



Meet your new Council

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Frankston City extends a warm welcome to our new Councillors for the 2024–2028 Council term!

Councillors took their official oath at a Special Meeting on Wednesday 20 November, where the group also nominated new Mayor Cr Kris Bolam JP and new Deputy Mayor Cr Steffie Conroy. This marks Cr Bolam’s third term as Mayor, serving previously in 2010–2011 and 2020–2021, and his fourth term as a Frankston City Councillor.

This year’s local government elections were held across nine single-Councillor wards in Frankston City, and delivered a combination of new and experienced Councillors to the chamber.

A Frankston City resident for more than 25 years and first elected to Council in 2008 at the age of 22, Cr Bolam said he was more committed than ever to delivering the best outcomes for the community.

“As Mayor I will ensure that good governance, transparency and informed decision-making underpin everything we do as Councillors, and that our community enjoys the strong leadership and advocacy it deserves.”

“As someone who has worked closely with the community over many years, I’ve long known how much potential Frankston City holds for those who choose to live, work or invest in our municipality,” he said.

Alongside Cr Steffie Conroy, first-term councillors include Crs Cherie Wanat, Emily Green and Nathan Butler, while Cr Sue Baker begins her second term. Crs Michael O’Reilly and Brad Hill will be serving their third terms on Council, with Cr David Asker joining Cr Bolam in commencing a fourth term at Frankston City.

Frankston City Council CEO, Phil Cantillon thanked all nominees and candidates for their dedication to their community.

“Each successful candidate, as well as all those who participated in this year’s election process, should be congratulated for their passion and drive to improve their local community,” said Phil.

“I know each Councillor is committed to ensuring Frankston City is the very best it can be, and with a mixture of returning and new councillors we have the best of both worlds — a mix of experience and fresh perspectives that I know will serve our community well.

“With Cr Bolam as Mayor and Cr Conroy as Deputy, our new Councillor group has the vision and expertise to take Frankston forward with absolute confidence, and on behalf of everyone at Frankston City Council, I look forward to what can be achieved over the next four years.”

Find out more about your new Councillors on page 7.

Frankston City Councillors 2024–2028

Ballam Ward
Cr Kris Bolam JP

Centenary Park Ward
Cr Michael O’Reilly

Derinya Ward
Cr Brad Hill

Elisabeth Murdoch Ward
Cr Cherie Wanat

Kananook Ward
Cr Emily Green

Lyrebird Ward
Cr Steffie Conroy

Pines Ward
Cr Sue Baker

Wilton Ward
Cr David Asker

Yamala Ward
Cr Nathan Butler



Contact us

Phone: 1300 322 322

Email: info@frankston.vic.gov.au

Live Chat: frankston.vic.gov.au

Interpreter: 131 450

Customer Service Centres

Civic Centre

30 Davey Street, Frankston
Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm

Seaford Customer Service Centre

Seaford Community Centre,
corner of Station Street and
Broughton Street, Seaford
Times vary.

Langwarrin Customer Service Centre

Shop 6, The Gateway,
Cranbourne-Frankston Road,
Langwarrin
Monday to Thursday, 9am–4pm
Friday (limited self-service),
9am–4pm

Carrum Downs Library and Customer Service Centre

203 Lyrebird Drive, Carrum
Downs, Times vary.

Visitor Information Centre

7N Pier Promenade,
Frankston Waterfront
Open 6 days, 9am–4pm
Phone: 1300 322 842

Hoon driving

1800 333 000 (Crime Stoppers)

Graffiti removal

1800 66 8247 (1800 NO TAGS)

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Mayor's message

I am honoured to have been elected your Mayor and I thank my fellow Councillors for placing their trust in me to hold this important position over the coming 12 months. I also extend my warmest congratulations to our new Deputy Mayor, Steffie Conroy.

As part of the local government election process, Councillors and I have spent many hours as candidates listening to community members to understand what matters most to you. As the new Councillor team comes together to plan for the term ahead, those conversations play a vital role in shaping our priorities.

One theme that came through clearly during campaigning was how we as a community support those experiencing hardship. Housing and affordability are challenges for every level of government in Australia, and while Council already provides essential services in this space, such as financial assistance to emergency relief providers and outreach programs in our city centre and libraries, you've told us this remains a priority.

You also told us about the need for continued investment in our infrastructure and services. Council has a strong track record in this area, securing tens of millions of dollars in recent years on projects such as PARC, and the upcoming Frankston Basketball Stadium redevelopment. We will continue to work with all levels of government to ensure Frankston City gets the investment and opportunities it deserves.

As we take our city forward, we'll continue to base our decisions on your input. Our community engagement has delivered some fantastic results in recent years, most notably with the Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre Structure Plan approved by Council in September, and we'll continue to seek your input on our priorities going forward.

It won't always be easy. We must balance Council's long term financial sustainability with the need to keep delivering the critical services and infrastructure our community needs – but the decisions we make will be based



on robust community consultation and engagement.

I look forward to working with Cr Conroy, our new Councillors, key external stakeholders and of course you, our incredible community, to achieve amazing results. Ultimately, what we do in the next few months will prepare our council for many successes over the coming years.



**Kris Bolam JP
Mayor**

Message from the CEO

Welcome to our new Councillors

On behalf of everyone here at Frankston City Council, and our local community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new group of Councillors for the 2024–2028 Council term. We welcome several new faces, as well as many returning Councillors and congratulations to our new Mayor Cr Kris Bolam JP and Deputy Mayor Cr Steffie Conroy. Each Councillor will represent one of our nine new wards, as we transition away from the previous three Councillors to three wards system.

Our elected members have all undertaken a significant journey to get to this point. Candidates invest much of their time and energy to

the election process, reflecting an inherent dedication and passion for their community that our new Councillors will now have a chance to put into action.

All Councillors come to us with their own unique perspectives and passions and with each new term we see an influx of fresh aspirations, ideas and expertise that help to move our city in exciting new directions – to the benefit of our community, as well as our local economy.

This is also an exciting time to be joining us, as we get closer to launching our 2025–2029 Council and Wellbeing Plan, closely aligned with key focus areas identified in our Community Vision 2040.

These strategies, and all our work here at Council, are realised through close consultation with our community, be that through ongoing community engagement or our valued Community Panel members.

We've already had positive meetings with Councillors about the opportunities that lie ahead, and I look forward to working closely with them through the induction process and in delivering for our community in the new Council term.



**Phil Cantillon
Chief Executive Officer**

Want to stay up to date with what's happening in Frankston City?

Sign up to receive all the latest Council updates, events, advice for local businesses, environmental news, libraries, arts and more – straight to your inbox! Head to frankston.vic.gov.au/subscribe

You can also follow @FrankstonCityCouncil on Facebook and Instagram

News Briefs

Council joins Midsumma Pride March

Frankston City Council is proud to once again participate in Melbourne's Midsumma Pride March, on Sunday 2 February.

We will be marching alongside Mornington Peninsula Shire and our community, under the Frankston City Mornington Peninsula LGBTQIA+ Collaborative banner. If you are interested in showing your support for the LGBTQIA+ community by marching alongside us, please contact **1300 322 322** or **communitystrengthening@frankston.vic.gov.au** for more information.

A vision for our City Centre!

Council has finalised the Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre Structure Plan, which sets out a 20-year vision for Frankston's city centre. The Plan includes strategies and actions to determine how our city will look in the coming years, including setting building heights, public space improvements, prioritising pedestrians over cars, street upgrades, housing, attracting traders to boost our economy and improving safety through more people living and working in the city centre.

On 30 August, Council received the Planning Panel Report recommending Frankston Planning Scheme Amendment C160frn be adopted as exhibited subject to four recommendations and one informal recommendation.

At an additional Council Meeting held on 16 September, Council resolved to adopt the amendment with the Panel's recommendations, adopt the Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre Structure Plan September 2024 and submit this to the Minister for Planning for approval.

This marks a significant milestone, as we await the approval for a considered, robust and strategically sound planning framework to guide the future use and development of Frankston's City Centre, providing a clear vision, giving certainty to the community, Council, investors and developers.

