a unique storytime experience presented in both English and Auslan! Led by a skilled team from Expression Australia, including a translator and signer, this event offers engaging stories, lively songs and a fun craft activity.

📍 Doncaster Library, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

🔗 wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Whats-On-Guide

Thursday 7 August to 28 August, 12:00pm to 1:00pm Memory Circle

Explore and share personal memories around meaningful themes such as loss, immigration, family and change in this guided program with an experienced facilitator.

📍 Ajani Neighbourhood Centre, 2/284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

💰 \$45 for a 4-week program

📞 Call 9850 3687. Places are limited.

Wednesday 13 August, 4:00pm to 5:00pm Collage Club

Experience fun collage-making where you can express yourself through art, meet new people and enjoy some crafty warmth. With all materials provided, just bring your creativity and a love for crafting! Bookings essential.

📍 Warrandyte Library, 168 Yarra Street, Warrandyte

🔗 wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Whats-On-Guide

Wednesday 20 August, 2:00pm to 3:00pm Creating a Sensory Garden

Join Sustainable Gardening Australia to learn how to design and plant a sensory garden. Topics covered include soil preparation and which plants to choose for texture, fragrance, colour and more. Bookings essential.

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

🔗 wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Whats-On-Guide

Saturday 6 September, 10:00am to 12:30pm Father's Day Sweet Pack - Cooking Class

Be guided by an experienced cook and make a sweet surprise for dad this Father's Day.

📍 Ajani Neighbourhood Centre, 2/284 Thompsons Road, Templestowe Lower

💰 \$55 per child or \$80 with adult

📞 Call 9850 3687. Places are limited.

Have a Thunderball for a great cause

Whether it's through storms, floods, search and rescue operations or other emergencies, the dedicated volunteers from Manningham SES are on hand 24/7 to help our community.

Now a group of locals are doing their bit to support these amazing first responders by hosting a gala fundraiser Thunderball 2025 on Saturday 16 August at Bramleigh Estate in Warrandyte.

Funds raised at the event will go towards buying the SES unit a new, fully kitted out 4x4 vehicle to help them better respond to emergencies.

Thunderball Foundation Convenor Sandi Miller said 100% of ticket sales would go directly to the SES, thanks to event sponsors covering all costs.

"The SES volunteers rescue us from storms, floods, if we get lost in the bush, and they should not have to cook sausage sizzles to get the vital equipment they need. Fundraising takes them away from operational duties," Sandi said.



ABOVE: Committee members Sandi Miller, Belinda Mascitti, Don Hughes and Cr Carli Lange with SES volunteers.

"It's our responsibility as a community to support them where we can. Please come and support the cause."

Tickets to the ball are \$180, there's also an online auction and opportunities to donate if you can't make it.

🔗 thunderball.net.au



ABOVE: Margaret and Alan.

Support for those living with dementia

Dementia Action Week is coming up from 15-21 September. In recognition of the week, a range of local events and activities are being held for people living with dementia, their families and carers, and to raise awareness across the community.

More than 3000 people in Manningham are living with dementia, with this figure expected to double by 2054. That's why we're working towards being an official dementia-friendly community, recognised by Dementia Australia.

Alan Ellery, of Templestowe Lower, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease 12 years ago, and credits his healthy and active lifestyle for helping him to live with the condition.

"Social contact is very important. Join a new group and continue with the groups you already associate with. The social group run by Mannacare is excellent and an opportunity to meet new people and take part in outings and activities," Alan said.

Alan and his wife, Margaret, (pictured above) were among community members with lived dementia experience to help create the Manningham Dementia Information Booklet. This pocket guide provides valuable information, resources and contacts for people living with dementia, those with concerns about dementia, as well as carers and families.

