In recent years, Council has increased the amount of funding it directs to infrastructure, with this financial year’s capital works budget of $43 million being our largest ever. Here are a few highlights of works that are underway and/or nearing completion:

» Construction of a multi-deck car park in the centre of Oakleigh is on schedule, with the car park set to open in June. This $7.5 million project will add 195 FREE car spaces to this popular eating and retail precinct;

» Footpaths are being repaired and upgraded at a higher rate than in the past, in response to community feedback about the need to lift our standards in this area. 30,594m² of footpath was upgraded last calendar year, well above our annual target of 18,000m²;

» New playspaces are opening in Napier Park (Glen Waverley) and Davies Reserve (Oakleigh South) during April, among six new playspaces created since July last year;

» Resurfacing of Monash Drive (Mulgrave) got underway in early April, with Waimarie Drive (Mount Waverley) to be reconstructed in a project beginning in May;

» A new sports pavilion is set to open in Argyle Reserve (Hughesdale) in early July, while construction of a new pavilion in Central Reserve South (Glen Waverley) has started and works will begin for a major new pavilion in Scammell Reserve (Oakleigh South) in May.

For more info:

9518 3678
Next Council meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Wed 26 April, from 7pm. This is a day later than usual due to Anzac Day falling on the Tuesday. The meeting will be held at the Monash Civic Centre (293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley).

If you’re unable to attend the meeting, don’t forget you can now watch from home: webcast.monash.vic.gov.au

The meeting’s agenda will be published on Council’s website from 5pm on Friday 21 April. Monash residents and ratepayers can ask questions at the meeting, with questions to be submitted to Council by 5pm on 26 April.

For more info: www.monash.vic.gov.au/meetings 9518 3555

Monash Civic Centre
293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150
Hours: 8.15am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Oakleigh Service Centre
3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166
Hours: 8.45am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Tel (03) 9518 3555  Fax (03) 9518 3444  mail@monash.vic.gov.au  www.monash.vic.gov.au

Monash residents are encouraged to attend local services to commemorate Anzac Day.

These ceremonies are organised by local Returned Services League (RSL) branches:

» Ceremony on Sunday 23 April at 10.15am:
  Glen Waverley Cenotaph, Kingsway (behind Glen Waverley Library)

» Dawn Ceremonies on Tuesday 25 April at 6am:
  » Clayton Cenotaph, Clayton Rd (in the “Remembrance Gardens” of Clayton Hall)
  » Original Glen Waverley Cenotaph in front of Central Reserve, Springvale Rd
  » Oakleigh Cenotaph, corner of Drummond St and Atherton Rd.

For more info: www.monash.vic.gov.au/anzac-day 9518 3678

Monash residents say hello

To celebrate the cultural diversity and harmony of our community, we’ve put together a short video which features many local residents saying "hello" in their native tongue.

While we couldn’t feature all 142 languages spoken in Monash (it would have been a very long video!), we hope you’re impressed by this glimpse into our community’s diversity and the spirit of friendliness shown onscreen.

Monash is one of the most culturally diverse areas in Victoria, with 45% of our residents having been born overseas. We come from more than 45 different countries, speak 142 languages and follow more than 30 religions, yet live together in harmony.

Watch (and hopefully share) our video: www.monash.vic.gov.au/this-is-monash-video

If you don’t have internet access, you can view the video at your local library.

For more info: 9518 3208

We welcome feedback about the Monash Bulletin. Please give us your comments: 9518 3678 ainslieg@monash.vic.gov.au
Message from Mayor Rebecca Paterson

With all the negativity in the world today, it’s important to make time to celebrate the contributions of good people such as Ted Mason. For nearly 20 years before his death last year, Ted protected and enhanced the natural environs of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve. He was a key driver behind rehabilitating what were then environmentally degraded areas in Monash and what are now natural gems, the lungs of our community.

