



Moreland City Council

INSIDE MORELAND

SUMMER 2019

Sun's out Fun's out

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Welcome to the summer edition of Inside Moreland.

It's been an awesome first few months being Mayor of Moreland and I'm so excited for the year ahead.

This issue of Inside Moreland is packed with heaps of great articles. With the sun well and truly out, it's fantastic to see people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities cooling off at the new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre.

The brilliant new centre has been the biggest capital works project that Council has ever undertaken and has been delivered on time and under budget – with the bright slides now being a monumental landmark for the city. I'm sure many readers have dropped in, to check out fitness classes on offer, the bright blue 50m pool, or just to read a good book on the shady green lawns.

As a mum of three active boys, I know the importance of keeping kids safe around water. Our story about pool safety barriers is a timely reminder that it is your responsibility as the owner, occupier or tenant of a property with a pool or spa, to ensure barriers are both installed and maintained. Pool barriers really do save lives.

The article on the Brunswick Music Festival shows what many of us already know: Moreland really is a vibrant hub of talent and creativity. This year's festival is set to be a real treat and I certainly can't wait for the full line-up – announced on Tuesday 22 January, so I can plan which performances to see.

With summers getting warmer, it's important to maintain your property to reduce fire risk and remember to stay safe when heading out of the city. Keep an eye on the weather and stay informed, prepared and connected, especially in bushfire-prone areas.



Council offers a range of places to get out of the heat and rehydrate. Take a rest, with a cool drink of water, at Brunswick Library, Coburg Library, Glenroy Library, Brunswick Customer Service Centre and the Moreland Civic Centre in Coburg, during opening hours. Prevention is always the best way to manage heat-related illness. Get your errands done early in the day if you can manage it.

The libraries are a great place to cool-off and relax. Turn to the back page to find some information on our Be Connected program, offering free one-on-one technology classes at Moreland Libraries. Meet new people, learn how to check your emails, or – most importantly – how to share all those summer holiday pics with friends online.

Keep cool and safe over summer,

Natalie Abboud

Cr Natalie Abboud
Mayor of Moreland

Moreland City Council

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Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
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Cover image: Tahlia and Isabelle enjoying the Water Play Pool at Oak Park's new Sports and Aquatic Centre

Reduce hazards and keep your cool this fire season



Reduce fire risks this summer by cutting your grass and removing any debris from around your home and fenceline.

With the warmer weather here, it's important to keep cool and to stay prepared for heat waves. It's also essential that you know the responsibilities of maintaining your property – keeping the fire risk low and the community safe.

You don't have to live in the country to be at risk from bushfire or grassfire. Urban and suburban homes can be at risk too, even houses that are a few streets away from grassland.

If you're an owner of vacant land within Moreland, you need to keep your property clean and safe.

Grass and weeds cannot be longer than 15cm and it is essential that all properties stay free from flammable objects and debris.

This is in accordance with both the *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958* and *Moreland Council Local Law 2018*.

Vacant blocks also need to be fenced and clear of unused cars, machinery and rubbish as these can

greatly increase fire risk.

Council's Fire Prevention and Local Law Officers actively inspect vacant properties throughout the year ensuring strict compliance with these regulations. Penalties apply for failure to comply with the above Fire Prevention Standards or Council Officer directions.

Councillor Jess Dorney says that Council's inspections keep the community safe – ensuring damaging fires are less likely to start and spread.

"It's so essential that grass is maintained and anything flammable is removed – firewood, rubbish, weeds – from around your home and fence line," Cr Dorney says.

On top of ensuring your property is as fire safe as possible, Cr Jess Dorney says there are many ways to make your home cooler, greener and safer place in extreme heat.

It's a good idea to use blinds or curtains to block out the sun during the hottest part of the day," she says.

It's also important to check in on your neighbours when the weather soars. "Those most at risk are young children, older people and individuals with a medical condition."

Look at the things you can do to make your home cooler such as installing window coverings, shade cloths or external blinds on the sides of the house facing the sun. Planting trees in your garden also helps with shading.

For more information on ways to keep cool over summer, or the requirements for keeping your property fire safe visit moreland.vic.gov.au or call 9240 1111.

Slide into summer at Moreland's pools

Want to keep healthy and active while staying cool this summer? Head to one of the great pools around Moreland – with six pools and leisure centres open every day during the school holidays for you to take a dip, catch up with friends, or to just soak up some sun poolside (but don't forget to slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat.)

