

Manningham Matters

December 2025

**Find out more about
new planning provisions**

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**Have your say on
our water future**

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Don't miss the
Manningham
Carols by
Candlelight

中文新闻

中文新聞

Notizie nella vostra lingua

Νέα στη γλώσσα σας

اخبار به زبان شما

الأخبار بلغتك



manningham.vic.gov.au



MANNINGHAM

A Manningham Council publication.

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

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

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

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



COVER IMAGE:

Manningham Carols by Candlelight host Lucy Durack, Santa and local performers preparing for the big event at Ruffey Lake Park.



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

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Have a great story?

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

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

Manningham Matters in your language

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Interpreter service **9840 9355**

العربية فارسی Italiano Ελληνικά 廣東話 普通话

Message from our Mayor

As I step into the role of Mayor for the second time, I'm energised by the possibilities ahead and committed to serving every resident across our diverse community.

I'd like to acknowledge Cr Deirdre Diamante, who set such a high standard for leadership as Mayor over the past year. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Cr Diamante as she steps into the role of Deputy Mayor, and my fellow Councillors.

Manningham is fortunate to have an outstanding group of Councillors who work together to deliver the best outcomes for everyone.

Having served on Council in the 2012/2016 term, and as Mayor in 2013/14, I know it is a great privilege to represent Ruffey Ward and Manningham more broadly. I've called Manningham home for more than 25 years, and I'm proud to live here with my partner, Raylee and our three children; Thea, Eva and Nathan.

I am passionate about making our city stronger, more inclusive and ensuring our future generations are better prepared for the future. I believe we can achieve this by strengthening community engagement, enhancing sustainability initiatives and supporting local businesses and innovation – and these will be my key focus areas over the next year.

Our recently adopted Council Plan 2025-2029 sets out a vision shaped by extensive community engagement and the work of our dedicated Manningham Community Panel. This collaborative approach reflects our belief that the best outcomes emerge when we work together – Council, residents, businesses and community organisations; united in our purpose.

As we continue implementing our strategic priorities around community safety, economic vitality and transparent governance, I want to thank every resident who has contributed their voice to shaping Manningham's future. Your engagement makes our democracy robust and ensures our decisions reflect your needs and aspirations.

Together, we're continuing to build a legacy in Manningham that we can all be proud of. One which honours our past while embracing the opportunities of tomorrow.



Warm regards,



Cr Jim Grivas
Mayor



Contacting us this festive season

Our customer service team will be available during the holiday period from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm (excluding public holidays).

Please note, we will be closed:

- Wednesday 24 December (from 12:30pm)
- Thursday 25 December
- Friday 26 December
- Thursday 1 January

Essential services will continue during this time to ensure the safety and cleanliness of our community is maintained.

For full details of our opening hours and service availability this holiday season visit

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/contact-us

☎ 9840 9333



2026 Community Calendar

Get ready for the year ahead with our 2026 Community Calendar. Each month features a stunning image from our annual photo competition, which showcases the beauty and spirit of Manningham.

You can collect your copy of the calendar from Manningham Civic Centre in Doncaster or your local Manningham library.

If you're not able to visit a collection point this year, complete the online form so we can post a copy to you.

📍 manningham.vic.gov.au/community-calendar



Manningham

Carols

by Candlelight



Friday 12 December
6:00pm to 10:00pm

Ruffey Lake Park, Doncaster East

Enjoy a festive, family-friendly evening hosted by Lucy Durack and Richard Thomas. This year's event will feature local and national performers, delicious food trucks, a special visit from Santa, and a spectacular fireworks finale.

A special thank you to our sponsors Opal Healthcare, Mercedes Benz Silver Star, Barry Plant and Hologram Zoo.



This is a free, but ticketed event. Registering ensures you receive important event information, including any updates due to severe weather.

To register and for information on parking, scan the QR code or visit

 manningham.vic.gov.au/carols

From reserves to rubbish: What changes on fire danger days?

During bushfire season, we may pause services and restrict access to parks and reserves on days of extreme or catastrophic fire danger to keep our community safe.

Why we take these steps

While bushfire preparation begins long before an extreme or catastrophic fire danger day, we act on these days to:

- minimise community exposure to potential danger
- protect staff and prevent fire ignition from work activities
- limit traffic and visitor access in bushfire prone areas to help emergency services respond swiftly and safely.

Where do I find the fire danger rating?

Head to cfa.vic.gov.au to find our 4-day forecast. Manningham is in the Central Fire Weather District.

You'll also see roadside signs along Heidelberg-Warrandyte Road and Ringwood-Warrandyte Road.

