

State Funding Needed to Help Moorabool Thrive



The State election is just a few weeks away, and we're busy advocating to our local politicians and candidates for improved infrastructure and services for Moorabool.

Our top 4 priority projects and the state funding required are:

- The Bacchus Marsh Community and Bowls Hub (\$3.5 million)
- The sewerage of Bungaree and Wallace (\$6 million)
- Duplication of Griffith St, Bacchus Marsh, between Grant St and Cassina Boulevard (\$3 million)
- A new oval at Bungaree Recreation Reserve oval (\$500,000)

These priority projects are shovel-ready and have been identified following close consultation with Councillors and our community.

We recently received funding for two other priority projects:

- More than \$3.22 million in State Government funding through it's Growing Suburbs Fund for The Bacchus Marsh Racecourse Recreation Reserve community pavilion, which will include a large community space, community meeting rooms, a kitchen, store room and a family respite room. The pavilion will service many community groups, and people of all ages and abilities.
- Activity nodes along the Aqualink Linear Park, that will provide for play, socialisation, recreation, habitat and rest. The funding for \$671,470 also came from the State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

Community advocacy is always important, and we encourage our residents to get behind our priority projects, by contacting our local MPs and candidates. Details on how to do this are on our website: moorabool.vic.gov.au/advocacy

October rain event

Along with much of the state, Moorabool Shire was hit with heavy rainfall last month. Flash flooding occurred in townships right across the Shire and multiple roads were closed. In order to assist residents to prepare for the deluge, Council opened free sand bagging stations at the Ballan Council office and Bacchus Marsh Council depot. We thank the entire Moorabool community for their resilience and togetherness during the floods, especially as much of our community are still recovering from the lasting impacts of the June 2021 major storm event.

The recent weather and rain events have significantly impacted on Council's roads throughout the Shire. Council is preparing an action plan to invest more money and resources into fixing our road network where it has deteriorated at a rapid rate due to the weather. Where the roads have been directly impacted by floods, Federal Government funding will be used to fix the roads, but more funding from Council's operating budget is being considered for ongoing road maintenance. We will keep residents up to date on the progress of this through our website and social media channels.

Storm Recovery

Power back-up for community buildings

Last year Council's Emergency team installed satellite NBN in eight community buildings across the Shire with funding from the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disaster (STAND) Project.

These community buildings (Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, Gordon Public Hall, Navigators Community Centre, Elaine Mechanics Hall, Korweinguboor Rec Reserve, Mt Wallace Hall, Mt Egerton Mechanics Hall, and Coimadai CFA Station) can be used as emergency hubs. Some are designated emergency relief centres when disasters like storms strike, and the satellite NBN provides means to connect with emergency agencies via internet when mobile reception is down.

The NBN connection is still dependant on a power supply to work, and as we all know, power failure is common during an emergency like a major storm.

We are pleased to announce that Council has been successful in securing further funding for the STAND project and will be providing trickle feed battery back-up units in the eight community buildings. The units do not need to be installed by electricians and will be managed by the facility's committees. The battery units will extend the NBN's running time in the event of a power outage due to an emergency.

Storm Recovery Habitat Kits a success

Last month Moorabool's Storm Recovery Team, in partnership with DELWP and Landcare Victoria, offered free Storm Recovery Habitat Kits to residents impacted by the June 2021 major storm.

The kits included tree saplings, native plants, bee hotels and nest boxes, to assist our local flora and fauna to recover from the storm's lasting devastation. Many animals who rely on tree hollows lost their homes during the storm. Native species impacted in Moorabool include brush-tailed phascogales, greater gliders, powerful owls, barking owls and feather-tailed gliders. Installing nest boxes gives these species and others like them somewhere safe to live while new trees grow.

More than fifty residents attended a workshop at Spargo Creek Mineral Springs in July to collect their kits and hear from Landcare experts.

Juliet and Miles from Bullarto South, located on the border of Moorabool Shire, took part in the Habitat Kit program because their 20-acre property was hit hard by the storm. Juliet volunteers for a local wildlife shelter, and both she and Miles are passionate about caring for any critter who calls their property home.

The first thing they did with their kit was plant some of the native grasses as ground cover near the entrance of their property.

"We've planted mostly Poa Labillardieri (Silver Tussock) because we're trying to get a Poa mat going on the ground," Juliet said.

"We've also put in tea trees because this area had lots of the mid-size cover, so all of the Pardalotes and the smaller birds had lots of habitat here and it all just got squashed with the fallen trees.

"You couldn't even move in here as we had about 10 trees come down right across the drive. It all just got flattened, everything got flattened."

