



LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

COMMUNITY UPDATE #5 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wyndham recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Custodians of the lands on which Australia was founded. We acknowledge the Bunurong and Wadawurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which Wyndham is being built. We pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders who always have, and always will, care for Country and community, today and for future generations. We acknowledge the custodians of the land on which we work and live, and where learning takes place across Australia and globally. We pay respect to their Elders and the diversity of Aboriginal communities past, present, and future, and the richness our Aboriginal community members bring to Wyndham and their learning that has been passed across generations for thousands of years.



MESSAGE FROM THE WYNDHAM LEARNING CITY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Welcome to the fifth edition of our Learning Strategy Update!

This year in Wyndham has been exceptionally bustling in the learning city space, packed with an array of opportunities and new initiatives that we've successfully rolled out. It's been a year of dynamic action and impactful progress, underscoring our community's deep commitment to making education accessible and enriching at every stage of life.

We've embarked on an ambitious journey to dismantle barriers to education, ensuring that every resident of Wyndham, regardless of their age or background, has access to the learning resources they need to thrive. This holistic approach has made 2023 a landmark year for inclusivity in learning.

Reflecting on a year filled with achievements and the successful execution of initiatives, we look forward with anticipation to the future we're building — a future where education empowers each member of our community to realise their dreams and contribute to our collective well-being.

We hope you find enjoyment and inspiration in the updates shared within this booklet, a testament to our shared journey in education and learning. It celebrates our collective achievements and offers a glimpse into the promising developments that lie ahead. Your engagement and support are the fuel for our mission to create a learning city that thrives on knowledge, inclusion, and growth.

Thank you for being an integral part of this extraordinary year in our journey of education and learning. Here's to the progress we've made and to the exciting opportunities that await us as we continue to foster a thriving, knowledgeable, and inclusive community in Wyndham.

Best wishes,

Cr Jasmine Hill
Councillor
Wyndham City Council



OVERVIEW OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

The Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 (LCS) identifies the driving imperatives behind facilitating lifelong and life-wide learning in Wyndham. The LCS is Wyndham's driver for innovation and change in learning, and functions as a roadmap for developing an equitable, inclusive, and innovative learning community. Lifelong Learning forms the guiding principle of the Strategy, driving social, economic, environmental, and cultural life in the community. The Strategy includes 18 key actions, which are organised according to 4 themes:

- **CELEBRATING living and learning**
- **ADVOCATING for equity and quality in service provision**
- **FACILITATING partnerships and collaboration across sectors**
- **INNOVATING learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit.**

This will be the final Community update reporting back on outcomes achieved through the current Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023. Wyndham's next Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029 will be adopted by Council in 2024 and our Learning Community will collaborate on the implementation of a new Action Plan.



LEARNING IN WYNDHAM

According to recent data, the City of Wyndham continues to undergo rapid change and growth in its demographics and character, due to a high and increasing birth rate and a large influx of new residents. Data obtained from *.idcommunity demographic resources* showed that in 2023 Wyndham's population grew to over 322,000 and is predicted to reach over 500,000 by 2040. Wyndham experienced one of the largest increases in population in both the state and the country. With significant cultural diversity including the largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Greater Melbourne area, the richness of culture is woven throughout the entire community.

This population growth has been the result of increased demand not only fuelled by demographic factors such as higher levels of net overseas migration and fertility, but also the availability of relatively affordable family housing. This substantial growth in population brings with it a range of challenges for the environment, the residents, the infrastructure, and other resources.

As a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Network of Learning Cities, Wyndham utilises and strives to achieve UNESCO's "Learning City" definition as one which:

- **Promotes inclusive learning from basic to higher education**
- **Revitalises learning in families and communities**
- **Facilitates learning for and in the workplaces**
- **Extends the use of modern learning technologies**
- **Enhances quality and excellence in learning, and**
- **Fosters a culture of learning throughout life.**

PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING KEY ACTIONS:

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Celebrating living and learning in Wyndham	ACTION 1: Learning Festival as Wyndham's Signature learning event	<p>The Wyndham Learning Festival (WLF) is Wyndham's largest annual learning event, promoting and celebrating learning across the lifespan. Having an annual learning festival provides a yearly series of free learning opportunities across the expanse of Wyndham, features a diverse range of activities catering to individuals of all ages and interests, and fosters a culture of lifelong learning while also embracing new events, sponsors, and participants that reflect the community's diversity and vitality.</p> <p>In its eighth year in 2023, the WLF is led by Wyndham Community and Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) with support from Wyndham City Council (WCC) – both organisations sharing a passion for learning and recognising the far-reaching social, economic, environmental, and cultural benefits of promoting lifelong learning.</p> <p>With the theme of "Our Thriving, Creative Community" the free WLF provided a week-long celebration of lifelong learning from 1 to 7 September, including a diverse array of activities spanning Arts, Sports & Recreation, The World of Work, Biz and Tech, Environment & Sustainability, Wellbeing & Self-Care, History, Culture & Diversity, Food & Cooking, and Families & Children! Events were as varied as a Young Scientist of Wyndham Competition, Vietnamese Cooking, a Supercharge Your Marketing with ChatGPT workshop, Financial Wellness sessions, Drumming workshops, Indian Dance performances, Job Seeking Skills workshops, Planting and Growing, Food & Fitness classes, Strengthening Family Connections, CPR training, and many more engaging experiences. Each of the 78 events provided a fun, engaging, and stimulating learning experience.</p> <p>The Festival was launched with the Wyndham Learning Festival's signature "WYNtalk: Celebrate the Magic of Storytelling with Mem Fox", held on 1 September at the Wyndham Cultural Centre. This event featured renowned author and educationalist Mem Fox, who shared insights into her illustrious career and celebrated 40 years of "Possum Magic". The evening was filled with literary magic, learning, and creativity, including the official launch of the Festival and its 2023 showbag. Student performers from Suzanne Cory High School provided musical entertainment, and Festival Sponsors Victoria University and Pacific Werribee Shopping Centre were celebrated. The light refreshments offered were a nod to the Australiana food featured in the Possum Magic book with the lamingtons, minties and Anzac biscuits heartily enjoyed by the crowd. The Mem Fox event was a resounding success, with the 250+ attendees enthralled by Mem Fox's conversation with Eva di Cesare of Monkey Baa Theatre Company, producer of the Possum Magic stage show.</p> <p>The WLF evaluation report is available here: https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city/learning-city-resources</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Advocating for Equity and Quality in Service Provision	ACTION 3: Strong Advocacy to Ensure Learning for All	<p>Whilst Wyndham City is currently reviewing its advocacy functions and plans for the future, the following specific advocacy requests were met:</p> <p>The 2023-24 State Budget included funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New schools to open in 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riverdale North Primary School (Interim Name) New schools to open in 2026: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point Cook South P-9 (Interim Name) - Point Cook South Specialist school (Interim Name) School upgrades: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (unspecified) Saltwater P-9 College - \$7 million Alamanda P-9 - \$3 million Warringa Park School