Baxter Trail shared user path upgrade

An upgrade to the Baxter Trail shared user pathway is underway. The project builds on the Frankston Station to Monash University campus corridor upgrade and proposes to deliver a safe walking and cycling connection and improved amenity along the section of Baxter Trail between Monash University and Frankston.

Construction work is occurring Cranbourne Road to McMahons Road/Moorooduc Highway and includes public lighting, a raised pedestrian and cycling crossing at the Clarendon Street intersection and replacement of existing asphalt with a concrete shared user path between Playne Street and Elizabeth Street.

The project is funded by the Victorian Government through the Suburban Revitalisation Program.

Congratulations to our Annual Community Grants recipients



Change for Sam Director, Lija Matthews

Frankston City Council is proud to announce a total of \$125,000 has been awarded to 37 local not-for-profit organisations through the 2024–2025 Annual Community Grants program.

These grants are designed to support activities that address emerging community needs and provide vital services to vulnerable and disadvantaged residents.

One notable recipient, Change for Sam, will utilise its funding to provide free, 24/7 security-monitored safety devices for individuals experiencing family violence through the Salvation Army Alexis Program, visit changeforsam.com.au

Another successful applicant, MSA Training and Professional Development, plans to host four free Auslan workshops to enhance communication access for Frankston's deaf and hard-of-hearing community, visit msatraining.edu.au For more information on Council's Community Grants Program, visit frankston.vic.gov.au/community-grants



Glow up for local shopping strips

Fairway Street Shopping Strip in Frankston has received an upgrade, and Kareela Road shopping area upgrade is almost complete!

The upgrades are part of Council's Local Shopping Strip Action Plan, which guides the development of the public streetscapes around Frankston City's local shopping strips. The projects are designed to make areas more attractive, accessible and pedestrian friendly, helping to support local economic development.

At Fairway Street, the upgrade included:

- footpath resurfacing
- improved parking conditions
- new seats and benches
- tree and garden bed planting
- provision for future outdoor dining opportunities.

The works complement other recent local area improvements, including the new play space and community centre upgrades in Orwil Street. To find out more, scan the QR code.



What a view! Seaford Wetlands platform delivers

Panoramic views across Seaford Wetlands, quiet space to reflect and relax, and information about some of the birds that you might catch a glimpse of during your visit, are just some of the features of the new Seaford Wetlands viewing platform accessible from Austin Road.

The platform is part of the \$5 million Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project being delivered by Council as part of the Victorian Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program. The project is focused on protecting the precious wetlands, while sensitively upgrading community facilities.

The three-level accessible platform is DDA compliant, features interpretative signage about native flora and fauna, and is set back slightly away from the wetlands (than the previous platform) to reduce impact on the natural environment, while providing a better view. We will be seeking feedback on a name for the viewing platform in the coming months.

As part of the project, the shared user path (SUP) connecting to the platform at Austin Road was realigned and purpose-built to provide a safer and more stable rider and walker experience and better access to the new ramps for people in wheelchairs. New bike hoops, a new accessible drinking fountain, and additional carefully selected vegetation complement the new platform.

This is the second major project delivered by Council as part of the wetlands project. Earlier this year we opened the beautiful new pedestrian and cycling bridge across Kananook Creek near the



Melbourne Water pump station. The final part of the project, way finding signage designed to enhance the natural environment and allow visitors to take part in a self-guided tour around the site, is also being installed across the wetlands in the final months of 2024. For more information, scan the QR code.



Accessible beach matting has arrived in Frankston!

It's now easier to access Frankston beach with mobility restrictions, thanks to new beach access matting. The matting is helpful for people who use wheelchairs, walkers, or other assistive devices, by providing a stable and smooth surface to navigate over the often uneven and soft sand.

Council has been working with community, including Rotary Frankston Peninsula 2.0, Frankston Yacht Club and Accessible

beaches Australia, to improve access to our beaches as part of our Disability Action Plan 2021–2025. Rotary Frankston Peninsula 2.0 led community fundraising efforts for the matting through their annual Duck Derby on Kananook Creek at the Frankston Waterfront Festival (and they're back in 2025!). Frankston Yacht Club has volunteered to manage the matting, available over summer on Saturdays during their opening hours. For more information contact Frankston Yacht Club frankstonyachtclub@gmail.com

Did you know?

- ▶ Council's beach wheelchair is available for FREE hire via the Frankston Visitor Information Centre. For more information call **1300 322 842**
- ▶ At Frankston Regional Foreshore Playground there is a Liberty Swing for wheelchairs. The Liberty Swing requires a MLAK key, so users can bring their own or borrow one for free from the Frankston Visitor Information Centre. For more information call **1300 322 842**



(L-R) Richard Jones from Rotary Frankston Peninsula 2.0, Council's Diversity and Inclusion Project Manager Karen McMahon, Hans Vanderstadt from Rotary Frankston Peninsula 2.0 and Frankston Yacht Club and resident Mac Zamani.

What's behind the game? Gambling Harm Awareness Week 2024

Frankston local Ken Wolfe knows all too well how gambling can take hold.

As a teenager, his sporting talent meant he was playing seniors cricket and footy at 15. The older boys who gave him a ride to games always drove via the TAB to place a bet. The talk of winning \$1,000 made an impression on Ken — it sounded glamorous. Soon, he was betting and losing all his pocket money every week.

Gambling Harm Awareness Week, held last month, aims to raise awareness of the impact of gambling harm on individuals, families, and communities. To help remove the stigma, Ken is sharing his story.

After high school, Ken spent 18 years in the police force, eventually becoming a sergeant, but with a secret. He was losing over half his wages to gambling each week. Gambling came before everything, even shoes for his kids at times. The shame eventually led him to leave the job he loved for a public service role. But his gambling continued — sneaking off to the pub at lunchtime to gamble. It escalated, and he succumbed to bribes, which led to his arrest and jail time.

As painful as it was being on the other side of the desk in an interview room, Ken admitted his problem to the police. “The relief I felt was unbelievable. No one knew the extent of my addiction,” he said. “I took the prison sentence on the chin and spent a lot of time reflecting. It wasn’t easy, but I haven’t had a bet since the day I was arrested in 2010.”

There are nine Electronic Gaming Machine (pokies) venues in Frankston City where 519 machines absorb a massive \$180,260 daily — over \$65 million annually in gambling losses. Australia’s total gambling losses amount to \$25 billion each year, the largest per capita in the world. This shows how widespread gambling harm is. Despite the daunting figures, Ken wants people to know there is hope. “Getting help can start with telling someone you trust. But choose

carefully, and start talking,” he advises.

Thank you to Gamblers Help Southern and Better Health Network for supporting Ken to share his story. If you

or someone you know is experiencing harm from gambling, Gambler’s Help Southern offers free and confidential support for anyone affected by gambling, including family and friends. Call **9575 5353** or email ghs.intake@bhn.org.au or visit gamblershelpsouthern.org.au



Nepean Boulevard transforms as a city centre gateway

The evolution of Nepean Highway in central Frankston into a vibrant and welcoming destination is stepping up, with Council undertaking a range of improvements.

You may have noticed the new indigenous and native plants (8,700 to be exact!) and 26 trees — chosen following community consultation to reflect the coastal environment — at two locations in the central median strip along Nepean Highway, one near Overton Road and the other adjacent to the Frankston waterfront play space. Two new entry signs into Frankston have also been installed.

The plantings are the first stage of works for the Nepean Boulevard project, a city shaping initiative to transform a 3.7km corridor of Nepean Highway into a safe, welcoming and connected boulevard.

Remaining works are in early design stage and stakeholder consultation is underway. *Connecting City, Creek, and Coast: a masterplan for Nepean Boulevard* is expected to be released to the community in early 2025. It follows community consultation on the boulevard vision and significant engagement with key stakeholders, including the Department of Transport and Planning.



