



2024 – 2029

Learning Community *Strategy*

Update 2 – 2025

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.

As Wyndham City's Mayor, I am proud to be reporting on the second Community Update of the Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029 and I am thrilled with the progress and important learning achievements that have been made throughout 2025.

The Learning Community Strategy provides a strategic framework to support Council's vision to deliver on Wyndham's learning goals and enable equal community access to lifelong and life-wide learning opportunities.

The strategy identifies four areas of focus for strengthening learning in Wyndham: First Nations First; Learning to Learn and Foundation Skills; Employability, Work Skills and Building Careers; and Leadership and New Learning.

Wyndham Libraries continue to play a vital role in supporting and advancing our community's learning goals, offering dynamic programs, activities, event and resources that inspire connection, creativity, and lifelong learning.

In 2025, more than 107,000 people participated in library programs spanning every age and stage of life—from early years literacy sessions and bilingual Storytimes to youth workshops and adult learning.

This year over 4,500 programs were delivered across Library branches, council and committee run community centres, and the Pop-Up Library Van. Borrowings—both physical and digital—continue to rise, reflecting the strong value residents place on library services.

Libraries also strengthened their commitment to inclusion and cultural learning, fostering welcoming spaces for First Nations communities through visible recognition, curated collections, and initiatives such as the *First Nations Classics* series celebrating the strength and legacy of First Nations cultures and encouraging conversations and thoughtful discussion about Aboriginal culture and identity.

Through these initiatives, Wyndham Libraries continue to nurture literacy, learning, and belonging across the municipality, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to grow, share, and connect.

Council was delighted to welcome more than 50 passionate educators, industry leaders, policymakers and community partners to the 2025 Learning Community Education Roundtable in May. This annual event is a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we share ideas and work together and harness

the power of collective knowledge and experience.

Council remains strongly committed to supporting Wyndham's learning community through positive and collaborative partnerships. The Roundtable focused on two key priorities: employability and diversity in education and showcased the strength of our collective effort to create more inclusive and future-focused learning opportunities for all. Council prioritises collaborative partnerships and works with all Wyndham schools and their principals, and the Education Roundtable delivered positive outcomes for our community.

The Learning Community Unit hosted the 2025 Principal's Network Breakfast on 17 June at the Wyndham Tech School, with the theme of "*Changing Employability skills needs; matching industry needs with skills development*", bringing together senior educational leaders, and the Wyndham Tech School team to explore the changing world of work and associated skills development whilst furthering constructive relationships within the network.

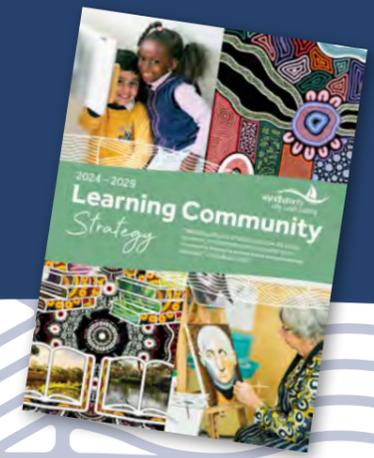
The 2025 Wyndham Learning Festival, now in its 10th year was launched on 24 August at Encore Events Centre, celebrating *10 years of discovery and lifelong learning*. This milestone event delivered through a collaborative partnership with Wyndham Community and Education Centre brought together our community through a vibrant Mini Expo and First Nations Craft Market, showcasing local creativity and cultural knowledge. A highlight was the inspiring keynote by Christine Anu, whose stories and songs beautifully captured the spirit of learning, culture, and connection that defines this Festival.

Wyndham City's strong commitment to lifelong learning together with our community, are well placed to support a positive, collaborative learning future.

Cr Josh Gilligan
Wyndham City Mayor



Overview of the Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029



The Learning Community Strategy (LCS) provides a dynamic, integrated framework for shaping Wyndham as a community where lifelong learning thrives. It guides Council's role in leading, advocating, influencing, facilitating, delivering, and celebrating learning across our city.

As a proud UNESCO Learning City, Wyndham is committed to creating opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen inclusion, and foster a vibrant, sustainable future. The LCS 2024-2029 focuses on nurturing learning for people of all ages, from early years to older adults, through diverse and accessible opportunities that reflect our values of cultural respect, equity, and innovation.

The Strategy is built around **four key pillars** that lay the foundation for learning across life:

- **First Nations 1st:** embedding First Nations knowledge, culture, and language in learning at every stage of life.
- **Learning to Learn and Foundation Skills:** building strong foundations in language, literacy, numeracy, and digital capability.
- **Employability, Work Skills, and Building Careers:** supporting pathways to employment, entrepreneurship, and lifelong career growth.

- **Leadership and New Learning:** growing community leadership through social and action learning, strengthening local workforce capability, embracing digital technologies, and deepening civic participation.

These pillars are supported by a focus on **health and wellbeing**, including mental health, **environmental sustainability and climate action**, **culturally safe learning spaces**, **stronger community connections**, and **measuring impact** to ensure meaningful outcomes across Wyndham.

This Community Update is the second progress report on the **Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029**, which was endorsed by Council in April 2024.

The Strategy identifies four areas of focus or 'pillars' for strengthening learning in Wyndham, being:



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 2025 Wyndham's population grew to over 333,015 and is predicted to reach over 488,000 by 2046. Wyndham has experienced one of the most significant population increases in both the state and the nation. It boasts a vibrant cultural diversity, featuring the largest community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Greater Melbourne area, enriching the fabric of the entire community.

This population surge is driven by several factors, including higher net overseas migration, increased fertility rates, and the availability of affordable family housing. However, this rapid growth presents various challenges for the environment, residents, infrastructure, and 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.



Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a shared global blueprint for achieving a fairer, more inclusive, and sustainable world by 2030. Agreed upon by the United Nations in 2015, the 17 interconnected goals call for collective action to address the world's most pressing challenges.

Through the Learning Community Strategy 2024–2029 and our commitment to lifelong learning, Wyndham City Council actively supports the 2030 SDG Agenda. We recognise that learning is a powerful driver of progress across all the goals — from reducing inequality to promoting environmental sustainability.

Council continues to collaborate with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) to advance the SDG agenda locally, embedding the goals in every action we take. By connecting local learning initiatives to global priorities, we're helping create meaningful change and improve the lives of all in our community.



unesco

Member
Global Network of
Learning Cities



Progress In Addressing Strategy Actions:



1

Pillar 1:

First Nations 1st

ACTION 1.01:

Continue to engage and inform WRAC regarding the rollout of the Learning Community Action Plan

The Wyndham Reconciliation Advisory Committee (WRAC), made up of First Nations and non-Indigenous members, was established to guide Council's Reconciliation vision, and provide a platform for engagement between First Nations and Non-Indigenous communities with Council.

The intention of this action was to strengthen collaboration with the WRAC and provide the Committee with opportunities to support and guide the implementation of the Learning

Community Strategy. A briefing on Action Plan progress was provided to the WRAC in March 2025, with input coordinated through the First Nations Unit, supporting WRAC's ongoing role in guiding culturally inclusive learning initiatives. These updates will continue when a new WRAC is formed to support Council's new Innovate RAP being developed in 2026.



ACTION 1.02:

Explore the potential for a cultural values assessment of Wyndham with a focus on learning with both TO Corporations

Cultural Values & Learning Toolkit

The Learning Community Unit continued engagement with Traditional Owner groups to explore the potential for a cultural values assessment of Wyndham with a focus on learning. Building on initial discussions, the concept evolved into a proposed Cultural Values & Learning Toolkit to deepen understanding of First Nations culture and land significance. The toolkit will feature black-and-white artworks from Bunurong and Wadawurrung artists, each paired with a cultural story. Liaison with both Traditional Owner Corporations is ongoing to support cultural alignment, resource development, and meaningful connection.

Truganina Heritage Network Strategy

Work is underway to develop a Heritage Network Strategy for Truganina and eastern Tarneit, recognising the area's deep cultural and environmental significance. The Strategy will celebrate the enduring presence of the Bunurong peoples and the region's agricultural and settlement history. It will focus on key corridors including Skeleton Creek, Dry Creek, and Dohertys Road, and provide guidance on preserving and sharing heritage through signage, trails, and digital storytelling. This initiative supports community learning by connecting residents with the stories and landscapes that shape Wyndham's identity.



ACTION 1.03:

Explore mixed mode options for First Nations training for all WCC staff including WCC leaders

As part of Council's continued commitment to First Nations cultural awareness and learning, cultural awareness training delivered through a variety of modes ("mixed modes") has been developed and delivered for Wyndham City staff, including leadership. Coordinated by the First Nations Unit with a range of partners, such as People & Capability and Arts & Culture, the learning opportunities delivered strengthen staff capacity to engage respectfully and effectively with First Nations communities. Some of the immersive experiences that supported cultural understanding across the organisation included:

- A First Nations Art Tour.
- Welcome to Wyndham induction sessions for new staff, run by the First Nations Unit, including Council's Reconciliation journey.

- All staff were invited to join Commissioner Travis Lovett, Deputy Chair of the Yoorrook Justice Commission on the Walk for Truth as he passed through Wyndham and also invited to a community event to hear him speak on the 14 June. Councillors and staff attended across these opportunities.
- Events for days of significance, such as the National Apology Anniversary, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC.

Council has also developed an action plan to implement the Cultural Learning Strategy. This Action Plan will deliver on updated training options, as well as an evaluation framework to ensure all Council staff engage with the training opportunities provided.



ACTION 1.04:

Promotion and development of new and existing cultural awareness events, cultural tours on Country and walking tours that promote truth-telling, cultural awareness, and knowledge sharing; including Learning Festival events that increase recognition of First Nations culture



First Nations Public Art Integration

First Nations artists were successfully engaged to develop site-specific public artworks at five recently opened community facilities across Wyndham: Bembit Bag-rook Community Centre, Koomail Tardy Community Centre, Truganina Community Centre, Birnbal Family Centre, and Lollypop Creek Community Centre. Developed in collaboration with Traditional Owner groups, these artworks reflect themes of welcome, family, and cultural identity, embedding First Nations recognition and cultural learning into the design and experience of each centre.

Cultural Tours and Truth-Telling

Council's First Nations Creative Arts Officer from the Arts & Culture team led the second annual First Nations Art Tour, offering immersive journeys across Wyndham that included artist-led talks, cultural storytelling, and a collaborative mural at the Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre. These tours deepen public understanding of First Nations perspectives through creative engagement.

Promotion of the Yoorrook Walk for Truth

All staff were invited to join Commissioner Travis Lovett, Deputy Chair of the Yoorrook Justice Commission on the Walk for Truth as he passed through Wyndham and were also invited to a community event to hear him speak on the 14 June. Councillors and staff attended these opportunities.

Days of Significance Events

Events recognising days of significance were supported by Council's First Nations Unit, including for the National Apology Anniversary, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC.

Public Art and Cultural Learning

The *Greening the Pipeline* project, transforming parts of the Main Outfall Sewer (MOS) pipeline reserve into parkland and community space, featured the installation of *Narrarrang Ngarri*, a major public artwork by Wadawurrung artist Kait James at Skeleton Creek Aqueduct. The 50-metre-long suspended artwork pays homage to the deep cultural significance of the Sheoke to the Bunurong, Boonwurrung, and Wadawurrung people. This activation celebrated shared heritage and environmental connection, contributing to cultural learning through place-based storytelling and collaboration with Bunurong and Wadawurrung representatives.