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 4: Education Roundtable	<p>In June the Learning Community Team delivered the 2023 Wyndham Education Roundtable, our annual multi-sector, interactive event to identify key strategic planning and resourcing issues impacting Wyndham’s learning sectors and to facilitate solutions and knowledge sharing through key learning sector stakeholders and partnerships. After meeting online for the past two years, the 2023 meeting provided an in-person opportunity to review the Action Plan Update developed at the 2022 Education Roundtable. Facilitated by the team from Management Governance Australia, the key focus for discussions this year was on the future priorities for learning in Wyndham, giving the group an opportunity to contribute to the development of Wyndham’s next Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029. The attendee list included over 30 dynamic education and learning leaders from across Wyndham who collaborated to exchange ideas about their vision for the future of learning in the municipality, in the context of our wider Education and Learning Strategy focused on supporting the community to be lifetime learners.</p> <p>The Roundtable also included a reflection on the Roundtable model itself, with the attendees indicating their preference to retain the model in future Learning Community Strategies. A demonstration of Trello was provided as a method for collating outcomes of the Action Plan and facilitating collaborations amongst the diverse group of tertiary providers, employment facilitators, vocational educators, primary and secondary schools, community organisations, First Nations-specific organisations, and community educators.</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 5: Principal's Breakfast	<p>The annual Principal’s Breakfast reaffirms Council’s commitment to support and develop collaborative partnerships with Wyndham principals and all local schools. Council recognises the importance of a collaborative approach that builds partnerships that will help to deliver outcomes for all in our community. The intention of the annual Breakfast is to strengthen our partnerships through our willingness to listen, collaborate and work together to promote learning and education in Wyndham.</p> <p>Over 120 Principals and Assistant Principals gathered in May at Wyndham’s Encore Events Centre to enjoy a delicious breakfast and networking opportunity. Councillors and Council staff were able to network with the Principals and school leaders, before Councillor Hill welcomed the group, acknowledging her fellow Councillors and taking the opportunity to formally launch the Learning Community Update #4, the 2022 Report back to the Community highlighting the achievements made through the current Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023.</p> <p>The event also provided an opportunity for these important educators to be part of the process of developing the next Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029. The Management Governance Australia consultant led the session inviting participants to share their ideas on the future priorities for learning in Wyndham. Views, ideas, and feedback gathered provided powerful insights to inform Council’s Learning Community agenda and will facilitate solutions and knowledge sharing. Key issues highlighted as challenges by the group included student disengagement; the need for additional Department of Education support in proportion to the demands in Wyndham; more visible and ready access to local community services (including allied health, First Nations support, cultural translators, mentoring, leadership skills); school safety/infrastructure; and the difficulty in recruiting teaching staff.</p>
	ACTION 6: Best Practice in Transition	<p>Previous work under this Action has involved connection with the Council-led Middle Years Working Group. Unfortunately, this group ceased in March 2023, however Wyndham has subsequently continued work in the Transition space through connection with the VicHealth funded School Transition project led by the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute. This has involved input through focus groups providing valuable feedback on the intervention materials developed. The Learning Community Unit linked the project leaders to the Wyndham Principal’s Network, inviting them to take part in this vital research study, as the project progresses to pilot stage to test the feasibility of the interventions in schools.</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 7: Inclusion and Equity	<p>The Learning Community Team exhibited at the 2023 Volunteer Expo in March, in collaboration with Wyndham Community Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) with the goal of connecting with local community, providing information on learning community events, and networking with other local organisations. With 450 attendees and 55 local stall holders participating, the Expo was a positive experience for the local community to find out about local volunteering opportunities and register their details with the exhibitors. Attendees looking for community activities received information on the upcoming Wyndham Learning Festival in September, information on our Libraries programs and events, discovered WynLearn What's On, and learning opportunities at Wyndham CEC and had the opportunity to input into our Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029 consultations. With registrations for event holders to submit an event for the 2023 Wyndham Learning Festival about to open, the expo provided an opportunity to spread the word and make strong direct connections. The Expo also provided an opportunity for the Learning Community Unit's final community engagement session on the evaluation of our current Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023, to hear the community's thoughts and ideas on what is working well and what isn't in our current strategy and what the future priorities for learning in Wyndham that will lead Wyndham's lifelong learning goals from 2024-2029.</p> <p>The Learning Community Unit were invited to take part in the annual Mock Job Interview Program with Warringa Park Specialist School in July. This program provides secondary school students with the experience of being interviewed for an employment opportunity, in a safe environment with support and encouragement. During the mock interview, students were supported to practice and build interview techniques using role play with typical interview questions and scenarios. Students gained confidence to answer questions, developed career skills in applying for a job, engagement with career pathways, awareness of body language and organising to attend a job interview. These events are fun and fulfilling for both students and interviewers and are a significant step in the student's career education.</p> <p>Libraries and Learning were actively involved in the Wyndham Central College Community Connections week, with a community event held in September to promote fitness and celebrate diversity. During this event, the Library Pop Up Van served as an interactive station, with staff raising awareness about Libraries and Learning services with the school families, providing them with valuable insights into our resources available. The aim to infuse a strong sense of community and engagement into this space, making it a vibrant and inclusive gathering for all was achieved.</p> <p>The Library IT unit partnered with Wyndham CEC to deliver a range of digital literacy courses during Seniors Month in October, delivered to enthusiastic seniors across a range of library and community learning centres across Wyndham.</p> <p>Rounding out the year, the Learning Community unit exhibited at the 2023 Wyndham Seniors Expo in November, actively participating in the delivery of information helping Wyndham citizens to age well and live their best lives. The team provided information to hundreds of attendees who were eager to hear about local learning opportunities and raised awareness about the Wyndham Learning Festival and our learning portal WynLearn What's On.</p> <p>Note, the work of the Wyndham Integrated Learning Group (WILG2), co-chaired by Council and Deakin's National Disability Coordinator Officer (NDCO) finished in 2023 due to funding for the NDCO program ceasing.</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 8: Strengthen Literacy and Numeracy Network	<p>The Library Children's Team developed a pilot early years program called "Sharing Stories", aiming to engage harder-to-reach families in Wyndham with the programs and services at Wyndham Libraries and raise awareness about the benefits of sharing stories from birth for literacy development. The program was developed in response to data showing high levels of developmental vulnerability in Wyndham, exacerbated by COVID 19 lockdowns and strains on early years services. The Children's Team worked closely with local stakeholders including VICSEG New Futures, supported community playgroups and IPC Health to identify families with children aged 0-5 years who might benefit from the program. As part of the program the Children's Team delivered outreach Rhyme Time sessions to local VICSEG New Futures playgroups with families from CALD backgrounds. During the outreach visit, each family received a free, take-home library bag with a variety of early literacy information and resources. The bag also included a token to exchange for a free board book from any Wyndham Library branch.</p>



