

# MELTON & MOORABOOL Star Weekly

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## Council rates freeze

By Ewen McRae

Melton council will not raise rates over the next 12 months in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillors recently endorsed the 2020-21 budget, which includes a rates freeze and a bumper capital works program. The council said the rates decision was in response to feedback from residents and local businesses, reflecting the tough economic times.

Melton mayor Lara Carli said it was a budget based on the needs of the community.

"We always strive to do what's best for our community and this year that meant taking into account the hardship many residents have experienced as a result of the COVID-19 crisis," Cr Carli said.

"I'm really proud that we'll be able to deliver so many high-quality services and facilities while also minimising the cost to ratepayers.

"Our residents have welcomed the zero per cent rate rise, and I'm sure it will make a considerable difference to them."

The budget's capital works program totals \$113.5 million and includes funding for a diverse mix of projects including buildings (\$49.8 million), leisure and community facilities (\$18.5 million), road upgrades (\$34.2 million), footpaths and cycle-ways (\$1.3 million), library books (\$518,000), and public art (\$258,000).

Among the biggest projects for the next 12 months are the construction of the Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre, extension of the Caroline Springs Community Facility, construction of Boundary Road from Mount Cottrell Road to Outer Metropolitan Ring Road, development of the Taylors Hill Recreation Reserve facility, construction of the Diggers Rest Community Pavilion and Oval, and continued works to develop the Cobblebank Indoor Stadium.

"Thank you to everyone who shared their views on the budget and helped us ensure this final plan for the year ahead meets the needs of you and your families," Cr Carli said.

"I look forward to seeing our community make the most of the exciting new buildings, sports facilities and more, as well as the many programs and services we're continuing to grow and provide."



(Supplied)

CHELSEA, 7, AND BONNIE

## New park for pooches

Eynesbury residents will soon have more reasons to take their four-legged friends for a stroll, thanks to a state government investment in more dog parks across the state.

The government recently announced it would develop 17 new dog parks in outer suburban and regional areas of the state, with Eynesbury one of the locations.

Energy, Environment and Climate Change Minister Lily D'Ambrosio said the parks were a reflection of the need for more recreation spaces, especially in areas of high growth.

"Now more than ever, we realise the value of having open green space close to where we live – these new dog parks will deliver that for communities across Victoria," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

"These dog parks are not only important for pet owners – building them will create local jobs and boost local businesses as we rebuild from the pandemic."

The dog park locations were chosen through an expression of interest process with local councils. The government is now working in partnership with councils to establish all the dog parks by late next year.

Ewen McRae

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# MOVING AHEAD

8 September 2020

## Mayor's message

Cr Lara Carli



I'm delighted to tell you that we have introduced a zero per cent rate rise for all of our ratepayers in this financial year.

We were well into our budget planning process when the COVID-19 crisis struck, and we decided to redevelop the budget to take into account the financial hardship many residents were experiencing as a result of the pandemic.

I'm really proud that, while minimising the cost to you, we've also managed to plan a significant capital works program.

I truly look forward to seeing you all make the most of the exciting new buildings, sports facilities and more, as well as the many programs and services we're continuing to grow and provide.

Thank you to those of you who shared your views on the budget and helped us ensure this final plan for the year ahead meets the needs of our growing community.

I hope that minimising your rates cost will make a difference to you and your families as we continue to navigate these challenging times.

With the COVID-19 crisis still prominent in our daily lives, I'd like to commend all residents doing their part to help our community stay safe.

Managing these circumstances has meant adapting under changing restrictions and supporting each other in many different ways.

I'm confident that your efforts to do the right thing will help us to come out of this as soon as possible, so thank you.

## STAY INFORMED

**Melton City Council:**  
melton.vic.gov.au/COVID19  
facebook.com/cityofmelton  
Customer Service: 9747 7200

**Department of Health and Human Services:**  
dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

**COVID-19 Hotline:**  
1800 675 398 (24 hours)

## Zero per cent rate rise

**Ratepayers in the City of Melton can look forward to a zero per cent rate rise in the 2020/2021 financial year as part of Council's response to the hardship experienced by residents during the COVID-19 crisis.**

Council made the decision to minimise the cost to ratepayers as it adopted the 2020/2021 Council Budget last week.

Residents can also look forward to a full capital works program worth \$113.5 million.