Inclusive Cultural Workshops

First Nations cultural awareness workshops were delivered during the Wyndham Learning Festival and throughout the year and took place at both the Wunggurrwil Dhurrung Centre and the Saltwater Community Centre. These highly regarded and well-attended events featured respected First Nations educators and storytellers, fostering intercultural understanding and community cohesion through shared learning experiences.



ACTION 1.05a): Collaborate to explore technology that promotes interpretative learning opportunities



Technology-Enhanced Cultural Engagement

Council collaborated across teams to explore technology that enhances interpretative learning experiences. This included the integration of interactive digital elements into the inaugural exhibition celebrating the newly refurbished Wyndham Art Gallery exhibition featuring First Nations artist, the late Josh Muir. The exhibition incorporated embedded digital technology, including iPads, augmented reality and audio storytelling, to deepen audience engagement through layered storytelling, cultural context, and artist reflections.

Cultural Interpretation

The proposed Truganina Heritage Network Strategy incorporates cultural stories, signage, and digital concepts to preserve and share the area's rich heritage. It aims to honour both the mid-19th century agricultural history and the enduring cultural significance of the land to First Peoples and the broader community, ensuring heritage places continue to shape community identity as the region evolves and grows.

ACTION 1.05b): WYNtalk with First Nations Theme

The Wyndham Learning Festival's signature **WynTalk: Launch with Christine Anu** took place on Sunday, 24 August, at the Encore Events Centre. Over 370 attendees from 499 registrations enjoyed songs and stories from Christine's 30-year career, celebrating culture, heritage, and family while exploring the power of storytelling and artistic expression. Her keynote set an inspiring and inclusive tone for the Festival's 10th anniversary.

The Launch also featured a First Nations craft market, a community expo, student performances from Suzanne Cory High School, children's activities, and a Welcome to Country by Traditional Owner Kelly Lehmann. Mayor Cr Mia Shaw officially opened the Festival, reaffirming Council's commitment to lifelong learning. The Centre was filled with energy as families, students, community groups, and local businesses came together.

Audience feedback was overwhelmingly positive:



Christine was such an inspiring and thoughtful presenter - I felt privileged to hear her wisdom and music.

We loved the First Nations theme and the opportunity to support local stallholders.

ACTION 1.06a): Foster the development of culturally safe learning spaces across Wyndham



Culturally Safe Learning Environments

Council has continued to work on ensuring its spaces are culturally safe and welcoming for First Nations community. In particular, Wyndham City's Libraries and Community Centres have undertaken a range of initiatives to continue to foster culturally welcoming spaces, including inclusive programming, visible recognition, and community engagement (see also Action 1.07 below).

NAIDOC Week Literary Engagement

To celebrate NAIDOC Week, Wyndham Libraries launched the First Nations Classics series, showcasing landmark works by influential Indigenous authors. Curated by University of Queensland Press and available via BorrowBox (an app providing library members with free access to eBooks and eAudiobooks), the collection promotes cultural learning through literature, with themes of resilience,

identity, and connection to Country. This initiative supports accessible, culturally safe learning by inviting readers to engage with First Nations storytelling in both physical and digital formats.

Promoting Cultural Safety and Visibility

Wyndham's Community Centres supported culturally safe learning environments by facilitating inclusive community hirers, promoting First Nations visibility, and collaborating with Council's First Nations Unit. Several centres across the municipality permanently display First Nations flags and host events that reflect local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Centre staff continue to build awareness and strengthen relationships with local community groups, ensuring cultural inclusion is embedded in everyday programming and engagement.

ACTION 1.06b): Strengthen internal procurement processes to support First Nations businesses

Council has strengthened its commitment to supporting First Nations businesses through a Platinum Partner Membership with Kinaway - the Victorian Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce. This partnership aims to create more inclusive and equitable opportunities across our local economy by connecting Council with certified First Nations businesses,

sharing knowledge, and promoting sustainable procurement practices that deliver social value for the Wyndham community.

Council has developed a portal to help staff identify the growing network of Kinaway-certified First Nations to support inclusive and sustainable procurement across the community.

ACTION 1.07: Ongoing promotion of libraries and community centres as welcoming spaces for First Nations people

Wyndham Libraries and Community Centres continue to foster culturally welcoming spaces for First Nations people through inclusive programming, visible recognition, and community engagement. Libraries feature curated First Nations collections, in-branch displays, and initiatives such as the First Nations Classics series, which highlights influential Indigenous authors and supports cultural learning.

In 2025, NAIDOC Week celebrations marked 50 years of national recognition, with the theme *The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy*. Wyndham Libraries hosted events including a film screening of *My Name is Gulpilil* and a traditional weaving workshop, while the Civic Centre held a Flag Raising Ceremony to honour First Nations cultures and achievements.

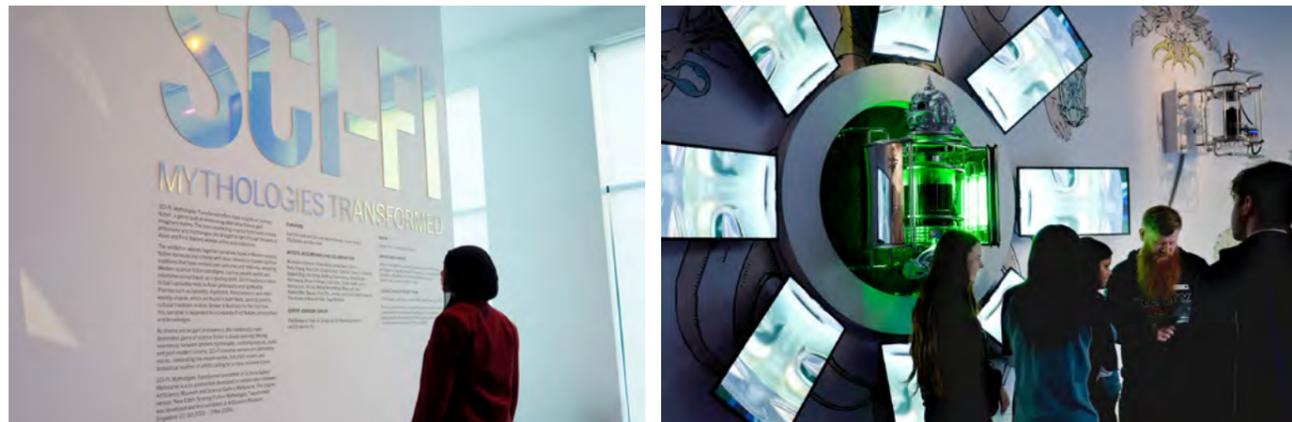
During Reconciliation Week 2025, Point Cook Community Learning Centre Kindergarten led a whole-community mural project inspired by the theme *Bridging Now to Next*. Families were invited to contribute individual 10cm x 10cm tiles, decorated at home with Indigenous-inspired artwork reflecting themes such as caring for Country, celebrating diversity, and welcoming all. The completed mural now stands as a vibrant symbol of shared learning and connection, with families continuing to engage with the artwork long after the event. The initiative offered an inclusive way to involve families who may not always be able to attend in-person activities, reinforcing that cultural learning can extend beyond designated weeks.



ACTION 1.08: Delivery of Deadly Tech Days

The 2025 Deadly Tech Day was delivered by Wyndham Tech School in collaboration with Science Gallery Melbourne, engaging First Nations students in creative, tech-enabled cultural learning experiences. Facilitated by two First Nations women, activities included speculative design, bioethics exploration, digital art creation, and a themed scavenger hunt titled *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed*, blending STEM with cultural storytelling and identity.

Council teams supported this fun and immersive initiative by promoting it to schools and community networks. The program continues to demonstrate the impact of culturally responsive education in inspiring the next generation of First Nations learners, encouraging the exploration of new technologies and career pathways in STEM.





2

Pillar 2: Learning to Learn and Foundation Skills



ACTION 2.01: Promote language, literacy, numeracy, and digital training including new technologies in Wyndham for all life stages and diverse demographics

In 2025, Wyndham City Libraries continued to deliver inclusive, high-quality programs that supported learning, literacy, and community connection across all ages with over 107,000 attendees. Programming reached diverse audiences through early years sessions, youth engagement, adult learning, and outreach via the Pop-Up Library Van. Highlights included bilingual Storytimes, author talks, digital literacy support, and targeted initiatives for vulnerable families and isolated residents.

Library services were delivered across a wide range of locations and continued to foster participation, wellbeing, and lifelong learning throughout the municipality.

Council-managed Community Centres also contributed to foundational learning by hosting diverse programs led by local groups and education providers. Notably, there has been strong community uptake of robotics and digital learning activities for children, reflecting growing interest in future-focused skills.

Early Years

Regular Baby Times, Rhyme Times and Story Times were conducted across the service, including bi-lingual sessions. Picture books for school readiness were actively promoted.

Children and Young People

Primary school-aged children accessed puzzles and games, coding and STEAM activities, 'Read with me' sessions for beginner readers, All Ages Chess, and creative writing sessions. Students received learning support through targeted resourcing, Exam Cram, and VCE preparation programs. Libraries hosted two Chess events, a Junior Chess Tournament and a Chess Simul. The Library Youth Collaborative, a volunteer group of young people who co-design library programs with staff, hosted two events in the library celebrating reading and learning.

Adults

Adult programs included English Conversation, Puzzle Group, Craft and Conversation, and All Ages Chess sessions. Writing workshops were offered for both adults and children. Multiple author talks were delivered.

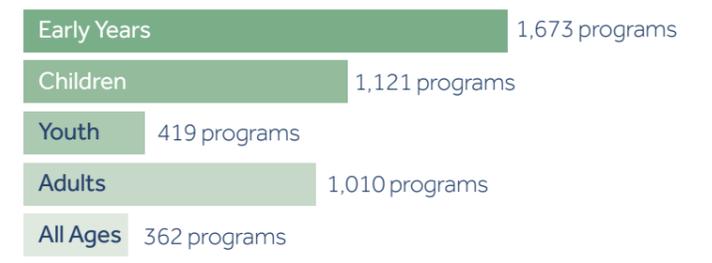
Parent Support

Parenting talks were delivered to help parents read with their children. An ongoing partnership with a local speech pathologist provided monthly sessions for parents to ask questions about their child's language development. A transition to high school program was delivered for parents of grade 6 students.

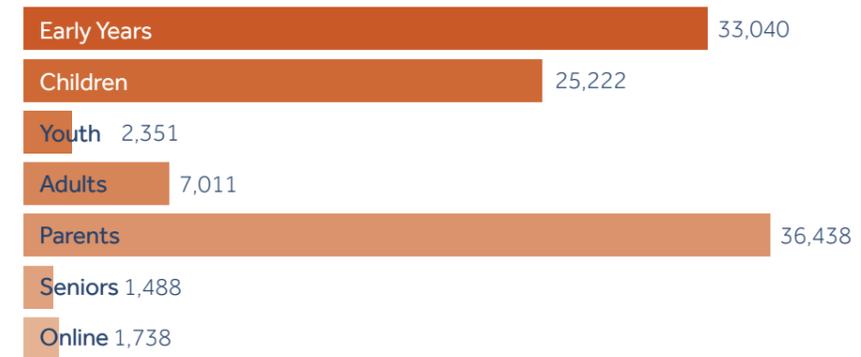
Community Engagement

The Wyndham Writing Awards competition was conducted. Seasonal reading promotions included Warm Winter Reads and Summer Reads campaigns.

