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Stonnington news



New home of sport!

The new Toorak Park Pavilion is now complete – page 7





A word from the Mayor

It is a privilege to continue serving this vibrant community in my fifth term as Mayor. I am thrilled to work alongside our newly elected councillor group, each of whom brings a wealth of experience and knowledge in delivering outcomes for the community. We have much to achieve.

Our journey has already begun with a flurry of initiatives and events.

Following attendance by all councillors at a Community Safety Forum in February, Councillors have unanimously supported an item of urgent business proposing a range of measures aimed at addressing community safety and amenity concerns. Our new councillor group shares a commitment to making our community safer. The well-being of our residents and ensuring community safety is of critical importance to us.

We will work together with Victoria Police and other agencies to implement safety initiatives, including finding

solutions to the anti social behaviour occurring in parts of our city.

Looking further ahead, to community events, the upcoming hallmark Pets in the Park is a perfect opportunity for us to come together and celebrate our beloved pets. As we move through the year, we will also be drafting a new Council Plan that will guide us for the next four years.

This plan will set the course for achieving our Community Vision, and to ensure it reflects your needs and aspirations, we have formed a People's Panel. They will be meeting throughout March to provide valuable input into this process.

We will also work on delivering environmental initiatives to achieve our commitment to make Stonnington a carbon-neutral city by 2030, creating more green space and communal areas for our residents, and ensuring new development is directed to appropriate locations while protecting residential amenity.

With our new Councillors collectively bringing skills in strategic and statutory planning, urban design and architecture, heritage, governance, law, finance, community engagement, public relations, technology transformations, and marketing, I have every confidence we will achieve what we set out to do.

Cr Melina Sehr JP
Mayor, City of Stonnington

Council meetings in 2025

Community members are invited to attend Council meetings on Monday evenings.

Meeting dates for 2025:

- » 17 March at 7pm
- » 31 March at 7pm
- » 28 April at 7pm
- » 12 May at 7pm
- » 26 May at 7pm
- » 16 June at 7pm
- » 30 June at 7pm
- » 28 July at 7pm
- » 11 August at 7pm
- » 25 August at 7pm
- » 8 September at 7pm
- » 22 September at 7pm
- » 13 October at 7pm
- » 27 October at 7pm
- » 17 November at 7pm
- » 1 December at 7pm
- » 15 December at 7pm

Council Chamber at Malvern Town Hall, 1251 High Street, Malvern

View the live stream at webcast.stonnington.vic.gov.au

Want to get your monthly fix of Stonnington news? [Sign up here](#)

[Sign up to our monthly eNews.](#)



Planning our future together

The next stage of community consultation for our new Council Plan is now underway.

Late last year we invited community members to register to contribute to a review of our Community Vision and to consider the feedback we received previously. From these registrations a People's Panel, comprising a diverse range of community members, was selected.

There are four People's Panel sessions scheduled this month where a mix of

local residents and business owners will talk to us about their vision for the Stonnington community.

A draft Council Plan that reflects these future aspirations will then be prepared and available for feedback in mid-2025.

For more information and updates visit connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/vision2040

Advocating for you

This year will bring new opportunities to amplify the voices of our community. The City of Stonnington will continue to work in the community's interests and advocate to all levels of Government for outcomes for our local area.

With State by-elections and a federal election due in early 2025, we have a great opportunity to engage with all levels of Government decision-makers and make sure that the unique character of Stonnington is understood and preserved.

We recently made a submission to the State Government's Inquiry into the cultural and creative industries in Victoria, to advocate for increased grant funding and financial support for our beloved venues and artists in Stonnington. We recognise arts, culture and creativity are at the heart of the wellbeing and liveability

of our community and we place a high value on creative opportunities and offerings for our artists and our community.

We will continue to oppose significant and unconsulted State Government charges and changes which will negatively impact our community.

The State Government has added new taxes to the council rates bill, which do not fund council services, therefore we will be advocating for the State Government to charge its own taxes.

Find out more stonnington.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Reconciliation Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge we are on the Traditional Lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the East Kulin Nations and pay our respect to their Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We acknowledge their living connection to Country, relationship with the land and all living things extending back tens of thousands of years.

Information and events in this publication are current at the time of printing. Subsequent changes may occur.

Cover image: Some of Stonnington's junior football stars enjoying the new oval at Toorak Park Pavilion.

Inset image: Toorak Park Pavilion.

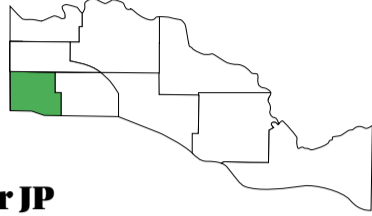
Meet your Councillors

Following the local government elections on 26 October 2024 we welcome our new Councillors who were elected to represent the Stonnington community for the next four years.

Representing nine single member wards, we saw the return of three Councillors from the most recent Council group and the arrival of six new Councillors.

Hear from your new Councillors below and visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/councillors for more information.

GREVILLE WARD

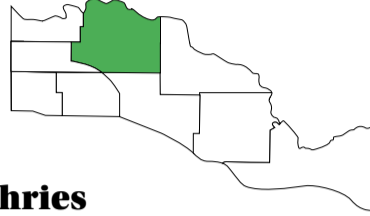


Cr Melina Sehr JP Mayor

As a lifelong resident of Prahran and a Councillor of Greville Ward for over 23 years, I am honoured to serve my seventh term as your local councillor. In this term, I want to make Stonnington a safer place. I will focus on addressing our community's safety concerns and delivering community safety initiatives. I will also continue to support the increase of green spaces and set Stonnington on track to be carbon-neutral by 2030. Please don't hesitate to contact me with your concerns.