Some highlights include:

- construction of Eynesbury Station Early Learning Centre
- extension of the Caroline Springs Community Facility
- construction of Boundary Road from Mount Cottrell Road to Outer Metropolitan Ring Road
- development of the Taylors Hill Recreation Reserve facility
- construction of the Diggers Rest Community Pavilion and Oval
- continued works to develop the Cobblebank Indoor Stadium

- installation of traffic lights at a number of major intersections
- expansion of the Melton Recycling Facility

In deciding on the final budget, Council considered 19 submissions, primarily from ratepayers and organisations seeking additional funding for Council facilities and programs.

To view the budget, go to **melton.vic.gov.au/budget**

**\$49.8million**



BUILDINGS

**\$34.2million**



ROAD UPGRADES

**\$518,000**



LIBRARY BOOKS

**\$18.5million**



LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**\$1.3million**



FOOTPATHS AND CYCLE-WAYS

**\$258,000**



PUBLIC ART

## Your rates instalments

Your first rates notice for this financial year will shortly arrive in the post, with a due date of 30 September.

The quickest and easiest way to pay is via our online portal at **melton.vic.gov.au/rates**

Alternatively, there are a number of other payment options available

including BPAY, direct debit and over the phone by calling 1300 067 479.

2020/2021 rates instalment due dates:

- 1st instalment: 30 September
- 2nd instalment: 30 November
- 3rd instalment: 28 February
- 4th instalment: 31 May

## Vacation care

Primary school aged children of permitted workers or who are vulnerable can now enrol for our Vacation Care program. The program provides safe, quality care with loads of fun activities to keep the kids entertained.

Book your child's place by this Friday 11 September at **melton.vic.gov.au/vacationcare**

**Your Councillors – Visit [melton.vic.gov.au/councillors](https://melton.vic.gov.au/councillors) to find your ward Councillors and their contact details**



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Cr Lara Carli



**Deputy Mayor**  
Cr Steve Abboushi



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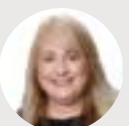
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# Soil decision ‘drawn out’: Mayor

By Ewen McRae

Moorabool mayor David Edwards has questioned the lengthy process on proposals to bring contaminated soil to Bacchus Marsh, as community uncertainty grows.

The Environment Protection Agency last week ticked off an Environmental Management Plan for Maddingley Brown Coal to receive soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project, however the final decision on which site will receive the soil rests with the planning minister and

project operator Transurban.

Cr Edwards said the process had been painfully drawn out.

“Ten months down the track and we still don’t know if the minister will use powers under section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to allow soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project to be stored on the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh,” Cr Edwards said.

“This process commenced by Transurban and MBC has delayed a determination and highlights why local decisions should be made locally. Had they not taken this route, council, as the local planning authority, could have decided on the proposal months ago.

“A timely decision by council would have provided much-needed certainty for our community, MBC, Transurban, West Gate Tunnel Authority and the taxpayers of Victoria who are ultimately funding this project.”

Maddingley Brown Coal is one of three sites bidding to receive the soil, with operators in Ravenhall and Bulla also tendering to Transurban for the contract.

The Bulla site also received EPA approval last week.

Cr Edwards said there was no indication yet when a final decision would be made but said recent developments in the pandemic response showed there were never any guarantees on when a decision could be forthcoming.

“As we have seen with the recent request for an extension of emergency powers in Victoria this is not always guaranteed and could mean further delays and further uncertainty,” Cr Edwards said.



Maddingley Brown Coal has been given EPA approval to accept toxic soil. (Mark Wilson)

## Soil storage plans get EPA tick

Maddingley Brown Coal’s plans to store and process contaminated soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project is a step closer after the state environment watchdog ticked off on the site.

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has approved Environment Management Plans (EMP) for the MBC site, as well as Hi Quality in Bulla. Both sites now need approvals from the state planning minister.

In a statement on September 1, the EPA said it assessed the plans for potential environmental impacts, such as run-off, odour, and potential land, surface water and groundwater risks.

EPA executive director of regulatory

standards, assessments and permissioning, Tim Eaton, said the sites would continue to be monitored.

“These EMPs will ensure the health of the local community and the environment is protected,” Mr Eaton said. “EPA will closely monitor these sites to make sure that they are complying with their EMP and best practice safety measures to protect the local community and environment.”

Moorabool mayor David Edwards said it was disappointing that council and the community had not had a bigger say in the EPA decision.

“Council has been stonewalled and blocked from receiving the environmental documentation that outlines the potential impact to the community, environment and food bowl,” he said.

“Now a decision has been made with no consultation with council or the community.”

The EPA is yet to make a decision on plans lodged for Cleanaway’s Ravenhall site, which is also bidding to receive the soil.

Transurban, the operators of the West Gate Tunnel Project, will decide which site is contracted to process the soil.

