

# Wyndham Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-25



Annual Report  
2022-2023

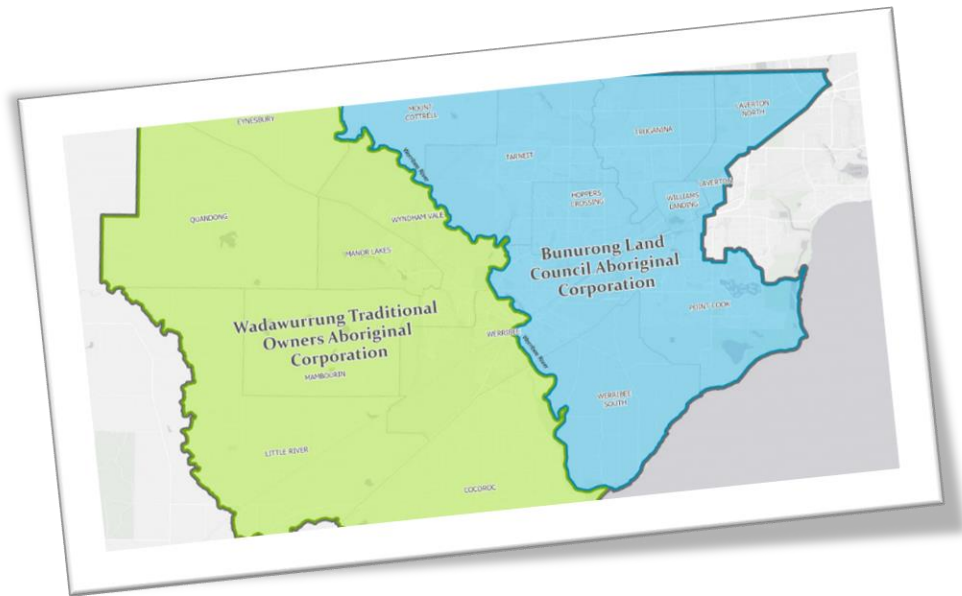
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## Acknowledgement of Country

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Wyndham has a rich Aboriginal history. For tens of thousands of years, the Werribee River has been a significant meeting place for Aboriginal people to build community, exchange resources, and share responsibility for its lands.

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first Peoples of Australia.



We acknowledge the Bunurong and Wadawurrung Peoples as Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City operates.

The Wadawurrung and Bunurong Peoples have and always will belong to the Werribee Yalook (river), creeks, stars, hills and red clay of this Country. We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community today and for future generations.

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## Introduction

The Wyndham Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (Health Plan) was adopted at a time of unprecedented disruption due to the health crisis. It sets out the health and wellbeing priorities for the municipality.

Wyndham was particularly impacted in 2021-2022. Emergency measures, which were vital to stop the spread of the virus, adversely impacted individual and community wellbeing in the Plan's first year. This report presents the work of the Plan's second year, 2022-2023.

Improving amenity and health and wellbeing is our primary Health Plan objective and health equity is our overriding guiding principle. Community resilience continues to be tested in recovery in the context of a national housing crisis and rising cost-of-living pressures.

Health equity guides the work of our plan now and into the future. We acknowledge the World Health Organisation's definition of health as being more than just 'the absence of disease or infirmity'. Health equity means it is the 'state of complete physical, mental and social well-being'. Health Plan priorities sit under four interrelated domains – Thriving, Liveable, Safe and Healthy Wyndham – with key priorities including social equity and inclusion, continuous learning, climate change health impacts, housing and the built environment, community safety, healthy eating and active living.

This second year report demonstrates the many ways that Council has continued to meet the public health and wellbeing needs of the community in the wake of the health crisis.

## Protecting Public Health

Having been adopted during the health crisis meant that the Health Plan was focused on pandemic recovery. Public health concerns, heightened during the emergency, included mental wellbeing, childhood development, community connection and family violence. Access to services was disrupted and many services were still trying hard to catch up in 2022-2023. Council worked together with community health service partners towards supporting the community and achieving better outcomes over the course of the Plan's second year.

Over the past twelve months demand for mental health services increased, work patterns changed, and family violence incidents increased placing further stress on service provision. The Orange Door opened in Werribee as an access point for women, children and young people who are experiencing family violence. The service coordinates family violence and child wellbeing support to residents across the Western Melbourne region.

Feedback from residents this year revealed ongoing satisfaction with Council services including maternal and child health services, playgroups, kindergartens and library and recreation services.

## Measuring Wellbeing

The primary aim of the Health Plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. In order to measure and monitor progress we use a flexible framework based on the outcomes that matter for health and wellbeing.

The 'outcomes' are our end goals, the change we are working towards with our internal and external partners throughout the life of the plan. The end of this second year marks a halfway point for the Health Plan and an opportunity to measure progress towards those outcomes. Understanding where

we are at helps us to adjust our actions as we continue working towards the Plan’s outcomes. The outcomes set the parameters for our health and wellbeing priorities and our monitoring and evaluation activities. Progress reporting in this way supports our decision-making in relation to public health and wellbeing across the community.

#### About this Report

Wyndham City has taken a range of actions to support public health and wellbeing across Wyndham. The outcomes in the schedule below are what we hope to achieve by working with our partners and delivering programs and services to our community. Progress towards outcomes determines how we are tracking.

The presentation of information against outcomes will follow the order of the schedule below which illustrates Health plan Domains, Priorities and Outcomes.

#### Health and Wellbeing Domains and Outcomes

Domain	Priority	Outcome
Thriving	Opportunity, equity and inclusion	We have equal opportunity to contribute to our community including through strong employment opportunities
		We can access formal and informal learning opportunities
	Mental wellbeing	We are a cohesive and inclusive society socially connected and able to ask for help when we need it
	Gender equality	We enjoy formal and substantive equality
Liveable	Accessible services	We can access safe and culturally appropriate services
		We are a resilient community and adapt to changing conditions
	Climate change health impacts	We are a zero-carbon community consuming locally and responsibly
	Housing and built environment	We can meet our housing needs
We enjoy our neighbourhoods		
Safe	Community safety	Our neighbourhoods are safe and inclusive
	Safe spaces	Local spaces are age-friendly and promote independence
	Family violence	We are safe at home
Healthy	Healthy eating	We can make healthy food choices and have food security
	Active living	We can access open spaces and participate in recreational opportunities
	Tobacco use	We support smokers and e-cigarette users who want to quit

# Thriving Wyndham

## Opportunity, Equity and Inclusion

Outcome 1: We have equal opportunity to contribute to our community including through strong employment opportunities

### Social Inclusion

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#### **Citizenship Ceremonies**

A backlog created by the health crisis was worked through, adding 7,000 new Wyndham residents who are now Australian citizens. 25 Citizenship Ceremonies, including three 'Super Ceremony Days', where for the first time 500 residents were invited to be conferred at each ceremony were completed during the first half of 2023.

#### *Citizenship ushers*

Wyndham City's new 'Australian Citizenship Ceremonies Volunteer Usher' role offered sessions on weekdays and weekends to provide the opportunity for volunteers to opt-in for one, two or three sessions on a day.

#### **Disability Inclusion Bill**

Council provided a submission to the Bill being developed by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) as part of the government's broader reform agenda to achieve equality for people with disability. Council's submission provided comments on proposed changes including:

- Changes for local government
- Introduction of disability impact assessments
- Reporting requirements
- Establishment of Commissioner for Disability Inclusion

#### **Economic Development**

Council adopted the Wyndham City Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026, providing clear direction for the long term sustainability of the local economy, including access to jobs that match the skillset and knowledge of the resident workforce. The Strategy aligns with community aspirations and outlines how priority employment sectors will benefit from leveraging a combination of our continuing population growth, existing economic strengths and opportunities, and recently delivered and planned improvements to local and regional infrastructure.

#### **Employment Pathways**

An aspect of the Employment Pathways - Bright Futures, the Emerging Talent Traineeships Program provided pathway opportunities for young people to build their careers. The program was delivered in collaboration with Group Training Organisations, including AFL Sports Ready together with our Opportunity Wyndham Partners - Wyndham Community Education Centre, The Huddle, NextGen Jobs, AMES, SYC, The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Youth Projects who refer candidates.

The program provided 12-month funded traineeship opportunities for community members in Wyndham keen to study and engage in entry level employment to build confidence and upskill for their future career.

### *#herbrightfuture*

Capitalising upon Victorian government initiatives to eliminate barriers for women, Council supports local place-based initiatives for women's economic security and financial wellbeing.

#herbrightfuture addressed barriers to workforce participation by providing education and training, meaningful pathways and employment support for women from diverse backgrounds in Wyndham. A collaboration between the Social and Economic Inclusion Unit and Opportunity Wyndham. #herbrightfuture offered six short term funded opportunities of 80 hours each between January and June 2023. It is a Workplace Immersion program, an aspect of Employment Pathways.

The Partnership is a place-based inclusive employment partnership between Wyndham City, Wyndham Community Education Centre, The Huddle, NextGen Jobs, AMES, Job Prospects, the Gordon TAFE, and Brotherhood of St Laurence. Together these organisations collectively deliver local jobs for local people.

### **Harmony Through Sport**

Together with the Wyndham Community and Education Centre and the Wyndham Humanitarian Network, Council held a free multicultural sports event to celebrate Refugee Week. The event theme was 'Finding Freedom', aiming to highlight aspects of the refugee experience and help the broader community to understand the refugee experience. It included music, dance, food and a soccer tournament. Western United FC and Football Victoria ran a soccer clinic and the Werribee Tigers ran a football clinic.

### **Library Programs Van**

Wyndham Libraries provided innovative library services and WiFi to meet new and emerging community needs in Wyndham. The van visited different locations with librarians on board to deliver programs and services to all ages.

### **Little River Railway Station**

Wyndham City supported the Little River Railway Station Revival Committee in several community-led engagement sessions to inform community of the intent of the project, recruit new volunteer members and raise funds for the operation of the facility.

### **National Volunteer Week**

The theme this year was 'the Change Makers'. During the week Council ran information sessions including Step into Volunteering, Volunteering as a Pathway to Employment and Volunteering in Retirement. Certificates and pins were distributed to Council volunteers and a video message from the Mayor was uploaded to social media.