TOORAK WARD



Cr Tom Humphries Deputy Mayor

Stonnington is Melbourne's best municipality to live within. Our amenity and way of life is unparalleled, from our leafy streets through to our amazing shopping precincts, Stonnington seamlessly balances quiet, comfort and convenience. It's a tremendous privilege to represent Toorak Ward and to engage with my fellow residents on current issues. Our goal as Council must be to pass on a beautiful and financially sustainable city to the next Council.



COMO WARD

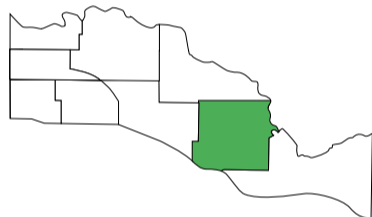


Cr Meghan Hopper PhD

I'm proud to be part of such a diverse and creative community and look forward to championing a safer and more inclusive community with facilities, open spaces and services that bring people together. I bring an experienced voice to Council having experience as a mayor, councillor and manager of a local government planning department with another council. I'm focused on advocacy in response to planning and population reforms and will work hard to protect our distinctive neighbourhood character and heritage.



HEDGELEY DENE WARD

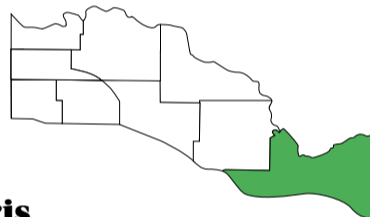


Cr Sally Davis

My professional background includes journalism/communications/public relations. My husband and I have lived in Malvern East for 42 years and know Stonnington well: it's where we raised our two children. Key issues for me include community safety and the financial stability of council, as we traverse challenging economic times. I envisage a council that looks to the future needs of its various communities, while striving for greater consideration of what we will leave the next generations.



MALVERN VALLEY WARD

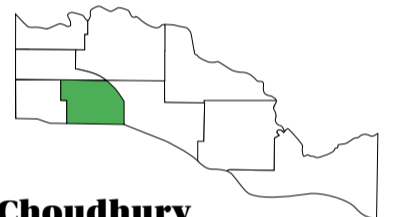


Cr Jami Klisaris

Stonnington is an incredible place to live, work and raise a family and I look forward to working for our community for the next four years. There are many priorities for the Malvern Valley ward including community safety, protecting residential amenity and improving the condition of our roads, parks and sport facilities. I will also be focusing on climate initiatives, strengthening our heritage protections and ensuring that rates remain low. Please reach out if you would like to raise an issue in the Malvern Valley ward!



ORRONG WARD

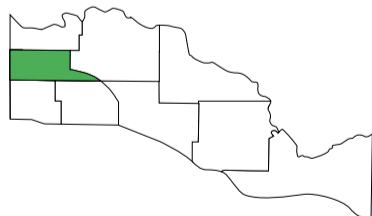


Cr Samantha Choudhury

I'm committed to working with my fellow councillors and community to make Stonnington the most liveable and equitable municipality in Melbourne. I'm a passionate advocate for high quality parks and open spaces, safe and walkable neighbourhoods that are vibrant and attractive for our residents, visitors and workers. My vision for Stonnington is that it remains a welcoming, socio-economic and culturally diverse community where everybody is accepted and feels welcome.



SOUTH YARRA WARD

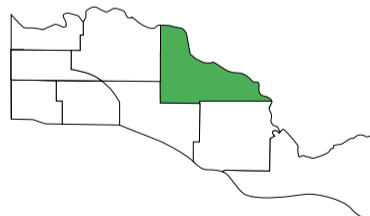


Cr Kate Hely

South Yarra is an incredible place to live, work, and enjoy. I'm passionate about preserving its unique character, lush green spaces, and vibrant streets while building a safe, sustainable, and connected future for everyone. With experience in strategy, architecture, and business, I'm focused on smart design, supporting local businesses and fostering a strong sense of community. Together, we can ensure South Yarra remains a thriving and welcoming neighbourhood we're all proud to call home.



TOORONGA WARD

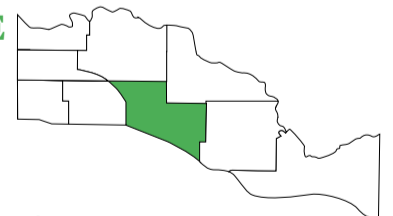


Cr Jamie Bell

Transparency, free community speech and access to council services will be my priority and I'm committed to advocating for fairer rates, reducing planning red tape, ensuring safer roads and footpaths, and focusing on our open spaces. I'm keen to support the planning and building of better communities and supporting local economies while protecting the environment. I will engage with state and federal governments to secure funding and create new opportunities to solve local problems.



WATTLETREE WARD



Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

I am passionate about heritage and will champion the protection of significant properties. I am committed to ensuring essential council services such as waste collection, the maintenance of parks, footpaths and roads as well as the provision of community services, are delivered to a higher standard. As a member of many governing boards, I bring to Council expert leadership skills, expertise in governance, and knowledge of responsible fiscal spending.



A special Healing Ceremony

More than 200 people attended our fourth annual Healing Ceremony on 26 January, joining Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation.