It was a great privilege for me to host a ceremony at Valley Reserve last month, where Ted’s family and fellow members of the Friends of Scotchmans Creek and Valley Reserve witnessed the unveiling of the Ted Mason Educational Hub. School students will visit this interactive hub to learn how to spot particular flora and fauna in the reserve and hopefully Ted’s spirit of conservation will rub off on them.

In late April, Council will be releasing its draft budget for community feedback (see p.5) and we’re keen to hear what you think. While we continue to charge the lowest average rates of all 79 Victorian councils, we have really tried over recent years to increase the amount of funding we allocate to the maintenance and upgrading of community infrastructure. This is not an easy thing to achieve as we have less revenue per head of population coming in than other councils. However, we know it is important to many people in our community that we keep our rates low. So, we’ve worked hard to keep our day to day costs down, so more money can be funnelled into infrastructure upgrades. Due to this financial discipline, it is looking like we will be able to continue our historically high levels of infrastructure investment in our next budget.

There has been some media coverage about Council’s Australia Day celebrations earlier this year, with some local residents saying they were disappointed in the small scale of the event. We acknowledge that we got it wrong and I can tell you that next year, our Australia Day festivities will be much improved.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me to discuss any local issues: 9518 3509 / 0437 959 163 Rebecca.Paterson@monash.vic.gov.au @crpaterson /councillorrebecca

State Government planning changes

Council is examining the local implications of some changes the State Government has made to Melbourne’s residential zones.

Announced in early March and coming into effect from 27 March, the changes:

» Introduced a mandatory requirement for a garden area in all residential developments in the Neighbourhood Residential and General Residential Zones, including single dwellings and subdivisions;

» Increased the maximum height allowed for developments in streets zoned General Residential (the majority of Monash) from 9 metres to 11 metres (three storeys);

» Removed the restriction on building more than two dwellings on lots within the Neighbourhood Residential Zone.

In late February, Council had adopted new development standards and residential zones for Monash (also known as Amendment C125). These standards and zones were prepared under Melbourne’s previous residential zone framework, and it is unclear whether our objectives will still be achieved given the government’s changes. Our objectives included: protecting Monash’s ‘garden city’ character, and limiting development in local streets by directing it towards activity centres and main roads. In light of the changes to the state framework, Council will consider whether it should propose further changes to its standards and zones, to achieve the original objectives.

In the meantime, when assessing new development applications, Council has begun ‘having regard’ to the standards and zones of Amendment C125. These standards include: reducing the maximum amount of site coverage (the amount of the site taken up by buildings) on development sites, and introducing a rear setback to provide space between back fences and houses for trees and gardens.

For more info: www.monash.vic.gov.au/major-planning-changes 9518 3555
Street tree renewal

Council has introduced a more extensive community consultation process for implementation of its Street Tree Strategy, in response to community concerns.

Residents in and around Glen Tower Dr (Glen Waverley) and Essex Rd (Mount Waverley) have raised serious concerns with Council about the scale of the tree removal/replacement that Council had proposed in those areas and about the extent of community consultation that had occurred.

Taking on board this feedback, Council will not proceed with its plan for extensive tree removal/replacement in Glen Tower Dr. After Easter, we will meet with residents from the Essex Rd area to discuss how the community can be involved in making the decision about the future streetscape.

At its March meeting, Council adopted an extensive evaluation and community consultation process which will be applied before streets are chosen for tree removal/replacement in future.

For more info:
- 9518 3720

Waverley Park consultation

Waverley Park residents are encouraged to provide their feedback on proposed open space and community facility upgrades in the estate.

Developer Mirvac is required to fund $6.5 million worth of upgrades as part of the State Government’s decision to allow the powerlines to stay above ground on the estate. Mirvac has put forward a proposal for what these upgrades could be. Council is suggesting some changes to Mirvac’s proposal, with the aim of delivering a better overall outcome for residents.

