

# OUT & ABOUT IN OUR COMMUNITY



- 1 Celebrating International Women's Day with members of our local community
- 2 During our Harmony Day event honouring our local Tamil dancers for their performance
- 3 Honouring and thanking our Mill Park environmental volunteers. With one of our local environmental heroes, primary school student Bonnie, from Mill Park Heights Primary School
- 4 With members of the Sikh Community Connections community group during their IWD event
- 5 At the official opening of the All Abilities Playspace in Mill Park

- 6 Celebrating cultural diversity week with our local community
- 7 Friday night catch up with the amazing Bundoora United FC volunteers
- 8 Bushwalking with Plenty Gorge lovers
- 9 With the Mill Park Heights Child Care Centre staff to celebrate the completion of the outdoor area and officially open this new space. The Centre received \$160,000 for this upgrade through our Government's Building Block funding program
- 10 With Bart Crescia at Farm Vigano, South Morang

## PLENTY RIVER TRAIL

A key component of the Andrews Labor Government's *Suburban Parks Program* is a \$19.3 million investment to create the Plenty River Trail through the Plenty Gorge linking University Hill Bundoora, through to Mill Park, South Morang and Doreen.



Located on Wurundjeri Country, this new multi-use trail will run to the west of the Plenty River and when finished it will be accessible to runners, walkers and cyclists with a large portion of it suitable for all abilities including prams and wheelchairs.

Parks Victoria has been busy this past year running consultations with the Traditional Owners and the local community. Based on your feedback, we are now finalising the design and we are expecting construction to commence in the coming months.

This exciting project will include:

- Several lookouts
- New and upgraded bridge crossings
- Several access points to improve connectivity that will allow users to make shorter circuit return walks

The Nioka Bush Camp is also being upgraded to the tune of \$383,000 and we are investing \$800,000 to upgrade the Hawkstowe Picnic area with:

- An accessible toilet
- Improved entrance and better connection between the Hawkstowe carpark and Le Page Homestead.
- And a new playscape to include nature-based experiences for the little ones

The *Suburban Parks Program* is a \$174 million initiative to create, upgrade and connect 6,500 hectares of parklands to improve the liveability, environment and climate resilience of Melbourne's urban communities.

## COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUBS SUPPORT

Community sports clubs are often the backbone of our local community. They are a second home to many people providing friendship, fun and team activities, and they rely so much on thousands of volunteers. We know just how much community sports clubs mean to people which is why we're making it easier for clubs to get back to doing the things they love.

We're making available \$40 million for the *Community Sport Sector COVID-19 Survival Package*. More than \$100,000 has been shared so far amongst our local community sports clubs.

Our government's *Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program* - part of the Labor Government's over \$1 billion investment in community sport and recreation infrastructure- is also delivering the Mill Park Basketball Stadium Upgrade. This project will mean that community basketball clubs will soon have an improved basketball stadium. We're contributing \$1 million towards this upgrade, with further funds provided by the Whittlesea Council.



The Stage 1 works are almost complete, and we expect the Mill Park Stadium will be ready later this year.

Once finished the Mill Park Basketball Stadium will have:

- New home-and-away female-friendly change rooms
- Accessible family change areas
- New large multipurpose meeting and function area
- A revamped front reception area
- Office space
- New kitchen and canteen facilities

## Lily D'Ambrosio MP

**YOUR STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR MILL PARK**

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# Summer 2022 NEWSLETTER

## MILL PARK

Dear Friends,  
Welcome to the summer edition of the Mill Park Electorate community newsletter and Happy New Year! Over the past two years, we've faced so many challenges. But our community has pulled together to support one another, and I thank every one of you for all that you've done.

And as we return to a new normal, it's wonderful to see our community thriving again. In this newsletter I want to provide you with an update on some exciting projects and investments that the Andrews Labor Government is delivering in our local area. We're investing in our children's future by building new schools and kinders, introducing more free TAFE courses at our local Melbourne Polytechnic TAFE and rolling out three-year-old funded Kindergarten program for every child in our area.

I know that some in our community are doing it tough. That's why as Minister for Energy, Environment

and Climate Change I was proud to announce the Home Heating & Cooling Upgrades program. In this newsletter I am providing more information about this program along with eligibility criteria and how to apply. I am also immensely proud of the Andrews Labor Government track record on providing crucial support to community sports groups, our multicultural community and those in need. Please have a read through this newsletter to learn more about the many investments the Andrews Labor Government is delivering in our community and, of course, feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need assistance. Warm regards,

**Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
State Member for Mill Park

## ROADS

# GREAT PROGRESS ON THE CHILDS ROAD UPGRADE



The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$2.2 billion in *Suburban Roads Upgrades* including Childs Road. The Childs Road Upgrade reached an important milestone in early December with traffic moving onto the new lanes between Hawkes Drive and Crampton Crescent.

This year will be very busy as we continue to work on the northern side of Childs Road and complete the new bridge over Darebin Creek. We are also planning for a brand-new rest area beneath the bridge for people to enjoy as they travel along the new walking paths.

Our Childs Road Upgrade will be complete in 2023.

# EPPING ROAD UPGRADE CONSTRUCTION STARTS IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2022



Through the *Suburban Roads Upgrade* program, we're also delivering major improvements to Epping Road.

The Epping Road Upgrade will add extra lanes and improve intersections between Craigieburn Road East and Memorial Avenue, while also creating better access to jobs and services in Epping and Wollert.