Juliet and Miles are planning to put up three nest boxes that they received through the Habitat Kit program.

"We already have quite a few birds and things that nest here. But because we lost some massive trees as well as a lot of smaller ones, we lost some hollows," Juliet said.

"We've got rosellas nesting in one tree, so we're going to put the boxes up around there."



Juliet and Miles from Bullarto South



COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

- 📍 Principal Office: 15 Stead Street, Ballan
- 📍 Bacchus Marsh Service Centre: 182 Halletts Way, Darley
- 📍 Lerderberg Library: 215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh
- 📮 Postal Address: PO Box 18, Ballan VIC 3342
- 📞 (03) 5366 7100
- ✉ info@moorabool.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 www.moorabool.vic.gov.au

Keep in touch with us through our digital channels!



As well as our Website, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, you can subscribe to our e-newsletter at this link <http://eepurl.com/gZL9fz> or use the QR code below, to have all the latest Council news delivered straight to your inbox.



Moorabuild: Despite the rain, the build continues

It’s been a long, wet winter but that hasn’t stopped progress on some of the major projects going on across our Shire. Some of our large projects are really taking shape and some are very close to completion:

Bacchus Marsh Indoor stadium



Get excited if you’re planning to take up basketball next year: the Bacchus Marsh Indoor stadium, part of the Moorabool Aquatic and Recreation (MARC) project in Taverner St, is tracking along nicely.

The steel portal frame for the stadium is complete and car park and drainage works are well underway. The completion date for the stadium is mid-2023, and will have 4 multi-use courts, spectator seating, a function room and player and public amenities. The project cost is \$16.6 million, funded by Council and the State Government.

To complement the stadium, rehabilitation work will be done on Taverner St, with on-street parking and shared paths. This work is funded through Council’s 2022/23 Capital Improvement Program.

Darley Park Pavilion



We’re getting close to completion of the new Darley Park Community and Sports Centre!

Work is continuing on the steel structure and internal walls and flooring. The pavilion is due for completion at the end of February 2023.

The pavilion has been funded by Council (\$1.1 million), the State Government’s Growing Suburbs Fund (\$2.5 million) and Darley Football & Netball Club (\$481,000).

Ballan Recreation Reserve Pavilion



Despite the weather, we’re making good progress on the new pavilion at Ballan Recreation Reserve. The steel structure of the change rooms has been constructed with the wall framing and the social pavilion slab nearing completion. The \$4-million pavilion project is scheduled for completion in late February 2023, with a handover late March 2023. and has been funded by Council (\$860,000), the State Government (\$3 million), Ballan and District Community Bank (\$50,000) and user group contributions.

Once complete, it will not just be a great asset for the Ballan Recreation Reserve users (Ballan Football Netball Club, Ballan Cricket Club and Ballan Bowls Club) but a space for the entire community to hold various activities and events throughout the year.

In addition to this project, the Ballan Cricket Club is getting new cricket nets. When finished, they’ll have a 3-lane enclosed practice facility suited to club and Cricket Victoria requirements.

Mill Park Skate Park



The next stages of the Mill Park skate park in Ballan have been delayed due to the wet weather creating poor site conditions. The skate park itself was completed in July, but work will start on the 3x3m basketball court, footpaths and landscaping. It will be worth the wait and we look forward to seeing it getting great use come summer.

Gordon Public Park Skate Park



The Gordon Public Park skate park was completed in July. The skatepark sits along side a new 3x3m basketball court which was completed in September. Once weather conditions improve, the playing surface will be painted onto the new concrete slab along with a new basketball ring. Minor landscaping around the skatepark and basketball court will be delivered as part of the project.

New leaders complete Council’s Community Leadership Program



2022 Participants photographed with Mayor Cr Tom Sullivan, Cr Moira Berry and course leader, Helen Rodd

It was a busy September for eleven Moorabool Shire community members, as they completed the 18-week Community Leadership Program. The program taught participants about civic participation and how Council operates, while participants learned community development principles to identify where they could have positive impacts in the community. All participants demonstrated commitment and passion in their contributions throughout the program and Council would like to congratulate them on their achievement. Keep an eye out for upcoming community-led projects organised by Community Leadership Program alumni.

Check out the website for more information on the Community Leadership Program: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Services-and-support/Community/Community-Leadership-Program>

Tree planting and community education with the help of a Council grant



Local environmental group Friends of Hopetoun Park and Parwan Gorge’s (FOHPAPG) community project ‘Hopetoun Habitat’ took place in May this year, thanks to a grant through our Community Grants Program. The project aimed to engage the local community and raise awareness about the environment, while encouraging participation of the broader community. The event offered family fun interactive water-bug activities, photographic displays, flora identification talks, brochures and tree planting. The event was a collaborative effort led by FOHPAPG with the support of the Bacchus Marsh Platypus Alliance and the Werribee River Association who educated attendees on local endangered Platypus and what can be done to protect the species.

