



Adventure playspace... opening soon

Monash's largest-ever playspace - in Valley Reserve, Mount Waverley - is set to open during August.

The playspace has rope climbing courses, a tree house and flying foxes. There is a mix of traditional play elements (swings, slides) and ropes, logs and other structures for balance, climbing and fitness.

It is Monash's first playspace of regional significance: developed after local families told us they would benefit from having a major playspace where families could spend several hours. The vision was to create a SPARC - a Socially Inclusive, Playful, Active, Relevant and Connected playspace.

Council has been careful to respect the natural bush surrounds of the playspace. For example, natural materials have been used for play structures and shelters and there is a buffer zone between the playspace and the existing bush.

The playspace is expected to open in late August. In its 2015/16 budget, Council has also funded the second stage of the project, which will involve upgrading a public toilet and carpark in the reserve. These works will begin early next year.

As part of Council's regular infrastructure upgrade program, new smaller playspaces have also opened recently in other parts of Monash. These are in: Beverley Grove (Mount Waverley), Brandon Park Reserve (Glen Waverley), Jordan Reserve (Chadstone) and

Wellington Reserve (Mulgrave). Council has also expanded the playspace in Ashwood Drive (Ashwood) in response to community requests.

For more info:

 www.monash.vic.gov.au/playspace-upgrades

 9518 3559

Come celebrate with us

Join in community festivities to celebrate the opening of the fantastic new playspace at Valley Reserve:

When Saturday 26 September, from 10am-midday

Where Valley Reserve, off Wills Avenue, Mount Waverley.

There will be a community BBQ and FREE children's activities. There is no need to RSVP; just turn up.



Upgrade to Civic Centre plaza

The first stage of proposed improvements to the Monash Civic Centre plaza will begin in October, with the walkway between the carpark and the Glen Waverley library to be upgraded.

New timber deck pathways will be laid and seating and trees will be added to the area, making the laneway more attractive and encouraging people to use it as a meeting and resting place.

Last year Council held a number of “pop up” events in the plaza including art and dance workshops for children and a concert. After these events, we asked for feedback from the community and the ideas given have inspired this upgrade.

Further upgrades to the plaza are proposed over the next three years. Council will seek community feedback on the next stages before deciding whether to proceed.

For more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/plaza

9518 3426

Next Council meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 25 August**, from 7.30pm. It will be held at the Monash Gallery of Art (860 Ferntree Gully Road, Wheelers Hill). Community members are welcome to attend and can submit questions in advance for consideration at the meeting. The meeting’s agenda will be published on Council’s website on Friday 21 August.

For more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/meetings

9518 3555

Monash Civic Centre

293 Springvale Road
Glen Waverley, 3150

Hours: 8.30am 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

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Jacqui triumphs over adversity

Jacqui Teh – who won the Sir John Monash award for Youth Leadership in May – is a young woman to be admired.

The 19-year-old had a traumatic childhood and spent her teenage years living in youth refuges. However the challenges she faced in her early life helped Jacqui become resilient and determined to make the most of her opportunities.

Jacqui is a leader at the Holmesglen Youth Foyer, which is based at the Holmesglen Institute of TAFE’s Glen Waverley campus and provides accommodation for young people who want to study but can’t live at home. Jacqui runs study groups, tutoring and supporting others. She has volunteered with the Australian Youth Climate Coalition, and was a member of the Bendigo Community Bank Junior Observers Program where she worked on social programs relating to gambling, youth homelessness, alcohol and drugs, and domestic

violence. She is studying for her Bachelor of Science at Monash University, Clayton.

“I enjoy helping my community and I’m just trying to give back because without the help of many different organisations I don’t think I’d be the person I am today,” Jacqui said.

“Those organisations gave me the chance to live in safe accommodation and to be able to go to school and uni. I know first-hand the difference that kind of support makes to your life.”

Three young people were highly commended in the Youth Leadership category of the Council-organised awards: Philip Liberatore, Rose Han and Sagar Iyer.

For more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/sir-john-monash-awards

9518 3619



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We welcome feedback about the Monash Bulletin.

