

What's Happening Winter/Spring 2024

Mayor Linda Aitken's Message

Welcome to the winter 2024 edition of What's Happening. We've got a big issue for you, packed full of project updates, inspiration to get out and about in nature and the return of our Kid's Zone.

I'm pleased to announce that Noongar Elder, Oriel Green OAM, has been appointed the inaugural Holder of the Keys to the City of Wanneroo. Previously called Freeman of the City, the symbolic gesture recognises individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment and have made significant contributions to our community.

Wanneroo Council voted unanimously to bestow the title on Oriel, who has lived in Girrawheen for over 50 years, in recognition of her tireless work to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

In this edition, we celebrate 25 years of our incredible Dolphin Program at Aquamation and bring you the highlights of the 2024/25 Budget.

I would like to give a special shout out to the 83 incredible volunteers who were honoured at our 2024 Community Services and Conservation Volunteers appreciation dinner. We are grateful for all our volunteers, who selflessly dedicate their time and energy to support fellow residents across the City, and were delighted to recognise five people with Volunteer Awards:

John King, volunteer bus driver who transports our Girrawheen Seniors Group every week.

Dee Farrell, who worked closely with the City to help engage the community to protect local bushland and form the Friends of Voyager Park.

Neville Harlow, for his years of work with the Friends of Voyager Park, helping to protect local bushland.

Judith Birchall, dedicated member of Ni Kadadjiny Koort, the City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Reference Group, for her work on significant cultural awareness projects.

Syed Arshad, dedicated member of the City's Multicultural Advisory Group, for his work to promote inclusivity and social cohesion within our community. Congratulations and thanks to all our volunteers!

Alkimos aquatic centre business plan approved

In another exciting milestone for the Alkimos aquatic and recreation centre, Wanneroo Council has approved the business plan for the facility.

The plan provides an assessment of the proposed development and operation of the facility, including detailed financial modelling and a projected timeline.

Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said she was pleased to share this milestone with the community.

“We’ve been working closely with our northern corridor community throughout every stage of this project, and we know just how passionate they are about this facility,” she said.

“Alkimos is expected to be one of Perth’s fastest growing suburbs over the next 20 years and the delivery of this centre will have a strong positive impact on the City’s future planning for the region.

“It is fantastic to be entering the next phase of this project and I am looking forward to the completion of the detailed design later this year.”

The City has received funding commitments of \$30 million from the Australian Government, including \$25 million under the Priority Community Infrastructure Program and \$5 million under the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream, \$12.6 million from the State Government, including \$10 million under the WA Recovery Plan, \$2.5 million from the Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Fund and \$147,592 through the Changing Places program, and \$14.2 million through the Alkimos-Eglinton Developer Contribution Plan.

For more information about the Alkimos aquatic and recreation centre project, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au

Water win for Aquamation

Wanneroo Aquamation has been named Platinum Waterwise Aquatic Centre of the Year at the 2024 Waterwise Recognition Awards.

The Water Corporation's annual awards recognise Western Australian local governments and aquatic centres for embedding waterwise principles into their operations.

The Platinum award celebrates aquatic centres that demonstrate innovation and achievements over and above best practise water management.

Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said the award was a credit to the Aquamation team's dedication to reducing water usage at the centre.

"Congratulations to the fantastic team on this well-deserved recognition," she said.

"Over the last few years, Aquamation has received several waterwise upgrades, including plant room renewals that have reduced the centre's water and energy requirements, and the installation of water-saving drink fountains, sinks, showers and toilets.

"It's fantastic to have such a dedicated team who are committed to making these positive changes and working towards a more sustainable City."

Welcome to Country

Noongar voices, culture and creativity are celebrated and elevated in a new permanent exhibition now open at the Wanneroo Regional Museum.

Four years in the making, Welcome to Country is the result of collaboration between the Wanneroo Regional Museum team and a passionate group of local Aboriginal community members.

Highlights of the exhibition include video interviews with prominent Noongar Elders filmed by videographer and Whadjuk Noongar man Hugh Sando (pictured), family-friendly interactive elements such as jigsaws, seasonal flora and fauna displays and language activities, as well as artwork from the Kookaburra Club, on loan from the Berndt Museum of Anthropology.