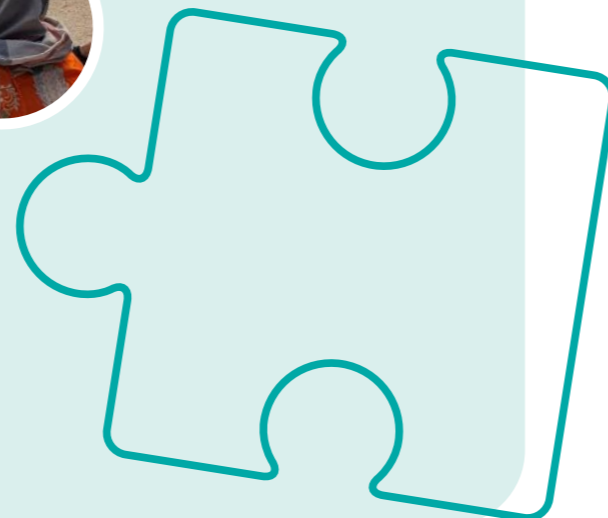
Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 9: Aboriginal Culture Driving New Ways to Learn	<p>Some key highlights from across Council units include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Indigenous Cultural Infusion event took place in March at the Point Cook Library leading up to Cultural Diversity Week. The Library unit in collaboration with Point Cook Neighbourhood Hubs hosted an Indigenous event, launched with an Acknowledgment of Country and Smoking Ceremony. Over 50 people attended from a combination of Council, Youth Services, Maternal Child Health, Library staff, Public and Community Centre hirers including those from senior groups and AMEP class. Two Indigenous infusion early years sessions followed, hosted in the Point Cook Library, with 70 Children and 45 Parents, Grandparents and Carers attending. With over 166 attendees across 3 events, feedback from the day has been overwhelmingly positive. Sharing of resources and links with Education networks to support commitments to embedding Aboriginal perspectives across all aspects of learning, including a rich array of materials and opportunities for online professional development such as Reconciliation Victoria's 'Reconciliation in Education Webinar: Starting your reconciliation journey', a webinar on reconciliation in Victorian education including an introduction to the Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education program. The Learning Community unit attended the Maggolee Webinar: Local Government support for the Uluru Statement. National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) theme this year was 'Be a Voice for Generations' encouraging all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives. This nationally significant week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Wyndham Libraries celebrated with First Nations stories being read at Rhyme Times and Story Times, book displays and booklists for the community. The Children's Library team also delivered a First Nations session story time to the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) playgroup in the Point Cook Community Learning Centre community rooms playgroup. The Learning Community Unit purchased Indigenous Education Range Lanyards for promotion purposes at learning events throughout the year. With the theme of "For our Elders", this year NAIDOC Week ran 2 to 9 July. NAIDOC Week is held across Australia and celebrates and recognises the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Council celebrated with a range of activities and Libraries ran Indigenous Infusion workshops for kids, special crafts, and Story Times and a Wayapa Wuurrk workshop for adults. Wayapa Wuurrk is a philosophy acknowledging and honouring the fundamental Australian indigenous principle of 'Caring for Country', fostering a deeper understanding and responsibility to sustainably connect with and care for, the earth, the lands, waters, air spaces as well as all beings between. Wyndham Library Branches with seed libraries were excited to introduce a range of indigenous seeds into their collections, offered as an additional 'bonus' packet that seed library members can collect. Indigenous plants are those that are not only native to Australia but are specific to the Wyndham area. Wyndham's rapid urban expansion has removed significant amounts of local flora, resulting in habitat loss for local wildlife. Planting indigenous seeds in your garden is a great way for the community to give back to the natural environment by restoring some of the flora that originally grew in the region. Council advanced the journey towards Reconciliation with the endorsement of our second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2023