Program Delivery totals (January–October 2025)



Attendance (January–October 2025)



Digital Literacy

Wyndham Libraries IT supported a diverse cross-section of the community through its digital literacy programs, with a total of 243 participants engaged across age groups (January–October 2025):

135 Adults

69 Seniors

13 Youth

24 Juniors

2 Parents

Adults and seniors

Libraries delivered 140 One on One IT Help sessions to members of the community. Covering topics from setting up a new device, to learning about online safety, social media, email, and engaging in online life.

43 specialised and focused computer classes were run, including Beginner Computer classes, introductions to Online safety, Tech Clubs, using the Office Suite, and more. 63 members of the community attended these.

Children and young people

Libraries delivered its annual Coding Champs awards night, with 37 entrants submitting games and animations, and 55 children, young people, and their families attending the evening. In the lead up, 5 Workshops focused on Coding, animation and design were run with 30 children and young people in attendance, learning the basics and intermediates of coding using Scratch, fostering innovation and critical thinking.

AMES Settling Into Work program collaboration with Wyndham Libraries

The AMES Settling Into Work program was successfully completed in 2025, concluding on 1 October. Delivered in collaboration with Wyndham Libraries, this fixed-term initiative provided weekly mentoring sessions at Tarneit and Hoppers Crossing Libraries. Throughout the program, an AMES Job Mentor supported nearly 60 residents from refugee and migrant backgrounds, helping them navigate employment pathways and build confidence for future opportunities.

Opportunity Wyndham

In 2025, the *Opportunity Wyndham* partnership continued to support foundational learning and employment pathways across the municipality. Residents accessed a wide range of skill-building programs, short courses, and language development opportunities, promoted through the Job-Readiness Calendar and monthly Employment Pathways eNewsletter.

To strengthen service coordination, the partnership began developing an internal mapping tool to track over 50 local programs by suburb. This tool will support more effective referrals and help identify gaps and opportunities in service delivery.

New Schools in Wyndham: 2025 and 2026

A further fundamental element of this Action has been the work of Council's Advocacy team supporting the establishment of several new schools in Wyndham.

In 2025, Wyndham welcomed the opening of Barayip Primary School in Tarneit, expanding access to education in one of the municipality's fastest-growing areas.

Looking ahead to 2026, other new schools in Wyndham currently under development include:

- **Mindalk Primary School** is set to open in Truganina
- **Ngurruga Specialist School** (shared site with Yurran P-9 College)
- **Yurran P-9 College** (temporary address, Werribee South)

As part of a statewide initiative, the Department of Education has invited community input to help name these schools, with a preference for Aboriginal language names to honour First Peoples'

These additions have provided much-needed learning spaces for the region's growing population and reflect ongoing efforts to strengthen educational infrastructure. The new schools contribute to Wyndham's broader commitment to lifelong learning by ensuring access to quality education for all community members.

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

Throughout 2025, Wyndham Community & Education Centre supported community members to strengthen their foundation skills that encompass language, literacy, numeracy, digital literacy and employability skills. Programs included:

- pre-accredited language, literacy, numeracy and digital training programs across a range of Wyndham City locations including both community-managed and council-managed community centres and school hubs. A total of 1,044 participants enrolled, completing 55,559 program hours.
- accredited English language programs at sites in Werribee, Tarneit and Point Cook, maintaining an average of 470 enrolments per term
- specific short course programs for parents at local schools, the communities of Burma, and the communities of South Sudan.



ACTION 2.02

Continue the Early Years “Sharing Stories Help Your Child Learn from Birth” project and promote the benefits of reading to children

Wyndham City Libraries continued the Sharing Stories project to promote early literacy among vulnerable and hard-to-reach families. Developed by the Children’s Team, the initiative responds to local developmental needs and works in partnership with playgroups, health services, and community organisations. Families receive early literacy resources, including board books, musical shakers, and library bags, through targeted Sharing Stories Rhyme Time and Baby Time sessions. The program remains a key strategy in supporting literacy from birth and strengthening family engagement to establish lifelong reading habits.

So far, the project has reached 2487 attendees across 122 outreach and library visits. 1412 bags have been given away and over 780 board books have been collected from a Wyndham Library.

This program is due to conclude at the end of 2025 and will be followed by various library programs and projects to support early literacy at home. A four-month trial of *Story Time Take Home Bags*, has launched at Tarneit and Point Cook Libraries. These curated kits are available during children’s programs and for loan. The trial will inform a broader rollout in 2026 based on evaluation data.

Community Centres worked closely with library teams to support access to program spaces and promote early literacy initiatives. Programs were shared widely via social media and other outreach channels, helping families discover and engage with local learning opportunities from birth.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services continue to embed early literacy messaging into key age and stage consultations, encouraging families to read, sing, and tell stories daily. Visits at 4 months, 12 months, and 2 years focus on language development milestones, with practical tips provided to help parents support learning through books and play. Free book packs are distributed in partnership with programs like *1000 Books Before School* and *Let’s Read*, featuring culturally inclusive and bilingual titles that reflect Wyndham’s diversity.

Families are actively referred to library programs such as *Storytime* and *Baby Rhyme Time*, with guidance on screen time and digital learning. Promotional materials - including flyers, QR codes, and digital reminders - support ongoing engagement. Joint sessions co-facilitated by MCH nurses and librarians are held at community centres, covering child development, interactive storytelling, and early literacy. These efforts are further supported by bilingual educators and translated resources, ensuring inclusive access for families from all backgrounds.



ACTION 2.03: Transformative Education Showcase sharing intergenerational learning models



The **2025 Transformative Education Showcase**, a free professional development forum highlighting best practice and innovation in intergenerational learning, took place 31 July. The event brought together educators and practitioners from across all life stages, including early years, primary and secondary schools, tertiary institutions, and community agencies throughout Wyndham. Through a curated program of keynote speakers and presentations, the Showcase demonstrated how intergenerational learning fosters meaningful engagement, knowledge exchange, and stronger connections between generations.

The 2025 Transformative Education Showcase featured an inspiring lineup of keynote speakers who are leading innovative intergenerational learning initiatives across Victoria. Gina Haebich from GenConnect Consulting shared insights into programs that connect generations through purposeful learning and community engagement. Michelle Tuck from the Raise Youth Mentoring Program highlighted the power of mentoring in strengthening relationships between young people and adults, fostering confidence and mutual growth. Dr Geraldine Burke from Monash University's We Are Well initiative explored how intergenerational education contributes to wellbeing and social connection across life stages. Together, their presentations showcased practical, evidence-based approaches that demonstrate how learning between generations can transform individuals, families, and communities. An "In Wyndham" panel explored local programs focussing on the development of positive relationships between younger and older people.

The Showcase was very well-received, with 100% of survey respondents reporting satisfaction. Participants praised the quality and diversity of programs, describing the event as inspiring, informative, and well-organised. Presentations were noted for their clarity, relevance, and practical application, and attendees highlighted the powerful role of intergenerational learning in supporting cultural identity, particularly within CALD communities.

Looking ahead, participants expressed interest in topics such as First Nations-led cultural knowledge preservation, digital storytelling and AI, adult and lifelong learning, and mental health and wellbeing in senior care. Overall, the Showcase affirmed that storytelling, digital engagement, and mentorship are transformative pathways for building connected, inclusive, and resilient communities - further positioning Wyndham as a leader in lifelong and intergenerational learning.

Intergenerational Letter Writing Project – Penrose Community Centre

This pilot program fostered meaningful connections between young people and seniors through a heartfelt letter exchange. Initiated by Council's Employment Pathways team, the project brought together Ladies Club 60 and Year 12 students from Werribee Secondary College, with support from Penrose Community Centre.

Ten students and ten senior women participated, sharing personal stories and reflections across generations. The letters exchanged revealed a clear impact: participants felt a deeper sense of connection, mutual respect, and creative joy.

Senior feedback included:

It felt creative and fulfilling to share my own life and interests.

I enjoyed writing again — it's something I've lost touch with.

I felt a genuine connection with the younger generation.

This initiative highlighted the power of small-scale partnerships to build inclusion, understanding, and community spirit across age groups.

Emotional Wellbeing Programs for Families

Council's Youth Services delivered two evidence-based programs: Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens, to support emotional wellbeing and strengthen family relationships. These programs equip parents, carers, and guardians with practical strategies to better understand and respond to their children's emotional needs.

Tuning into Teens focussed on improving emotional literacy and parenting approaches for families with adolescents, covering topics such as emotion coaching, empathy, and navigating mood and anger. Tuning into Kids helped parents build emotional intelligence and communication skills to foster stronger bonds

and support children's mental health from early years through to adulthood.

These programs reflect Council's commitment to lifelong learning and family wellbeing through preventative, skills-based initiatives.

Art Swap Challenge

Libraries teams successfully delivered the Art Swap Challenge as an intergenerational initiative co-delivered by Libraries Children's, Youth, and Adult teams. The event reached full capacity and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Participants of all ages engaged in creative expression, highlighting strong community interest in inclusive, cross-generational learning experiences.





3

Pillar 3: Employability, Work Skills, and Building Careers

ACTION 3.01: Principal's Breakfast – changing employability skills needs, matching industry needs with skills development



The Learning Community Unit hosted the 2025 Principal's Network Breakfast on 17 June at the Wyndham Tech School, with the theme of *"Changing Employability skills needs; matching industry needs with skills development"*, bringing together senior Educational Leaders, and the Wyndham Tech School team to explore the changing world of work and associated skills development whilst furthering constructive relationships within the network.

The morning began with a snack box breakfast and networking, creating a welcoming atmosphere for attendees to connect. We were honored to have Cr Jennie Barrera provide a warm welcome to the Network, emphasising Wyndham City Council's commitment to supporting educational institutions in their educational efforts, and encouraging the exploration of future work and skill trends.

An informative presentation by Council's Economic Development team set the scene highlighting the skills needed across key industries in the West, the emerging sectors and local job trends, and career opportunities for young people in Wyndham.

As Director of the Tech School, Sam Nikolsky skillfully supported the event fulfilling the role of MC, and facilitating a workshop exploring current skills gaps, mapping the learning journey from primary through to post-secondary, and collaborating on supporting career readiness. The event concluded with participants encouraged to continue collaboration between the network, the Tech School and Council, through the Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029.

The event resonated deeply with all attendees, who left inspired, informed and empowered to strengthen their connections with the Wyndham Tech School. The thought-provoking discussions and demonstrations fostered a strong sense of purpose among the participants.



ACTION 3.02:

Celebrate and promote local career pathways and living, learning, and working in Wyndham

Wyndham Learning Festival (WLF)

The 2025 Festival theme: A Decade of Discovery, celebrated 10 years of community-led learning.

Popular events included those highlighting local career pathways, creative learning, and intergenerational stories. The Festival continues to be a key platform for showcasing Wyndham's learning culture and career diversity.