Council’s Community Grants Program will open for two rounds in 2023 during March and August. View our website for more information and contact Council’s Community Development team on 5366 7100 to commence preparing a grant application. <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/communitygrants>

Keep up to date with local volunteer group, the Friends of Hopetoun Park and Parwan Gorge and their projects at: <https://fohpapg.org.au/>

Community Grant Program supports a new Flexipitch for Darley Cricket Club



The Darley Cricket Club has been using their new flexi-pitch for almost a year now to accommodate two junior teams training at once and allowing two match games to be played simultaneously. This project has provided the club with equipment to encourage more young people to participate in sports, aligning with Council’s Health and Wellbeing Plan goal to ensure “more children aged 5-17 years are physically active”. The flexipitch was purchased by the club with assistance from Council’s Community Grants Program which offers funding for local non-profit community groups to deliver projects that benefit the community.

A Council that listens and adapts to the needs of our evolving communities

Throughout the 2021/2022 financial year Council delivered 47 individual community engagement processes and recorded a record number of ‘Have Your Say’ (digital engagement portal) views – 107,627. An increase of over 50% when compared to the previous year. The diverse variety of community engagements included strategies, policies, upgrades and master plans, through to capital improvement projects.

We thank our community members who continue to shape the shire and encourage all residents to influence future community outcomes - ‘Have Your Say’.

For current community engagement opportunities, visit <https://haveyoursay.moorabool.vic.gov.au>





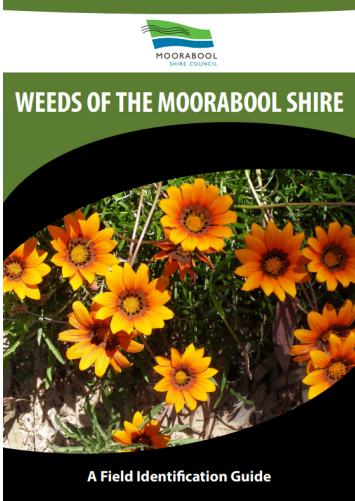
Environment Update

Spring is an extremely busy time in our environment and waste area. Here’s a little snapshot and useful information from the team.

Weeds of Moorabool Shire

Moorabool Shire Council varies in its topography and bioregions making it home to a diversity of flora and fauna, both native and non-native. Within our Shire, noxious weeds listed under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* have become a major problem. The most common weeds we have growing throughout Moorabool are gorse, serrated tussock, blackberry and thistle.

Click the QR code to read more about how best to tackle weeds, the best time to control certain species and the varying methods on how to remove them. This is an extensive field guide made by local members of our community aiming at providing landowners with vital information on the best ways residents can manage outbreaks of weeds on their land.



Regenerative agriculture



It’s something that’s probably been on the farming communities’ radar for quite some time, but most especially over the past decade. This practice of farming aims to take a conservation approach to harvesting crops. Its main objectives comprise of soil regeneration, improving the water cycle, supporting bio-sequestration, and increasing resilience to climate change. These fundamental objectives are important for farming communities as they will help with future endeavours as the world’s climate changes around us. Regenerative farming can be done in multiple ways, such as, using compost to improve soil health, intensive rotational grazing of livestock, taking advantage of the ‘no-till farming’ technique and planting vegetation along fence-lines or rivers/creeks/drains so as to create conservation buffers. If you would like more information about this new-age technique to farming, scan the QR code.



Free Greenwaste Drop Off Month – November

For the month of November, Moorabool Shire Council will be providing residents a free greenwaste drop off service to any of the Shire’s transfer stations. This service will encourage residents to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season. There is no restriction on the volume of green waste received from properties as long as it is received in a residential vehicle and trailer. Residents will be required to show identification showing proof of residency within the Shire.

To be fire-season ready, clear the following greenwaste from your property:

- Undergrowth and fallen branches
- Leaves from gutters
- Cut grass

Please note that tree stumps and branches over 200mm in diameter are not accepted within this service.

If you would like more information on Transfer Station locations and hours head to the transfer stations information on our website.



Native Vegetation – Free Sapling

Many properties situated within Moorabool Shire Council are home to native vegetation and fauna species. These help with maintaining Indigenous biodiversity and thus creating linkages between forests. These hubs of Australian biodiversity are important to the land as they provide habitat to the many species that once called these parts of Victoria home.