Please give us your comments:

9518 3678

ainslie@monash.vic.gov.au

Message from Mayor Paul Klisaris

As we go to print with this newsletter, it has been a time of self reflection for Australia on our treatment of Indigenous footballer Adam Goodes. Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives in your letterbox, Adam has returned to the football field and has been able to play the game without accompanying boos. Many people were quick to say that the booing wasn't racist, even though that is how it was experienced by Adam. I think if you are part of a majority group, it is often hard to put yourself in the shoes of the minority and see and feel things from their perspective. Putting yourself in someone else's shoes is something many parents try to teach their children to do from a young age. It is something we should all try harder to do...

In July, Council renewed its commitment to the "Racism: It Stops with Me" campaign run by the Australian Human Rights Commission. One of the purposes of the campaign

is to give more Australians the tools and resources to take practical action against racism. You can find out more at itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au

Developers have put forward plans for the redevelopment of two former school sites in Oakleigh South – one in Beryl Avenue and one in Alvina Street. Both plans have attracted hundreds of objections from local residents, with concerns raised about the level of density and increased traffic congestion (among other issues). While Council does support these former school sites being used to provide some housing, it is important that the sites are not over-developed. We will be deciding on these development plans at our monthly Council meeting in late September or late October.

Thank you to those residents who, earlier this year, participated in a survey on Council's performance (see page 7). After receiving some disappointing survey results last



year, we listened to that feedback from our community and looked for areas where we could and should improve. We've improved but we're not stopping here. We're going to keep pushing ourselves to serve our community to the highest standard possible.

If you'd ever like to have a chat about a local issue, please contact me on:

 9518 3509

 paul.klisaris@monash.vic.gov.au

Landslips at Mount Waverley building site

As many Monash residents would know, in mid-July there were several landslips on a building site at the corner of Highbury and Huntingdale Roads, Mount Waverley.

Council worked closely with Glen Waverley Police to manage this emergency so no one was injured. Twelve residents from two adjoining townhouses were evacuated safely. Council liaised with the Salvation Army and Uniting Care Harrison to ensure these young people had funding for food and other essentials and received assistance in finding other accommodation.

In early August, works began to backfill the site. Approved fill material is

being trucked in to stabilise the site, after which the site's owner/builder will need to work with authorities to determine how and when construction works can begin again.

The building permit for the site had been issued by a private building surveyor, not a Council building surveyor. Council had issued a planning permit for the development, which was to include a medical centre, child care centre and nine dwellings over a three storey building (with basement car parking). After receiving the planning permit, the owner/builder then chose to seek a building permit from a private building surveyor rather than Council. This meant the private building surveyor was responsible for

ensuring works met the conditions and specifications of the building permit and that the works were consistent with the planning permit.

The Victorian Building Authority is investigating why the landslips occurred. Once their investigation is completed, the findings will be made public. Council hopes the findings will be studied by the Victorian building industry and all relevant authorities so that this incident is never repeated.

Since the landslips occurred, Council has held four community meetings so nearby residents are kept updated and have an opportunity to discuss any impacts the situation is having on them, such as traffic problems.

For more info:

 www.monash.vic.gov.au/170-highbury-road

 9518 3678





Poker machine losses

More than \$114 million was lost on poker machines in Monash in the 2014/15 financial year, the fourth highest amount of losses in any Victorian council area.

This is \$5 million more than the poker machine losses in Monash in the previous year, according to the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation figures. The level of losses had been decreasing (from a high of \$122 million in 2011/12) but is now moving upwards again.

Council is concerned about the harm caused by poker machines, particularly as the machines are concentrated in areas of Monash (such as Clayton and Chadstone) where the highest proportion of financially-disadvantaged residents live.

We will continue to be a strong advocate for gambling reform. Council is a supporter of the Alliance for Gambling Reform, a newly-formed national collaboration of organisations with a shared concern about the harmful impacts of gambling in Australia. Launching later in 2015, the alliance will campaign for reforms such as lowering the maximum bet on poker machines in Victoria to \$1 per bet by the end of 2018.