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	ACTION 9: Aboriginal Culture Driving New Ways to Learn (continued)	<p>– 2025. The RAP draft was officially launched in October, following formal endorsement from Reconciliation Australia and adoption by Council. The launch event saw great support from Council with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor & Wyndham Reconciliation Action Committee (WRAC) Co-Chair, Councillors, Wyndham's CEO, Senior Leadership Team, and many staff attending. Guests were captivated by stories from the moving Keynote Speaker, Aboriginal Olympic boxer and artist, Brad Hore and Wyndham's very own Coordinator-First Nations Unit, who MC'd this spectacular event. The RAP launch also saw strong support from our WRAC and community members who have been invested in the development throughout the RAP journey. Local indigenous businesses featured with the procurement of the services of Indigiprint to print the RAP booklets, Bunji Catering, who provided delicious bush tucker inspired food, and indigenous photographer T.J. Garvie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of the Wyndham Reconciliation Advisory Committee (WRAC), consisting of nine First Nations community members and three non-Indigenous community members has provided the platform for engagement between First Nations and non-Indigenous communities with Council across a broad range of issues and in setting a new Reconciliation vision for the 2023-2025 RAP. The RAP provides Council with a framework to understand and achieve our vision for Reconciliation with First Nations People. It is a plan that outlines the specific actions that Council will take, over the next 2 years, to not only build relationships, respect, and opportunities with and for First Nations People but also listen to the truth. As a learning community, there is a responsibility for all to contribute to reconciliation through our own sphere of influence, through thoughtful engagement, and innovation and codesign to strongly show our commitment to implementing our RAP to bring about long-term systemic change. <p>Dovetailing with Action 13, the Learning Community unit delivered the second annual WYNtalk for 2023 in November, featuring keynote speaker Jillian West speaking from the heart – "Cultural Yarn with Jillian West: Embracing and Honouring Aboriginal Culture and Identity".</p> <p>Sensitively and thoughtfully MC'd by Council's Coordinator First Nations unit, the WYNtalk provided a platform for a Cultural yarn to take place between Jillian West and Mayor Cr Jennie Barrera, co-chair of Wyndham Council's WRAC, exploring ways in which the Wyndham community can connect with the ideas of Reconciliation, truth-telling and standing with our First Nations community.</p> <p>As Chair of the Learning City Portfolio Committee, Cr Hill welcomed the audience and provided the context of the evening's WYNtalk, arising as an action from the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023.</p> <p>With 114 registrations and attendees both in person and online, the audience were engaged, informed, and moved, as Jillian shared ways in which the Wyndham community can acknowledge, respect and value Aboriginal culture and identity. As a proud Palawa woman from the islands of Bass Strait and proud Bunurong woman from Point Nepean born in Victoria with a lengthy career supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in work, education, and support in their life journey, Jill spoke passionately, sharing her experiences growing up in Australia and generously sharing her ideas on how we can all be better allies to Aboriginal people.</p> <p>The enthusiastic audience were Welcomed to Country with a Smoking Ceremony by a Bunurong Land Council elder, then ushered inside the Point Cook Library for the Cultural Yarn, where they were encouraged to use the opportunity to pause, reflect and make a commitment to learning, growing, and being a changemaker for a better future for us all. Local indigenous businesses featured with the procurement of the services of Jarrah Catering, who provided delicious bush tucker inspired food, and indigenous photographer T.J. Garvie.</p> <p>You can view the WYNtalk Cultural Yarn at: https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/wyntalk-cultural-yarn-jillian-west</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 10: Developing Local Leaders in Local Communities	<p>Wyndham's Building Blocks Community Leadership Program has been operating since 2014, with 21 courses to date. With the theme 'Reconciliation – Allies in Community Leadership' the 2023 Wyndham Building Blocks program provided an opportunity for eligible community members to build and strengthen their capacity in community leadership and participation, immersing themselves in First Nations culture, history, practices, and truths. Following the classroom theory element (which included a Walk on Country excursion), three project groups formed. Each group developed and led projects, embedding the learning from the course, and bringing reconciliation and culture to life and to the community.</p> <p>The three projects were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Learning for Multicultural communities (Aboriginal culture, history, and artefacts) • Kinder Knowledge Building (First Nations Story Telling, Learning and Childrens Activities) • Yarning Together (Women's Yarning Circle and Craft Day) <p>Each project created space for local community to build connections and deepen their knowledge of First Nations peoples.</p> <p>All 12 participants embraced the experience this course has provided, gaining skills to walk alongside our First Nations peoples towards reconciliation and developing confidence to be Allies in the Community. Participants enjoyed a graduation and celebration in November at Wunggurwil Dhurrung Community Centre.</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 11: Alumni as Leadership Mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the cessation of Alumni Master Classes Series pilot project, the Community Strengthening Unit has continued to engage Wyndham Building Blocks Alumni to not only provide feedback to Council initiatives but also to participate in local learning opportunities such as those offered through the Community Training Calendar. Wyndham Building Blocks Alumni were also invited to participate in the Wyndham Learning Festival as hosts of learning activities or as participants in the learning opportunities on offer across the municipality. • Planning is currently under way to streamline further opportunities for Wyndham Building Blocks Alumni to connect with one another and other local leaders with the goal of facilitating further learning, skill and knowledge sharing and mentorship opportunities. • Wyndham Community & Education Centre's (Wyndham CEC) mentoring pilot, in partnership with local manufacturing company Vertech Hume has continued in 2023. Three workers from the Karen community meet every six weeks with Vertech Hume's CEO, Tamas Hume, and a bi-cultural mentor. Through the program the workers are developing the skills and confidence to step up into management roles by mid-2024. Noteworthy is the fact that Tamas Hume was a participant in the Gordon's Institute's Executive Leadership program, clearly demonstrating that the pilot has succeeded as an innovative approach to the 'alumni as leadership mentors' action. Based on this pilot, Wyndham CEC has implemented a similar mentoring approach with two other Wyndham employers – Diamond Valley Pork and Hilton Foods, both in Laverton North. • Two other mentoring programs being developed in Wyndham, not directly involving Building Blocks alumni, are included here: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A crucial component of the Priority Workforce Project led by Council's Social and Economic Inclusion unit involves mentoring. Project partners include AMES Australia, Equal Ed, Youth Projects, and Wyndham CEC. The Priority Workforce Project supports up to 100 job ready candidates into sustainable employment across the horticulture, agribusiness, and transport & logistics industries. As part of the project, Equal Ed & Youth Projects have developed a mentoring program to support new employees in their first 26 weeks in the job. - Plans are underway for 2024, as part of the service offer of the Women's Micro-business Hub, for Wyndham CEC to establish a mentoring program that will connect local businesswomen to women who need support to set up a micro-business. Wyndham CEC will establish a group of 8-10 mentors with relevant industry expertise and match to the women connected to the micro-business hub.

