

# Moorabool community supports new indoor stadium



Community members turned out in droves to attend an open day celebration at the new MARC Stadium in Maddingley recently.

Several hundred people took part in futsal, netball, volleyball and basketball demonstrations in the court area, while children and adults alike attended the popular Strength and Stretch classes in the multi-purpose rooms.

A children's disco, face-painting, balloon art and

more meant children of all ages were entertained – and even Batman made an appearance!

Local sporting associations and active advocacy group MooraPool also held stalls in the foyer, sharing information with the community about how to get involved.

Moorabool Shire Mayor, Cr Ally Munari said it was great to see the community get behind the

MARC Stadium in such an inclusive way.

“It wasn't just children who got involved in the free activities – adults too were having a great time out on the courts and in the exercise classes, showing the MARC Stadium has something for everyone to enjoy,” Cr Munari said.

Bookings are now open at the MARC Stadium. Visit [marcmoorabool.com.au](http://marcmoorabool.com.au) for more information.



## Community Grants Program opens in March

Council's Community Grants Program is open to local non-profit organisations between 1-31 March 2024. The program offers more than \$270,000 annually, to assist non-profit organisations to deliver projects that benefit the Moorabool community.

To help you apply, Council is running drop-in sessions to discuss your project idea in person:

- Monday 4 March from 10:30am to 6:30pm at the Ballan Neighbourhood House
- Wednesday 6 March from 9:00am to 12:00pm at St Martins Chapel, Blackwood
- Thursday 7 March from 10:30am to 6:30pm at the Lerderberg Library, Bacchus Marsh

*\*Please note, there may be wait times at the drop-in sessions and bookings are encouraged via the website.*

For more information on the funding streams available, eligibility requirements or to reserve a drop-in session time, visit [moorabool.vic.gov.au/communitygrants](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au/communitygrants).



We encourage you to phone Council's community development team to discuss your project idea and how it can be funded: 5366 7100.



*The Ballan Community Street Band were successful in applying for a Community Art & Culture Stream grant in August 2022.*

## Are you 12-25? Get involved in our youth programs!

Council runs a host of activities and services for youth in the shire. No matter what your interests are, there's sure to be a program or event to suit you!

### Youth Holiday Program – January 2024



Our youth services team had a whirlwind start to 2024, with a fantastic program of school holiday activities that included pool parties, candle making, 3v3 basketball competition, woodfire pizzas, and a visit to ArtVo.

We welcomed more than 200 young people between the ages of 12-25 to these activities and had the opportunity to host events in Darley, Bacchus Marsh, Ballan, and Greendale.

The youth holiday program runs every school holidays and aims to

include a range of activities for young people who like to get outside, chill out, create, play, explore, and have fun in their community.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming program – we know there'll be some easter eggs to find!

### Youth Action Group (YAG) and Events

The Youth Action Group (YAG) is for young people aged 12-25 who live, study or work in Moorabool Shire who want to share their voice, contribute to community, and develop their skills in leadership. Come along and meet others who want to make a difference for young people in Moorabool. During the year, the YAG will design and deliver events that include the youth forum and youth awards.

The YAG comes together fortnightly on Monday afternoons, between 5-6pm, at Studio 22 in Darley.

### FReeZA Committee and Events

The FReeZA committee is a group of young people aged 12-25 who create events and learning opportunities for young people in creative arts, recreational activities, and cultural celebrations.

In 2024, FReeZA events will include a skate competition, pool parties, a photography competition and exhibition, Pride celebration, the Young & Local live music program, and more!

The committee meets monthly on Friday afternoons, between 4-5pm, in the Darley Civic Hub Pavilion.

### LGBTQIA+ Group

The LGBTQIA+ group is for Moorabool young people aged 12-25. Each catch-up is with youth services staff and can involve sharing experiences, playing games, making arts and crafts, and exploring resources and stories from the LGBTQIA+ community.

