

WELCOME TO BALLAN'S NEW LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB



Ballan was buzzing with excitement at the official opening of the Ballan Library and Community Hub in early September. The sun shone and plenty of people turned up to enjoy free face painting, craft and kids activities, food and drink – and most importantly, a look through the brand new facility.

The library service and new community facility has already proven to be a highly valued addition to Moorabool, as demonstrated by

usage since 18 August:

- 322 new library memberships in Ballan. Previously, the average number of new memberships across the shire was 100 per month. Lerderderg Library had 85 new memberships in the same period.
- 2,415 loans using self-checkouts.
- 3,398 returns through the Ballan chute.
- 4,494 visits to the branch. Lerderderg Library welcomed 4,861 in the same timeframe.

- More than 590 people attended various engagement activities over the 3 weeks, including a special afternoon tea for our long-term library patrons to introduce them to the new space, welcome sessions to local community organisations, the inaugural art exhibition launch, and many early-years and after-school library programs.

See more photos from the opening on page 3.

Upgrades at shire parks

McLean Reserve in Ballan is now back open - and looking amazing!

The local reserve, a favourite amongst locals, has been completely transformed and features the following improvements:

- Construction of new shelter
- Installation of brand new play equipment and seating
- Restored historic horse trough
- MAPP Up in Lights gallery and drinking fountain
- Drainage, lighting, landscaping and paving
- New toilets.

While this exciting project is now open to the public, please be mindful of the newly laid turf and recently planted tube stock plants. The turf areas and garden beds will remain

cordoned off with low fencing for the next few weeks to protect the vegetation while it becomes established.

To see photos of the project go to moorabool.vic.gov.au/mcleanreserve

Next on the list to get a facelift is Federation Park in Darley.

After community consultation in 2023 and 2024, work has started on upgrades to Federation Park.

The \$1 million project will include:

- Demolition of the existing public toilets and replacement with a new building offering improved security and amenity;
- Upgrade of the existing carpark including sealing and formalised parking;
- Replacement of existing play equipment;

- Picnic facilities, seating and drinking fountain;
- Pathways throughout the reserve; and
- Landscaping improvements including tree planting, mulching and garden beds.

During construction, which started in August and is expected to continue to November, visitors and community are being directed to alternative toilet facilities at Darley Park (corner of Fitzroy and Grey streets, Darley).

Federation Park is a Federal Government funded project through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, (\$400,000), with the remainder being funded by Council.

For more details: moorabool.vic.gov.au/federationpark



Visit our brand new Library and Community Hub

Council was pleased to celebrate an official opening with the community as the facility was built especially for them to use and enjoy. The \$7.25 million facility was jointly funded by the Victorian Government (\$5 million), Council (\$2.5 million) and community (\$250,000).

Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell joined Member for Eureka Michaela Settle MP in unveiling a plaque at the official opening. Adults, kids, teens and babies enjoyed the activities on offer and many walked away with brand new library cards as well as showbags, so we hope to see them visit again soon!



Join the Seniors Festival

There are plenty of activities across the shire to celebrate this year's Seniors Festival. Activity and event flyers are available in our customer service centres and our libraries, or check it out online:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival

The season to remove serrated tussock

Did you know spring is the right time to spray noxious weeds such as serrated tussock?

These sorts of weeds have become widespread over time and prevention of their spread is required. Landowners, including Council and other public authorities, must take reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds such as serrated tussock on their land.

Serrated tussock has distinctive dark purple-coloured flowers on delicate stems and tightly rolled leaves like needles. The seed head is easily blown in the wind. The dry seed head comes off the plant in December and January, blowing across the landscape, but also can be spread by stock and fodder.

The best way to control serrated tussock is to kill adult plants by chipping out, cultivating or spraying. You can establish a perennial pasture to provide long term control.

To assist you in learning about local weeds such as serrated tussock and how to treat them, we've developed a local field guide, Weeds in Moorabool Shire.