At this special event, we witnessed a Traditional Smoking Ceremony and heard Wurundjeri man Daniel Ross speak about Wurundjeri Elders Billibellarry, William Barak and Simon Wonga, highlighting their struggles from 1863-1924 at Coranderrk Reserve.

Kiernan Ironfield opened the event with the Yidaki (didgeridoo), setting a

deeply spiritual tone for the day, and Mayor Cr Melina Sehr shared heartfelt words, acknowledging the resilience and cultural contributions of the First Peoples community.

Visitors also enjoyed the soulful sounds of John Wayne Parsons and his band whose spirit filled the area with calming, positive energy through songs about caring for Country, the importance of respecting and honouring passed Elders and acknowledging the strength and fortitude of the Stolen Generations.

This was a special day filled with reflection, cultural richness, storytelling and connection.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CITIZENS

Sunday 26 January was a significant day for the Stonnington community.

On a beautiful sunny day, we celebrated and welcomed our newest Australian citizens at our annual Citizenship Ceremony.

More than 90 people were made official citizens, from 34 different countries, from the UK, Ireland and New Zealand.

Mayor Cr Melina Sehr said that the ceremony was a great opportunity to reflect on the meaning and importance of Australian citizenship, and the responsibilities and privileges we have as citizens.

"I was so proud to recognise our new citizens and welcome them to the Stonnington community. These individuals have all taken a pledge to respect and uphold our laws and embrace the Australian way of life, which is an incredible sign of commitment," Cr Sehr said.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON STONNINGTON NEWS

Stonnington News is a free publication by the City of Stonnington delivered to residents four times a year.

We want to know what you want to read about in your newspaper!

Have your say by scanning the QR Code or go to stonnington.vic.gov.au/feedback



Your voice matters

Share your thoughts on projects that matter to you at connectstonnington.vic.gov.au

Have your say on projects open for community consultation and feedback.

Find out more about completed and in-progress projects



Magic lines making all the difference

Poor sight? Cannot use public pools? The 'magic lines' at the Prahran Aquatic Centre might make it that little bit easier to enjoy water activities again.

Installed as part of Council's commitment to delivering on our Disability Action Plan, navigational lines at the Centre provide maximum contrast against the flooring and areas around the pool, making it easier for anyone who is sight-impaired to make their way around the centre.

You can follow the lines from the front door to the change rooms and locker areas, then out onto the pool area, where they branch off to the steps and the multi-purpose lanes on either side. All you need to do is follow the same lines back the way you came when you leave!

Self-confessed 'water-baby' and PAC regular, David McMillan said that he's halved the time it takes him to get from the front door to the pool.

"The main advantages of the lines for sight-impaired visitors are independence and efficiency of movement, as well as improved safety, meaning the visit to the pool is so much more enjoyable," he said.

So get your togs on and come over to the pool. Our friendly staff will be there to familiarise you with the system and how to use it.



Learn more about our Disability Action Plan stonnington.vic.gov.au/disability

Visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/active/pac for opening hours and more information

Focus on community safety

Stonnington Council has prioritised community safety, with a particular focus on the Chapel Street precinct, as its first major item of business in 2025.



At our 10 February Council Meeting, Councillors unanimously supported an item of urgent business where a range of measures aimed at addressing community safety were proposed.

These include such actions as:

- » implementing a Community Safety taskforce
- » expanding after-hours cleaning and graffiti removal in Chapel Street
- » changes to the landscaping of Prahran Square, including improving lighting and visibility to improve safety
- » decluttering of footpaths in Chapel Street
- » introducing additional powers via local laws to address anti social behaviour
- » expanded business concierge services to support small businesses in Chapel Street
- » re-activating the Prahran Town Hall
- » relocating the Prahran 'satellite' library to the Prahran Town Hall.

With the primary responsibility for law enforcement and related legislative reform resting with Victoria Police and State Government, Council also committed to increasing its advocacy efforts to affect meaningful change for the people of Stonnington.

Council will request an urgent meeting with the Victorian Minister for Police, and other relevant Ministers, to request their support in delivering:

- » legislative reforms to address anti social behaviour
- » an improved police presence in the Chapel Street precinct

- » an expansion in the availability of CCTV mobile trailers and real-time monitoring of CCTV camera data
- » community health programs, including local family violence services and mental health support systems.

City of Stonnington Mayor, Cr Melina Sehr, said the Council was committed to supporting the community.

"Every Stonnington Councillor attended a community safety forum hosted by Victoria Police earlier this month. We heard directly from our community members about the stress, anxiety and fear that a lack of safety is having on them," Cr Sehr said.

"This is a complex issue that requires all levels of government to come together and develop meaningful solutions for the people of Stonnington. We cannot do this alone, and our community expects long-term solutions.

"I want to thank my fellow Councillors for recognising this as the most pressing issue facing our residents and for unanimously supporting a way forward."

Councillors will receive an urgent report on the resources required to implement the community safety measures endorsed by the Council, which will include exploring alternative funding models and reallocating existing Council resources where appropriate.



More information about Council's Community Safety Plan stonnington.vic.gov.au/safety



↖ Pictured above L-R: Salvation Army officer Sandra Nottle, Victoria Police Inspector Georgie Swinton, Salvation Army Major Brendan Nottle, Victoria Police Inspector Nigel McGuire White and City of Stonnington Mayor, Cr. Melina Sehr.

THINK PINK, THINK SAFE

Have you seen the Salvation Army's Pink Car yet?