### **Opportunity Wyndham**

Opportunity Wyndham is a free service to local businesses to encourage inclusive recruitment and culturally safe workplaces. Businesses share vacancies via local employment services and provide work trial opportunities for people to complete training and support programs. The Wyndham community is young and culturally diverse with 58 per cent of residents under 35 years coming from over 162 countries. State Government investment enables participants to be paid during pre-employment training.

In May 2023, Council hosted a forum to bring together local businesses and educators to connect with local people seeking opportunities. 100 local people benefited with support into local jobs over the course of the year, provided with individual support case management,

targeted pre-employment training, and access to Accredited Training and Industry qualifications to support employment and career progression.

Council worked with local businesses and jobseekers to support and develop training programs to upskill residents and expand their capabilities to be job ready. Businesses shared vacancies via local employment services and provided work trial opportunities for people to complete training and support programs.

#### *Small Business Bus*

In May 2022, Victorian Government's Small Business Bus offered free confidential mentoring, advice on developing business idea, formulating a business plan etc., assistance from a Small Business Victoria information officer, information about Small Business Victoria's programs and services.

### **SPARK**

SPARK is a collaborative space established to support and mentor digital, tech start-ups and entrepreneurs to scale up concepts and products to commercialisation. SPARK developed an innovative and entrepreneurial based ecosystem to strengthen the knowledge economy and increase employment in the region.

Businesses supported by SPARK range from start-ups to early-stage companies and in some instances mature enterprises seeking to adapt innovative solutions that deliver exponential growth. Membership is by application with successful applicants offered a 12-month residency period and potential for a further 12.

### **Volunteers**

The Wyndham Volunteer Expo was a free event to connect people to volunteering opportunities within Wyndham with community groups and organisations looking for volunteers.

During the health crisis, levels of volunteering fell away, and the Expo was an opportunity to reinvigorate organisations who needed volunteers. It showcased local volunteering opportunities and matched volunteers to roles suiting both the volunteer and the organisation.

#### *Volunteer training*

Volunteer recognition and appreciation training was offered to Wyndham volunteer managers.

#### *Volunteer inclusion*

The Volunteer webpage was updated so it can be translated into multiple languages, including sub-titles on the seven things you need to know about volunteering.

#### *Spotlight A Volunteer*

'Spotlight a Volunteer' highlights a community volunteer (formal and informal) each month throughout the year, with posts on Council's social media channels, website and Wyndham News. As part of International Volunteer Day 12 local volunteers were showcased in the Star Weekly.

### **Welcoming City**

In 2023, Council hosted a Welcoming City Forum, providing an opportunity for local multicultural community leaders to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. The forum included a range of guest speakers, First Nations and non-First Nations speakers. 70 community leaders attended from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds from across Wyndham.



## **Wyndham's First Nations**

### *Building Blocks*

This 15-week community leadership program focused on leadership in reconciliation, formulated to grow the knowledge, capacity and leadership of non-First Nations participants as champions of reconciliation. The program was co-facilitated by a First Nations person and included a range of First Nations consultants and Elders.

### *Reconciliation Action Plan*

Wyndham City's second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023-2025 was developed and adopted in 2023, demonstrating Council's commitment to progress reconciliation with Wyndham's First Nations community. The RAP assists Council to embed the principles and purpose of reconciliation, shaped around themes of relationships, respect, opportunities and truth-telling. Public exhibition of the RAP ran from 3 March - 14 April 2023 and feedback received from the community was incorporated. The final draft received endorsement from Reconciliation Australia.

Council's Acknowledgement of Country was updated in recognition of Wyndham's two Registered Aboriginal Parties. Council's website Aboriginal Culture & History web page reflects this recognition.

- East of the Werribee River the Bunurong Land Council represents the Bunurong people (the Civic Centre is located on this land).
- West of the Werribee River the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, represent the Wadawurrung people.

### *Uluru Statement from the Heart*

In April 2023, Council passed a motion in support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart in line with our ongoing commitment to reconciliation as articulated in the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the RAP 2023-2025. The motion demonstrated Council's support and solidarity for our First Nations people.

### *The Voice referendum*

Wyndham City provided promotional information on the Voice referendum to raise awareness of the process in line with the educational promotion of the Australian Government and the Australian Electoral Commission.

### *Cultural Cleansing*

A cultural cleansing event took place at the future site of the Truganina Community Centre to acknowledge Traditional Owners. The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation led the ceremony, acknowledging the history of the area and celebrating the growing Truganina community. Cultural and educational activities were provided for children.

### *WynTalk*

An aspect of the Global Learning Festival, the signature WynTalk this year had a First Nations focus. Entitled 'Acknowledge, Respect and Value Aboriginal Culture and Identity', the Pathway to Reconciliation WynTalk was delivered by Aboriginal woman Marlee Silva. This young author, podcaster and social media activist shared through her strength-based storytelling, championing the voices of Indigenous Australian women and girls. Silva promotes learning environments that acknowledge, respect and value Aboriginal Culture and Identity.

### **Wyndham Jobs Victoria Advocate**

A partnership with State Government, this service provides free individual employment support for Wyndham residents to find jobs, change careers, and develop employable skills. Community requests and referrals from service providers increased in the first quarter 2022-2023. To meet demand the service transitioned from an outreach/walk-in service to an appointment-based model.

### **Wyndham Learning Festival**

The theme this year was 'Building a Resilient, Sustainable Wyndham' with each curated event reflecting the theme, providing a fun, engaging, and stimulating learning experience. The festival offered over 70 activities across the Arts, S.T.E.M, Environment and Sustainability to Health & Wellbeing, Families and Children and more, with 1,288 registrations, and a mix of in-person and online events.

#### *Working in Wyndham*

The Wyndham Learning Festival Council provided support in learning to tailor a resume and cover letter to increase interview chances. Held in partnership with Opportunity Wyndham partners, five 'Working in Wyndham' workshops ran across the municipality, providing hands-on support to create a resume, cover letter addressing criteria in Position Descriptions. Wyndham City's Jobs Victoria Advocate was on hand to chat with participants.

### **Youth Civic Participation Project**

This program included dinner with Councillors and a meeting with State Members of Parliament (MPs) introducing participants to civic participation. During the sessions young people had opportunity to discuss with MPs their life and experiences in politics and government, what they achieved and receive advice on how to start a career in politics and government.

The project aimed to cultivate civic engagement in people aged 18 to 25 by taking them on a journey to learn and experience the roles and responsibilities of Australia's federation system. Participants spoke with Councillors, senior public servants and Council staff about their responsibilities and working roles.

The project included travelling to Canberra for a 4-day tour, visiting Parliament House, Museum of Australian Democracy, High Court and the Australian War Museum, as well as a full day at Parliament House Victoria and visiting Wyndham City Council.

## **Connected Community**

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### **Building Blocks: Community Leadership**

Offered through the Resilient Wyndham Stronger Together Theme, this free program is for people who live, work, study, volunteer or play in Wyndham and who are interested in working collaboratively with others to develop and strengthen their community leadership and participation skills.

### **Community Connectors**

Council has a dedicated team who help people find and connect with local service options. In 2022-2023 most referrals were to the Food Bank or for financial assistance, and to Council services or other government agencies such as My Aged Care, NDIS or Centrelink.

Translated materials in multiple languages were distributed through community centres, departments, external agencies and at events to publicise the Community Connectors service and explain how it can support people to access the local services and programs they need.

#### *Community Employment Connectors*

In partnership with the Wyndham Community Education Centre, Community Employment Connectors (CECs) are available at community centres across Wyndham to help residents from non-English speaking backgrounds with job searches, study and or training options. CECs support jobseekers to access relevant information and referrals to help break down barriers to employment.

#### **Global Kitchen West**

Multicultural Women Victoria ran a Global Kitchen and community lunch for women every Monday during school term at Penrose Community Centre.

#### **Mayoral Morning Tea**

Wyndham Mayor, Cr Susan McIntyre hosted a morning tea in April 2023 to provide an opportunity for civic engagement. Council officers were on hand to talk about activities, services and programs in Wyndham.

#### **Meet up with Mates**

Connecting with mates over a cuppa. Free fortnightly sessions on Monday mornings at Jamieson Way Community Learning Centre, Point Cook brought people together to enjoy a chat, coffee and cake.

#### **Neighbourhood Connect**

Westbrook Neighbour Connect, a neighbourhood watch event held in Truganina for the new community. The event aligned with the Keep Wyndham Clean Campaign and New Estates project which identified the importance of setting up new residents for success when they move to Wyndham by introducing them to organisations, clubs and services in the area.

#### **People's Advisory Panel**

Community members can volunteer for Council's People's Advisory Panel to provide regular advice and feedback to Council. Being a panel member connects residents with each other to discuss topics important to the broader community and to learn about Council and its work. Community members are recruited annually to refresh the panel and no special knowledge is required to join. A refresh of the panel through recruitment took place in May 2023.

#### **State Rose Garden show**

Held at Werribee Park, the show featured gardening exhibits, plant stalls, food trucks, and live music for visitors of all ages. Activities included workshops for children with nature play and posy-making, a new family friendly space featuring sensory gardens and sandpits and free tours of the Victoria State Rose Garden.

#### **Training Sessions**

Between July 2022 and June 2023, Wyndham City delivered 25 free training sessions to 345 Wyndham residents, volunteers, and community groups. Topics covered:

- Social media and the law
- Volunteer safety, risk and insurance
- Building a culturally competent organisation

- Awareness and practical application of the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement
- Disability confidence
- Running a successful AGM
- Starting a not-for-profit organisation
- Committee chair training
- Governing a not-for-profit organisation
- Grant information sessions
- Grant writing sessions
- Volunteer recognition and appreciation
- Step into volunteering
- Understanding financials
- Strategic planning

#### **Wyndham City Youth Services**

‘One Wyndham’ is a monthly award that supports the ingenuity and accomplishments of young people across the municipality. Awarded to a Wyndham resident aged between 12-25, the award aims to build the profile of young people who are positively contributing to the Wyndham community, to acknowledge their contribution and achievements.