You'll find the field guide by visiting moorabool.vic.gov.au/weeds



Images 1+2 credit: Moorabool Landcare Network

Do you have Antenno yet?



If the answer is no, you're missing out on weekly reminders of your bin days, information from Council relevant to your area and the easiest way to report an issue to Council, such as a fallen tree or a pothole. If you want to make your interactions with Council easier, Antenno is the app you need! For information and to download: moorabool.vic.gov.au/antenno

Hide and Seek Festival calls for steering committee members

Would you like to shape the program for the next Hide + Seek Festival?

Council is seeking expressions of interest for new members to be part of the Hide + Seek Festival Steering Group to help shape delivery of the next festival. If you have expertise in visual art, performing, literary arts, music, events, agri-tourism or own a local business or venue, we would love to hear from you.

The steering group will provide guidance and expertise into development and delivery of the festival, assist Council to identify collaboration and long-term partnerships and build industry capacity.

If you would like to volunteer as a member of the steering group, please review the Terms of Reference and complete the expression of interest:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/hide-seek
by 1 November 2025.



Free business development bootcamp comes to Ballan

Have a business idea you're ready to explore?

Local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs have the opportunity to strengthen their business skills and explore new ideas at the upcoming Roving Runway Regional Incubator (RRRI) Bootcamp.

Hosted by Moorabool Shire Council and Runway HQ, the bootcamp will be held at the new Ballan Library and Community Hub from 9:30am to 4:00pm on Saturday 25 October. The event is free and designed to support small businesses and startups in the Moorabool region.

Participants will benefit from practical workshops, expert mentoring, and networking opportunities with other local business owners. The bootcamp also introduces attendees to the broader Runway Incubator Program, which offers ongoing support for business development.

For more information and registrations go to: moorabool.vic.gov.au/roving-bootcamp

Exhibit opportunities for 2026 are now open

Moorabool Art Pathway Program (MAPP) are two outdoor gallery spaces, in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh. They are designed to put local artists on the MAPP! The galleries support local artists to exhibit their creative works and provide a 24/7 display for all to enjoy. The light boxes are suitable for 2D and 3D works.

Council's Arts Team is now taking expressions of interest for the 2026:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/mapp-lights

Help us stamp out illegal dumping

Council has launched a targeted campaign to stop illegal dumping in the shire, the vast majority of which is done by people from outside the shire.

Increased surveillance, more cameras and a communications campaign to inform and educate the community about the problem and how to report it have formed the basis of an effort to stamp out this behaviour.

Council will also host a forum with neighbouring councils in October to tackle the widespread problem.

"We're hoping having everyone come together – Mayors, CEOs, Councillors and staff - to form a collaborative approach to illegal dumping might result in some ideas we can put in practice to help reduce the amount of dumping," Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell said.

"If we can stop or reduce the behaviour, this would be a very positive result for our environment and our hip pockets."

For more information about illegal dumping go to **moorabool.vic.gov.au/illegal-dumping**

Download our Antenno app to report any illegally dumped rubbish:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/antenno

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Council opposed to overhead transmission line

Council has made a submission to the exhibited Western Renewables Link (WRL) Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Planning Scheme Amendment GC209, opposing the fully overhead transmission line.

Approximately 60km of the proposed WRL 190km overhead high-voltage transmission line runs directly through Moorabool Shire from east to west.

Council has proactively advocated for the project to be undergrounded since it was first announced in 2019.

"Council remains opposed to the project going ahead in its current form," Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell said.

"An overhead transmission line would be a scar on the landscape and have unacceptable impacts for Moorabool Shire."

Council's submission covers a range of technical matters to address broad project impacts on Moorabool Shire, its community and environment.

Concerns raised in the submission include but are not limited to bushfire, social, agriculture, visual amenity, traffic, economic, heritage and biodiversity impacts.

The next step in the EES process is a public hearing chaired by an Inquiry and Advisory Committee. The hearing is scheduled to commence on 27 October 2025 and if the hearing cannot be concluded prior to the

holiday period, it will continue from mid-January 2026.