Ewen McRae

## Chance buy leads to win

A Rockbank woman is looking forward to her next trip to the dentist, after claiming a big win from a scratchie lotto ticket last week.

The woman, who did not wish to be named, won \$1000 a week for the next five years after purchasing a \$5 ‘Live the Life’ ticket at newsXpress in Melton.

She said it was the first time she had purchased that particular scratchie, and still couldn’t believe her luck.

“It doesn’t feel real,” she said.

“I couldn’t believe my eyes. I was sitting at home alone, so I sent a photo to my partner to check it for me. I just didn’t believe it. I never thought anything like this would happen to me [so] I was very emotional when I realised I had won.

“I need to get my teeth fixed. I’ve got some bad teeth so I can’t wait to get that happening. My partner and I will put the rest of it towards buying a house.”

The woman said she had to thank the team member at newsXpress for their help in the win. “When I was buying them, I said to the lady behind the counter she could choose what tickets she gave me and she chose that one.

“I went back today to give the lady who gave me the ticket some chocolate and flowers to say thank you. I normally buy \$20 worth of Instant Scratch-Its once a fortnight. This was the first time I had ever bought a Live the Life ticket.”

NewsXpress Melton team member Joe Schembri said it was exciting to have sold the outlet’s first major prize in years.

“The last major prize we sold was about six or seven years ago, so it is good to have that winning feeling again.

“It’s very exciting for the customer and us. We wish her all the best.”

Ewen McRae

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# Slow road to covid normal

By Ewen McRae

Melton will be in stage 4 lockdown for at least another two weeks from September 13 after the state government unveiled its roadmap to reopening.

The extension of stage 4 was announced by Premier Daniel Andrews on Sunday, with changes to the curfew (9pm until 5am), and an increase in exercise outside the home to two hours.

From September 14, people living alone will be able to nominate a friend or family

member to visit their home as part of a ‘bubble’ arrangement.

Regional Victoria, including Moorabool, will work to a different roadmap to reflect the lower COVID-19 case numbers, with some facilities and businesses opening sooner.

The state government roadmap lists the steps needed over the next few months to enable the state to reopen, with the final changes not expected until late-November.

It comes as local numbers of COVID-19 continue to drop.

Active cases of the virus in the Melton

municipality fell to 113 in the week to September 6, still the fifth-highest number for a Victorian local government area.

Moorabool’s number’s also improved, with just eight active cases as of September 6.

Mr Andrews said while the decision to extend stage 4 lockdown was difficult, the scientific modelling showed that opening up too early would almost certainly lead to a third wave of the virus.

“This job, the great honour that I have to lead our state, every day is filled with decisions that are really, really difficult,” he said.

“Difficult because you know what the consequences of those decisions will be. Some of them are indeed heartbreaking. This is not a 50-50 choice.

“The only way we can manage it [the virus] is to get these numbers down to such a low level that it’s a fair fight.

“You can chase those numbers if you have everything shut down ... but no public health response ... will work if you’ve got the whole thing out of control.”

See [www.vic.gov.au/roadmap](http://www.vic.gov.au/roadmap) for a full list of changes.



The RSPCA is preparing for an influx of kittens in need of a home. (Pictures: Supplied)

## Melton in the spotlight

Melton’s urgent funding needs were a key topic with leaders and representatives from political parties recently.

As part of Interface Week, dedicated to improving liveability in Melbourne’s outer suburbs, Melton mayor Lara Carli and chief executive Kelvin Tori attended seven online meetings with state politicians and representatives.

Cr Carli said the discussions were positive, and centred around Melton’s unique needs as such a fast growing area.

“We took the opportunity to explain our community’s many critical and diverse needs to some of the state’s biggest decision-makers,” Cr Carli said.

“Our city is one of the fastest growing in Victoria, and our need for additional infrastructure and services was a big focus in our Interface Week meetings.

“With the state budget pending and new stimulus packages becoming available in response to the COVID-19 crisis, it was an excellent chance to put our residents’ needs on the agenda. We covered everything from public transport and roads, to health, education, and recreation.

“We highlighted how priorities such as constructing the Melton Hospital, upgrading the Western Highway, upgrading Melton Highway, and electrification of the Melton line will not only improve liveability in the City of Melton but will create long-term jobs and investment for the west.

“I’m very grateful that we received such a positive response and genuine understanding... I sincerely hope we’ll get the support we need to deliver the exciting and urgent projects.”

Ewen McRae

## Kitten season is here

The RSPCA is expecting to need to find homes for thousands of bundles of joy as kitten season gets under way.