#### **Wyndham Cultural Centre Annex**

Adjacent to the Cultural Centre, the annex is an extension of the Wyndham Art Gallery. It was set up to showcase a range of works by local creatives including Wunder Gym: Extended Practice, The Wynnies and Creative Catch Ups. The Annex is also used for new exhibitions and works by Western Edge and the Melbourne Fringe Festival.

#### **WYNOvation Festival**

The festival included ‘The Summit’, an event that offered an array of keynote speakers, innovative displays and networking opportunities for local businesses. Sessions included the Business Masterclass, presented by Mark Dobson and the Pitch competition with \$7000 in prize money. Lunch was provided at Shadowfax Winery with guest speaker Dr Lucy Cameron from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

### Outcome 2: We can access formal and informal learning opportunities

#### Continuous Learning

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##### **Adult Reading Circle**

Wyndham Libraries initiated reading circles to build confidence in reading and understanding English. The free program was for people aged 18+.

##### **Birnbial Family Centre**

A new family centre in Manor Lakes provides essential local services including 3-4 year old kindergarten and maternal and child health services. The new centre was built with \$1M support from the Victorian Government Growing Suburbs fund and \$3M Building Blocks Infrastructure fund.

### **Community Learning Centres**

Point Cook CLC hosted a wide range of programs and activities. In May 2023, a free Learn English Through Song program helped non-English speakers gain confidence in speaking English and meeting new people. Also, training basics for children (8-12 years) encouraged future study in STEM subjects.

### **Creative Corner**

The Creative Corner at Williams Landing Library lounge is a new youth lounge where young people can socialise with snacks, music and all things creative. Free weekly arts and culture sessions for teens and youth, were hosted by Wyndham Youth Services.

### **Emerging Talent Traineeships**

The Emerging Talent Traineeships Program provided pathway opportunities for young people to build their career. Delivered in collaboration with group training organisations including AFL Sports Ready and our Opportunity Wyndham Partners – Wyndham Community Education Centre, The Huddle, NextGen Jobs, AMES, SYC, The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre, Brotherhood of St Laurence and Youth Projects who refer candidates. The program provided 12-month funded traineeship opportunities for community members in Wyndham keen to study and engage in entry level employment to build confidence and upskill for their future career.

### **Exam Cram Study Nights**

As important exams approach, many students have difficulty studying at home. Wyndham libraries provide quiet spaces for students to work from 6-9pm. VCE, TAFE and university students benefited from studying in a quiet space to prepare for exams and assignments.

### **Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023**

This strategy is a driver for innovation and change in learning in Wyndham, functioning as a roadmap to develop equitable, inclusive and innovative learning across the municipality. The fourth community update was provided in April 2023 noting key achievements.

The need for a revised strategy was informed by new and emerging work, rapidly growing communities, changing social opportunities and the importance of personal resilience and wellbeing. The revised strategy will provide strategic direction via an integrated framework to foster a community of lifelong learning, and be a tool to advocate, facilitate, explore, initiate and deliver on Wyndham's learning goals.

### **Micro-business Health Check**

Council hosted a free micro-business training workshop for 18-25 year olds to assist with review and assessment of micro-businesses (typically between one and four employees). Topics included: business purpose; creating value through systems, planning, risk management and finance; defining clients, competitors and market; self-assessment; and knowing where to go for resources.

### **Neighbourhood House Week 2023**

Held in May 2023, this annual national celebration recognises the vital role of neighbourhood houses and community centres in promoting community wellbeing and connection. The theme was 'Locals Connecting Locals,' and Wyndham's Community Learning Centres celebrated with a range of fun, free and low-cost activities including a community breakfast at Iramoo Community Centre, a community party at Penrose Promenade Community Centre, and a Mother's Day Market at Saltwater Community Centre.

### **Reducing financial stress**

Held at Tarneit CLC in partnership with IPC Health this workshop provided tips and tools on money management to empower participants to take control of their finances. The workshop provided the tools and wisdom necessary to set goals and shop smarter. All participants received a booklet.

### **Tarneit Community Learning Centre**

New courses in 2023 included the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) and the Introduction to Hospitality course. The Learning Centre also hosted International Mother Language Day; a worldwide annual observance recognised by UNESCO to promote multilingualism. Activities included a parade, laying of flower wreaths, art exhibition, cultural performances, live music, a book fair, multicultural food vans and children's activities.

Council supported the creation of the 'Wyndham Mother Tongue Public Artwork, an idea initiated by the Victorian Bangladeshi Community Foundation to commemorate martyrs from the Bangla Language Movement on 21 February 1952 in Bangladesh.

### **Tech Connect 2022**

Wyndham Cultural Centre together with the Arts Centre Melbourne ran a free 10-week training program for community members in Theatre Production and Customer Service for theatres, galleries and cultural centres. Applications were open to female-identifying young people who also identify as a First Nations person, or multicultural persons aged 18-30 who want to gain entry-level knowledge and experience.

### **VCAL Support**

VCAL students from Manor Lakes P-12 College and Manor Lakes CLC were supported in a range of vocational and community programs as part of their studies. Students baked muffins, banana bread and scones in the centre's cafe and served tea and coffee on Monday mornings for the school and local community.

The activities prepared students and built their skillset, knowledge and job readiness. Participants demonstrated that disability and learning barriers need not restrict their community participation or employment ambitions.

### **Writing Workshop**

Held at Point Cook Library this creative writing workshop was hosted by Eliza Henry-Jones for people aged 18+ years. The session explored the techniques of delivering a complete flash narrative, with plot, characters and setting in less than 1500 words.

### **Wyndham Learning Festival**

As part of the Wyndham Learning Festival the Point Cook Library took a group to explore the wetlands area behind the library with an expert guide from the Werribee River Association. Participants learned about the local flora and fauna, their historic importance in Aboriginal culture and practice and the importance of maintaining natural resources.

### **Wyndham libraries**

The After Dark program ran at the Point Cook library over summer through extended library opening hours.

The BIG Summer Read challenge, for beginners up to the age of 18 ran through January. Young readers were encouraged to join, borrow, read and go into the draw to win prizes including a Zoos Victoria adult pass, Museums Victoria family pass and Readings Bookstore gift vouchers.

## Mental wellbeing

Outcome 3: We are a cohesive and inclusive society socially connected and able to ask for help when we need it

### Mental Wellbeing

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#### **Festival 24**

Held in May 2023 at Chirnside Park, Werribee, this free community event transformed Chirnside Park. From dusk on Saturday the park was buzzing with a fantastic line-up of live music on the Riverside Stage. Artist Callum Preston turned an old car into a dazzling neon artwork over the event duration and a series of DJs rotated through UKI a giant, robotic insect on wheels for a moving dance party that flipped to a silent disco after 11pm.

Other highlights included Chromatica a giant kaleidoscope and Imaginary Botanicals, a glowing garden maze of illuminated flowers from The Indirect Object, a silent 24-hour outdoor cinema, neon tennis, The Curious Game and ethereal, glowing roving performances from Born in a Taxi, an 8-hour paper plane competition and indoors the Slow Art Collective created a giant weaving structure to which anyone could contribute that grew in size and presence.

#### **Meet me in Tarneit**

A program of events delivered by Wyndham City in partnership with the Victorian Government and the Tarneit Suburban Revitalisation Board. It included the Firefly Twilight Market each month and monthly outdoor movie nights, kite festival and music event.

#### **Mind Wellness**

The Mind Wellness Discussion Groups was available at the Quantin Binnah Community Centre, Werribee. Facilitated by experienced Community Mental Health Practitioners, sessions topics covered healthy eating, Mindfulness, Goal setting, Anxiety, Depression, Self-Care, Healthy Lifestyles or whatever people wanted to talk about. Participants were able to listen and meet others struggling with social isolation or the business of life in general.

#### **Multicultural Lunar Festival**

The festival featured a wide range of artistic performances by local artists including singing, dancing, martial arts, theatre, display of traditional costumes and cultural performances by residents from China, India, Africa, Brazil, Cuba, Iraq and Tibet.

Ethnic dishes were offered from food trucks, marquees and local restaurants featuring Chinese, Malaysian, Thai, Mexican and Indian cuisines. Children's entertainment included a thrilling children's slide, face-painting, decorative balloons, jumping castles, mini golf and lantern making.

#### **Q&A speech pathology**

Due to the cancelling of assessment appointments during the health crisis, there was a considerable wait list for many specialist services for young children in Wyndham. To alleviate parents' concerns about child development Wyndham libraries provided sessions on speech pathology.

At Manor Lakes Library a session by a local speech pathologist from Well Said Clinic provided parents with the opportunity to share concerns and ask questions about their child's development. The session also provided parents with expert information to foster children's speech, language and communication skills and helps to fill in a gap in service delivery delays.

### **River Whispers**

Available as a podcast on Council's website, River Whispers is a free self-guided 25-minute audio experience best enjoyed in the surrounds of the Werribee River. Through the voices of the custodians of the river, residents and local artists, attendees learned of the provenance of Werribee River and its importance within our local community.

River Whispers weaved interviews, environmental recordings and music into a rich tapestry of peoples' stories, music and natural environment sounds. The podcast is available onsite at Wyndham Park via QR code.

### **Seniors' House of Fun**

Held at the Grange Community Centre, older people walk in as strangers and leave as friends, with a variety of activities that change weekly, each session encourages participants to interact whilst having a little fun. Keeping minds alert and active is important through all stages of life. Playing games, art and crafts and social interactions are all great ways to keep thinking, moving and laughing.

### **Victorian Transcultural Mental Health (VTMH)**

VTMH is the lead transcultural and intersectional mental health service for Victoria. Council Youth Services participated in a project aimed at creating cultural safety, competence, literacy guidelines, resources and tools for mental health professionals. Council Youth Services recorded a podcast series which provided VTMH with space, recording equipment and technical support. Recordings will be published on the VTMH website.

### **Winter clothing donation**

Humanitarian entrants and asylum seekers are regularly settled in Wyndham. Many come from conflict zones in Congo, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine. In May 2023, the West Welcome Wagon attended Werribee for a winter clothing donation event to support the most recently arrived clients settle into the cold winter weather.

