

EDITION 88, TERM 1 2026

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northerlyaspects

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OUR COVER: Don't Forget My Pet volunteer and Corio resident Mel provides foster care for pets whose owners are unable to care for them, including Poppy. SEE PAGE 5 for details.

Editor's note



Welcome to the Term 1 edition of Northerly Aspects. I hope you find that it contains a good range of information about what's happening in Geelong's north, and information about opportunities for you to get involved.

For many people, the new year signals change, big and small. This might be the year your youngest child or grandchild heads off to school; you might be working less; you might have decided it's time to try something new. Whatever your situation, I hope you find something in this edition that sparks some interest.

We are delighted to have input from Victoria Police in this edition with some good advice to help you avoid being a victim of crime. We hope to be working more closely with Police to be able to provide current information.

As usual, we have input from our sponsors, whose support we rely on to remain sustainable. We also have information about what's happening at the Neighbourhood Houses in the areas, including details of a state-wide campaign asking for more resources for the community centres.

I hope you have a healthy and positive start to 2026.

Jeanette

Jeanette Anderson, editor, on behalf of the Northerly Aspects Editorial Committee.

Northerly Aspects is published quarterly by a voluntary editorial committee comprising community workers and representatives from Cloverdale, Rosewall and Norlane neighbourhood houses, who employ a part-time editor. Each issue is dependent on income from advertising and sponsorship.

If you would like input into Northerly Aspects, call 5275-4415 or email info@northerlyaspects.org.au. Northerly Aspects also has a website – you'll find us at www.northerlyaspects.org.au



Drivers in the north can help learners

Geelong's L2P Program is on the hunt for fully licensed drivers aged over 21 to volunteer to support young learner drivers as they work towards achieving their P plates.

The program has a volunteer shortfall from Corio, Norlane, Lara and North Geelong, meaning local learner drivers are waiting up to six months longer than those in other suburbs to gain experience behind the wheel.

Volunteer mentors are integral to supporting young people to drive safely and achieve their P plates when they don't have access to a supervising driver or vehicle. Driver mentors receive a full day of training from the Department of Transport and Planning.

In 2024-25, 110 volunteers across Greater Geelong contributed to 76 drivers passing their probationary licence test. A total of 621 local drivers have become P-platers in the program's 16 years of operation.



Mentor Sylvia Brown is supporting learner driver Adut Piu.

Driver mentor Sylvia Brown said she became a mentor in a time in her life where she needed to have purpose again.

"That has definitely happened. Like in most things, when you invest your time and efforts into something you believe in, the rewards are tenfold," Sylvia said.

"I have always enjoyed spending time with youth but being able to help them in a more

tangible way and see the benefits of their learning and the development of their skills in driving is so rewarding.

"It's easy to fit into your life but you do need to be committed to allowing enough time for a drive session each week and to see a young person through to the achievement of their licence."

The L2P program is funded by the TAC, administered by DTP, and coordinated by the City of Greater Geelong. Community Bank – Lara District proudly sponsors our two vehicles in Corio.

To express interest in volunteering for the program, email L2P@geelongcity.vic.gov.au.

Interim recycling site opens in North Geelong

The City of Greater Geelong has opened a new interim recycling site in North Geelong to support residents while the Geelong Resource Recovery Centre (GRRC) undergoes redevelopment.

Located at 21 Slevin Street, North Geelong, the site has been established in partnership with GDP Industries and is now operational.

As a smaller, short-term facility, the site will accept the most common types of free drop-off recyclables including:

- cardboard
- polystyrene
- e-waste
- gas bottles
- car and truck batteries

These materials were selected based on their

high volume at the former GRRC and their compliance with EPA regulations.

The interim facility is open daily from 8:00am to 4:15pm and is available for Greater Geelong residents only. It will not accept commercial quantities of waste.

Greater Geelong Mayor Stretch Kontelj OAM said the interim site will help maintain vital recycling services for the community.

"While we work towards a new and improved resource recovery centre, this temporary facility will make sure residents can continue recycling key items safely and responsibly," Mayor Kontelj said.

Environment and Circular Economy portfolio chair Councillor Elise Wilkinson thanked the community for their patience while the

interim site was being established.

"This service will be a helpful option for residents until the main recycling centre at Douro Street is rebuilt," Cr Wilkinson said.

"We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work to rebuild the centre."


The original GRRC site at 100 Douro Street, North Geelong was closed in March 2025 due to safety concerns related to structural issues. It will be demolished and redeveloped to create a new, modern resource recovery facility.

For more information visit: <https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/recycling/article/item/8ddf5339f3d1d92.aspx>

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www.djerriwarrh.org.au/parent-pathways 



Animal lovers with real impact

A Geelong region charity that helps people keep their pets in times of need is having a positive impact. Don't Forget My Pet founder Alysha said the charity believes that no one should have to choose between caring for themselves and caring for their beloved pet.

Since March 2024 it has provided 30,020 pet meals, helped with veterinary care for 26 pets and companion animals in its care, provided safety net fostering and in home services for 40 people and their 51 pets, and diverted 4.8 tonnes of pet food from landfill.

"Our services provide practical, compassionate support to help keep people and their animals together, even through life's toughest moments," Alysha said.

One of the organisation's volunteers is Corio resident Mel, who Alysha describes as "a bright, compassionate soul whose kindness and commitment have touched countless lives, both human and furry".

Mel first reached out to Don't Forget My Pet in April 2024 when she needed help with a family pet, Teddy, after life had thrown some unimaginable challenges her family's way. Alysha didn't just offer food for Teddy; she offered hope.

Alysha walked alongside Mel and her daughter every step of the way, providing

training support, emotional support, and reassuring them that they weren't alone.

Mel saw first-hand what Don't Forget My Pet stood for - genuine, personal care for both people and their pets - and she knew she had to be part of it. Not long after, the team needed safety-net foster care for a 17-year-old cat, Sebastian, whose owner was moving into aged care.

"Mel was the perfect person to offer safety-net foster care - calm, patient, and deeply compassionate," Alysha said. "When Sebastian came into care, he was frail, underweight, and missing his mum terribly. But with Mel's love, care, and gentle persistence, he began to recover.

"Today, Mel is one of the most instrumental people in the organisation. She designs and creates uniforms, attends every event, and is a constant source of positivity and strength during the hard times.

"There are so many ways to get involved, from volunteering or fostering, to donating



Don't Forget My Pet volunteer Barbara, with Sebastian the cat.

pet food or funds to help families and their furry friends stay together during tough times."

To learn more or donate go to www.dontforgetmypet.org.au.

Justice of the Peace service in Corio

Justice of the Peace volunteers are available for weekly sessions at Corio Village. They are volunteers playing an important role in the Justice system and are available to the community.

A Justice of the Peace can help with certifying copies of original documents - you need to take both with you; Statutory Declarations; witness your signature on documents, including affidavits - don't sign

the document before you get there; setting up a Power of Attorney.

The JP service at Corio Village is available from 9.30am until 1pm on Thursdays, near Prouds. It is also available at Corio Police Station from 9.30am until 1pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Additional volunteers are available at Geelong Police Station every Monday to

Saturday from 9.30am until 1pm and Warrn Ponds Shopping Centre, Monday to Friday from 10am until 2pm.

They can also be found out of hours via the Department of Justice website: <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/justice-system/legal-assistance/find-a-justice-of-the-peace-by-appointment>



Police know the back roads too.

Police can be anywhere at anytime, even on the back roads. They're out there to keep you safe. So if you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.
Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



Students excel in national competition

Northern Bay P-12 College celebrated the efforts of the students who took part in the Australian Mathematics Competition in late 2025, recognising their effort, resilience, and commitment to challenging themselves in one of the most respected school-level mathematics contests in the region.