Generally running from September through to the end of autumn, kitten season refers to the warmer months when there’s an increase in cats breeding.

RSPCA Victoria head of operations Tegan McPherson says there are a number of ways the community can address the issues associated with kitten season.

“It’s so important to desex your cats – desexing your cat is an important part of responsible cat ownership and there are many possible benefits.

“Not only does desexing reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens that will need to go through animal welfare organisations to find a new home, desexing has many health benefits and can also reduce nuisance behaviours.

“It’s also important to know there is no benefit in letting females have one litter before

they are desexed.”

McPherson said if your cat isn’t desexed, it’s important to keep them contained. Kittens under 12 weeks old are the most vulnerable animal population at RSPCA Victoria.

Cats and kittens are adopted at a much slower rate than dogs and less likely to be reclaimed, putting more pressure on animal welfare organisations such as the RSPCA.

Tara Murray



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# Milestone for college

By Ewen McRae

Catholic Regional College Melton may be going through one of its most disjointed years ever, but that hasn't stopped the school commemorating a momentous anniversary.

The college is celebrating its 40th year in 2020 and has marked the occasion with the release of a special book on the history and milestones of the school over the decades.

Principal Marlene Jorgensen said while they could not celebrate in person, it was important for the school community to mark the milestone.

"We could not let the opportunity go by to celebrate the provision of education to children in the western suburbs," Ms Jorgensen said.

"From small beginnings as a 7-10 school, the college has grown to a thriving years 7-12 community as part of a federation of five schools. Many of our students have gone on to be educators, and we currently have 18 of our past students teaching at the college, which speaks volumes about the type of education and learning that happens here at CRC Melton."

Author and school English leader Kezi Todd went back to the first teachers at the school, as well as speaking to former students and educators during the two-year process of compiling the book.

"I had many ex-students contact me, and I was able to contact others as well, which really created a rich diversity of stories," Ms Todd said.

"We wanted to get down the rich oral history of CRC Melton into a published form so that history could be preserved for future staff, students and the community."

Among the many stories in the book is one from former principal Frank Fitzgerald, who told how much of the school burnt down on



Early images from CRC Melton, clockwise from top left: The college in the early days; CRC Melton students; the basketball courts; students at a swimming carnival; construction begins on the college. (Pictures: Supplied)

the day he was to start in 1985, with the school community pitching in to help it get back on its feet.

"I think that was my favourite story because

it is so relevant for us here in 2020," Ms Todd said. "With all the difficulties we are currently facing, I think it provides hope that we have a great future ahead."

## Call for council nominations

Locals wishing to nominate for the upcoming local council elections have less than a month to get their nominations in.

The Victorian Electoral Commission confirmed recently that elections would proceed as scheduled in October, with extra measures in place to ensure safety while the pandemic continues. Nominations are open until noon on September 22.

"The eligibility requirements for candidates have recently changed. If you are thinking about standing for election, make sure to confirm your eligibility and complete the mandatory online candidate training before lodging your nomination," electoral commissioner Warwick Gately said. "This includes candidates who are currently or have previously been a councillor."

Candidates must make an appointment during business hours with the election manager to lodge their nomination forms and pay their \$250 nomination fee.

They must have also completed the online candidate training, which is now required by law and will be shown on each candidate's nomination form.

Candidates may make a nomination appointment with the election manager by calling 8619 1410 from September 16.

Candidates can also pre-fill a nomination form using the online candidate helper at [candidatehelper.vec.vic.gov.au](http://candidatehelper.vec.vic.gov.au), from September 3.

Ewen McRae

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Woodlea town centre could become home to a communal workspace. (Supplied)

## Help for home workers

Woodlea is exploring options for a communal workspace in the town centre as working from home becomes more common.

A recent survey of 500 Woodlea residents revealed that only 27 per cent plan to return to their workplace full-time post-COVID-19, with 62 per cent saying they will continue to work from home in some capacity.

The survey also showed that 12 per cent would like to work from home but don't have the set-up to do so, prompting Woodlea project director Matthew Dean to look at options for the township.

"We are continually looking for ways to innovate to ensure it [Woodlea] is responding to the needs of its residents and the surrounding communities," Mr Dean said.

"It is important we adapt to what a

post-COVID world might look like, which is very much looking like remote work could be here to stay and as such, we are exploring our options with local co-working operators – people no longer want to commute every day to the office and instead will keep working from home a few days a week.

"A local co-working space would allow residents a greater work-life balance; they can continue to work close to home with the help of private offices, meeting rooms and work stations and rather than spending unproductive time commuting every day, they can instead spend more time doing the things that really matter, like taking the kids to a park or seeing family and friends."