### **Wyndham Emerging Professional Network**

A free mental health and wellbeing event for the network was held to connect with local professionals and learn career building skills. Guest speakers shared knowledge and expertise on ways to improve mental health and wellbeing in personal and professional life including strategies for managing stress and anxiety; building resilience and coping skills; and self-care.

### **Youth Services**

A new Council team was recruited to support young people by providing targeted youth engagement and counselling. Youth mobilisation and response roles were recruited.

#### *Trauma-informed practice*

Council Youth services officers received training in trauma-informed practice that aids understanding of people's behaviours, responses and emotions that are shaped by their life experiences. Trauma-informed practice supports wellbeing with practice domains that equip practitioners with knowledge and understanding to promote safety, healing and recovery. Client voice is considered the essential ingredient of program and system design and evaluation that guides practitioners.

#### *Referral Service*

Wyndham's Youth team worked closely with schools to advocate for young people or refer to other services. Referrals were provided to stakeholders, Community Connectors and other units such as MCH.



### *Get Psych'd*

Mental wellbeing, especially in young people, has been a concern since extensive Covid lockdowns in 2020-2021 and the continuing health crisis. Council offered free wellness workshops over a four week period at various locations across Wyndham with sessions for 12-15 years and 16-25 years. The workshops were designed to explore ways that help young people to look after themselves and their mental wellbeing.

The Get Psych'd program develops self-awareness by identifying individual values and strengths, understanding emotions, emotional triggers, developing individual coping strategies and implementing wellness plans.

### *Stressed out Teens*

The Youth Services Counselling team also provided family information sessions with strategies for supporting stressed out teens at Hoppers Crossing.

### *Tuning into Teens*

Tuning Into Teens is designed to assist parents to establish stronger relationships with their teenage children. Hosted by Community Support Youth Services, the programs has an average of six-to-nine parents attending each session.

Youth Services provided an 8-week parenting program to the Epiphany Church community, many of African backgrounds who wanted to better connect with their teenage children. All parents reported that their attendance in the program supported positive household change. Program delivery led to strong connections with multicultural communities with plans to expand the program to other groups over the course of the year.

### *Tuning into Kids*

Tuning Into Kids focuses on nurturing the emotional connection between parents or caregivers and their children, specifically designed for parents or caregivers of children aged five-to-eleven years. Hosted by Community Support Youth Services, the program averages nine parents attending each session.

### *Teen Mental Health First Aid*

Working closely with local schools, Youth Services ensure that young people have access to a range of community supports and services. The Teen Mental Health First Aid Program provides young people with the skills to be able to identify the development of mental health problems and mental health crisis, so that they can support their friends to access early intervention, leading to positive mental health outcomes for young people.

Youth Services provided 33 sessions over 3 weeks to 250+ Yr 10 students at Point Cook Senior Secondary College. Students reported that the program was "helpful" and made them feel that they "can get help and not go through things alone". They also learned ways to challenge the stereotypes around mental health

## Gender Equality

### Outcome 4: We enjoy formal and substantive equality

#### Capacity Building

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Wyndham City is committed to work towards a gender equitable organisation and community. Council applies a gender lens to all Wyndham City policies, services and programs.

#### **CommBank Young Matildas**

Australia's under 20s female football team, the CommBank Young Matildas held their training camp at Galvin Park Werribee in February 2023. An open training session provided an opportunity for local girls aged 12 to 16 years to meet the CommBank Young Matildas, supporting the growth and development of Australia's young female footballers.

#### **Gender Impact Assessments**

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Council conducts gender impact assessments (GIAs) when developing or reviewing any policy, program or service that has a direct and significant impact on the public.

Training opportunities were offered to staff to operationalise best practice. Workshops for Council staff included topics to understand their part in supporting GIAs, using GIAs to foster diversity and inclusive practice, and build the principles of GIAs into Wyndham City's policies, programs and services and day-to-day processes.

GIAs were completed for many policies and programs including the Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025, Integrated Transport Strategy refresh 2023, Reconciliation Action Plan 2023-2025, Woodville Neighbourhood Activity Centre Place Plan 2023 and the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023.

#### **Healthy Relationships**

Free healthy relationships workshops ran in partnership with Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities (ADEC) at Penrose Community Learning Centre with a focus on women's health, domestic violence and financial and healthy relationships. Women with or without a disability were encouraged to attend. Workshops included guest speakers on yoga and art, and art projects to express feelings, emotions and experiences.

#### **LGBTIQA+ Community**

##### *Q Program*

An ongoing program, which welcomes all faiths and backgrounds, provided support and recreation for young people aged 12 to 25 who identify as part of the LGBTIQA+ community.

##### *Q Art project art book*

The Q Art artbook was launched at the Youth Resources Centre to an audience of 45 community members, including young artists, peers and family members, service providers, Headspace, Drummond Street Queerspace, Anglicare Werribee LGBT Navigator, First Nations' led Little Rocket Publishing and council staff. The book, which includes a range of intersectional art forms, is available on Wyndham website.

#### **Women and Girls' Fitness Sessions**

Free activity sessions tailored for women and girls (16+ years) to improve fitness in a fun and supportive environment were provided weekly by Reclink at Tarneit CLC. Sessions were

delivered by a female instructor and included strength, core, flexibility and cardio exercises for all fitness levels. Women and girls only boxing classes were also offered free with beginners encouraged.

### **Women In Small Business**

This evidence-based webinar series was designed to provide a platform for small business owners to connect and share experiences with other like-minded women who juggle family and work. In conjunction with Partners in Wellbeing Psychosocial Support, each webinar revolved around a topic directly informed by small business owners who attended the inaugural webinar series.

Topics included:

- Self-doubt: Do you doubt yourself despite your experience and accomplishments?
- Health: the effects of menopause and peri-menopause on your work and home life
- Support networks: how to stay connected
- Managing “mother guilt”: how to feel better and practice self-compassion
- Positive thinking: how to stay positive when things are tough
- Managing customer expectations: how to communicate boundaries with customers outside business hours
- Finding time for self-care: as a mother, carer, spouse/partner running a small business

### **Wyndham Sunrise social group**

In partnership with GenWest this free program was held alternately at Tarneit Community Learning Centre and online the Wyndham Sunrise Social Club. The program was for women and gender diverse people with disabilities, chronic health issues and mental health challenges. Participants met new people, learned new skills, connected to local services, built confidence and tried new things together.

## Liveable Wyndham

### Accessible Services

Outcome 5: We can access safe and culturally appropriate services

Inclusive access

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#### **Accessibility and Inclusion**

Council is required to develop a policy under the *Disability Act 2006* (s 38) to reduce barriers to persons with a disability when accessing goods, services and facilities. In June 2023, Council endorsed the draft Wyndham Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025 for public exhibition from 30 June to 28 July 2023.

This Plan builds on the work of the Accessibility Action Plan 2019-2022, and closely aligns with current national and state policies to positively impact disability access and inclusion. Plan development was informed by a broad range of community engagement, including locally and by other levels of government.

The draft Plan has four ‘pillars’ – Thriving, Healthy, Safe and Opportunity – and 14 outcomes that Council will work to progress including improvements to community attitudes, accessible services and information, education and employment opportunities, wellbeing, accessible housing, emergency preparedness, abuse and neglect prevention, voice and leadership and pride and recognition. These last two outcomes are new and recognise the diversity and intersectionality of people with disability.

### **Book of Stuff**

The Book of Stuff is a youth directory for people aged 12 to 25 available at community centres, libraries, schools and the Youth Resource Centre. It includes Information about Council programs, services and events for young people at the Youth Resource Centre and community centres; local facilities, libraries, clubs, groups, activities, grants and events. It also provides information on what to do in various situations and the agencies and services available to help. There is also information on bullying, mental health, depression, homelessness, alcohol and drugs, legal services and health as well as public transport (myki, buses and trains).

### **Children’s Week 2022**

In September 2022, Wyndham Children’s Week Picnic was held at Werribee Park, with approximately 6,000 people. Staff from across the organisation took part, promoting Council services and programs to residents including:

- Early Years and Maternal Child Health services
- Play Group, Early Education and Care and Kindergarten Services
- Youth Services Street Surfer Bus and The Cruiser
- Neighbourhood Hubs
- The Green Living in Wyndham Team together with the Environmental and Conservation Teams
- Graffiti Education
- Library Services
- Sport and Recreation
- Wyndham Cultural Centre
- Community Centres

### **Community Learning Centres**

Wyndham City allocated funds in the 2023-2024 budget to improve community learning centres to facilitate community access to a wide range of community services in safe, welcoming and sustainable facilities. More than \$18 million was allocated to improve centres at Truganina, Black Forest South and Jamieson Way.

### **Community Connectors**

The program expanded to five Community Connectors to connect residents with support and empower people to make informed decisions. This program began during the health crisis and has grown to become a valued community strengthening program.

### **Dental Health**

In May 2023, in partnership with IPC Health, Council hosted an oral and dental health information session at Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre. The session focussed on the

importance of teeth brushing and promotion of oral health literacy. Pre-schoolers received an optional dental check, and each child received a dental pack.

### **Digital Library Cards**

Digital library membership cards in Apple and Google Wallets were introduced for new and existing library members. The digital card is more convenient and more environmentally friendly than the physical card. The app can be used to search the catalogue, place items on hold, view checked out items, book a computer, and more. Public Libraries Victoria also resumed inter-library loans with the resumption of courier services between library services allowing Wyndham residents to access other library collections across Victoria.

### **Disability Confidence Training**

In May 2023, onsite training was provided by Council at the Wyndham Civic Centre. 'Disability confidence' means being able to routinely and seamlessly accommodate differences when communicating with people who may have a disability. The session aimed to build confidence around knowing the right things to say and do when interacting with a person with disability. The guest speaker was a person with lived experience of disability who gave participants tips on being inclusive and accessible. Exploring what an 'enabling environment' looks like, links and helpful resources were shared during the session.

### **Early Years Partners**

This specialist early years Community Connector program helped families to access local support services. Early years partners and new residents benefited from having the early years connector position. At Bembit Bagrook, the officer connected local families with the local community, Garrang Wilam School, Wyndham CEC and allied health partners.

### **Get Skilled Access**

Council partnered with Get Skilled Access to host a six-month part-time position working with clubs and schools to increase inclusion of people with disability.