How can you prepare?

As bushfire experts, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) recommends creating a plan. For templates and helpful advice, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

MODERATE

Plan and prepare

HIGH

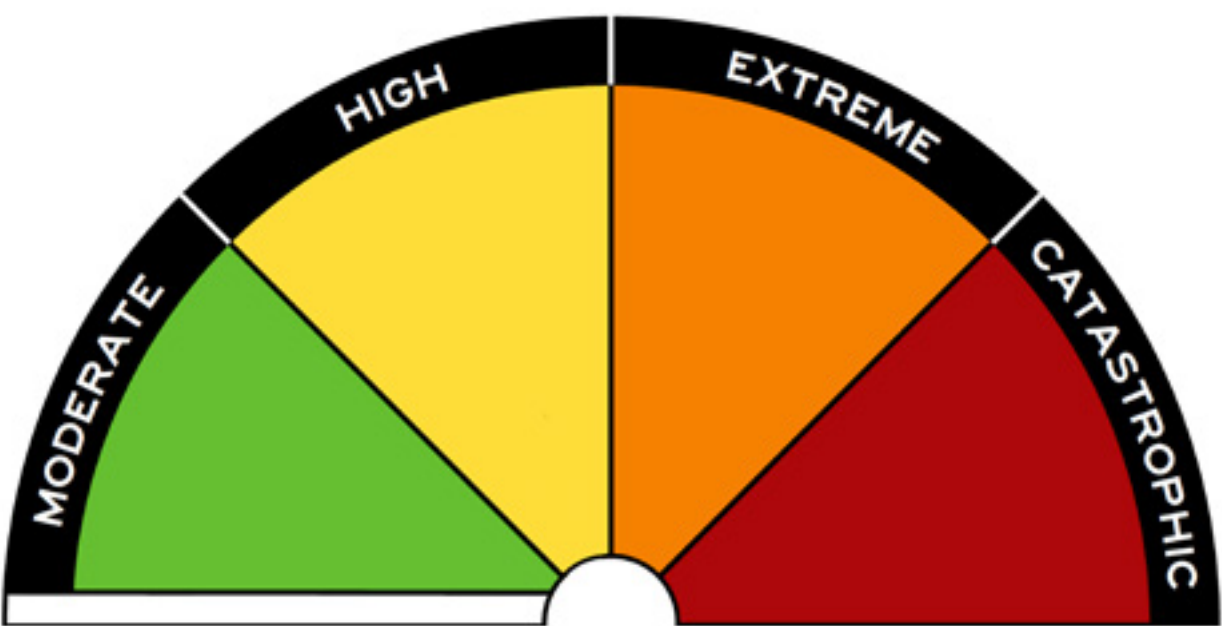
Be ready to act

EXTREME

Take action now to protect life and property

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas



Closures and service changes



Parks and reserves

On extreme and catastrophic fire danger days, these parks are closed:

- Pound Bend Reserve (local road closures apply to discourage nearby parking)
- Jumping Creek Reserve
- Currawong Bush Park (no car access)
- Norman Reserve.

Parks maintenance is also rescheduled to a safer day.



Services

On extreme and catastrophic fire danger days (only in bushfire prone areas):

- Maternal and Child Health home visits are rescheduled
- the Wonga Park Maternal and Child Health pop-up centre is closed (appointments rescheduled)
- immunisation sessions in Warrandyte and Wonga Park are cancelled.

On catastrophic fire danger days (only in bushfire prone areas):

- curbside waste collections are rescheduled.



Schools and early childhood services

The Victorian Department of Education determines how schools, kindergartens and early childhood services respond to fire danger ratings.

Contact them directly about their emergency plan.



Businesses, clubs and facilities

Local businesses, clubs and facilities may also close. Please check with them directly.

Council meeting roundup

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

Here is a summary of recent discussions and decisions

September Council meeting

- Council endorsed Manningham's submission to the North East Link Urban Design Landscape Plan for the Eastern Package of works (Eastern Freeway, between Tram and Springvale roads).
- Council formalised the permanent 24-hour Cat Confinement Order across Manningham.
- Council endorsed the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026-2029 for community consultation.
- Council endorsed the draft Public Art and Collections Policy 2025-30.
- Two petitions were tabled – one opposing the relocation of Gum Nut Gully Preschool to Corsican Reserve, and another requesting the return of Friday night seniors' games at Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club.