Council will be represented at the hearing by a highly skilled and experienced legal team and intends to engage several independent experts.

To view Council's full submission online, visit **moorabool.vic.gov.au/transmissionlines**

To view the exhibited EES online, visit **westernrenewableslink.com.au/planning/ees-landing/**

To access detailed information about the EES and next steps, visit **engage.vic.gov.au/Western-Renewables-Link-IAC**

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Youth and Early Years activities

There’s always plenty happening in the youth and early years space. It’s a great time to get involved!

Children’s Week

Join us for a vibrant community event celebrating the skills, talents, achievements and rights of children in Moorabool! This year’s theme, “Everyone should know about Children’s Rights”, highlights the importance of recognising and respecting the rights of every child.

Childrens week is on Wednesday 22 October

at Bacchus Marsh Public Hall from 10am-noon. Families are invited to come together and enjoy a wide range of play-based and educational activities designed to inspire, connect and celebrate our youngest community members. From creative workshops to interactive activities and live performers, there’s something for everyone!

It’s a wonderful opportunity for children and families to connect, play and learn together, while embracing the values of inclusion, respect and community spirit.



The Career Corner (CC)

Are you aged between 12 and 25 and looking for a welcoming space to connect, get support, and tackle those tricky tasks? The Career Corner (the CC) is a free weekly drop-in program designed just for you – running every Tuesday from 3.30pm to 6.00pm at the Ballan Library, starting 2 September.

Whether you need help with job applications, study support, life admin, or just want a place to hang out and chat, the CC is here to offer encouragement, enthusiasm and guidance. It’s a relaxed and inclusive environment where young people can feel supported while getting things done – all while enjoying some tasty snacks and good company.

No registration is required, but you’re welcome to sign up if you’d like. Just drop in when it suits you and stay for as long as you need.



Youth Awards

Do you know a young person who’s taken a leap of bravery?

The 2025 Youth Awards are just around the corner, and we’re calling on the community to help us recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of young people aged 12–17 and 18–25.

Our Youth Action Group selected this year’s theme to honour the courage it takes to lead, speak up, create change, or support others — whether in schools, communities, or through personal development.

Nominations are now open across a range of award categories, and we want to hear about the young people who inspire you. Nominations close on 14 October 2025 and can be made through the nomination form linked on our website.

Then, join us for the Youth Awards celebration on Friday 21 November 2025, where we’ll shine a spotlight on the incredible stories and contributions of our local youth.

The event will be held on Thursday 21 November 2025, at Bacchus Marsh Public Hall, from 6pm-8pm.

All are welcome — come along and be part of this uplifting community event!

Let’s celebrate the bravery, creativity, and leadership of our young people in Moorabool.

moorabool.vic.gov.au/events

The CC is at Ballan Library – 127 Inglis St, Ballan VIC 3342 on Tuesdays, 3.30pm–6pm.
Session dates:

- 7 October
- 14 October
- 21 October
- 28 October
- 4 November

Visit our website to let us know you can make it - we look forward to seeing you there!

moorabool.vic.gov.au/youthservices

Free Halloween Fun!

Something spooky is brewing in Darley... Join us for the Moorabool Spookaball 2025, a Halloween celebration like no other! On Thursday 30 October, from 6pm to 8pm, the Darley Civic Hub Pavilion will transform into a haunted haven filled with frights, fun and festive chaos.

Young people are invited to dress up, get spooky, and enjoy an evening of eerie entertainment, creepy costumes, and spine-tingling surprises. Whether you're a ghost, ghoul, witch or something in between, come along and be part of the frightful festivities.

This is a free event open to all young people aged 11-17 – no tricks, just treats! Expect music, games, snacks and a few jump scares along the way. Bring your friends, your best costume, and your bravest self... if you dare!

The event is at Darley Civic Hub Pavilion, on Thursday 30 October 2025, from 6pm – 8pm.