Stay connected with Learning Festival news: www.wynlearnfestival.org.au/

LearNWest Learner Stories

The Learner Stories campaign continues to be a flagship initiative, spotlighting Wyndham residents' diverse learning and career journeys.

- Stories included in 2025 have featured young people in vocational training, adults upskilling, seniors embracing digital literacy, and CALD learners sharing cultural experiences.
- Published on the LearNWest website and amplified via Council social media, the campaign fosters social connections, bridging generations, promoting lifelong learning, and unlocking economic opportunities.

Find more stories by visiting: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/learnwest

Wynlearn What's On

Throughout the year information on learning opportunities, events and news can be accessed through the informative Learning City page on Council's website, your gateway to a vast range of lifelong learning opportunities across Wyndham in the many and varied learning activities, events, and programs on offer.

Discover a world of learning: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city

Werribee River Association's "Trail Blazers" – Outdoor Education and Wellbeing Program

Funded by the Department of Social Services, Trail Blazers is an outdoor education and wellbeing initiative for young people engaged through local schools and Anglicare's Navigator program.

- Activities included cultural walks, paddling, snorkelling, environmental regeneration, and camping, connecting learning with nature.
- The program promotes wellbeing, cultural connection, and career exploration through hands-on outdoor learning.

Emerging Talent Graduate Program 2024–2025

Wyndham City Council successfully completed its pilot Emerging Talent Graduate Program, supporting young professionals through structured placements across departments.

- Graduates were recognised at an Appreciation Morning Tea alongside host teams such as City Amenity & Safety and Sports & Recreation.
- The program led to tangible outcomes, with one graduate securing a permanent role within their host team.
- Building on the pilot's success, the 2025–2026 intake has commenced welcoming two new graduates into roles as Graduate Engineer and Graduate Project Officer - Neighbourhood Hubs.

The program reflects Council's commitment to building bright futures for emerging talent while meeting organisational workforce development needs through structured graduate placements across various departments.



The Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre (Werribee campus)

This local Centre continues to offer free career and employment support for Wyndham residents, including resume help, interview preparation, course advice, career planning and job search strategies. A range of free workshops and one-on-one sessions are available, in person, by phone or Zoom.

Details here: www.thegordon.edu.au/industry/skills-and-jobs-centre

Economic Development:

Locally owned businesses continue to be supported through Wyndham's Love Your Local campaign. Wyndham City remains committed to strengthening its local economy by encouraging businesses to access free support services including training, mentorship, and promotional opportunities. The award-winning Love Your Local initiative highlights the value of buying local emphasising that for every \$100 spent locally, \$67 stays in Wyndham. Businesses are invited to use the free marketing toolkit and add their details to the Wyndham Business Directory to increase visibility and community engagement. Toolkit details here: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/love-your-local-business-toolkit

Sport & Recreation:

Wyndham's sporting clubs continue to offer hands-on experience and volunteer roles including coaching, umpiring, and club operations, that build skills and open pathways to employment. Many clubs now provide entry-level and part-time paid positions.

Aligned with the broader Active Wyndham initiatives, Sport & Recreation is expanding access through inclusive programs, seasonal activations, and tools like the Active Wyndham Map, which can be seen here: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/sports-parks-recreation/active-wyndham/active-wyndham-map

WynBay LLEN

WynBay LLEN connects Wyndham's business, education, training and community to build brighter futures. The LLEN continues to strengthen pathways between education and industry, helping students build confidence, develop skills, and gain valuable insights into their future careers.



ACTION 3.03:

Building capacity of disability service providers to facilitate employment and education for community members with disability

Mock Job Interviews Program:

Building on the success of previous programs, Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local Learning & Employment Network's (WynBay LLEN) 2025 program aimed to build sustainable partnerships that enhance education and transition outcomes for young people, particularly by increasing career opportunities. WynBayLLEN continued its impactful Mock Job Interview Program in 2025, supporting students' transition from education to employment.

- The initiative, delivered in partnership with Warringa Park Specialist School, provides realistic interview experiences that help students refine responses, build confidence, and receive constructive feedback.
- Held on August 18 and 25 at the Cayley's Road Campus, volunteer interviewers conducted 15-20-minute sessions with individual students, supported by structured materials and scenarios.
- The program benefited both students and volunteers—enhancing communication, skill development, and workforce readiness while strengthening ties between schools and local employers.
- With support from Council staff and stakeholders, the program grew to include a range of participating schools across Wyndham and Hobsons Bay (Bemin Secondary College, Christway College, Emmanuel College, Hester Hornbrook Academy, Homestead Senior Secondary School, Mackillop College, Manor Lakes P-12 College, Point Cook Senior Secondary College, Tarneit Senior Secondary College, Tarneit P-9 College, The Grange P-12 College, and Werribee Secondary College).
- A total of 749 students from Years 9-12 participated, with 42 organisations volunteering their time.
- Feedback from students, educators, and volunteers continues to highlight the program's value in preparing young people for future employment.

WynBay LLEN continued the delivery of the *School to Work* program in Wyndham, in partnership with the Department of Education. The program connects secondary school students, including those with disability, to meaningful work-based learning opportunities that reflect local industry needs. Activities include structured work placements, workplace visits, guest speakers, and employer-led work-readiness sessions such as mock interviews and resume writing.

WynBay LLEN also coordinates the long-standing Wyndham Vocational Education and Training Delivered to Secondary Students (VETDSS) Cluster, supporting schools to access high-quality, locally delivered vocational education and training. These initiatives help build inclusive employment pathways and strengthen collaboration between schools, industry, and service providers.

Wyndham Disability Services Network and Accessibility Updates:

Wyndham Disability Services Network (WDSN) continues to play a pivotal role in building the capacity of local disability service providers to strengthen employment pathways for people with disability. The WDSN brings together a diverse range of providers to foster collaboration, share sector developments, and advocate collectively on emerging issues. Through bi-monthly meetings and thematic discussions, including Community Participation and Social Inclusion; Family Violence; Emergency Management; Employment and Economic Participation and Education, WDSN members engage in case studies, joint advocacy projects, and tailored capacity-building presentations. The network also partners with key stakeholders, including the Brotherhood of St Laurence, to enhance service coordination through Local Area Coordination and Early Childhood Early Intervention under the NDIS. By offering shared training opportunities and promoting awareness of lived experiences, WDSN is actively contributing to the development of more inclusive and responsive employment services in Wyndham. Members of the Learning



Community Unit participate in meetings to strengthen cross-sector knowledge sharing and ensure strategic alignment with learning community goals.

Wyndham Disability Connection Expo

The Wyndham Disability Connection Expo was successfully held in May at the Encore Events Centre, Hoppers Crossing, bringing together a diverse range of support services, disability service providers, companies and organisations committed to empowering individuals and connecting people with disabilities to opportunities and resources. This free community event provided attendees with valuable opportunities to engage, learn and connect, featuring incredible guest speakers who are making a significant difference in the disability space within Wyndham.

Hosted by Wyndham City in partnership with Brotherhood of St Laurence, Beyond Choice, Australia Disability Services and the Wyndham Disability Services Network, the expo successfully showcased local support services, workshops and speakers to help people with disability live vibrant lives. The event was inclusive and accessible to everyone, welcoming those with lived experience of disability, NDIS participants, and those not NDIS supported. As a major component of Wyndham's Accessibility and Inclusion Plan 2023-2025, the expo embodied the vision that "People with disability, our families and/or carers experience dignity, respect and inclusive access to opportunities and services. Our voice is respected, we have control over our lives, and disability pride and diversity are celebrated."

Hidden Disability Sunflower Initiative:

This Initiative continued in 2025 across Wyndham Libraries, with the Werribee Visitor Information Centre and Customer Service at the Civic Centre adding to the locations now participating. The Initiative promotes inclusion for people with non-visible disabilities by offering free Sunflower products, such as lanyards and wristbands, as a discreet signal for support. It builds on Wyndham's ongoing commitment to accessibility across public and internal-facing services.

International Day of People with Disability 2025

Wyndham City marked the International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) with a vibrant community event on Thursday 4 December at the Wyndham Civic Centre. This annual United Nations observance promotes awareness, understanding, and inclusion for the 4.1% of Wyndham residents who require assistance due to disability. The event featured powerful contributions from Natalie Ive, who shared her lived experience with younger onset dementia and primary progressive aphasia; Paralympian and accessibility advocate Matthew Haanappel; and Miss Emilia, a multidisciplinary artist whose soulful performance offered a deeply personal reflection on queer and disabled identity. Attendees also explored a mini-market showcasing local creatives living with disability and makers of accessibility-focused products, reinforcing the day's message of empowerment, visibility, and community connection.



ACTION 3.04: Promote local employment and skills development opportunities across Wyndham, including the importance of learning in the development of welcoming and inclusive workplaces

Wyndham City's Economic Development team

supports local businesses to start, grow, and succeed through tailored programs, training, networking, and innovation initiatives. In 2025, services included free business training, access to the SPARK Business & Innovation Hub, local promotion through the award-winning *Love Your Local*, and support for entrepreneurs, home-based businesses, and larger enterprises, contributing to a resilient and thriving local economy.

SPARK Business & Innovation Hub

SPARK is Wyndham City's Business & Innovation Hub supporting emerging businesses through workspace, training, and advisory services.

In 2025, SPARK expanded its focus beyond tech startups to include small businesses and professional services. Members benefit from tailored support, business facilitation, and collaboration opportunities, with access to ergonomic workstations, private offices, and meeting spaces. The hub continues to foster innovation and growth across Wyndham's diverse business community.

RMIT University - Partnering on the Future: Wyndham AI for Business

In a first-of-its-kind strategic collaboration, Wyndham City Council and RMIT University launched *Wyndham AI for Business* in June 2025 to uplift Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) AI capability through a unique blend of partnership, program, and place. Anchored at the RMIT Business & Technology Studio - Wyndham's first embedded higher education technology presence for business – the initiative reimagines how growth councils can drive innovation locally. The partnership's flagship offering - AI for Business – will deliver 12 intensive sprints where RMIT staff and students co-develop AI roadmaps with local businesses. Additionally, three free AI for business workshops (March, April, October 2025) attracted 270+ SME attendees across diverse industries, and a co-

designed *AI for Educators* as part of Wyndham Learning Festival. The partnership's hands-on model embeds innovation where it's needed most: at the intersection of community, commerce, and learning. As part of the broader vision, this launch paves the way for the future development of a Wyndham & RMIT AI Centre as a dedicated space for innovation, training, and real-world problem-solving, further embedding digital innovation into the heart of local economic growth. The partnership has received global recognition in the 2025 QS Quacquarelli Symonds Reimagine Education Awards – ranking in the top 20%, securing a place on the 2025 Shortlist from 1600 entries across the globe.

WYNnovation 2025: Making the Future Happen Now

Wyndham City's award-winning festival of entrepreneurship returned in May 2025, celebrating bold ideas, innovation, and local leadership. Under the theme "*Making the Future Happen Now*," the program brought together entrepreneurs, business leaders, and creatives to connect, learn, and inspire action.

Key Highlights:

- **WYNnovation Summit** (15 May): Featured powerful speakers including Simon Waller (Futurist), Winitha Bonney OAM (award-winning leader and speaker), Nornie Bero (Mabu Mabu), and Daniel Flynn (Thankyou), alongside a local panel showcasing Wyndham's innovators.
- **Pitch Competition**: Focused on tech-enabled solutions for a better city. Winners included AI Mily (Mily Lee), RegenX (Ishan Dan), and Tala Thrive (Sonia Kaurah).
- **Wyndham Leaders Workshop** (27 May): A strategic session with 30 local stakeholders to shape Wyndham's economic development priorities.