With your help as residents of the Shire, we can continue to maintain these levels of biodiversity and even improve on them! Come to the **Ballan Autumn Festival on 13 November 2022** to collect a free sapling to plant in your garden! Every plant aims to restore native vegetation in our communities.





Games Night In

Every Second Monday starting
10 October

6.30pm - 8.00pm | Lerderderg Library

Learn a new game or play an old favourite.
Card games, Board Games and Jigsaw
Puzzles to choose from. Open to all ages.



Movies in the Marsh

Last Friday of every month
Session 1: 10am Session 2: 2pm
Lerderderg Library

Movies in the Marsh is an opportunity to
socially connect over something many of
us love, movies.
New release movie every Month!



Book Chats

Second Wednesday of the Month
10.30am | Lerderderg Library

Read, Chat, Share.

Tell us what you've been reading and your
thoughts on the book.



Fan Fiction Book Chats

Thursday 10 November | 6.30pm - 8pm
Lerderderg Library

Did you ever finish a story or movie and
wish it wasn't over? Well with Fan Fiction
the story is not over until we say it is.

Contact Lerderderg Library to submit
your interest.

A Treasure Rediscovered

*A story from Margaret Simpson,
Moorabool Heritage Advisory Committee:*



Australasian Federal Referendum Voting Certificate poster (with signature of Thomas Akers). Donated by Doreen Cook, NSW, 2014. Eureka Centre, Ballarat

How often have you heard of someone busy clearing out an old home unexpectedly coming across a hidden treasure? That's what happened to the late Mr Ernie Cook of Bacchus Marsh when he was clearing out the old Akers family home, which was situated on the present site of the Lerderderg Library. It had been the home of Mr Thomas Akers, his wife Mary Ann and their large family of fifteen children. And what was the treasure he discovered hidden away in a back shed? Not something of great monetary value, but a treasure, just the same.

It was a Certificate of Voting in the Australasian Referendum of 1899, and it was signed by Thomas Akers of Bacchus Marsh. Thomas had clearly valued this certificate, which was proof of his participation in the creation of the Federation of Australia in 1901. In 1899, the nation of Australia did not exist. What existed was a series of Colonies, each colony jealously guarding its identity and its economic independence. It took a great deal of argument and negotiation for the Premiers to at last agree that the question of joining together into a Federation should be put to the people in a referendum. (The term 'the people' meant non-indigenous males over the age of 21, except in South Australia where indigenous men were entitled to vote. Women were excluded, except in the colonies of South Australia and West Australia.) This was the burning question of the day, since it meant the Premiers of each colony giving up substantial powers to a Federal Government.

Unlike today, voting was not compulsory. To encourage people to participate in this nation-changing vote, an illustrated certificate would be issued to all who voted for the Federation (no secret ballot here!). These certificates were rather special, beautifully coloured and engraved with the portraits of the six colonial Premiers. The total cost was approximately 2,400 pounds (reported in The Age 3 December 1900.)

Records show that in the Electoral District of West Bourke (which included Bacchus Marsh, Myrniong, Coimadai, Blackwood, Greendale, Barry's Reef, Blakeville and Korweinguboorra), a total of 352 men voted in favour of forming a Federation. Who knows? There may be more Certificates of Voting out there to be discovered. You may be inspired to start looking!

The Moorabool Heritage Advisory Committee is an advisory committee of Council. It provides advice and support to Council on heritage matters.