### **Lifecourse Framework**

Living Your Best Life in Wyndham, the Lifecourse Framework was adopted by Council to support lifecourse transitions across the ages from early years to older people. The Framework embodies a seamless approach to lifecourse service planning designed to facilitate collaboration between Wyndham City's service functions and other organisations. The Framework gives the community greater influence over services and empowers people by facilitating and supporting community-led initiatives.

#### *Family Friendly Charter*

The Charter promotes family friendly access to services and infrastructure that meet current and future needs. Events included:

- Youth Services Freeza events committee
- Coffee table event supporting community led activities at Manor Lakes Community Learning Centre
- Child and Family Hub project partnership with IPC in Wyndham Vale

### **Kindergarten and childcare**

An aspect of the Best Start, Best Life reform, a partnership with the Victorian Government, Wyndham City ran the Planning for the Future of Kindergarten and Childcare in Wyndham Survey on The Loop, from 1 March to 2 April 2023.

### **Maternal and Child Health (MCH) interactive tool**

Wyndham continued to experience the impacts of the health crisis, including ongoing staff shortages and increased service demand for MCH services due to Wyndham's growing population. Council targeted services to children and families who missed multiple Key Age and Stage visits during the pandemic.

To ensure families across Wyndham can access information on MCH services, Council launched an online tool for parents. The interactive video provides information on child growth and development up to age four years.

### **Public Toilet Policy**

The Wyndham Draft Public Toilet Policy provides a framework for toilet provision across Wyndham's open space and public realm network. Open for public exhibition in April 2023, the policy also promotes a standard for design that is accessible to all and emphasises the importance of the public toilet's location, siting and orientation to maximise community wellbeing and safety outcomes.

It recommends co-locating toilets within sporting pavilions and key destinations where people gather, seeking to position public toilets in locations that maximise safety. The policy recognises the importance of public toilets being designed, constructed and upgraded over time to meet or exceed the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) standards.

### **Reducing Gambling Harm**

A collaboration between Council and the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation produced a short film for the Stepping Out! project. The video details information about gambling harm and its consequences including lived experience stories. The film contains ideas for older peoples' activities in Wyndham that don't involve gambling or gaming venues.

### **Secondary School Vaccination Program**

Wyndham City's immunisation team visited secondary schools to deliver annual vaccinations to Year 7 and 10 students. Due to pandemic restrictions in 2020-2021 many students missed regular vaccinations. Year 7 students were offered booster doses against diphtheria/tetanus/whooping cough and the human papilloma virus (HPV) to provide protection against HPV-related cancers. Year 10 students were offered meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

## **Outcome 6: We are a resilient community and adapt to changing conditions**

### **Drug Resistant Infections**

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#### **Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)**

RATs were made available for people at all community centres, libraries and customer service counters. The Pandemic Recovery Office secured \$30,000 grant to help with distribution.

#### Climate Change

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##### **Air quality and fires**

Clause 13.06-1S of the Wyndham Planning Scheme was amended in relation to air quality to include strategies that:

- Ensure, wherever possible, that there is suitable separation between land uses that pose a human health risk or reduce amenity due to air pollutants, and sensitive land uses (residential use, childcare centre, school, education centre, residential aged care centre or hospital).
- Minimise air pollutant exposure to occupants of sensitive land uses near the transport system through suitable siting, layout and design responses.

##### **Charging Stations**

As part of the State Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria program, Wyndham City installed three electric vehicle charging stations across the City of Wyndham, two in Werribee and one in Tarneit. Each is powered by 100% renewable energy.

###### *Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers*

Two 50kW fast chargers were installed at the Civic Centre for use by both Council staff and the community use. These add to other EV chargers across the City of Wyndham.

##### **Green Living Series**

Council provided free workshops and events through the Green Living Series including skill building and providing tips to live greener. The series included a mixture of community and Council run event, workshops, field days and events hosted by knowledgeable presenters or community members. Themes for the series were Green Explorers, Energy Smart Wyndham and Environment.

Children (5-10 years) were encouraged to learn about Wyndham's native flora and fauna through the Green Explorers booklet. Activities included Recycled Seed Card workshop, Holly's Backyard Bees and Discover Waterbugs workshop.

###### *Green Living Map*

The Green Living Map is an online resource creating opportunities for community connection via Wyndham's diverse and unique natural environment to get involved with local groups running community gardens, seed sharing and markets and swaps. The map includes biodiversity sites, markets and swaps, community garden locations and seed sharing opportunities.

###### *World Environment Day*

The United Nations World Environment Day encourages global awareness and action in environmental protection. This year's theme, Beat Plastic Pollution, reminded people that their actions surrounding plastic pollution matter. Council encouraged residents to influence business change by refusing single-use plastics, pushing for change within workplaces, and making small changes at home to reduce plastic pollution. Clean up events were held across Wyndham including a Family Clean-up Day at Jubilee Wetlands, Werribee. Activities included a free tree giveaway teaming up with two local nurseries to give 1000 residents vouchers for free trees.

### **Mobilising Climate Just and Resilient Communities in Melbourne's West**

Wyndham City together with the Jesuit Social Services Centre for Just Places and neighbouring Councils began mapping collaborative opportunities to mobilise climate justice in the West of Melbourne, with objectives to understand the way in which:

- climate change can maintain, exacerbate, and create new forms of inequity
- health-care and social assistance as a system is vulnerable to climate change

In November 2022, the project produced a Collaborative Action Plan outlining a shared vision for the actions required to mobilise community health and community service organisations (CHCSOs) around climate justice and community resilience in the west of Melbourne.

Council continues to be engaged in the next phase of the project to contextualise the risks and vulnerabilities of climate change for those organisations working on the frontline, as well as explore deliberative pathways to work towards transformative adaptation for communities at greatest risk.

### **Reduced Carbon Emissions**

Council participates in a joint renewable electricity contract that has saved \$500,000 over 18 months. Wyndham City is one of 51 Victorian councils to reduce energy bills and emissions through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), Australia's largest ever emissions reduction project by local government.

Initiated and facilitated by the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances, VECO recognises the benefits of renewable energy for the environment and the economy. Since joining the VECO project, Wyndham City has realised savings on its electricity bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than 15,000 tonnes.

### **Resilient Wyndham 2021-2025**

Council's long-term resilience project guides and manages recovery from the pandemic. Activities include how to survive and thrive in the face of future events such as climate change, extreme weather, natural disasters, pandemics, cyber-security attacks and economic downturns. The four-year vision includes targets and a yearly action plan to help strengthen Wyndham's resilience. Some actions undertaken during the year include:

- Second-hand bike sale with bike maintenance and education
- Pop up recycling day – 195 vehicles attended, dropping off old bicycles, clothing and bric a brac for reuse and recycling
- Inaugural Leadership Excellence Program delivered with 15 participating businesses, helping to develop skills and capability in business leaders
- Public vehicle charging infrastructure implemented at the Hunter Building, with two 22kW charges installed
- Planted 26,000 tubestock and 189 street trees. Wadawurrung partnership implemented and delivered with 5,000 trees shrubs and grasses being planted on Country
- Engaged local GPs to present at a national emergency management course on the importance of health agencies working with local Councils to support resilience and recovery



- 'Are you Ready?' brochure updated and distributed to help the community prepare for emergency situations
- Smart lighting design trial commissioned to optimise Wyndham's streetlight network using smart controls and data collection

### **Solar Carparking and Shade Structure**

Council developed bespoke solar car parking and shade structures at the Iramoo Integrated Family Centre which also includes plans for EV charging directly from the renewable energy being produced on site. This project will further reduce Council's environmental footprint while improving access to EV charging infrastructure for the community.

### **Solar Neighbourhood Battery**

Wyndham City appreciates that not everyone who wants to use solar power can afford a personal battery. Council provided the neighbourhood battery for the community to share, allowing more people to take part in using renewable energy for a sustainable future.

The neighbourhood battery is around the size of an electric car and located in Tarneit. It connects to powerlines, storing the sun's energy and available at night when residents need it. It can store 120kW (or 360kWh) of power to directly service an estimated 170 customers.

### **Tree Planting**

Climate change impacts mean that heatwaves cause more deaths in Australia than the sum of deaths from all other natural disasters combined. Urban heat islands add to the impact of heatwaves. Wyndham is susceptible to the impacts of heat island effect where urban and concrete environments retain more heat in contrast to natural environments.

Melbourne's west has a large percentage of hot spots that are more than 10°C warmer than non-urban conditions. Such heat islands can rapidly lead to tangible health impacts, especially for vulnerable groups such as very young children (0-4 years old), older people (65+), and a high percentage of people with disabilities.

#### *Street Tree Planting*

Wyndham has one of the lowest tree populations in Victoria and thus the lowest amount of shade or 'canopy cover'. In Wyndham it can be tough for a recently planted tree to thrive, especially in the warmer months. The Street Tree Planting Program is supported by targets set out in the City Forest and Habitat Strategy including to provide 25 per cent tree canopy cover (shade) to keep streets cool and green. Also, suitable nature strips will have at least one tree planted by the year 2030.

#### *Tree Plotter*

Council purchased Tree Plotter, tree mapping software to manage tree inventory across the municipality. Council is currently investigating other modules to better forecast tree canopying.

### **Waste Watchers**

Council conducted free waste education workshops where participants learned to reduce their waste and recycle appropriately. Workshops included education in creating a worm farm and how to compost correctly.

#### *Werribee Refuse Disposal Facility*

Focus on resource recovery means only residual waste is sent to landfill. Planning is underway to facilitate separating recyclables from residual waste. New recovery operations began operating at the transfer station in January 2023.

### **Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA)**

Wyndham partners with neighbouring municipalities in the Alliance which includes Melton, Moonee Valley, Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobson's Bay and Moorabool Shire Council. Wyndham is leading the Alliance in 2023. Council partners through the Alliance together with renewable technology experts RENEW to provide a series of 10 online workshops covering topics such as all-electric homes, solar and batteries, energy efficiency, buying green power, and electric vehicles. In May 2023, Wyndham ran additional energy saving workshops for the community, as part of 'Energy Smart Wyndham'.