Shining a light on our beautiful waterfront

Our City’s most popular visitor attraction is now better than ever, with lighting added to key pedestrian hot spots along the Frankston foreshore. Council has recently added specialised lighting designed to meet public safety and coastal environment protection requirements:

- ▶ The foreshore boardwalk from the Frankston Pier to Grandview Grove, ensuring continuous boardwalk lighting is now in place from Waves Restaurant to Olivers Hill Beach
- ▶ Frankston Yacht Club: pedestrian lighting from the Davey Street Bridge along the path connecting to the yacht club
- ▶ Wells Street Bridge: floor-based lighting to remove dark spaces and improve accessibility and safety for people walking over Kananook Creek at night.

Lighting the Frankston waterfront and foreshore was the top priority identified by the community during the development of the *Lighting Frankston Plan*, with 62.5 per cent of respondents saying they would visit more if better lighting was provided. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and other key stakeholder groups were also engaged as part of the new lighting designs.

For more information about Lighting Frankston Plan visit frankston.vic.gov.au/urbandesign

Get on your bike to check out Witternberg Reserve

There's no better time to jump on your bike and check out some of Frankston City's most popular open spaces.

One of our favourites is Witternberg Reserve, next to Robinsons Park, Frankston. With its upgraded play space, new barbeque and picnic shelter, the park just got even better with the completion of a raised boardwalk and shared user path (SUP) connecting the park to the popular Peninsula Link trail, which extends from Patterson Lakes and connects the EastLink and Baxter Trails and ends at Moorooduc. The route takes in wetlands, parklands, and natural bushlands.

The project was fully funded by Council and is one of several shared user paths completed this year as one of our Integrated Transport Strategy priorities. Some of our other new shared user path connections you might like to test out include:



- ▶ Seaford Road: providing a safe and continuous link along Seaford Road, from Elsie Avenue to the Nepean Highway, the project also included a new pedestrian refuge, providing a safe crossing point and easier pedestrian access to the nearby Kananook Creek walking trail and RF Miles Reserve and play space.
- ▶ Dandenong Road East: connecting existing paths at Cricklewood Avenue and Fletcher Road to provide a safe continuous link to

Frankston Station. This is also an important link in a much longer cycling network connecting Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula via Frankston.

- ▶ Seaford Wetlands: new pedestrian and cycling bridge over Kananook Creek and realigned SUP connecting to the new accessible viewing platform at Austin Road.

More SUP upgrades are planned as part of our new Bike Riding Strategy. Find out more on page 19.

A safer summer in Frankston

Frankston City Council invests in additional foreshore services to support community safety over the busy summer period. We are dedicated to ensuring our city is a safe and welcoming place to live, work and visit.

Proactive safety patrols

Our Rapid Response Team has increased their proactive patrols throughout our community to address Community Local Law issues relating to smoking, public consumption of alcohol and other anti-social behaviours. The team also conducts patrols in central Frankston and our Foreshore in partnership with Victoria Police. Additionally, you may spot our Beach Patrol beach buggy working to keep our foreshore safe every weekend and public holiday throughout summer.

Safety in parks and along our foreshore

Drinking alcohol in public spaces, including our beaches, is prohibited in Frankston City. We have placed signage at Frankston and Seaford beaches targeting public consumption of alcohol and drink driving throughout the summer.



Local reserves will also display signage regarding illegal use of motorbikes and e-bikes, including hoon driving. The signage is part of our Frankston Community Road Safety Programs, funded by the Department of Transport and Planning and supported by Victoria Police.

Enjoy summer safely with your pet

Frankston City has a wide variety of parks and reserves for your dog to explore, including 35 designated free roam areas. While you and your dog are enjoying our city this summer, it's important to remember there are restrictions in place, for the safety and comfort of other residents and visitors.

Dogs must be on leash at all times in public, unless when in a designated free roam area. When in a free roam area, dogs must be on leash within 10 metres of a playground, barbecue, picnic area or an organised sporting event. Owners need to supervise their dogs at all times and follow all signage when walking their dogs, including signs prohibiting dogs within certain sporting fields or nature conservation areas.

A reminder dogs are not allowed on Frankston or Seaford Beach from 1 December to 31 March between 9.30am to 7.30pm. Dogs must be on-leash when at the beach outside of the restricted times. The summer beach restrictions do not include the Keast Park Free Roam Area on the Seaford Foreshore, where your dog can enjoy 200 metres of sand off leash year-round.

Visit frankston.vic.gov.au/freeroam or scan the QR code for more detail on community safety in Frankston City. If you see an issue in our community, you can report this via the Snap Send Solve app, available to download via the Apple App Store or Google Play.





Cr Kris Bolam JP
Ballam Ward
0417 921 644
crbolam@frankston.vic.gov.au

The decision to stand in Ballam Ward — Karingal, Frankston Heights, and Frankston East — was an easy one. It's where I grew up, where I went to school, where I shop and where I live.

It's so rewarding to be the first-ever Ballam Ward representative! I trust in the benefits of hard work and following through, something I believe I have achieved during previous terms. It's an approach that I look forward to continuing in the coming years. Although I am excited about the possibilities of our new nine ward structure, I was also sad to lose the now former North-West Ward, which encompassed Frankston North, Seaford and parts of Frankston. These were the very people that trusted me, as a wide-eyed and frankly overly idealistic 22-year-old, to represent them in 2008. I was very proud that I was able to substantially lift infrastructure spending and public works delivery, and other key projects, for these wonderful communities over the years.

I heard many messages during this campaign. Chief among them was the need for elected representatives to not allow external forces to impact their work as Councillors. It's a message we all heard loud and clear; and I make the deliberate and conscious commitment to leave any political affiliations, personal biases or special interests at the door. Our Council Chambers should be treated as a sacred place, and I will always do my best to ensure any decisions made are with the best interest of our city in mind.

What is abundantly clear is that all of us here at Council have an undivided love for Frankston — and it is this very love, and desire to move the municipality forward and see it flourish, that binds us together. I am excited to be working with this incredible group of Councillors who are so passionate about their community. We have all chosen to dedicate our time and energy to our city and I know we will achieve great things together, in a culture of respect and collaboration.

I want to take the opportunity to thank family, friends and supporters who mobilised and helped my re-election campaign — and to also thank Ballam Ward residents for their overwhelming support to enable me to continue serving them. It's truly humbling!



Cr Michael O'Reilly
Centenary Park Ward
0472 904 323
croeilly@frankston.vic.gov.au

I am privileged to be returning to serve my community for another term, after my last term as Councillor and Mayor in 2020. My priority will be responsible spending, focusing on cutting waste and ensuring public money is directed to grassroot services, roads and footpaths along with sporting facilities and community organisations.

Like many residents, I understand the financial stresses of a young family, a mortgage and cost of living pressures. I think it is important now, more than ever, that your local government manages our money to ensure we are delivering residents with the best possible value for their rate dollar.

Frankston City Council has always been a passionate advocate for our local sporting community, helping to deliver state-of-the-art sporting facilities and upgrades over many years. Our local sporting clubs often rely on community and parent volunteers to continue to provide the next generation with all the benefits of sporting participation. This cannot be achieved without Council support, and I look forward to strengthening these partnerships into the future.

Over the next four years I will focus on Council's Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre (FMAC) strategy, to support high rise development in our city centre bringing people and employment to an area with far too many empty shopfronts.

Likewise, we need to ensure that our infrastructure supports this growth, including state government advocacy to deliver road upgrades that complement Council's Shared User Pathway program.



Cr Brad Hill
Derinya Ward
0438 212 426
crhill@frankston.vic.gov.au

I am deeply honoured to be re-elected to Frankston City Council, as the first councillor for the newly-created Derinya ward. Thank you to all who voted for me, and for those who did not. I will do my best to earn your trust and respect. I have taken an oath to serve the entire city, and I take that very seriously.

I look forward to a productive and collaborative four-year term. Working together is how we get things done. Disrespect and infighting leads nowhere. If we all listen to each other, to the community, keep an open mind on all matters and be willing to take advice, then we are going to achieve great things. This is the best way to create a Council we can all be proud of, and one that delivers for the Frankston community — and I make that commitment here and now.