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally	<p>Throughout 2023 Wyndham has continued its local, national, and global engagement and participation. The following is a snapshot of some of Wyndham's contributions:</p> <p>A representative from Wyndham continues to hold a place on the executive of the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN), chairing this important network and offering secretariat support enabling the ALCN to continue to offer proactive collegiate support and resources to learning cities and communities across Australia.</p> <p>The PASCAL International Observatory, is a global alliance of researchers, policy analysts, decision makers and locally engaged practitioners from government, higher education, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector. Wyndham continues its active participation in the PASCAL special interest group "Reimagining Inclusive Economic Futures", a network of cities and city-regions sharing a focus on developing a secure economy whilst working towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Through regular meetings and presentations, the group exchanged knowledge and experiences, providing network members with global insights and reflections on each other's work.</p> <p>Wyndham Learning City was invited to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities "Education for Sustainable Development" (ESD) cluster working group. The group met regularly throughout the year, with the goal of sharing information on Education for Sustainable Development and Climate Action and local sustainability projects. This links directly with the topic of the next UNESCO International Conference on Learning Cities in 2024.</p> <p>ESD utilises education to empower learners of all ages to act for environmental integrity, economic viability, and a more equitable society. The group promotes a lifelong learning approach to Education for Sustainable Development – starting from pre-primary to adult education and beyond. In May, the online meeting was hosted by Shanghai and Hamburg members of the group and included presentations on "the work of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme"; "Wetland Cities" (by the Mayor of Bandar Khamir, Iran); and "Wildplastic" (City of Hamburg).</p> <p>Group members were invited to share good ESD practice from their own cities. The Wyndham Learning Community unit shared the Climate Futures Youth Leaders' Summit held in April. With the aim of empowering and educating young people to act on climate change, the Summit brought together like-minded young people to work towards creating a sustainable future; raised awareness of the impacts of climate change and provided young people with practical ways to engage in the conversation. The working group members were impressed with the fact that Climate Futures Youth Leaders, the organisers of the Summit, are a group of empowered young people aged between 16-26 volunteering to advocate for the environment and climate change.</p>

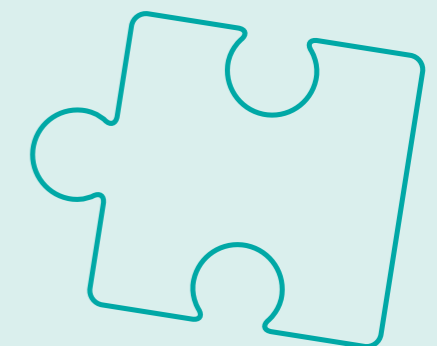





Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally (continued)	<p>In October, in a collaboration between the Australian Learning Cities Network (ALCN), Adult Learning Australia and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, Wyndham presented a case study at the webinar <i>Building Inclusive and Sustainable Learning Partnerships</i>. This highly engaging and well-received webinar featured stories from UNESCO's GNLC members from the City of Wyndham, City of Canning (Western Australia) and the City of Phayao, (Thailand) providing the global audience with the opportunity to discuss how their cities and communities address the big issues facing communities around the world. Issues addressed included enhancing engagement with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities through a Cultural Ambassador program; utilising a collaborative approach to city management through the engagement of a range of key stakeholders to address climate challenges; the global sustainability agenda; and Wyndham's Green Living Series, a transformative initiative nurturing the community's interest in sustainability and green living. Discussions involved solutions tackled at a local level through a commitment to lifelong learning.</p> <p>Raul Valdes, the Coordinator of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) shared valuable insights into the global initiative during his presentation. Since its inception in 2013, the GNLC has been instrumental in promoting policy development, forging links, fostering partnerships, and building capacity within learning cities. It serves as a crucial platform for cities to share knowledge and learn from one another while supporting local actions that contribute to global change. One of the key focuses for 2024 is positioning learning cities at the forefront of climate action, highlighting the significance of education in addressing pressing global challenges and to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) at the local level.</p> <p>Arising from a collaboration between the Learning Cities of Wyndham and Melton and the ALCN has been the <i>Friday Forums</i>, an informal series of "conversations" about issues learning communities are facing locally and nationally. Led by leading-edge learning practitioners, topics have included "Lifelong Learning for Life and Work"; an introduction to the "Learning Region of Tamworth"; a "First Nations Discussion: Aboriginal Engagement and National Sorry Day"; and "Principles and Processes of Community Engagement: Reflecting on Engaging with Diverse Communities". The Forums are well-attended by a range of local, national, and international audiences, generate thoughtful and inspirational dialogue and have spun off into the sharing of resources and other collaborations in areas of interest.</p> <p>The LearnWest Network's purpose is to provide a shared, collaborative space for experienced and emerging Learning Community practitioners in the North and West of Melbourne (Wyndham, Melton, Brimbank, Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong, Hume, and Darebin). The Network forms a community of practice where</p>



Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally (continued)	<p>people who are passionate about lifelong learning can work together to drive the necessary changes to increase the economic and social capacity of our communities.</p> <p>Since 2021, the Network has collaborated on an annual joint project. This year's project, titled "CONNECT – SHARE – LEARN" involved the promotion of lifelong learning through the sharing of a diverse collection of lifelong learning stories through the network's own social media. The project promoted, showcased, celebrated, and fostered lifelong learning, and its benefits for social connection, intergenerational learning, positive health, and economic outcomes.</p> <p>Each Local Government Area (LGA) contributed 2-3 learner stories, contributing to a collection of stories reflecting the diversity of all LGA's. The promotional material developed will continue to be available to be rolled out over time, and commenced 1-7 September to coincide with Adult Learners Week, the Wyndham Learning Festival, and the Melton Learning Festival.</p> <p>Further to the LearnWest project, Wyndham Learning City were invited by UNESCO GNLC to showcase the voices of our learners to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the UNESCO GNLC, conveying what the GNLC represents and sharing what it means to be part of a learning city. A story of inspiring local learner "Meetra" was shared.</p>

