

Community Recovery Newsletter

December 2024

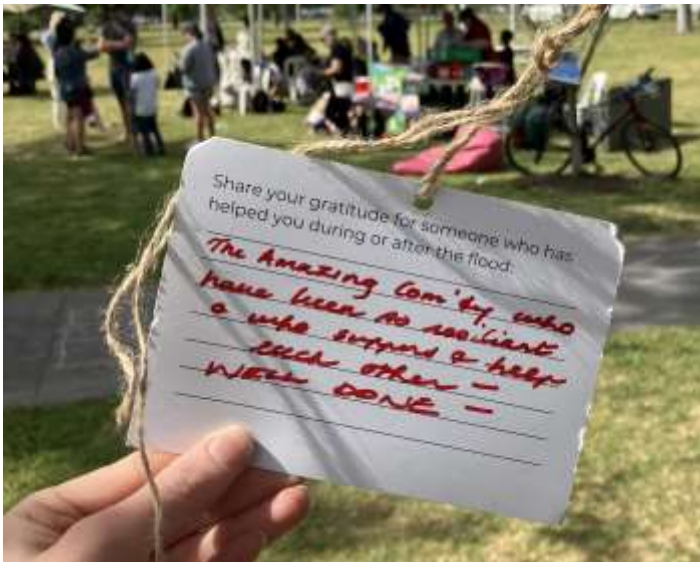
Summary of 2024

This has been a challenging year for the Maribyrnong community, however it has also been a year of connection, with some great examples of community support for one another.

Whether it be through the Community Recovery Committee (CRC), the Maribyrnong Community Recovery Association, or other groups within the community, there has been a great deal of progress on initiatives to benefit the community.

There has also been some movement in Maribyrnong, with some households moving home and new residents joining the community, meeting one another for the first time or reconnecting.

Maribyrnong City Council would like to acknowledge all of the community groups and residents who have been involved in supporting the community this year.



Community Recovery Committee

Councillor appointment

Following the Council election, Cr Susan Yengi has been appointed to the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) as the Councillor Representative. Cr Mohamed Semra has been appointed as the substitute representative.

For flood related enquiries, email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
This email address is monitored between 9am-5pm weekdays.

CRC update

The CRC has met in an official capacity eight times throughout the year.

These meetings have enabled community representatives to provide insight on recovery needs and advice on the best approach to meet these needs.

Community members are welcome to speak with their CRC representatives to raise questions or ideas relating to recovery. The CRC community representatives are:

- Andrew Monteiro
- Mary Cameron
- Mike Caridi
- Naz Bayrak
- Paul Larsen
- Susan Saunders.

The CRC has also established project groups to progress projects in between meetings. If you are interested in being involved in planning these activities, please email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au.

Thank you to the CRC who have volunteered their time to support their community.



Community Recovery Newsletter

December 2024

Programs delivered

Some of the projects and initiatives delivered based on advice from the community and support services in 2024 include:

- Skill building workshops (home maintenance, floral arrangements and more)
- Additional hard waste collection program with approximately 17 tonnes of hard waste collected
- Free Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre memberships extended
- Recovery door knocks provided an opportunity to link residents to support services where needed
- Appointment-based recovery support program (outreach support at the Maribyrnong library)
- Pop-up support from Cohealth at the Maribyrnong Community Centre
- Insurance and recovery support drop-in sessions
- Second anniversary commemoration event
- Spring gardening get-together event (in partnership with Australian Multicultural Community Services)
- Youth art-based recovery project (in partnership with Victoria University and Southern Cross University).

Community members interested in getting involved in planning similar projects or initiatives are encouraged to get in touch with the Recovery team at floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au.

Community strengths and opportunities workshop

On 31 August, the CRC hosted a Community Strengths and Opportunities Workshop to present their ideas for recovery initiatives and collect input from the broader community on priorities, opportunities and next steps.

The CRC committed to reporting back to the rest of the community with a post-workshop update by the end of the year.