Welcome to Country continued

Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said the new exhibition was a permanent but evolving fixture in the museum.

“Welcome to Country features the recorded voices of our local Aboriginal Elders and traditional custodians, allowing them to tell the stories of Noongar culture and history in their own words,” she said.

“This has truly been a passion project for our museum team, as well as the local Aboriginal Elders and members of Ni Kadadjiny Koort, the City’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference Group, who have worked closely with our museum team over the last few years to bring this exhibition to life.

“Our team was inspired by feedback from visiting families, childcare centres and school groups wanting to learn more about our City’s Aboriginal heritage, so I know the community is eagerly awaiting the opening.

“Welcome to Country is a beautiful exhibition full of emotional, vulnerable, heartfelt stories. I encourage everyone to visit the museum and experience Welcome to Country for themselves.”

Judith Birchall, Yamatji woman and Noongar language teacher, provided cultural education guidance and advice on the orthography of Noongar language to encourage students to engage with the exhibition.

“We looked at ways to make the museum education excursion more engaging for students, including hands-on items, videos of people speaking on Country and storytelling, as well as practical ideas that could be implemented over time at the Wanneroo museum,” she said.

“It was also great being on the design working party for the exhibition, getting to give feedback on colours and design ideas that were taken away by the artist, and then to come back to see how he had transformed our ideas into art.”

Welcome to Country opens at the Wanneroo Regional Museum on Friday 28 June.

Wanneroo Regional Museum, Mondays to Friday 10am-4pm
Saturdays 12pm-4pm. For more information, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au

Budget delivers for our residents and ratepayers

The City of Wanneroo has adopted an updated Corporate Business Plan and 2024/25 budget that prioritises essential services and infrastructure projects while keeping rates as low as possible.

Council adopted a 3 per cent rate increase, resulting in an increase of less than \$40 for most homeowners compared to last year.

Mayor Linda Aitken said Council and the City had delivered a budget that considered cost of living pressures impacting the community.

"In recognition of the current economic climate, this budget prioritises responsible spending while still investing in the needs of our growing community," she said.

"It directly addresses the priorities outlined in the City's Strategic Community Plan, ensuring we deliver the essential services, infrastructure and amenities our residents have told us they want.

\$12.5m - Over the next 12 months, the City will spend \$12.5 million to maintain our sporting facilities, pitches, fields, and grounds, ensuring the City's local clubs can keep kicking goals.

This includes \$5 million to upgrade the netball courts at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex and complete works on floodlighting and the sports amenities building at Heath Park in Eglinton.

\$51.5m - The City will spend a total of \$51.5 million to maintain, protect and enhance parks, coastlines, reserves, streetscapes and conservation areas.

This includes the City's first all-abilities playground at Riverlinks Park in Clarkson, which will provide a new play area with five themed spaces for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy, including mountain, jungle, town and country and desert.

\$32m - We've allocated \$32 million to continue providing residential waste services and strengthening efforts to reduce household waste and increase material recovery.

The City recently rolled out a new bulk junk and greens collection service and is also exploring improved options for recycling organic waste.

Budget delivers for our residents and ratepayers continued

\$10.5m - We're committing \$10.5 million to deliver ranger services, safety patrols and further enhance our CCTV network to ensure our community feels safe. In 2024/25, \$150,000 will fund the CCTV Rebate Scheme, providing eligible ratepayers with a rebate of up to \$500 for installing or upgrading their home CCTV system.

\$9.5m - We're investing \$9.5 million into developing physically, socially, economically and culturally healthy communities, ensuring everyone who lives in the City can connect, socialise and participate in local events, programs, and activities, regardless of age, background or ability.

The budget will fund youth services and school holiday programs delivered from our youth hubs, and support our youth outreach team in connecting with vulnerable young people.

\$8m - With library services in hot demand, we've committed \$8 million to maintaining free programs, resources and activities to connect and inspire residents at our Yanchep/Two Rocks, Clarkson, Wanneroo and Girrawheen libraries.

