



Merri-bek
City Council

Merri-bek Community News

Autumn 2023



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Brunswick siblings Lonnie and Bea
visit Fleming Park most days.

'I love to run here,' Bea, 3, says.



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03 9240 1111 merri-bek.vic.gov.au



Merri-bek Language Link

廣東話	9280 1910	हिंदी	9280 1918
Italiano	9280 1911	普通话	9280 0750
Ελληνικά	9280 1912	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	9280 0751
عربي	9280 1913		
Türkçe	9280 1914	All other languages	
Tiếng Việt	9280 1915	9280 1919	

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A message from our Mayor

Hello everyone and welcome to the autumn edition of Merri-bek Community News.

There is plenty of news in this edition for you.

Important changes are coming to our kerbside collection service – we are getting a 4-bin system in July. You can read about the changes and your new purple-lidded glass bin on page 4 and 5.

Fleming Park in Brunswick East has undergone an exciting refresh. You can see photos and read about the changes on page 6.

We have updated many of our playgrounds in Merri-bek parks. You can find out about a selection of these, and read about other works happening in Merri-bek on page 7.

And you can read about the new Love Merri-bek maps series we've created, our Open Space Strategy and more.

So grab a cuppa, sit down and enjoy catching up on all of the news from Council in your Merri-bek Community News.

Cr Angelica Panopoulos

Mayor

Discover



The Love Merri-bek trail maps series is here!

We've developed a series of maps to help you get out and about and experience the amazing things our local area has to offer.

Our first map explores the local breweries and distilleries throughout Merri-bek, and the second features live music venues and record stores.

Each map highlights the businesses featured, what you can expect at each location, as well as public transport and bike path options to get there.

Download your trail maps and find out more about the awesome businesses throughout the municipality at lovemerri-bek.com.au



Draft Council Budget delivers services and infrastructure for Merri-bek community

Council's proposed Budget 2023-27 was endorsed for public exhibition on Wednesday 12 April. We have engaged with the community and invited you to share your feedback online and in-person. This feedback will be presented to Council in June, which councillors will consider when approving the final Budget.

You can learn more about the proposed Budget, **make a submission until midnight Sunday 21 May** and see the endorsed Budget from late June at conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/council-budget-2023-2027

The proposed Budget sets out how the services and projects we provide are funded while being mindful of your cost of living pressures. We must fund these services and projects while operating within the rate cap set by the State Government.

The proposed Budget funds services including waste management, upgrades to infrastructure, community facilities and parks, operating our libraries, recreation centres, events and festivals, and services to residents at all stages of life.

Some of the highlights of the Budget in 2023-24 are:

- » **\$36.9 million** for the Fawkner Leisure Centre Redevelopment
- » **\$32.1 million** to upgrade several early-years facilities over the next 5 years.
- » **\$20.6 million** for improving parks, open space and streetscapes
- » **\$15.9 million** to roads and carparks renewal and maintenance
- » **\$4.5 million** for footpaths, bicycle paths and transport infrastructure
- » **\$278,000** for 6 community Budget initiatives. Our community suggested projects and voted on their preferred ideas.

Rates: Average rates in 2023-24 are proposed to increase by 3.5% to fund Council's operations and projects. This increase is in line with the rate cap set by the State Government.

This will see average rates increase by \$1.22 per week or \$63.48 per year.

Learn more about the proposed budget, and see the endorsed budget from late June at conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/council-budget-2023-2027



Library events for all

We run a range of exciting events for adults and children at all 5 libraries throughout Merri-bek.

From stories for kids, to workshops for those who need a bit of extra help with technology – there's something for everyone. To find out more about our events you can ask at the desk of any library or visit:



Sensory friendly sessions

1–2pm every Tuesday, Brunswick Library

Every Tuesday between 1 and 2pm is now a sensory friendly session at Brunswick Library. We dim the lights and reduce noise as much as possible to create a space that is more calming for the senses and beneficial to everyone. For more information call Brunswick Library on **9389 8600**

1-1 technology help

Contact your local library to book

All Merri-bek Libraries offer 1-1 sessions for anyone who needs help using their computer, phone or tablet. Community members can also use sessions to get help applying for the Power Saving Bonus.

Get ready for your new bins

Merri-bek's new 4-bin waste service is coming in July 2023

Çöp kutularınız Temmuz ayında değişiyor.

जुलाईमा तपाईंको फोहोर डब्बा (बनि) हरू परिवर्तन हुँदैछ।

A luglio cambieranno i bidoni dei rifiuti.

آپ کے کوڑے دان جولائی میں تبدیل ہو رہے ہیں۔

ستتغير حاويات النفايات خاصتك في شهر تموز / يوليو.