The competition, run by the Australian Mathematics Trust, encourages students across Oceania to engage with problem-solving, reasoning, and creative thinking in mathematics. Northern Bay College students embraced the challenge, with every participant representing the College with determination and pride.

In a standout achievement, seven students earned Distinctions, placing them in the top 20 per cent of participants across Oceania, with two students achieving rankings in the top nine per cent. Their success was highlighted as an outstanding recognition of their talent and hard work, reflecting the strong learning culture at Northern Bay.

The College also acknowledged the dedication of the Mathematics faculty,



whose staff guided and supported students throughout their preparation. Their encouragement helped students at all levels engage positively with mathematics and build confidence in their problem-solving abilities.

"Northern Bay College celebrates this collective achievement, recognising both the students who achieved distinctions and all those who embraced the opportunity to

learn, improve, and represent their school community with pride," College Principal Scott Diamond said.

"This success is a powerful testament to the culture of aspiration and challenge we continue to build for our students, as well as the wonderful work of staff in our extended mathematics programs. We are proud of our students' efforts and look forward to further growth in years to come."

New bus service to help local workers

Real Deal Geelong Alliance is pleased that the State Government has announced that a new seven day a week bus service between Lara Station and the Avalon Airport and employment precinct will be established soon.

The Alliance has been campaigning to see this service established for two years because it is critical that local workers are able to access local work in Geelong. Local workers using public transport to access the precinct have been paying up to \$60 a day in taxi fares to make the connection between Lara and Avalon employment precinct.

More than 400 locals signed the Alliance's petition to the Minister for Transport regarding the issue, including many Lara and northern suburbs residents who were very familiar with the access/cost issue.

"We have raised the issue at local, state and federal government levels and within the community via our Alliance given its critical impact upon workers and potential workers to access employment nearby and reduce the cost of accessing jobs to them," the Alliance's Community Organiser, Sally Fisher said.

"We are very glad to see the State Government respond to our call for better public transport to the site, this will make a big difference for a lot of people and help more people access jobs in Geelong.

"This result shows how our community can win solutions to problems we are facing by advocating together for just outcomes which benefit everyone. Thank you to those who supported our advocacy and the State Government for responding."

Students impact parenting programs

Students in Geelong's north provided important data as part of a Meli project to identify and understand the local needs of young people, in order for them to reach their full potential.

The Communities That Care project followed up the data by going back to a small number of students to hear their thoughts on some of the results.

Communities that Care Project Lead Louise McDonald said that, according to the students, "one of the most important things we should be doing as a community is building stronger relationships and connections within families - offering more opportunities for parents to enhance their skills".

Ms McDonald said parenting programs offer practical tools and emotional support to help families thrive. They teach strategies for positive communication, setting boundaries, and fostering resilience in children.

"Research shows that children raised in supportive environments are more likely to stay in school, build healthy relationships, and avoid risky behaviours," she said. "For parents, these programs boost confidence, reduce stress, and create opportunities to connect with others.

"When parents feel supported, communities grow stronger. Investing in parenting programs means investing in the future. Every parent deserves access to resources that help raise happy, healthy children, creating stronger families and stronger communities." Parenting Education Programs running in Corio in Term 1 include:

Bumps to Bubs: Pre-birth-12 months, bringing together young mothers and mothers-to-be up to age 25 with babies zero to one, in a supportive environment. This enables a relaxed opportunity to build friendships and share in the journey of parenting.

Bubs to Tots: 12 months-two years, offering

support and education to mothers (up to 24 years old) of children one-two years old. Through the use of play, the program informs parents about children's early development and helps them navigate the toddler years.

Circle of Security: Birth-five years, an eight-week program that helps parents build a secure and safe foundation for their children during the early years.

Bookings are essential – use the QR for more information and bookings.



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Welcome to 2026!

Northern Bay P-12 College welcomes all students, staff and families back for 2026!

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Aged Care Act reforms

On November 1, 2025, the Aged Care Act 2024 came into effect, governing the provision of aged care services throughout Australia. The Act was introduced in response to the 2021 Royal Commission into aged care and aims to improve services to older people, not just in aged care settings but also in their home and community settings.

The Act outlines the rights of people who are accessing aged care services and creates clear eligibility requirements that must be met to access services. It includes a statement of rights and principles which aims to ensure the safe care of individuals utilising aged care services.

The Act also aims to increase protections to ensure that residents maintain their autonomy and dignity. At the forefront of the reform is an emphasis to ensure that people have control over their life and are

supported in their decision making.

Under the Act, there is a presumption that people have the ability to make their own decisions. It also places an emphasis on supported decision-making and the need to provide support to older people to help them communicate and make their own decisions surrounding their care and services.

Other changes include a new complaints mechanism through aged care providers and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, together with a new compensation avenue where serious injury or illness occurs as a result from a breach by a provider.

It also places expanded obligations on aged care providers and workers, including clear registration conditions and obligations to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement of care.



If you have questions regarding the Aged Care Act reforms and how this may impact you, we welcome you to contact our office to make an appointment with one of our commercial solicitors.

*This article is general information only and is not legal advice or a substitution for such advice. Always seek professional advice suited to your own circumstances.
Prepared by Emily Ranner.*

Wightons Lawyers

Family Law

Our dedicated Family Law team understand the impact of separation on families and that each matter is unique.

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Contact us on (03) 5221 8777 to arrange an appointment with our Family Law Team. Appointments available at our four offices, as well as by telephone and online.

Geelong 89 Myers Street (03) 5221 8777	Ocean Grove 100 The Terrace (03) 4214 6100	Winchelsea 22 Willis Street (03) 5221 8777	Corio Corio Shopping Centre (03) 5275 3092
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www.wightons.com.au



Surviving the heat

During extreme heat it is easy to become dehydrated or for your body to overheat. If this happens, you may develop heat cramps, heat exhaustion or even heatstroke.

Heatstroke is a medical emergency which can result in permanent damage to your vital organs, or even death, if not treated immediately. Extreme heat can also make existing medical conditions worse.

Prevent heat-related health problems by keeping cool and staying hydrated during hot weather. Plan ahead and check in with others.

Remember: Hot cars kill. Never leave kids, adults or pets in hot cars.

www.health.vic.gov.au/environmental-health/extreme-heat-and-heatwaves
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/how-to-cope-and-stay-safe-in-extreme-heat>

Other languages <https://www.healthtranslations.vic.gov.au/advanced-search?q=extrem>

Allow access for RTA safety checks

A safety check is very important and will keep you safe at home. Checks are completed each on public housing homes year and include the testing of smoke detectors and any gas or electrical installations, appliances, and fittings.

To complete a FREE safety check, our maintenance contractors will need to visit your home.

Maintenance contractors from the department or local housing office staff will contact renters to arrange a suitable time to complete the safety check at your property. Make sure we have the right contact details for you and if your contact details change, please let us know.

If you are not available, our contractors will make another time to visit you and complete

the safety check. If you cannot make the scheduled appointment, please get in touch with your local office to discuss how the check can be completed.

If you are unsure if you need a FREE check, please contact your local housing office. If you need any maintenance or repairs, contact the Housing Call Centre on 13-11-72.

You can also email your repair needs and include photos to support your request: tenant.maintenance@dffh.vic.gov.au

If you speak a language other than English, the Public Housing Language Link can connect you to the housing call centre with an interpreter. For more information, go to <https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/interpreter-services>

Ask Izzy

Many things in life are out of our control, and any of us can face unexpected hardships. So, when you need help, now or in the future, Ask Izzy is here for you.

