

What's Happening December to February 2025

Mayor Linda Aitken's Message

Welcome to the summer edition of What's Happening.

In this issue, we're showcasing all the great things happening in Wanneroo over the upcoming festive season.

We also have exciting updates on some key projects being delivered across the City, including the highly anticipated Halesworth Park complex sporting and recreation precinct, which is now ready for the community to enjoy for many years to come.

The warmer weather has arrived, so we're sharing tips and tricks to help keep your fur babies cool this summer and unveiling innovative drowning prevention technology at Aquamation.

There's no shortage of school holiday fun to be had in the City, with a fantastic line-up of events at our libraries, museum, youth centres and recreation centres.

On behalf of Council and all of the staff at the City of Wanneroo, I wish you all a safe, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Collect your free 2025 Calendar

Visit your local library or the City's Civic Centre to pick up your free 2025 Community Calendar.

It contains essential information such as waste collection dates, animal registration details, school and public holidays and free community events.

Festive hours

The Wanneroo Civic Centre will be closed on:

Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Friday 27 December and New Year's Day.

For all operating hours, including Aquamation, Kingsway Indoor Stadium and your local library, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/festivehours

New drowning prevention technology to help save lives

Drowning prevention technology is set to help accelerate lifeguard response times at Wanneroo Aquamotion.

The Lynxight system uses artificial intelligence to monitor movement in the water through CCTV cameras, enabling lifeguards to respond more quickly to potential drownings thanks to alerts sent to their smartwatches.

Aquamotion will be the second facility in WA to use the cutting-edge technology to combat blind spots caused by water glare, crowds, water surface disturbance and line of sight issues.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the technology would arm our hardworking lifeguards with new tools to keep pool users safe.

“Last year, Aquamotion attracted 371,000 visits, and with 2024 on track to be even busier, we are always looking for innovations in safety management,” she said.

“This technology will be extra eyes in the water at Aquamotion’s four pools, helping prevent drowning incidents and reduce the risk of serious injuries.

“It’s exciting to take another step forward in our Smart City journey and harness this technology to enhance safety for our community.”

Royal Life Saving Australia’s General Manager Capability and Industry, RJ Houston, said data from AI-enhanced safety technologies could be applied to elevate existing practices and address challenges, making Australian aquatic facilities safer for everyone.

“While lifeguards play critical prevention and rescue roles, supervision in public swimming pools can be challenging,” he said.

“The potential of combining lifeguard expertise with enhanced technological approaches in coming years is exciting.”

According to Royal Life Saving Australia, in 2023 there were six drowning deaths, 18 non-fatal drowning incidents and more than 7,800 rescues in public swimming pools across the country.

New multi-sensory exhibition arrives in Wanneroo

Walking Through a Songline is an immersive digital experience where paintings come to life, stories are visualised and ancient knowledge is shared.

The dramatic multi-sensory installation is based on the National Museum of Australia's internationally acclaimed exhibition, Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters.

Songlines map the routes of Ancestral Beings as they travelled across Australia, creating the land and its people.

Walking Through a Songline allows visitors to experience light projections that create representations of songlines, exploring the history of the country, as told by artists, custodians and traditional owners.

13 November to 1 February 2025, Wednesdays to Saturdays

10am-4pm, Christmas hours apply

Wanneroo Regional Gallery, 3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo

5 minutes with Place Specialist Jess

What is a Place Specialist and what's involved in your day-to-day role?

As a Place Specialist for Girrawheen/Koondoola, it's my role to build strong relationships with community members and local clubs, groups and organisations to understand the strengths and aspirations of the local area, and to work with them to identify local opportunities and to celebrate the unique vision and qualities of the community.

There are two other Place Specialists at the City who carry out this role in the Wanneroo and Yanchep/Two Rocks areas.

What does the activation of Girrawheen Hub mean for local people?

The Hub precinct includes the Girrawheen Library, senior citizens centre and the beautiful community garden, all providing opportunities for people to socialise and learn, which has fostered a strong sense of belonging.

Activation of the Hub means local people in Girrawheen and surrounds can come to the Hub to enjoy workshops, have access to a range of support and other services and engage in creative activities and social opportunities.

