

LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB GETTING CLOSE



The scaffolding has come down, library teams and Councillors have gone in for a walkthrough, and everyone is excited for the opening of Ballan Library and Community Hub.

Progress is continuing at a great pace for the new facility which will open later this year. In addition to a fantastic new library, there will be an impressive art space, community rooms and maternal and child health services on site. We hope residents of Ballan and surrounds are enjoying watching the building come together as much as we have!

Regular project updates are on our website: moorabool.vic.gov.au/ballan-library



Download our app!

You'll never miss a bin day again...and you won't believe how easy it is to report an issue in the shire. Download our new app Antenno and you'll be up to date with everything you need to know from Council.

Antenno is launching this month and will allow you to receive the news and reminders you want – ie bin days, road closures, rate payment reminders, consultation opportunities directly to your phone, as well as an easy way to report issues such as potholes, dumped rubbish etc.

Information on how to download the app is at moorabool.vic.gov.au/antenno. Download today and let Council do the remembering for you!

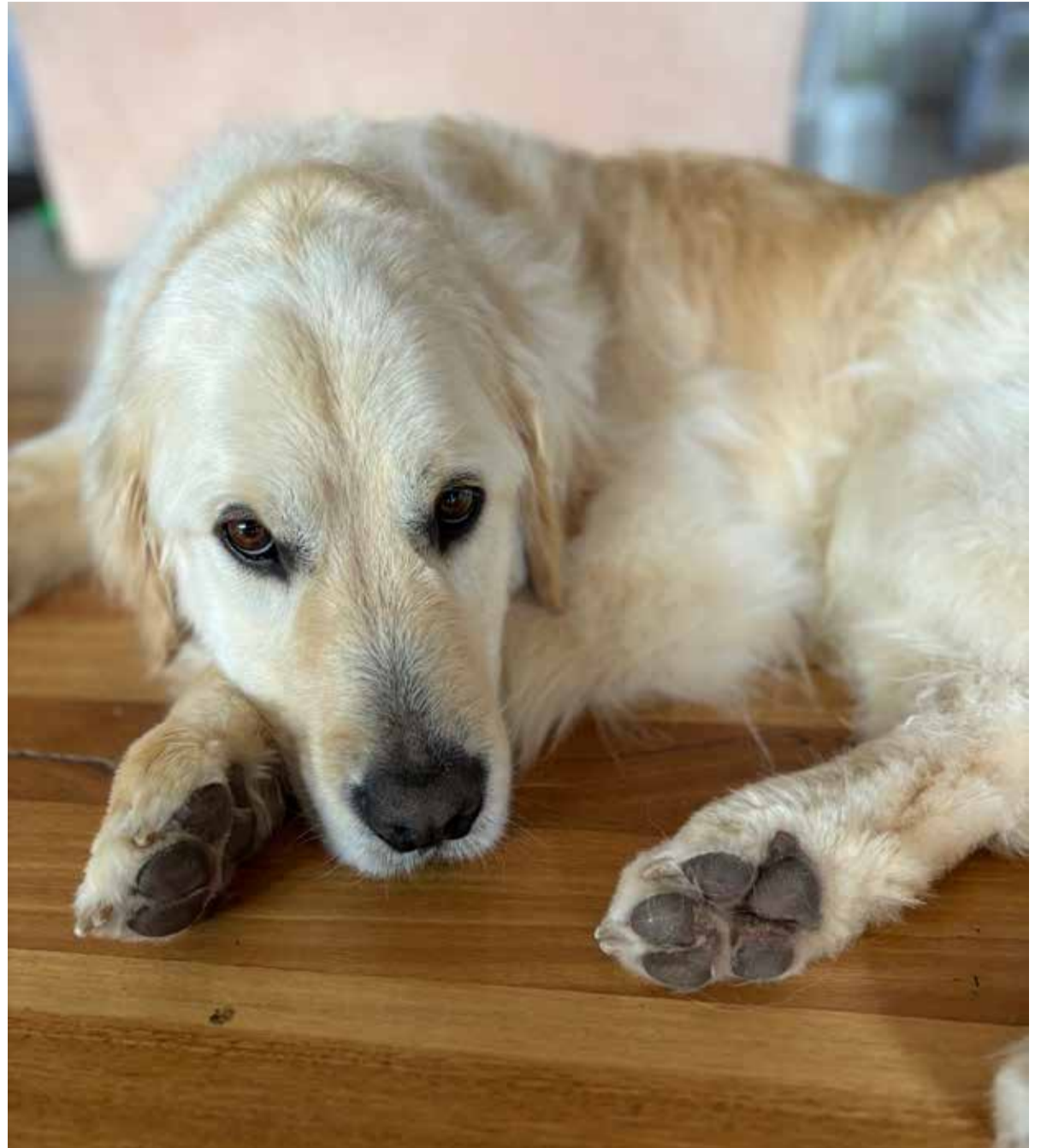
Animal registrations

A reminder animal registrations are due 10 April 2025. If you are not sure if your details or the details of your pet are up to date with Council or you wish to register a new pet, please contact our customer service team on 5366 7100 or on our website:

moorabool.vic.gov.au/renew-pet

Community grants – last call

If you belong to a community, environment, arts or sporting group and were thinking of applying for a community grant through Council, this is your last chance for this round! Applications close 31 March so get writing now. For more information or to apply, go to our website: moorabool.vic.gov.au/communitygrants