The project is currently in the pre-construction phase. This includes developing a construction program and mapping out underground utilities. Construction will start in the second half of 2022.

And because local heritage is important, our project team is working to safely relocate and refurbish the Wollert Methodist Church to Carome Homestead.

# MORE PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE WHITTLESEA AREA

Through the *Big Housing Build* program, the state Government is investing a record \$740 million in community housing projects that will give our locals the stability they need while creating more than 9,000 jobs.

We're building 68 new homes in Epping, Wollert and Lalor as part of the first allocation of funds to community housing.

The homes will be available to those in greatest need – including people living with mental illness or disability, people escaping family violence, Victoria's First Peoples and individuals experiencing homelessness.

## EDUCATION

# NEW KINDER AT MEADOWGLEN PRIMARY - THREE-YEAR OLD KINDER ROLLS OUT IN MILL PARK

Every child deserves the best start in life. This is why the Andrews Labor Government's three-year old Kinder program is the largest social, economic and educational reform in early childhood education in Victoria's history – and this year we're rolling it out locally.

Through our \$5 billion investment in early childhood education, we are making sure all children in the Mill Park electorate attending a funded kindergarten program in 2022 have the right support in place to help them transition from early childhood education to the start of their formal school life.

26 kindergartens in the Mill Park electorate are sharing more than \$1 million for new programs, additional supports and extra staffing - helping them provide world-class early education.



In addition, last month I announced that a new kindergarten will be built on the site of Meadowglen Primary School in Epping - offering 66 approved places when it opens in 2023. Having a new kinder on a school site is a win for families and children in our local community - giving our young local children a great start to life and saving time for parents.

# DELIVERING WOLLERT PRIMARY & WOLLERT EAST SECONDARY



The Andrews Labor Government made a commitment to deliver 100 new schools between 2019 and 2026 - investing more than \$10 billion for new schools and school upgrades. As part of this investment, we are building Wollert Primary School and the Wollert East Secondary School (interim name).

Wollert Primary School is opening its doors in a couple of weeks to receive its first students. It is a Supported

Inclusion School - a mainstream school with additional professional capabilities and facilities designed to cater for a higher than usual proportion of students with disability.

I am also delighted to announce that right next to Wollert Primary, we are building the first stage of Wollert East Secondary School, opening in 2023. This school will help meet the needs of the growing local community in accessing great education close to home.

The first stage of construction will include:

- A learning community
- Gymnasium
- Administration
- Performing arts spaces.

Follow my Facebook page for more updates and upcoming details on enrolment boundaries and how to enrol your child.

# MORE FREE TAFE COURSES AT MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC

A good job often starts with TAFE. The Andrews Labor Government has made a record \$3.2 billion investment in TAFE and training to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and rewarding career pathways.

In the first two years of our Free TAFE initiative students have saved \$150 million in fees.

This year we are adding seven new Free TAFE courses on top of the Early Childhood Education and Care courses we added to our Free TAFE list last year.

This means that our local Melbourne Polytechnic TAFE is now offering 41 different Free TAFE courses.

You can explore your **Free TAFE** options at [freetafe.vic.gov.au](http://freetafe.vic.gov.au).

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

# HELPING LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WARM IN WINTER, COOL IN SUMMER - AND SAVE MONEY

Who is eligible for the rebate :

An owner-occupier with :  
-a valid concession card, or  
-a combined household income below \$90,000

A rental provider, with a residential property:  
-earning \$500 weekly rent or less, or  
-occupied by renters holding a valid concession card or with household income below \$90,000, or  
-that's unoccupied, with potential weekly rent of \$500 or less



Households with no heating system may also apply.

The Andrews Labor Government is helping thousands of low-income Victorians with a \$1,000 rebate to upgrade

their inefficient heating and cooling systems – improving the comfort of their homes, lowering greenhouse gas emissions and saving households up to \$300 per year on their energy bills.

Our *Heating Upgrades Program* is part of our \$797 million household energy package and is administered by Solar Victoria.

Your system must be:

- A gas, electric or wood heater, or
- A reverse-cycle air conditioner more than 7 years old
- Replaced with a reverse-cycle air conditioner from the approved products list
- Upgraded by an approved supplier

Get in now as we get into Summer!

More information, including instructions on how to apply is available at [heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au](http://heatingupgrades.vic.gov.au)

# SUPPORTING SENIOR MULTICULTURAL VICTORIANS

Recognising the significant contribution of our multicultural senior citizens to our great state, the Andrews Labor Government is providing up to \$2,000 per year for the next four years to help multicultural community groups to keep activities running.

Through our \$7.4 million *Multicultural Seniors Support* program, our government will also provide public liability insurance and group personal accident insurance to ensure coverage for members and volunteers delivering programs and activities – removing a potentially significant cost for these local community groups.



I strongly encourage newly established multicultural seniors' groups or those that did not receive a direct funding offer to apply online through the *Multicultural Seniors Support* program. Applications close 28 February 2025. If you need any assistance, feel free to contact me at my office.

# \$1.4 MILLION ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CITY OF WHITTLESEA LIBRARIES

Our libraries across the Whittlesea municipality are critical and have played a key role in helping people feel less lonely and isolated during the pandemic.

That's why the Andrews Labor Government is giving our local libraries a funding boost of 3.5% to expand library collections, online services and programs through our \$47.4 million *Public Libraries Funding* Program.

This year alone libraries in the Whittlesea municipality will receive more than \$1.4 million for the purchase of library collection items, information technology resources, children and outreach programs, and other library services.