Ask Izzy is a website that connects people in need with housing, a meal, money help, family violence support, counselling and much more. It is free and anonymous, with thousands of services listed across Australia.

HousingVic online services

Managing your tenancy information has never been easier thanks to HousingVic online services. You can now access your housing services online, anytime, anywhere from your secure MyGov account.

Get started today and join the thousands of Victorian public housing renters who are already saving time using HousingVic Online Services. <https://www.housing.vic.gov.au/online-services>

Direct debit from Centrelink

Do you live in public housing? Did you know you can have your rental payments taken from your fortnightly Centrelink payments automatically?

This is called the Rent Deduction Service. It's free and your payment will always be up to date.

You can also make maintenance and arrears payments this way. If you are not signed up and want to, contact the Geelong office on 1300-360-462.

Having difficulties paying your rent? Contact your Housing Officer as soon as possible and they can help you work out what to do. You can also ask for help from the Tenancy Plus support program that is delivered by Meli.

For more information, call Meli on 5226-8900 or go to <https://www.meli.org.au/housing/tenancy-support/>

And if you're on the Telstra or Vodafone mobile networks, you can access Ask Izzy on your phone even if you don't have credit or access to Wi-Fi. You can head to the website www.askizzy.org.au

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With the ever-changing and developing work of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, we also continue to develop to ensure we are meeting the needs of our clients and the NDIS.

We are still locally based in the northern suburbs, and we always will be. We still have the same owners and team committed to delivering high quality, personalised and unbiased service. You will always still receive the same local support that you have come to know and love.

For more than 65 years, Canny Group has been helping clients from near and far with their finances and with the introduction of our NDIS Plan Management service arm, just over five years ago, we furthered our assistance to NDIS Participants as registered NDIS Plan Managers, to help navigate their way through the Scheme.

Our clients love that we are local and that they can stop into our office at any time and have a chat with us. We are real people on the end of the phone and a real person replying to your email.

We're excited for this new chapter ahead of us, and we hope you are too.

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www.canwill.com.au

Can & Will Plan Management and Navigation is a
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New cost-of-living relief initiatives



Wow, it's hard to believe that we're already in 2026. I hope everyone had an unforgettable holiday season and are enjoying the summer.

As we dive into this new year, I'm excited to share some cost-of-living relief initiatives that started on January 1, designed to make life a little easier for all Victorians.

Free public transport

From January 1, 2026, the State Labor Government is making public transport FREE for all Victorians under 18. This means that families can save up to \$755 per child each year.

Whether it's a weekend adventure to the city, a trip to the beach, or just commuting to school – your trip will be free.

And seniors will also benefit from free public transport. Seniors who hold a Victorian Seniors Card can hop on any public transport for FREE on Saturdays and Sundays.

Whether you're meeting friends for a coffee, exploring a new part of town, or enjoying a leisurely day out, this initiative is aimed at making weekends more enjoyable and accessible.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

No one should miss out on the experiences that make childhood special. The State Labor Government is significantly increasing support through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

This means an increase from \$154 to \$400 for primary school students and from \$256 to \$400 for secondary school students – all starting January 1, 2026.

This funding helps approximately 200,000 kids annually, allowing them to learn, explore, and thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Power Saving Bonus

And don't forget, applications for the State Labor Government's Power Saving Bonus are still open. If you're an eligible concession card holder and haven't yet applied, pop into my office at Corio Village and we can assist you with your application.

Don't forget to bring a copy of your electricity bill, your ID, and your concession card.

Please get in touch if I can help with anything. You can contact me on 5275-3898 or ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au. Or stop past my office at Level 1, Corio Village Shopping Centre, Bacchus Marsh Rd, Corio, 3214.

Ella George

Ella George MP
State Member for Lara

Level 1, Corio Village Shopping Centre,
Bacchus Marsh, Corio.

Phone: 5275-3898
Email: ella.george@parliament.vic.gov.au

Supporting families to feel safe

A new program is supporting people in the Geelong region who are experiencing family violence. Safe at Home aims to help before the situation reaches crisis point.

Family violence is common, but often not spoken about. It's not just physical violence. It can show up as anger, verbal abuse, threats, fear, or controlling behaviours – such as limiting access to money, isolating someone from others, or dictating what they do.

Safe at Home aims to intervene much earlier, to keep people safe and prevent the violence from escalating to a point where homelessness becomes a risk.

"It's important to know the signs of family violence and act early, before it reaches crisis point," said Poppy Bottrell, Team Leader of the program.

"We want people in Geelong and Barwon region to know that if they are experiencing early signs of family violence, Safe at Home can support them in many ways. It's so important to reach out early because help is available."

What makes Safe at Home unique is it's a whole-of-household approach. The program offers up to two years of tailored support, helping each family member set and achieve goals across all areas of life. This includes safety planning, legal, financial and employment assistance, home security upgrades and alternative accommodation if needed.

To find out more or have a confidential chat with a Safe at Home team member, visit www.safeathome.org.au and fill out a contact form, or phone 5246-7599.

Stay informed about refinery

Viva Energy has created an easy way to receive important alerts if there's activity at the Geelong Refinery that might look or sound different to usual, or to provide initial information if a Refinery alarm sounds.

To start receiving alerts, simply email a request to join the Refinery Alert Service to energyhub@vivaenergy.com.au to receive alerts via SMS. Viva Energy will only ask for your mobile number, email address, and suburb. Your information will only be used to keep you informed about the Geelong Refinery.

The safety alarm sirens are tested every Tuesday at 9am. If you hear a siren at any other time and want to find out more, call 1800-651-818.

Please contact my office for any assistance with any State Government matters.

Proudly serving the communities of Anakie, Avalon, Bell Park, Bell Post Hill, Corio, Drumcondra, Hamlyn Heights, Lara, Lovely Banks, Moorabool, Norlane, North Geelong, North Shore, Point Wilson, Rippleside.

Also covering parts of Balliang, Batesford, Little River and Staughton Vale.

Ella George MP Labor Member for Lara

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 5275 3898  @ellageorgemp

 Level 1, Corio Village Shopping Centre,
Cnr Bacchus Marsh Rd & Purnell Rd, Corio, 3214





Happy snappers

Do you have photos of people getting out and about in the Corio Norlane area? Northerly Aspects wants to promote the many positive activities of residents in the area. If you have a photo you'd like considered for the next edition, email it to info@northerlyaspects.org.au. Don't forget to include information about when and where it was taken, and who took it.

Corio Little Athletics Centre is one of 16 local sporting associations being supported by funding from Viva Energy for the next three years.

The sponsorships are a key part of Viva Energy's broader Community Program, which aims to improve access to local services. They also create opportunities for people to participate in sport – helping men, women, and children stay healthy and engaged. SEE Page 32 for more information.



A new Learn to Ride Women's Cycling Program, supported by Local Impact, was launched at the Northern Bay College Family Learning Centre. The program offered migrant women a safe, supportive environment to develop essential riding skills, build confidence, and enjoy the social and physical benefits of cycling.

Its full enrolment reflected the strong demand for accessible, inclusive programs that promote independence and community connection. The end of the program saw each of the women gifted their very own bike, lock and helmet.

Norlane Community Centre hosted its popular Halloween event again in 2025. The community event attracted a large crowd, with families able to participate in a range of free activities.



Attendees at the Cloverdale Community Centre annual general meeting joined together to show support for the Neighbourhood Houses Victoria campaign for better funding.



Northern Bay P-12 College celebrated the Class of 2025 at the Year 12 Graduation Dinner at the Shell Club. The evening brought together students, families, and staff to acknowledge 13 years of learning, growth, and achievement.