Nominate for a Community Asset Committee

Are you passionate about your local community and want to make a difference? We are currently seeking membership nominations from community-minded individuals to join community asset committees in their local area. These volunteer committees play an integral role in managing day-to-day facility operations and activation in Council-owned facilities across the shire.

Community asset committees currently operate in Bacchus Marsh, Dunnstown, Elaine, Gordon, Greendale, Lal Lal, Millbrook, Navigators and Wallace. Membership applications close early April 2025. Direct queries to Council's Community Development Team on 5366 7100 or email committees@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

New online booking system

We are excited to announce a new online booking system - SpacetoCo, making it easier for the community to book Council facilities, including community halls and recreational reserves.

With just few clicks, you can check availability, make reservations and manage your bookings from the comfort of your home. The new system is designed to save you time and provide a seamless booking experience.

To start bookings, visit spacetoco.com and follow simple steps to reserve your preferred venue.

A big summer of works

It's been a busy time for our engineering, works and parks and gardens crews with jobs all over the shire.

Some of the recently completed projects include:

- A new playground at Darley Park: a sandpit with shade sail, carousel, swings, climbing equipment, a drinking fountain, picnic table and benches, paths connecting to the pavilion and tree plantings

- Ballan Splash Park: this opened late last year and has been a hit with locals and visitors during the hot weather
- Navigators Multipurpose Community Hub: a new open meetings space, storage rooms and upgraded accessible amenities
- Bald Hill Stage 3 works: this exciting addition to a fantastic asset includes three lookout points along the summit trail, shelters, outdoor furniture and landscaping