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Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally (continued)	<p>Wyndham's Learning Community Unit were honoured to be invited to present the ways in which Wyndham mobilises resources and manpower to improve equity and inclusion in education and learning for its citizens at the Thai government's Equitable Education Fund (EEF) webinar in November. This international knowledge-sharing webinar focused on "Building a Learning City: Fostering Inclusivity and Equity." EEF actively supports the efforts of local Thai cities in establishing an ecosystem that promotes lifelong learning for all residents. Wyndham had the privilege of featuring on a panel of presenters, sharing experiences as a member of the Global Network of Learning Cities. The webinar provided an invaluable platform for exploring and exchanging knowledge and experiences related to the opportunities and challenges associated with advancing inclusivity and equity to encourage lifelong learning for individuals and communities.</p> <p>Throughout the event, snapshots from Learning Cities of Damietta, Egypt, Khon Kaen Province in Thailand, and Wyndham, Australia illuminated the global diversity and evidence-based practices that underpin the need for inclusive and equitable education for lifelong learners. Feedback received from the organisers included:</p> <p>On behalf of EEF, I would like to express my most gratitude for Wyndham's outstanding contribution to EEF International Forums yesterday. Your message was clear and inspiring; many participants from the audience were excited and curious to learn about Wyndham's experiences and successes.</p> <p>There were 250 registrants for the webinar, with 170 participants present on the day.</p> <p>The webinar was broadcast live on the EEF Facebook page, and the recorded session can be viewed here: https://fb.watch/orEOKmM5b1/</p>



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Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	ACTION 13: WYNtalks	<p>WYNtalk 1: “Celebrate the Magic of Storytelling with Mem Fox”</p> <p>Wyndham Learning Festival's signature event WYNtalk “Celebrate the Magic of Storytelling with Mem Fox” featured acclaimed author and educationalist Mem Fox reflecting on her career and celebrating 40 years of Possum Magic, as the audience discovered the magic of literature, learning and creativity. An exciting and jam-packed evening included the launch of the Festival featuring the new Wyndham Learning Festival showbag, music from local school performers, a celebration of Festival Sponsors Victoria University and Pacific Werribee Shopping Centre, and some lite Possum Magic-themed refreshments.</p> <p>Held at the Wyndham's own Cultural Centre, the event booked out within a week of the free tickets being available. Attendees were engaged, captivated, informed, and were moved to ask questions of the accommodating Mem.</p>  
		<p>WYNtalk 2: “Cultural Yarn with Jillian West: Embracing and Honouring Aboriginal Culture and Identity”</p> <p>As Wyndham's second annual WYNtalk, keynote speaker proud Palawa woman from the Islands of Bass Strait and Proud Bunurong woman from Point Nepean born in Victoria with a lengthy career supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in work, education, and support in their life journey, Jillian West spoke from the heart, sharing her experiences growing up in Australia and generously sharing her ideas on how we can all be better allies to Aboriginal people. Following the outcome of the 2023 Referendum, many in the Wyndham community were looking for ways to learn more about First Nations culture and found ways of connecting through a Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and Cultural Yarn. Rik Wilson, Coordinator Wyndham's First Nations unit, moderated the cultural yarn between Jillian and Mayor Cr Jennie Barrera, co-chair of Wyndham's Reconciliation Advisory Committee. The capacity audience were engaged, moved, and inspired to connect more closely with First Nations communities.</p> 

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Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	Action 14: Enabling Innovation & Entrepreneurship	<p>The initiatives delivered under this action in 2023 included the WYNNovation Festival, Innovate Business Growth Program, the Annual Training Calendar, the Barry Jones Oration, and Digital Futures Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The month-long WYNNovation Festival kicked off with the WYNNovation Summit at Encore Events Centre, bringing together businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators who shared their ideas and experiences, and explored opportunities for collaboration. Guests were treated to three keynote speakers, along with networking activities and an exhibitor area which showcased local innovation businesses, SPARK members and a Buy Local stand which showcased some key items made right here in Wyndham, the Buy Local proved to be one of the most popular exhibits of the day. The WYNNovation Summit is committed to promoting economic growth and innovation in the region. The WYNNovation Masterclass featured experienced innovation coach and consultant, Mark Dobson, who shared his invaluable expertise with the highly engaged attendees. Business owners, entrepreneurs, and professionals from various industries in Wyndham and beyond attended, asking insightful questions, participating in group activities, and enjoying the interactive nature of the workshop which supported the fostering of collaboration and knowledge sharing. The Festival wrapped up at the end of the month with the WYNNovation Pitch Competition, which brought together innovators and entrepreneurs from across the Wyndham City area to showcase their innovative business ideas. The competition aimed to support and promote local talent, providing them with a platform to showcase their ideas and potentially secure funding to turn their dreams into reality. Pitchers went through an intensive three stage program to learn the art of pitching, then at the finale eleven went on to pitch their idea. With an amazing innovative cohort that made up the 2023 Pitch Competition, it was indeed a very difficult decision for the judges with such amazing talent! Global sign language dictionary SignHow took out the grand prize of \$5,000.