October Council meeting

- Council acknowledged Mr Patrick Templeton of Doncaster, winner of the Victorian Senior of the Year 2025 for his work co-founding Operation Stitches. Dilnaz Billimoria received the Promotion of Multiculturalism Award for her 20-year dedication to supporting older Victorians from diverse backgrounds.
- Council passed 2 formal motions of condolence, acknowledging the passing of Mr Egon Cyganek, founder of Egons Cake Shop, and Dr Jim Poulter, local historian and educator.
- Council endorsed the Manningham Recreational Bike Facilities Plan.
- Council endorsed the draft Integrated Water Management Strategy for community consultation.
- Council endorsed the Annual Report 2024-2025, which you can find on our website.
- Council endorsed our 5 strategic advocacy priorities, which include glass recycling reform, better bus services, investment in Aquarena, transparency in delivering the North East Link, and better services for children and young people.
- Council endorsed the Council Meeting Schedule for 2026.
- Council acknowledged Vincent Ciardulli, outgoing Unit Controller of the Manningham VICSES unit.

The next Council meetings are scheduled for 9 December 2025, 24 February 2026 and 24 March 2026.

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

 manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Works underway at MC Square

Starting in January, we'll be upgrading some areas at MC Square in Doncaster.

On Level 1, we're transforming My Hub into a modern and fit for purpose space to support Manningham's young people through Manningham Youth Services. My Hub services will continue in a temporary location on Level 2 while the works are underway.

On Level 2, we're converting some meeting rooms into UpSpace, a brand-new coworking space for local home-based and small businesses. UpSpace will be a place where professionals can work close to home – connecting, sharing expertise and growing together.

Find out more

 yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/mc-square-works

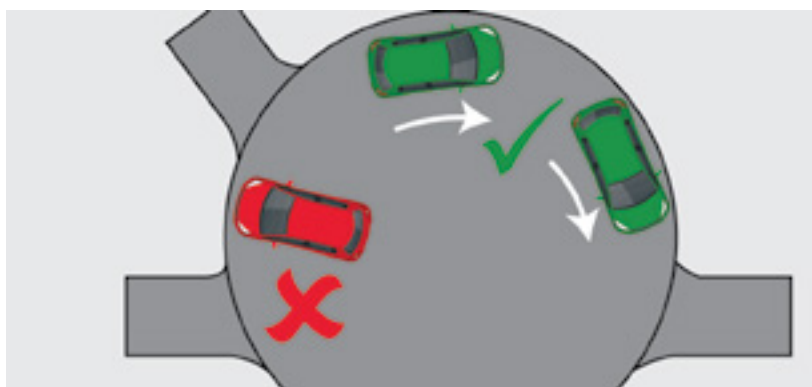


Parking in Manningham

Do you know these parking rules?

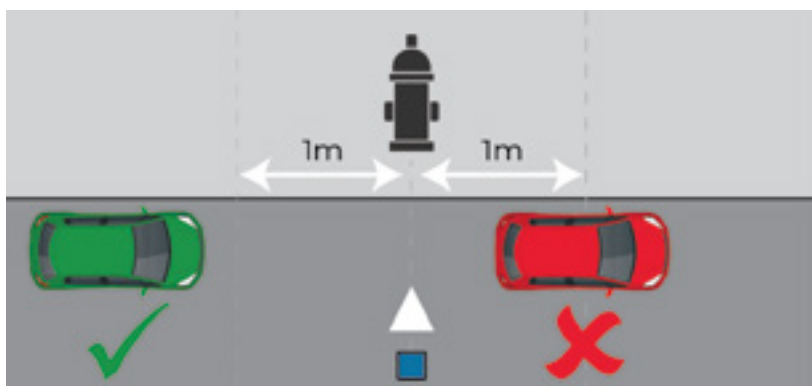
Parking according to road rules helps keep our roads safe, efficient and accessible. When everyone follows the rules, traffic flows more smoothly and all road users, including emergency services, can move around correctly parked vehicles without disruption.

Court bowl parking



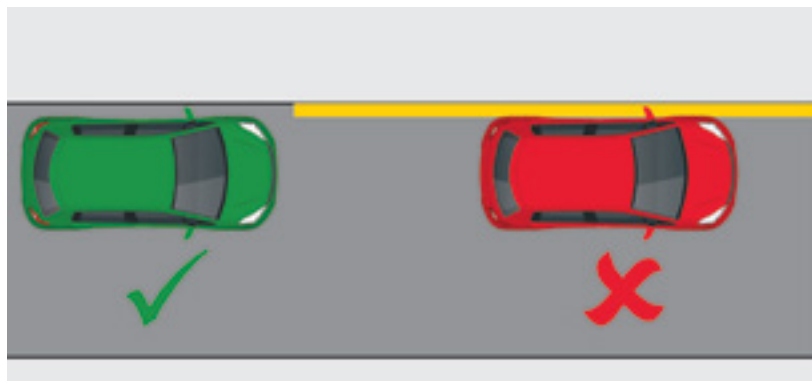
In a court bowl (or cul-de-sac), position your vehicle parallel and as close as practical to the kerb on the left side of the road. Do not park at an angle, with the front of your car facing the kerb.