### **Wyndham Waste Alliance**

The Alliance aims to build the skills, networks and capacity of residents to tackle the waste crisis. Building on the work of our Litter Blitz groups, the Alliance aims to address the crisis at a strategic level, advocating for change and action from local and state governments and businesses. The Alliance met monthly throughout the year. Sessions included presentations and workshops with guest presenters, open discussion on the progress of the group's objectives and priority areas for action.

### **Wyn-R program (Reduction, Renewables, Resilience).**

Council committed to continue rolling out renewable energy systems under this program. The Wyn-R Program ensures that all new buildings required for our growth area community include considered, appropriate and sustainable design elements for best long-term operation.

Wyndham is a leader in the clean energy transition with more than double the installed rooftop solar capacity of the next highest Victorian municipality, demonstrating commitment to renewable energy uptake.

Council invested in upgrades to all its existing solar assets, including the installation of hardware for advanced remote monitoring of operations, solar energy generation and site energy consumption. This commitment has included the bespoke solar car parking and shade structure at Iramoo Integrated Family Centre.

### **Zero-Emission Mowers**

Council purchased two Ecoteq EVO ZTR mowers with the larger 35-kW mower to service Wyndham's larger assets and a smaller 22-kW mower to be used city-wide. The mowers produce zero emissions, with one electric zero-turn mower equivalent to taking 140 cars off the road each year.

## Housing and Built Environment

### Outcome 8: We can meet our housing needs

#### Housing Provision

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#### **Affordable Housing Forum**

Council hosted an Affordable Housing Forum, a key strategic action of the Affordable Housing Strategy. A panel of four affordable housing professionals opened the conversation. A roundtable discussion followed that explored challenges, big ideas and next steps.

This successful forum was well attended. Table discussions and high levels of engagement from participants provided Council with a rich source of information and ideas.

### **Homelessness Week 2023**

In June 2023, Council coordinated a donation drive to collect long-life food and personal care items including new socks and underwear, blankets and towels. Community and Council staff donated personal care items (toiletries, sanitary products, food, blankets, underwear, beanies, scarves, towels), creating over 300 Dignity Packs which were distributed to all Wyndham Community Centres for community members to access as short term emergency relief. Surplus donated items were given to Uniting Wyndham.

Council facilitated a number of events during Homelessness Week which included screening the Undercover documentary followed by a panel discussion at Point Cook Library. Dignity pack packing and morning tea with guest speakers at Manor Lakes followed by dinner and guest speakers at Dianella. Events were structured to raise awareness of homelessness in Wyndham and how the community can support those experiencing hardship.

### **Housing Affordability**

Council passed a motion in April 2023 to investigate the potential to use Council-owned and managed land, property and air space rights for the purposes of directly supporting increases in crisis accommodation and social and affordable housing stock in Wyndham.

A report investigating the potential to increase affordable housing supply by developing Council land, property and air space assets will be presented at the December 2023 Council Meeting. The report will cover options for Council to assess and proactively pursue opportunities, especially through partnerships (State Government, community housing associations, private sector etc.) and donations (cash, bequests, land etc.).

### **Housing and Neighbourhood Character Strategy 2023**

Council is responsible for planning for housing through land use and development policies. This Strategy provides a framework to guide the growth and change of residential areas in the municipality. It is a key document that sets out a 15 year plan to guide the location, type and design of new housing across Wyndham. In this Strategy Council's designated roles are as land use planner, leader and advocate, partner and facilitator, educator and regulator.

The Strategy recognises the need for Wyndham housing stock to provide for a diverse range of household needs related to changes in age structure. For example, increasing numbers of people aged over 60 years, and reducing proportion of families with young children. A diversity of housing options will be needed to cater for the variety of household lifestyles and budgets.

### **Population Growth And Affordable Housing**

At the August Council meeting, Council endorsed a motion for consideration by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) that called on the Victorian Government to prioritise infrastructure and services funding for growth area councils who are experiencing significant population growth...[which] is required in light of the Victorian Government's increased focus on delivering on Plan Melbourne's goal of delivering 70 per cent of new housing in established areas. Further, that the Victorian Government continue to address the growth in homelessness through construction of affordable housing across the state.

### **Community Learning Centres**

#### *Bembit Bag-Rook Community Centre*

Bembit (flower in Bunurong language) Bag-Rook (meaning women) is a new community centre in Tarneit North. Delivery of the new centre was supported by \$2.5 million from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund and a \$2.5 million Building Blocks grant. The centre offers full disability access, fully equipped kitchen, hireable spaces, BBQ and children's play area and EV charging stations.

#### *Jamieson Way Community Centre expansion*

The Jamieson Way Community Centre Master Plan was endorsed in 2022. When completed, the community centre will house a third kindergarten room, a larger outdoor play area, redeveloped maternal and child health spaces and updated reception area. All stakeholders contributed during the concept design phase.

### **Community Amenity**

The Community Amenity Local Law 2023 was adopted in August 2023. It aims to protect Wyndham's amenity and the safety of all those in it. It outlines laws relating to expected behaviour in public places, property maintenance, keeping animals, roads and vehicles, business and building works, liquor and smoking, Council land, permits and fees and law enforcement.

### **Libraries After Dark program**

An anti-gambling initiative Libraries After Dark provided an alternative activity to an evening at the pokies by offering a welcoming community lounge at the library. Open until 10pm on Thursdays, the initiative was part of the state-wide Libraries After Dark program.

Patrons enjoyed special events, activities, and a warm, friendly welcome by staff. Since the program launched in 2021, there have been nearly 10,000 visits to the Hoppers Crossing library, with an average 166 evening visitors.

### **LIT at Wyndham Park**

In March 2023, the free LIT show created a laser show, rainbow sky canopy, interactive projections, magical glowing nature trail and more. An evening activity included an 800 metre trail of glowing night creatures emerging from a magical wardrobe and pulsing light-filled lawn. Included a changing canvas with projections of native plants that responded to touch.

### **Public Reserve Upgrades**

Playgrounds at Moondara Park, Tarneit and Aitken Avenue Reserve, Hoppers Crossing received upgrades including equipment suitable for junior and senior play, nature play areas, half-court with basketball and netball hoops, picnic facilities, BBQ, upgraded pathways, new circuit path connection, seating, landscaping upgrades and public toilet facilities.

A playground upgrade at the Aquarius Street Reserve, Truganina elevated the reserve to a district level park including improved kick-about space, expanded and upgraded path network, new BBQs, upgraded park furniture, new bike hoops, new toilets, more nature play, garden beds and trees.

\$1.16 million retrofit of Goddard Street Reserve Pavilion, Tarneit provides host clubs with an expanded social room, kitchen, kiosk and storage areas.

\$830k upgrade at the Saltwater Reserve Tennis features improvements to the pavilion including a larger social room, and kitchen kiosk with new landscaping and paving. Works have also been completed at Tom Roberts Reserve, Point Cook and Arndell Park Reserve, Truganina.

Times Square Park, Sanctuary Lakes upgrade includes a new playground, swing set, nature play, table tennis table, sheltered seating area, additional bench seating and new bike loops. Greater accessibility via an accessible ramped path connecting the play space to the existing pram crossing and path network, expanded car park, new rubberised surface added to existing exercise equipment and pet-friendly features. The existing large open lawn space remains, with community feedback showing that the space is popular for kick-to-kick and other games.

### **Tarneit Major Town Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF)**

The Draft Tarneit Major Town Centre Urban Design Framework (UDF) was on public exhibition 20 February – 20 March 2023. The UDF will help shape the design, development and growth of the Tarneit Major Town Centre. The design delineates nine defined areas each with their own character and purpose. The UDF will guide staged development in the area and help attract investment over the next 30 years.

### **The Wyndham Plan**

The Wyndham Plan was on public exhibition in the 2nd quarter of 2022-2023. The Plan facilitates integrated planning and development in alignment with the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision, supporting development in locations that are or will be well supported by infrastructure and services and enables better connections of people and places.

The Wyndham Plan provides the strategic foundation for changes to the Wyndham Planning Scheme that enables creation of the types of places that the Wyndham community sought when formulating the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision.

### **Werribee City Centre Plan**

A lot has changed since 2013 when the Werribee City Centre Plan was first developed. Consultation, calling for ideas to refresh the Werribee City Centre Plan and help shape Werribee's future ran from 20 February to 26 March 2023. The revised plan acknowledges that a vibrant, strong and growing Werribee City Centre is needed to anchor Wyndham's rapid population growth, provide local jobs, business opportunities, local services, city living opportunities, and places for events, community recreation and culture.

### **Werribee South Beach Master Plan**

This Master Plan provides a strategic framework for the future development and upgrade of the Werribee South coastal precinct. Community consultation resulted in considerable community feedback which guided finalisation of the master plan. Overall responses were positive with many people expressing support, excitement and enthusiasm for the master plan.

The Master Plan identifies a wide range of visitor, amenity and access upgrade projects to be implemented over an extended implementation timeline, of up to 10 years. Proposed works include:

- Wetland deck and seating area overlooking the Werribee River and Grahams Wetland Reserve
- Dog off lead beach
- Wyndham Bay Trail improvements including elevated boardwalk along a section of the Bay Trail

- Fitness equipment exercise station
- Accessible beach ramp and beach matting to provide shoreline access for people with limited mobility

### **Woodville Neighbourhood Activity Centre**

A Place Plan is being developed for Woodville to boost the local economy and create better connections to shops, facilities and services. Woodville residents and visitors were asked to share what they value about their activity centre, and what can be improved during consultations 1 February to 5 March 2023. There will be further opportunities for community input at the end of the year when the draft Place Plan will be exhibited.

Prior work included both activations and urban design improvements in a partnership which saw investment by Council, the Victorian Government and Shopping Centre owners. This was a successful project that enhanced the Shopping Centre through improved pedestrian connections, landscaping, furniture and distinctive murals.

### **Wyndham Public Art Plan 2022-2032**

Adopted in 2022, this plan embeds the role of public art into the built environment and sets the foundation to develop programs. The Plan aims to deliver on policy, investment and partnerships that create art works.

The 10-year plan was produced following extensive research and consultancy. Public art plays an important role in enhancing Wyndham’s identity, contributes to cultural life and is central to the ongoing development of Wyndham as a vibrant, creative and engaged City.