Bald Hill - stage 3 works

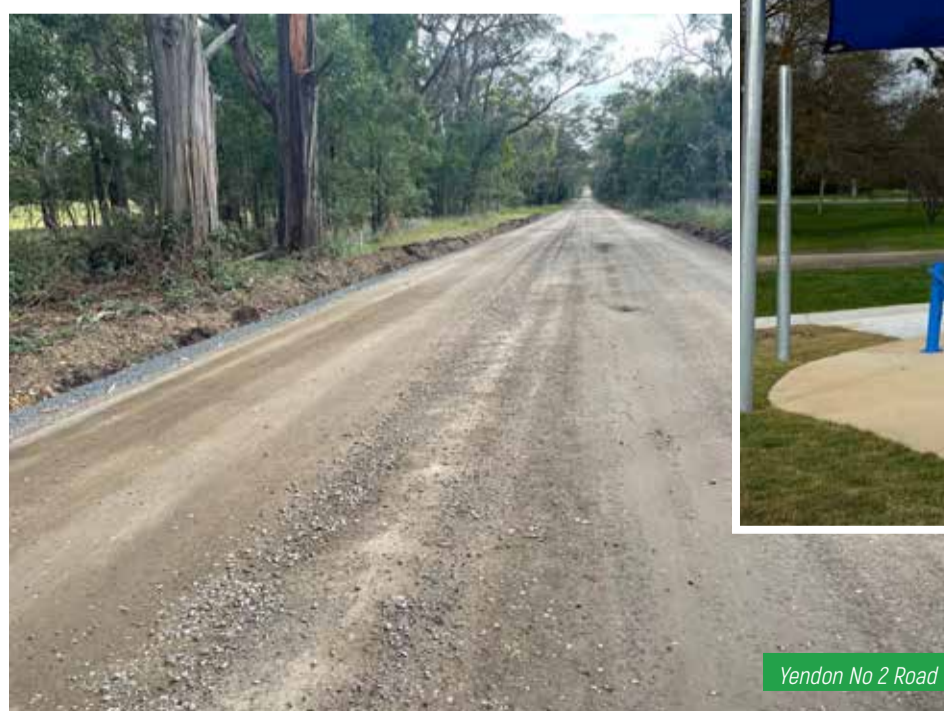


Darley Park

- Road works on Ballan-Meredith Road
- Widening Old Melbourne Road Millbrook
- Re-sheeting Ti Tree Road Dunnstown
- Widening Ingliston Road Ballan
- Intersection upgrades to Yendon No 2 Road Yendon
- Re-sheeting Doyles Road Elaine
- Sealing works Ballan-Meredith Road Fiskville

Getting close to completion we have:

- McLean Reserve Ballan: brand new park coming
- Maddingley Park renewal works including new paths
- Masons Lane dog park in Bacchus Marsh
- Hine Court Reserve Darley: new playground and landscaping



Yendon No 2 Road



Ballan Splash Park

Child starting kindergarten in 2026? Register now!

Kindergarten registrations for 2026 are now open. Round one registrations opened in early March and will close 30 May 2025.

To register your child at one of our participating kindergartens, visit our website to access key information and forms.

Key dates for kindergarten registration are:

To support families through the kindergarten registration process, Council's Early Years team and other expert panellists recorded a Kindergarten Information Session at the end of February.

The session aims to help families navigate the kindergarten registration process and

understand the value of early childhood education. It will also provide guidance on some frequently asked questions families may have about starting kindergarten and what supports are available.

To access this recorded session, visit our website.

Our Early Years team are here to support all Moorabool families as they start their kindergarten journeys. Contact the team at earlyyears@moorabool.vic.gov.au or 5366 7100.

ROUND ONE	March - May	Round one registrations for the following kindergarten year will be accepted from the first business day of March and close at the end of May
ROUND ONE OFFERS	1st week in June	Round one offers will be sent via email at the beginning of June
ROUND TWO	June - July	Round two registrations for the following kindergarten year will be accepted from the first business day of June and close at the end of July
ROUND TWO OFFERS	1st week in August	Round two offers will be sent via email at the beginning of August

Ready, Set, Learn

Council's Multicultural Kindergarten Support Service is delivering the newly developed Ready, Set, Learn program during school terms for culturally and linguistically diverse families. Ready, Set, Learn builds foundations in developing family understanding of play-based learning, early childhood education, and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLDF).

It provides valuable community learning opportunities that reflect a kindergarten environment, strengthening parenting skills, community connections, and fostering social interactions in a play-based learning program.

Ready, Set, Learn runs on Tuesdays at the West Maddingley Early Years Hub, from 9:30-11am. To register your interest in attending or for more information please contact earlyyears@moorabool.vic.gov.au, or phone 5366 7100.

Youth Action Group (YAG)

The Youth Action Group (YAG) is one of the important leadership and civic engagement opportunities Council's youth team provides for young people in Moorabool. It is made up of young people aged 12-25 who live, study or work in the shire. As an action group, YAG contains young people who are driven to share their perspectives, contribute to their community, and access development and training opportunities.

Our YAG has kicked off for 2025, with sessions focusing on identifying the group's annual focus project, looking forward to preparing big youth events, and providing feedback to Council on upcoming plans.

YAG meets fortnightly during school terms on Monday afternoons, from 5pm-6pm. If you can attend in-person - come along to the





Darley Civic & Community Hub on Halletts Way. Or, to attend online, register using the form on our website.

If you are interested in joining YAG, visit our website or reach out to our Youth Services team at youthservices@moorabool.vic.gov.au.