Pick up the booklet from libraries, medical centres, neighbourhood houses or the Manningham Civic Centre. You can also download it from our website, along with more information and resources.

manningham.vic.gov.au/raising-dementia-awareness

Looking for more support or advice? Contact the National Dementia Helpline on 1800 100 500 or visit dementia.org.au

Dementia Action Week

For information on local events and activities in recognition of Dementia Action Week, visit our website,

manningham.vic.gov.au/dementia-action-week

Community Seminar

In recognition of Dementia Action Week, you're invited to a free Dementia Awareness Community Seminar brought to you by the Manningham Uniting Church and Community Centre.

This session will provide valuable insights and resources for people living with dementia, their carers and the broader community.

Tuesday 16 September, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

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



Seniors Morning Tea

Get ready to swing, sip and celebrate at our annual Seniors Morning Tea, held in Seniors Month.

This year, we're bringing the glitz and glamour of the 1920s to life. Enjoy morning tea, live entertainment, dancing and mingling.

Bookings are essential, and open Monday 1 September. Tickets available from 9:00am on our website at the link below.

Friday 3 October, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Manningham Function Centre

manningham.vic.gov.au/seniors-morning-tea

Healthy ageing pop-ups

Chat with our friendly Healthy Ageing team at our regular pop-up sessions. We can assist with information to navigate the My Aged Care system, find a local club or community group, or events for older people. Our next pop-ups will be:

Thursday 24 July, 1:30pm to 3:30pm
Bulleen Library

Monday 4 August, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Jackson Court, Doncaster East

Tuesday 12 August, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Warrandyte Library

Tuesday 9 September, 10:00am to 12:00pm
The Pines Learning and Activity Centre

For further information, contact the Healthy Ageing Team on **9840 9230**.



Shine a light on our community champions!

The countdown is on for our inaugural Manningham Community Awards, which will be held on Tuesday 16 September.

Nominations close at 11:59pm on Sunday 20 July, so get in quick to show your appreciation for individuals and groups who have been doing amazing things in our community over the past 12 months.

There are 8 award categories open for nominations, with one of these category winners also selected by our judging panel as Citizen of the Year.



More information about each of the award categories is available at our website. Tickets to our Award Ceremony will be available for purchase at a subsidised cost for Manningham community members from Monday 28 July.

manningham.vic.gov.au/community-awards

Connecting and thriving

When Kate Gniel became the first-ever female president of the Park Orchards Sharks Junior Football Club in 2022, little did she know the impact it would have on her life and local community.

Overwhelmed by the kindness shown to her family when supporting her son through leukemia, Kate took that attitude to her presidency. Under her leadership, the club prioritised a focus on the mental health of players and families.

It was a direction that resulted in her winning the 2024 Doreen Stoves Volunteer of the Year Award alongside Rotarian and Doncaster Baseball stalwart Luke Bastian.

Initially, she kept the award low-key, not telling friends or family, but once the announcement sank in, Kate reflected.

"It was a powerful reminder of the ripple effect we create when we show up for others," Kate said.

"This award gave me the confidence to fully embrace what I love doing most: connecting people, championing grassroots initiatives, and celebrating the everyday changemakers who make our communities shine," she said.

Kate has since launched *The Glitter Effect*, a podcast dedicated to highlighting the stories of purpose-driven people and the heart of community spirit.

"The podcast aims to highlight that everyone has glitter to spread and to encourage people to think of ways they can spread their own."

We look forward to celebrating local people like Kate at our upcoming Manningham Community Awards.

Find out more

manningham.vic.gov.au/community-awards



ABOVE: Kate Gniel.



ABOVE: Kimon Pappas, President of the Bulleen Tennis Club.

Tennis Victoria Volunteer of the Year

Tennis a smash hit thanks to volunteers.

Congratulations to Kimon Pappas, President of the Bulleen Tennis Club, who has been named Volunteer of the Year at the Tennis Victoria 2025 Victorian Community Tennis Awards.

Under Kimon's leadership, the club has gone from strength to strength, with membership surging by more than 70% in the past 3 years and expected to reach 400 people by the end of 2025.