- **Independent Business-led Events**: Included student mentoring, Gen Z workforce strategies with Third Culture and Workforce Australia, the Wyndham Biznet Forum, Intro to CSIRO for Ag & Food Startups, and a business development workshop by 3Minds Consulting and Cowork + Create each contributing to a vibrant program of innovation.

Wyndham Business Awards 2025

Held on 12 September; the gala celebrated local business excellence and marked the lead-up to the 30-year milestone in 2026. Out of 165 applications, there were 45 finalists and 12 winners. Werribee Open Range Zoo was named Business of the Year.

For more on Wyndham's business support programs, visit www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/businesssupport

Opportunity Wyndham

Opportunity Wyndham is a partnership between Wyndham City Council, local employment and educational service providers and local businesses, with support from the Victorian State Government's Department of Jobs, Skills and Regions, delivering tailored support to foster inclusive workplaces.

Council's Inclusive Employment service supports residents into meaningful work and promotes inclusive hiring across Wyndham. As the backbone organisation for the Opportunity Wyndham partnership, Council works with businesses, community, and services to create accessible employment pathways, with a focus on young people, women, and newly arrived migrant and refugee communities.

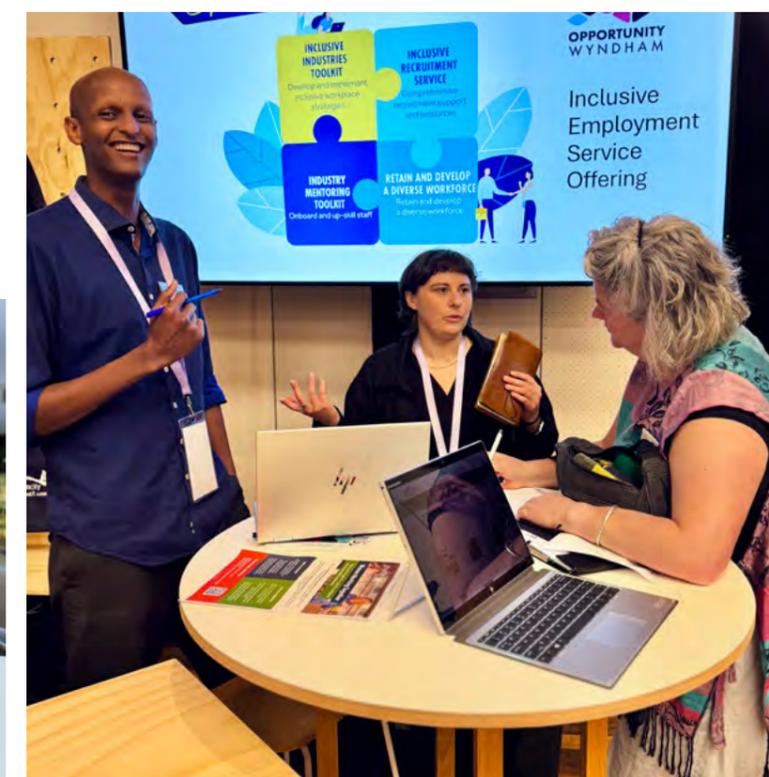


Inclusive Employment Toolkits

The Opportunity Wyndham Inclusive Employment Toolkits were successfully launched in February, with the comprehensive workshop series commencing in May 2025. Through strategic partnerships with local businesses, community members, and service providers, three comprehensive toolkits were delivered focusing on diversity strategies, mentoring programs, and retention strategies. The workshop program successfully engaged local employers through three key sessions: Inclusive Recruitment workshops (28 May online and 2 June at Civic Centre), Industry Mentoring Module 1 (30 May at Civic Centre), and Developing an Inclusive Employment Action Plan (6 June at Civic Centre), offering both online and in-person options to maximize accessibility.

This initiative demonstrated significant community impact by supporting local business growth through enhanced recruitment capabilities, improving employment pathways with better connections between job seekers and employers, and strengthening workplace diversity practices across the municipality.

Toolkits and more information available: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/ow-inclusive-toolkits-training-and-support-local-employers



Youth Services – Empowering Young People in Wyndham

In 2025, Wyndham Youth Services continued to deliver a diverse range of programs that supported skill development, employment pathways, and youth leadership. Through initiatives like **Freeza**, young volunteers gained hands-on experience in music and event management, while the Amplify Paradox Crew provided weekly opportunities for 15–25-year-olds to plan and deliver live music events, skate competitions, podcasts, and training sessions. Participants developed skills in sound production, lighting, marketing, and event coordination, with many alumni progressing into tertiary study, industry roles, or youth work.

The **Job Ready Wardrobe** was introduced to reduce barriers for young people attending job interviews or starting work, offering access to professional clothing and confidence-building support. Staff also provided guidance in resume writing, interview preparation, and general job-readiness.

Youth Services supported **The Narrative Lab** with a video editing workshop and helped secure facilities for The Huddle to relaunch Homework Clubs in Term 2. The Point Cook team also hosted two young participants through the Workplace Immersion Program, part of the Bright Futures Framework, offering paid short-term work experience to those facing barriers to employment—including young people, mature-age workers, career pivoters, new arrivals, people with disability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

The **Youth Task Force** continued to play a vital role in civic engagement, with young leaders advising Council on issues such as mental health, access and inclusion, body image, education, and employment. Members contributed to community consultations, events, and projects including the Youth Summit and the development of a Youth Directory, gaining valuable experience in leadership, advocacy, project management, and marketing.

Create [SPACE] Program 2025

The Create [SPACE] program was successfully launched for 2025, opening applications to partner four artists or collectives in temporary spaces throughout Wyndham. Information sessions were conducted across three strategic locations to ensure broad community access: Dianella Community Centre in Tarneit West, SPARK Innovation Hub in Werribee, and Wungurrwil Dhurrung Centre in Wyndham Vale with the final session offering both in-person and online participation options to maximise accessibility.

The information sessions provided comprehensive details about the program, expression of interest process, and opportunities for artists to ask questions about the partnership opportunities. The program successfully engaged the creative community by utilising diverse venue locations across Wyndham and offering flexible participation options, demonstrating Council's commitment to supporting local artists and creative expression through accessible temporary space partnerships.





4

Pillar 4.0

Leadership and New Learning

Action 4.01: Education Roundtable to explore emerging learning themes

Council's Learning Community unit hosted the 2025 Roundtable in May, providing the opportunity to harness the power of collective knowledge and experience. Bringing together 52 enthusiastic stakeholders of Wyndham's Learning community - educators, policymakers, industry leaders and community partners - the shapers of thought and the leading learning nurturers of the next generation, the morning proved to be a wonderful opportunity to gather and collaborate as a learning community, to share insights, strategies, and actions that can help shape the learning landscape of education and to explore innovative models that address two critical areas: employability and diversity of education.

The attendees were warmly welcomed by the Mayor, Cr Mia Shaw, who acknowledged Council's strong committed to prioritising and supporting Wyndham's learning community through positive, proactive and constructive partnerships, and the desire to strengthen our partnerships through collaboration and work together to promote learning and education in Wyndham, a high priority for Council.

Dallian D'Cruz, CEO WynBayLLEN set the scene for the audience, followed by a series of snapshot presentations exploring key themes identified as priorities in feedback gathered at last year's Education Roundtable:

- "Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Positive Educational Outcomes" – Wyndham Tech School
- "Supporting Mental Health for Adolescents" - Youth Services, WCC
- "Addressing Teacher Shortages in Wyndham" – Wyndham Principal's Network
- "Career Pathways Initiatives" - Gordon Skills and Jobs Centre
- "Inclusive Education: Learning Opportunities for Marginalised Groups in Wyndham" - AMES Australia

As industry shifts and jobs change, opportunities such as the Education Roundtable ensure that education, training programs and workplace learning opportunities adapt to current changes. The importance of diverse and inclusive education cannot be understated, and are vital in shaping a more inclusive future, inspire innovation and create a more equitable community.

The "Roundtable" breakout session was then held, providing attendees the opportunity to take a deeper dive with their chosen presenter. This part of the Education Roundtable inspired much discussion, collaborations and networking, evidenced by the deep conversations and the buzz in the room.

Quotes from Education Roundtable attendees:

Very satisfied great insight into challenges and opportunities to discuss solutions

Well facilitated and organised. Liked the snappy pace.

I was really impressed with all the speakers- the format of the 5-minute presentations and then the Roundtable discussion was very valuable

Topics were very thoughtful and it's great to hear how people are working hard to support education and learning. I feel relieved that there is active effort into many challenging issues



Action 4.02: Capacity building focussed on community leadership, volunteering, civic participation



Wyndham Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards

The Wyndham Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards recognise residents who have made outstanding contributions to the community through leadership, volunteering, and civic participation.

In 2025, Peter Nichols and Atticus Tan were honoured for their exceptional service. Peter, founder of Wyndham Rotary Club, has led decades of community initiatives including the Rotary Fun Run, food drives, and educational programs. Atticus, a young sustainability advocate, repaired and donated over 150 bikes, ran free workshops, and coached junior sailors—fostering skill-sharing and volunteerism. Their efforts reflect Wyndham's commitment to building local leadership and celebrating active citizenship.

Youth Civic Participation Project

The Youth Civic Participation Project is a Wyndham City Council initiative supporting young residents aged 18–25 to explore how government works across local, state, and federal levels. Designed for aspiring lawyers, policy makers, and community leaders, the program includes direct engagement with Councillors and public servants, site visits to Wyndham City Council and Parliament House Victoria, and a four-day Canberra tour. Participants gained firsthand insight into civic leadership, democratic institutions, and public service, building knowledge, networks, and pathways for future participation.

Western Region Youth Forum

Planning was undertaken with 14 volunteers with Youth Task Force, for the showcase of youth voices from across Melbourne's west. CEO's, mayors, councillors and directors from six councils including Wyndham, Hobson's Bay, Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Melton and Maribyrnong, heard directly from young people about issues that matter most to them and their communities. The collaborations to explore solutions demonstrated the passions, dedication and leadership amongst the young people of the west.

Youth In Global Action

The Youth in Global Action workshop series commenced at Penrose Promenade Community Centre in 2025. Four sessions took place with 22 participants providing young people the opportunity to learn from, and work with, NGO's from around the world, that are working on the United Nations Sustainable Goals. Participants presented ideas and built connections with likeminded young people around creating sustainable change not just in Wyndham but abroad.



Council's Youth Services supported

two placement students (volunteering/employability). In addition, the Go Girls soccer program working alongside Truganina Hornets to provide coaching opportunities for their female players with young people being introduced to the game. This also provided pathways to mainstream sporting clubs and participation for young girls.

International Women's Day

Wyndham City successfully delivered International Women's Day recognition events across 5-8 March 2025, celebrating girls and women in the community under the campaign theme 'March Forward: turning promises into progress'. The program featured key events at Wyndham Civic Centre including a keynote presentation by Karin Keays on 6 March who spoke about trusting your intuition and yourself in the face of authority, addressing the sometimes-devastating outcomes of denying personal intuition, and advocating for changes needed particularly within the medical field to allow women to march forward through encouraging trust in joint health decision making. The program also featured Local Businesswomen's Market Stalls run by local Wyndham



women, both events open to all members of the community.