For more info:

 www.monash.vic.gov.au/gambling

 9518 3574



Proposed new residential zones

Monash residents and/or property owners have a few weeks left to provide their feedback on proposed changes to residential zones across the municipality.

The proposed changes identify some areas where increased housing density is considered to be appropriate and other areas where there should be limited redevelopment. The overall aim of the changes is to protect and enhance Monash's 'garden city' character.

There has been a good level of community interest in the proposed changes, with more than 400 people making submissions to Council by the end of July. Once the consultation period closes, Council will decide whether to refer the submissions to an independent planning panel established by the State Government. Time has been set aside for a possible

panel hearing in early December 2015. People who have made submissions would be invited to speak at the panel hearing. Once it has considered the matter, the panel would provide a report to Council with recommendations on what changes should be made to Monash's existing residential zones.

Council is seeking submissions on the proposed changes by **Monday 31 August**.

For more info:

 www.newresidentialzonesmonash.com.au

 9518 3555 (ask to speak to Strategic Planning)

Shared path upgrades

Works to upgrade a section of the Scotchmans Creek Trail in Oakleigh are well underway.

A 670-metre stretch of narrow path, between Stamford and Huntingdale Roads, is being replaced with a three metre wide concrete path, improving safety and comfort for cyclists and walkers.

These works were funded in Council's 2014/15 capital works program but were delayed due to the unavailability of the civil contractor. The works are now expected to be completed by late September.

Council is also seeking to progress another shared path upgrade funded in the 2014/15 financial year. This one involves filling in a missing link in the Waverley Rail Trail, along Railway Parade South (between Binalong and Beatrice Avenues, Chadstone). Council has designed and tendered this project, and hopes to begin these works in coming months. Final approval is being sought from Metro Trains, which leases the land.

Council increased funding for bike path upgrades by 40% in last year's Council budget, in response to community requests for better bike paths. Council maintained this higher level of funding - \$515,000 - in its 2015/16 budget. The projects to be funded this year include upgrades of shared paths in Mulgrave (between the rear of 5 Oliver Court and Royal Oak Court) and Chadstone (along the Scotchmans Creek Trail between Warrigal Road and Drummond Street).

For more info:

 www.monash.vic.gov.au/bike-paths

 9518 3420



How do I...?

...know when street trees in my area will be pruned?



Every street tree in Monash will now be inspected and, if needed, pruned once per year.

Council has increased funding for pruning so we can make sure street trees don't obstruct footpaths. Previously, street trees were pruned once every two years (with trees near powerlines pruned from the top once per year). Pruning occurs in different areas of Monash every month. During August, pruning is occurring in parts of Glen Waverley, Mulgrave and Wheelers Hill.

To find out when pruning will occur in your area:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/street-trees

9518 3555

...request a Youth Discount Card?

If you live in Monash and are aged 10-25 years old, you can receive a FREE Youth Discount Card. The card entitles you to discounts at several shops and services in Monash (including Boost Juice and aquatic and recreation centres). It also provides contact numbers for local services for young people. You can request a card:



www.myfs.org.au/discount-card

9518 3900

Redevelopment of the Glen approved

Council has approved a \$500 million redevelopment of The Glen shopping centre but has reduced the height of the project's tallest building.

The retail centre will be extended across the existing car park in Springvale Road, Glen Waverley. Three apartment buildings will sit above the retail podium, ranging in height from nine to 20 storeys.

A new public square will be created at the entrance to the shopping centre, with cafes and restaurants creating a cosmopolitan connection between Kingsway and The Glen.

Council received 67 objections and one petition (with 188 signatories) against the development. One of the main concerns raised by objectors was the height of the proposed residential buildings, the tallest of which had been proposed to be 24 storeys.

Council agreed with the objectors that the height of the proposed Signature Tower was excessive. Council put a condition on the permit, requiring that the tower be 20 storeys, four storeys fewer than what had been proposed. It will still be the tallest building approved so far in Glen Waverley. However, the height reduction will bring it more in to proportion with nearby buildings, including a 15 storey development approved last year.

For more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/the-Glen-redevelopment

9518 3628



\$2 million pledge for Waverley Gymnastics

Council has pledged \$2 million towards the redevelopment of the Waverley Gymnastics Centre in Mount Waverley.