Young & Local

The Young & Local program is for emerging young musicians, authors, artists, photographers and all other creatives. It is an incredible set of opportunities for young people between the ages of 12-25 to:

- Design and deliver local events for young people in Moorabool
- Attend training, workshops and mentorship
- Access industry connections and forge career pathways
- Perform live music, exhibit artwork, and publish their writing

The Youth Services and Arts and Culture team proudly partner to support the Young & Local committee in the planning and delivery of youth-focused events and activities.

To join our Young & Local committee or learn more about the program, get in touch with our Youth Services team, keep an eye out on our socials, or visit our website.



Youth Autumn Holiday Program

Looking for an engaging experience for your child during the upcoming school holidays? Our Youth Holiday Program offers a diverse range of activities designed to inspire creativity, foster learning, and provide fun-

filled experiences for young people between the ages of 11-17.

Program highlights include:

Melbourne Street Art Walking Tour: Join us for a walking tour through the city's iconic

laneways, where we'll discover incredible murals, graffiti, and hidden art gems.

Melbourne Museum: Immerse yourself in interactive displays, learn about Australia's natural and cultural history, and see incredible artifacts.

Mosaic Making @ Studio 22: No experience is needed—just bring your creativity and enthusiasm! We'll guide you through the process as you assemble your own unique mosaic piece to take home.

Werribee Gorge Bushwalk: We'll explore rugged trails, enjoy breathtaking views, and experience the beauty of the gorge. After our walk, we'll relax and refuel with a delicious BBQ lunch.

Studio 22 Drop in: Choose how you'd like to spend your time—get creative with our arts and crafts, challenge friends to a game of table tennis, or sit back and enjoy a movie.

Melbourne Zoo: Get up close with amazing animals from around the world while learning about conservation and animal habitats.

Visit our website or check out the Youth Services social media channels to register your attendance!



Kids special project to prepare for natural disasters

An educational program designed to better prepare local primary school students for natural disasters was held late last year as part of the Moorabool Community Resilience Project.

More than 50 students aged eight to 10 from Lal Lal, Myrniong and Mt Egerton primary schools attended two Australian Red Cross Pillowcase Project sessions to decorate a pillowcase to take home as the bag for their own emergency kit.

Students learnt what to pack and how to prepare themselves if they were ever

evacuated from their home due to a natural emergency event.

Discussions around the thoughts and feelings that may arise before, during and after an emergency were also held as well as the importance of staying calm.

“The Pillowcase Project was a great way to engage with our local primary students and help build their resilience as well as the resilience of the community in general,” Moorabool Mayor Cr Paul Tatchell said.

“The project was initially developed in response to the 2022 floods, but the skills students learnt can be applied to all natural emergencies including storms and bushfire.

“It is hoped that through these workshops, students feel more confident when in an emergency and also share their knowledge with their friends and family.”

The Moorabool Community Resilience

Project is made possible through funding by Emergency Recovery Victoria and Moorabool Shire Council.

For more information about the Moorabool Community Resilience Project, contact Council’s Emergency Management Team on 5366 7100 or visit the emergencies section of our website.

For more information regarding the Pillowcase Project, visit the Australian Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.au

Improve your digital literacy!