Under both options, an additional 2.4 hectare wetland area would be established adjacent to the space under the powerlines. Council’s suggested changes to Mirvac’s community benefits package include:

» Focusing the park improvements in Gertrude Street and Lansdowne Circuit. We believe it would be more beneficial for the community if the funding is focused on two parks, where substantial playgrounds could be created, rather than spread across five small parks;

» Re-locating the proposed community meeting space (which under Mirvac’s proposal would be a multi-purpose space in the stadium building) so it becomes a stand-alone facility in the wetland/open space area.

The additional wetland area may result in extra maintenance costs for Waverley Park residents in future. There could also be extra maintenance costs for residents resulting from the other improvements. Through its suggested changes to Mirvac’s proposal, Council has tried to minimise any cost impacts that may be felt by Waverley Park residents in future.

Waverley Park residents are encouraged to have their say by Fri 12 May by:


» CALLING 9518 3555 (ask to speak to the Strategic Planning team).

Major community survey

Thank you to the 900+ community members who provided their views to Council as part of a major community survey to help us develop 10 strategic plans.

The survey covered matters such as hard waste collections; safety in public places; health & wellbeing priorities; cat curfews and dog off-leash parks; and the condition of local roads and footpaths.

Over coming months, we will be using the feedback to develop long-term plans such as a Waste Management Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Domestic Animal Management Plan and Road Management Plan. Once drafts of each of these plans are developed, we will put them out for community feedback. We will also report back on the survey results in a future edition of the Monash Bulletin. The winner of the iPad/iPhone for participating survey respondents was to be drawn on 11 April, with the winner to be contacted directly.

For more info:
- 9518 3678
How do I...?

...report a dumped trolley?

It's illegal to dump shopping trolleys on local streets and other public land, with a $200 fine applying.

Supermarkets/other retailers run trolley collection services so if you see an abandoned trolley, please contact the relevant company:

- Woolworths, Dan Murphy's and Big W
  - www.trolleytracker.com.au
  - 1800 641 497
- Coles
  - 1800 876 553
- Target
  - 1800 163 900

You can also contact Council to ask for our help in getting trolleys removed:
- 9518 3555
- mail@monash.vic.gov.au

...find out about major development proposals?

To keep up-to-date with the applications Council receives for developments five storeys or higher, please subscribe to the major developments page on our website.

To subscribe, visit the webpage, scroll down to 'subscribe to page updates' and then enter your email address. You will receive an email alert each time the page is updated with a new proposal, and can then decide whether to provide feedback to Council on specific proposals.

We will continue to send letters to people who live near sites where development is proposed, informing people of what is proposed and how they can have their say. The website page is just an additional way of keeping our community informed.

For more info:
- 9518 3678

Heads up on draft budget

At its 26 April meeting, Council is expected to endorse a draft budget which we will then seek community feedback on.

The draft budget will set out the community infrastructure projects which Council intends to fund over the coming 12 months. These are likely to include: a redevelopment of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre (including creating a new home for Waverley Gymnastics); a renovation of the ageing Mount Waverley Community Centre and Youth Centre; and sports pavilions at Scammell Reserve (Oakleigh South) and Central Reserve South (Glen Waverley).

The draft budget will also outline the level of Council rates proposed to be charged over the next 12 months. Monash will be staying within the State Government's rate cap, so rates are proposed to increase by 2% (about $27 for the average Monash home owner). With a 2% rate increase, Monash will continue to have the lowest average rates of all 79 Victorian councils.

Following the Council meeting, Council will seek community feedback on the draft budget over a 28 day period. Council will consider all community feedback before adopting a final 2017/18 budget in late June.

For more info on the draft budget: (following Council's 26 April meeting):
- 9518 3256

Dumped rubbish trial

In early April, we started trialling a different approach to dumped rubbish.

In the past, we aimed to pick up dumped rubbish from local streets within 24 working hours of it being reported to us. While keeping our streets attractive, this practice did not solve the core problem of people dumping rubbish.