I support a clear and transparent Council that provides value for our rates, focussing on basic service delivery, including retaining our annual hard rubbish collection. I want to see Frankston develop into a safe and thriving town centre we can all be proud of, free of graffiti and antisocial behaviour. I'm excited about the development of apartments, hospitality and commercial activity in our city centre and we need that to continue. Let's make it happen and have a town centre we can all be proud of. While we continue to develop our city centre, I also understand the importance of protecting our open spaces and ensuring our community can enjoy all the natural beauty our city has to offer.

We also need to ensure we continue creating a liveable city by connecting different areas of our municipality via shared user paths that connect central Frankston with to places of education, health, leisure and commerce.

I'm a father of five and have been a proud Frankston resident for most of my life where I raised my kids. I have worked in the IT field for 40 years. I serve the community in a volunteer role as a Justice of the Peace, and I am a former president of the Frankston Football Club. I believe a practical approach based on sensible evidence-based decision making is the best way for us to achieve these goals and more. I want to help to create a smart and connected city for ratepayers and residents, with no one to be left behind.

The next four years should be about improving our reputation and helping to lift Frankston up to where it belongs.

COUNCILLOR COLUMNS



Cr Cherie Wanat

Elisabeth Murdoch Ward
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crwanat@frankston.vic.gov.au

I am excited to be joining Frankston City Council as a first time Councillor and I look forward to helping shape our community over the next four years. I am all about creating a responsive community people can be proud of and am eager to contribute towards a progressive place for people to live, work, play, invest and visit.

I am proud to have grown up in Frankston, and I want to improve the overall experience to really make this a destination of choice. This includes including modernising our infrastructure, boosting our core services and finding new and innovative ways to meet the community's needs.

I understand the importance of transparency, accountability and taking a fair and balanced approach to delivering good outcomes for our community. By nurturing connections with local community groups and facilitating feedback on our key decisions and policies, we can genuinely deliver projects and services that matter to locals in a way that best serves their needs. Together, we can create a proactive and inclusive community that embraces positive change and makes a real difference.

I have worked in local councils as a town planner and VCAT advocate and have qualifications in nutritional medicine and environmental management. From this background comes a unique perspective on how we might best manage our city's liveability as we grow, with a focus on balancing amenity, environment and historic foundations with progress, growth and sustainability.

With strong skills in consultation, advocacy, and building positive relationships, I look forward to working with Council officers to advocate at both the state and federal government level for continued investment in our roads and infrastructure and to secure funding to grow local tourism and small business. I also want to see funding directed toward improving community and recreation facilities within Elisabeth Murdoch Ward, providing spaces and activities for locals — particularly our youth — to connect and engage.



Cr Emily Green

Kananook Ward
0439 374 681
crgreen@frankston.vic.gov.au

As the youngest member of our new Council, I feel I have a responsibility to represent the interests of Frankston's youth and to show just how much we can achieve when provided with the right supports. Over the years I have enjoyed many of Council's youth initiatives, driven by the incredible Frankston Youth Service. In particular the relatively new and amazing YES (Youth Empowerment Showcase) Awards, which celebrate young people who promote cultural understanding, harmony and inclusivity, together with longer running projects like the WHAT Bus, our Youth Council, youth centric events, local hangouts and training and education programs. During the next four years I plan on supporting these programs and services, including those targeted towards LGBTIQ+ youth, in any way possible.

The role of a Councillor is truly about showing up for our community — whether that be front and centre speaking at an event or as an advocate behind the scenes.

I look forward to also indulging my passion for arts and culture and my commitment to a sustainable future. I would love to work with neighbouring councils improve water quality in Kananook Creek for example, and to make sure we continue to deliver on our urban canopy and other important revegetation initiatives, including planned coastal protections.

Council has such a strong record for preserving and nurturing our local environment and I am proud to make any contribution that builds on that legacy. One possibility would be to introduce an environmental equivalent to our FMAC strategy, ensuring planning for housing and business development goes through some kind of preservation filter. It is so important for us to create specific policies and guidelines that provide residents with peace of mind around new developments and can guide developers with specific environmental targets.

I'm currently completing my degree in governance and international relations, majoring in public policy and recently completed a certificate in local leadership from state government's Women Leading Locally program, which encourages more women to enter local government. I'm also mum to a very energetic three-year-old, so it's safe to say I'm very busy! I look forward to diving into my new role and seeing what we can achieve together.



Cr Steffie Conroy

Lyrebird Ward
0438 743 440
crsconroy@frankston.vic.gov.au

I was born and raised in Carrum Downs, spending countless hours at the Cougars Cricket Club where both my parents are life members, working in local businesses and spending time with my youth club at the Lyrebird Community Centre.

In 2011, I earned a Diploma of Management, then my bachelor's degree and in 2015 I completed my master's degree from RMIT.

In 2021, I further expanded my expertise by obtaining a Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety, which has since become my primary field of work. Currently, I work in safety and culture, driven by a strong passion for governance and compliance.

By the end of 2023, I achieved a significant milestone by establishing my own business, specialising in safety.

I am very familiar with my amazing Carrum Downs community, including some of the challenges our community faces and areas where we could see some improvement.

Crime is a growing concern in our community, and I will be your local champion within council so together we can improve safety both at home and in public by partnering with the community on enhancing our local Neighbourhood Watch Program, improving CCTV coverage and building on our partnership with Victoria Police.

We, like most suburbs, are also experiencing significant population growth, meaning Carrum Downs is expected to double in size over the next 25 years. I look forward to contributing to Council strategies to manage this growth effectively, including with appropriate infrastructure upgrades.

I also want to support our youth and senior residents, with dedicated facilities and programs designed to improve community engagement, mental and physical wellbeing, to continue upgrading the Ward's reserves and of course to support families with foundational services like well-maintained roads, footpaths, regular rubbish collection and other key services that support our daily lives.

I have always been passionate about contributing to my community through volunteering, working with local charity organisations particularly over the Christmas period, and I very much look forward to continuing to give back as your local representative.

**Cr Sue Baker**

Pines Ward
0438 145 842
crbaker@frankston.vic.gov.au

As a resident of Pines Ward, I am deeply invested in our community, and I am thrilled to be returning for another term as your local representative. I believe that collaboration, asking the right questions, and listening to all voices lead to better outcomes. Together, we've made progress, but there is still work to do. We now face a cost-of-living crisis and housing shortages. I bring experience in strategic planning and advocacy to address these issues. I have worked on projects spanning homelessness, mental health, gender equality, local sport, art and small business and championed diversity, disability access and inclusion across all Council programs and services. However, Monterey Park and Pines pool still need upgrades, and many families, retirees, and single-person households are struggling. We must continue working with all levels of government to secure funding and make decisions that benefit all residents and business owners.

On becoming a Councillor in 2020, I knew my leadership, management and organisation experience across multiple industry sectors in Australia and overseas would be transferrable. Good governance and transparency underpin all well-functioning groups. The past four years have provided invaluable local government experience. I can use this to continue asking the incisive questions, work more closely with the people in our municipality to engage views and opinions and ensure full, factual, inclusive discussions are facilitated. I would like to work with the new Councillors to establish a positive, constructive culture from the start of the term, embrace implications from the new nine ward structure and the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Bill changes.

As a Councillor I understand I represent all ratepayers. With a career in customer service, I know the importance of listening, questioning, discussing and negotiating for outcomes that are agreeable and workable. As someone who has lived in different communities, I know what it feels like when a community is thriving. Through volunteering I appreciate the value of give and take. I now look forward to working together to make Frankston City the very best it can be.

**Cr David Asker**

Wilton Ward
0438 175 560
crasker@frankston.vic.gov.au

To see how incredible our city is, all you have to do is go down to the waterfront on a balmy night, stand on the bridge and look back over Frankston. It's magical. I think Frankston has the potential to be a beacon of success — the go-to suburb to work, live and enjoy yourself. To achieve this of course takes teamwork, both within Council and in our partnerships with state and federal governments and of course our incredible community. I am honoured to have returned for another four years and to have this chance to change perceptions around Frankston and really develop the area into a destination of choice to live work and play, as the ideal gateway to the Mornington Peninsula.