Parking near a fire hydrant



Unless there is a sign saying you can, you cannot park, stop or leave your vehicle within one metre of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant indicator or fire plug indicator. A fire hydrant may not be immediately obvious.

Yellow edge lines



Drivers must not stop at the side of a road if it is marked with a continuous yellow edge line.

New protections for canopy trees

A planning permit is now required to remove, destroy or lop a canopy tree in the General Residential Zone, Residential Growth Zone, Neighbourhood Residential Zone, and Mixed Use Zone. This is in addition to any existing overlays requiring permits for the removal, destruction or lopping of trees.

The definition of a canopy tree is:

- a height of more than 5 metres above ground level
- a trunk circumference of more than 0.5 metres (measured 1.4 metres above ground level)
- a canopy diameter of at least 4 metres.

Applications must be lodged online via the VicSmart assessment stream at

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/vicsmart-planning

Please contact us on 9840 9333 for guidance on planning requirements and to ensure compliance with the new rules.

To learn more visit

🔗 planning.vic.gov.au

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/canopy-trees-residential

New planning provisions in Manningham

The Victorian State Government has introduced new planning provisions that will affect residents of Manningham.

Fast-tracked applications for 2 dwellings on a lot

You can now apply for a planning permit to build 2 dwellings on a lot, if all prescribed VicSmart standards are met. This applies to land located in the General Residential Zones GRZ1 and GRZ3 with no overlays.

This means:

- **Eligibility:** your application must fully comply with the prescribed VicSmart standards to be assessed through the VicSmart process.
- **Faster turnarounds:** Council must assess these applications within 10 business days.
- **Simplified process:** applications are not advertised and cannot be appealed by neighbours.

For more information visit

🔗 planning.vic.gov.au/news/articles/faster-approvals-for-two-homes-on-a-lot-and-subdivisions

What's on

COMMUNITY

Saturday 6 and 20 December
8:00am to 1:00pm

Warrandyte Riverside Market

With 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

\$ Free

🌐 warrandyteriversidemarket.com.au

Tuesday 9 December
7:15am to 8:45am

Manningham Business Network breakfast

Join us for some business-to-business fun and 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

Wednesday 10 December 2025,
Wednesday 11 February 2026
10:00am to 12:00pm

Templestowe Central Probus Club

Connect with other like-minded retirees. Enjoy fun, friendship and social events when you participate in the many club organised meetings, activities, outings and trips. All visitors welcome.

📍 Manningham Templestowe Leisure Centre, corner Foote and Anderson streets, Templestowe

\$ Free

🌐 templestowecentralprobus.com



Friday 12 December
6:00pm to 10:00pm

Manningham Carols by Candlelight

Kick-start your festive season with an evening of family-friendly entertainment at Manningham's biggest annual event. Features live performances, food trucks and fireworks.

📍 Ruffey Lake Park, George Street, Doncaster East

\$ Free - registration required

🌐 manningham.vic.gov.au/carols



Saturday 13 December
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

Saturday 13 December
10:00am to 3:00pm

Heide Makers' Market

Heide Makers' Market showcases the work of up to 120 different makers each month, from artwork to tasty treats.

📍 7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen

\$ Free

🌐 heidemarket.com

Tuesday 27 January 2026
10:00am to 12:00pm

Combined Probus Club of Manningham

Discover the social possibilities at this small but friendly club. Monthly meetings January to November on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Guest speakers, activities, outings and dining out.

📍 Pathway Baptist Church, corner Marcus and Thompsons roads, Lower Templestowe

\$ Free

🌐 manninghamprobus.org.au

Saturday 7 February 2026
10:00am to 11:00pm

Manningham Chinese New Year Festival

A fantastic lineup of cultural performances, delicious street food and family-friendly activities, finishing with a spectacular fireworks display.

Proudly presented by the ABAW.

📍 Jackson Court Shopping Centre, Doncaster East

\$ Free



ENVIRONMENT

Sunday 7 December

8:00am to 4:00pm

Garden Waste Disposal Days

Prepare for the season by removing garden waste. If you live in a bushfire prone area, you're eligible to drop one car boot, station wagon, ute or a 6'x4' level trailer load of garden waste for free. Bookings are essential.