Graduates were recognised not only for their academic efforts, but for their resilience, leadership, and contributions to the college community. The event was a memorable milestone marking the beginning of exciting new pathways for the young people, and the College extended its warmest congratulations to all Year 12 students on their accomplishment.



Your guide to free service

The Geelong Medicare Mental Health Centre (formerly known as Geelong Head to Health) offers a welcoming place for adults 18 and over to access free mental health information, services and supports from qualified professionals. We are open every day of the year with extended opening hours. It is free and no appointment, referral or Medicare card is needed.



medicare Mental Health Centre Geelong

health challenges and recovery. Our multidisciplinary team also includes an LGBTQIA+ worker, family worker, first nations worker, alcohol and other drugs clinician and general practitioner.

Whether you're trying to improve your sense of wellbeing, looking for help with something that's bothering you, or help for someone you care about, the Geelong Medicare Mental Health Centre is here for you.

Visit the Geelong Medicare Mental Health Centre for:

- Free mental health and wellbeing support from the moment you walk through the door.
- Advice if you are worried about yourself or someone else.

- Provide immediate support to reduce distress and to navigate through a crisis.
- Help to safely cope with thoughts of suicide.
- In-house assessment, treatment and support.
- Connection with the most appropriate ongoing support that is right for you.

Come in for a confidential chat
Our free service can connect you with a range of mental health professionals, including clinicians and peer support workers with a lived experience of mental

We are located at 8 Station St Norlane and open every day of the year: Monday to Friday, 12pm-9pm and weekends and public holidays 1pm-6pm. You can also call our team on 1800-595-212 or email us at MedicareMHC.Geelong@neaminational.org.au.

If you or someone you care about needs immediate emergency assistance call 000. For 24-hour mental health support call Lifeline on 131-114 or the Barwon Region mental health triage team on 1300-094-187.

Funding needed to keep doors open

Neighbourhood houses in Corio and Norlane are part of a statewide campaign asking the State Government for more money to keep their doors open.

Cloverdale, Norlane and Rosewall community centres have joined Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's call on the State Government to increase annual funding by \$11.7million or risk the closure of 200 neighbourhood houses across Victoria.

"Neighbourhood houses are under unprecedented pressure," Neighbourhood Houses CEO Keir Paterson said.

"Rising costs, growing community demand, and eroded core funding are forcing houses across the state to cut hours, staff, and programs. Years of underfunding has pushed almost half into deficit, leaving them at risk of closure."

Each week, more than 185,000 Victorians access community support and local services through the 400-plus neighbourhood houses in the state.

Many neighbourhood houses and community centres are grappling with increased community need due to cost of living pressures, while having to deal with cost increases themselves.

"Without urgent action, communities risk losing the safe, inclusive spaces thousands of Victorians rely on every week. Our data shows that for every \$1 of ongoing neighbourhood house funding received from the State Government, communities benefit to the tune of \$21.94."

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's analysis shows that additional funding of \$11.7million per year is needed to ensure the sustainability of the sector and continue

delivering for Victorians.

"We know that 94 per cent of neighbourhood house visitors experience improved physical wellbeing and 96 per cent report improved emotional wellbeing as a result of participating. We calculate the overall benefits to the Victoria community at \$922million per year. We are saving the government money, now it's time to save our sector and keep our doors open."

The state peak body is also calling on the state government to fund 25 currently unfunded neighbourhood houses, and commit to 20 new neighbourhood houses in Victoria's outer metro and regional growth areas.

To support the campaign, call at one of the community centres in the area to fill in a postcard to be sent to the State Government.

Reduce your risk of falling victim

The following information was provided by Victoria Police...

Latest statewide police intelligence indicates that as many as 65 per cent of all aggravated burglaries in key hotspots are through unlocked doors or windows. Police implore the community to take simple steps to dramatically reduce the risk of falling victim to a home break-in.

This includes locking doors, internal and external garage doors, windows, gates, sheds, pet doors, skylights and other access point, and your mailbox. Further steps include removing any spare keys hidden outside your home. Do not leave keys in window locks.

Install deadlocks on all external doors and windows. Remember to unlock the deadlock when you are inside, so you can get out if there is a fire. Install a security screen door, monitored alarm system, cameras, and sensor lighting.

A full list of burglary prevention measures can be found on the Victoria Police website: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/preventing-home-burglaries>.

Car thefts:

We know the vast majority of car thefts and break-ins occur through opportunity, so if there's less opportunity for an offender to commit a crime, it's less likely to occur. Offenders tell us that they actively target and seek unlocked vehicles.

There are simple measures people can take to prevent opportunistic thefts. That includes always locking your vehicle, especially at nighttime, even if it's in a secure driveway. Get in the habit of physically checking it's locked even if parking at home or leaving your car for a moment. Always remove items from plain sight.

Even having coins in your console can attract a thief. Too many times we see people lose valuable items like laptops, phones and handbags. If you're a tradie carrying tools – always remove them and bring them inside. Tools are the second most common item stolen from cars.

Car owners are also encouraged to install anti-theft measures such as on-board diagnostic port locks. These devices significantly decrease the effectiveness of key mimicking tools.



A full list of anti-theft measures can be found on the Victoria Police website: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/preventing-motor-vehicle-theft>.

Reporting crime:

- In an emergency, always call Triple Zero (000).
- For non-urgent reports, such as stolen or lost property, call the Police Assistance Line on 131-444 or visit <https://onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au/>.
- To submit anonymous information or suspicious behaviour call Crime Stoppers on 1800-333-000 or file a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au





خوش آمدید ยินดีต้อนรับ
 မဂ္ဂုလာဝိ Salam alaikum
 كامستا Su'āgata hai
 Ha Ler a gay Ma le مرحبا karibu

Welcome to 2026!

Northern Bay P-12 College Family Learning Centre welcomes all families and staff back for 2026!

 5224 9784
  www.nbc.vic.edu.au

Celebrating staff achievements

Northern Bay College acknowledged achievements of two key staff members in late 2025 – one a finalist in a statewide award, the other farewelled after 11 years of service.

Lisa Gray was shortlisted as a Finalist for the 2025 Victorian Education Excellence Awards – Business Manager of the Year.

The College said: "This recognition is a testament to Lisa's outstanding dedication and commitment to the students, staff, and families of Northern Bay College.

"Managing the incredible complexity of a five-campus school is no small feat, and Lisa approaches every challenge with professionalism, care, and unwavering support for our community."

At the end of 2025, Deb Barclay was farewelled after 11 years of dedicated service to the college.

"Deb has had a lasting impact across our entire school community, from her leadership in the NBC Challenge, her commitment on College Council, and her wonderful management of Staughton Vale Outdoor Education Centre, to her support of college-wide programs including the Year 7-8 Scholarships and our ANZAC Day services," the College said.

"Deb's professionalism, unwavering commitment and wonderful connection with our students all leave an enduring legacy. We are so grateful to Deb for all she has given to NBC and we wish her every happiness in the next chapter ahead."



Rent Assist Bond Loan help

If you want to rent privately in Victoria and need assistance with the bond, you may be able to borrow the money for an interest-free bond loan.

Most residential rental providers will ask you to pay a bond before you move in. A bond is a security deposit in case you damage the property.

The bond money is held by the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority. It is returned in full at the end of your lease, unless the residential rental provider is eligible to claim for damages or unpaid rent.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing provides bond assistance based on the actual size of the rented property. These limits are based on metropolitan median

rents for each property size. The loans are for bonds only.

If you need help with moving costs or for rent in advance, you may be eligible for help from the Housing Establishment Fund.