To help us to achieve this I believe a focus on public safety is paramount, including additional lighting, CCTV and a crackdown on undesirable behaviours that endanger our community such as hoon driving. Small amenities like improved wayfinding signage, as well as larger projects like the revitalisation of our city centre are all important areas of focus in the coming four years. Striving for architectural excellence as we invest in new infrastructure and finding opportunities to install and celebrate public art, which is really the soul of our city, are more ways we can contribute to Frankston City's appeal as a place to live and visit.

Likewise, projects that improve park and playground facilities, such as shade sail installations, can encourage residents to venture out more to enjoy our public spaces — just as our events are designed to celebrate our city and create a sense of community, while attracting local business spending.

Ultimately, I know these goals, and many others we hope to achieve, are only made possible through respectful collaboration and advocacy with our state and federal counterparts and I look forward to four more years of contributing to the growth and improvement of our incredible city.

**Cr Nathan Butler**

Yamala Ward
0497 918 095
crbutler@frankston.vic.gov.au

I am humbled and honoured to serve as your Councillor for Yamala Ward. I currently work as a senior business development manager in the tourism and accommodation industry, while also running a successful adventure business. This has allowed me to channel my passion for nature, the outdoors, and community connection while promoting a healthy and positive lifestyle. My background in operations management and event coordination equip me with the skills to ensure transparent communication and effective decision-making within local government. I am committed to addressing community safety, youth crime prevention, mental health awareness, and sustainable housing development.

I am ready to bring fresh ideas and a strong independent voice to the Yamala Ward, prioritising the needs of locals, while championing responsible development and environmental preservation.

A key priority for me is the revitalisation of our city centre. I am pro development, and a strong supporter of Council's FMAC strategy. I was thrilled to see it adopted at the Council meeting in September. I want to see our local businesses succeed and I want the world to see that Frankston is open for business, building on the wonderful work of our previous Councillors.

I run a business that combines both tourism with community connection. I am all about bringing people together, as it has such a positive impact on mental health and issues like loneliness. On a personal note, my fiancé Lara and I have just announced we are expecting our first child, so 2025 looks to be an exciting time for me and my family in many ways.

I genuinely care about our community and will bring a positive and collaborative approach to creating a Frankston for everyone. I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to continue evolving a municipality we can all be proud of.



Waterfront Festival 2025

**LIVE MUSIC * GARDEN BAR * GLOBAL EATS
ACTIVITIES AND DEMONSTRATIONS
RIDES AND AMUSEMENTS
FIREWORKS DISPLAY (SATURDAY NIGHT)**

**FRIDAY 7 FEBRUARY * 5-10PM
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY * 12-10PM**

waterfrontfestival.com.au @waterfrontfest  

Proudly presented by





JOIN OUR COMMUNITY AND
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IMAGINE Frankston

Your place to find and share local events, exciting activities, new restaurants, shop openings and everything in between.

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  [imaginefrankston](https://www.instagram.com/imaginefrankston)



It's back bigger and better than ever with a **400m**, **1.2km** and **2.5km** swim, *plus more!*

This year we're adding a **Kids 700m beach dash**, so now everyone can get involved in the event that kicks off the *2025 Frankston Waterfront Festival*, Saturday 8th of February, 2025.

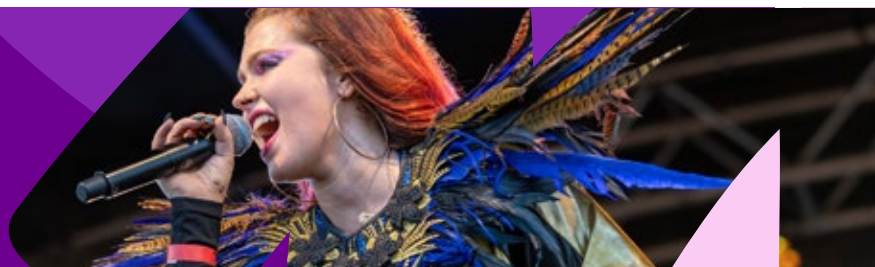
Registrations are now open!




Start by scanning the QR code or visit www.frankstonswimclassic.com.au



IMAGINE Frankston

2025 Event Season



<p>Blessing of the Waters</p> <p>Monday 6 January Frankston Waterfront</p>	<p>Allure Market – Frankston</p> <p>Friday 24 January 5–9pm Frankston Waterfront</p>	<p>Little Beauty Twilight Market</p> <p>Saturday 25 January 3–8pm Beauty Park, Frankston</p>	<p>Carlsberg Beach Club</p> <p>Friday 31 January–Sunday 30 March 2–10pm (Friday to Sunday) Frankston Waterfront</p>	<p>Waterfront Festival</p> <p>Friday 7 February, 5–10pm Saturday 8 February 12–10pm Frankston Waterfront</p>
<p>Frankston Swim Classic</p> <p>Saturday 8 February 8.30am–12pm Frankston Waterfront</p>	<p>Little Beauty Market</p> <p>4th Saturday of month February–April. 9am–2pm Beauty Park, Frankston</p>	<p>Frankston's Street Art Festival</p> <p>Monday 17–Sunday 23 March Frankston City Centre</p>	<p>The Block Party</p> <p>Saturday 22 March Frankston City Centre</p>	
<p>Australian Sand Sculpting Championships</p> <p>Saturday 5–Sunday 27 April Frankston Waterfront</p>		<p>Mayor's Party in the Park</p> <p>Sunday 13 April 10am–2pm Cruden Farm, Langwarrin</p>		<p>South Side Festival</p> <p>Thursday 8–Sunday 18 May Various locations</p>



Event dates and times correct at time of printing and subject to change without notice. Check imaginefrankston.com.au for programming details, entry fees and event times.

1300 322 322
imaginefrankston.com.au



Cut me out and put me on the fridge 



Frankston City Libraries



The Frankston Giving Tree 2024

Frankston City Council, along with local charities Frankston Life Community and Community Support Frankston, encourages residents to donate non-perishable food items and toys to the Frankston City Libraries Christmas Giving Tree.

Acceptable food items include canned fruits and vegetables, cereals, pasta, rice, biscuits, and pre-cooked desserts like puddings and mince pies (no alcohol, please). These donations will help local families in need through hampers distributed at the Frankston Life Community Christmas Lunch.

For toy donations, we welcome brand-new gifts suitable for all ages, including books and colouring supplies. Used items cannot be accepted.

Community Support Frankston also provides emergency services and accepts monetary donations, which are tax-deductible and fully used to assist those in need. Details of this can be found on the library website.

Donations will be accepted from Friday 22 November to Friday 20 December at Frankston City Libraries, Carrum Downs, and Seaford Libraries.



Christmas at Frankston City Libraries!

Various days and locations
FREE

We are well and truly in the Christmas spirit at Frankston City Libraries! Drop into any branch and you can write and send a letter to Santa! Make sure you post them in our specially marked letter boxes or chutes, by Tuesday 10 December, to ensure Santa has time to write and send a reply.

We will also be welcoming a visit from Santa to the following storytimes:

Seaford Preschool Storytime	Frankston Tiny Tots Storytime	Carrum Downs Tiny Tots Storytime
Tuesday 10 December 9.30am	Friday 13 December 10.30am	Friday 13 December 11.30am

Plus! we've been chatting to the elves and we have exciting news to share... Santa is taking some extra time from his busy schedule to join us for a very special dedicated Christmas Storytime celebration!

Join us at Frankston Arts Centre at 10am on Friday 20 December for a very special Storytime filled with singing, dancing, laughing, and Christmas stories for children of all ages. No need to book, just come along.



The Big Summer Read is back!

1 December–31 January
FREE

The Big Summer Read aims to arrest the 'summer slide' by engaging children and their families in a fun and dynamic way to keep up their reading throughout the holidays. Statewide and local prizes provide kids with an added incentive. This year there are some famous children's authors getting in on the fun, as well as brand new swap cards to collect, and events to attend! All the details of how to register and the prizes up for grabs are available on our website.



Don't miss a thing at Frankston City Libraries in 2025

Join our enewletter to get all the latest on events, workshops, meeting groups and of course, all the latest book releases and recommendations!