Supporting Local Students: Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition Program

Council is helping local students get ready for the big step into secondary school through its Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition Program. The program gives young people the chance to build confidence, learn new skills, and prepare for the changes that come with starting Year 7.

With a mix of fun activities and practical workshops, students explore topics like making new friends, managing change, and building

independence. The program also creates a supportive space where they can ask questions and connect with others sharing the same journey.

By the end, students feel better prepared and more confident to begin their next chapter in secondary school.

For more details contact us by:

youthservices@moorabool.vic.gov.au

5366 7100

moorabool.vic.gov.au/youthservices

[Facebook.com/mooraboolyouthservices](https://www.facebook.com/mooraboolyouthservices)

[Instagram.com/mooraboolyouthservices](https://www.instagram.com/mooraboolyouthservices)



A new chapter in community stewardship begins

Council has recently appointed 10 Community Asset Committees (CACs) to manage a range of facilities across our shire supporting the current Council term.

Whether it's a recreation reserve, hall, or community centre, these spaces are more than bricks and mortar - they're where memories are made, friendships are formed, and community spirit thrives.

Community Asset Committees currently manage the following facilities on behalf of Council: Blacksmiths Cottage & Forge, Dunnstown Recreation Reserve, Elaine Recreation Reserve, Gordon Public Hall, Greendale Recreation Reserves, Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall, Millbrook Community Centre, Navigators Community Centre, Wallace Public Hall and Wallace Recreation Reserve.

A CAC is a group of community volunteers appointed by Council to help manage and

maintain a public facility. CACs take an active role in the stewardship of local assets, ensuring our facilities remain vibrant, accessible, and well-loved. Their role includes overseeing day-to-day operations of the facility, promotion and activation of spaces, maintenance, safety and collaborating with Council on improvements and upgrades.

If you're passionate about your local hall, reserve, or community centre, get in touch with your nearest committee to find out more about volunteering or becoming a member.

You can also visit moorabool.voc.gov.au/cac or phone Council on 5366 7100.

Council is also proudly introducing three new advisory committees that put community insight at the heart of local decision-making:

Positive Ageing Advisory Committee Championing active, connected, and fulfilling lives for older residents, this group supports

Council's Age Well, Live Well Strategy.

• Disability Access & Inclusion Advisory Committee

Focused on breaking down barriers, this committee advises on accessibility and inclusion across Council services, facilities, and events, aligned with the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan.

• Maddingley Park Advisory Committee

Dedicated to shaping the future of Maddingley Park, this committee will guide planning, development, and improvements to ensure the park meets community needs.

Each committee meets at least quarterly and brings together passionate community members, Councillors, and Council officers to co-design practical, inclusive, and community-driven outcomes.

Contact Council on 5366 7100 for more details.

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Cr Paul Tatchell
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Cr Rod Ward
Deputy Mayor
Ph 0400 611 310



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Cr Moira Berry
Ph 0418 691 529



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Cr Jarrod Bingham
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Cr Ally Munari
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Cr Tom Sullivan
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Cr Steve Venditti-Taylor
Ph 0400 590 103



Refer to Council’s website for information relating to Councillors and Council services, news and events: moorabool.vic.gov.au

Ordinary Meetings of Council to be held at Ballan Council Chambers: (commencing at 6pm)

Ordinary meetings of Council 2025:

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|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 October 2025 | 3 December 2025 |
| 5 November 2025 | 17 December 2025 |

Important EMERGENCY contact information

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| Police / CFA / Ambulance | 000 |
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| SES | 132500 |
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| Flood and Storm Info Line | 1300 842 737 |
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| Victorian Bushfire Information Line | 1800 240 667 |
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| Bacchus Marsh Hospital | 5367 2000 |
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| Moorabool Shire Council | 5366 7100 |
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| Emergency after hours animal control | 5366 7100 <i>(option 1)</i> |
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| Aged and Disability Services | 0409 138 201 |
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| For all other emergencies | 0419 887 065 |
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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