

ASHWOOD DISTRICT COMMUNITY NEWS

I'm Matt Fregon MP, your local State Member of Parliament

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Ashwood District Community News.

As we dive into 2024, I am eager to update you on the latest developments within our community and the exciting projects currently underway.

My focus remains on representing the people of Ashwood, understanding your needs and advocating for positive change within the Ashwood District.

I am also thrilled to announce our move from the current temporary office in Glen Waverley to our new electorate office at 240 High Street, Ashburton.

I'm delighted that we've secured a centrally located space within the electorate, right in the heart of the bustling retail hub of Ashburton Village.

As always, please get in touch with my office if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely



Matt Fregon MP

Delivering

FOR THE ASHWOOD DISTRICT

- ✓ STEAM Centre at Ashwood High School
- ✓ STEAM Centre at Mount Waverley Secondary College
- ✓ Mount Waverley North Primary School new synthetic turf oval
- ✓ A brand new social deck for Mount Waverley Bowls Club
- ✓ Amaroo Neighbourhood House Revival Project
- ✓ Container Deposit Scheme now open with local locations in Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley, Chadstone and Glen Iris

**MATT IS
DELIVERING
FOR THE EAST**

WATCH THIS SPACE! NEW ASHWOOD OFFICE LOCATION SECURED

Matt Fregon MP and the team at the Ashwood District electorate office are excited to announce their upcoming relocation to 240 High Street, Ashburton!

The office fitout is expected to be completed by mid-May. The team are eagerly anticipating settling into their new office, located in the heart of the electorate.



ASHBURTON FESTIVAL SUCCESS!

The sun was out and so were the "3147" locals who headed down to the annual Ashburton Community Festival.

The festival, held in the heart of Ashburton, showcased the best that our area has to offer. From lively performances to culinary delights, attendees were treated to a diverse array of attractions that highlighted what makes our community so great!

Matt Fregon MP had a fantastic time chatting to locals, business owners, volunteers and community group representatives about all things Ashwood District and what is important to you and your family.

As the day drew to a close, it was evident that the Ashburton Festival had once again succeeded in bringing people together, strengthening connections, and celebrating the vibrant spirit of this one of a kind community.

Congratulations to the Ashburton Traders Association, Ashburton Village 3147 volunteers and the Boroondara City Council for running such a successful event!

Local Schools - Project Milestone Updates!

The Victorian Government is currently engaged in multiple projects to enhance our local schools, making them even more outstanding for the Ashwood District community. These include:

ASHWOOD SCHOOL
Block C refurbishment works setup has now commenced at Ashwood School in a project which will modernise the school through new classrooms and learning spaces, upgraded toilets and sports facilities.
Construction commenced in January of this year and is estimated to be finished early in 2025.



BURWOOD EAST SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL
Burwood East Special Development School is set to be modernised through brand-new classrooms and learning spaces, replacing the current relocatable buildings.
Builders have been appointed in January and construction is commencing in Term 1, 2024.

PARKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
The design phase is well underway at Parkhill Primary having received \$5.3 million in funding to continue upgrades and modernisation projects to provide students with better learning opportunities, including new playground facilities.
This project is forecast to be completed in early 2026.



MOUNT WAVERLEY NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Mount Waverley North Primary School students have started off the 2024 school year with a newly installed synthetic turfed oval.
This space was upgraded as part of the Victorian Government Minor Capital Works Fund, a program for small building projects that make a big difference in our schools.



MOUNT WAVERLEY SECONDARY COLLEGE
In December 2023, Mount Waverley Secondary College proudly opened its new STEAM centre! This innovative hub features dedicated spaces for technology, art, and science, providing students with immersive learning opportunities. Since its launch, classrooms have been bustling with enthusiastic students and staff, fully embracing the new facilities.

SYNDAL SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Syndal South Primary School is on track to welcome a new Block A building, replacing the existing structure. This new learning hub will include an administration wing, six general purpose classrooms and a library.
This project is currently well under construction and scheduled for completion mid year.



