

WHITEHORSE news



February 2026



WHITEHORSE
CITY COUNCIL

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Mayor's message

Cr Kirsten Langford

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who joined us for our terrific Australia Day concert. Such a wonderful celebration of shared community spirit and national pride. It was an honour to welcome more than 100 new Australian citizens into our country on this special day in our first Citizenship Ceremony of 2026. These moments remind us of the diversity, strength and shared values that make Australia and our Whitehorse community so special.

I am also looking forward to joining the Chinese New Year celebrations in Box Hill. I cannot wait to welcome in the Year of the Horse, which is traditionally associated with energy and forward momentum. This vibrant celebration is always a highlight for our thriving Chinese community and for everyone who comes together to take part.

There are also many exciting community events coming up this month, including Council's new series of twilight markets. These markets will provide fantastic opportunities for local traders and small business owners, while bringing energy and connection to our neighbourhoods.



I encourage you to come along to the first of these new markets in Box Hill and Mitcham and enjoy everything they have to offer.

Learn more on page 6.

I am so proud to live in a community alongside every one of you who make Whitehorse one of the best places to call home.

School is back!

Local students have returned to school for the 2026 year.

To help make the start of the school year safe for everyone, here are some road safety tips:

- **Slow down** in school zones. Remember the 40km/h speed limits during school speed zone time from 8am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4pm.
- **Stop and wait** for children to cross at flagged and traffic-light crossings.
- **Remind children to look both ways** and use school crossings every time.

"I like to go to school with my brother, so I don't have to wait for Mum or Dad."

Brothers, pictured, aged 6 and 8.

By working together, we can help keep all students safe on their way to school.



Rates payments due

If you pay your Council rates in either a lump sum (1) or quarterly (4) instalments, payments are due on the following dates this month:

- **Lump sum full payment:** Sunday 15 February
- **Quarterly (3rd instalment):** Saturday 28 February

Other flexible payment options are also available through our Payble platform.

Visit pay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au to learn more.





Current members of the Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee.

Get involved and help shape Whitehorse

Whitehorse City Council is inviting community members of all ages and backgrounds to get involved and have a say on issues that matter. Whether you're passionate about reconciliation, access and inclusion, or want to share your ideas as a young person, there are meaningful opportunities to contribute your voice, lived experience and perspectives. Help inform Council decisions and support a more inclusive, connected and representative community.

Reconciliation Advisory Committee

Join the Whitehorse Reconciliation Advisory Committee, which provides advice and recommendations on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The members will work with Council staff and Elders from the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to further reconciliation initiatives.

Council will prioritise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, with community members or organisations interested in reconciliation also encouraged to apply.

Disability Advisory Committee

The Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee helps to shape Council decisions by sharing real-world insights into disability, access and inclusion across our community.

We encourage applications from people with a disability, people with lived experience of mental illness, and family members or carers. Community members and organisations that are passionate about improving accessibility and inclusion in Whitehorse are also welcome to apply.

This is a meaningful opportunity to use your experience, knowledge and voice to help create a more inclusive municipality for everyone.

Applications close Friday 27 February.

Visit whitehorse.vic.gov.au/volunteers to find more information on the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and Disability Advisory Committee and to complete the Expression of Interest form.



Illegal dumping is an offence and fines will apply if you are caught

Leaving rubbish on nature strips without a booked hard waste collection is illegal. It creates safety risks, attracts pests, and places an unnecessary cost on the community. Council is actively enforcing illegal dumping offences across Whitehorse. If you dump rubbish, you can be fined.

What counts as illegal dumping?