Sign up to receive information about when to register for free events, including:

- Valentine's Day Poetry Workshop
- FrankTALK with Sarah Willoughby discussing her book "Infertility Saved My Life"
- FrankTALK with Daizy Maan on "Growing Up Indian in Australia"
- The return of our Chatty Café groups in Frankston and Seaford
- Craft Connections
- Storytimes
- Family History Club & Local History Chats
- Kids Creators Club

Explore these activities and much more at Frankston City Libraries!



School holidays at Frankston City Libraries

Monday 6 January–Sunday 19 January
Various times & locations
FREE

Make sure you are signed up to receive our Children's Events eNews, so you don't miss all the fun of these summer holiday activities! We have magic shows, comedy workshops, creative writing sessions, National Gallery of Victoria art packs and workshops, movies and more! Events will open for registration mid-December, so use the QR Code to sign up to receive the program directly to your inbox.

FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE



PLOS: School of Rock

**Tuesday 31 December
–Saturday 11 January**

PLOS Musical Productions (Catch Me if You Can, Strictly Ballroom, & The Boy From Oz) proudly presents this high energy musical sensation that will rock Frankston.

Musical



Music

Meg Washington: The Hook Tour

**Friday 20 December 7.30pm
@ Cube 37**



Comedy

Secret Headliner: A Big Night of Comedy

**Tuesday 14 January 7.30pm
@ FAC Function Centre**



Operation Ouch Live: Jurassic Fart

**Wednesday 15 January
1pm and 4pm**

Your favourite TV doctors return with a brand-new show! Join the twins on a dino-mite adventure to unearth the most dangerous, most powerful, most important fart in history—the Jurassic Fart!

Kids



Music

Tim Rogers

Friday 20 December 8pm



Music

John Waters: Radio Luxembourg

Saturday 1 February 8.00pm



David Hobson: Hear Me Now

**Friday 7 February
10.30am and 1.30pm**

Experience an unforgettable journey through the world's most beloved melodies at this Daytime Music + Theatre concert starring the extraordinary David Hobson.

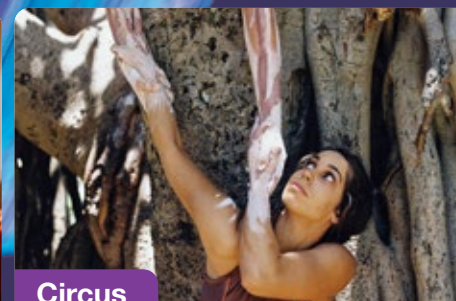
Music



Music

Ash Grunwald

Friday 7 February 7.30pm



Circus

Arterial

Friday 14 February 7.30pm



Cash: A Journey Through The American Recordings

**Thursday 16 January
8pm**

Following a sell-out Melbourne season, Australian country outlaw Henry Wagons tours this hit show celebrating the music of Johnny Cash to Frankston.

Music



Magic

Cosentino: Decennium 'The Greatest Hits Tour'

Sunday 16 February 6pm



Music

Dancing In The Shadows of Motown

Friday 21 February 8.00pm

Business Grants update

The 2024–2025 Frankston City Business Grants wrapped up in September with Stage 2 applications currently being assessed by an independent panel.

Council received the most amount of Stage 1 applications since the program’s inception in 2012 with 75 businesses applying. Of those, there were 43 Stage 2 applications, which are now being assessed. The grant program offered businesses between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to expand, relocate or start a new business in Frankston City in a commercial space. We look forward to announcing the successful grant recipients early next year.



Façade Improvement Grants: applications opening soon

The Frankston City Façade Improvement Grants are back this February!

Targeting businesses throughout the city that need a fresh new look, the Façade Grants are open to owner / operators of commercial shopfronts and aim to improve the amenity and attractiveness of our Frankston City streets.

With a funding pool of \$100,000 and between \$5,000 and \$15,000 per application up for grabs, a Façade Improvement Grant could help attract more customers to a business or area or a new tenant to a Frankston City shop.

Whether it’s a fresh coat of paint, new signage, lighting to support night-time trading, servery windows or bi-fold doors or another idea to help spruce up a shopfront façade, businesses can soon apply. The grants are open to all businesses with a shopfront in the Frankston City municipality, including those outside the city centre in shopping strips or industrial estates, if eligible in accordance with guidelines.

For more details, visit frankston.vic.gov.au/facadegrants. Guidelines coming soon.



Ashleigh from The Promo Donna

Annual Business Survey results

Council’s Annual Business Survey went out during September, with the results helping us to ensure the programs, services and supports we provide are relevant and reflect the needs of our local business community.

The survey received 102 responses from a range of industries including retail, trades, construction, manufacturing, services and hospitality. Of the respondents, 14 were home-based businesses keen to expand into a commercial space. There were also 25 businesses interested in learning more about becoming a social enterprise or Certified B-Corp. Remember, local businesses can provide feedback to Council at any time, just reach out to our Economic Development Team at business@frankston.vic.gov.au

Looking to grow your business?

Whether you are starting or growing your business, looking for resources and grants, keen to join our Business Directory or Business eNewsletter, attend or list an event, discover how your business could be a part of Frankston City’s transformation, or you just want to have a chat about your business ideas, this is where you go! Visit frankston.vic.gov.au/business



List your business FREE in our new local directory!

Council’s new Frankston City Business Directory has more than 150 local businesses listed!

The directory allows local Frankston City businesses (registered or located in) to list and promote their businesses for FREE! Whether you are looking to book a local business, trade or service or you are a business keen to get listed for free, this directory is what you need to shop and sell local.

Designed to help support, connect and promote local businesses within the Frankston City municipality, the directory is a trusted source for residents and other businesses to find local trades, retailers, services and home-based businesses. The directory helps to keep spending local and provides free advertising for our hard-working Frankston City businesses. Visit frankston.vic.gov.au/businessdirectory



Our play spaces just keep getting better and better!

It's been another busy year of play space upgrades, with hundreds of children and their families enjoying so many new features — from engaging equipment and nature play opportunities, to picnic and BBQ facilities, shade, and landscaping — at several reserves across Frankston City.

The upgrades are part of Council's Play Strategy 2021, which outlines priorities and a range of service levels for play spaces across the municipality, guiding the features and facilities to be included in each space.

Since January 2024, we've completed five play space upgrades: Kareela Reserve (Frankston), Whistlestop Reserve (Frankston), Austin Reserve (Seaford) and Willow Park (Frankston) and Ballam Park (Frankston). And at Lavender Hills (Carrum Downs) and Pratt Reserves (Frankston) we added new multi-sports courts for basketball, netball, and handball.

As the year draws to a close, we're:

- ▶ putting the finishing touches on amenity improvements at Lindrum Reserve (Frankston) by adding seating, garden beds, nesting boxes, trees, new concrete paths, a new drinking fountain and creating a boulder barrier along Lindrum Road
- ▶ upgrading the play spaces at East Seaford Reserve (Seaford) and Monique Reserve (Langwarrin) with new equipment, landscaping, seating, and nature play
- ▶ preparing to kick off the play space and other park upgrades (including public toilets) at Sandfield Reserve (Carrum Downs) as part of the Sandfield Reserve precinct revitalisation.



Have your say on these play spaces

We're seeking your feedback on proposed upgrades to two of our local play spaces across Frankston City during November and early December.

The upgrades are part of Council's Play Strategy 2021, which outlines priorities and a range of service levels for play spaces across the municipality, guiding the features and facilities to be included in each space.

Until **Sunday 15 December**, you can view the concept design and provide your feedback for for Athol Court Reserve (Langwarrin) and Gamble Reserve (Carrum Downs) by visiting engage.frankston.vic.gov.au/lets-play

Frankston Youth Services school holiday fun

Frankston Youth Services' school holiday calendar is jam-packed full of fun and engaging activities such as cultural programs, fitness fun, opportunities for training and skill development, LGBTIQA+ community connections and plenty more — all as low-cost as possible or FREE!

Young people from ages 12–24, from all over the municipality, can come together to enjoy spending time with friends and making new connections. Bookings are essential, as these activities fill up fast! If your preferred event is booked out, we encourage people to register anyway as you'll be added to our waiting list.