The Pink Car operates overnight on Fridays and Saturdays from 9.30pm – 3am in the Chapel Street entertainment precinct. Staffed by a female social worker and one volunteer from 614 Salvation Army Melbourne, this great new

community initiative aims to provide women enjoying a night out with the support they need to feel safe and get home safely.

The Pink Car complements the Salvation Army's Street Team, a partnership funded by the City of Stonnington to support vulnerable young people.

The Street Team, which works closely with Victoria Police, connects with intoxicated young people who have become separated from their friends, and as a result, are vulnerable to potential assault, abuse or at risk of incurring some other form of injury. It offers support and information to assist young people to find safety until they can go home or are reconnected with their friends.



Community Grants

Apply now for our 2025–26 Community Grants Program.

Does your local project improve community health, wellbeing and safety, promote accessibility and inclusiveness and enhance social connections?

Applications close 31 March 2025.



More information stonnington.vic.gov.au/communitygrants



Our open (doggy) spaces are second-to-none

On any day of the week, if you pop down to the dog park at Thomas Oval in South Yarra, you'll see many of Stonnington's finest, and happiest, dogs at play.

In the fully-fenced park, dogs and their owners enjoy a range of natural play elements, a large open grassed area,

lighting, seating, shelters, trees and drinking fountains. There's even a separate fenced area for quieter dogs.

The park has also recently won a commendation from online publication World Landscape Architect (WLA) for its innovative and forward-thinking design.

Did you know?

Did you know there are more than 8000 registered dogs in Stonnington? That's a lot of paws!

From Chadstone to South Yarra, you're spoilt for choice with 26 off-lead dog-friendly parks and many more reserves and gardens to explore.

Your pet registration fees go towards the development and maintenance of these parks.

Registration also assists Council officers to reunite you and your pet should you become separated – this could mean the difference between your pet ending up in an animal shelter or getting a 'taxi ride' home!

Some tips to ensure everyone can relax, play and enjoy the outdoors:

- » remember to pick up after your dog (bags and bins are supplied at designated off-lead areas)
- » keep your dog on-lead at all times unless in a designated off-lead area
- » keep your dog off garden beds and playgrounds
- » keep your dog off sports grounds during designated times for sporting events, training and other community activities
- » carry a lead and always ensure your dog remains controlled and non-threatening.

For more information about off-lead parks and reserves visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/pets

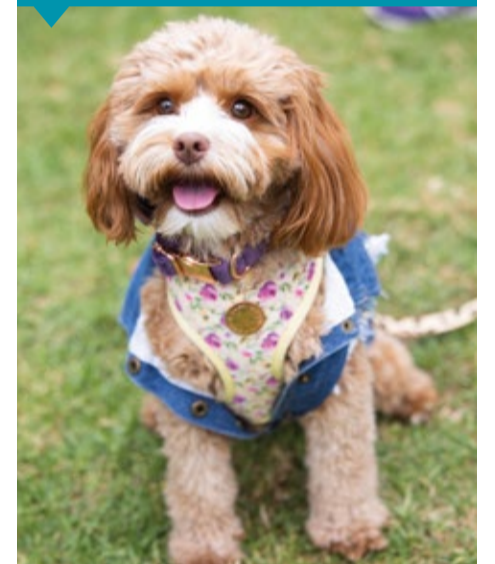
Popular pooches

Look around and it's not hard to guess which breed of dog is the most popular in Stonnington – you guessed it... the Cavoodle!

A cross between a poodle and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, this energetic little ball of fluff thrives on attention, fun, interaction and companionship.

So if you've got a Cavoodle you'd understand that this little fur-baby probably has more Instagram followers than you do!

Not to be out done though, the loveable Labrador and Golden Retriever, who love nothing more than a boisterous catch-up at the park with their buddies, came in a close second and third with the Spoodle taking out the award for fourth most popular breed.



PETS IN THE PARK

You'll see these and many more fabulous breeds of all shapes and sizes at this year's Pets in the Park event.

Watch the park come alive with activities, demonstrations, competitions and market stalls as well as music and entertainment for the whole family. This is the one event on the Stonnington calendar where your fur-baby is the star, so pop on the lead and head on down for a purrfect day.

Sunday 23 March 2025

stonnington.vic.gov.au/petsinthepark



Most popular dog names in Stonnington:

- » Charlie
- » Coco
- » Daisy
- » Archie
- » Ruby

Toorak Park – the new home of sport

Howzaaaat! The new Toorak Park Pavilion is complete!

With an upgraded oval, lighting, new landscaping and a fabulous new pavilion, the upgrade of Toorak Park/ Victory Square is now finalised.

The last piece of the puzzle, the new pavilion, offers our sporting community a great place to base themselves while they bat, bowl, kick, play, train and everything in between.

Home to the Old Xaverians Football Club, Prahran Football Club, Prahran Junior Football Club and Prahran Cricket Club, the teams are thrilled to have a space to connect. And the women’s cricket team is particularly thrilled.

“The most valuable aspect of the newly upgraded facility is that it gives the women’s program a true sense of belonging and a space to connect as a club,” said Jen Taffs, coach of the women’s team at Prahran Cricket Club.

“This facility not only offers an incredibly safe environment but also a space where our players can develop their skills and have a positive, memorable experience. It’s a huge step forward for the club, and we’re excited to see how it continues to support the growth of our women’s program.”

The new pavilion boasts accessible clubrooms and changing facilities, along with space for training and social events.



What can you spy with your little eye... on Izett Street?

Plants of every species hide bugs of every shape and size in the newest and perhaps most whimsical mural on Izett Street, Prahran.