GLEN IRIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Matt Fregon MP was excited to announce to students at Glen Iris Primary School late last year that they will be receiving a brand new, inclusive playground. This will give students of all abilities new ways to socialise, develop and learn through outdoor play.
This project is currently in the planning stages, with it scheduled to be completed late 2025.

ASHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
In late 2023, Ashwood High School welcomed a brand new STEAM and Research Centre on campus, providing students with diverse learning opportunities and modern spaces to achieve educational outcomes in the STEAM discipline.



PINEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
Funding was allocated as part of the 2023/24 State Budget for the planning phase of a new competition-grade gymnasium and music space, which is well underway.

BUSH KINDER
Congratulations to Ashwood Children's Centre and Estrella Preschool who have both been successful in securing Bush Kinder grants. Each kindergarten will receive a one-time grant of \$6,000 to implement their bush kinder programs throughout 2024. Bush Kinder allows children to learn and explore in natural environments such as parks, beaches, and bushlands, offering unique educational experiences known to positively impact their physical and mental health.



I want to hear about your priorities for making our suburbs and state an even better place to live. Visit my website, or share your thoughts online via the QR survey code.



visit www.mattfregon.com.au

WORK EXPERIENCE SUPERSTARS!
The Ashwood District Electorate office had the pleasure of welcoming two local work experience students in 2023, Zinia Rohila from Mount Waverley Secondary College and Suriya Rajarjan from Haileybury College.
Both students joined Matt Fregon MP's office for a Parliament sitting week to learn more about his role as the local State Member for Ashwood and being the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
Thank you again Suriya and Zinia for the important role you played as part of the electorate office team during your work experience!

If you are interested in undertaking work experience with Matt's team in 2024 as a component of your Year 10 curriculum, please send an email to Matt.Fregon@parliament.vic.gov.au with your proposed dates and school work experience form.



PREP BAGS FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS IN THE ASHWOOD DISTRICT
Each Prep student attending a Victorian government school will receive a Prep bag to celebrate this major milestone in their education journey, thanks to the Allan Labor government. This year's theme, 'Explore. Learn. Enjoy.' aims to generate excitement about all of the wonderful discoveries our youngest students will make as they start primary school. The bag is full of learning items and information for parents and carers to help families have a fantastic start to the year. Prep bags include 5 specifically chosen books, with an option in Braille with tactile illustrations. Additionally, the bags include a range of learning resources, sports activities, and health and wellbeing resources.
Matt Fregon MP has had the pleasure of attending many of our local schools this year to present Prep bags and welcome our youngest learners.



Education

WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY SECONDARY TEACHING?

The Allan Labor Government is boosting the teacher pipeline. If you enrol in a Victorian secondary school teaching degree, you could be eligible for a scholarship that pays you while you learn and can cover the cost of your studies. The scholarships are part of the Victorian Government's \$229.8 million investment to support the teaching workforce in Victoria, across 5 key priority areas: attraction, recruitment, supporting early-career teachers, retention and career development.

More than \$93.2 million will be available to all students who enrol in secondary school teaching degrees in 2024 and 2025 to support them with the cost of studying and living.

All Victorian students (including Victoria-based permanent residents) who enrol in an accredited secondary school teaching degree with a Victorian initial teacher education provider in 2024 and 2025 will be eligible for a scholarship. This will include students undertaking a dual primary/secondary qualification.

This will mean one less barrier for Victorians thinking of a career in teaching, and more great teachers for the education state.

Now is the perfect time to start a career in education to help teach the generations to come.



FREE KINDER FOR EVERY 3 & 4 YEAR OLD

Free Kinder is a Victorian Government initiative that provides free access to two years of high-quality kindergarten programs for all Victorian children. It is available for every 3 and 4 year old Victorian child, offering young children an opportunity to experience learning through play.

Your child can access a kindergarten program in:

- children's centres
- long day care centres
- community kindergartens
- independent schools
- some government schools.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE KINDER?