For more information go to <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/housing-establishment-fund>

Singing students draw a crowd

A group of excited students from Northern Bay P-12 College's junior campus travelled to Melbourne to help spread some Christmas cheer in early December.

Their adventure began with a visit to the iconic Myer Christmas Windows, where students were amazed by the magical displays and festive storytelling. They then enjoyed a creative stop at the LEGO Discovery Centre, where everyone had the chance to design and build their own colourful LEGO Christmas decorations to take home.

The highlight of the day came when a crowd gathered in Federation Square to watch the students perform a selection of Christmas carols beside the giant Christmas tree.

The College said: "The children's bright voices and confident smiles filled the space with festive spirit, drawing plenty of applause from the audience. It was a heartwarming moment that showcased the students' talent and teamwork—a truly joyful way to welcome the Christmas season."



Netballers back on court at North Shore

North Shore Football Netball Club's netball section is back on court to prepare for the 2026 Geelong Football Netball Season.

The netball section is working hard to grow its numbers, aiming to return to B Grade and junior competitions this year.

Netball co-ordinator Edwina Wilkens said the club is still working hard to recruit new senior players, and return teams to the junior GFNL competition.

"We've appointed senior coaches for 2026, who have been working to recruit players for B, C, D and E Grade teams," Edwina said. "We've also been acknowledging players who have re-committed for the new season."

The club ran senior trials in the lead up to the Christmas holiday break and is still working to recruit junior players for Under 17, Under 15 and Under 13 Saturday morning teams.

North Shore's home games are played on Saturdays at the courts at Windsor Park in Rose Avenue, Norlane, as well as away games across Geelong and as far away as Colac.

"We welcome anyone looking for an opportunity to play to contact us or come along to training," Edwina said. "It's not too late to get on board for 2026."

The coaches for 2026 are:
B Grade: Rhys Jameson
C Grade: Rhys Jameson
D Grade: Stephen 'Stormy' Winter.
E Grade: To be confirmed.

Training is held at the club's courts on Tuesday and Thursday from 6pm.

For more information contact Edwina Wilkens, phone 0421-653-944.

"Everyone is welcome to join us for our pre-season in 2026 with our final trials for team selections taking place in late February," Edwina said. "Keep an eye on our social media for lots of updates being shared."



Flowers to see and smell

Well, here we are again at the beginning of a new year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and that the new year brings you health, wealth and happiness. I hope you'll spend some of your leisure time in your garden. The sight of colourful flowers will bring a great deal of pleasure to you, your family and even to your neighbours.

Summer brings a different slant on the garden. As your plants start to wilt and dry out in the warmer weather, watering needs to be done on a regular basis. Early morning and late afternoon provide the best results for both your plants and you. Watering in the middle of the day during the heat means wasted water.

Deep watering causes the plant roots to go deeper, giving your plants a better chance of survival and producing better fruit and flowers. Covering sun sensitive plants with shade cloth during the day will also help.

Your pot plants are also at risk during the hot weather because they dry out so quickly. Water daily if possible and add a little seaweed solution at least once a week because the nutrients wash out of the soil with the constant watering.

If the water rolls off the top of the soil or it goes straight down the inside of the pot and

out the bottom, your pot needs soaking to help the soil absorb the water.

Smaller pots may be placed in a bucket with water mixed with wetting agent covering the whole pot. Leave it there until the bubbles stop coming to the surface. This usually means that the soil is moist all the way through. Larger pots can be treated with a dose of wetting agent to achieve the same result.

Now is the time to weed, feed and mulch the garden. Keep weeds under control while they are still small – they are easy to remove, will not seed and spread and the removal of such will not disturb the roots of your plants.

Vegetables need liquid feeds every two weeks – make sure you use the appropriate fertilizer for each type. Mulching saves time in many ways because it prevents weeds from getting established, helps to regulate the temperature of the soil and it also saves on water loss due to evaporation.

February/March is the time to plant your spring flowering bulbs, giving them plenty of time to be established. My favourites are v (both single and double) for their colour and gorgeous perfume, snowflakes which look great in those cool, shaded, moist places in the garden.

I also love hyacinth, which perfumes your house when planted in indoor pots, and freesia with its varied and colourful flowers and delicate fragrance. If you wish to plant tulips, buy pre-chilled bulbs or place them in the refrigerator for about a week before planting them.

Raise your mower blades before hot weather strikes to prevent burn to lawns that have been cut too low. After all, the first impression given by your house is the lawn and gardens in the front yard, so how about some small statues or ornaments? Placed between the plants and shrubs they can make your house more welcoming and colourful.

The next thing on the agenda is getting ready for an autumn display. Have you ever thought of dahlias? They put on a lovely show and are great for cut flowers too. Check if the type you choose will need staking because a strong wind can create havoc with the taller varieties if they are not securely tied up.

Enjoy your garden,

Betty

Friday Try Day at trade site

Cloverdale Community Centre is running drop-in sessions at its trade training site in North Geelong, to give more people the chance to experience the trade site, access wellbeing support and work together on community projects.

With the support of a Strong and Resilient Communities Grant through the Australian Neighbourhood Houses and Centres Association, Cloverdale's Friday Try Day program will run until the end of April. Every Friday session includes a featured activity or guest presenter, such as a steel fabricator or construction industry representative. A group project is also under underway to develop outdoor areas at the site.

Cloverdale Community Centre CEO Liz Bonner said the sessions are inclusive and flexible. Participants can drop-in for part or all of the day and, under supervision, access the equipment. There are also opportunities



to access wellbeing support and find out more about volunteering, as well as pathway to Cloverdale's introduction to trade courses.

Friday Try Day sessions run from 10am until 3pm at 2a Backwell Street, North Geelong. It is within walking distance of North Geelong Railway Station. The cost is \$5 per session.

Low-cost camping at Seagull Paddock

The Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia has been announced as the preferred respondent to the Expressions of Interest process for Seagull Paddock, which was conducted in 2025.

While the EOI process did not specify a requirement that the site be used for low-cost camping, this was overwhelmingly favoured in the responses. The CMCA already has a viable model at numerous RV park locations across Australia where it manages and provides basic sites for fully self-contained RVs and caravans.

The selection of the CMCA presents a significant tourism opportunity for Seagull Paddock, with the prospect of attracting the organisation's 70,000 members to Geelong. The site offers considerable potential, with proximity to Spirit of Tasmania Quay and easy access to Melbourne Road, providing connectivity to major tourist attractions.

Greater Geelong Mayor Stretch Kontelj OAM said this was a significant move towards a major tourism opportunity for the region.

"Seagull Paddock makes sense as a low-cost camping destination with the Spirit of Tasmania just down the road, the Federal Mills precinct minutes away and easy access to a range of tourism experiences via Melbourne Road," Cr Kontelj said.

"I'm very pleased that great strides are being taken towards this idea becoming a reality, and I look forward to progress continuing."



CREATIVE ARTS HEALING

Women's Therapeutic Healing Circles

Location: Cloverdale Community Centre

Day/Time: Tuesdays 12-1pm

Victorian School Terms

Cost: Free!

Would you like to experience connection to other women and heal with art therapy?

Call/SMS Robyn 0427 123 292 & Tanaya 0437 713 736 to secure your spot



Cloverdale Community Centre

167-169 Purnell Road Corio, VIC 3214. Phone: 03 5275 4415

E-mail: info@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au or courses@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au

Web: www.cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au Office Hours: 9am-3:30pm Monday to Friday

Try a new activity or hobby

Cloverdale Community Centre is prepared for another busy term of general interest and hobby classes, starting in the week beginning February 2.