As part of a new parklet development guided by our Open Spaces Strategy, we commissioned illustrator and mural artist Marc Martin to create a mural of playful wonderment, colour and connection with our environment. What he has created is now the Izett Street Wilderness.

The mural, running the length of the new park provides the finishing touch to our latest open space in the heart of Prahran, offering an urban oasis in a densely populated area.

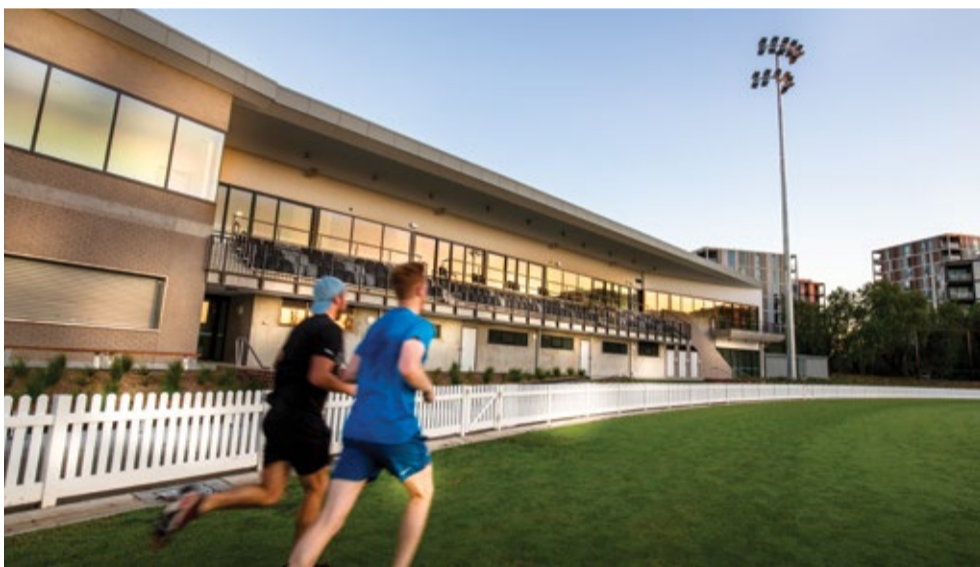
With new lawn and garden beds, feature paving, seating and decorative lighting for evening visitors, Izett Street resident John van Noorden said that this new space is just what the area needed.


“The mural is a great example of how an environmentally immersive retreat


can still be achieved in a small space without the need to build a forest or demolish surrounding structures. It just shows how a small change can make a huge difference.

“There’s always so much going on here, so I feel that this mural with its busy insects and plant life really captures the essence of Prahran, while offering visitors a space to take some time out”, he said.

If you’re in the area, why not bring the kids and take a moment to enjoy the greenery. You’ll discover something new in the mural every time you visit and might even find a bird hidden amongst the foliage or a grasshopper, dragonfly or ladybird.



 You can also visit our website to download and colour your own piece of the Izett Street Wilderness stonnington.vic.gov.au/wilderness


 15 Izett Street, Prahran


Arts and Culture grants now open

Our annual Arts and Culture Grants program is now open.

There are five grants available to those eligible in arts including theatre, dance, visual art, circus and physical theatre, live art, music, digital media and film and more.

Applications close 17 April 2025.

 More information stonnington.vic.gov.au/artsgrants

 Find out more stonnington.vic.gov.au/toorakpark

WHAT'S ON

LIBRARIES

For more information: stonnington.vic.gov.au/library



PHOENIX PARK LIBRARY

30 Rob Roy Road
Malvern East

Rosalie Ham on Molly: A Prequel to The Dressmaker

Saturday 15 March
11am - 12pm

Critically acclaimed author Rosalie Ham delves into her new book *Molly*. An unforgettable story of hopes lost, love found - and corsets loosened.

Kate Solly in conversation: The Paradise Heights Craft Store Stich-up

Saturday 31 May
11am - 12pm

Author Kate Solly chats to Claire Halliday about her latest novel, *The Paradise Heights Craft Store Stich-up*. A cosy detective story that will charm, delight and keep you guessing.

TOORAK/SOUTH YARRA LIBRARY

340 Toorak Road
South Yarra

Panel: Growing up Indian in Australia

Thursday 20 March
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Meet three of the brilliant voices behind *Growing Up Indian in Australia* and hear their stories: Aarti Betigeri and contributors Daizy Maan and Priya Saratchandran.

Everyday Permaculture: Sustainable Living for Every Space

Thursday 1 May
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Sustainability educator and author Anna, aka 'The Urban Nanna', has created a practical guide to empower singles, families, retirees and everyone in between to start living sustainably.

MALVERN LIBRARY

1255 High Street
Malvern

Kylie Ladd on The Mix-up

Tuesday 8 April
6.30pm - 7.30pm

Meet author Kylie Ladd and hear about her new novel *The Mix-up* - a thought-provoking novel about a mix-up that leaves two children wondering who they really are and where they belong.

Ross McMullin on Life So Full of Promise

Wednesday 9 April
5.30pm - 6.30pm

Acclaimed historian and biographer, Ross McMullin, shares stories from his new book, *Life So Full of Promise: Further Biographies of Australia's Lost Generation*.

CHAPEL OFF CHAPEL

Bookings and more information: chapeloffchapel.com.au



THEATRE

The Boys in the Band

27 February - 9 March

Set in a New York City apartment during the late 1960s, this iconic play explores the raw, unfiltered dynamics of a group of gay men celebrating a birthday that unravels into a night of truth-telling, emotional revelations, and unexpected confrontations.