🏠 Mullum Mullum Reserve, corner Springvale and Reynolds roads, Donvale

\$ Free

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



ARTS AND CULTURE

Until Monday 23 February 2026

And I Would Say These Things To No One But You by Maria Kontis

Working in pastel on paper, Maria Kontis crafts finely detailed drawings of found photographs, crumpled papers, and correspondence. Though they appear as faithful reproductions, on closer inspection, subtle changes and omissions emerge. For this exhibition, she presents a new suite that gently reinterprets Albert Tucker's photographic glimpses into daily life.

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

\$ Free for Manningham residents (proof of address required) and children under 16. Adults \$27

🔗 heide.com.au/exhibitions/maria-kontis-and-i-would-say-these-things-to-no-one-but-you/



Until Saturday 20 December 2025

Textile Temporalities by Shannon Slee

This exhibition explores the emotional and historical resonance of textile craft, featuring Shannon's recent works and a collaborative piece created with older residents of Manningham. Visitors are invited to participate in a hands-on textile activity during their visit.

🏠 Manningham Art Gallery, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

\$ Free

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/textile-temp



Every Sunday (excluding public holiday weekends)

Schramms Cottage Museum Complex

Discover local heritage at Schramms Cottage and Museum, Waldau Cemetery, Atkins Cottage and other historic sites. Explore vintage orcharding machinery, the Electric Tram, Bill's Horse Trough and more, all set among peaceful gardens.

🏠 Schramms Cottage Museum Complex, Muriel Green Drive, Doncaster East

\$ Adults \$5 Children \$1

🔗 dt-hs.blogspot.com

A summer of fun starts here

Ready for a month full of exciting low-cost events and family-friendly activities to jumpstart 2026?

Make a splash!

Help your child build water confidence and learn essential swimming skills with our low-cost beginner swim program for ages 3 and up. Half an hour lessons run daily from Monday 12 to Friday 16 January 2026.

🏠 Aquarena Aquatic and Leisure Centre, 139-153 Williamsons Road, Templestowe Lower

✓ Bookings essential

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/holiday-swim-program

Summer calendar of fun

January 2026 will be packed with excitement and energy. Enjoy pool parties with special guest appearances, outdoor wellness sessions and community celebrations. Our street team will also be on the move, with different events across Manningham!

Find out more at

🔗 activemanningham.com.au/summer-calendar-of-fun-2026/

Pride Night at Aquarena

Join us on Sunday 1 February 2026, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm for the Pride Swim and Gym Night – a free, inclusive celebration for LGBTQIA+ communities and allies.

Take part in fitness sessions including aquacise, aerobics, cycle and Zumba. Groove to the beats with our DJ, enjoy BBQ delights and relax in the family picnic area. It's about providing a safe and welcoming recreation space for the community.

Registrations essential at

🔗 activemanningham.com.au/events/pride-night-returns-to-aquarena/

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.

Every Monday to Friday until 8:00pm through to June 2026 (excluding public holidays)
Libraries After Dark. Discover something new!

Our Libraries After Dark program is offered at Box Hill and Doncaster Libraries. The program will feature a range of inclusive activities each week, such as board games, film screenings, interactive workshops and guest speakers.

The initiative is designed to encourage social connection, personal growth and provide a sense of belonging.

Libraries After Dark is delivered by Public Libraries Victoria with the support of the Victorian Government.

📍 Doncaster Library, 687 Doncaster Road, Doncaster

✓ Bookings essential

🔗 wml.vic.gov.au/Services/Events-and-Programs/Libraries-After-Dark

Monday 1 December to Saturday 31 January
Big Summer Read

Open to those aged 0-18, the Big Summer Read, created by Public Libraries Victoria, encourages children and young people to keep reading over summer.

JOIN the challenge by visiting our website wml.vic.gov.au

BORROW lots of books and track every day you read and/or every book you finish.

READ at least 5 days and/or log 5 book titles for your chance to win!

All reading counts – picture books, graphic novels, audiobooks, or books read aloud by someone else. You can even log the same favourite book more than once!

Neighbourhood Houses will be closed over the Christmas and New Year period. Check with your local centre for exact dates and information on 2026 classes.



ABOVE: Guest speaker, Jelena Dokic.

Save the date! International Women's Day breakfast

Monday 2 March 2026, 7:00am to 9:30am
Manningham Function Centre

With this year's theme, *Balance the Scales*, we welcome former tennis star Jelena Dokic as our guest speaker. Jelena will share her inspiring story of adversity, courage and resilience. She will then join our panel discussion alongside Inspector Carlie Kohler of Victoria Police and Kylie Scoullar, Chief Executive Officer of Doncare.

