

Community Recovery Newsletter

January 2025

A message from the Community Recovery Committee

While many community members will be returning to their homes, let us spare a thought for those who are still displaced and those who do not plan to return at all, whatever their reason may be. If you can reach out to them, please do so.

Without the community spirit, I know I would not be coming back (Andrew Monteiro, CRC Member).

January to June Community Activity Program

A range of community initiatives are being held for the Maribyrnong community between January and June 2025. These initiatives are supported by the Victorian and Australian governments as part of the recovery program. The events are designed to boost neighbourhood connection.

Community members interested in being involved in the delivery of the programs are welcome to reach out to Council at floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Activity Program schedule



Monthly Blackbird River Cruises

Continuation of free one-hour Blackbird River Cruises. The river cruises provide an opportunity to learn about the history of the area while taking in the sights of the Maribyrnong River.

Cruises will take place on the following dates:

- February 21, 6pm
- March 21, 6pm
- April 4, 6pm
- April 11, 4pm.

All cruises will depart from Raleigh Road Jetty landing, Burton Crescent, Maribyrnong.

Booking is required and will open four weeks before the cruise.

Bookings for our February cruise is now open here: <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

River Walks and community barbeque

A series of two one-hour guided river walks are taking place followed by a community barbeque during March.

Burton Crescent Reserve to Pipemakers Park

Date: Thursday 6 March

Coulson Gardens to Afton Wetlands

Date: Thursday 20 March

Each river walk will commence at 5:30pm, followed by a free barbeque after returning.

Gardening get-together event

Connect with your neighbours at a free community event held at Burton Crescent Reserve.



For flood related enquiries, email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

This email address is monitored between 9am-5pm weekdays.

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This event will feature a range of activities including:

- My Smart Garden workshop – tool maintenance and repair
- Repair cafe
- Free plants
- Children's activities

When: 10am-1pm, Sunday 16 March

Where: Burton Crescent Reserve, Maribyrnong

For more information, visit:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

Music in the park

Bring along a picnic blanket and your family and friends for an afternoon of live music and connection.

Date: Sunday 2 and 30 March

Time: 2-5pm

Location: Coulson Gardens, Maribyrnong.

More information to be announced shortly.

Floral arrangement workshops

Floral arrangement workshops are returning as a continuation of the skill building program.

Easter workshop: 3-5pm, Thursday 10 April

Mother's Day workshop: 3-5pm, Thursday 8 May.

Spaces are limited and reserved for Maribyrnong residents only. Reservations will open 6 weeks prior to each event.

For more information, including registration details, visit:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

Tai chi sessions

The regular tai chi program now into its second year, with an average of 30 participants in attendance weekly.

The session is free and open to anyone within the community. No prior experience is necessary.

Date: Every Saturday until 31 May 2025

Time: 9:30 to 10:30am

Location: Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall Street, Maribyrnong.

Light comfortable clothing is recommended. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

"The tai chi sessions are now an essential part of my week... Tai chi combines two activities that are really good for you, being meditation and exercise. I love that you don't need special gear, you just do what you can, there's no judgement, and it's social and fun" (Anonymous participant).



Walking group

Following a suggestion from the broader community, the CRC is establishing a walking group along the Maribyrnong River.

A Facebook group has been created for the walking group. If you are interested in joining, you can either:

- Comment on the post in the CRC Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery or
- Email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Recovery project updates

Children's book

One of the projects that came from the Maribyrnong Community Strengths and Opportunities Workshop was a children's book to tell the story of community resilience.

Maribyrnong City Council is working to bring this idea to life with guidance from the Community Recovery Committee and interested parents.

A series of story-building workshops will be offered, integrating a play therapy approach for children. Workshop dates and additional information will be

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announced shortly.

Parents interested in assisting to design the workshops can get in touch at floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Floods and Me: Youth Art Based Recovery

This January, twelve youth participants aged 11-17 commenced art-based research activities at Victoria University in Footscray as part of the Floods and Me program.

The project is run by Victoria University with support from Southern Cross University, a national team of researchers and Maribyrnong City Council.

It is not too late to be involved in the program. For further information, contact Dr Helen Widdop Quinton from Victoria University: helenwiddopquinton@vu.edu.au

Maribyrnong Insurance Project launch

Council is continuing to partner with GenWest, insurance experts and the Community Recovery Committee on the Maribyrnong Insurance Project to make insurance information more accessible.

The Maribyrnong Community, family and friends are invited to a launch event and panel discussion as part of the project.

Date: Friday 28 March

Time: from 5.30pm

Location: Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall Street, Maribyrnong.

More details on event registration to be announced soon.

Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network

Maribyrnong City Council is supporting the development of a program to build a network of community leaders in flood preparedness.

Members will participate in a training and information session, followed by a planning workshop.

Dates will be shared soon.

Register for the network here:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/OpenForms/EOI-Maribyrnong-Flood-Network>

For more information, email:

floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Maribyrnong Local Flood Guide: Feedback open to community

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) undertakes a review of the Local Flood Guides (LFGs) after a flood occurs to ensure that communities have the most relevant information relating to flood levels, and preparedness activities. As part of this review, VICSES are seeking feedback on the draft LFG.

LFGs help you understand the risk of riverine and flash flooding in your area, which areas are low lying, and how to prepare yourself, your home or your business.

It differs from the Maribyrnong Flood and Storm Emergency Plan which is also under review. The Flood and Storm Plan is the guiding document for flood response.

To view the draft Local Flood Guide and find out more about the guide and plan, visit:

<https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/flood-guides/maribyrnong-city-council#maribyrnong-township-local-flood-guide>.

To provide feedback, either

- Online - email VICSES at ust.nwmetro@ses.vic.gov.au with your feedback by 9 February 2025 and put 'Feedback Maribyrnong LFG' in the subject line, or
- Face-to-face – provide feedback at the Maribyrnong Community Centre on Tuesday 25 February from 4pm-6pm

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Reminder: recovery support

Material aid/donations

Council utilises the Western Emergency Relief Network and GIVIT to coordinate donation support for flood-impacted residents.

If you are interested in accessing material aid, please email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or visit the Maribyrnong Community Centre on a Thursday during operating hours to speak to the team.

Other recovery support services

View the Community Recovery Services Guide on the Council website for a comprehensive list of recovery support services available to the Maribyrnong Community.

This resource can be found under the *General Recovery and Wellbeing Support* section on the *Recovery* page of the Council Website:
<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

For enquiries about recovery supports, visit the Maribyrnong Community Centre on a Thursday to meet with the Recovery team, or email:

floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Stay Connected

Subscribe for email updates: <http://eepurl.com/idmpPT>

Join the CRC Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery

Visit the website for the full list of recovery programs:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>



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