\$38m - We'll spend \$38 million delivering major road upgrades and maintenance to help ease traffic congestion and improve safety across the City. Roads and streetlighting in Neerabup Industrial Area will benefit with \$3.8 million set aside for important upgrades and maintenance works.

For more information on the City of Wanneroo's 2024/25 budget and the services it supports, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/budget

Halesworth Park Pavilion, Butler

Work on the construction of a new sporting pavilion and a storage facility at Halesworth Park in Butler is nearing completion.

The \$9.3 million project will provide local sporting clubs with new change rooms, multi-purpose rooms, universal access toilets, first aid rooms, bathrooms, kitchens, kiosks and improved storage.

Splendid Park floodlighting, Yanchep

Night games and training are now on the cards for sporting clubs based at Splendid Park in Yanchep.

Floodlighting construction has been completed at both the AFL and the soccer ovals, allowing local clubs to host night games, as well as fundraisers such as family nights.

The upgrade frees up more match and training slots and helps keep up with the significant increase in grassroots participation from junior players. It has also created more opportunities for teams to play night games.

Bembridge Park upgrades, Hocking

Local kids rejoice! Bembridge Park got a revamp.

With new playground equipment, shade sail and shelter, a picnic table, drink fountain, pram ramp and limestone edging, locals will love the new look facilities.

The new playground was constructed east of the previous playground located at the corner of Bembridge Loop and Heacham Avenue.

Swanley Park playground, Marangaroo

A favourite Marangaroo park has been given a new lease on life with a recently completed upgrade.

Swanley Park now has new play equipment, a softfall playground surface and new shade sails.

The revamp provides a range of benefits for the community, especially for local young families.

Lenore Road, upgrade, Hocking

Lenore Road in Hocking will be upgraded to a four-lane dual carriageway between Kemp Street and Elliot Road to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow for the community.

The upgrades, which are set to improve road safety and reduce travel time, will include a raised median strip, U-turn facilities for local property access and a 3m shared path.

Dalvik Park floodlighting upgrade, Merriwa

Merriwa sports teams are now enjoying evening training, games and exercise, thanks to the recently completed Dalvik Park floodlighting upgrade. When sports lighting is not in use, ambient lighting will keep the area lit for park users. The works included the installation of four towers with 100 lux LED floodlighting, to meet Australian Standards for large ball sport training and amateur match play.

Yellagonga Regional Park, Woodvale

In a win for cyclists and pedestrians, a stretch of shared pathway between Woodvale Drive and Fiano Rise in Yellagonga Regional Park has been raised. The works resolved flooding issues during the wet season and offers improved accessibility so users can safely explore the park. Next up, the section between Fiano Rise and Solaia Loop will be upgraded.

New bookable verge collections

The City of Wanneroo has changed to a bookable bulk junk and green waste verge collection service.

The new service has replaced the annual scheduled bulk junk and green waste collections. This means that instead of placing your bulk junk and green waste on the verge on a set date each year, you can now book online or by giving us a call.

The new service aims to increase material recovery and decrease waste going to landfill. Every residential property paying a waste service fee, is eligible to book the following collections each financial year:

- 1 x bulk green waste, up to 3m³
- 1 x bulk junk waste, up to 3m³
- 1 x white goods, up to 4 items
- 1 x e-waste (electronic) up to 6 items
- 1 x mattresses, up to 3 items

To book a collection, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/waste or call 9405 5000.

Five minutes with... Community Librarian Natasha

What's involved in your role as Community Librarian?

I have a teaching background and jumped at the chance to join the library team as I could use skills I've developed in planning and delivering programs.

I love my work as a Community Librarian, I get to go out into the community, visit schools and form relationships with community groups and other stakeholders. The Community Librarian is the liaison between the library and our community, and my role covers both Yanchep/Two Rocks and Clarkson libraries.

I find out what our community wants and needs and help create meaningful and relevant programs that cater for everybody and promote lifelong learning.

What is an unexpected part of your job?