### **Wyndham Active Transport Strategy**

As part of the Wyndham 2040 Vision, the community outlined their aspiration to be connected and to have opportunities to stay fit and healthy through leisure facilities like pools and gyms, clubs, lesser known sports, walking and cycling. As part of this Vision, Council proposed the development of sport and recreation that increases access for all members of the community. Work continued on the development of an implementation plan and program to complete missing path links in 2022-2023.

## Safe Wyndham

### Community Safety

Outcome 10: Our neighbourhoods are safe and inclusive

Outcome 11: Local spaces are age-friendly and promote independence

### Community Safety

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#### **Back to School program**

In February 2023, in collaboration with Victoria Police, Wyndham City undertook enforcement of road safety outside schools. The campaign monitored safe parking and driving behaviour, ensured seat belts were worn, that parking was legal and reduced speed zones observed at peak periods outside schools.

#### **Coffee with a cop**

In May and June 2023, sessions in Tarneit offered community the opportunity to discuss matters of safety and raise concerns in person with Victoria Police in a safe and friendly space.

Litter and illegal dumping in residential areas together with safe parking and driving in school precincts were raised during the sessions.

### **Empowering Communities**

The Wyndham Community Safety Grants are part of the wider Empowering Communities Grants Program. Wyndham City received funding to deliver the program through the Victorian Government's Building Safer Communities Program in 2021. The grants may be used for new projects and activities or to broaden the reach of existing projects and activities.

The initiative also to develop a network of 'Community Partners' who are local community organisations, informal groups, networks and individuals that share the common goal of achieving improved safety outcomes in Wyndham. The project began in 2022 with workshops for residents to discuss community safety issues. Expressions of interest were accepted from local residents and service representatives to become a part of the Wyndham Empowering Communities Local Action Group.

Successful Community Safety Grants recipients included:

- Wyndham Community & Education Centre
- Karuna Compassion in Action Incorporated
- Blue Light Victoria Incorporated
- Youth Junction Inc and
- Festival for Healthy Living, Royal Children's Hospital Community Development (auspiced by The Village Festival of New Performance Inc)

### **Motorbikes For Community Safety**

A memorandum of understanding was extended to 2024 to support Victoria Police's Westgate Highway Patrol Unit to use two off-road motorbikes to patrol off-road areas and combat illegal trail bike riding and motorbike hooning in Wyndham. This partnership supports residents to safely use Wyndham's parks and pathways without fear of illegal trail bikes.

### **Neighbourhood Connect**

Westbrook Neighbour Connect, a neighbourhood watch event held in Truganina engaged the new community. The event aligned with the Keep Wyndham Clean Campaign and New Estates project which identified the importance of 'setting up' new residents for success when they move to Wyndham by introducing them to organisations, clubs and services in the area.

### **Point Cook Bike Park**

This park upgrade added to the existing park along Corporate Drive to provide cyclists and walkers with a stop and rest area close to the Wyndham Bay Trail. Improvements included a new shelter, bike repair station, bike racks, drinking fountain with water bottle refill tap, additional seating and more canopy trees and plants. This project is part of the Wyndham Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

### **Road Safety**

#### *Road Safety Renewal*

Maintaining and upgrading local roads contributes to road safety. Under the Road Surface Renewal Program Council resurfaced 31 roads across Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook, Tarneit, Werribee and Wyndham Vale. As part of the Road Reconstruction Program 12 Wyndham streets have been completely rebuilt.

An \$8.9 million road reconstruction program was undertaken to ensure the road network is safe. Included an upgrade to 12 streets including full road reconstructions at Pelham Crescent and Woodlake Place in Wyndham Vale, Gainford Court, Oldtrack Place and Stagecoach Close in Hoppers Crossing, and a section of Shaftsbury Boulevard in Point Cook. Work on six more road reconstructions in Hoppers Crossing commenced in early 2023, including rebuilds of John Flynn Court, Moreton Court, Derrimut Service Road, Boston Place, Delaware Court and Manatee Close.

#### *Road Safety Strategy*

The Wyndham Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032 was adopted by Council in the 2nd quarter 2022-2023. The Strategy identifies four strategic themes to drive road safety.

- Leadership and best practice
- Safe system approach
- Healthy and sustainable transport
- Working together

The Strategy is based on the 'Safe System' framework also adopted by State and Federal governments. It aims to influence the behaviour of road users by working in partnership with key road safety bodies and other community partners.

#### *Safety Around Schools*

Council has a responsibility to ensure resident safety around local schools. This includes providing school crossing supervisors and infrastructure to support safe travel for pedestrians and motorists. Through funding received from the TAC Local Government Grant Program, Council sought feedback on safety issues around Woodville Primary School, Bellbridge Primary School and Truganina South Primary School from 6 December 2022 to 26 February 2023. All Wyndham schools were encouraged to provide feedback. Community engagement findings were compiled into a report to recommend further safety initiatives.

#### *Road Surface Renewal Program*

Under the Road Surface Renewal Project Council resurfaced 31 roads across Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook, Tarneit, Werribee and Wyndham Vale. As part of the Road Reconstruction Program 12 Wyndham streets were completely rebuilt.

Council allocated \$33.6 million to fund important road works across Wyndham in its adopted annual budget. Large and small projects were funded to make the roads safer, less congested and more user-friendly. Proposed key road projects included: duplication of Tarneit Road between Sayers and Leakes Roads, reconstruction of Davis and Doherty's Roads and various local road reconstruction projects.

#### *Riverside Local Traffic Management Study*

The Riverside area was selected for a local area traffic management study to ensure neighbourhood safety. The precinct has many vulnerable road users including pedestrians and cyclists accessing the City Centre, Werribee River, schools and traffic accessing and servicing Lock Avenue. Initiatives included proposed speed limit changes on local roads within the precinct to 40km/hr to support a safer road environment for all road users.



### *Synnot Street Parking and Speed Limit*

Working to improve traffic safety, congestion and traffic movement in and around the Werribee City Centre, Council undertook an independent audit review of sight lines along Synnot Street. The audit proposed to reduce the speed limit to 50km/h and remove 16 parking spaces to achieve the best balance and keep Synnot Street safe. The proposed changes went out for public consultation from 28 November 2022 to 8 January 2023.

## Outcome 12: We are safe at home

### Family Violence

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#### **Enhanced Maternal Child Health (EMCH)**

The EMCH program is an ongoing program for families who may need extra support and offers flexible actions and interventions to families who would benefit from targeted support. It is an expanded support program for children up to their third birthday with a stronger focus on infant mental health and wellbeing and identification of, and support for, families affected by family violence. Intervening earlier in life to support families and children can impact positively on the life trajectory of the child and family.

The program involves collaboration and partnership with other services including specialist family violence services such as The Orange Door Werribee. The program also supports parent-child interactions by providing more focused and intensive maternal child health support when parents are experiencing significant early parenting difficulties. The program works to address parent or family risk factors that affect child development or the capacity of the family, such as parent emotional wellbeing and family violence.

#### **The Orange Door**

An outcome of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, Victoria's most recent Orange Door opened in Werribee servicing Western Melbourne in 2022. The Orange Door brings services together to provide co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary support, including crisis assistance, risk assessments, safety planning and wellbeing support.

The Orange Door Network in Western Melbourne is a strong collaboration between the Victorian Government, Anglicare Victoria, GenWest, Western Health, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association. The Orange Door is an important front line entry service to ensure family violence help is accessible.

#### **Wyndham Family Violence Network**

Council convenes the network to develop and support partnerships with key stakeholders to facilitate collaborative efforts in preventing and addressing family violence locally, primarily a service provider network. In May 2023, Anglicare Victoria presented on adolescent violence in the home, which is a targeted response aiming to reduce violence and increase safety in the home. The need for this specific work has been recognised across the Western region, and particularly in Wyndham. The program works with families in homes where a person aged 12 to 17 years uses violence. An additional program, Breaking the Cycle, is an eight-week targeted program for parents or carers where there is a young person displaying violence in the home.

## Healthy Wyndham

### Healthy Living

#### Outcome 13: We can make healthy food choices and have food security

##### Promote Healthy Eating

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###### **Food Security**

An online workshop that discussed the future of food systems and security across the City of Wyndham was held in May 2023. The workshop, which was attended by Deakin University researchers, Wyndham City staff and other experts included discussions around at-risk populations, principles and processes in-line with the human right to food, and ways to better respond to food insecurity within the local community.

###### *Food Relief*

Wyndham community centres partnered with many community groups and organisations to provide food relief to residents in need. Manor Lakes CLC in partnership with Coffee Table ran a pop-up foodbank on Wednesday mornings during school holidays.

###### *Foodbank*

The Youth Services team was involved in the H3 Alliance which provided services to young people such as Foodbank across many community centres.

###### **Sons of the West**

This program is a partnership between the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Western Leisure Services and Wyndham City, delivering an intensive program for men to provide them with the tools and knowledge to improve their health and wellbeing. Two 10-week programs were run.

The free program takes a holistic approach to improving men's health. Men of all fitness levels seeking to adopt a healthy lifestyle could benefit from the program which makes exercise and healthy eating fun and easily integrated into everyday life.

###### **Youth Services Cooking Workshop**

Wyndham Youth Services ran a monthly Monday afternoon Create Cooking workshop at Manor Lakes CLC for young people aged 12 to 18 years. The workshops were free and designed to nurture curious minds in the kitchen, by cooking a variety of dishes, with different recipes each month to prepare, share and eat. The workshops encouraged young people to be involved in food preparation and cooking through healthy meal choices.

#### Outcome 14: We can access open spaces and participate in recreational opportunities

##### Promote Active Living

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###### **Active Transport Strategy**

This Strategy brings more walking and cycling routes to Wyndham to create a connected network of safe and sustainable active transport options for residents, including people with disability, parents with prams and families with young children who want to walk and ride. Recent footpath upgrades have been completed in the precinct surrounding Cambridge Primary school, around Werribee Station and Williams Landing Station.