- Leaving items on the street without a booked hard waste collection
- Putting out hard waste items too early
- Dumping items that are not accepted for hard waste, including: general household waste, building materials, paint, tyres, gas bottles, concrete and fence panels

How to dispose of waste legally

- Book your FREE hard waste collection
- Book online at whitehorse.vic.gov.au/hard-waste or call **9780 6120**
- Place items neatly on the nature strip the weekend before collection and attach your orange "BOOKED" sticker
- Donate, sell or give away items in good condition
- Take excess or non-accepted items to the Whitehorse Recycling and Waste Centre in Vermont South (fees may apply)
- Repair items at the healthAbility Repair Café (second Saturday each month)

Help us stop illegal dumping

The community plays an important role in keeping Whitehorse clean. Reports from residents help us investigate illegal dumping and take enforcement action. If you see dumped rubbish, please report it via Snap Send Solve.

Illegal dumping is not harmless and it is not ignored.

Do the right thing. Book it. Don't dump it.

For more information visit whitehorse.vic.gov.au/dumped-rubbish or call **9262 6333**.





Pet Registration Renewals are on the way

Keep an eye on your mailbox or inbox, because pet registration renewal notices will be arriving later this month for all registered dogs and cats in Whitehorse.

Registering your pet is an important part of being a responsible pet owner. If your contact details have changed, please get in touch with us.

Learn more:
whitehorse.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Business Mentoring

Did you know Whitehorse ratepayers can access small business mentoring support?

Our in-person mentoring clinics start on Thursday 19 February. Bookings are essential as places are limited.

We also offer mentoring vouchers valued at \$175 for practical one-on-one support to use at a convenient time for you. Both options are free of charge to ratepayers.

For entrepreneurs and innovators, tailored support is also available through our partner INNOVIC for a \$35 fee, which includes a Commercialisation Consultation Report to help progress business ideas.

Find out more at: businesswhitehorse.com.au/whats/business-mentoring



Shopfront Stories: Banh Me Please!

A family recipe passed down in Box Hill.

For the family behind Indochine, food has always been about more than what's on the plate. It is about heritage, connection and sharing culture. Family-owned since 1991, Indochine has become a much-loved part of Box Hill's food story, built on authentic Vietnamese flavours and a genuine love of community.

Led by Philippe and his family, the team proudly uses fresh, locally sourced ingredients, many picked up just around the corner at Box Hill Market. Every dish carries a sense of care, tradition and respect for where the food comes from.

In 2024, the family expanded its legacy with the opening of Banh Me Please! a little sister to Indochine that brings the same heart and authenticity with a fresh menu.



Beyond the kitchen, the family is equally passionate about supporting the next generation by employing local students, many of whom are from Vietnam, who are studying at Deakin University and sharing their culture through food.

It's a story of family, flavour and pride, passed down, shared widely and enjoyed together.

Twilight Markets are coming to Whitehorse!

Box Hill and Mitcham will come alive with 6 vibrant markets, celebrating what makes Whitehorse special, unique and diverse.

Enjoy a mix of street food, artisan stalls and family fun, alongside free live music and entertainment for all ages.



Box Hill Twilight Markets

When: Saturday 14 February, Saturday 14 March and Saturday 11 April, 5pm to 9pm

Where: Box Hill Mall, Box Hill

More information: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Mitcham Twilight Markets

When: Friday 20 February, Friday 20 March and Friday 17 April, 5pm to 9pm

Where: Britannia Mall, Mitcham



Concert Line-Up

- Arandú
- Bob Sedergreen and Friends
- Pipes
- The Shuffle Club
- MC: Pat Panetta



Enjoy smooth jazz, great food and a picturesque lakeside setting at this FREE, family-friendly event. Back by popular demand, Jazz at the Lake returns in partnership with Community Music and Performances Inc, featuring an outstanding line-up of local talent.

Bring a picnic rug or camp chairs, relax under open skies and enjoy live music while the kids play nearby. Food trucks will offer a selection of food and drinks to purchase. Welcome autumn in style with family and friends at this much-loved lakeside concert.