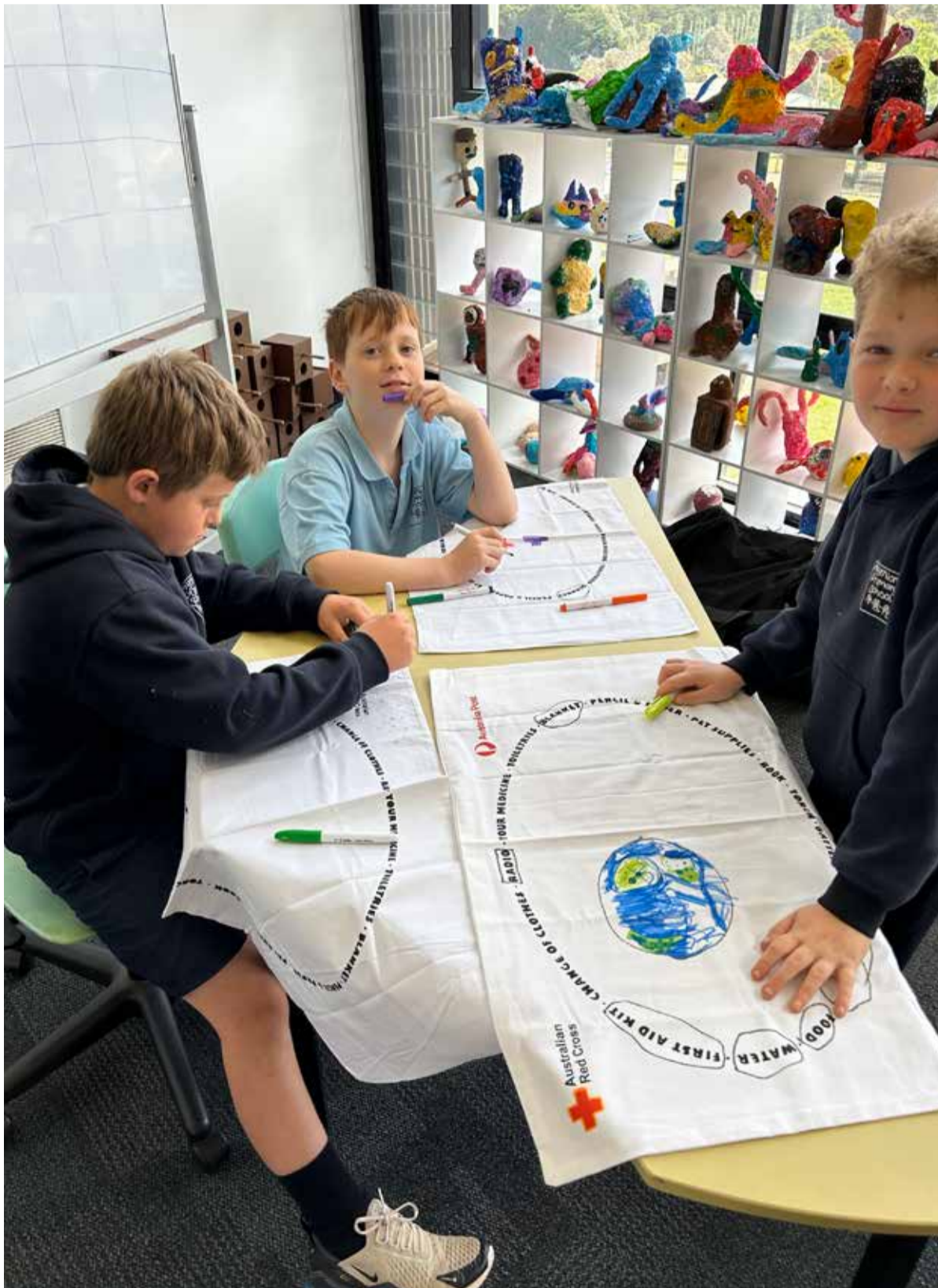
Moorabool Libraries has been awarded a grant from the Good Things Foundation Australia to launch a comprehensive digital literacy program targeting residents aged 50+ across Ballan and Bacchus Marsh library branches. The initiative aims to address the growing digital divide that many older Australians face in an increasingly technology-dependent society.

The program will deliver personalised support and resources to those who find themselves digitally excluded. Through the grant, Moorabool Libraries will implement a multi-faceted approach to digital education through one-on-one assistance, group webinars, and specialised workshops.

The program will include: personalised one-on-one digital assistance sessions, regular group webinars on essential digital skills, hands-on workshops covering topics such as online safety, smartphone use, social media navigation, and accessing government services online.