Kimon has been instrumental in opening the courts up to support more community members to get involved with casual court hire and expanding the social tennis program.

From maintaining the courts, fixing nets and organising working bees through to the more strategic work that comes with running a modern local sporting club, Kimon puts in countless hours each week, together with other committee members.

“Volunteering gives you a lot of satisfaction and sense of accomplishment. It's great to give back to the community. We have a strong team and this award reflects the work of the full committee,” Kimon said.

“Tennis is for everyone, any age and ability. You can be highly experienced or a new starter, we have players ranging from 4 to 86 years old.

“It's a great sport in terms of mindset, physical activity and socialising, I've made lifetime friends through tennis. Anyone is welcome to come and try.”

Doncaster Tennis Club's Advantage Autism Program was a finalist in the Most Outstanding Inclusion Initiative Award category, while Council was also a finalist in the Supporting Tennis – Local Government Recognition Award.

Looking for a hit of tennis? Find your local club

 manningham.vic.gov.au/find-a-sporting-club

Giving cricket a go

Local florist Sophia Kueh continues to challenge herself. At 50, she took up hiking. At 62, it was cricket.

Now entering her third season, Sophia credits a chance meeting with Shannon Gill, President of the Manningham Cricket Club, for her involvement in the sport.

“I was practising at Rieschiecks Reserve and Shannon's friendly and welcoming demeanour highlighted the club's inclusive spirit. He shared a vision to form a women's cricket team with a focus on welcoming players of all ages and cultural backgrounds,” Sophia said.

“To use a cricket pun, I was bowled over at the idea,” she said.

Shannon said; “Around 70% of our club's players were born overseas, so our club has adapted to put inclusivity at the forefront. I think it's a point of difference we have from a lot of sporting clubs, and the next step in that evolution is a women's program where we can welcome those who haven't had a chance to play the game before. We will be running some modified 'come and try' sessions and encourage people, regardless of experience, to attend.”

Based at Rieschiecks Reserve in Doncaster East, the club is getting ready for this year's summer season with Come and Try sessions planned for September.

To help meet increased demand for community sport such as cricket, Council completed a new multi-level modular sports pavilion at Rieschiecks Reserve in 2022. The pavilion provides inclusive, accessible and flexible multi-use recreational spaces and complements upgrades to the car park, lighting, fencing and footpaths to prioritise accessibility around the reserve.

The summer cricket season runs from October 2025 to March 2026. Interested in giving cricket a go? Get in touch by emailing

 playmanninghamcricket@gmail.com



ABOVE: Sophia Kueh.



ABOVE: Choir for HOPE from House of Persia performing in May 2025.

Choir for HOPE hits a high note

Manningham is home to the largest Persian community in Victoria and a new choir is bringing locals together to celebrate culture, connection and harmony through the power of music and song.

The Choir for HOPE has 55 members from Manningham and surrounding areas, ranging from teenagers to seniors, united by their love of singing and cultural expression. The group has been rehearsing for more than a year, and recently held its first formal performance.

This initiative of the House of Persia (HOPE) Community and Cultural Centre has been supported by Manningham Council's Annual Arts Grant.

Choir organiser Nasrin Rasoulzadeh said the aim of the choir was to bring people together through their love for music. The group performs Iranian Farsi songs from the 1960s and 70s.

"What stands out the most is how people of all ages have joined hands, and voices, to create something meaningful," she said.

"This choir is not just about music, it's about community, it's about joy and it's about connection."

Our Community Grants Program supports groups delivering programs and activities that benefit the Manningham community. Various grants are available at different times throughout the year.

Applications for the next round of Small Grants close on 30 September.

manningham.vic.gov.au/community-grants

Help your ideas grow with a small grant

Our Small Grants program is now open to support initiatives that strengthen and uplift our community.

If you're part of a not-for-profit group or organisation, you could be eligible for:

- up to \$3,000 for innovative projects, that bring people together or address local needs
- up to \$1,500 for essential resources like equipment or materials.