Tickets are \$60, or \$45 for concession, inclusive of a plated breakfast.

Tickets go on sale Friday 30 January 2026.

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/iwd

Fund your bright idea for community with a small grant

Got a project that could benefit the community?
Our small grants program is now open.

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

- up to \$3,000 for creative initiatives that connect people or meet local need
- up to \$1,500 for essential items like equipment or materials.

Applications are open year-round and reviewed 3 times per year.

Submissions for the next review period close on Thursday 29 January 2026.

Apply now at

🔗 manningham.vic.gov.au/small-grants



ABOVE: A small grant supported the delivery of the Bulleen Boomers Walking Basketball program.

Choir more than just for LAARFS

A passionate volunteer who helps people with chronic conditions find their voice has been named Citizen of the Year at this year's inaugural Manningham Community Awards.

Templestowe resident Leon Moore, who established and leads the Laughing All Abilities Really Friendly Singers (LAARFS) choir, was also the winner of the Doreen Stoves Excellence in Volunteering Award at the ceremony in September.

"We started out as a stroke survivors' group, and then we found that a lot of people who needed to come along hadn't had strokes, or didn't have aphasia, but they really needed to sing," Leon said.

Since 2013, the choir has grown from 5 to almost 100 members, including people living with Parkinson's disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis and cancer, but also those seeking connection and community.

Supported by Rotary Manningham City, the group meets weekly at the Templestowe Baptist Church. The sessions are all about fun and include music, songs, afternoon tea and dancing.

"When people are watching your mouth (while singing), if they've got aphasia, they can actually pick up the words. We've had people, for instance, who haven't spoken for 11 years suddenly speaking now," said Leon.

"It's not a great miracle; this is how your brain works. If you give people the opportunity to trigger the words, all sorts of wonderful things happen."

Leon described volunteering as the glue of the Manningham community. "People in this community volunteer. And guess what – it feels great!"

To find out more, visit

 facebook.com/laarfsingers



ABOVE: Citizen of the Year, Leon Moore.



ABOVE: Community Excellence award winners the Warrandyte Pink Ladies were dressed to impress.

Honouring our community champions

There are many remarkable groups and individuals who are making a lasting impact across our community.

Here's a look at all the Manningham Community Awards winners in each category:

Citizen of the Year

Leon Moore

Doreen Stoves Excellence in Volunteering

Leon Moore

Active Community

Bulleen Tennis Club

Ageing Well

Chinese Senior Citizens Club of Manningham Inc.

Artistic Achievement

Warrandyte Arts Association

Community Excellence

Warrandyte Pink Ladies

Community Health and Wellbeing

Men's Shed at Veneto Club

Inclusive Community

Kevin Heinze Grow

Young Achiever

Niosha Khademidjoui

Nominations for the 2026 awards open in March.

 manningham.vic.gov.au/manningham-community-awards



ABOVE: Artist Shannon Slee creates connections through textile art. Image by Astrid Mulder.

Unpicking Memories

Artist Shannon Slee's latest exhibition, *Textile Temporalities*, flips the traditional gallery experience on its head: instead of admiring art on the walls, Manningham residents have helped create it.

Central to the exhibition, now on at the Manningham Art Gallery, were the 2 workshops where older residents brought in pieces of their own clothing and unpicked them together.

"The idea was to unpick it and think about the memories of that item of clothing, and recall something about their personal life," Shannon explained.

"In the act of doing it with some friends, it becomes a shared space through materiality."

Shannon and the participants then pieced these fragments together into a new work, and the collaborative artwork now hangs alongside Shannon's own pieces in the exhibition.

There's also a hands-on element for all gallery visitors. A table is set up where anyone can record their own connection to textiles by drawing or writing on linen ribbons or pieces of card. They can then add their contribution onto a wall installation.

"Usually, visitors to a gallery sit back and look at the walls, at what an artist has done, but this is an opportunity for viewers to be really involved, and it's their work that ends up on display," Shannon said.

Shannon hopes the exhibition prompts reflection on "the importance of textiles, that they hold something very valuable, because they sit on our body and move with us in our day-to-day lives." The word temporalities means time, she explained, "but also that fabric can remind us of another time we lived in, and how we bring these different times together".

Textile Temporalities runs at Manningham Art Gallery until Saturday 20 December. Entry is free. The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The collaborative artwork created with older residents will be on display in the gallery from early December.

manningham.vic.gov.au/textile-temp

Schramms Cottage celebrates new chapter in history

Explore Manningham's rich history at the new Schramms Cottage Museum and Visitor Centre in Doncaster East.