Book now frankston.vic.gov.au/frankstonyouthservices

Follow **@FrankstonYouthService** on Facebook or Instagram to see when bookings are available and find the most up-to-date information on Frankston Youth Services activities.



© The recent Youth Services Open Day

Downs Community Farm offering grows



Renowned whip and saddle-maker Harry Down would be impressed to see how his old farmland at Seaford – now named Downs Community Farm – continues to be used to support a range of community activities with a sustainability focus.

The latest addition to the farm is a new multi-purpose, environmentally sustainable modular building to be used for small-scale, accessible activities and projects like creative arts, crafts, music and more. The building will add a vibrant new dimension to the farm's nature-based activities and community garden.

Council partnered with the Victorian Government to deliver the project and celebrated the opening with Member for Carrum Sonya Kilkenny MP. Visit the Downs Community Farm website downscommunityfarm.org

Community gardens are a shared space where people come together to grow their own fruit and vegetables and learn about gardening. They offer a practical and long-term strategy towards achieving food security and increase local access to fresh fruit and vegetables. Visit the Council website to find your local community garden.

More to come at Sandfield Reserve!

Remaining improvements as part of Sandfield Reserve Precinct Revitalisation Project will kick off in early January.

By August 2025, Carrum Downs locals and visitors will be able to enjoy:

- an upgraded play space for senior and junior play with increased accessibility including water play, swings, a basket swing, fencing and landscaping, more shade, nature play
- public toilets near the play space, pathways, path lighting, multi-use kick-

about space, outdoor fitness equipment, circuits for low impact (walking) and high impact (running) exercise, a picnic shelter and BBQ, and more trees and plants.

We're also upgrading the drainage around the reserve. The remaining upgrades follow the completion of the new youth space earlier this year. The \$4 million revitalisation is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian and Australian Governments and follows several rounds of community engagement. Find out more frankston.vic.gov.au/sandfieldrevitalisation



Planning for floods and coastal hazards

Council is working with Melbourne Water and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to plan for the future, and minimise the risk to people, property and infrastructure.

We've prepared a map to show flooding and coastal hazards our community has already reported to Council. We're asking you to add any other locations where you've experienced flooding (including inland areas), cliff instability, erosion or inundation (from storm surge or unusually high tides). With up-to-date information on the extent of flooding and coastal hazards, we can better plan and manage risks, and build the resilience of our City. Share your knowledge and experiences by midnight 15 December here by scanning the QR code.





The results are in: Melbourne Biodiversity Blitz 2024

This September, Frankston City Council joined forces with neighbouring councils to celebrate Biodiversity Month by hosting the Melbourne Biodiversity Blitz 2024!

This fun, friendly competition encouraged locals to become citizen scientists, using the iNaturalist app to record and share sightings of flora and fauna in their communities. Frankston City made an impressive showing, placing second for both 'total observations' and 'total species' recorded, and fifth in the 'Total Observers' category among the 14 competing councils.

Here are the stats:

- 5,688 observations
- 1,400 species
- 180 observers

By participating in initiatives like this, residents not only help document and showcase our diverse local biodiversity but also contribute valuable data for scientific research. Curious to join in next time or learn more about iNaturalist? Visit the 2024 project page and have a look at all the fascinating photos critters and plants captured near you, scan the QR code.



Seaford Beach Patrol sustainability award finalist

Congratulations to Seaford Beach Patrol, who were a litter finalist in the Keep Australia Beautiful 2024 Tidy Cities Sustainability Awards!

Seaford Beach Patrol was nominated in recognition of their fantastic Plastic Pellet Project: Nurdle Anymore! The initiative is a citizen science project tackling nurdle pollution at Seaford Beach through

creative awareness campaigns, meticulous beach audits using standardised methods, and persistent advocacy for stricter regulations on plastic pellet handling. Nurdles are usually less than five millimetres in size, used in the manufacturing of various plastic products. Billions of these nurdles end up in the environment each year. For more information, scan the QR code.



Watch out for wildlife while driving

Our 'Koala Activity: Drive Carefully' signs have returned to roads in Langwarrin and Frankston South.

Frankston City Council, in partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire and Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation, runs this annual campaign from September to April. The temporary signs highlight koala hotspots during breeding season (spring and summer), when koala activity increases alongside holiday traffic, leading to more roadkill.

With help from Animalia, a wildlife rescue organization, Council identified high-risk locations for the signs. Now in its third season, the campaign



has been well-received by the community and has contributed to a reduction in koala roadkill across the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston.

For more information on koalas on the peninsula visit mpkoalas.org.au

Microbats: our natural pest controllers

FUN FACT: Microbats can weigh as little as 3 grams but fly up to 80km in one night!

Microbats are small, insect-eating bats that play a vital role in Frankston's urban ecosystem.

In September, as part of Biodiversity month, Frankston City Council hosted a webinar for more than 100 people who tuned in to hear Dr Lindy Lumsden, a Principal Research Scientist with the Arther Rylah Institute, share her 40 years of ecological research on microbats. These tiny creatures, often no bigger than a human thumb, consume thousands of insects every night, including mosquitoes, making them natural pest controllers.

Despite their benefits, microbats face challenges in urban



environments due to habitat loss from tree removal, development and light pollution.

Our parks and home gardens offer crucial refuges for these nocturnal hunters. Simple actions like installing bat boxes or planting native vegetation can help create safe habitats for microbats. Reducing artificial lighting, especially during the Christmas festive season, allows them to thrive. By supporting microbats, we not only protect a key species but also promote a healthier, more balanced urban environment.



Keep an eye out for snakes this summer

With summer here, snakes become more active, drawn to food sources like frogs, mice, and small lizards.

To minimise the risk of snakes entering your property, keep your yard tidy by clearing debris, long grass, and wood piles where snakes might shelter. This reduces their attraction to your living space. When walking in bushland, stick to trails, wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and carry a snake bandage for safety. If you encounter a snake, remain calm and stand still to allow it to move away. Never approach, threaten, or attempt to handle a snake, as most bites occur when people try to remove them. Alert others nearby to the snake's presence. In high use areas such as playgrounds report sightings to Customer Service on 1300 322 322.

Snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975, and only a licensed handler can remove them for public safety. If you spot a snake on your property, keep your distance and contact a licensed snake handler immediately. Ensure someone watches the snake while the handler is called. It's important to remember that snakes play an essential role in the ecosystem, both as predators and prey, and their presence indicates healthy bushland. We can coexist with snakes by understanding their behaviour, staying vigilant, and respecting their space. For more information on living with snakes in Victoria, visit wildlife.vic.gov.au



Preserving our coastal dune system

Native coastal vegetation plays a key role in stabilising sand dunes, preventing wind erosion, and trapping sand, helping the dunes grow. It also provides food and shelter for native animals and migratory birds. Frankston City is the proud steward of some of the most extensive and intact areas of Coastal Banksia Woodland left on Port Phillip Bay, a vegetation type comprising of iconic species such as Coastal banksia, Coastal tea tree and She-oaks growing amongst herbs, terrestrial orchids and other wildflowers.

When damaged by environmental vandalism — such as cutting trees, breaking branches, lighting fires or walking off designated tracks — the vegetation's ability to protect the landscape is

compromised. This can lead to gaps in the dunes, making them more vulnerable to erosion, threatening nearby properties and infrastructure.

Council officers and community groups work tirelessly to keep beaches clear of rubbish, remove weeds and revegetate the dune system. To help protect these critical areas, stick to designated beach tracks, avoid walking and sitting on dunes, and consider planting indigenous coastal vegetation if you live nearby. Council officers respond to reports of illegal clearing and fines may be issued. If you see any suspicious clearing of vegetation in our coastal or inland reserves, please contact Frankston City Council Customer Service on **1300 322 322**.

School holiday Ranger Program

**Keast Park, Seaford,
Wednesday 22 January**

Join us in January for our popular School Holiday Ranger Program!

The kids can explore Seaford's Foreshore to learn more about our native flora and fauna, the value of biodiversity conservation, how to help care for our coastal dunes and ways to keep our beaches clean.