Οι κάδοι απορριμμάτων σας αλλάζουν τον Ιούλιο.

Thùng rác của bạn sẽ thay đổi vào tháng Bảy.



Find out more at

merri-bek.vic.gov.au/waste

or keep an eye on your mailbox for more information



Fast facts on your new bins

Can I opt out of having a bin?

The 4-bin waste service will be the standard service for households in Merri-bek. There won't be an option to opt-out of having a food and garden organics or glass recycling bin, just like you can't opt-out of having a mixed recycling bin or general rubbish bin now.

Can I change the size of my bins?

Yes, from August 2023 you can change the size of your bins. This gives you a chance to try our standard sized bins and new collection frequencies to help decide what is right for your household. A different waste charge will apply, depending on the size of your bin.

I live in an apartment block, where are we meant to store additional bins?

Most people living in units, townhouses and apartments will use shared bins with their neighbours. We understand that some properties will have challenges with the new 4-bin system. If you would like to review how many shared bins you have at your property, your Owners Corporation, or alternative representative, may request a review. Please email us at ➔ waste@merri-bek.vic.gov.au with your request.

How will 4 bins improve the quality of recycling in Victoria?

Recycling well and reducing waste in the first place helps keep valuable resources out of landfill so that they can be used again and again.

Recycling reduces the need for new or raw materials and is part of Victoria's shift to a circular economy.

By separating your waste into 4 bins, more of your recycling can be turned into new things, like glass jars, mulch and compost.

Lids on or off with recycling?

Lids on!

Our recycling processor prefers lids of bottles and jars (both glass and plastic) to be attached before placing in the recycling bin. They are removed through the recycling process and sent to the right waste stream for further processing. Loose lids should be placed in your general rubbish bin as these get lost in the recycling process.

How often will my bins be picked up?

From July 2023:

- » glass recycling bins will be collected monthly (every 4 weeks)
- » mixed recycling bins will be collected fortnightly (every 2 weeks)
- » food and garden organics bins will be collected weekly
- » general rubbish bins will continue to be collected weekly

For more information on our new 4-bin waste service:

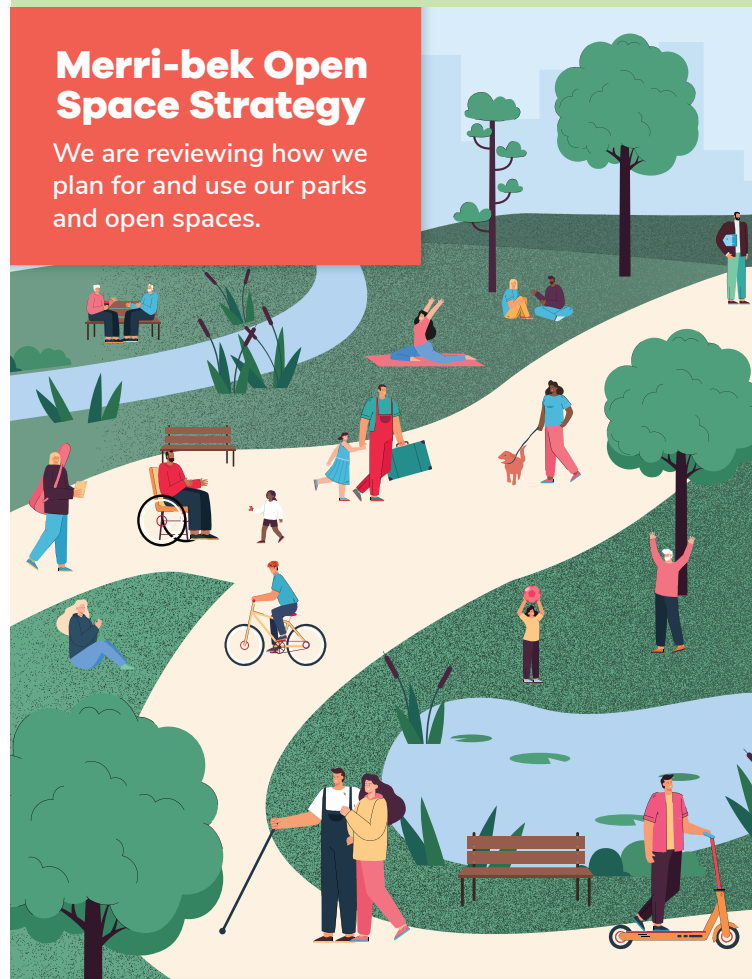
Visit ➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/bins

Email ➔ wasteprojects@merri-bek.vic.gov.au

Phone ➔ 03 9240 1111

Merri-bek Open Space Strategy

We are reviewing how we plan for and use our parks and open spaces.



