

Community Recovery Newsletter

March 2025

A message from the Community Recovery Committee (CRC)



March has been an exciting month, with events and activities designed to provide opportunities for social connection and resilience-building.

On Sunday 23 March, I took part in a story building workshop to empower children and young people to tell their stories, an idea born from the Maribyrnong Strengths and Opportunities workshop and the CRC.

I look forward to seeing how young people's stories can shape preparedness in the future generations and empower young people to feel heard.

Watching an idea from my concerns for the young who experienced this event culminating into a book created by them has made me even more grateful to be part of this community. The workshop also told the stories of animals and nature and gave them a voice.

- Mary Cameron (CRC member)

Children's story building project

The first children's story building workshop took place on Sunday 23 March and featured a series of exciting and creative stories told by the children and young people participating.

It is not too late to be involved – the next series of workshop will take place during school holidays.

Interactive workshops draw upon play therapy techniques to build a children's book to tell their For flood related enquiries, email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

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

stories.

Date: 14, 15 and 16 April

Time: 10-11.30am

Location: Maribyrnong Library, 120 Rosamond Road

For more information and to register, visit:

<http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

Maribyrnong Insurance Project: launch and panel discussion

Community is invited to attend the launch of the Flood Insurance Guide, a resource created with support from the Maribyrnong community and insurance, financial and recovery experts.

The launch will be accompanied by a panel discussion with Cohealth, Consumer Action Law Centre, Disaster Legal Help Victoria, Financial Counselling Victoria and West Justice.

Date: Friday 28 March

Time: doors open 5.30pm

Location: Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall Street

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/launch-event-flood-insurance-guide-tickets-1236761790809>.

Preparedness program and Neighbourhood Flood Network

A range of preparedness activities are scheduled over the coming months, including:

- REDI Plan workshop
- 1:1 support creating an emergency plan
- Preparedness event with information from VicSES and the Australian Red Cross
- Training day for members of the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network
- Community planning day

To join the network of community leaders in flood preparedness or to find out more about the program, visit <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>

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Maribyrnong Connects: Upcoming activities

This Sunday: March Music in the Park

The last Music in the Park event featured local artists Paul Williamson and friends with Jane Clifton, plus African drumming and dance from Ray Pereira, Nii Abli and Kofi Nortey, who had everyone up on their feet dancing.

Get ready to do it all again this Sunday, with a modern jazz performance from Synthotronica, youth activities, ice cream and a sausage sizzle.

Bring along a picnic blanket or camping chair, your family and friends for an afternoon of live music, entertainment, and social connection.

Date: Sunday 30 March

Time: 2-5pm

Location: Coulson Gardens, the Esplanade.

Floral arrangement workshops



Registrations have opened for the Easter themed floral workshop. These workshops have returned due to positive feedback including the wellbeing benefits of the relaxing environment, connecting with other participants and learning new skills.

Date: Thursday 10 April

Time: 3-5pm

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

Spaces are limited and reserved for community impacted by the 2022 flood.

To register visit, <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood> and follow the prompts to visit Bookable.

Junior ranger school holiday program

This school holiday activity aims to support young people to learn about wildlife that calls Maribyrnong home. Junior Rangers will get to:

- Identify plants and animals
- Monitor nesting boxes
- Participate in an art with nature workshop

Date: Monday 7 April

Time: 9:15am – 11am

Location: Pipemakers Park, meet near the BBQ area near the first carpark from road

To find out more or register, visit

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Events/Junior-Rangers>.

Please note: Children under 18 must be supervised.



Other events and programs

- Autumn gardening get together and community barbeque (cycle tour, tool maintenance workshop, garden tool repair, children's activities and more)
- Blackbird river cruises
- Weekend tai chi

For more information on these activities, visit <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.

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Reminders:

Free flood recovery hard-waste collections

Additional hard waste collection are now available for households impacted by the October 2022 flood.

Collections are available for six-weeks on Mondays between 31 March and 5 May 2025.

Bookings are open and must be made by phoning Council on 9688 0200 and requesting a **flood recovery collection**.

For information on collection guidelines, visit <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.

Planning and building assistance rebate scheme

This is a reminder that the applications for the PBARS scheme provided by the Department of Transport and Planning and facilitated through Windermere close on 31 May.

The scheme provides residents who meet the criteria with a rebate of up to \$3000.

If you require support navigating the process, your Cohealth Case Support Worker can assist even if you are no longer regularly meeting with them.

Windermere can be contacted directly about the scheme at RecoverySupport@windermere.org.au or via phone on 03 8781 9988. Interpreters can be arranged if needed.

For more information, visit <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources/guides/all-guides/planning-and-building>.

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[assistance-rebate-scheme-for-flood-recovery](#).

Melbourne Water Flood Mitigation Study

Melbourne Water are releasing the Expression of Interest soon for community members who are interested in being a member of the Community Partnership Panels.

They are also holding an open forum for community to ask questions and share feedback to inform the flood mitigation study.

Date: 2 April

Time: 6.45-8.45pm

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

For more information, visit <https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-model/flood-mitigation-study>.

Recovery support

Recovery support is still available to community members impacted by the October 2022 flood event.

If you are interested in accessing second-hand furniture, vouchers, or information on recovery support services available, please email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or visit the Maribyrnong Community Centre on a Thursday during operating hours to speak to the Recovery team.

Get involved

The Victorian and Australian governments have offered a program extension for the flood recovery program until the end of December 2025. This means extra time to deliver initiatives to connect and support the Maribyrnong community.

To view the full range of activities currently planned, visit: <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.

Get involved in shaping these programs or provide input by emailing 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.