Our summer program includes three sessions run in a day: kids aged up to 7 at 10am, aged 8–12 at 11:30 am and a mixed aged group at 1pm. All sessions are one hour. Adult attendance is required. Spaces are limited to 15 participants per session and must be booked in advance. Scan the QR code to book.





Jai Crawley and Madeline Boyle



Bullseye for Frankston City

After just missing spots in the Australian Olympic team to Paris, champion archers and Frankston City locals Jai Crawley and Madeline Boyle have their sights set on the 2028 games in Los Angeles.

At just 19, Jai's a seasoned competitor and has been on the international circuit competing in the men's division since he was 16. We love that he was inspired to take up the sport at the age of 11 after watching the TV show Arrow (who doesn't need a superhero role model?!).

He was one of three Aussie men who made it to the final Olympic qualifying round for archery in Turkey recently. He tells us he lives and breathes the sport, and we fully expect to see this champ up on the winners' podium in LA. We know the biggest cheers will be coming from his family, and friends, including those at the Frankston Archery Club where he hones his skills!

Fellow club member, 24-year-old

Madeline discovered her love for the sport in 2012 when she took up compound archery (an assisted style that requires extreme precision). She then moved onto Olympic recurve archery (the traditional style we see at the Olympics). Before this she was a state level cricketer, but injuries forced her to look at other sports. Lucky for us, her dad suggested archery, and she hasn't looked back!

When she's not training, you can find her whipping up a storm in the kitchen at one of our fave local cafes, Down the Street in Foot Street.

Both Jai and Madeline agree that it takes a lot of discipline to get to this level in archery but say that anyone can give the sport a go (Madeline was on crutches when she started). They've both travelled Australia and the world doing what they love and can't wait to do more.

If you want to try to follow in Madeline and Jai's footsteps, contact Frankston Archery Club for a come and try session frankstonarcheryclub.com.au



Oval upgrade opens door for more sport and event opportunities at Frankston Park

What do Aussie rules, soccer and rugby have in common? They'll soon all be able to be played at one of our largest and most popular ovals, Frankston Park!

The oval is having a major facelift as part of Council's sportsground renewal program, including replacing old and outdated irrigation and drainage, surface updates to include partial hybrid turf and new infrastructure — to take Frankston Park (also known as Kinetic Stadium) from an Aussie rules oval to an elite multi-purpose facility.

Works kicked off in late October and are expected to be finished by April, in time for Frankston Football Club to kick off their 2025 season. This is the best time for us to re-turf the oval so that the grass can grow in the warmer months and knit together for the best ground coverage.

If you want to check out the Frankston Footy Club during the pre-season, you'll find them training at Belvedere Park, Seaford, which will also host the Frankston Gift in 2025.

Gearing up to provide more safe riding opportunities for bike riders

Council has prioritised several key bike riding path connections following input from the community. The paths include:

- ▶ Baxter Trail to Beauty Park via Clarendon Street and Hastings Road
- ▶ Fletcher Road between Dandenong Road East and Playne Street/Baxter Trail
- ▶ Towerhill Road from Frankston-Flinders Road to the end of Delacombe Park

The projects were identified by the community during two rounds of engagement in 2023

and 2024 to inform Council's new Bike Riding Strategy 2024–2039. The strategy includes a range of actions, including advocating to the State Government for more bike riding facilities at train stations and safe riding infrastructure on major roads, investigations to improve access from key residential areas to the bicycle network, road safety audits at locations on council streets with more than one bike crash, and more. Find out more by scanning the QR code.





Join the home compost revolution

Are you looking for an easy way to reduce waste and save money while helping the environment?

Frankston City Council's Home Compost Rebate Program is now live, offering up to 70 per cent off composting products. Composting transforms waste into nutrient-rich soil, cutting waste in half, saving money, and reducing carbon footprints. Homeowners and renters can receive up to two rebates per household annually. To join and start your composting journey, visit frankston.vic.gov.au/homecompost



You are our kerbside waste heroes!

We are seeing a growing number of residents pop their food scraps into their Food Organics Green Organics (FOGO) lime green lidded bins since we launched the FOGO collection service in 2019.

Food scraps found in the red lidded bins have reduced by almost 40 per cent in the past two

years alone, indicating more and more locals are choosing to divert waste from landfill to help create compost for Victorian farmers. Our collection centre has also reported a reduction in mixed recycle, or yellow lidded bin, contamination and solid take-up of the new purple lidded glass recycling service. Well done to everyone for an incredible effort!

Collection Calendar 2025

Your Mixed Recycling Bin and your Food and Garden Waste bin will be collected fortnightly on alternate weeks on the same day as your general waste bin. Your Glass Recycling Bin will be collected every 4 weeks on the same day as your general waste bin.

Tick your colour.

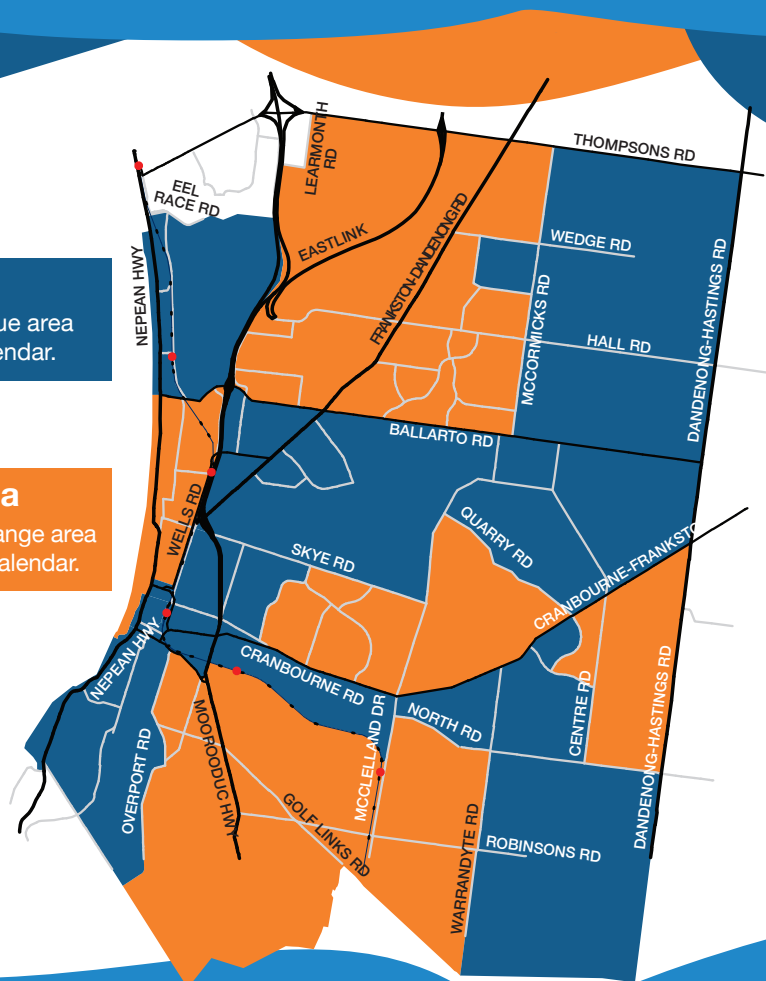


Blue area

If you live in a blue area use the blue calendar.

Orange area

If you live in an orange area use the orange calendar.



Month	Day	Bin Type
JANUARY 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
	2	Food and Garden Waste Bin
	3	Food and Garden Waste Bin
	4	Food and Garden Waste Bin
	5	Recycling Bin
	6	Recycling Bin
	7	Recycling Bin
	8	Recycling Bin
	9	Recycling Bin
	10	Recycling Bin
	11	Recycling Bin
	12	Recycling Bin
	13	Food and Garden Waste Bin
	14	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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	16	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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FEBRUARY 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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MARCH 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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APRIL 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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JUNE 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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AUGUST 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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SEPTEMBER 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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OCTOBER 2025	1	Food and Garden Waste Bin
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NOTE: Blue area recycling collection dates also apply to Frankston's city centre. Collections will take place on public holidays. Enquiries: 9775 1909