- Victorian children who turn 3 years old by 30th April 2024 are eligible for the 3 year old Free Kinder.
- Victorian children who turn 4 years old by 30th April 2024 are eligible for the 4 year old Free Kinder.
- Only one service can be nominated at a time.
- Only one year each of the 3 year old and 4 year old Kinder funding can be claimed.
- A minimum of 2 days enrolment is required.

All early childhood education and care providers that deliver a funded kindergarten program in Victoria will be eligible to receive Free Kinder funding, saving families up to \$2,500 per child, every year.

ASHWOOD YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2023 AND 2024

It is crucial that the voices of young people in our community are heard and that is why the Ashwood District Youth Advisory Committee is such an important part of community consultation. The committee comprises high school students from schools across the Ashwood District electorate who come together once a month to discuss a variety of opinions and ideas. In 2023, the student-led committee conducted a survey within their individual school communities to identify prominent issues impacting young people today. The issue of vaping was chosen to bring to the attention of Natalie Suleyman MP, Minister for Youth. After researching policy and talking to local organisations, the group created a presentation detailing their desire for change and proposed solutions they would like to see implemented, which they presented in parliament to the Minister directly.

Matt Fregon MP will be continuing the Youth Advisory Committee in 2024 and encourages students from years 10-12 to apply to be a part of the 2024 committee.



NORM GIBBS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Since 2019, Matt Fregon MP has had the honour of presenting the Norm Gibbs Community Leadership Award to Year 6 and Year 12 students in our local schools. The award is named after a much loved and respected resident of the Ashwood District, Norm Gibbs. Norm has volunteered countless hours of his time giving back to the local community. The award recognises stand-out, community minded students who embody the same unique qualities as Norm - someone who is always looking for ways to give back, big or small.

Congratulations to all of the worthy recipients of the 2023 Norm Gibbs Award including; Anna Fardon (Mount Waverley Primary School), Dylan Harris (Holy Family Primary School), Vethum Alahendra (Syndal South Primary School), Kebo Zhou (Essex Heights Primary School), Avellino Jones (Salesian College), Imran Mohamed (Parkhill Primary School), Alex Nason (Ashwood School), Nithya Chelle (Ashwood School), Jocelyn Seager (Mount Waverley Secondary College), Anja Hulston (Avila College), Paige Rusmanis (Camberwell South Primary School), William Contessotto (St Scholastica's Primary School), Archie Green (Solway Primary School).



Environment

ELECTRIFY BOROONDARA EXPO WRAP - THE FUTURE IS ELECTRIC!

Back in October, Electrify Boroondara held their inaugural expo at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. As a community-led alliance of volunteers dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean energy future, their grassroots community event, themed "The Future is Electric", was held to provide the community with a comprehensive understanding of energy efficiency and electrification. Over 1,200 attendees were given hands-on experiences where they could explore various electrification options, catering to individuals at every stage of their energy transition journey. A bi-partisan panel was held with speakers including Matt Fregon MP, and representations from all levels of government. Each provided insight about their personal electrification journeys and ways they are working to reduce their carbon footprints.

A MESSAGE FROM ELECTRIFY BOROONDARA

Electrify Boroondara is conducting a short, three minute survey to help them understand what you have done so far on your electrification journey, what you would like to do, barriers to electrifying your home or rental and how best they can help you.

The results will be used to tailor their programs and initiatives in 2024 and beyond. The data will also be shared with Rewiring Australia who are collating information from around Australia for research purposes only, to assess the state of electrification within communities.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and provide them with invaluable information about what our community needs to electrify.



Transport

SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP EAST - WORK IS UNDERWAY!

The Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) is on its way, and it's important that you have your say! The new year brings progress to the project, with the first tunnelling contract awarded to the SRL East.

In December, Matt Fregon MP, alongside Premier Jacinta Allan MP, participated in the ground breaking ceremony to officially commence tunnel works at the Burwood station. Subsequent excavation activities will be carried out using Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) fuelled entirely by sustainable energy. By 2035, this location will become the hub for 16km twin train tunnels, linking crucial community hubs such as Deakin University to its neighbouring suburbs.