Our small grants are available all year, with applications for the current round closing on **Tuesday 30 September**.



Apply now at

manningham.vic.gov.au/small-grants

Have your say on community engagement

We're reviewing our Community Engagement Policy and want to hear from you.

Community engagement is essential to how we make decisions and good governance for Manningham.

We're committed to listening and understanding our community. We want to make sure you have opportunities to input into decisions and have your say on what's important to you locally.

Our Community Engagement Policy guides how we seek your feedback on our strategic plans, infrastructure projects, programs, new initiatives and more.

Have your say

- **Complete our online community survey** by Friday 8 August.
- **Join one of our community focus group sessions** on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 August.



yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/engagement-policy

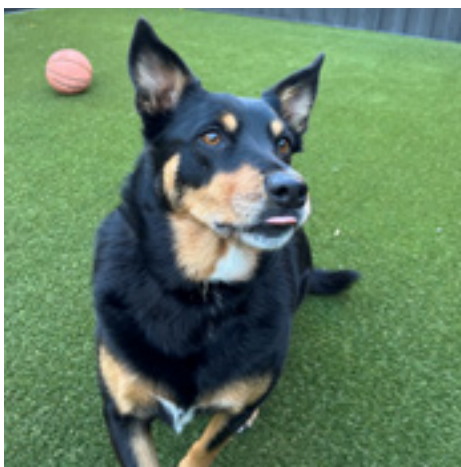
Animal management plan is almost ready for review

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on animal management in Manningham.

Your feedback is helping shape our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029. The draft plan is now being prepared and will be available for your review and feedback in late August.

To stay informed and access the draft plan, visit

yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/DAMP



ABOVE: Laughter, friendship and memories are on the agenda at the Ajani Neighbourhood House International Women's Group.

International Women's Group fun at Ajani

Every Thursday, laughter and chatter fill Ajani Neighbourhood House.

The sound in the hallways is from the International Women's Group, which holds the distinction of being the centre's longest-running community gathering.

Templestowe's Maria and Anna are stalwarts of the group, having attended for 25 years.

"We moved from Thornbury not knowing many Italian people in Manningham. We joined as a way to connect with the community. By meeting people from different cultures, we developed the confidence to learn more English because we were among friends," said Maria and Anna.

Organiser, Carolina Radatti describes the group as a vibrant tapestry of perspective.

"The group is an inclusive space where women from various backgrounds come together to share experiences, build friendships, and support one another," explains Carolina.

"Members are from diverse backgrounds: Italian, Chinese, Greek, Tanzanian and many other heritages, each contributing their unique experiences and voices to the group's dynamic," Carolina said.

Ellen from Templestowe Lower joined after retirement.

"The first time I came, I was so warmly welcomed and accepted. It's a fun bunch. I haven't missed a week," Ellen said.

Ekbal, from Bulleen, shares a similar sentiment.

"I joined out of curiosity and immediately found a warm, fun and welcoming group."

The International Women's Group meets from 10:15am to 12:15pm every Thursday, in line with school terms.

For more information, contact Ajani Neighbourhood House on **9850 3687**.



Get ready to step into spring

Spring is just around the corner and so is our Spring Outdoors Festival!

This festival is an opportunity to connect with nature through a broad program of environmental events.

Celebrate the Birrarung (Yarra) river at the 2025 Birrarung Riverfest, attend a cultural awareness walk with Uncle Bill or learn about local birds from ecologist John Harris.

There are events to suit families, children and individuals of all ages.

These activities promise to get you outdoors – enjoying some fresh air and making the most of the warmer weather!

See the full program at

manningham.vic.gov.au/spring-outdoors

**Find
support**

Find information on wellbeing support services.

manningham.vic.gov.au/find-support



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 22 July, 7:00pm

Tuesday 26 August, 7:00pm

Tuesday 23 September, 7:00pm

Council Chamber
Manningham Civic Centre

manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

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