You're invited to join activities and be part of our centre. Call in to book or phone 5275-4415. Ask about a free come-and-try voucher for your first class.

We regularly post new and one-off activities on our Facebook page, so follow Cloverdale Community Centre to receive updates. Weekly programs on offer in Term 1, 2026 are:

ART AND CREATIVE

Art@Cloverdale: Drop in and explore a range of media and techniques in a fun, relaxed and social environment with a professional artist. Wednesdays from February 4, 10am-noon. \$5 per session.

Cloverdale Singers: Weekly community singing that includes folk, gospel, rounds, ballads and part songs. Tuesdays from February 3, 10.30am-noon. \$3 per session.

Ukulele Players: A great musical gathering for those who have a grasp of the basics and want to refine their skills including performing, strumming and chord progressions. Thursdays from February 5, 10am-noon. \$3 per session. Beginner classes are also available (bookings essential). \$3 per class.

Cloverdale Craft and Knitting

Group: Bring your craft or knitting project for a relaxed craft or knitting session. Fridays from February 6, 1pm-3pm. \$2 per session.

North Geelong Community Big

Band: Join in with musicians of varying abilities in a dynamic band experience under band-master Ian Burrowes; from brass to strings, vocals and more. Rehearsal is Thursdays from February 5, 6.30pm-9pm. Gold coin donation.

COOKING

Cooking for Blokes: Facilitated by Support Pathways, this is a socially inclusive space for men to meet, cook and socialise. Mondays at 11am. \$5 per session.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Tai Chi: Learn Tai Chi to reduce stress and improve your balance, strength, flexibility and confidence. Mondays during school term from February 2, 9.30-10.30am. \$5 per session.

Yoga: Invigorate your body and soul in our multi-level class and discover the benefits of yoga. Improve your strength, flexibility and health. Bring your own mat. Mondays from 6.30pm-7.15pm and Tuesdays from 5-6pm. \$5 per session.

Fit and Balanced with Dee Martin:

A gentle introduction to exercise to improve muscle strength, balance and increased mobility. Tuesdays from February 3, 9.30am-10.30am. \$5 per session. Bookings essential.

No Falls with Dee Martin:

No falls-based exercise for balance. Light weights for strength and stability; chair yoga for flexibility and mobility; standing exercises for fall prevention. A fun social exercise class suitable for those wanting to start their fitness journey. Tuesdays from February 3, 10.30am-11.15am. Cost \$5 per session. Bookings essential.



Cloverdale Walking Group: Join with a motivated group of community members for a walk and a chat every Wednesday, 10am. FREE. A second group offering a gentle walking experience on the paths at Cloverdale, is also facilitated.

Gardening: Community gardening at Cloverdale facilitated by Wyld Works Projects. Wednesdays from 10am until noon. FREE.



T.O.W.N Club (Take Off Weight Naturally):

TOWN Club meets at Cloverdale Community Centre every Thursday from 9am-11am. For more information, contact Kylea on 0424-882-449.

LEARN ENGLISH

Conversational English classes:

Provided by Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees. Monday and Friday, 10am until noon. Help improve your English speaking, reading and writing skills. Free.

Enrol for Term 1 courses at Cloverdale

Do you need to learn new skills for work or to update your existing skills for study, work and life? Have you always wanted to try something new or challenge yourself?

Cloverdale Community Centre's pre-accredited courses are delivered under the Learn Local stream of adult education. They are designed to provide a gentle introduction to learning for people who might not have been to school for a long time or didn't have the best school experience.

Learn Local programs require a commitment to attend classes over 8-10 weeks. Some courses are free, others are \$50 to \$115 for the term (depending on eligibility).

Classes don't start until we have a minimum of eight participants, so it's important to let our program staff know if you're interested in any course. Courses will start in the week beginning February 2 – subject to numbers – so bookings are essential. Contact us by phone 5275-4415 or email courses@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au.

Digital Literacy for Adults: Learn the basics of Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint; send and receive emails; learn about being safe online.

Introduction to Digital Photography: Bring your SLR camera or use your phone to learn about the basics of taking better pictures.

Buying and Selling Online: Learn the art of buying and selling online, as a hobby or future business opportunity.

Preparing for Forklift Licence: For anyone preparing for training and testing for a Victorian High Risk Work (Forklift) Licence.

Living and Working in Australia: Improve knowledge of life and culture in Australia, including preparation for the citizenship test.

Tell My Story: Be guided through the process of writing the story of your life.

Introduction to Barista: Hands-on learning about coffee-making and hospitality.

Introduction to Horticulture: A hands-on introduction to horticulture using theory and practical projects.

Introduction to Nursery Operations: Hands-on learning and experience to prepare you for further study or work in the horticulture industry.

Introduction to General Maintenance and Construction: Build new skills that might lead to work or study in carpentry and cabinet-making.

Preparing for Work: Learn about preparing for a job interview and being in the workforce. Activities for personal development, language and creativity.

Introduction To Small Motors: A vocational taster perfect for those interested in working with motors. Hands-on experience with small motors and outdoor equipment, including onsite work experience at our trade training centre.

Introduction To General Maintenance And Construction: Learn woodwork and maintenance techniques, workshop safety, correct tool selection and appropriate workplace conduct while working together to build a tiny home prototype. Hands-on experience at our trade site in North Geelong.



Introduction To Woodwork: An easy introduction to the basics of woodwork, which includes making wooden items. Learn the basics of woodwork, including work safety and tools. Hands-on learning at our North Geelong site. Pathways include carpentry, cabinet-making and general maintenance.

Introduction to Community Services: Learn about different types of community services and roles in the sector, self-care, community development and wellbeing. Pathways include accredited Community Services courses.

Introduction to Creative Industries (Music Production): A taster course for learners wanting to explore work within music industry.

Introduction to Creative Industries (Visual): An introduction course providing hands on experience in creative arts, including pathways to work and further study.



Introduction to Kitchen Operations: Hands-on learning in the Cloverdale kitchen – food preparation, food storage and safety, equipment, hygiene and customer service.

All courses are subject to sufficient numbers – call the centre on 5275-4415 or email courses@cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au

www.cloverdalecommunitycentre.org.au

New spaces ready for use

Happy New Year from Norlane Community Centre. We hope you had a wonderful holiday period.

Construction has been speedily continuing on our extension and community garden space. By the time you receive you read this, it may very well be completed and ready for use. It's been exciting to see it coming together and we cannot wait for the community to be able to access it.

We wrapped up the year with a few events, including Halloween, Summer Solstice and a free Community Lunch on Christmas Day. The Centre enjoys being able to provide these events to our local community and see the enjoyment it brings to all. Please be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for announcements about anything upcoming in 2026.



Term 1 activities and programs at Norlane

CREATIVE

Monday Art Group

Would you like to paint in a friendly and comfortable self-help group? Bring your own materials.

Mondays, 10am-noon. Cost is \$2.

Mosaics

All are welcome and no experience is necessary. Our friendly group is welcoming and happy to share their knowledge with newcomers. BYO materials.

Mondays, 1pm-3pm. Cost is \$5.



Craft group

Come and enjoy afternoon tea and a laugh with a group of talented people of all ages. This group is an opportunity to share your craft ideas or learn something new. Bring your own materials and projects.

Fridays, 1pm-3pm. Cost is \$2.



Friday Art group

Would you like to paint in a friendly and comfortable self-help group? Bring your own materials.

Fridays, 1pm-3pm. Cost is \$2.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Tai Chi for all Abilities

Learn the art of Tai Chi. All ability levels are welcome, whether you are a beginner or have had some previous experience. Wear comfortable clothing and flat shoes.

Tuesdays, 10am-11.30am. Cost is \$3.