THEATRE

An Audience with Don Dunstan

12 - 23 March

Set in a late-night Adelaide cabaret, former Labor Premier of South Australia Don Dunstan and a young African singer/actor reflect on pivotal moments in Dunstan's career.



COMEDY/THEATRE

Jekyll & Hyde

26 March - 5 April

Raucous, irreverent, and delightfully absurd, *Jekyll & Hyde* uses the chaos of theatre, music, and comedy to celebrate the darkness within us all.



MUSICAL THEATRE

Gross Prophets: A Comedy Musical

28 - 30 March

This interactive comedy musical puts YOU in the room where success is sold. Join three delusional self-help gurus as they pitch their high-performance, results-driven secrets for a prosperous life.



Hawksburn Village: a trader community

This little retail precinct is anything but small, with big ideas and plans for a more collaborative retail experience in the future.

Long-standing Hawksburn traders and newer businesses made up of specialty retail, family owned, and hospitality businesses exchanged ideas and developed new partnerships at a networking event in November last year.

Hosted at Officina Gastronomica Italiana, and supported by Council's Business Concierge, the event saw several businesses come together to network, share history and experiences, and plan ways to collaborate that will create an even greater experience for the Village's customers.

New business owner and entrepreneur, Asha Robinson, of State of Grace Collective – South Yarra, attended the event. With two other shop fronts in

Ringwood and Moonee Ponds, Asha was keen to find out about the support the City of Stonnington could provide.

"I was keen to meet other business owners to gain some insights and ideas, and was excited to learn about the Hawksburn Village Networking event, where I was able to hear from others and share my story.

"I'm also interested in supporting other women in business and am excited to hear about the City of Stonnington's International Women's Day breakfast on 6 March," she said.

State of Grace Collective is the only business in Australia with Harmonic Egg® meditation technology. This unique healing method uses light, colour and sound within a chamber which surrounds you with an immersive wellness experience, inducing relaxation, stress reduction, mindfulness and mental clarity.

➔ Sales Assistant Carolina Riedel attending to the displays at State of Grace Collective, Hawksburn Village.

📍 **State of Grace Collective**
483 Malvern Road, South Yarra

🌐 stateofgracecollective.com.au

📍 More information about the Business Concierge stonnington.vic.gov.au/business

Christmas is a wrap

The streets of Stonnington were abuzz with festive cheer as local businesses got into the spirit of Christmas last year.

Shops were decorated with everything from stars, bells and glitter to fairies, elves and Christmas trees, with many offering free gift wrapping. Santa was also seen in multiple locations much to the delight of children who took the opportunity to tell him what they'd like for Christmas... sometimes twice, or even three times!

Christmas vibes came to Prahran Square with the Twilight Markets kicking off in early December. Handmade treasures, unique gifts and stalls laden with beautifully decorated candles, perfumes, ceramics and homewares all produced by some of Melbourne's coolest makers were on display. The markets under the stars were made all the more special by carollers performing much-loved Christmas carols throughout the evening.

Christmas at Central Park and Carols at Como Park were once again the highlight of the season as crowds joined together to watch Stonnington's best free festive entertainment. Spectacular fireworks provided a fitting finale to the Christmas picnic vibe as a range of local talents dazzled with incredible musical performances.

➔ Top and middle: Carols at Como Park
Bottom: Prahran Square Twilight Christmas Market.



A NEW CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

The Waverley and Darling Road precinct in Malvern East came alive in sparkling form during November and December with 30 businesses taking part in its first Christmas festival.

The vibrant precinct was adorned in red and green bows, baubles and topiary, little elves and fairies were roaming, carollers were singing, music was playing, and even Santa made a surprise visit.

Local businesses offered discount vouchers, give-aways and freebies, as well as fun competitions, hampers and gifts. An array of food options were on offer to suit every taste, and interactive workshops were hosted for the kids – and we can't forget the balloon man, and face painting.

The Waverley and Darling Road Christmas Festival was hosted by local business Mishka Photography, a 2024 Economic Activations and Events Grants Program grant recipient.

"We were really proud to be able to bring life to the precinct this festive season and showcase all of the wonderful retailers that work so hard during the year.

"It was wonderful to see so many local families and children enjoying what this areas has to offer, and we hope the festival has inspired them to return in the new year," Tanya, owner of Mishka Photography said.

Stonnington Engaged

Helping older adults stay active and socially connected.

Engaged offers people aged 55 years or older, people with disabilities and carers, a variety of activities and opportunities to stay active and socially connected in Stonnington.

Planning for your future workshops

Join us for free workshops to help you plan for your future.

Limited seats available on the Community Transport Service (bus).

Bookings essential, call **8290 3337** or email engaged@stonnington.vic.gov.au

» **Writing your will**

Monday 17 March
10.30am – 12pm

Malvern Library, Glass Room
1255 Malvern Road, Malvern

» **Budgeting when you're over 55**

Monday 14 April
10.30am – 12pm

Phoenix Park Library
30 Rob Roy Road
Malvern East

» **Advocacy and aged care**

Tuesday 15 April
10am – 12pm

U3A Stonnington
1–3 Valetta Street, Malvern

» **How to run your home more cost-efficiently**

Monday 19 May
9am – 11am

Grattan Gardens Community Centre, Community Hall
40 Grattan Street, Prahran

Greet U There

First Monday of each month
Various locations

Older LGBTIQ+ people and their carers and family are invited to socialise and connect in a welcoming and inclusive space.