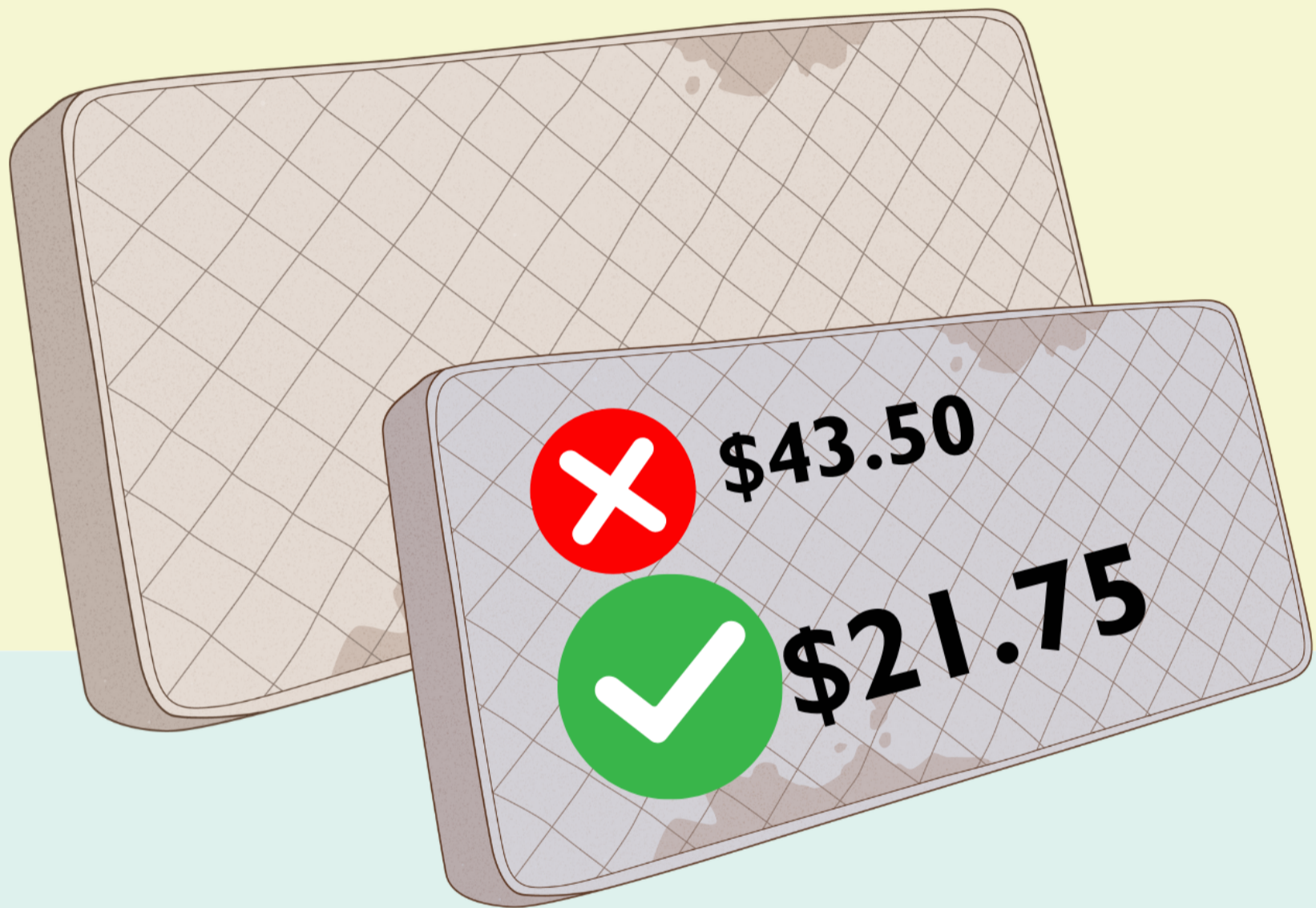
Sessions will run in March and April, with registration now open at all Moorabool Libraries branches. Interested participants can register in person at their local library or call to book their place in upcoming workshops and one-on-one sessions.

Contact Moorabool Libraries for more information on 53667100 or visit moorabool.vic.gov.au/library-adultprograms.





March is half price mattress drop off month in the Moorabool Shire



Residents may drop off old mattresses to a Moorabool Shire transfer station for recycling at half the usual price for the month of March. Residents will need to show identification with proof of address. No commercial customers.

Transfer station locations:

- 51 Osborne Street, Maddingley
- 118 Monteville Lane, Ballan
- Ballan-Egerton Road, Mount Egerton

Check transfer station section of Moorabool Shire website for open hours.



Moorabool
Shire Council

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Refer to Council's website for information relating to Councillors and Council services, news and events: moorabool.vic.gov.au

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

Ordinary meetings of Council 2025:

2 April 2025	3 September 2025
7 May 2025	1 October 2025
4 June 2025	5 November 2025
2 July 2025	3 December 2025
6 August 2025	17 December 2025

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 (option 1)**

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