I was surprised just how much more than books the library is and how we are continually growing and adapting to the changing needs of our community. We are a busy hive of meeting, connecting, singing, playing and learning, while also offering the traditional services of a library. It's not just about picking out your books and going home: we are a busy community hub!

People can access essential services including the City's customer services, they can use our free public computers, access Tech Help appointments, come along and play Mahjong or join in our weekly meditation. For families, we run children's programs all week long, including Storytime, It's All About Play, Rhymetime and Lego Club. We also hold special programs, such as women's financial literacy workshops and author talks.

We had a Women's Health Day last September and more than 400 people came and enjoyed exercise and meditation sessions, pop-up stalls and exhibitors including mental health services, multicultural groups, midwifery services and breast cancer screening. We have a very collaborative library team and everyone pulls together to provide a great service for the community.

No two days are the same in the library, which is what makes it the best place to be.

Oriel Green OAM Holder of the Keys

Noongar Elder, Oriel Green OAM, has been appointed the inaugural Holder of the Keys to the City of Wanneroo.

Previously referred to as a Freeman of the City, the symbolic gesture recognises individuals who demonstrate outstanding commitment and have made significant contributions to the local community.

Wanneroo Council voted unanimously to bestow the title on Oriel, who has lived in Girrawheen for over 50 years, in recognition of her tireless work to improve the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples.

A community leader within the City of Wanneroo for decades, and with two Medals of the Order of Australia, a Centenary Medal and as an inductee of the Aboriginal Education Hall of Fame and WA Women's Hall of Fame, her influence extends well beyond City borders.

Mayor Linda Aitken said Oriel stood as an example of how one person could leave an enduring mark on their community.

"Oriel embodies dedication and inspiration. Her lifelong commitment to strengthening education, reconciliation and community empowerment outcomes has improved the lives of Aboriginal people right across Australia," she said.

"By sharing her knowledge and advocating for Aboriginal communities, locally and nationally, she has touched countless lives.

"As the inaugural chairperson for the City's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and a Founding Member of the Northern Suburbs Reconciliation Working Group, she has played a pivotal role in fostering understanding and communication between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and contributed to a more inclusive and understanding environment within the City, breaking down barriers and promoting cultural respect.

"As a City and a community, we are incredibly fortunate to benefit from Oriel's knowledge, commitment and compassion, and I am so happy to announce this recognition of her contributions to making our community better for everyone."

Oriel Green OAM Holder of the Keys continued

Oriel said she was honoured to be recognised by the City.

"I'm so happy, I feel really overwhelmed," she said. "When I look at my life, I can't believe all the things I've done – the committees, groups and events I've been part of.

"I try to do things in a quiet sort of way, but I do them because I love people. Meeting them, sitting and chatting about interesting things that are happening at the time and offering people advice or an opinion when needed.

"When I first came out to Girrawheen in 1972, we didn't have a shop and there was one way in and out of the area, but I thought it was wonderful and I was so happy to be here.

"I've seen so much change over the years, new schools and housing developments, it's a bustling suburb now, but I still remember how I felt when I arrived and being so happy to see the area and see what my children would have here.

"I love the City of Wanneroo because of the people. I've loved raising my family here, and I'm so proud and humbled to be recognised in this way by my community."

Born in Threesprings, a small town north of Perth in 1935, Oriel was the oldest of 14 children to parents Roeland and Eva Bartlett (nee Wyatt). She has lived in Girrawheen since moving to Perth in the early 1970s.

Passionate about education and helping young people achieve their potential, Oriel pursued a career in early childhood education, studying while her own children were at school.

She earned a Certificate in Child Care and an Associate Diploma in Children's Service, and worked in the early education space and with the Education Department for over 20 years.

Oriel has six children, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Emotive exhibition lands this week

Experience the art of Torres Strait Islander Alick Tipoti at Mariw Minaral. Mariw Minaral, meaning spiritual patterns, is a unique and emotive exhibition featuring some of the finest examples of artist Alick Tipoti's intricate linocut printmaking, sculptural works, contemporary masks and film.

Mariw Minaral is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, and forms part of the Indian Ocean Craft Triennial 2024, supported by Lotterywest.