When: Sunday 1 March, 3.30pm to 7.30pm,

Where: Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Central Road, Blackburn

More information: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Principal Sponsor



Major Sponsor



**CREATIVE
WHITEHORSE**

creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au



Breaking Ground – Women Artists in the Whitehorse Art Collection

Breaking Ground celebrates innovative women artists represented in the Whitehorse Art Collection. From early pioneers such as Norah Gurdon and Clara Southern to modernists Yvonne Audette and Inge King, the exhibition traces their influence and legacy while showcasing contemporary practitioners whose diverse approaches reflect the vitality of women's artistic practice today.

When: 31 January to 14 March,
Tuesday to Friday: 10am to 4pm,
Saturdays: 12pm to 4pm

Where: Whitehorse Artspace, Box Hill Town Hall,
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Image: Emily Ferretti, After it rained, 2025, oil on linen, 77 x 62 cm. Image courtesy and © the artist.



2026 Box Hill Chinese New Year Festival

Watch the heart of Box Hill come alive with spectacular lion and dragon dances, vibrant cultural performances, authentic food stalls and family-friendly activities. Embrace the Year of the Horse, enjoy immersive experiences and celebrate the richness of Chinese and broader Asian traditions at this FREE event.

When: Saturday 21 February,
10am to midnight, with a dazzling fireworks display

Where: Box Hill, Bank Street

Learn more: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au/whats-on/chinese-new-year



Organised by the Asian Business Association of Whitehorse and supported by Whitehorse City Council.



Walk and talk with an arborist

Have you ever wanted to learn more about our local trees? Join arborist Ronan for a walk around the grounds of the Nunawading Civic Centre to view and discuss a variety of tree species.

When: Thursday 26 February,
10am to 11am

Where: The Round,
379-399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Bookings: events.humanitix.com/walk-and-talk-with-an-arborist





Community Grants Program

Whitehorse Council's Community Grants Program is changing in 2026, and things are being done a little differently.

Local community groups and organisations are encouraged to learn more about our updated Community Grants and Discounts Program, including changes to eligibility and new application requirements.

Whitehorse Community Grants support a wide range of local programs and initiatives that strengthen community connections and improve health and wellbeing across Whitehorse.

To help applicants navigate the changes, Council will be offering information sessions and grant writing workshops. These sessions will explain the updated program and provide practical guidance for applying.

To learn more about the Community Grants Program or to book into an information session, visit:
whitehorse.vic.gov.au/grants-community



Positive Ageing Forum

Calling all community group leaders!

Join us at the Positive Ageing Forum for a morning of connection, learning and inspiration. Hear from the Positive Ageing team and other local club leaders, learn about the Whitehorse Community Grants Program, engage with guest speakers, network with fellow attendees, explore Council and community stalls, and enjoy a relaxed morning tea.

This event is highly recommended for anyone leading or supporting community groups in Whitehorse.

Stay after the forum to socialise with complimentary bowls for all attendees who would like to join.

When: Tuesday 17 March, 10am to 12.30pm

Where: Vermont South Club, Vermont South

Bookings: Required, trybooking.com/DIFQR book before Thursday 12 March.



Council meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chamber in the Whitehorse Civic Centre. Meetings are also live streamed at [webcast.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](#)

Next meetings

- Monday 2 February 2026
- Monday 23 February 2026

Search '**Council meetings**' on Council's website for agendas, minutes and more information.

Councillor contact details

Kingsley Ward
Cr Kirsten Langford
Mayor
0423 445 390
Kirsten.Langford@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Eley Ward
Cr Daniel Griffiths
0431 486 455
Daniel.Griffiths@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Elgar Ward
Cr Blair Barker
0459 857 280
Blair.Barker@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Walker Ward
Cr Ben Stennett
0448 375 937
Ben.Stennett@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Wattle Ward
Cr Andrew Davenport
0407 652 145
Andrew.Davenport@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Cootamundra Ward
Cr Kieran Simpson
Deputy Mayor



I hope everyone had a great summer. I'm honoured to be elected Deputy Mayor and excited for what Council will achieve this year. We are aware some builders are not following permitted working hours, impacting residents. Please report any construction outside allowed hours via Snap Send Solve.