Bookings essential, call **9863 0426** or email engaged@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Walk and Talk Buddies

Mondays and Thursdays
10am

Explore a new Stonnington location each week with a friendly group of walking buddies. Mondays are suitable for parents/carers with babies and young children for a gentle, leisurely walk and Thursdays are perfect if you want a moderate-to-brisk walk. Bookings required, call **8290 1333** or email engaged@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Malvern Italian Senior Citizens

Tuesdays 11am – 3pm

Malvern Town Hall
Banquet Room
1251 High Street, Malvern

A weekly social support group for seniors from Italian and diverse backgrounds providing social connection, opportunities to use language and share interests with people from similar backgrounds. Cost: \$10 per year. Contact malvernitalianseniors@gmail.com for more information.

Freestyle Creatives

Wednesdays 10.30am – 12pm

Phoenix Park
Community Centre
22 Rob Roy Road
Malvern East

Bring along your own creative project. Enjoy the company of creative people who want to socialise and stay connected while doing craft.

Grattan Gardens Community Centre

📍 40 Grattan Street, Prahran

Bookings essential, call **8290 1333** or email engaged@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Move it to music

Mondays 9.45am
Thursdays 9.45am and 11am

A fitness class to keep you moving, while enhancing your wellbeing and having fun.

Hope Connection Inc.

Tuesdays 11.30am – 3.30pm

Weekly Japanese speaking group for casual socialising and activities. All ages welcome.

More information:

stonnington.vic.gov.au/hope_connection

Prahran Chinese Women's Association

Mondays 11.30am – 3.30pm

Share social, educational and leisure activities at a Cantonese speaking community group.

Contact: Mrs Anne Lam on

0431 660 828 or email pcwa_anne@yahoo.com

Phoenix Park Community Centre

📍 22 Rob Roy Road, Malvern East

Call **9530 4397** or for bookings, visit phoenixparknh.org.au

Fit Over 50

Thursdays 9am – 10am

A dynamic workout to boost bone health and muscle strength. BYO yoga mat. Term fee: \$120 [10 weeks] or Casual fee: \$14 per session.

Social bike riding

Wednesdays 8.30am

Fortnightly ride on local scenic routes. Meet at the bike racks at Phoenix Park Community Centre.

Prahran Place

📍 40 Grattan Street, Prahran

Bookings essential, call **9510 7052** or visit prahranplace.org.au

Ageless Grace – Brain health for seniors

(starts 21 April)

Mondays 1.30pm – 2.15pm

A unique cardio workout to keep your brain sharp and your body agile. Suitable for all skill levels, it can be done from the comfort of your chair.

Digital Essentials

– Levels 1 & 2

(starts 22 April)

Tuesdays 9.30am – 12.30pm
or 1pm – 3.30pm

Boost your tech confidence in a relaxed, supportive classroom! Master essential digital skills to navigate technology with ease. Ideal for beginners or those progressing to advanced Level 2 and 3 classes.

LGBTQIA+ art program

(starts 22 April)

Tuesdays 6pm – 8pm

Explore your creativity and meet new friends with a wide range of art and craft courses and workshops suitable for all skill levels. Classes are hosted by an experienced art teacher and are small, friendly and inclusive.

Italian for beginners

(starts 23 April)

Wednesdays 6pm – 7.30pm

Immerse yourself in the joys and romance of Italy. Learn the essentials of the Italian language in a warm, inclusive, and friendly environment. Perfect for beginners.

Life skills for people with a disability

(starts 24 April)

Thursdays 9.30am – 1.30pm

Build confidence and independence with practical and social skills for everyday life. Tailored for individuals with intellectual disabilities, this engaging course offers hands-on learning and meaningful growth opportunities.