The \$3.5 million facility and precinct upgrade was officially opened in October, and will help the Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society (DTHS) preserve local history for generations to come.

The new building complements the historic Schramms Cottage museum complex and provides extra exhibition and storage space for the society to display and preserve their collection. The new meeting room will be available for the general community to hire from late 2026.

Schramms Cottage was first built in 1874 on Doncaster Hill, near what is now the Manningham Civic Centre, for German immigrant Max von Schramm for use as a house and school.

In 1971, it was moved to its current location in Rieschiecks Reserve and now provides a picture of what life was like in the pioneering days of the late 1800s.

Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society President, Geoffrey Broome, said: "Going back to the mid-1800s, this area was full of orchards and one of the main fruit-growing districts of Victoria.

"We have a wide range of items on display from the early settlers including wedding gowns, household goods, toys and furniture."

The museum and visitor centre are open Sundays (except public holidays), from 2:00pm to 5:00pm and are available mid-week for school excursions.

manningham.vic.gov.au/schramms-cottage



ABOVE: DTHS volunteers and community members gather at the official opening of the \$3.5 million Schramms Cottage upgrade.

52 marathons in 52 weeks

Ben Duffy, a 20-year-old Park Orchards local, is raising \$26,000 for the Pat Cronin Foundation to end the coward punch.

In 2016 Pat was punched in the back of the head. Two days later, his parents made the unimaginable decision to turn off his life support.

His story inspired Ben, who is running a marathon once a week, every week, in 2025.

“I thought I’d set out to do something extremely difficult to try and gain some traction and get people to donate to such an incredible foundation,” Ben said.

With just 4 marathons to go, Ben says any donation is appreciated and will support the Pat Cronin Foundation to continue their work.

The foundation works with schools, clubs, community groups and young people to end the coward punch. More than a quarter of a million young people have seen a *Be Wise* presentation so far.

“I think it’s unreal work and something that takes a very special team. I’ve always loved my running but never taken it overly seriously, so I thought why not have a go at something crazy? I’m proud of myself. My confidence has fluctuated all year as to whether this is possible, but week by week I continue to prove to myself that I can do it,” Ben said.

Want to support Ben and donate to the Pat Cronin Foundation?
Donate online

 gofundme.com/f/52-marathons-in-52-weeks-for-the-pat-cronin-foundation



ABOVE: Ben Duffy with his parents after completing the Melbourne Marathon.

Two Manningham seniors shine

Two dedicated Manningham seniors have been recognised at the 2025 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, held at Government House in October.

Doncaster's Patrick Templeton won the Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year. Patrick and his wife Chris founded Operation Stitches in 1996, transforming the lives of children and families in public housing through mentoring, family events and school partnerships. Since turning 60, he has volunteered for an impressive 30,000 hours, empowering young people to believe in their potential.

Dilnaz Billimoria received the Promotion of Multiculturalism Award for her 20-year dedication to supporting older Victorians from diverse backgrounds. As a founding member of the Whitehorse Interfaith Network and board member of several community organisations, she works tirelessly to break down barriers and ensure culturally diverse seniors feel heard and welcomed.

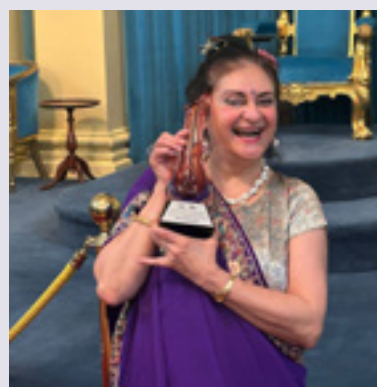
“It is important to give a voice to the diverse communities and bring them into mainstream access to services,” Dilnaz said.

Congratulations to both these inspiring community leaders.



“I was so glad that recognising me was acknowledging the work of Operation Stitches over the last 30 years in Melbourne's inner city public housing community, where we promote good life choices to the children and youth.”

Patrick Templeton



“I am both humbled and honoured to be the recipient of this prestigious award.”

Dilnaz Billimoria



ABOVE: The Yarra River at Finns Reserve is one of many local waterways included in our water strategy consultation.

Have your say on our water future

We have developed an Integrated Water Management Strategy to guide how we can all contribute to maintaining our liveability, improve waterway health and support community wellbeing, now and into the future.

This strategy will look at how we'll manage all water sources over the next 10 years in order to address emerging challenges such as population growth, climate change, flood and drought risk.

To share your feedback on the **draft Integrated Water Management Strategy**, scan the QR code to visit the project page where you can complete our online survey before **5:00pm, Monday 15 December 2025**.