In late November 2025, Council endorsed our submission to have all the permanent Significant Landscape Overlays excluded from the state government's Activity Centre catchment areas, reflecting the community's desire to protect our tree canopy. If I can assist in any way, please contact me.

 [crkieransimpson](https://www.facebook.com/crkieransimpson)
 0431 486 849
 Kieran.Simpson@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Simpson Ward
Cr Prue Cutts



Happy New Year to all!

The Vermont Reserve Redevelopment, including female-friendly changerooms, is progressing well. Works are underway on Purches Street, including kerb and channel, improved pram crossings and stormwater pit replacements between Denis Street, Vermont and Kulnine Avenue, Mitcham. This is in preparation for road re-sheeting in April. The VicRoads Mitcham Testing and Inspection Centre driveway has re-opened. Should you have any safety concerns please contact me.

We congratulate George from the Parks team for 40 years of service, including 30 years mowing in the Heatherdale area!

 [@councillorpruecutts
 0409 867 540
 Prue.Cutts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](https://www.facebook.com/councillorpruecutts)

Lake Ward
Cr Hayley Weller

I hope your 2026 is off to a fabulous start.

Many residents have asked about 2-24 Silver Grove, Nunawading, and progressing planning for its future development is a key priority for Lake Ward this year. The 2.4-hectare site sits within the Nunawading Activity Centre and has strong potential to become a mixed use precinct with options considering new housing, retail and commercial spaces, community facilities, and quality open space.

The Victorian Government will release draft maps as part of its Activity Centres Program Phase 2 consultation in early 2026, and I encourage you to get involved and share your feedback.

0431 486 836
 Hayley.Weller@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Sparks Ward
Cr Peter Allan

I hope everyone had a restful Christmas and New Year period and enjoyed the Australia Day festivities. I look forward to serving Sparks Ward in 2026.

I was pleased to move a motion for Council to consider establishing a Chinese Community and Cultural Centre in Box Hill. The motion was adopted, for which I and the wider Chinese community are very grateful. Reports on location, funding, management and operation will be presented this year. The Centre is proposed to be open to all residents.

I encourage all to attend to see what's on offer as Box Hill Mall hosts 3 Twilight Markets (5-9pm) on 14 February, 14 March and 11 April.

0423 504 325
 Peter.Allan@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Mahoneys Ward
Cr Jason Martin

As I write this column Australia Day is approaching and I hope everyone enjoys this day which celebrates our nation and its values.

Whitehorse hosts many Citizenship Ceremonies, and I really enjoy seeing the happiness of individuals and families who join the Australian family.

Looking forward, the biggest issue facing Melbourne and Whitehorse is population growth and how we manage this as a community. All stakeholders need to work together as we navigate this growth.

Should residents have any issues please contact council, your local Councillor, State or Federal Representative depending on the issue. Have a safe and happy 2026.

0431 486 973
 Jason.Martin@whitehorse.vic.gov.au



Terrara Ward
Cr Jarrod Gunn



Happy new year all, and for those preparing for Lunar New Year best wishes also! It's the Year of the Horse in 2026 – I like the sound of that!

By way of representation, I plan to recommence door-to-door conversations throughout 2026. Door knocking was an activity I engaged in heavily prior to the 2024 election. Meeting face to face with you all was so instructive to my contributions to our Council plan, I want to maintain that connection. I also value the accountability of ensuring that I am representing you authentically. If you hear me tapping, please open up and say "Hi!".

Best wishes for 2026!

0431 487 348
 Jarrod.Gunn@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

To read updates from our Councillors online, scan the QR code.

The views expressed are those of individual Councillors and do not necessarily reflect Council policy or the views of Council as a whole. Our Councillors have been elected to serve until October 2028.



Italian | Italiano

I mercatini al tramonto arrivano a Whitehorse!