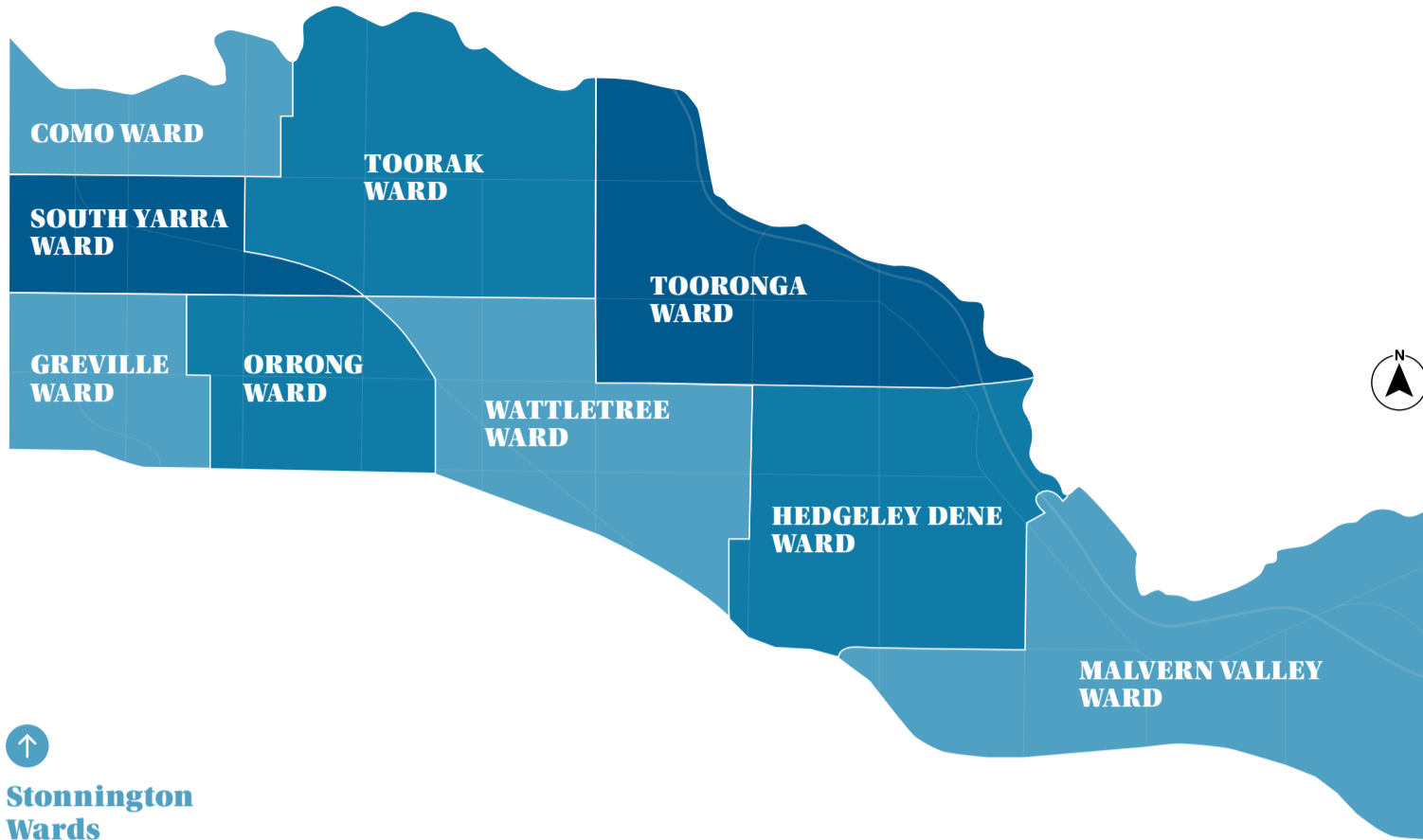
➔ Keep up-to-date by subscribing to our digital monthly Stonnington Engaged newsletter.

Subscribe online with your email address at stonnington.vic.gov.au/subscribe

For information about programs or to make a booking, call **8290 1333** or visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/engaged

Scan the QR code for more:





↑
**Stonnington
Wards**

Your Councillors, your representatives

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

The City of Stonnington's Council comprises nine elected Councillors, representing each of the city's nine wards – Como, Greville, Hedgeley Dene, Malvern Valley, Orrong, South Yarra, Toorak, Toorong and Wattle Tree.

GREVILLE WARD

Cr Melina Sehr JP Mayor

@ msehr@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0417 773 644

TOORAK WARD

Cr Tom Humphries Deputy Mayor

@ thumphries@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0448 835 318

COMO WARD

Cr Meghan Hopper PhD

@ mhopper@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0456 820 209

HEDGELEY DENE WARD

Cr Sally Davis

@ sdavis@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0439 946 122

MALVERN VALLEY WARD

Cr Jami Klisaris

@ jklisaris@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0427 333 471

ORRONG WARD

Cr Samantha Choudhury

@ schoudhury@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0447 758 691

SOUTH YARRA WARD

Cr Kate Hely

@ khely@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0436 460 829

TOORONG WARD

Cr Jamie Bell

@ jbell@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0455 547 430

WATTLE TREE WARD

Cr Steve Stefanopoulos OAM

@ sstefanopoulos@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0456 637 215

Contact us

- 8290 1333**
- PO Box 58
Malvern Victoria 3144
- Stonnington City Centre**
311 Glenferrie Road
Malvern
- Prahran Square**
Customer Service Hub
Chatham Street
Prahran Square, Prahran

Visit us online

- stonnington.vic.gov.au
- Request a service online at stonnington.vic.gov.au/requestservice
- Report an issue on Snap Send Solve at snapsendsolve.com

Get social with us

- StonningtonCityCouncil
- StonningtonCityCouncil
- company/city-of-stonnington

Access us

If you are blind or have low vision, you can receive an audio version of Stonnington News delivered to your home. Call **8290 1192** or email access@stonnington.vic.gov.au

If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service: TTY users call **133 677**, then ask for **8290 1333**. Speak and listen users, call **1300 555 727**, then ask for **8290 1333**

We speak your language

Mandarin	普通話	9280 0730
Cantonese	廣東話	9280 0731
Greek	Ελληνικά	9280 0732
Italian	Italiano	9280 0733
Polish	Polski	9280 0734
Russian	Русский	9280 0735
Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesia	9280 0737
Vietnamese	Tiếng Việt	9280 0748
All other languages		9280 0736



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THE CITY OF STONNINGTON PRESENTS



PETS *in the* PARK

The ultimate celebration of all things pets

Sunday 23 March 2025

11am - 3pm

Central Park, Malvern East

Event highlights:

-  Hosting and presentations by **Lara Shannon**
-  Guest presentation by veterinary expert **Dr Nicole Rous**
-  Australian Native animal encounters with **WildlifeXposure**
-  Pet competitions, children's activities, market stalls and much more

 [WatsonSton](#)
 [WhatsOnStonnington](#)
 stonnington.vic.gov.au/petsinthepark



City of
STONNINGTON