7 August to 26 October

Wanneroo Regional Gallery

Wednesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wanneroogallery

Andy Warhol exhibiting at the Wanneroo Regional Gallery

A new, curated selection of Andy Warhol's iconic works of art are now on display at Wanneroo Regional Gallery.

Some of the most recognisable symbols of Pop Art, the Campbell's Soup Cans, will be on display until 9 September.

These works are here as part of the National Gallery of Australia's Sharing the National Collection initiative.

Don't miss your chance to view these international treasures, along with a larger-than-life piece of Elvis! #artacrossaustralia

Wanneroo Regional Gallery

Wednesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/arts

Learn from New York Times bestselling author Natasha Lester

Beginners and emerging writers are invited to a two-part workshop with New York Times bestselling author Natasha Lester.

Lester started writing historical fiction in 2016 and said it combined her “passion for history, research, travel, fashion and writing stories of women who blazed a trail”.

The workshops cover topics including honing story ideas, voice and point of view, creating memorable characters, elements of scenes and the writing process.

Saturday 17 and 24 August, 12pm to 4pm, Wanneroo Library
\$50 for two workshops, book at [hmawanneroo.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)

Explore tranquil trails in Yanchep National Park

Join us for our Tranquil Trails series – a blend of hiking and mindfulness, set against the stunning backdrop of Yanchep National Park.

This unique day out includes a guided hike, yoga, sound healing, breathwork, meditation and a special Noongar cultural welcome.

Whether you’re a nature lover, fitness enthusiast or looking to start your wellness journey, this event is designed for all levels and ages.

Four guided hike experiences will take place between Sunday 28 July and Sunday 29 September.

The Tranquil Trails series is brought to you by The Hike Collective with support from the City of Wanneroo and Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

To sign up, visit [wanneroo.wa.gov.au/events](https://www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/events)

State Government funding boost for Dordaak Kepup

The City of Wanneroo is grateful to have received an additional \$3 million contribution to bring the first of its kind Dordaak Kepup Landsdale library and youth innovation hub to life.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the funding from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries would help ensure residents of the City's southern suburbs had access to a variety of valuable services.

"Over the last year we've seen attendance at City libraries rise by nearly 40,000 visits, as well as a 53 per cent increase in program attendance and a 63 per cent increase in total loans," she said.

"There's a clear demand for these services in the City, and this state-of-the-art facility is now on track to offer everything from classic library elements, seniors activities and early childhood offerings, to youth innovation elements including STEAM programs and podcasting facilities."

The City has also received a \$3 million funding contribution under the State Government's WA Recovery Plan for the delivery of the youth innovation hub.

Member for Landsdale, Margaret Quirk MLA, said she was excited the facility would provide a variety of activities for young people in the growing Landsdale area.

"I am delighted that this exciting project, dear to my heart, is finally progressing," she said.

"On behalf of the Landsdale community, I'd like to share my gratitude with the City of Wanneroo administration and Councillors for enthusiastically supporting this important community asset."

The funding boost coincided with the approval of a construction tender for the project at the City's May Council meeting.

Council accepted a tender from Wangara-based Swan Group for the construction of the facility, which will feature a library with function and meeting rooms, and youth innovation spaces including a gaming room, demonstration kitchen, recording booth and studio.

State Government funding boost for Dordaak Kepup continued

The detailed design for Dordaak Kepup was completed in late 2023, with the concept artwork receiving a positive response from the local community.

“We’ve appointed Aboriginal artist and consultancy, Peter Farmer Designs, to provide an artwork for the project and offer artistic input into the paperbark tree aesthetic on the external cladding to the facility,” Mayor Aitken said.

“The artwork will align with the Noongar name for the facility, Dordaak Kepup, meaning place of living waters, which reflects the location of the site overlooking Broadview Park.”

Construction of the facility will start in the coming months, with completion scheduled for mid-2025.

Scavenger hunt in the national park

Get ready for an exciting digital adventure at Yanchep National Park. The City of Wanneroo and Nature Play WA have teamed up to create a family-friendly play trail to discover the delights of Yanchep National Park. Get outdoors and explore nature by going on a digital scavenger hunt. Unlock challenges while navigating the trails, solve puzzles and score points!