SOCIAL

Community Meal

For people living vulnerably or struggling to access a hot meal. All food is prepared, cooked and served by our friendly volunteers. Generously funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. Tuesdays, 1pm start. Free.

OTHER

Tax Help

Tax return got you scratching your head? Need some free assistance and advice? Come and chat with one of our friendly volunteers. Bookings required. Wednesdays 1pm-3pm. Free.

Community Garden

Garden plots are available to hire for \$20 per year. You can grow your own fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs in a self-contained plot, with access whenever you need to for watering and harvesting. And you can always contact our dedicated volunteer Garden Manager for advice.



Norlane Community Centre Membership

\$5 gets you membership for a calendar year (January to December) and currently gets you perks like discounted printing costs, being added to our mailing list for events, voting rights at our Annual General Meeting and an invitation to our yearly Christmas Lunch. Speak to reception to sign up.

Tool pool

Do you need to do your lawns or some repairs but don't have the right tools? Our Tool Pool has lawn mowers, whipper snippers, drills, and a variety of other tools available for hire. Tools can be collected from the Centre between 9am and 12.30pm Monday to Friday, and need to be returned by noon the next day (3pm same day if you hire on a Friday). Cost is \$5 per year to become a Tool Pool Member, and then power tools are \$5 per hire, and hand tools are \$2 per hire.



Food share table

Our food share table is refreshed every Thursday at 1pm by donations from Geelong Foodshare. The fruit, vegetables, bread and pantry items are available to anyone who needs them.



Room hires

Did you know our rooms are available for hire? From small offices for one-to-one interviews and meetings, to medium rooms for classes and information sessions, to our large hall for exercise or events, we have something to suit most occasions. Please contact us to find out more information about our available facilities and their costs.



We also provide photocopying and laminating services (discounted prices are available for Centre members), access to computers, a book and clothing swap, as well as tea and coffee.

And of course, our friendly staff and volunteers are always available to answer any questions you might have or give you a tour of our lovely centre. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Rosewall Community Centre

36 Sharland Rd, Corio VIC 3214. Phone (03) 5275 7409.

E-mail: admin@rosewallinc.org.au

Office Hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday; 9am to 3pm, Friday

Welcome, workshops and events

Rosewall Community Centre is a welcoming and inclusive space where people of all ages and backgrounds can come together to learn, create, and connect.

With a wide range of programs and activities on offer - from cooking and computers to youth groups and creative workshops - there's always something new to try.

Paint Pouring Art Class

Tuesday, February 17, 10am-noon. FREE
Join us for a fun, one-off Paint Pouring Art Workshop delivered by Bunnings at the Rosewall Community Centre. No experience needed - come along, get creative, and enjoy a relaxing morning of art.

Easter Cupcake decorating

Wednesday, April 1, 4pm-6pm. FREE
Bring the family along for some sweet Easter fun at our Easter Cupcake Decorating Workshop. Kids and adults alike will love getting creative as you decorate your own colourful, Easter-themed cupcakes together, a perfect afternoon of family fun.

Recycled Detergent making

Saturday, March 14, 11am-1pm with Clean Earth Essentials. FREE
Join us for a free Recycled Detergent Making Workshop with Clean Earth Essentials at the Rosewall Community Centre. Learn how to create your own eco-friendly detergent using simple, sustainable ingredients, an

interesting and practical way to help the planet and your pocket!

Have your say

We are busy planning for our courses and workshops for the year and we love to run interesting and unique events and workshops at Rosewall. Drop in, phone us, or reach out via email or socials to tell us what programs or events you would like to see this year.

Courses at Rosewall in Term 1

CREATIVE

Pottery Fundamentals

Mondays, 10am to noon. Whether you are new to pottery or need a refresher on the basics, this class will focus on a different hand building technique each week. Some materials included. \$190 (\$170 concession) for a 6-week course.

Pottery Wheel Throwing

Tuesday evenings, 6pm to 8pm; Wednesdays, 1pm to 3pm; Wednesday evenings, 6pm to 8pm. Take your pottery skills to the next level. Designed for beginners as well as those who want a little more help throwing. Materials supplied. \$190 (\$170 concession) for a 6-week course.

Pottery for the Passionate

Mondays, 1pm to 4pm; Thursdays, 6pm to 8.30pm. For those who know the basics and want to learn more, join us to make beautiful ceramic creations with an experienced tutor. Some materials included.

Learners are responsible for extra supplies and firing. All abilities welcome. \$230 (\$200 concession) for an 8-week course.

Creative Open Studio

Tuesdays, 12.30pm to 3.30pm or Fridays, 9am to 3pm. Looking for more space and time to work on your art practice? Artists across all mediums are welcome to join these self-directed sessions. \$5 for half-day, \$10 for full-day.

Screen Printing

Tuesdays, 9.30am to noon. Learn the basics in screen printing, including how to make design stencils, and print onto fabric, clothing or paper. \$80 for an 8-week course.

Painting and Drawing – Art Portfolio

Wednesday 9am to noon; Thursdays, 9am to noon. Work closely with our tutor to develop your painting or drawing skills. All abilities welcome. Some materials supplied. \$80 per term.

Crafty Creatures – Diamond Art

Mondays and Thursdays, 10am to 2.30pm. BYO craft projects and come along to learn new skills. Create your diamond art masterpieces or practice your own creative craft. \$5 per session.

All about Yarn – FREE

Tuesdays, 10am to 11.30am. A weekly knitting and crochet group perfect for beginners. Come along to learn basic crochet and knitting stitches from friendly volunteers or bring along your unfinished masterpieces. Some materials supplied.

SOCIAL AND WELLBEING

Garden Workshops – FREE

Tuesdays, 10am to noon. Join our 6-week gardening workshop where you'll get your hands dirty, planting and harvesting your own fresh vegetables and herbs. Learn practical tips, share ideas, and enjoy time outdoors with a supportive group of fellow garden enthusiasts.

Courses at Rosewall in Term 1

Youth Group – FREE

Wednesdays, 4pm-6pm. A supervised youth-led program with crafting, cooking, games and more. 12-18-year-olds welcome. Snacks supplied.

Over 50s Social Group

Fridays, 11.30am to 2.30pm. A chat, cuppa, and new friends - what more could you want on a Friday afternoon. Tea and coffee provided. For more information call Sue on 0410-008-013 or Ronnie on 0418-653-309. \$3 per session.

Community Kitchen

Fridays, 9.30am to 12.30pm. Get together once a week to plan, shop, cook and eat a meal together. All abilities and experience levels welcome. \$8 per session, including meal.



Healthy Cooking on a Budget – FREE

Wednesdays, 10am to 12.30pm. Keep the supermarket meals down by learning how to cook healthy, low-cost, and in-season meals. In this free, 4-week course we'll show you how to make the food budget stretch further while keeping even the fussiest family members happy. This is a hands-on course and you will get to take home your ready-made meal.

NOTE: THESE CLASSES WILL RUN AT GEELONG FOOD RELIEF CENTRE, 37-41 Morgan Street, North Geelong.



Taste of the Word

Thursdays 9.30 to 12.30pm for 4 weeks. Embark on a culinary adventure around the world. Discover the warmth of exotic spices, the freshness of vibrant herbs, and the joy of global flavors, all in one unforgettable foodie holiday. \$6 per class or \$20 for all 4 weeks.

WORK SKILLS

Café Skills

Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Learn to work in a real-life café environment. Skills gained include coffee making, food preparation, customer service and cash handling. The course includes an accredited safe food handling qualification. \$190 per term or \$80 without safe food handling qualification

Hair and Beauty

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Learn how to present yourself and others for work, social and special occasions by discovering the current trends in make-up, hair styles, nails, skin care and basic treatments. \$70 for a 4-week course.