The Suburban Rail Loop Authority received 615 submissions providing feedback for SRL Burwood from their recent round of community consultation, which closed earlier this month.

Tunnel access shaft works commenced on 5 September 2023, with piling works progressing. Works on the tunnel access structure will continue until late 2025.

A BETTER WAY TO RECYCLE DRINK CONTAINERS IN VICTORIA

On 1 November 2023 Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme commenced, rewarding Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return. Victorians and the Ashwood District community have enthusiastically welcomed the container deposit scheme, with more than 150 million containers recycled since launching the scheme - reducing the amount of litter in the environment and putting more than \$15 million back in the pockets of Victorians.

CDS Vic allows Victorians to return their eligible empty drink cans, bottles, and cartons for a 10-cent refund. Victorians can then choose to pocket the refund or donate their containers to one of the 1600 participating charities, sports, community, environmental or educational groups.

Currently, Return-It has around 120 refund points in the East Zone, with 45 of those located in regional areas.

Excitedly, as of Monday the 5th of February, there is a Container Deposit Scheme refund point in Mount Waverley at Unit 109 / 170 Forster Road, Mount Waverley.

Additionally, there are a number of refund points close to the Ashwood district, including a new centre in Mount Waverley:

- Scouts Mount Waverley
Unit 109/70 Forster Rd, Mount Waverley Vic 3149
- Scouts Glen Waverley
12b Aristoc Road, Glen Waverley, VIC 3150
- BP Chadstone
720 Warrigal Road, Chadstone, VIC 3145
- Mitre 10 Glen Iris
15 Weir St, Glen Iris, VIC 3146

For more information, visit: <https://cdsvic.org.au/locations>



The Burwood community information session on Wednesday 14 February at the Bennettswood Sports Pavilion had 18 attendees - an increase of 61% more community members compared to the previous session. Attendees engaged with the SRLA team members to discuss various elements of the project. Key themes included upcoming works, impacts to Bennettswood Reserve and parking, the Burwood Draft Precinct Vision and structure planning, opportunities to enhance Gardiners Creek and the Network Support Facility.

A Youth Panel drawn from young people aged between 18 and 24 who live, work and study around the six SRL stations had its first meeting on 2 March. The Burwood Community Panel has also been established, with the first meeting on Saturday 23 March 2024.



Community Sport

SITTING ON THE DECK AT THE BOWLS!

Back in December, the Mount Waverley Bowls Club was proud to unveil its latest addition – a brand new outdoor deck! This enhancement was made possible through grants secured from both the Victorian and Federal Governments.

The completion of the new deck signifies an exciting upgrade for the club's event capabilities. The inauguration of the deck was attended by Matt Fregon MP, State Member for Ashwood, and Carina Garland MP, State Member for Chisholm, alongside Club President Barrie Epstein and eager club members who all enjoyed the sunshine while officially opening this great new outdoor space.



BURWOOD CRICKET CLUB EVENT

In late January, Matt Fregon MP had the pleasure of attending Burwood Cricket Club's Living Healthy Day event. This event was held in honour of Modester (Mode) Mupachikwa, a female international Zimbabwean team member, who is playing for and being hosted by the Burwood Cricket Club this season. The event was also attended by Joe Tapera Mhishi, the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Australia, who was there to support Mode's achievements in Australia.

In other news, Club President, Kate Bellamy attended Parliament House in Canberra this month where she was invited to accept the Good Sports State Club of the Year Award. The club were awarded runners up in the national award with over 700 club nominations. This award is a testament to the club's hard work over 150 years and the dedication of its members.



ATTENTION LOCAL SPORTING CLUBS!

The latest round of the Sporting Club Grants Program is now open. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for uniforms, equipment and resources that improve accessibility and engagement; up to \$2,000 for projects to strengthen volunteering and officiating; up to \$4,000 to deliver a new sport or recreation program; and up to \$750 to support athlete travel. Applications for this round close at 4pm on 20 March 2024. For more information and to apply for the Sporting Club Grants Program visit: www.sport.vic.gov.au or contact Matt Fregon MP's office Ph: 9561 0511, for further details.