Having recently opened, the sparkling new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre is proving to already be a favourite summer playground –

both for Moreland locals along with visitors to the area. The state-of-the-art centre is Council's largest capital works project to date, the \$27.3 million project being funded entirely by Council, with no assistance from the State or Federal Government.

The centre has a 50m outdoor heated pool, water-play equipment and kids' pools, two bright new waterslides, and a 24/7 gym and cycle studio with virtual fitness programs available.

Group fitness classes on offer range from high-intensity to low-impact sessions, including the new mind-wellness classes and meditation sessions. There is something for everyone – all ages and abilities –

with thirty classes a week to choose from. The indoor gym and group fitness facilities are open all year, with the outdoor pools open until Tuesday 30 April 2019.

New visitors to the Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre pools, sisters eight-year-old Tahlia and five-year-old Isabelle love the water-play area. "It is really great," Tahlia smiles. "I love the splashing in the play area and in the little pool and I can't wait to try the big slide next time we visit."



Tahlia and Isabelle having fun in the sun with their new friend at the refurbished, \$27.3 million Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre.

The specially built waterslides at the new centre are bright signposts for the centre—bright white, blue, and red. With a 1.2m height restriction, some kids do have to do a little growing before they can go down the big slides.

“My favourite thing was the slide in the little pool,” Isabelle assures.

Luckily, with the new water-play area, smaller kids have plenty to keep them entertained for hours. Closely supervised by qualified lifeguards at all times, the play area includes a double slide, interactive sprayers, soakers, shooters and water tip buckets.

The waterplay pool also has a beach entry – grading to a shallow depth – which introduces little ones to the water, allowing them to feel safe and comfortable.

All of Moreland’s pools are ‘Watch Around Water’ facilities, so all children under 10 years old must be constantly and actively supervised at the centre. This promotes child safety, as the supervision of children in aquatic facilities cannot be the sole responsibility of lifeguards.

Children who are under five years old must stay within arm’s reach of their responsible parent/guardian during recreational play activities and will be issued with yellow wristbands, helping lifeguards with supervision. Kids who are over the age of five (but under 10) will be issued with a red wristband to wear, letting lifeguards know they must be actively supervised by an adult at all times.

“Water safety is so important in the community,” Councillor John Kavanagh says. “We take safety very seriously at all of the aquatic facilities across Moreland – encouraging all members of the community to learn to swim and look out for each other.”



Gym equipment in at the new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre.

A much-loved feature of the new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre is the historic elephant sculpture, that once took precedence of the toddlers pool prior to the redevelopment.

Glenroy Primary School student Giovanna won Council's design competition and her bright and sunny colouring has been adapted by young artist Inkboy – brightening the historic and much-loved sculpture.

The Artist Inkboy says of the collaboration: “I knew from the beginning I wanted to do the best I could and stay as true to the initial design as possible. If I did that, the results would speak for themselves and the community would react with excitement.”

Excited visitors to the water-play pool, Isabelle and Tahlia, clearly approve. “The elephant is cute and me and my sister love it,” Isabelle says.

Cr Kavanagh says the original home to the elephant sculpture:

“Oak Park Pool, has a special place in the hearts of many Morelanders, it’s so exciting to know that a new generation of Moreland children will be creating their own summer memories in the new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre.”

So remember, summer is time to get your bathers and towel and head down to one of Council’s six pools and leisure centres across Moreland. Swim laps, take a fitness class or work-out at the gym to stay fit and meet new people.

Feeling like you want something with a little slower pace? Drag your towel – and maybe a book – to a shady spot under the trees or soak up some sun on the lawns for some time out. We even have BBQs for use at Fawkner, Coburg Olympic and Pascoe Vale outdoor pools, if spending the evening at the pool.

To find out more about this exciting new facility and Moreland’s other facilities visit activemoreland.com.au

Brunswick Music Festival 2019

Brunswick Music Festival is just around the corner and the much-loved live music celebration is set to be huge in 2019.

With a range of one-of-a-kind events happening over two weeks between Sunday 3 March and Sunday 17 March, the festival proudly celebrates the artists, culture and community that define one of Melbourne's favourite and most creative neighbourhoods.

Taking over known-and-loved venues, along with a range of unexpected and transformed spaces across the suburb, the festival reflects Brunswick's rich history as a live-music hub – nurturing creativity and a strong sense of community, championing local talent and bringing people together.