See the full overview of the workshop and proposed next steps by visiting <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

Where to from here?

Led by the workshop input and advice from the CRC, Council is in the process of planning recovery programs and activities for next year including:

- Launch of the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network and preparedness workshops/exercises
- Launch the Maribyrnong Insurance Project guidebook and expert panel discussion
- Monthly Blackbird River cruises
- Music events in the park and other connection opportunities
- Floral arrangement workshops
- Community cooking classes
- Community storytelling project
- Walking group
- Advocacy.

Program dates will be shared in future editions of this newsletter and on the website:

<http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.

Community Recovery Newsletter

December 2024



Program updates

Walking group

Following a suggestion from the broader community, the CRC is establishing a walking group along the river.

A Facebook group has been created to manage the walking group. If you are interested in joining, you can either:

- Comment on the post in the CRC Facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery or
- Email
floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au.

Tai Chi class extension

We are pleased to announce the continuation of weekly tai chi classes into 2025.

This session is free and open to anyone within the community. No prior experience is necessary.

Date: Every Saturday until 31 May 2025

Time: 9:30-10:30am

Location: Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall Street, Maribyrnong.

For flood related enquiries, email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

This email address is monitored between 9am-5pm weekdays.

Light comfortable clothing is recommended. Please arrive 10 minutes early.

Monthly Blackbird River Cruises

A series of free one-hour Blackbird River Cruises will be taking place in 2025. The river cruises provide an opportunity to learn about the history of the area while taking in the sights of the Maribyrnong River.

Cruises will take place on the following dates:

- January 10, 4pm and 6pm
- January 17, 4pm and 6pm
- February 21, 6pm
- March 21, 6pm
- April 4, 6pm
- April 11, 4pm.

All cruises will depart from Raleigh Road Jetty landing, Burton Crescent, Maribyrnong.

Booking are required and will open four weeks before the cruise.

Bookings for our January cruises are now open here: <http://Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood>.



Community Recovery Newsletter

December 2024

Maribyrnong Insurance Project

Council is continuing to partner with GenWest, insurance experts and the Community Recovery Committee on the Maribyrnong Insurance Project to make insurance information more accessible.

The latest phase of the project included interviews with impacted community as well as a desktop review of existing resources, such as the report from the Parliament of Australia's Inquiry into Insurers Responses to 2022 Major Flood Claims and the transcripts from the public hearings held as part of this inquiry.

The following initiatives have been identified following the needs assessment:

- Development of an accessible and user friendly insurance resource, developed by experts with a community voice
- Insurance expert panel discussion
- Videos to provide the information in another format for accessibility.

The resource and panel discussion will be held in March 2025. More information will be provided once details are confirmed.

Reminders

Seeking registrations: Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network

Guided by its Community Recovery Committee, Maribyrnong City Council is supporting the development of a program to build and maintain a network of community leaders in flood preparedness.

Keep an eye on future editions of the newsletter for information on the network launch and preparedness program taking place in early 2025.

If you are interested in joining the network or would like to find out more, email

floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or register online:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/OpenForms/EOI-Maribyrnong-Flood-Network>.

For flood related enquiries, email floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

This email address is monitored between 9am-5pm weekdays.

Donation support

Western Emergency Relief Network (WERN) Christmas Closure Period

Council utilises the Western Emergency Relief Network to provide flood-impacted households access to second-hand furniture and household items with an appointment.

This service is taking a break over the festive season, and will reopen on 21 January.

The recovery team can support community members through the process to access donation support when it reopens.

If you are interested in accessing second-hand furniture, vouchers, or information on other support available, please email

floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or visit the Maribyrnong Community Centre on a Thursday during operating hours to speak to the team.

Stay Connected

Subscribe for email updates: <http://eepurl.com/idmpPT>

Join the CRC Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery.

Visit the website for the full list of recovery programs:

<https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Flood>