BATTLE OF THE FREEWAY

Back in September 2023, the annual Battle of the Freeway took place between 9 bowling clubs from the electorates of Ashwood, Glen Waverley and Oakleigh.

This event was an afternoon of camaraderie and friendly competition, where teams from each of the 3 electorates battled it out to take home the esteemed title of "Battle of the Freeway" champion for 2023! Held on the bowling green at Parliament House, competitors did not let the weather dampen their competitive spirit. The competitors were also able to enjoy a light lunch at Parliament House in the Member's Dining Room.

Competition was close, with Ashburton Bowls Club emerging victorious and taking home the title for 2023.

Special mentions to the Burwood District Bowls Club, Mount Waverley Bowling Club and Ashburton Lawn Bowls Club from the Ashwood Electorate for coming along and competing. A special acknowledgement also to club Presidents Stephen Peisley, Barrie Epstein and Elizabeth Kortum.

Matt Fregon MP looks forward to the 2024 battle and keeping the cup safely in the Ashwood District!



ASHWOOD UNITING TENNIS CLUB - VIC TRACK GRANT SUCCESS

Ashwood Uniting Tennis Club have been successfully awarded \$10,000 as part of the VicTrack grants program. This money will be used by the club to support the upgrade of their clubhouse to comply with Tennis Australia standards.



Health

SICK PAY GUARANTEE

Under the Allan Labor Government, Victoria is the first state to provide sick and carer's pay to casual and contract workers.

The Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee provides eligible casual and contract workers with a guarantee they will receive sick pay when they can't go to work. 400 extra casual jobs have now been added to the program - covering more industries, and most importantly, more Victorians.

Scan the QR code to see if you are eligible and register.



DID YOU KNOW?

PRIORITY CARE CLINIC

A brand new Priority Primary Care Centre opened in Glen Waverley last year. The PPCCs are an initiative by the Allan Labor Government to reduce pressures on Emergency Departments and provide alternative locations for patients that are unable to see their GP.

The PPCCs will allow for lower level care that would otherwise have to go to the Emergency Department. The centres accept bookings and walk-ins, with doctors and nurses on site to treat a range of conditions like mild infections, fractures and burns, in addition to diagnostic services including pathology and medical imaging.

Our Community

LOOKING TO MEET OTHER LOCAL MUMS AND ACCESS SUPPORT TO MEET YOUR PARENTING GOALS?

The Australian Breastfeeding Association Boroondara group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12noon in the Craig Family Centre, 7 Samarinda Ave, Ashburton. Meetings are informal, involving group discussions on different parenting topics such as sleep, introducing solids and returning to work, and followed by sharing morning tea together.

All are welcome to drop by and share in a chat over a cup of tea/coffee. No bookings necessary.

Trained breastfeeding counsellors are also available to answer any specific feeding questions parents & other caregivers may have.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! For more information please email: aba.boroondara@gmail.com

A MESSAGE FROM VICTORIA POLICE AND YOUR MONASH LOCAL AREA COMMANDER, MATT VOLK

With summer finally here we often leave doors and windows open to enjoy the fresh air. While letting in the fresh air is great, it's equally as important that we don't let anything else in which is not welcome. In the winter edition of the Ashwood District Community News, I let you know about the rise in overnight break-ins where offenders were stealing your car keys and cars while you slept. Police have had considerable success identifying, arresting and charging a significant number of mainly young offenders with these crimes. The number of break-ins and car thefts has reduced which is great news, however in the majority of incidents still occurring, our community are leaving doors and windows open overnight. This significantly increases your chances of being a victim of crime and makes it easy for offenders to enter your house and take your car and other belongings without being seen or heard.

We continue to have a lot of police working overnight, 7 nights per week, targeting these offenders. Many of our arrests have been as a direct result of calls to 000 where you've seen or heard someone trying to break in. Locked windows and doors make it harder for thieves and we've reviewed CCTV footage showing offenders simply moving on from premises which are well secured. So if you've got a nightly routine before bed, where you turn off the lights and the TV, make sure you also check that all external doors and windows are locked and that your garage doors are closed.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, remember we are only a phone call away and triple zero (000) is the best number to call.