5 minutes with continued

There's a diverse range of groups that call Girrawheen Hub home, from our community-led sewing group to several community arts and social groups as well as the Girrawheen Neighbourhood Network, the area's local Town Team.

Whatever event, activity or project is happening at the Hub, it always stems from the needs of the local community.

Tell us about the Green Girrawheen Sustainability Workshops and how they benefit the community?

The workshop series was driven by the local community's passion for sustainability. It provides participants with an avenue to explore better sustainability practises in their day-to-day lives, as well as a chance to connect with other like-minded community members.

Every household generates waste, and these workshops explore fun ways to minimise that waste by upcycling or repurposing items.

The workshops have been really popular and we hope to be able to deliver more in future!

Girra-green Hub puts sustainability in the limelight

The Girrawheen Hub turned green, with a range of free sustainability workshops that helped locals embed eco-friendly habits at home.

The popular series included DIY body scrub and deodorant workshops, an eco-friendly home and DIY cleaning products session, a denim jacket painting workshop as well as DIY beeswax wraps and Furoshiki gift wrapping workshops.

If you want to do your part for the planet by living greener and being more mindful about waste disposal and plastic usage, keep an eye on the Girrawheen Hub's upcoming initiatives.

See what's on and register for upcoming events at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/girrawheenhub

Balancing conservation and compliance

Controlling sand drift at construction and development sites is a challenge facing local governments across Australia, but the City of Wanneroo is paving the way to a proactive solution through our dedicated Sand Drift Program, headed up by a dedicated Sand Drift Compliance Officer.

As one of Australia's fastest-growing local governments, the City has seen rapid development in recent years, making a proactive Sand Drift Inspection Program that meets regulatory requirements and community expectations essential.

Currently, there are 54 active land development sites in the City of Wanneroo. Over the past year, the City's Sand Drift Compliance Officer, Heather, has conducted 385 inspections to ensure developers are adhering to their dust management plans.

Heather works with a land development engineer, developers and contractors to evaluate mitigation measures, including applying hydro mulch, installing wind mesh barriers, and using water trucks on site.

To report dust and sand drift issues call **9405 5000**.

Bookable verge collection service

The City's waste team has been busy fulfilling booked bulk collections across the City since changing to the new flexible service in July.

Every residential property paying a waste service fee is eligible to book one of each of the following collections, per financial year:

- bulk hard waste up to 3m³
- bulk green waste up to 3m³
- mattresses up to 3 items
- white goods up to 4 items
- e-waste up to 6 items.

Book your verge collection online or by calling 9405 5000.

For more information on how to use the bookable service, how to place items on your verge, what can and cannot be collected and re-homing or donating items that are in good condition, visit wanneroo.wa.gov/waste

Halesworth Pavilion reaches completion

Construction of the Halesworth Park sporting and recreation precinct is complete, with the delivery of the main pavilion and a separate storage building in August marking the final milestone for this key City project.

In addition to the new \$9.3m pavilion and separate storage building, the precinct boasts two multi-sport ovals, 16 multi-use hardcourts, cricket nets, a dual-use path, children's play area and fitness pod, picnic and barbecue facilities.

The complex is home to a wide range of sports, including rugby, football, soccer, netball, baseball, cricket and athletics.

These buildings will provide local clubs with seven new change rooms, first aid rooms and improved storage.

The new pavilion incorporates two multi-purpose rooms with adjoining servery kitchens, multi-use meeting spaces and public amenities.

Heath Park Pavilion, Eglinton

Heath Park Pavilion is fast progressing towards anticipated completion in mid-2025.

The new pavilion will provide the community with an inclusive and accessible facility for all to enjoy with changerooms, first aid rooms, activity rooms, universal access toilets and showers, and kitchens, kiosks and storage.

Riverlinks Playground, Clarkson

Get set for summer fun at the all abilities Riverlinks Playground.

The new play area includes five themed spaces to enjoy – Mountain, Jungle, Town/Country, Desert and Beach - and a mixture of play equipment to appeal to all ages.