Your feedback will help shape a strategy that meets our community's needs and help us build a better water future for everyone.



Learn more and have your say at

 yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/integrated-water-management-strategy



ABOVE: Artist's impression of the upgraded Jumping Creek Road with wider lanes and better pedestrian access.

Jumping Creek Road's next stage begins

Construction has officially started between Homestead Road and Dudley Road, marking a major milestone in improving safety, connectivity and access for our community. Crews are preparing the site for significant infrastructure improvements including road reconstruction and widening, pedestrian upgrades and landscaping enhancements.

This project is part of our long-term commitment to delivering safer and more efficient transport routes across Manningham.

Stay up to date at

 yoursay.manningham.vic.gov.au/jumping-creek-road-upgrade



ABOVE: Students from Donburn Primary School exploring hands-on ways to make their school more sustainable.

Sustainability shines in schools

From worm farms to bushfoods, Manningham primary school students are proving that small actions can grow big change.

As part of our Sustainability and Environmental Education Day (SEED) program, 617 local primary school students learned about composting, biodiversity, First Nations culture, and waste.

With support from Chooktopia and the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, the program demonstrated that sustainability begins at home – and at school.

Highlights included installing worm farms and compost bins to tackle food waste, planting 400 indigenous plants to support local ecosystems, and learning about bushfoods and cultural artefacts to deepen understanding of First Nations' connection to Country.

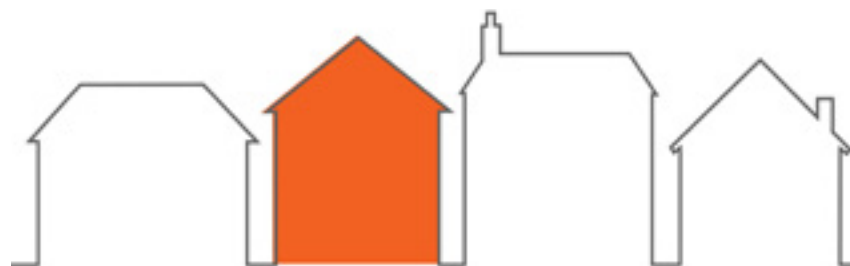
Using interactive waste education, students also explored the circular economy and the impact of litter.

Donburn Primary School teacher, Lynette said: "The SEED incursion was a terrific opportunity for students to be curious about their connection with the earth, talk about recycling and learn how things can be remade".

In 2026, SEED will introduce a wider range of activities to build stronger connections between schools, students and sustainability. To participate, schools must be active in the ResourceSmart Schools program.

To learn how your primary school can get involved, contact

 waste@manningham.vic.gov.au



1 in 4 Manningham homes now powered by rooftop solar

As we edge closer to our zero emissions target, we've hit a powerful milestone: 11,660 Manningham households now have rooftop solar.

That's more than 25% of homes powered by clean, renewable energy.

Last year saw major growth in our suburbs. Templestowe Lower and Park Orchards led the charge, with solar installations jumping by 58% and 60% respectively compared to 2023. Doncaster and Doncaster East also saw strong growth, with installations collectively up 19% year-on-year.

Warrandyte, Wonga Park and Park Orchards have seen the highest uptake across Manningham – with one in 3 homes now solar-powered.

More residents are switching to solar energy to enjoy lower energy bills, greater energy self-sufficiency, health and safety benefits and a smaller carbon footprint.

Many are also adding battery storage to achieve more energy independence and save on bills.

Interested in joining your neighbours? Find upcoming events, helpful resources and access support from Solar Savers

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



ABOVE: Paul Dimmock outside his Warrandyte home, one of almost 12,000 in Manningham now powered by rooftop solar.

Christmas waste collection

Waste collection will continue as usual over the Christmas and New Year period.

When placing your bins out for collection, please make sure all waste fits inside your bin with the lid closed, as overflowing bins won't be collected.

We understand you may have more waste during the festive season, so be sure to check our website for information on local transfer stations and recycling centres.

Put your leftovers to good use

Remember to place any food scraps in your FOGO bin and keep waste out of landfill this holiday season.

Find out what goes in each bin at

manningham.vic.gov.au/recycling-guide



Find support

Find information on wellbeing support services.

manningham.vic.gov.au/find-support



Council Meetings

Tuesday 9 December, 7:00pm

Tuesday 24 February, 7:00pm

Tuesday 24 March, 7:00pm

 Council Chamber
Manningham Civic Centre

manningham.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

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manningham.vic.gov.au

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

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 9848 3110

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