You can follow our Facebook page to keep up to date with messages and arrests in your local area: Eyewatch-Monash Police Service Area on Facebook.

For any issues of a non urgent nature you'd like to raise with Mount Waverley Police Station, please email: UNI-MOUNTWAVERLEY@police.vic.gov.au

Our Multicultural Community

DIWALI - FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Back in November 2023, Matt Fregon MP hosted a joint celebration with the Member for Glen Waverley, John Mullahy MP, to mark the end of Diwali festivities with community organisations and volunteers in the Ashwood and Glen Waverley electorates. The Consul-General of India to Melbourne, Dr. Sushil Kumar, as well as the member for Chisholm, Dr Carina Garland MP were also in attendance.

Diwali is a festival symbolising the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance, and unites communities, families, and friends.

Matt Fregon MP would like to thank all the community organisations and volunteers who made Diwali so special this year.



FAROS GREEK SENIORS CLUB CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Looking back to December of last year, Matt Fregon MP had the pleasure of attending the Christmas Celebration organised by the Faros Greek Seniors Club, alongside Carina Garland MP, the Federal Member for Chisholm.

Over 80 people attended the celebration, enjoying delicious Greek food, all prepared by the members of Faros. The Christmas carols resonated through the church hall.

Our community is built on the contributions of remarkable seniors. Groups like Faros play a pivotal role in fortifying our multicultural community, ensuring its strength, and promoting the wellbeing of their members.



AMAROO NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE - REVIVAL PROJECT - LIVING LOCAL SUBURBAN GRANT

The Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre has received a makeover! Thanks to a \$86,662 grant from the Living Local – Suburban Grants Scheme, this local community hub has a renovated kitchen, reworked cooling systems and new outdoor shade structures.

The centre provides support services including emergency food relief, courses and activities for community members. Not to mention it has a great in-house op shop that aids people in crisis. Additionally, it acts as a meeting place for local groups, as well as for community lunches. These improvements help the neighbourhood house to continue to unite communities, families, and friends.

Be sure to check out the Amaroo Neighbourhood House and their upcoming art events to be held after Easter. The IWPG Kids Peace Art Show, a free three-day event, begins on April 3rd. Afternoon tea is served daily, and art materials and framing are provided. The 32nd Annual Art Show, open to artists aged 18+, starts on April 10th.

Contact Janine on 9807 2625 or coordinator@amaroocn.org.au to enter or for more information.

THAI PONGAL FESTIVAL

The Thai Pongal Festival event celebrated by the Tamil Community annually took place from the 15th to the 18th of January in 2024. This annual event holds immense significance for Tamils worldwide, marking the first day of the Tamil calendar.

Our local Thai Pongal event, held at the Nunawading Community Hub and Tunstall Park, was attended by Matt Fregon MP at the end of January. The day showcased a number of events, including cultural performances, kids entertainment, exhibitions and food stalls.

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2024 - THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON!

As we embrace the lunar calendar, it's time to celebrate the joyous occasion of Lunar New Year! This vibrant festival, marked by the first full moon of the year, brings communities together to rejoice in cultural traditions and new beginnings.

This year, we welcome the auspicious Year of the Dragon with open arms.

Our diverse Ashwood District community joins hands in celebrating this festive season including Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, Nepalese, Singaporean, and Cambodian communities. Lunar New Year holds a special place in our hearts, showcasing the richness of multiculturalism that thrives within our neighbourhood.

Matt Fregon MP is immensely proud to represent one of the most vibrant multicultural districts in Victoria. To commemorate the Year of the Dragon, he participated in the Glen Waverley Lunar New Year and Lantern Festival, as well as the Whitehorse Lunar New Year Festival, and numerous locally organised community events, engaging with our diverse local communities.



Get in touch?

If we can assist you with State Government or community matters, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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**Victorian
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