Goditi cibo da passeggi, bancarelle di artigiani e divertimento per le famiglie, con musica dal vivo gratuita e spettacoli per tutte le età.

Mercatini al tramonto a Box Hill

Dove: Box Hill Mall, Box Hill

Quando: sabato 14 febbraio, sabato 14 marzo e sabato 11 aprile, dalle 17:00 alle 21:00

Mercatini al tramonto a Mitcham

Dove: Britannia Mall, Mitcham

Quando: venerdì 20 febbraio, venerdì 20 marzo e venerdì 17 aprile, dalle 17:00 alle 21:00

Per maggiori informazioni: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Sono in arrivo le registrazioni per i tuoi animali domestici

Tieni d'occhio la cassetta della posta o la tua email, perché a fine mese arriveranno gli avvisi per rinnovare la registrazione di tutti i cani e gatti registrati a Whitehorse. Il pagamento scade il 10 aprile.

Per maggiori informazioni: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Greek | Ελληνικά

Οι Twilight Markets έρχονται στο Whitehorse!

Απολαύστε έναν συνδυασμό από street food (φαγητό του δρόμου), περίπτερα με χειροποίητα προϊόντα και οικογενειακή διασκέδαση, μαζί με δωρεάν ζωντανή μουσική και ψυχαγωγία για όλες τις ηλικίες.

Box Hill Twilight Markets

Που: Box Hill Mall, Box Hill

Πότε: Σάββατο 14 Φεβρουαρίου, Σάββατο 14 Μαρτίου και Σάββατο 11 Απριλίου, 5 μ.μ. - 9 μ.μ.

Mitcham Twilight Markets

Που: Britannia Mall, Mitcham

Πότε: Παρασκευή 20 Φεβρουαρίου, Παρασκευή 20 Μαρτίου και Παρασκευή 17 Απριλίου, 5 μ.μ. - 9 μ.μ.

Μάθετε περισσότερα στην ιστοσελίδα: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Οι εγγραφές κατοικιδίων έρχονται σύντομα

Κρατήστε το νού σας στο γραμματοκιβώτιο ή στο email σας, γιατί οι ειδοποιήσεις ανανέωσης εγγραφής κατοικιδίων θα σταλούν αργότερα μέσα σ' αυτο το μήνα για όλα τα εγγεγραμμένα σκυλιά και γάτες στο Whitehorse. Η πληρωμή πρέπει να γίνει έως τις 10 Απριλίου.

Μάθετε περισσότερα στην ιστοσελίδα: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Simplified Chinese | 简体中文

暮光集市即将登陆 Whitehorse!

您可以品尝街头美食，逛逛手工艺摊位，享受家庭乐趣，还有适合各年龄段的免费现场音乐和娱乐活动。

Box Hill 暮光集市

地点: Box Hill Mall, Box Hill

活动时间: 2025年2月14日 (星期六)、3月14日 (星期六) 及4月11日 (星期六): 下午5时至晚上9时

Mitcham 暮光集市

地点: Britannia Mall, Mitcham

活动时间: 2025年2月20日 (星期五)、3月20日 (星期五) 及4月17日 (星期五): 下午5时至晚上9时

详情请访问网址: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

宠物登记续期工作即将启动

请留意您的信箱或电子邮箱，本月内所有在 Whitehorse 登记的犬只及猫只的续期通知将陆续发出。缴费须于4月10日前完成。

详情请访问网址: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Vietnamese | Tiếng Việt

Chợ đêm Twilight Markets sắp đến Whitehorse!

Tận hưởng sự kết hợp giữa ẩm thực đường phố, các gian hàng thủ công và các hoạt động vui chơi gia đình, cùng với nhạc sống miễn phí và các chương trình giải trí dành cho mọi lứa tuổi.