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Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	Action 14: Enabling Innovation & Entrepreneurship <i>(continued)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulations to the 22 graduates of the 2023 Innovate Business Growth Program. This program was split in two different cohorts; the Innovate to Excelerate aimed for those business owners to move up a level and which have been operating for less than four years. The Innovate to Regenerate cohort targets those businesses that have operated for four years or more and are more experienced in their business journey. Business came from various sectors including, retail, IT, hospitality, professional services and health, participants were a mix of initial growth stage and mature businesses. Over three months, participants attended group workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions to support their entrepreneurship and innovation. Applications are open for the 2024 Innovate Business Growth Program, visit: https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/business-investment/business-support/innovate-excelerate-innovate-regenerate Wyndham City offered its usual free business training on a range of topics such as how to grow a business using social media and digital marketing, search engine optimisation, starting a business and retail merchandising. These training sessions ranged from one hour to 3 hours long and were all face-to-face to creating an opportunity for the participants to network further. The Barry Jones Oration aims to raise the profile and importance of learning and skills development, innovation, creativity, technology, and critical thinking in Wyndham City. Since its inception in 2012, this special event has grown to be one of the most significant on Wyndham City's business calendar. Named in honour of the former Federal Member for Lalor and Minister for Science, Professor Hon. Barry Jones AC FAA, FAHA, FTSE, FASSA, this event is delivered by Wyndham City, with the generous support of the event sponsor – The Gordon. Wyndham business, political and community leaders came together at The Refectory Werribee Park for another inspiring and thought-provoking Oration stimulating critical and innovative thinking among Wyndham Leaders, delivered this year by prominent barrister and former head of the Law Council of Australia, Fiona McLeod AO SC. With the theme "Hearts, smarts and fierce resolve – leading humanity back from the brink", the mesmerising keynote featured insights from Fiona's justice experience and using the complexities of trauma, encouraged the audience to help create a better future. Wyndham City is collaborating with Deakin University to bring accessible digital, business, and financial literacy programs to Wyndham businesses and community through our libraries

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	Action 14: Enabling Innovation & Entrepreneurship <i>(continued)</i>	and SPARK, under the new Digital Futures Network. Key initiatives will enable our community and businesses to better understand, communicate, operate, and live in an ever-changing digital world. Throughout the year, free business training sessions were hosted on a variety of topics to upskill local entrepreneurs and ensure the local business community is ready for success, including the 'How to grow your business' series where participants learnt practical ways to achieve an increase in turnover and sales using digital tools like LinkedIn, TikTok, Google Local Search and Search engine optimisation (SEO). Details on workshops on offer: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/businessstraining



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Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	Action 15: Future Space	<p>SPARK has established itself as a collaborative space to support and mentor digital, tech start-ups and entrepreneurs, to scale up their concepts and products, to commercialisation. As Wyndham City Council's Innovation Hub, SPARK focuses on developing an innovative and entrepreneurial based ecosystem within, strengthening of the knowledge economy, and increasing employment in the region.</p> <p>A new cohort of members was welcomed in 2023 commencing a 12-month residency program. SPARK entered into a community partnership agreement with the Startup Network, Australia's largest independent startup community of over 5,000 founders, mentors, and investors. This partnership will enable Wyndham businesses access to the Network's programs and services.</p>
	Action 16: Community "Hackathons"	<p>This Action has been modified to incorporate the Annual Coding Champs Competition held between August – October, after trialling traditional "Hackathons" with limited community interest.</p> <p>Council's Libraries and Learning unit hosted the 5th annual Wyndham Coding Champs awards night at Point Cook Library in November. The competition ran from the 14 August – 8 October and was supported with Coding workshops run throughout August and September (including one as part of the Wyndham Learning Festival: <i>Getting Started with Scratch</i>) across the Manor Lakes Library, Julia Gillard Library Tarneit, Point Cook Library & Werribee Library.</p> <p>The awards event was a successful evening with all Wyndham Coding Champs participants and family members invited to come along to celebrate coding and gaming in all formats, culminating in the announcement of the competition winners. A total of 100 community members attended the event. The evening featured an array of games, including Nintendo Switch and board games, with a special emphasis on the shortlisted participants. These individuals were invited to showcase and discuss their projects on the big screen, offering insights into their creative processes and problem-solving efforts.</p> <p>All the impressive entries can be seen at Smart Studio: https://scratch.mit.edu/studios/34143731/</p> <p>The Wyndham Coding Champs competition supports digital literacy amongst young people, as well as helping to foster continuing connection to the library and lifelong learning.</p>