Basic Barista Coffee Making

Tuesdays, 4pm to 6.30pm. Coffee 101. From Lattes to Chais, Cappuccinos to Mochas. You will learn all the basics in making a superb cup of liquid gold. Participate in this course to gain hands-on experience in the hospitality industry or learn the basics to grow your skills for your machine at home. \$50 for a 4-week course.

Beginners Sewing – FREE

Wednesdays, 9.30am to 11.30am. Learn to sew in a relaxed, supportive space, and create something special for yourself, your family, or your friends. Make one to keep and make one to gift to our community centre. All equipment and some materials provided - just bring your enthusiasm.

Safe Food Handling – SITXFSA005 Use hygienic practices for food safety

Tuesday 17 February, 9am to 4pm. An essential skill for a career in the hospitality industry. Learn about correct storage temperatures, dealing with 'danger' foods, personal hygiene, cleaning, and more. This course is delivered by Laverton Community and Education Centre (RTO 6408) at Rosewall Community Centre. Cost \$125.

Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol SITHFAB021

Participants who complete this program receive a Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) certificate from the Victorian Commission for Gaming & Liquor Regulation. In addition they receive a Statement of Attainment for the nationally recognised unit of competency SITHFAB021 Provide Responsible Service of Alcohol. Cost \$100.

LITERACY AND COMPUTERS

Tea and Tech – FREE

Thursdays, 10.30am to noon. Need help with your phone, computer, or smartwatch? Drop in for a quick one-on-one session (around 15 minutes) for simple fixes and tech support—run by our friendly volunteers and office staff. No question is too small.

VENUE AND OFFICE SPACE TO HIRE

Did you know that Rosewall has spaces to hire? From classrooms to halls, offices to art spaces. You can check out the spaces on our website, or email admin@rosewallinc.org.au with any queries.



Councillors Anthony Aitken and Eddie Kontelj at Osborne House.

Green light for Osborne House project

The following was provided by City of Greater Geelong councillors Anthony Aitken and Chris Burson, whose wards cover the 3214 postcode area and Lara ...

An iconic heritage site in Geelong's north will have a new lease on life now that a redevelopment project has been given the green light by Council.

Osborne House is set to be transformed into a new cultural and commercial destination, with Gurner Montgomery appointed to manage upgrades to the historical site in North Geelong.

Once complete, the redevelopment will include a heritage hotel, wellness spa, restaurant, lounge bar, and event and conference spaces. A series of 'eco villas', to be collectively known as 'The Osborne', will offer guests a luxury wellness experience.

Gurner Montgomery is no stranger to

preserving our region's heritage, having worked on a range of redevelopment projects in Geelong in recent years.

The construction company is a partnership between Melbourne-based luxury developer Gurner Group and Geelong property identity Dean Montgomery. Gurner Group is renowned for delivering high-end residential, hospitality and mixed-use precincts.

Their current and planned Geelong projects include the transformation of Cunningham Pier and the Brougham Street Woolstore. The Osborne House redevelopment is about breathing new life into the Swinburne Street property, and we are committed to ensuring the space is sustainably maintained and protected as a heritage site.

The project will align with our Conservation Management Plan and the City is contributing \$8million for the heritage restoration works.

This is an exciting step forward for one of Greater Geelong's most treasured, although sometimes forgotten, heritage sites and icons.

The reimagined Osborne House will acknowledge our city's rich colonial history while creating new opportunities for jobs, accommodation, wellness and hospitality experiences.

The Osborne Park Association has done a tremendous job advocating for the preservation of this site and has tirelessly rallied for its restoration over the years. We would also like to congratulate our fellow Cr Eddy Kontelj, who has long supported this project and is thrilled to see this coming to fruition.

This development is the perfect example of how the City can work alongside private partners to restore and preserve our heritage sites in a clever and creative way.



Geelong Refinery boss Bill Patterson has a bit of fun after a successful demonstration last year of how the refinery can turn waste cooking oil, which had been used to make snack foods, into a valuable recycled plastic feedstock.

We're turning waste into worth

Viva Energy and waste management company Cleanaway are pleased to announce they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a significant step towards the manufacture of low-carbon liquid fuels and products in Australia.

The MoU would see large quantities of domestic used cooking oil (UCO) delivered to the Geelong refinery to produce advanced fuels like a renewable diesel blend and products such as a bio-circular polymer.

The agreement aims to establish an ongoing supply of UCO from Cleanaway's

Laverton used cooking oil treatment facility, highlighting the potential for local waste to become a valuable resource for communities and the national economy.

Viva Energy has been running a successful pilot program at its Geelong refinery demonstrating co-processing which involves UCO being processed in commercial quantities alongside crude oil in the refinery and transformed into high-value products.

The UCO for the trials has been sourced from Cleanaway's facilities where the oil is purified into a ready-to-use feedstock

for the refinery. By scaling up local supply and using it in the refinery, the loop will be closed between waste generation, resource recovery and re-use.

By transforming used cooking oil into sustainable fuels and materials, Viva Energy and Cleanaway are demonstrating a practical pathway to help customers who are looking to reduce their carbon footprint by using products such as renewable diesel.

It also supports local jobs, underpins Australian industry and reduces reliance on imported feedstocks and materials.

Local sports clubs welcome three-year sponsorship deals



Viva Energy is proud to help our local communities reach their destination – both on and off the field.

Since 2017, Viva Energy has stood shoulder to shoulder with local sporting clubs near the Viva Energy Hub, which includes the Geelong refinery.

By being a committed supporter of grassroots sport, Viva Energy is playing a crucial role in making community sport accessible to everyone, ensuring that local families can get involved and enjoy the benefits of staying active.

As part of this ongoing commitment, Viva Energy is excited to announce the continued support of 16 local sporting clubs for an additional three years.

These partnerships, with a combined value of more than \$130,000 a year, focus on Geelong's northern suburbs ensuring that local families have access to vibrant and inclusive sporting opportunities.

Bill Patterson, Viva Energy's Executive General Manager – Energy and

Infrastructure, said that "as one of the largest employers in Geelong, it is important that we play an active part in the community and we are proud to support grass roots sporting clubs in the area.

"Sport is more than just a game – it's a vital part of community life," Mr Patterson said. "We want local clubs to remain strong and be welcoming spaces for people of all ages to stay active and connected."

Marty Sanders, President of Corio Little Athletics, said that Viva Energy's long-term commitment to local sport showed the company's commitment to our region.

"Their support provides essential funding that keeps clubs thriving and ensures they remain an important part of community life," Mr Sanders said.

These sponsorships are a key part of Viva Energy's broader Community Program, which aims to improve access to local services. They also create opportunities for people to participate in sport – helping men, women, and children stay healthy and engaged.

Viva Energy is proud to partner with the following clubs:

- Bell Post Hill Football & Netball Club.
- Corio Bay Soccer Club.
- Corio Community Sports Club (Corio Devils).
- Corio Little Athletics Centre.
- Corio Pool Club.
- Corio Soccer Club.
- Geelong Football Club.
- Geelong Rangers Soccer Club.
- Geelong Soccer Club.
- Geelong Galaxy Soccer Club.
- Lara Sporting Club.
- Lara United Football Club.
- North Geelong Cricket Club.
- North Geelong Football & Netball Club.
- North Geelong Warriors.
- North Shore Football & Netball Club.
- North Shore Seagulls Cricket Club.

For more information about Viva Energy's Community Program, go to www.vivaenergy.com.au/sustainability/community/supporting-our-communities