The playground is open now, with the car park extension and Universal Access Toilet construction scheduled for completion in 2025.

The City thanks State Member for Burns Beach, Mark Folkard, for helping secure funding of this important project.

Kingsway Little Athletics Kiosk, Madeley

The Kingsway Little Athletics kiosk and storeroom reached completion in early October, just in time for the club's season opening. The kiosk allows the Madeley-based club to offer healthy food and drink options to athletes and spectators.

Rotary Park, Wanneroo

Enjoy an upgraded Rotary Park playground, with wheelchair access to enable exploration and imaginative play for children of all ages and abilities.

A second stage of works replacing additional playground equipment is due to be completed in 2025/26, including flooding control measures to enhance safety.

Mitchell Park, Two Rocks

Mitchell Park, Two Rocks, has been transformed with exciting new upgrades!

Enhancements include a range of toddler-friendly play equipment, such as combination units, climbing nets and swings, plus soft fall surfaces, shaded seating, picnic areas, footpaths and landscaping.

City's event season ramps-up

Our free 2024/24 events series guarantees to entertain!

From now until May 2025, we have tons of fun-filled, family-friendly events lined up, from toe-tapping concerts and buzzing festivals, to laid-back evenings in the park.

With events happening across the City, get involved and attend an event near you!

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/featureevents

Community funding supports national champions

The City's Community Funding program supported the Landsdale CA Flyers to attend the national cheer and dance championships in Melbourne - and they returned as national champions!

Both the Junior G Force and Senior Black Hawk teams made history, securing championship titles in their divisions.

Congratulations to the CA Flyers on this incredible achievement!

The City's funding program makes it possible for individuals and clubs to participate in state, national and international sporting, art and cultural events.

Funding is available for eligible residents of the City of Wanneroo who are aged 25 and under, 60 and over, or who are living with a disability at any age.

The City's Community Funding streams include the Kickstarter Fund, Flagship Fund, Community Grants, Participation Fund and Response and Recovery Fund.

Find out more about the program at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/participation

Stay water safe this summer

As the weather heats up, it's important to be safe at your local beach, pool and at home.

Water safety should be a priority for everyone visiting one of our beautiful local beaches or using pools this summer. It certainly is for us at the City!

We recently reinstalled the Quinns Beach swimming enclosure, to provide peace of mind to beachgoers. Our dedicated Swimming Pool Inspectors conduct inspections of private properties with pools to ensure compliant and effective safety barriers are in place at homes.

This compliance program is vital, as unsafe and unsupervised backyard swimming pools and spas are the most common location for children to drown in Australia.

Poorly maintained fencing, propped-open gates and lack of self-latching gates all jeopardise pool safety.

This summer, be vigilant and check pool barriers regularly.

Water safety tips

- Supervise children in pools and spas at all times
- Learn swimming and lifesaving skills
- Wear a life jacket when boating, rock fishing or paddling
- Swim at patrolled beaches between the red and yellow flags
- Always read safety signs
- If you need help, stay calm and attract attention
- Avoid alcohol and drugs around water.

Tips for keeping your pets cool this summer

In hot weather, pets can quickly overheat, leading to heatstroke.

If keeping them indoors isn't possible, consider these tips:

- Ensure pets have constant access to fresh water and shade; provide multiple water bowls to prevent dehydration
- Offer a paddling pool for splashing; keep it shaded to keep the water cool
- Do not shave double-coated dog breeds such as Akitas and Golden Retrievers, as their coats naturally insulate against heat.

Cooling tips for your dog:

- Avoid exercising dogs in extreme heat (above 28 degrees)
- Walk dogs early morning or at night
- Check pavement temperature to prevent paw burns
- Never leave dogs in cars, as temperatures can rise rapidly
- Don't leave dogs in ute trays; hot metal can burn paws
- Offer cool treats like frozen kongs
- Use fans and wet towels if no air conditioning is available
- Watch for heatstroke signs: excessive panting, weakness, drooling, diarrhea, or vomiting
- If heatstroke is suspected, take your dog to the vet immediately and use cool (not ice-cold) water or towels for cooling.

Do your best to stop Perth pest

The City is calling on the community to join the fight against the invasive Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB).