Box Hill Twilight Markets

Ở đâu: Box Hill Mall, Box Hill

Thời gian: Thứ Bảy ngày 14 tháng 2, Thứ Bảy ngày 14 tháng 3 và Thứ Bảy ngày 11 tháng 4, từ 5 giờ chiều đến 9 giờ tối

Mitcham Twilight Markets

Ở đâu: Britannia Mall, Mitcham

Thời gian: Thứ Sáu ngày 20 tháng 2, Thứ Sáu ngày 20 tháng 3 và Thứ Sáu ngày 17 tháng 4, từ 5 giờ chiều đến 9 giờ tối

Tìm hiểu thêm: creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au

Việc đăng ký thú cưng đang được tiến hành

Hãy chú ý đến hộp thư bưu điện hoặc hộp thư email của quý vị, vì thông báo gia hạn đăng ký thú cưng sẽ được gửi đến tất cả chó và mèo đã đăng ký tại Whitehorse vào cuối tháng này. Hạn thanh toán là ngày 10 tháng 4.

Tìm hiểu thêm: whitehorse.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Keep updated with the latest news and subscribe to our email newsletters.

Our email newsletters cover different topics that might interest you.

What's Happening in Whitehorse

Stay up to date with news, events, community consultations and general Council communications.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sign-up



Sustainable Whitehorse

Learn, live and grow together as a connected community, caring for our environment and creating a healthy climate for a better future. Be inspired by a program of workshops, activities, webinars and events.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/sustainable-whitehorse



Community Connect

Community Connect shares the latest news with a focus on healthy living, positive ageing and social connection.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/subscribe-community-connect



Creative Whitehorse

Don't miss the latest Creative Whitehorse news, covering all our arts venues, direct to your inbox.

Stay up to date on current events, exhibitions, festivals, workshops and much more.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/subscribe-creative-whitehorse



Pets

Sign up for the Whitehorse Pet e-newsletter and get tips for cats and dogs, fun activities, community events, and important pet updates, all delivered straight to your inbox.

whitehorse.vic.gov.au/subscribe-pet-eneWS



Contact Whitehorse City Council

Mail: Whitehorse City Council
Locked Bag 2, Nunawading 3131

Email: customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Website: whitehorse.vic.gov.au

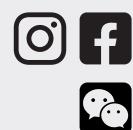
Phone: 9262 6333

NRS: 133 677 then quote 9262 6333

Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Cover photo: Whitehorse Disability Advisory Committee members.



Connect with us on social media

Search '**Whitehorse City Council**' or **@whitehorsecitycouncil**

On WeChat, search '**Councillors Whitehorse**'

Customer service centres

Whitehorse Civic Centre,
379–399 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Box Hill Town Hall,
1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill
Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 1pm



A COLOURFUL LIFE

THE ROUND PAINTS THE TOWN WITH 2026 SEASON: A COLOURFUL LIFE

16 vibrant shows, 1 beloved venue

Following another stand-out year of internationally acclaimed performances, The Round invites you to immerse yourself in the full spectrum of live performance, from boundary-pushing theatre and breathtaking circus to unforgettable cabaret, and mesmerising music.

The Round has quickly become a cultural cornerstone for Melbourne's East, continuing its momentum in 2026 with a kaleidoscope of artistry from Australia's and the world's most acclaimed artists and companies.

A Colourful Life is a celebration of culture, community, and creativity, bringing stories to life in every hue.

From big household names like Rachael Beck and Nathan Cavalieri to award-winning works such as Na Djinang Circus' Arterial, exploring the ancient connections that tie First Nations people together, and Shake & Stir's thought-provoking Grimm, where fairytales are reimagined with profound intensity.

Book individual shows or enjoy the best benefits and savings with a subscription package.

Tickets on sale now at theround.com.au.



RACHAEL BECK:
IN THEIR OWN WORDS



DAVID CAMPBELL:
GOOD LOVIN' & MORE



SEA WOLVES HOWL



BRITNEY SPEARS:
THE CABARET



OPERAS AUSTRALIA:
DON GIOVANNI



GRIMM



ARTERIAL



NATHAN CAVALIERI:
GROWING PAINS TOUR