So, we're trialling a different approach aimed at changing behaviour. Now, within 24 working hours of rubbish being reported to us, we will tape the rubbish, and letterbox surrounding properties, reminding people that it is illegal to dump rubbish and asking for information about who may have left the rubbish there.

We will then wait up to five days for the rubbish to be removed. We hope that many people will take back their rubbish rather than risk a $500 fine. At least five other Victorian councils use this 'behaviour change' model and they say that over time it has reduced the amount of dumped rubbish in their areas.

Since we announced the six month trial, some people have expressed concern that they will be fined for rubbish dumped on their nature strip by someone else. This will not occur - fines will only be issued to people where there is evidence that they have dumped rubbish.

To give us feedback during the trial:
- 9518 3774
- april.williams@monash.vic.gov.au
Councillor News

Cr MT Pang Tsoi

As a Monash resident and Australian citizen, I’m proud to live within, and be a part of, the community I have the privilege of representing on Council.

I came to Australia over a decade ago from Hong Kong with Teochew (Chao Shan, Guang Dong) Chinese ancestral heritage.

As this is the first time I’ve had a column in the Monash Bulletin since being elected to Council in October last year, I want to again thank the residents of Mount Waverley Ward for giving me the privilege of being one of their elected representatives on Council. I’ll continue to work hard to deliver significant improvements at Monash Council.

As a member of the Monash Multicultural Advisory Committee as well as the Council liaison for the Friends of Vemasse, I have the opportunity to meet many people from a variety of backgrounds. In doing so I find it really valuable to listen to different ideas to bring about better outcomes for Monash.

As your Councillor, keeping our city safe and clean are important priorities for me. As part of a local Clean Up Australia Day team, I worked with other residents to remove unsightly rubbish from our area. It was very pleasing to see so many residents, from all different backgrounds, pitching in to clean up our neighbourhood. A local resident put it best when he told me: “We love Monash, the place we live, we contribute and we serve, we are looking for a better Monash.”

Neighbourhood Watch is a really important way residents can volunteer to improve the safety of our community. At a recent ‘Safe Plate’ activity outside Bunnings, I worked with local residents to put special screws on number plates in order to reduce number plate thefts. We are offering this free service to people again later this month (for more details, see page 8).

In addition to the contact information at right, I also have a Facebook page /MTTSoi/ and encourage you to contact me if I can help you with any Monash and Mount Waverley Ward issues.
Preventing disease

#VaccinesWork is the theme of World Immunisation Week (24-30 April).

FREE vaccinations are available for babies, toddlers, pre-school children and eligible school-aged children at immunisation sessions run by Council nurses. Eligible adults can also access some FREE vaccines.

Bookings are not required for morning sessions but are essential for evening sessions.

For more info: www.monash.vic.gov.au/immunisation
9518 3534
immunisation@monash.vic.gov.au

May session times

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 3</td>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>Mount Waverley Community Centre (47 Miller Cres)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 8</td>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>Monash Civic Centre (293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15</td>
<td>5pm-7pm</td>
<td>Monash Seminar and Training Centre (1a Atherton Rd, Oakleigh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 29</td>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>Monash Seminar and Training Centre (1a Atherton Rd, Oakleigh)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 9</td>
<td>5pm-7pm</td>
<td>Mulgrave Community Centre (355 Wellington Rd)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 26</td>
<td>10am-11.30am</td>
<td>Mulgrave Community Centre (355 Wellington Rd)</td>
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How we served you

We’re reporting back to you on how we performed against our Customer Service Guarantee in the 2016 calendar year.

Overall, we achieved 30 of our 40 targets. We came within 3% of achieving an additional six targets. Plans are in place to improve our performance in the areas where we did not achieve our targets.

MEETING OUR TARGETS

Here are some of the 30 targets we achieved:

- **Local roads**
  37 major potholes were made safe within the specified timeframe of 24 hours, while 43 minor potholes assessed as non-urgent were responded to within the specified timeframe (made safe within 5 working days and repaired within 20 working days).