Download the Play Trails app at discoverwanneroo.com.au/yanchep-national-park-play-trail/

Get to know the Noongar seasons

Did you know the Noongar calendar has six different seasons every year? Instead of Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring, there is Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang.

Djilba runs from August to September and has some very cold and clear days, some warmer, rainy, windy days, as well as an odd sunny day. As the season continues, temperatures rise, the flower stalks of the balgas (grass trees) emerge, as well as the first of the newborn animals.

Dolphin Program a splashing success

Wanneroo Aquamotion's Dolphin Program will celebrate 25 years of helping kids and adults with disabilities and additional needs develop life-saving water skills.

The popular program is currently full at 200 students, with many members signing up more than 10 years ago – wow!

Swimmers are placed into one-on-one or smaller classes based on their needs and can access ramps, chair hoists, a sling hoist and a Pool Pod for lowering wheelchairs.

Dolphin Program swimmer Maddie (10) has Down syndrome and enjoys taking part in one-on-one classes. She started in the program as a baby with twin sister, Issy, who takes part in Aquamotion's mainstream swimming lessons.

"Maddie has flourished in the Dolphin Program, it's her favourite time of the week," Maddie's Mum, Jaime, said.

"She's very cheeky and she enjoys coming to Aquamotion and I think her instructors enjoy teaching her too!"

Parent Tamsin's three children Tristan (16) and twins Jason (11) and Keira (11) have been involved in the Dolphin Program for six years.

"The program supports kids with different needs and the teachers and are so kind, patient and friendly," Tamsin said.

Did you know that every year Dolphin Program members take part in their very own Olympics? Swimmers get to show off their skills, have some fun and receive a medal!

12,000 free plants makes Wannagrow a whopping success

We gave out more than 12,000 plants from 85 different species to hundreds of happy residents in one weekend – wow!

Part of our Wannagrow program, households could pick up to 20 plants at the Ashby depot and Landsdale Farm over one special weekend in June.

These plants were planted in gardens and verges across the City and will help green our community and reduce the urban heat effect.

Quinns Rocks resident Georgie (7) picked up plants with her family at Landsdale Farm and said she enjoyed learning about different native plants.

The City thanks all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend. This initiative is co-funded by the Water Corporation's Waterwise Greening Scheme.

Not all heroes wear capes

Did your family take part in the 2024 Community Waste Drop Off Weekend? Thank you to these environment superheroes! This year we were able to save an enormous amount of waste from landfill, including:

- 1,341 tyres
- 5.5 tonnes of cardboard
- 29 cubic metres of polystyrene
- 2 x 30 metre bins of e-waste

Congratulations to everyone who took part and helped to save these items from landfill!

Find out more about where to correctly dispose of waste at recycleright.wa.gov.au and do your part for the environment.

Winter tales for clever kids

If it's raining outside and you want a fun way to pass the time, check out these new books, all by WA authors and short-listed for the Children's Book Week Awards!

Our top pick - We recommend a new book by Dianne Wolfer: Scout and the Rescue Dogs.

Set in the summer holidays, Scout and her dad are on a mission to deliver supplies to animal shelters. Their adventure is full of jokes, furry friends, and plenty of challenges along the way!

Want to read some other great books?

Gymnastica Fantastica by Briony Stewart

Timeless by Kelly Canby

Do you love facts? Check out this book! Our Country: Where History Happened by Mark Greenwood.

You can borrow these books for free at one of our four libraries, or log in to check out what's available at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/libraries

Steam Story Sensations

Meet talented author and science dynamo Cristy Burne at our libraries.

Cristy will discuss the story behind her new novel about an inventor Ultraviolet Down to Business.

She will guide you through the thrills and challenges of the scientific discovery process as you have a go at making your own invention.

Saturday 3 August 2024

Clarkson Library, 10.30am-12pm

Wanneroo Library, 2pm-3.30pm

Search City of Wanneroo Libraries Eventbrite to book.