First detected in Perth in 2021, the tiny, wood-boring beetle has been detected in trees across Perth, with a quarantine notice quickly put in place to support the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) response.

The City is working closely with DPIRD to prevent the spread of the PSHB, and encourages the community to use the MyPestGuide app to report suspected sightings.

Find out more about the PSHB and how you can help prevent its spread by visiting wanneroo.wa.gov.au/pshb

Get bushfire ready

With 90 per cent of the City of Wanneroo in a bushfire prone area, it's important all residents are ready for an emergency.

It is critical you have a plan to protect yourself, your loved ones, your animals and your home from storms, bushfires and other natural hazards.

It's been nearly a year since the devastating Mariginiup bushfire, which showed how quickly and easily a bushfire can spread. In just four days, the fire burned through 1,900 hectares and destroyed 18 homes.

The City is proud of the way the community came together to support one another during this time, including staff, residents, businesses, emergency services personnel, volunteers and support services.

While it's easy to think it won't happen to you, bushfires are becoming more frequent and intense, so it is important to be prepared.

Head to the City's website for more information or pick up your free Fire and Emergency Management information booklet at the Civic Centre.

Beach wheelchair free to hire

We want everyone to be able to enjoy our beaches during the warmer months.

The City's beach wheelchair is available to hire for free from October to April, and allows people with mobility challenges to access Quinns Beach.

The program is supported by Surf Life Saving WA and the Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club.

Bookings are essential and can be made via the City's website at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/beaches

City's CCTV rebate scheme open

Applications for our CCTV Rebate Scheme are now open.

City of Wanneroo residents, businesses and community groups can apply for a rebate of up to \$500 to subsidise the cost of installing a new CCTV system.

CCTV in public spaces can deter offenders and help support investigations by the City or Police. Pre-approval is required prior to installation to qualify for the rebate.

For information or to apply, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/CCTVRebateScheme

Kookaburra Club shares special artwork

Wanneroo Regional Museum has recently acquired an incredibly special artwork that was hand stitched by members of the Girrawheen Kookaburra Club.

Members created the artwork to share happy memories from their childhoods, with each panel representing a different game or activity they played as children. We're privileged to be able to offer this artwork a home here in Wanneroo.

It has been added to the museum collection and will undergo cataloguing and preventative conservation before being put on display.

Putting community first

Help us transform these community spaces. We're calling for State and Federal government investment in three key community projects in Alkimos, Girrawheen and Wanneroo to create places where you can thrive.

We need your help to bring these exciting facilities to life.

Alkimos Regional Open Space

We want to deliver regional level sporting facilities and amenities, including baseball and softball diamonds, netball courts, soccer, rugby, junior rectangular and hockey fields, sports pavilions, playgrounds, a community purpose site and a dog exercise area.

Girrawheen Hub Precinct

We want to redevelop the existing Precinct to create a multi-purpose space that provides opportunities for new activities, uses, tenants and community groups, and incorporates the existing hub, library, community centre and community garden.

Wanneroo Recreation Precinct

We want to redevelop the existing Wanneroo Recreation Centre to create a precinct with Sports and Community hubs for fitness, wellness and fun, and inspire healthy, active lifestyles for all ages.

Give the gift of joy this Christmas

This holiday season, help us make sure no one feels forgotten.

Visit Wanneroo Regional Museum during November and December to write, create or drop off a Christmas card for a senior. The cards will be distributed to local Aged Care centres and lifestyle villages to bring holiday cheer to seniors who might otherwise not receive a card this Christmas.

Last year's Christmas card drive saw almost 500 cards delivered to seniors in our community. Together, we can spread joy where it's needed most.

Wanneroo Regional Museum, 3 Rocca Way Wanneroo
Monday to Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 12pm-4pm
Enquiries **9405 5920**

Mini Mayor's Message - Ellie

I'm excited to welcome you to the What's Happening Kid's Zone - my first as the City of Wanneroo's 2024/25 Mini Mayor!

My name is Ellie, I am 11 years old and I'm excited to be Mini Mayor. I hope that being Mini Mayor will help me become a leader and unleash my creative side. I'm a bit of a jokester – have you heard the joke about pirates?