- **Tree planting**
  We planted 1,575 street trees, well above our target to plant 1,000 new or replacement street trees.

- **Restocking of libraries**
  We added 49,296 items to our library collection, exceeding our target of 40,000 new items.

MORE ATTENTION NEEDED

- **Timeliness of planning decisions**
  In 2016, 63% of applications were determined within 60 days. We’ve put in place several measures to reach our target that 80% be decided within 60 days, including employing more planning staff.

- **Responding to emails promptly**
  96% of emails to our central email address (mail@monash.vic.gov.au) were answered within 10 working days. We’re introducing a correspondence management tool that should get us up to 100%.

Community grants

Local community groups and organisations will share in $2.5 million worth of grants, so they can provide activities which meet the social and cultural needs of our residents.

At its March meeting, Council determined the 220 recipients of its 2017/18 Community Grants program. About $1.1 million will be provided in cash, with the remainder being in-kind support (eg hall hire).

Grants were allocated in six categories: community strengthening; community partnerships (including neighbourhood houses); positive ageing; art & cultural projects; community events and major festivals. Positive ageing received the largest allocation ($821,685), with groups such as Glen Waverley Senior Citizens (pictured) receiving funding to ensure older community members have access to interesting and engaging activities.

For more info:

9518 3526
What’s On

Safe Plate Day
Sat 29 April, 9am-1pm
Have your car’s number plate secured with one-way screws to deter number plate and vehicle-related theft.

This FREE activity is being held at the Waverley Gardens Shopping Centre (Police Rd, Mulgrave). There is no need to book; just turn up on the day.

For more info: 9518 3649

Introduction to backyard beekeeping
Thurs 11 May, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Learn how you can safely and effectively set up and manage your own beehive, so you can harvest honey and pollinate your garden. This FREE workshop is being held at the Monash Seminar and Training Centre (1A Atherton Road, Oakleigh)

Bookings are essential:
9518 3555

Mental health workshops
Do you have a family member experiencing mental health issues? Or do you just want to understand more about mental health? Come along to FREE local workshops, with upcoming sessions including:

- Understanding mental illness
  Tue 2 May, 5pm-8pm
  Essex Heights Primary School (Mount Waverley) OR
  Wed 7 June, 5pm-8pm
  Albany Rise Primary School (Mulgrave)

- Families of someone experiencing mental health issues
  These are two-part education sessions:
  Sat 6 May & Sat 13 May, 10am-1pm
  Amaroo Neighbourhood House (Chadstone) OR
  Sat 17 June & Sat 24 June, 10am-1pm
  Link Health & Community (Glen Waverley)

More workshops are being offered in this series, organised by Council, Port Phillip Housing Association, Link Health and Community, Wellways and School Focused Youth Service.

Bookings are essential:
9536 7856

Managing pain
Thurs 27 April, from 6.30pm
Take part in fun interactive activities, including a laughter session, followed by a presentation from mind-body expert Craig Hassed, exploring the practice of mindfulness in dealing with physical and emotional pain. This FREE event, organised by Council and Link Health and Community, is being held at the Oakleigh Community Hall (142-144 Drummond Street).

Bookings essential:
9518 3555
customerservice@monash.vic.gov.au

Under the sun: Reimagining Max Dupain’s Sunbaker
Exhibition from 6 May-6 Aug
View new works from 15 artists who have been asked to respond to Australian photographer Max Dupain’s iconic 1937 Sunbaker image. Presented by the Australian Centre for Photography in partnership with MGA, this exhibition will feature works that will surprise, challenge and enthuse audiences. Don’t forget it is FREE to visit the MGA (860 Ferntree Gully Rd, Wheelers Hill).

For more info:
www.mga.org.au
8544 0500

Image courtesy of the Australian Centre for Photography