The group comes together monthly on a Friday afternoon.

## Youth Engagement Support (YES) Program



The YES program works with young people aged 12-25 who require support in education and employment pathways. Our youth services staff provide one-on-one mentoring to all young people engaged in the program, aimed at goal setting and personal growth.

Group sessions run weekly, with activities aimed at healthy lifestyles, mental health and wellbeing, and building social connection.

If you know or are a young person who would benefit from engaging in the YES program, contact our youth services team for a referral form.



### Youth Spaces

Our Youth Spaces program welcomes young people aged 12-17 to connect with one another, chat with members of our youth team, play games, create arts and crafts, share delicious food, and have a lot of laughs.

The program runs weekly during school terms at Studio 22 Darley and BYZ at its new location, the Ballan Recreation Reserve.

Keep an eye out as our youth services team puts on some monthly pop-ups at some new venues!

### Guitar Lessons

As part of our FReeZA program, we are excited to provide free guitar lessons for young people aged 12-25. Delivered by a local musician, the lessons will focus on playing music together and exploring different skills and styles.

The guitar lessons will run fortnightly during school terms at Studio 22 and BYZ.

*For more information on our services and to book the above events, head to our Facebook page or email the team!*



Contact our Youth Services team:  
youthservices@moorabool.vic.gov.au



5366 7100



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MooraboolYouthServices

## Seeking short stories and young writers

Moorabool Libraries has launched two exciting competitions for 2024 for aspiring writers in the region: the Peter Carey Short Story Awards (open now) and the Moorabool Young Writers Awards (opening soon). Cash prizes and literary recognition up for grabs!

The Peter Carey Short Story Awards are named after the acclaimed Australian author who was born in Bacchus Marsh. The awards are open to Australian residents over 18 years, who can submit an original short story between 2000 and 3000 words. The prize pool is \$3500, with a special \$500 award for the best local entry. Writers who enter the Peter Carey Short Story Award and who live, work or study in Moorabool Shire are eligible for consideration. In 2024, longlisted stories will be judged by Eugen Bacon, a renowned African Australian writer of speculative fiction.

The Moorabool Young Writers Awards are aimed at encouraging students from Prep to Year 12 to express their creativity and passion for writing. The awards have four categories based on age groups, and each category is framed by the statement "What is the key to your story?" Primary students must write a story that involves a key, while secondary students can choose their own theme or direction. The prize pool is \$2500, which includes cash prizes, book packs and author talks.

Entries in the Peter Carey Short Story Awards close on Thursday 14 March at 6pm. all entries must be submitted online at [moorabool.vic.gov.au/petercarey2024](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au/petercarey2024).

Entries in the Moorabool Young Writers Awards open on Monday 11



March and close Sunday 28 April. All entries must be submitted online or in person at the local libraries. For more information and entry forms, visit Council's website.

This is a great opportunity for local writers to showcase their talent - don't miss this chance to unlock your love of the written word.

## Big Summer Read success



Council was very pleased to take part in the statewide Big Summer Read program in the school holidays.

Big Summer Read is a fantastic statewide program that allows libraries across the state to promote reading among children during the summer break. This year, more than 10,000 children participated across the state and read more than 140,000 books!

The children of Moorabool showed their passion for reading with close to 160 registering to be a part of the program. This was a significant increase from the previous year, with Moorabool participants reading more than 1500 books.

The library also hosted some fun Big Summer Reads inspired activities with a scavenger hunt proving the most popular. Almost 200 people joined the activity and enjoyed exploring the library. Older kids submitted book reviews of their favourite summer read.

This year, there were 16 prizes awarded. Participants who read 10 books or more entered the draw to win the major prize of a \$200 Eftpos Gift Card. Other prizes included bookstore vouchers and movie vouchers.

Congratulations to all award winners, some of whom gathered at the library for a photo and to chat about their favourite books!