## **Bicycles**

Council provided 10 bikes to Reclink Australia to support access to sporting and fitness equipment for residents in need at SportShare, Werribee. Previously used for education programs the bikes can be repurposed to support participation in cycling, providing a mode of transport and benefiting individual mental wellbeing.

## **Community Infrastructure Growing Suburbs Fund**

Wyndham City secured funding from the Growing Suburbs Fund for several important community infrastructure projects, including:

- Family recreation areas at Alfred Road Reserve and Fortitude Drive Reserve, including playgrounds, BBQ, seating, shelter and facilities for active recreation.
- Galvin Park pavilion redevelopment: this project is the catalyst for a partnership with Reclink to deliver social inclusion programs, spanning sport, education and employment.

## **Federation Trail Bike Path**

Creating parkland and community space for Melbourne's growing west is part of the Greening the Pipeline project. Consultation began on concept designs for Zone 4 of the project. The project runs 27 kilometres and aims to transform the heritage-listed main outfall sewer reserve along the Federation Trail bike path into parkland. Zone 4 relates to the 1.8 kilometre reserve between Skeleton Creek and Old Geelong Road, Hoppers Crossing.

This section aims to include more trees and green spaces, native grasslands, a passive rain garden, an aqueduct deck, walking and cycling paths, bicycle repair station and seating.

## **Live Life Get Active**

Free 45-minute exercise classes were held every weekday at the Little Growling Park Tarneit for all fitness levels including cross-training, boxing and yoga. The classes provided opportunities for people to get fit and to meet their neighbours.

## **Mayoral Fun Run**

Wyndham City's first mayoral fun run took place in November 2022 at President's Park. It offered a 5km walk/run and two running distances (10km and 21.1km). With children under 10 years free, entry prices varied from \$15-\$35 with proceeds going to support the Black Dog Institute. Participants received a commemorative medal.

## **Parks Asset Renewal Program**

Council upgraded nine parks installing new playground equipment at Burgundy Drive, Crescent Reserve and Aitken Avenue Reserves, Featherbrook, Iramoo and Alamanda Kindergartens and at Moondara Street Park.

Further upgrades included playground elements at Tarneit's Bruny Drive Reserve, new playground and bike track at Bowery Court Reserve, and a basketball court, playground and fitness equipment at Conquest Drive Reserve. A new park was created at Caraleena Drive Tarneit including a playground, nature play area, half-court basketball, walking paths and open activity space.

## **Saltwater Reserve Soccer pavilion**

Works were completed on the Saltwater Reserve Soccer Pavilion retrofitting project. The pavilion now complies with Wyndham's Sports Facility Capital Development Guidelines and provides the Point Cook Soccer Club with a refurbished pavilion that includes 100m<sup>2</sup> of social

space, 20m2 of canteen space, 20m2 of internal storage space, 20m2 of external storage space, a new first aid room and better shelter for parents and spectators.

### **Skateboarding**

Children aged 5 to 12 years were given opportunities to learn to skate or improve their skills under the guidance of expert coaches. A free program offered during winter school holidays in partnership with Reclink Australia and YMCA Victoria

### **Soccer Fields**

At Alcock Road Reserve turf was laid at three soccer fields (which can also be used as a cricket field), to complete Truganina's newest active open space. The fields follow recent completion of stage one works, which delivered six tennis courts, sporting pavilion, new cricket nets, playgrounds, BBQ and picnic areas, landscaping and car park.

### **Soldiers Reserve and College Road precinct**

Council undertook a planning study for the Soldiers Reserve and College Road precinct in Werribee to better understand how residents and sporting and community groups use the area, and whether the area meets their needs.

### **Sport and Recreation - Active**

#### *Holiday Program*

In January 2022, the Sport and Recreation team coordinated over 20 free sports, fitness and wellness activities, offering children from 18 months to adults 55+ years opportunities to be active. Activities attended by 457 participants with most sessions booked out such as karate, disc golf, gymnastics, AFL and 'learn-to-skate' held at the new Werribee Street Skatepark.

#### *Active Wyndham*

Active Wyndham provided residents with free and low-cost physical activity sessions in their neighbourhoods. Events included a winter street party in June where participants could try out basketball, golf, soccer, rugby and handball.

The winter school holiday program included free activity sessions including women and kids' fitness sessions, tennis for 5 to 16 year olds, multicultural sports day (12 to 25 years), kids' games (3 to 12 years), football Fitness Fusion (15+ years), swimming (5 to 17 years), gymnastics (5 to 12 years), mini movers (3 to 7 years), self-defence (8 to 12 years), table tennis (8 to 18 years) and lawn bowls (10 to 18 years).

#### *Active Wyndham calendar of events and activities*

The Active Wyndham calendar provided residents with opportunities to be active through access to free and low-cost physical activity sessions across Wyndham for all ages. Sessions included sport, fitness and wellbeing activities, tailored for all fitness levels.

#### *Active Tarneit*

Free sport, fitness and recreation activities for all ages were delivered by Wyndham City and Reclink Australia in partnership with the Victorian Government and the Tarneit Suburban Revitalisation Board. They included drop-in sport, beginner running courses, burnout Bhangra, youth fitness sessions, older adults' gentle exercise, women and girls' fitness sessions and min-movers for 3 to 7 year olds.

### *Active Kinders day*

Held in April 2023, at Dunnings Rd Reserve, Point Cook, Active Kinders Day provided opportunities for 3-6 yr olds to try out a range of fun sport and fitness activities. Free sessions delivered at different time slots by local Wyndham providers. Activities included:

- AFL Football - footy skills including kicking, marking and handballing.
- Dance - PointCookDance got kids rocking and rolling.
- Gymnastics - Wyndham City Gymnastics taught children the fundamentals
- FUNdamentals - The Invicta Education team coached children to throw, catch and balance.
- Tennis - Match Point Tennis and Point Cook Tennis Club coached children with some fun ball and raquet activities.

### **Sport and Recreation Facilities**

Stage 2 of the \$15.95 million Webster Street Reserve upgrade delivered a senior cricket oval and four soccer pitches. Two sporting pavilions are now under construction with \$800,000 Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund funding. At the Brookdale Road Reserve, baseball and softball fields were completed. A sporting pavilion is also planned.

### **Sports Strategy**

The Wyndham Sports Strategy included plans to build new sporting reserves across Wyndham to meet the needs of our growing community. The first stage of works on new large open space areas at Bensonhurst Parade Reserve and Brookdale Road Reserve, Point Cook and Alcock Road Reserve, Truganina are completed. These reserves include tennis, cricket and soccer facilities for community members.

In January 2023 the Little River Reserve pavilion upgrade was completed providing changeroom facilities to support local participation in cricket and AFL.

In March 2023 five new sports fields were opened at the Webster Street Reserve, Point Cook. Construction has begun on two sporting pavilions to provide change rooms, social spaces, storage, kitchens, umpire rooms, a car park and landscaping. The pavilions, which will service cricket, soccer and tennis clubs.

### **Stroke Survivors**

In conjunction with the Wyndham Young Stroke Network and Switch to Fit, Wyndham City facilitated a free exercise session for stroke survivors at Brookdale Road Reserve. Using the reserve's exercise equipment, participants learned to use the equipment and adapt it to their needs, enabling them to return to use the equipment in their own time.

### **Tarneit Wayfinding Project**

In January 2023, at a community painting day, the mural near Penrose Community Centre was completed. More than 100m of the shared use path was painted with colourful ground murals and directional signage as a development of the wayfinding trail, designed to encourage locals to get around Tarneit using active transport, celebrating community facilities and activity centres along the way. Planter box 'rest stops' along the trail were also painted. The trail can now be followed to discover five sites between Derrimut Rd and Cowies Hill Water Tower.

### **Walking Football**

Held at Manor Lakes CLC, walking football offered a low impact, modified version of the game suitable for all abilities and ages. The activity provided physical and mental benefits, social connection and promotion of the benefits of ongoing physical activity. Twenty-eight male members from Club 60 competed.

### **Werribee South Beach Sessions**

In January 2023, the community was given opportunities to be active at Werribee South Beach with seaside hoops, a social run, beach yoga, football and other activities for people of all ages. Lifeguards provided beach safety in partnership with Council and Life Saving Victoria.

### **Western Bulldogs, Sons of the West**

This program is a partnership between the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Western Leisure Services and Council. The program delivered an intensive program for men at Eagle Stadium, providing participants with the tools and knowledge to improve their health and wellbeing. Two programs ran in February and March 2023, each for 10-weeks.

The free 10-week health program takes a holistic approach to improving men's health. Men of all fitness levels seeking to adopt a healthy lifestyle can benefit from the program which makes exercise and healthy eating fun and easily integrated into everyday life.

### **Wyndham Vale Parkrun**

Parkruns happens across the world. It is about having a go, completing it in your own time and building a supportive community to help others be active. Wyndham volunteers organised the free timed community 5km event held weekly for all fitness levels. A 'tail walker' is always on hand, finishing last to encourage anyone falling behind.

Under 11s are able to complete the distance with a responsible adult in attendance at all times. 4 - 14 year olds have a 2km junior parkrun. Children can walk, jog, skip and run their way around and parents can accompany them to help them along.

## **Outcome 15: We support smokers and e-cigarette users who want to quit**

### **Support smokers and e-cigarette users to quit**

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#### **Ditch the Flick Campaign**

Promoted at the entrance to the Werribee train station new cigarette butt bins were installed at hotspots to encourage 'Ditch the Flick' for cigarette butts to be binned instead of ending up as litter on the ground and in waterways. Clear directional signage makes the bins easy to identify and convenient to use. Wyndham City is the first local government in Melbourne to start implementing the 'Ditch the Flick' campaign in response to research.

#### **Tobacco Test Purchasing**

As part of an ongoing program throughout the municipality test purchasing ensures tobacco retailers comply with the laws prohibiting the sale of these products to people under 18 years of age. Council employed an underage Test Purchase Assistant to attempt to purchase cigarettes from retailers to make sure they are complying with their obligations under the *Tobacco Act 1987*. During an April testing 'blitz' only one retailer out of 27 randomly selected businesses sold cigarettes to an undercover minor.

Council continues to participate in the test purchase program and is strongly committed to preventing young people accessing and using tobacco or e-cigarette products and being exposed to their marketing.

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