Council's support is conditional on other levels of government also contributing funding towards the estimated \$5.75 million project. If the required funds for the full project are not secured within the next 18 months, Council's funding commitment will expire.

The Waverley Gymnastics Club, which is based at the centre, is one of the most highly regarded gymnastics clubs in Victoria, with more than 1,500 members and 550 children on its waiting list. The redevelopment will increase the gym space by more than 50%, allow the club to better meet the needs of children with disabilities, and provide for modern female-friendly change rooms.

Council has determined that its \$2 million contribution would come from its Development Reserve, which was formerly reserved for the upgrade of local aged care facilities before these facilities were sold by Council last year.

The Waverley Gymnastics Club will contribute \$1 million towards the redevelopment, subject to Council acting as a guarantor for a \$700,000 bank loan. Council will now submit an application for funding to the State Government's Community Facility

Funding Program and will also make applications to the Federal Government for funding for the redevelopment.

For more info: 9518 3561



Your Councillors



PLEASE ADDRESS
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Councillor News

Cr Robert Davies

Hello to everyone in the Mulgrave Ward and across the City of Monash.

We've had some great recent initiatives in Monash to assist our sporting teams to grow. At Council's July meeting, we endorsed a commitment of \$2 million towards redevelopment of the Waverley gymnastics facilities in Mount Waverley. This extra funding will not come directly from ratepayers as it will be taken from Council's Development Reserve which currently has a balance of \$7.15 million. I believe it is appropriate to spend money in this reserve as interest rates are low and the cash wouldn't be earning much interest. What we need is better sporting and recreational facilities around our municipality. Certainly, the Mulgrave Ward has many reserves such, as the Mulgrave Reserve, which are in desperate need of re-investment and improved facilities. I would like to see the remainder of this Development Reserve utilised across our reserves and recreational facilities.

We have just announced a \$300,000 upgrade to the change room facilities at Freeway Reserve. This will ensure both men's and women's teams have access to modern quality change room facilities. This is a partnership between the Federal Government and Council, both contributing about 50% of the money for this project. I am pictured celebrating the good news with members of the Brandon Park Football Club, Mount Waverley MP Michael Gidley and Cr Bill Pontikis. Freeway Reserve has also had new parking and lighting infrastructure built and is looking absolutely fantastic.

The Waverley Park powerlines issue continues to cause frustration at Council and in the community. The Planning Minister was supposed to have received a report from the advisory board in February. We still have not heard anything further from the State Government on this issue other than they have a backlog of work that they are working through. This issue has been front and centre for the last 10 years. The people of Waverley Park deserve speedy resolution on this matter. I am urging the State Government to finalise this matter as soon as possible. The developer needs to be held to delivering what was originally promised, both contractually and morally, and put the powerlines underground!



Ruth truly delivers!

Ruth Moyle has been volunteering in Monash for more than 30 years and has a message for those thinking about becoming a volunteer – just do it!

Ruth is one of 250 volunteers who assist Council in providing Home and Community Care services to residents who need support in their daily lives. She has been delivering Meals on Wheels to elderly people and people with disabilities for 13 years.

A Chadstone resident, Ruth says she loves meeting people and volunteering helps keep her active and busy.

“I am a people person and I get so much satisfaction from volunteering,” she said.

“For some people, the visits from volunteers are the highlight of their week. It’s really a privilege to be able to help others.”



Ruth’s volunteer work over the years has included driving older people to and from day activity centres, and running a playgroup for 17 years through the Chadstone Baptist Church.

For more info on volunteering with Council’s Home and Community Care team:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/volunteering

9518 3629



Swimming lessons reminder

Drowning is one of the leading causes of death of Victorian children aged 5-14 years.

Swimming lessons from an early age help build children’s swimming abilities and confidence around water. While interest in swimming lessons may diminish during the colder months, it is important that children keep up with their lessons. Children who stop or reduce their swimming lessons over winter tend to forget a lot of their learnt skills.