Heritage Advisory Service

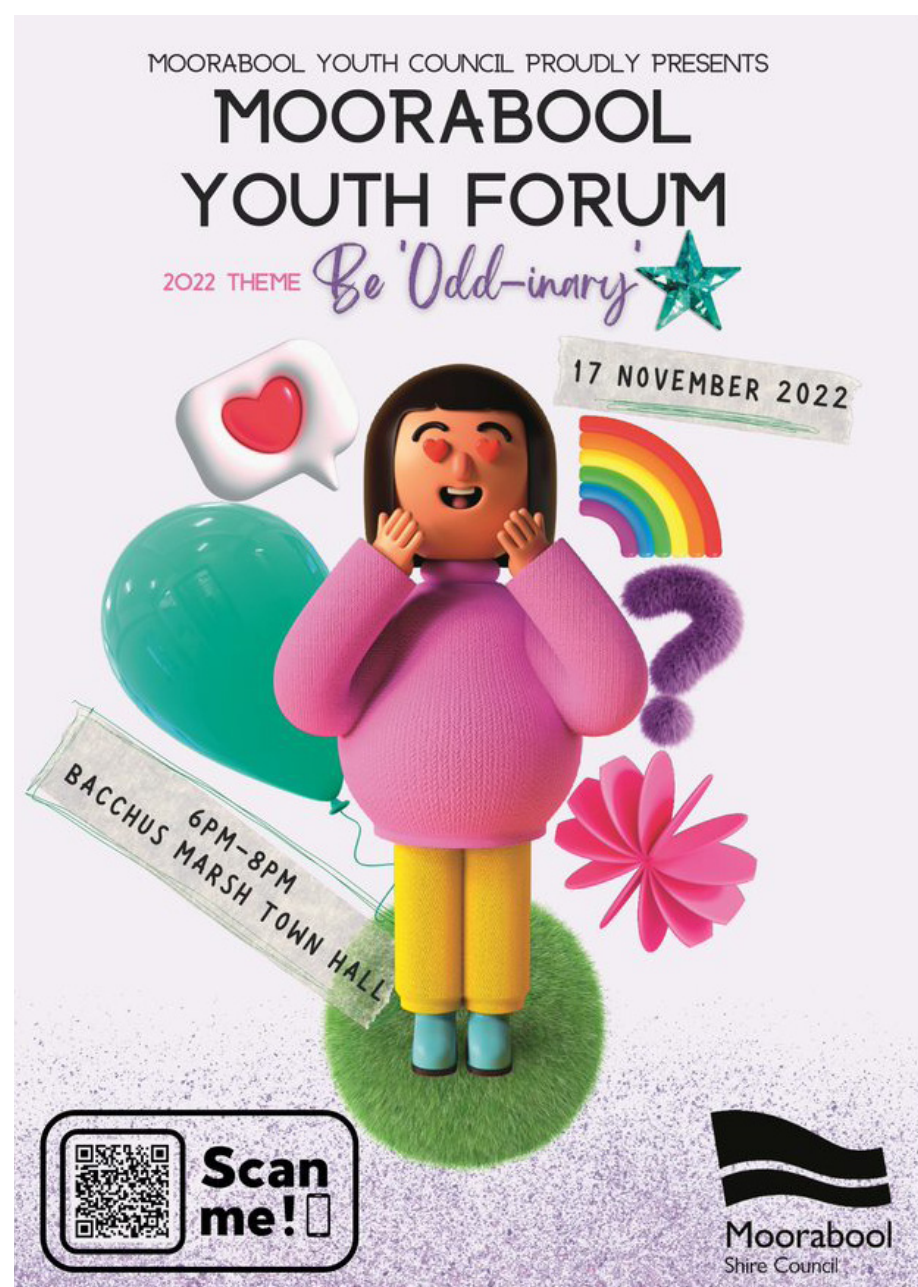
Council offers a free expert heritage advisory service for property owners with an existing or proposed heritage overlay on their property.

The service is provided by Council's Heritage Advisor, Annabel Neylon. Annabel is a highly experienced heritage professional, with more than 15 years industry experience in providing strategic and statutory heritage advisory services to Councils across Victoria and State Government bodies. Annabel is also a member of the Moorabool Heritage Advisory Committee.

Council's heritage advisor can assist and provide advice on a range of heritage matters, including:

- Pre-application advice for planning permit applications
- Changes to an existing heritage building including additions, alterations and repair works.
- The colours, design, materials and finishes of a building
- Resources, including builders and tradespeople, and conservation/restoration techniques and materials
- Identification and management of Heritage trees
- Education and advice on general heritage issues

For all enquiries regarding the Heritage Advisory Service please email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au or call 5366 7100.





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Refer to Council’s website for a full list of 2022 Council meeting dates and times:
moorabool.vic.gov.au

Ordinary Meetings of Council to be held at Ballan Council Chambers: (commencing at 6.00 pm)

DATE
7 December 2022

Important emergency contact information

Police / CFA / Ambulance	000
SES	132500
Flood and Storm Info Line	1300 842 737
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Bacchus Marsh Hospital	5367 2000
Ballan Hospital	5368 1100
Moorabool Shire Council	5366 7100
Emergency after hours animal control	0400 501 696
Aged and Disability Services	0409 138 201
For all other emergencies	0419 887 065



IMPORTANT NOTES TO READERS

Moorabool Matters is Moorabool Shire Council’s official community newsletter, promoting events, activities, projects and issues in our Shire. This publication is part of Council’s ongoing commitment to improve communication and consultation with residents. It is published four times a year and delivered to residents through The Moorabool News newspaper. Every effort is made to ensure information included in Moorabool Matters is accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact Council or organisations listed in the newsletter for specific information. If you have any questions or comments about Moorabool Matters, please contact the Media and Marketing Officer at Moorabool Shire Council on **5366 7100** or email info@moorabool.vic.gov.au