These inclusive events were strategically organised to align with this significant day and aimed to educate Council employees and the broader community on inclusion, equity and diversity. The series successfully celebrated women's achievements and contributions while promoting gender equity and community engagement, demonstrating Council's commitment to supporting women's economic participation and leadership within Wyndham while aligning with the theme of turning promises into tangible progress for women and girls in the community.

Building Blocks Community Leadership Program

The Building Blocks Community Leadership Program 2025 was successfully launched with the theme 'Activating New Neighbourhoods', offering community members the opportunity to learn community leadership skills, connect with other community-minded people, and be supported to undertake a local community project. This free Wyndham City program comprised eight sessions delivered from March to May, offering flexible participation through delivery on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, plus project planning and delivery support extending into June, with both face-to-face sessions at the Civic Centre and online options.

The program successfully engaged diverse community members as evidenced by the multicultural representation in promotional materials, demonstrating Wyndham's commitment to inclusive community leadership development. The program was deliberately designed to build community connection and leadership capacity in Wyndham's growing and evolving neighbourhoods. The initiative provided participants with practical skills and networks to drive positive change in their local communities through supported project implementation.

Sons of the West (SOTW) Program 2025

The Sons of the West (SOTW) program was successfully launched for 2025 as a free, 10-week health and wellbeing initiative designed for men aged 18+. This collaborative program between the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, WynActive, and Wyndham City provided valuable tools and support to improve participants' physical, mental, and social wellbeing through expert guidance in fitness, nutrition, and mental health, while building

community connections through enjoyable exercise sessions led by qualified instructors.

The program commenced in March, operating on Wednesdays at Eagle Stadium, Werribee, with sessions offered at 11:30am-1:30pm (with available spaces) and 6:30pm-8:30pm (full capacity with waitlist). The initiative demonstrated strong community demand, particularly for evening sessions, while maintaining accessibility through free participation and inclusive programming suitable for all fitness levels. The program successfully addressed men's health and wellbeing needs while fostering social connections and community engagement within Wyndham's male population.

Volunteer Expo Celebrates Connection and Community Impact

Wyndham City's Volunteer Expo was a vibrant success, bringing together over 50 stallholders and more than 400 attendees in a celebration of community spirit and civic engagement. At a time when many organisations are seeking new helpers, the Expo demonstrated the power of connection, linking eager volunteers with groups in need across the region.

The event highlighted the value of volunteering as a pathway to leadership, inclusion, and lifelong learning. Wyndham City staff showed strong support, and the Volunteer Pathways team expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to nurture collaboration and connection.

As one participating organisation reflected:

The outcome for Donate 2 Drive LTD exceeded our expectations. We made nine connections with volunteers and networks with other organisations.



Community Training Calendar

Wyndham City Council delivered free training programs throughout 2025 designed to support community groups and volunteers in developing their capacity and achieving success. The comprehensive Community Training Calendar offered various skill-building opportunities accessible through online booking at www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/communitytrainingcalendar. The program was promoted through community networks, newsletters, and social media to maximise reach and participation across Wyndham's diverse volunteer sector.

The initiative provided essential capacity-building support to strengthen the foundation of community organisations and volunteer networks operating throughout Wyndham. By offering free, accessible training, the program helped ensure community groups had the skills and knowledge needed to effectively serve their communities while supporting volunteer retention and development. See also action 4.14.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Wyndham City led a dynamic and inclusive program aligned with the international 16 Days of Activism campaign. The initiative featured community events, educational workshops, and Libraries created curated reading lists and resources designed to foster dialogue, challenge harmful norms, and promote safety and equality.

Library Volunteers

Library programs aim to strengthen community capacity through initiatives that foster leadership, encourage volunteering, and promote civic engagement. Our volunteer programs are designed to be inclusive and empowering, providing meaningful roles for young people and adults from and backgrounds. Volunteers receive orientation, ongoing support, and opportunities to develop new skills. Through these responsibilities, the library volunteer plays a vital role in supporting library operations, engaging with the public, and contributing to a culture of active citizenship. Our volunteering programs empower residents to participate meaningfully in community life.

Through targeted programs such as youth advisory groups and peer-led initiatives, we support young people to take active roles

in community life and develop leadership capabilities, through library co-design initiatives, helping prepare resources for library programs, and contributing to the day-to-day workings of a busy front-facing library environment. One highlight includes our Library Youth Collaborative co-designing and successfully delivering *Teen Trivia Night* that was well attended. For the year up to November, we have held 214 instances of our volunteering programs, with Library volunteers attending collectively over 400 times. Library volunteers help with delivering programs and apply specialised knowledge, role-modelling purposive and positive civic engagement for the entire community.

Community Centres

The Community Centres team actively support volunteering and community leadership and have eighteen volunteers that work across centres to deliver a range of learning programs in response to identified local need. Throughout 2025 there have been 661 volunteer hours offered to deliver programs to 2713 community members.

The team also supported more than 300 community groups in this time supporting community group leaders to build their capacity and capability to respond to their members and deliver a diverse range of activities and support services to the broader Wyndham community.



Action 4.03: Utilise Place-based Social and Action Learning to identify areas where learning in action can have most impact in a local community – Annual Forum

Key learning stakeholders gathered for the Learning Community's Annual Forum on 16 October at the Civic Centre. Arising from the Wyndham Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029, the Annual Forum offered an opportunity to review progress made on the 2025 Action Plan, and for stakeholders to review and confirm the 2026 Action Plan.

Attendees were impressed with a short video highlighting achievement made across Wyndham's learning community, which is featured on the Learning City page of Council's website. The Forum then focused on reviewing and refining the Action Plan within each of the four pillars, to strengthen its impact. Participants discussed updates across areas including First Nations engagement, staff

education and awareness, departmental responsibilities, technology use, and procurement processes. Key themes include enhancing local career pathways, supporting disability service capacity, expanding STEM and creative opportunities for youth, and promoting leadership and lifelong learning for older adults. In developing the 2026 Action plan, the group emphasised clear accountability, inclusive participation, and measurable outcomes. Feedback will be incorporated into a final draft and circulated in November.

Video highlights of the 2025 Learning City achievements can be found here www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city.



Action 4.04: Active participation in Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN) and LearnWest Network

Wyndham continues to play a prominent role in advancing learning communities across Australia through its active leadership and participation in the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN) and LearnWest. Wyndham representatives currently occupy the Chair and Secretary roles of the ALCN executive, helping sustain the network's capacity to offer collegiate support and resources to learning cities nationwide.

In 2025, Wyndham co-delivered multiple ALCN Learning Forums, chaired and attended the Annual General Meeting, and contributed to planning future initiatives. The Learning Forums - now a nationally recognised platform - originated as informal conversations and have grown into a valued space for dialogue, insight, and collaboration. Led by experienced practitioners, the sessions explore challenges and opportunities facing local learning communities.

Wyndham's involvement goes beyond participation, with Council providing strategic and operational support across:

- Forum design and facilitation
- Communications and branding
- Thematic planning aligned with local government and community learning needs

Highlights from 2025 included:

Circular Head Study Centre (20 February)

- Presented by Circular Head, Tasmania, this session highlighted how decentralised learning hubs like the Study Centre Circular Head support lifelong learning in regional communities. The model aligns education with local economic and social goals, and its expansion across Australia demonstrates strong impact and scalability.

Capturing the Learner's Voice & Supporting Lifelong Learning Pathways (28 March)

- Delivered by Wyndham, with a focus on amplifying learner voices and strengthening lifelong learning pathways. Case studies from LearnWest, Learning for Earning, and

a RMIT student placement, highlighted effective community-driven approaches, while discussions emphasised the value of storytelling, innovative tools, and cross-sector collaboration

Adult and Community Education in Aotearoa New Zealand (20 May)

- The CEO of ACE Aotearoa presented an insightful overview of New Zealand's Adult and Community Education sector. She explored its history, current challenges, and future directions, with a focus on equity, lifelong learning, and the integration of AI and ancestral intelligence. The session highlighted the sector's innovative use of media to amplify learner stories and strengthen national visibility. Hannah's reflections underscored the value of advocacy, partnerships, and continued collaboration with networks like ALCN.

Where Stories Grow (18 September) - This forum highlighted two standout community literacy initiatives: Tamworth's Dolly Parton Imagination Library, with 98% uptake and strong early literacy outcomes, and Circular Head's UNESCO Learning City model, integrating adult literacy, home-based learning, and book gifting. Both programs demonstrated the power of home delivery, cross-sector partnerships, and intergenerational engagement in building sustainable reading cultures.

Climate Action & Circular Hubs (23 October)

- This forum explored how Community Circular Hubs support climate action, inclusion, and sustainability through local reuse, repair, and education. Presenters from Port Adelaide Enfield and Green Industries SA, shared practical models and funding pathways, with strategic context from UNESCO Learning Cities and Australia's Climate Risk Assessment. The session highlighted social and economic benefits, implementation challenges, and behaviour change strategies, with active input from participants nationwide.

The Learning Forums consistently draw strong attendance from diverse local, national,



and international participants. They spark thoughtful, inspiring conversations and lead to resource sharing and collaborative projects across areas of shared interest.

LearnWest:

Wyndham plays a key role in LearnWest, a collaborative network comprising Wyndham, Melton, Brimbank, Maribyrnong, Hume, and Darebin local government areas (LGA's). LearnWest provides a shared platform for experienced and emerging learning practitioners across Melbourne's North and West. In 2025, the network continued its "CONNECT – SHARE – LEARN" project showcasing diverse learner stories to promote lifelong learning through social media. The ongoing project includes stories emphasising the social and economic value of lifelong learning across member LGAs and contributed to a collection that fosters social connection and intergenerational learning. The project promoted, showcased, celebrated, and fostered lifelong learning, and its benefits for social connection, intergenerational learning, positive health, and economic outcomes.

The social media campaign generated strong engagement across digital channels, with eight learner-focused posts on the WCC Facebook page (from Feb-Aug) reaching over 51,000 people and attracting 680 engagements and 182 link clicks. Website traffic to the Learners in Wyndham page also reflected steady interest,

with 359 sessions, 209 page views (Feb–May), and 185 active users (May–Aug). These results highlight Wyndham's contribution to the LearnWest network's collective impact and strengthening the visibility of learning across Melbourne's North and West.

Explore the collection of inspiring stories www.learnwest.org/

This work reflects Wyndham's commitment to sector leadership, knowledge exchange, and collaborative learning. Through its contributions to ALCN and LearnWest, Wyndham reinforces its standing as a UNESCO Learning City and supports the growth of learning communities across Victoria, Australia, and globally.



Action 4.05:

Maintain connections with PASCAL, UNESCO and GNLC

Engagement with Global Network Learning Cities

In 2025, the Learning Community Unit (LCU) deepened its international engagement through active participation in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) and the PASCAL International Observatory. Wyndham continues to contribute to the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Cluster, joining regular online exchanges with fellow learning cities to share strategies, insights, and innovations. This peer-to-peer collaboration strengthens Wyndham's global connections and reinforces its commitment to sustainable, inclusive learning. Participating cities in the ESD Cluster include Shanghai, Hamburg, Athens, Espoo, Eunpyeong, Okayama, Sukhothai, Durban, Manchester, Alcora, Cugir, Jose C Pas, Brage, Mineral de la Reforma, Aswan, Bikok, Waterford, Pachuca de Soto and Wyndham.