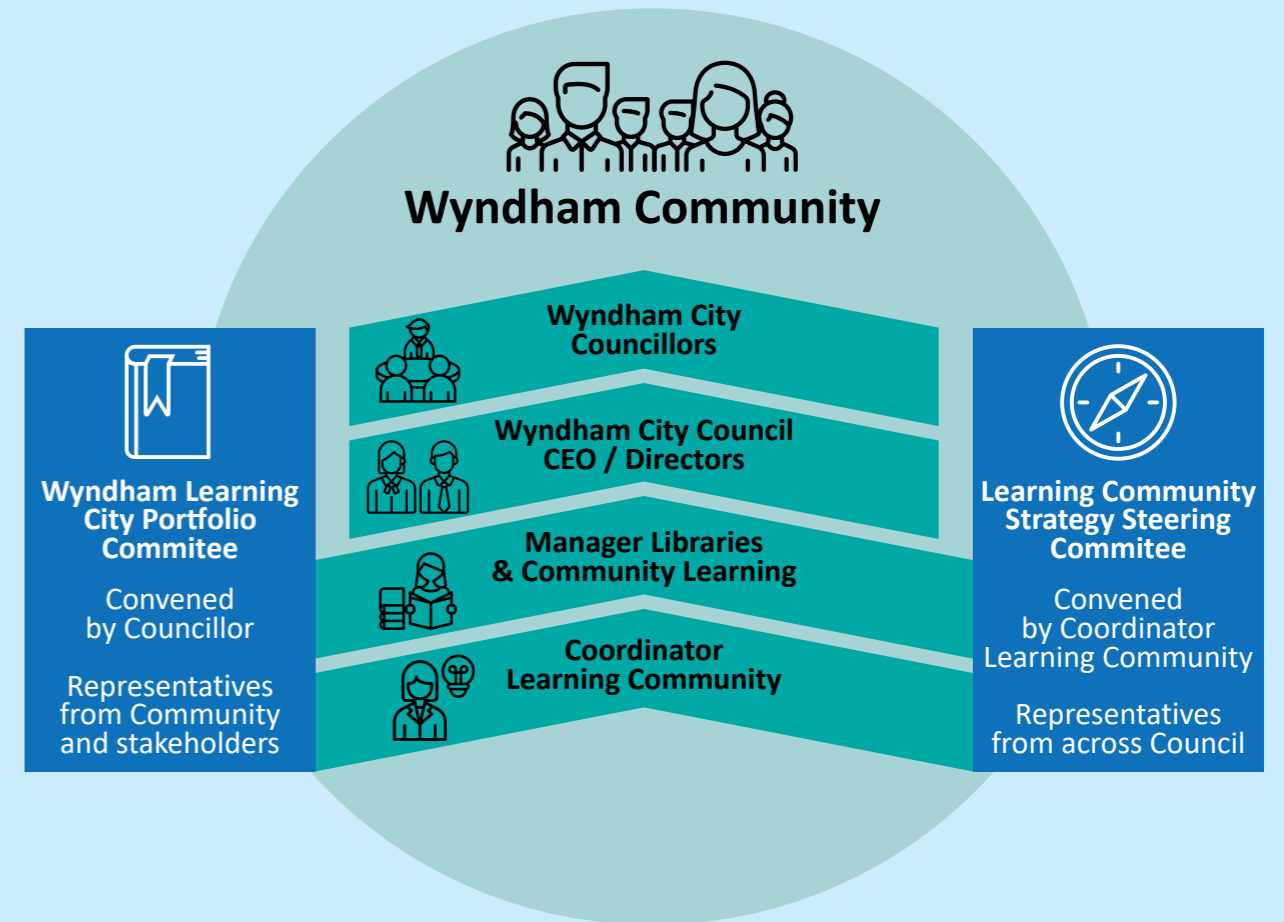


Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda	Action 17: Creative Learning Programs	<p>Highlights of the Arts & Culture team's contribution to the community's learning options and opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of Wundergym programs providing professional development programs for local artists and creatives to further their practice. Highlights included mentorship by established artist Elvis Richardson and presentations held at the National Gallery of Victoria. The outcome of the program was an exhibition presented as part of Melbourne Fringe in association with Hobson Bay. • Accessible digital art workshops were delivered to participants over two months in 2023 providing community members with skills in creating projection artwork, operating a projector, developing, and presenting smartphone clips and audio/podcast content. • A series of workshops was held for and with young people aged 18 – 25 years old to teach skills in event photography as part of the Youth Resource Centre Festival. • Local Time was an 8-week residency program for local artists to expand their practice by facilitating workshops with community members. Four artists were engaged in four community centres with 19 workshops conducted for adults and children. The residency programs included workshops in ceramics, writing and drawing. • Public Art development workshops were conducted online as part of the commissioning process for new artworks. These workshops and information sessions aimed to increase the participation of emerging artists to present artwork in the public realm. • Notably, the Wyndham Art Gallery led a range of talks and tours for the public, including a significant increase in school tours and learning groups. The Gallery team provided insight and learning for small groups as well as a public program of artist talks and workshops. • The Arts and Culture team were excited to manage a temporary community art space, The Annex, located next to the Wyndham Cultural Centre. The space hosted and programmed a series of skill development workshops for children and adults. Highlights include established arts organisation <i>Indirect Object</i> as resident artists, resulting in the outcome of an internal painted mural by community, based on the wildlife of Werribee River.

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<p>Theme Four: Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda</p> 	<p>18: Civics Learning and Social Cohesion</p>	<p>Wyndham Community & Education Centre (Wyndham CEC) continued to deliver a range of civics learning programs under this action in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Walk through Education – The launch of a 20-minute documentary provides a lasting showcase of formal and informal learning options in the Wyndham area, including kindergarten, primary schools, tertiary education, vocational education, adult community classes including community centres and community sheds.</p> <p>Wyndham CEC commenced a new 'Walk through Education' program at Manor Lakes College specifically focusing on the Secondary School experience and parents from the Communities of Burma. The project seeks to build on how schools might strengthen their culture of parental engagement looking at the challenges and strengths that exist to facilitate this. Topics covered include Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at Home, Decision Making and Collaborating with Community. By addressing unique needs and challenges, the project empowers parents to play an active role in shaping their young peoples' educational pathways and fosters a supportive and inclusive educational environment. A further outcome is that parents will be more knowledgeable and motivated to explore their own learning and career pathways. This project will continue into 2024 with workshops, parent-led discussions, cultural events, and other identified activities taking place in the school.</p> <p>The Wyndham Anti-Racism Support Network (WASN) commenced in 2023, committed to providing practical support for individuals facing racism by helping them understand their rights, offering a listening ear, and providing guidance on reporting incidents to relevant authorities. The network aims to enhance community capacity to respond effectively to racism through workshops, particularly focusing on incidental counselling at the beginning of the year.</p> <p>As a member of the Victorian Alliance of Anti-racism networks, Wyndham CEC collaborates with others across the city, sharing insights and resources to address issues and campaign for change. As the network lead Wyndham CEC has contributed to the Australian Human Rights Commission's (AHRC) National Anti-Racism Framework through research interviews, aiding in the preparation for its implementation. The AHRC seeks to improve its understanding of existing government anti-racism policies, identify expansion opportunities, and address gaps in the design of the National Anti-Racism Framework to bring about systemic change.</p> <p>Living & working in Australia - across 2023, Wyndham CEC delivered the Living & Working in Australia short course to 126 community members seeking Australian citizenship. In addition to a trainer, the program includes support from settlement case workers. Both MiCare and Wyndham CEC refer clients to this program.</p>

GOVERNANCE AND WORKING GROUPS

WYNDHAM LEARNING COMMUNITY 2018 - 2023 GOVERNANCE MODEL



LOOKING FORWARD

As 2024 begins, and we finalise the development of the next Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029, it is timely to reflect on all that has been achieved in our Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023. As Wyndham leaves behind the disruption faced in the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Learning Community Strategy continues to strive to be adaptive, sustainable, and responsive to the learning needs of Wyndham where lifelong and life wide learning drive equity, inclusion, and a healthy and safe environment for all.

We look forward to the opportunity to launch our next Learning Community Strategy in 2024. Please contact us if you would like to be kept up to date with our Learning Community activities: wynlearn@wyndham.vic.gov.au.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

An electronic copy of the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 is available at:
<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/learning-community-strategy-2018-2023>

For more information about the Learning Community Strategy, or to connect with our network, please contact:

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