Swimming lessons are a great way to stay fit and active. Swimming gives a full body workout, while also improving coordination, balance and posture, and helping increase the ability of the body’s immune system to fight off colds.

Council’s qualified swim instructors provide swimming lessons at the Clayton Aquatics and Health Club and the Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre (in Glen Waverley). To discuss how we can help you or your child become a safer and stronger swimmer, please call:

9541 3100 (Clayton Aquatics & Health Club)

9265 4888 (Monash Aquatic & Recreation Centre)

We’re getting better at serving you

Monash residents have given Council improved scores for “community consultation” and for “making decisions in the interests of the community”.

These scores were given as part of the 2015 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, an annual survey of 400 randomly-selected Monash residents. The survey helps Council identify which of its services or activities need to be improved.

Compared with 2014, Council also improved its scores for “elderly support services”, “informing the community”, “advocacy and lobbying”, “the condition of footpaths” and “the appearance of public areas”, among other categories.

Council’s score for “overall performance” (68) was one point ahead of its 2014 score and one point ahead of the average score for metropolitan councils.

We will continue to push ourselves to set – and achieve – even higher standards for our community. In particular, we will focus on the areas that Monash residents have identified as needing improvement. Compared with last year, residents gave Council lower performance scores for “parking facilities”, “town

planning policy” and “traffic management”.

There was a common theme throughout the survey results: many residents are concerned about redevelopment and population growth and whether these will have an impact on the liveability of Monash. Council will make a major effort to respond to these concerns, which will involve expanding our consultation and communication with residents on planning matters. A large consultation activity is already underway, with residents and property owners across Monash being asked to provide feedback on proposed new residential zones (see page 4). The overall aim of these changes is to protect the ‘garden city’ character of Monash, which many residents have said is important to them.

For more info: www.monash.vic.gov.au/surveyresults

9518 3678





Monash Youth Film Festival

Entries close 31 August

Time is running out for young local film makers to enter their short films into this popular annual festival, which is now in its 10th year. To enter, you must be younger than 26 and have a connection to Monash. Films must be less than 10 minutes long. The finalists will have their films shown at Village

Cinema in Century City Walk (Glen Waverley) in early October.

www.myfs.org.au/monash-youth-film-festival

9518 3900

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF LOCAL FILM MAKERS

...at Monash libraries

AUTHOR'S TALK

Alice Champion

Tuesday 29 September, midday

Four years ago, five members of a Sydney book club decided to team up to write a '21st century Thorn Birds'. Writing under the pseudonym of Alice Champion, these five authors produced 'The Painted Sky', a captivating rural novel that brims with romance, mystery and suspense. This FREE talk is being held at Wheelers Hill Library (860 Ferntree Gully Rd).

Bookings essential: 9561 6211 eventbookings@monlib.vic.gov.au



...at Monash Gallery of Art

Figure drawing workshop and guided tours

MGA is the only Victorian venue for a beautiful exhibition of 19th century French caricatures, cabaret posters and street photography that has travelled to MGA from the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. 'Impressions of Paris: Lautrec, Degas, Daumier, Atget' is on display now until 20 September. You can discover more about these works with a FREE guided tour, held every Tuesday at midday. Or you can pick up a pencil and some charcoal and create your own masterpiece in a tutored figure drawing workshop, held on Saturday 19 September, from 2pm-4pm. All materials will be provided. Cost is \$10 for people aged 16 or older and \$6 for Friends of MGA. Children under 16 are FREE with a paying adult. Bookings are essential for the workshop. Don't forget it is FREE to visit MGA (860 Ferntree Gully Rd, Wheelers Hill).

For more info:

www.mga.org.au 8544 0500



We're listening

Councillors and Council staff are visiting local neighbourhoods on weekends to make it easier for you to raise any local issues with Council. Please come along to a Council "listening post" and tell us how we can serve you better.

Brandon Park Shopping Centre, Wheelers Hill

Saturday 5 September, 10.30am-12.30pm

Batesford Reserve Youth & Community Hub, Chadstone*

Saturday 12 September, 10.30am-12.30pm

*A FREE community BBQ will be held at the second event.

For more info:

www.monash.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

To raise an issue:

9518 3678

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