UNESCO ESD Thematic Clusters Monthly Meeting

Wyndham was invited to present as a panel member in the third UNESCO–UNFCCC webinar on Climate Change Education for Social Transformation: Greening Communities, held on 29 July 2025. This session focused on how non-formal and informal learning can foster green skills for work and life at the local level.

Proudly presenting Wyndham's Climate and Resilience team's programs, the presentation highlighted community-based sustainability initiatives including the Green Living Series, My Smart Garden, and Seed Library outcomes. These programs demonstrate how lifelong learning, and local engagement can support climate action and build greener, more resilient communities. The webinar is part of a four-part series leading up to COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

Wyndham continues to participate in monthly UNESCO ESD Thematic Cluster meetings, contributing local insights and peer exchange. An upcoming collaboration is planned for December 2025, titled Building Resilience: Strategies for Climate Action Planning through Lifelong Learning, which will further explore community-led approaches to sustainability.

Engagement with PASCAL

The LCU is actively engaged with the PASCAL Learning Cities Network, actively participating in the 'Reimagining Inclusive Economic Futures' group. As part of the group's work, Wyndham contributed Learning Neighbourhoods: Australian Insights and Practice, a practical resource developed collaboratively by a UNESCO Learning City and the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN). The document captures Australian experience in neighbourhood-based learning and its potential to support inclusive economic development.

The resource highlights real-world applications of the EcCoWell framework, community engagement strategies, and place-based learning models that foster local capacity, social cohesion, and lifelong learning. It aligns with the SIG's focus on economic resilience and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and complements global dialogue by offering grounded, scalable practice from the Australian context.

This contribution reflects ongoing engagement with the PASCAL Learning Cities Network and reinforces the value of cross-city collaboration in shaping inclusive futures.

Celebrating Wyndham's Global Contribution to Learning Cities

In September 2025, Wyndham City Council was recognised internationally for its leadership in lifelong learning through two major invitations to contribute to the global Learning Cities movement.

At the International Learning City-Region Talks held in Pécs, Hungary on 18 September, Wyndham presented virtually Collaborating for Impact: 10 Years of the Wyndham Learning Festival in partnership with Wyndham Community & Education Centre. This presentation showcased a decade of community learning and partnership, highlighting the festival's role in fostering inclusive, place-based learning. The event also marked the official launch of Global Perspectives on Learning Cities (Lifelong Learning Book Series, Vol. 35), which features a chapter authored by Wyndham's Learning Community Unit. Titled Becoming and



Flourishing as a Learning City, the chapter documents Wyndham's journey through the 2018–2023 Learning Community Strategy and the endorsement of the 2024–2029 strategy.

Following this, Wyndham participated in UNESCO's International Capacity-Building Workshop on 23 September, sharing insights into its learning city development as part of the 'Celebrating Learning' module. The module explored ways of empowering cities to be key players for lifelong learning advancement. Both presentations reinforced Wyndham's collaborative approach to community learning and its commitment to sharing practical models with the international learning cities network. This also aligns with action 4.11.

Wyndham continues to lead in advancing innovative, community-driven approaches to education and development, aligned with its commitment to fostering a vibrant, inclusive learning culture. Ongoing collaboration and active engagement in global networks have further elevated Wyndham's role as a recognised learning city, contributing valuable insights to both local initiatives and international dialogue on lifelong learning, sustainability, and community resilience.



Action 4.06: Extend and promote Civic Learning initiatives

The Learning Community Unit actively promoted civic learning via the Learning Community webpage and Wyndham’s social media channels. Key programs promoted included the Wyndham Citizen of the Year Awards, Wyndham Young Citizen of the Year, and youth-led civic events focused on inclusion and leadership.

These efforts elevated public awareness of civic participation pathways and celebrated the contributions of residents - especially young people - who are shaping Wyndham’s future. By embedding these initiatives into the Learning Community platform, Council helps deepen community understanding of how civic involvement supports learning and leadership. This also aligns with Action 4.02.



Action 4.07: STEM Education & Industry Conference

Amazon Girls Tech Day replaced the STEM Education & Industry Conference in 2025. Wyndham Tech School hosted the vibrant and inspiring Amazon Girls’ Tech Day, welcoming 423 female students alongside over 100 STEM industry role models, leaders, educators, and volunteers. The event showcased how access to high-tech spaces and engaging learning environments can empower young women to explore pathways into technology careers. For the first time, this global initiative was held in Victoria, giving hundreds of students

the opportunity to participate in a range of interactive workshops and hands-on activities focusing on robotics, music production and mixing, and autonomous cars. Through hands-on programs and exposure to real-world innovation, Wyndham Tech School continues to demonstrate the value of opening its doors to the broader community, supporting diverse participation in technology and future-focused industries, and demonstrating how technology skills are vital to every sector of the Australian economy.



Action 4.08: Share access to high-tech spaces, equipment and learning programs with the community

Wyndham supported community access to high-tech learning environments through events such as the Wyndham Principals Network Breakfast and Amazon Girls Tech Day, both hosted at the Wyndham Tech School. These initiatives showcased local partnerships and provided hands-on exposure to advanced technologies, inspiring broader engagement with STEM pathways across schools and community groups.

Wyndham Tech School provides schools with the opportunity to take part in a rotation of hands-on, high-tech activities that give students a taste of tomorrow’s careers. In

addition, Industry Programs provide students the chance to analyse, ideate, prototype and test solutions using professional software and tools, as they experience real STEM jobs for the day. Embedded programs provide students and teachers a high-impact experience that gives both students and teachers the chance to develop skills in depth over a whole term or semester. DigiTech Community of Practice gatherings take place each term, designed by teachers, for teachers. This welcoming space brings local educators together to share ideas, hear from guest speakers, and collaborate in hand-on high-tech workshops.



Action 4.09: Through Wyndham Coding Champs Competition, and weekly library programming, provide opportunity for children to engage in STEAM and explore creativity and innovation

Now a well-established annual initiative, the Wyndham Coding Champs Competition continues to engage children aged 7-15 years in STEAM learning, fostering creativity, innovation, and digital literacy. The 2025 competition launched in August during National Science Week and closed in October, aligning with Melbourne International Games Week.

Wyndham Libraries supported participants with a series of coding workshops tailored to beginner and intermediate levels, encouraging hands-on exploration and skill development. Shortlisted entries were showcased on the Wyndham Coding Champs Studio on Scratch, with winners announced at the Awards event on 7 November during International Games Month. The awards were a chance to showcase all the entrants efforts and games to their peers, including play-through, and interviews. Shortlisted entries and winners have been announced at www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries/kids/coding-champs.

The program strengthens digital inclusion and lifelong learning, while reinforcing the library’s role as a creative technology hub. Code Club sessions continued in Term 4 at Manor Lakes, Werribee, and Tarneit libraries, extending opportunities for young coders beyond the competition.

Wyndham delivered a rich suite of STEM programs across libraries, community centres and the Wyndham Tech School, supporting digital literacy, creativity, and hands-on learning for children and young people. Programs ran throughout school terms and holidays, offering age-appropriate pathways into science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths. Notably, there was strong community uptake of robotics and digital learning programs for children, reflecting growing interest in hands-on technology education.

Highlights included LEGO Club and STEAM Lab for younger children, Code Club for beginner and intermediate coders, and workshops in robotics, electronics, 3D design, and digital making. Older students engaged with high-tech spaces and industry-aligned experiences.

Together, these programs fostered curiosity, skill-building, and lifelong learning, reinforcing Wyndham’s commitment to inclusive, future-focused education across the community.



Action 4.10: Learning Festival events to inform and educate community on environmental sustainability and climate action

Wyndham Learning Festival

As one of Wyndham's flagship lifelong learning events, the Wyndham Learning Festival 2025 featured a dedicated Environment & Sustainability category, reinforcing the Festival's role in educating and inspiring the community toward a greener future. Under the theme A Decade of Discovery: Celebrating 10 Years of Learning, the Festival embedded environmental and climate action themes across its programming, offering accessible, hands-on learning experiences that connected sustainability to everyday life.

Events were designed to be inclusive, locally relevant, and culturally responsive reflecting the diversity of Wyndham's communities and learning styles. The Environment & Sustainability category contributed to broader conversations around sustainability and environment and positioned the Festival as a key driver and supporter of community awareness, engagement, and lifelong learning in sustainability.

Environmental Education Initiatives

In addition to the Festival, Wyndham City delivered targeted environmental education programs including:

- **Grassland Guardians – Native Grasslands Education Pilot Program** This 8-week pilot for Grade 3-4 students focused on the critically endangered Victorian Volcanic Plains grasslands and aimed to help students build stronger connections to this local ecosystem. Delivered by experienced educator Julie White, the program included site visits, First Nations seasonal calendar learning, and curriculum-aligned activities on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human impact. One Wyndham school participated in Term 2/3, following a successful expression of interest process and then provided feedback to refine future delivery. The program was possible through a partnership between Wyndham Council, Victorian National Parks Association, Grassy Plains Network and Environmental Evolution.

- **Creative Kids Take on Plastic Pollution – Civic Centre Sculpture Display** Celebrating World Environment Day, primary students from seven Wyndham schools created sculptures from collected litter, interpreting the global theme *Ending Plastic Pollution*. Displayed at the Civic Centre, the artworks raised awareness of single-use plastics and their environmental impact, aligning with Council's broader waste reduction efforts.

Wyndham further delivered a range of environment and sustainability programs in 2025 that supported lifelong learning and community engagement. Key initiatives, such as the Green Living Series, My Smart Garden, Habitat Heroes, and the Street Tree Planting Program, offered practical, locally relevant education on sustainable living, biodiversity, and climate resilience. These programs also fostered creative engagement, curriculum integration, and public storytelling, reinforcing Council's goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2040 and its broader commitment to sustainability through lifelong learning. Wyndham's Habitat Heroes program was the winner of the Behaviour Change Program of the Year at the Tidy Towns & Cities Sustainability Awards, recognising the creativity, dedication and collaboration that go into engaging our community in protecting and enhancing Wyndham's natural environment.

More details about Environment and Sustainability programs can be found here: www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/environment-and-sustainability



Action 4.11: Engage with UNESCO GNLC to share projects and models of engagement

See also Action 4.05: Maintain connections with UNESCO and GNLC above.

Wyndham continued to share its learning city approach through active engagement with international networks including UNESCO GNLC and the PASCAL Learning Cities Network. These platforms enabled Wyndham to contribute practical models of inclusive, place-based learning and sustainability education.

Wyndham's participation in global events such as the *International Learning City-Region Talks* and the *PASCAL Capacity-Building Workshop* showcased the impact of the Wyndham Learning Festival and the city's strategic approach to lifelong learning. Wyndham also actively contributed to monthly thematic discussions on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), sharing its 2024–2029 Learning Community Strategy and associated Action Plan and community-led climate initiatives.