## Turn your garden native with Council’s help

Are you a resident of Moorabool Shire? Do you love native plants? If you answered yes to both questions, then we have some great news for you! Council is giving away free native plants throughout autumn. Residents can get up to ten plants per household, while stocks last.

Residents can choose from a variety of plant species that are adapted to Moorabool Shire’s climate and soil conditions and require less water and maintenance than exotic plants.

Planting native flora can provide food and shelter for birds, insects and other animals, improve garden structure and aesthetic value, and add a burst of colour to your outdoor space,” Cr Munari said.

If you are interested in creating a habitat for birds, bees, or butterflies, or just enjoy the beauty of nature, native plants are the way to go.

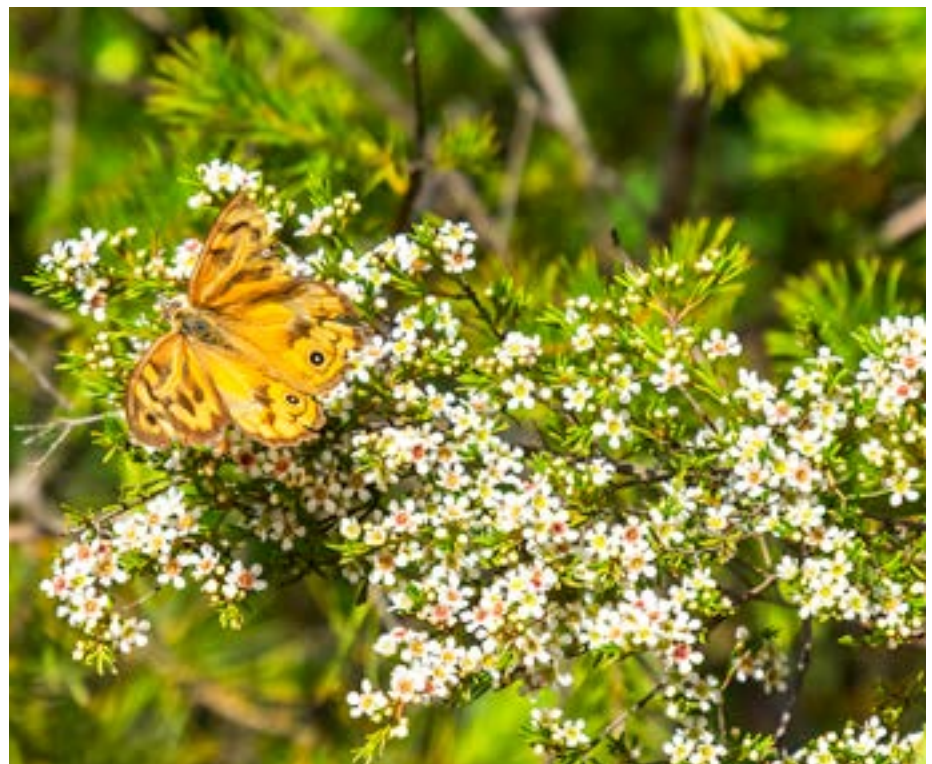
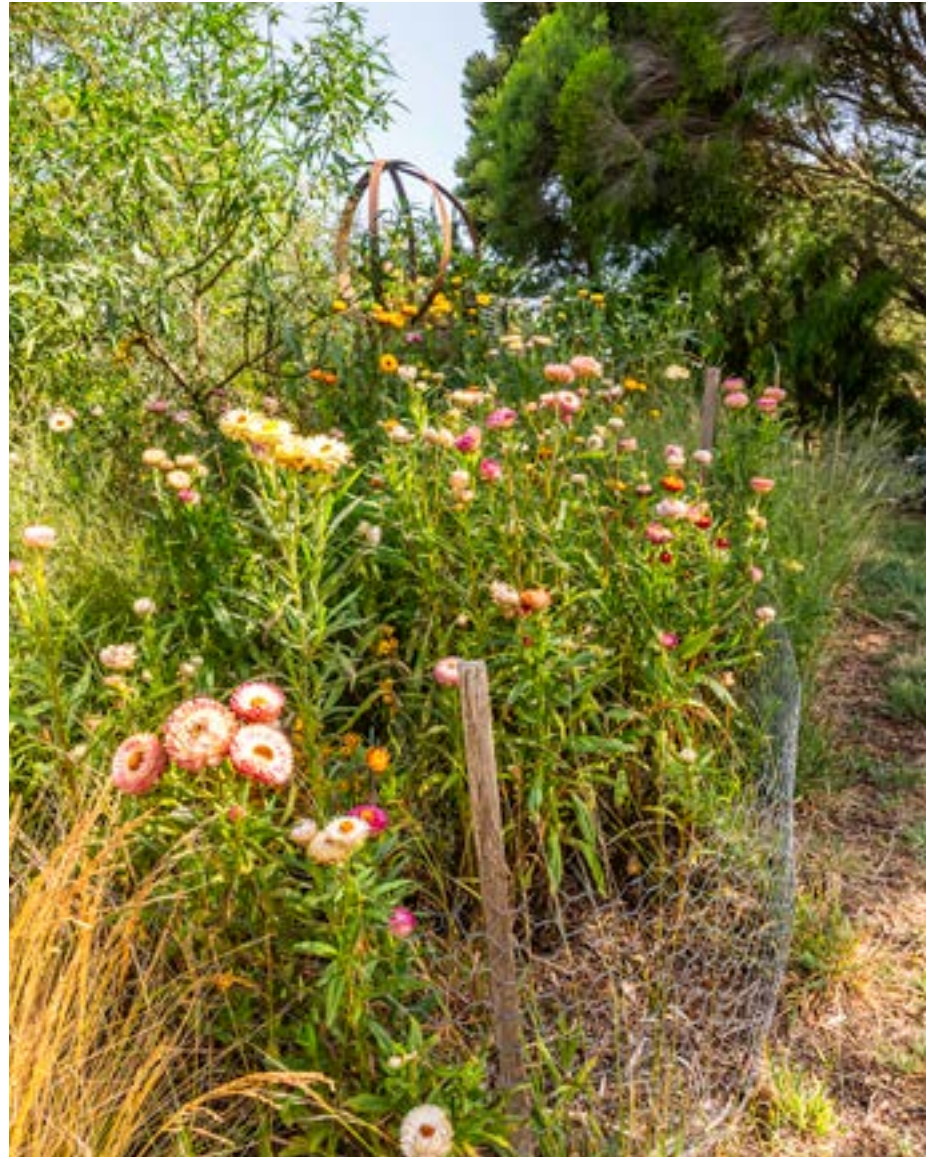
To get your free plants, you can visit us at one of the following locations and dates:

- Sunday March 3 – Egans Reserve, Greendale
- Sunday March 17- the environment team stall at the Ballan Autumn Festival
- Sunday March 24-Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall

- Saturday April 13- Gordon Recreation Reserve (lines up with Gordon v Dunnstoun football match – there is a \$10 admittance fee to the recreation reserve)
- Sunday May 5- Lerderderg Library, Bacchus Marsh
- Each event will run from 10am – 12pm.

Residents will require ID as proof of Moorabool residency and a bag or box to carry your new plants.

Don’t miss this opportunity to beautify your garden and support our local environment. We hope to see you at one of the locations!



# Moorabool celebrates award winner and citizens

Council representatives, family and friends were delighted to congratulate our 2024 Australia Day Award winners and welcome 37 new citizens at Australia Day celebrations in Bacchus Marsh.

We congratulate the following winners:

- Citizen of the Year – **Emma Muir**, who has united the community to form the the Moorabool & Central Highlands Power Alliance, now known as the Regional Victoria Power Alliance, voicing opposition to the high voltage transmission project.
- Young Citizen of the Year – **Ophelia Fernando**, nominated for her dedication

and tireless service to the community through St John Ambulance.

- Community Event of the Year – **Bacchus Marsh EasterFest**, a yearly event that raised funds for the Bacchus Marsh Hospital.
- Mayor Award – **David Hookey**, long-serving member of Ballan Rotary and Ballan Mechanics Institute.

We welcome 37 Moorabool residents who became Australian citizens on Australia Day. The migrants come from countries including India, New Zealand, United Kingdom, South Africa, Malaysia, Russian Federation and Pakistan.





## Families flock to state-of-the-art facility



West Maddingley Early Years and Community Hub has welcomed the first families through its doors, with the start of 3 and 4 year old kindergarten programs, Supported Playgroup and Maternal and Child Health services now open at the site.

Built to cater for the increasing population in and around Maddingley and Bacchus Marsh, the centre will provide fantastic integrated and inclusive community services for children, young people and families.

Along with early years programs, there are consultation rooms for visiting allied health and family services providers.

The hub was officially opened by Member for Eureka Michaela Settle and Mayor Cr Ally Munari late last year, ahead of the 2024 kindergarten year.



## Are you interested in monitoring your babies weight?

**Come and use our self serve weigh station**

**No bookings required**

**Open 8.30am to 5pm everyday**

**Easy to follow instructions**

**Darley Early Years Hub**  
 182 Halletts Way, Darley  
 (Entrance off Wittick Street)  
 For more information  
 Phone: MCH Admin on 5366 7100 (Option 4)  
 Email: mchadmin@moorabool.vic.gov.au



**WOODLANDS WARD**

Cr Ally Munari  
 Mayor  
 Phone: 0428 116 001  
 Email: amunari@moorabool.vic.gov.au



**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**

Cr Rod Ward  
 Phone: 0400 611 310  
 Email: rward@moorabool.vic.gov.au



**CENTRAL WARD**

Cr Paul Tatchell  
 Phone: 0407 108 025  
 Email: ptatchell@moorabool.vic.gov.au



**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**

Cr Moira Berry  
 Phone: 0418 691 529  
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**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**

Cr David Edwards  
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 Email: dedwards@moorabool.vic.gov.au



**EAST MOORABOOL WARD**

Cr Tonia Dudzik  
 Phone: 0407 014 489  
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**WEST MOORABOOL WARD**

Cr Tom Sullivan  
 Phone: 0418 323 221  
 Email: tsullivan@moorabool.vic.gov.au

Refer to Council's website for a full list of 2024 Council meeting dates and times:  
[moorabool.vic.gov.au](http://moorabool.vic.gov.au)

Ordinary Meetings of Council to be held at Ballan Council Chambers: (commencing at 6 pm)

DATES	
6 March 2024	7 August 2024
3 April 2024	4 September 2024
1 May 2024	18 September 2024
5 June 2024	4 December 2024
3 July 2024	18 December 2024

**Important emergency contact information**

Police / CFA / Ambulance	000
SES	132500
Flood and Storm Info Line	1300 842 737
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
Bacchus Marsh Hospital	5367 2000
Moorabool Shire Council	5366 7100
Emergency after hours animal control	5366 7100 <i>(option 1)</i>
Aged and Disability Services	0409 138 201
For all other emergencies	0419 887 065



**IMPORTANT NOTES TO READERS**

Moorabool Matters is Moorabool Shire Council's official community newsletter, promoting events, activities, projects and issues in our Shire. This publication is part of Council's ongoing commitment to improve communication and consultation with residents. It is published four times a year and delivered to residents through The Moorabool News newspaper. Every effort is made to ensure information included in Moorabool Matters is accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change. Readers are encouraged to contact Council or organisations listed in the newsletter for specific information. If you have any questions or comments about Moorabool Matters, please contact the Media and Marketing Officer at Moorabool Shire Council on **5366 7100** or email [info@moorabool.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moorabool.vic.gov.au)