This year marks the first festival with new Festival Programmer Emily Ulman at the helm. The acclaimed singer-songwriter and experienced music programmer has been booking local venues for almost 20 years. Emily has also booked music stages for major events including the first-ever Australian White Night.

Brunswick Music Festival 2019 will be her first entire festival.

The iconic Brunswick Music Festival has a strong, 30-year history of celebrating homegrown talent. Emily says this year's fortnight-long party will have an even stronger focus on bringing local talent to the suburb's stages in creative and innovative ways.

"This year's program focuses on diverse local acts more than ever; I think it's important to celebrate the artists we already have in Moreland," Emily says.

"Brunswick represents everything that's vibrant and multicultural – the future of broader Melbourne.

"Moreland is such a bright community and home to so many musicians that I love. It's such a hotbed of creativity, not just for music but also for the arts more broadly. It's always exciting to be part of it.

"We've focused on ensuring all events are physically accessible to a range of people but have also factored in our broader inclusion

policy across all the programming. We want the festival to be family friendly, and to include high quality free events," Emily adds. "We've also made sure there will really be sought-out events for young people and different groups within our community."

As well as a focus on strong neighbourhood talent, Ulman's program will bring a range of exciting international acts to the suburb. The festival has already announced two big international acts, ahead of the full program being released on Tuesday 22 January.

The early announcement includes Snail Mail, a teenage indie rock band from Baltimore and J Mascis, the iconic rock icon who made a big impact on popular music in the 90s.

"I'm as excited about the response we've had to our first announcements as I am about unveiling the rest of the program. Get ready!" Emily says.

Councillor Mark Riley says the yearly festival is a calendar highlight for many. "As a local it's been good to see the Brunswick Music Festival go from strength to strength. Moreland's thriving live music scene brings so much to the area – bringing people together, promoting creativity and diversity – all while boosting local business."

So be quick to jump online to check out the already announced shows and join the Brunswick Music Festival mailing list to be the first to receive the full program when it is revealed – Tuesday 22 January.

To stay in touch about future opportunities and news related to arts and culture in Moreland visit moreland.vic.gov.au



Local Music Programmer Emily Ulman is set to freshen up Brunswick Music Festival.

Pool safety barriers – saving lives

If you have a pool or a spa on your property, you need to be a life saver.

With the summer sun shining bright, pools provide kids with hours of entertainment. Swimming also keeps kids healthy and active.

However, drowning is the greatest cause of accidental death in children under five in Australia. Even kids who know how to swim are at risk, so it is essential that pool safety barriers are in place.

It is a legal requirement that all swimming pools and spas – indoor, outdoor, in-ground or above-ground – have compliant safety fencing and gates. This also includes inflatable pools deeper than 30cm.

It is your responsibility as the owner, occupier or tenant of a property with a pool or spa to ensure it is safe at all times. You should also be aware of your insurance policy liabilities on these matters.

The State Government will also soon be introducing a mandatory register of all household pools and spas across the state. A certificate of compliance will also be needed when selling or leasing a property with a pool or spa throughout Victoria.

Safety barriers for new pools require a building permit issued by an appointed building surveyor.

Council inspects 100 private pools and spas across Moreland annually to ensure compliance with the relevant standards.

It's important to maintain pool barriers over time. Many become unsafe due to general wear-and-tear, landscaping and house



Pool Safety Barriers keep kids safe around pools all year round.

alterations, overgrown trees or natural ground movements.

The gate in your pool or spa's safety barrier should never be propped open – under any circumstances. It is also vital that there are no chairs, pot plants, tree branches or similar items positioned so that a child could climb over the barrier.

Of course, the other key factor in water safety is the constant supervision of children whenever they are in or near water and learning to swim.

Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan says it's important to remember that safety barriers such as pool fencing aren't a substitute for the active adult supervision of children around water.

“No matter what, it's important to keep a close eye on children when close to any body of water this summer,” Cr Carli Hannan says.

“The new Oak Park Sports and Aquatic Centre is the perfect place to introduce your little ones to safe water play,” Cr Carli Hannan adds.

The team at Active Moreland are experts at teaching swimming to all age groups, at a wide range of locations.

Don't wait, sign up for swimming lessons now. Visit activemoreland.com.au to find out more.

More information on this and householder obligations (including important information on maintenance) can be found at vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/swimming-pools

BE CONNECTED



Do you need help with technology?

Learn to use technology, including laptops, mobile phones and tablets in one-on-one classes

To find out more call 9389 8600

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