Why are pirates called pirates? 'Cos they aaarrgggghhhh!

These school holidays, I will be outside practising my gymnastics, watching Christmas movies, and shooting hoops.

I hope you enjoy this edition – and maybe you'll join me in completing the Summer Reading Quest and to learn about the six Noongar seasons.

Summer Reading Quest

Immerse yourself in an epic quest this summer at your local City of Wanneroo library!

From December to February, kids aged two to 15 can join Cam the chameleon to take part in a wide range of fun and creative activities, challenges and events as part of the Summer Reading Quest.

There'll be puzzles, scavenger hunts, book recommendations and plenty of prizes to be won.

Stop by Wanneroo, Clarkson, Girrawheen or Yanchep/Two Rocks library, to grab your official activity booklet and join the quest.

Chat to your local library team to find out more and get ready to read. wanneroo.wa.gov.au/srq

Night Sky Stories at Wanneroo Regional Museum

Join us at the Wanneroo Regional Museum to celebrate Birak, the Noongar season of the young during these summer school holidays.

Visitors can explore, play and learn about the night sky and constellations, and imagine what it would have been like living in Wanneroo before the lights were switched on in 1954.

Visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wannerooregionalmuseum to find out more.

Get to know the Noongar seasons

Do you know the six Noongar seasons? They are Birak, Bunuru, Djeran, Makuru, Djilba and Kambarang.

Noongar seasons are not marked by specific dates but are determined by observing changes in the local environment, including weather patterns, food availability, and changes in flora and fauna.

Birak - December to January

Birak season sees the rains ease up and the warm weather really start to take hold. The afternoons are cooled by the sea breezes from the southwest. This was the fire season, a time to burn the country in mosaic patterns.

Bunuru - February to March

Bunuru is the hottest time of the year with little to no rain. Traditionally this was, and still is, a great time for living and fishing by the coast, rivers and estuaries. Because of this, freshwater foods and seafood made up major parts of the diet during this time of year.

Djeran - April to May

Djeran season at last sees a break in the hot weather, with cool nights bringing morning dew. The winds have also changed, especially in their intensity, with light breezes being the go and generally swinging from southerly directions.

Makuru - June to July

Makuru sees the coldest and wettest time of the year come into full swing. Traditionally, this was a good time to move back inland from the coast as the winds turned to the west and south bringing the cold weather, rains and occasionally snow in high altitude areas.

Djilba - August to September

Djilba season is a transitional time of the year, with some very cold, clear days combining with warmer, wet and windy days and the occasional sunny day or two. This is the start of the massive flowering explosion in the southwest.

Kambarang - October to November

During the Kambarang season longer dry periods accompany a definite warming trend with many things undergoing transformation and an abundance of colours and flowers exploding around us.

It's the little things

Our amazing team of Waste Operators know their job often brings smiles to our littlest residents' faces.

Recently, local boy Jai, whose favourite hero isn't Spider-Man but his local bin man, was treated to a very special visit after his mum, Alicia, called the City and asked if a waste truck driver could visit their house with a waste truck so Jai could have a proper look.

Alicia spoke to the City's Coordinator of Waste Services Mark, who had an even cooler idea. He invited Jai and his family to the Ashby Operations Centre!

Not only did Jai meet his favourite bin man, Jay, and see the truck up close – he received his very own high-vis vest and toy bins.

It looks like we have a future City of Wanneroo Waste Operator in the works and a happy family to boot!

At the City of Wanneroo, it's the little things that make a big difference.

Yule love Christmas at our libraries!

Join us for festive fun at your local library this December.

Enjoy choir performances and craft, dance and children's activities at all four City libraries - Clarkson, Girrawheen, Wanneroo, and Yanchep/Two Rocks.

Check out the program at wanneroolibraries.eventbrite.com

School holiday fun

There is so much to do in the City these school holidays!

Head to our website to check out the fun activities planned or visit our youth centres, museum, libraries, Wanneroo Aquamotion and Kingsway Indoor Stadium.

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/schoolholidayactivities