Learn more and share your thoughts at ➔ conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/open-space-strategy





Brunswick local Bea, 3, loves riding her new bike around the oval path especially. **'I really love the swings too,'** she says.

Hannah, Bea's mum, says having the park close by is great. **'We come every day. It's been really nice to see it improve so much.'**

Fleming Park – refreshed for all to enjoy

So many community members use Brunswick East's Fleming Park to socialise, play sport, walk their dogs, or just to soak up some sunshine.

We have been steadily working on making the much-loved community space better for everyone to enjoy.

In 2019 we worked closely with the local community to implement the 2018 Master Plan Refresh for the redevelopment of Fleming Park, and improvements are almost finished.

Council invested more than \$8 million into the redevelopment.

Some of the works we completed include:

- » Refreshing the much-loved large grandstand and including seating
- » Extensively upgrading the existing Community Hall and Bocce Club building, including a large timber deck area and steps for socialising
- » Building a new multipurpose female-friendly sports pavilion that complies with various sports and disability access requirements
- » Constructing new public toilets and showers including family-friendly facilities
- » Adding a new multi-court and reinstating the car park
- » Improving the safety between the bike path and children's play area
- » Making landscape improvements throughout the whole park

Stay up to date with project updates at [➔ conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fleming-park-redevelopment](https://conversations.merri-bek.vic.gov.au/fleming-park-redevelopment)

Look after your mate, keep their registration up to date

If you own a cat or dog, it is your responsibility to ensure that you register them with Council.

Under Victorian Law, all cats and dogs must be registered.

Registration keeps a record of your pet's name and your contact information, so that we can return them to you if they get lost.

Pet registration also helps:

- » Record how many pets live in Merri-bek
- » Fund off-leash and fenced dog parks
- » Provide free desexing programs and animal welfare programs.

Pet registrations were due on April 10.

If you have a cat or dog, please register or renew your registration now at:

➔ merri-bek.vic.gov.au/petcare

➔ 9240 1111



What's improved in your area

South Ward



🕒 Open now

Jacobs Reserve, Brunswick East

Construction of the new accessible public toilet at Jacobs Reserve is now complete.

We received your feedback about the location of the toilet – that we needed to balance the needs of park users and local residents.

Young families and the elderly will now have a toilet available when they need it, while respecting the privacy and security concerns of residents.



🕒 Open now

Anderson Park, Brunswick East

We've refreshed Anderson Park. The new playspace has a ropes play circuit, a nature play zone flanked by native garden beds, as well as a gentle mound slide.

We also installed a wheelchair and pedestrian-friendly concrete path inlaid with bluestone, and all new furniture made with Australian hardwood, including a picnic setting plus accessible drink fountain with dog dish.

Additional tree and garden planting has also been scheduled.

North East Ward



🕒 June 2023

Sulva Grove, Coburg North

We have started road reconstruction works along Sulva Grove in Coburg North. The works will include new road pavement, vehicle crossings, kerb and channel and works and improvements on underground drainage pits and pipes.



🕒 June 2023

Shore Grove, Coburg North

We have started road reconstruction works along Shore Grove, Coburg North – between McMahons Road and Carr Street. The works will include new road pavement, vehicle crossings, kerb and channel and underground drainage pits and pipes.

North West Ward



🕒 Complete

Moascar Street, Pascoe Vale South

We finished road reconstruction works along Moascar Street, Pascoe Vale South – between Gallipoli Parade and Reynard Street. These works included new road pavement, vehicle crossings, new kerb and channel and underground drainage pits and pipes. We finished works in April 2023.



🕒 Complete

Trevannion Street, Glenroy

We completed road reconstruction works along Trevannion Street in Glenroy – between Hilton Street and Corrigan Street. The works included new road pavement, vehicle crossings, kerb and channel and improved underground drainage pits and pipes. We finished works in January 2023.

Do you have any feedback on Merri-bek Community News?

➔ info@merri-bek.vic.gov.au



enews



Get the latest local news

Have you signed up to our My Merri-bek enews yet?

Sign up to our fortnightly email newsletter, My Merri-bek, and get news, events and community consultation projects sent directly to you.

Sign up here merri-bek.vic.gov.au/my-merri-bek

Gallery news



Counihan Gallery News

The Counihan Gallery is a free public gallery located in the heart of Brunswick.

To keep up to date with free professional development opportunities at the gallery, programs and new exhibition learning resources, join our mailing list!

Learn more at merri-bek.vic.gov.au/counihan

Your local members

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North West Ward



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Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek, and pays respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.



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