One highlight was the invitation for Wyndham to participate as a panel member on the UNESCO-UNFCCC webinar on *Climate change education for social transformation: Greening communities*. Taking place in July, the webinar focussed on how non-formal and informal learning can be harnessed to foster green skills for work and life at the local level. A representative from Wyndham's Climate and Resilience team shared their experience of delivering the Green Living Series, My Smart Garden programs and sharing some of the Seed Library outcomes.

Another invitation to present reflecting Wyndham's growing international profile

as a leader in fostering inclusive learning opportunities and community collaboration involved the Learning Community unit presenting at the University–City Partnerships International Forum hosted by Chulalongkorn University in collaboration with the UNESCO Learning City Network.

The forum, held online from Bangkok, Thailand, brought together global experts and representatives from learning cities to explore how universities and local governments can strengthen partnerships to advance sustainable lifelong learning. The event was supported by the Knowledge Network Institute of Thailand (KNIT) and funded by the Thailand Science, Research and Innovation (TSRI).

Wyndham's contribution to the session *"Knowledge Sharing: International Learning Cities – Best Practices, Strategies, and Key Initiatives in Building a Learning City"*, alongside speakers from Korea, Thailand, Ireland, United Kingdom and Japan. The presentation highlighted Wyndham's decade-long commitment to building a Learning Community, showcased innovative partnerships, community engagement, and the city's achievements through the Wyndham Learning Festival and broader Learning Community Strategy. Key partnerships between Wyndham and Victoria University and RMIT were highlighted, together with the successful Wyndham Learning Festival.

These activities reinforce Wyndham's role as a recognised learning city, committed to knowledge exchange, global collaboration, and the advancement of inclusive, sustainable education.



Action 4.12: Learning Festival events showcasing learning and diversity in Wyndham

Wyndham City Council, in partnership with Wyndham Community & Education Centre, proudly launched the 2025 Wyndham Learning Festival on 24 August at Encore Events Centre, Hoppers Crossing. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, this year's Festival embraced the theme: *A Decade of Discovery – Celebrating 10 Years of Learning*.

The Launch featured a vibrant Mini Expo and First Nations Craft Market, with local crafters, artists, and educators showcasing cultural knowledge and creative skills. The audience included many First Nations community members, contributing to a rich and inclusive atmosphere. Musical performances by students from Suzanne Cory High School added warmth and energy to the event, with impressive sets delivered both before and after the official proceedings.

The afternoon opened with a Welcome to Country from Kelly Lehmann of the Bunurong Land Council, followed by Mayor Cr Mia Shaw officially launching the Festival and reaffirming Council's commitment to lifelong learning.

Iconic entertainer Christine Anu delivered a powerful keynote, sharing stories from her 30+ year career in music, theatre, and advocacy. Her reflections resonated deeply, setting a meaningful tone for the week ahead. Following her address, Christine performed four songs to a rapturous audience, blending storytelling and music in a way that celebrated culture, connection, and the spirit of lifelong learning.

Held from 1–7 September, the Festival featured over 130 free events across Wyndham, with more than 3,300 registrations and 95 individual hosts. Activities ranged from AI workshops and STEM adventures to Bollywood dance, business masterclasses, and wellbeing sessions — catering to all ages and interests.

The program was thoughtfully curated to reflect Wyndham's cultural, linguistic, generational, and experiential diversity. Highlights also included migrant-led workshops in Burmese weaving, a South Sudanese wedding and early years language story times. These events reinforced Wyndham's commitment to inclusive, community-led learning across all neighbourhoods.



Action 4.13: Promote benefits of learning across life for older people

A range of initiatives were delivered under this action, all promoting lifelong learning, wellbeing, and active participation for older residents. These programs supported older people to stay informed, connected, and empowered throughout the year.

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) – Beyond Age Campaign**
 Wyndham City Council delivered a two-week program of pop-up events and intergenerational activities across five community centres. Older residents shared photos and messages to their younger selves, which were displayed in exhibitions co-created with local kindergartens. Council also partnered with Seniors Rights Victoria to deliver a workshop with the Master Movers Seniors Group, exploring ageism and rights awareness. Over 250 people participated, reinforcing the importance of dignity, safety, and celebration in ageing.
- Community Connectors Engagement**
 Community Connectors supported older residents through one-on-one conversations and appearances at events like Morning Melodies. They provided guidance on the new Aged Care Act, accessing My Aged Care, and navigating local services. This work highlighted the role of learning in building confidence, making informed choices, and staying engaged and resilient.
- Wyndham Aged Care Sector Network Launch (5 September)** Co-designed with 25 local organisations, this new network brought together over 40 participants to strengthen partnerships and advocate

for inclusive, high-quality aged care. The initiative aligns with the Lifecourse Framework and Municipal Public Health & Wellbeing Plan, with Council stepping into a strategic leadership role to support ageing well across the municipality.

- Wyndham Seniors & Carers Expo (7 October)** The Expo welcomed over 260 attendees and 60 stallholders for a day of connection, learning, and support. Interactive workshops, health presentations, and Lightning Talks encouraged older adults to explore tech skills, post-retirement learning, and community engagement. The Learning Community Unit connected with residents and promoted adult programs, with strong interest in free, accessible learning opportunities.
- Seniors Directory 2025–26** The newly launched Seniors Directory is a suburb-based guide to local activities, amenities, and services. It supports older adults to stay mentally and physically active while remaining engaged in their communities. The Directory reinforces the role of place-based learning in promoting healthy, connected ageing.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Wyndham's commitment to promoting learning across life—supporting older residents to age with dignity, purpose, and connection.



Action 4.14: Connecting to the diverse stories of the communities of Wyndham including volunteering (lifelong learner stories series)

The diverse stories of Wyndham's communities continue to be celebrated and amplified through inclusive programming, storytelling, and volunteer engagement, reinforcing the role of lifelong learning in fostering empathy, identity, and belonging.

Libraries played a key role in promoting inclusive narratives and representation. Initiatives included:

- **Rainbow Rhyme Time**, a family-friendly event celebrating LGBTQIA+ inclusion through songs and stories;
- **Curated reading lists** spotlighting LGBTQIA+ characters, history, and lived experiences, available year-round via Enterprise;
- **Themed displays** across library branches, adding colour, visibility, and warmth to community learning spaces.

These efforts supported lifelong learning by encouraging patrons to explore diverse perspectives and engage with stories that reflect Wyndham's vibrant community.

Celebrating IDAHOBIT Day – Learning, Listening, and Standing Together

Wyndham City hosted a well-attended IDAHOBIT Day event in May, welcoming over 100 community members. The gathering created space for connection, reflection, and shared learning, with a focus on raising awareness of LGBTQIA+ discrimination and promoting inclusion. Through storytelling and lived experience, attendees deepened their understanding of equity, respect, and the importance of safe, inclusive communities.

This action is also supported through the Lifelong Learner Stories series and LearNWest collaborations, which continue to highlight personal learning journeys, community contributions, and the power of storytelling in shaping a more connected and inclusive Wyndham.

LearNWest Learner Stories continue to capture diverse personal learning journeys across Wyndham. These stories highlighted the many ways residents engage with learning: through volunteering, cultural expression, and community leadership, reinforcing the role of storytelling in fostering connection, identity, celebration and inclusion.



Connect. Share. Learn.
learnwest.org

Chloe
Wyndham City
Lifelong Learner

Connect. Share. Learn.
learnwest.org

Melissa
Wyndham City
Lifelong Learner

Action 5.1: Increase awareness and promotion of possible learning and study spaces in Wyndham



In January 2025, Wyndham City Council successfully launched Phase 2 of the Organisational Facility Booking System Project. This digital transformation initiative significantly enhanced community access to learning and study spaces across the municipality.

Phase 2 brought Open Spaces, Placemaking & Activation, Sports & Recreation, and Youth Services fully online, delivering 402 bookable spaces across 83 locations. Of these, 311 spaces are now available for online self-booking, supported by over 1,000 professionally sourced images to improve user experience and visibility.

The system streamlines access to venues suitable for workshops, study groups,

community learning, and informal education. It also supports broader awareness of Council-managed spaces that can be used for lifelong learning activities. With Phase 2 complete, the project has progressed to its final stage, focusing on Cultural Venues and internal function rooms with integrated catering options.

This initiative promotes equitable access to learning environments and strengthens Wyndham's infrastructure for community education and engagement.

Venue booking system <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/community-centres>

Action 5.4: Explore the potential for trials for simple measures and methods to collect and analyse data



Wyndham City Council continues to trial and expand simple, effective data collection and analysis methods to support evidence-based planning and continuous improvement. Power BI dashboards and survey tools are being used across programs, with the Learning Community and Smart Cities units collaborating to explore privacy-compliant ways to measure individual and community-level impact.

The Service Development and Strategy Unit has led several initiatives, including:

- Automated data extractions from systems like CDIS, Aurion, and Genysis Cloud to analyse MCH and immunisation service activity

- A financial forecast model for the Central Enrolment Scheme, integrating real-time task data
- Enhanced kindergarten utilisation analysis using enrolment data, population projections, and infrastructure surveys
- Expansion of the Loop feedback system and development of a Customer Feedback and Continuous Improvement Portal
- A new Power BI dashboard to monitor Child Safe integration and adherence

These trials are informing scalable approaches that reduce manual effort, improve data quality, and support smarter service delivery across Wyndham.

Action 5.2: Investigate a clever easy to navigate Portal to provide visibility over learning in Wyndham



Wyndham City continued enhancing the visibility and accessibility of learning opportunities through its digital platforms. The Learning City webpage and social media channels were updated with new content, including video assets and campaign messaging. The Learning Community Unit worked closely with Council's Communications and Smart Cities units to maximise reach and

engagement, ensuring learning opportunities are clearly visible and accessible across Wyndham.

The Wyndham Learning City page remains a central hub for promoting lifelong learning and can be accessed at: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/wyndham-learning-city>

Action 5.3: Develop high impact visual promotions of Learning Community events and promote the UNESCO Learning City brand throughout the municipality



The Smart Cities and Learning Community Units continue to explore visual formats: dashboards, infographics, and signage, to showcase learning impact and reinforce

Wyndham's UNESCO Learning City identity. Cost-effective options are being prioritised for future rollout.



LOOKING FORWARD

As we enter 2026, the third year of Wyndham's Learning Community Strategy (LCS), we continue to build on a strong foundation of inclusive, community-led learning. The first two years of the LCS have seen meaningful progress across key initiatives, with growing engagement, recognition and impact across the municipality.

In 2026, our focus remains on deepening partnerships, expanding access, and embedding lifelong learning into everyday life. We will continue to drive innovation, strengthen visibility, and respond to emerging needs, ensuring learning opportunities are relevant, accessible, and empowering for all residents.

The Strategy remains a guiding framework for shaping a vibrant, connected learning community. We look forward to working alongside our partners, facilitators, and residents to champion learning as a shared responsibility and a pathway to wellbeing, opportunity, and belonging.

Stay connected with Wyndham's Learning Community activities by contacting wynlearn@wyndham.vic.gov.au





Further information and contact

An electronic copy of the Learning Community Strategy 2024-2029 is available at:
www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/wyndham-learning-community-strategy-2024-2029

For more information about the Learning Community Strategy, or to connect with our network, please contact: Coordinator Learning Community, Wyndham City Council
Email: wynlearn@wyndham.vic.gov.au or visit www.wyndham.vic.gov.au