Ewen McRae

### Briefs

#### Appeal for information

Melton police have received reports of a man who has been approaching children and teenagers in the Eynesbury estate. He is described as Caucasian, tall, of slim build and in his mid-30s. While police are not investigating any criminal acts at this stage, they are appealing for further public information. Anyone with information is urged to contact their local police station.

#### Aintree vandals

Police are investigating a series of criminal damages that occurred in Aintree recently. Vandals used spray paint to tag or cover a number of vehicles. The offending took place between 10pm on August 28 and 7am on August 29. Police are asking for anyone who may have seen the offending, has CCTV footage, or who wishes to report suspicious behaviour to contact Constable Brooke Tassits at Caroline Springs police station on 9361 4700 or Brooke.Tassits@police.vic.gov.au. People can also contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 and quote incident number 200317831.

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# STOP THE SOIL

## No contaminated soil to Ravenhall



**Contaminated soil from the West Gate Tunnel Project could be dumped in our area if a proposal by Cleanaway, operators of the Melbourne Regional Landfill, is approved.**

This means that 2,900,000 metric tonnes of contaminated soil would be taken to the Ravenhall landfill site, which neighbours Caroline Springs, Burnside, Rockbank, Mount Cottrell, Albanvale, and Deer Park. It would add 460 truck movements to local roads every day, for 16-18 months. That's one every three minutes!

STOP THE SOIL is a joint campaign by Melton and Brimbank councils that lets decision-makers know that our communities don't want contaminated soil stored at Ravenhall.



"Our priority is the wellbeing of local residents which includes protecting your liveability, safety, the environment and generating more local jobs. Help us stop the soil."

**Cr Lara Carli**  
City of Melton Mayor



"We are strongly opposed to contaminated soil from the West Gate Tunnel project being dumped in our area. We are calling on the State Government to stop the soil going to Ravenhall."

**Cr Georgina Papafotiou**  
Brimbank City Council Mayor

## Act now!

Join us to stop the contaminated soil going to Ravenhall. Visit **stopthesoil.com.au** and sign the petition today.



Out and about

Photographer Damjan Janevski spent some time in Bacchus Marsh as the locals enjoyed some early spring sunshine.



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# New normal for sport



By Tara Murray

This time last year, many winter sport finals had been played and won, and other competitions had spectators on the edge of their seats as the finals played out.

But this year, it's been eerily quiet as sport across the state is forced to a standstill by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been anything but easy for staff, players, parents and volunteers at clubs and associations. Finding ways to engage members has become a primary focus.

For Broadmeadows Basketball Association that has meant stepping up online content, to cater for everyone from its littlest players to its senior program.

Operations manager Todd Anderson said the second lockdown had been harder for a lot of people.

The association managed to get back to the stadium for just one and half days, including hosting some holiday clinics, between the two lockdowns.

"We're fortunate that we've been set up fairly well so we've been able to handle it so far," Anderson said.

"We're doing a lot of Zoom sessions now ... we've done every Sunday morning.

"We've done some life skills sessions. We have domestic and rep level Zooms, with a few coaches coming through.

"I think we had 60 kids in one session, it's a pretty big number considering it's hard to engage everyone at home."

Anderson said the focus wasn't just on the skills part of the game. He said it's a chance to work on things they normally wouldn't focus on.

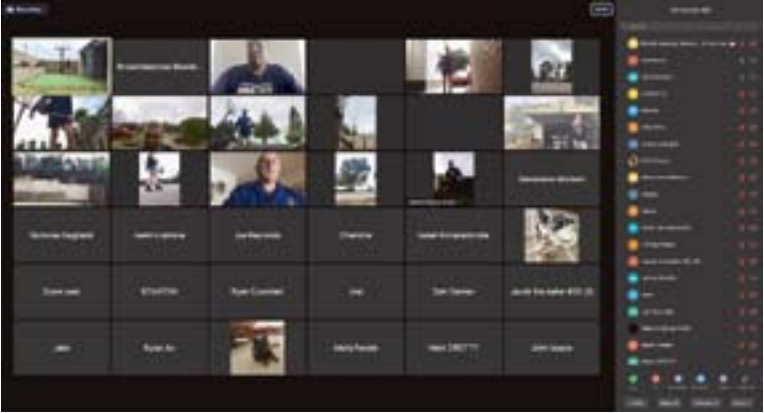
"We had Headspace do a presentation for all the kids and parents which, I think, is very important at the moment.

"Just talking with some of the kids about struggling with motivation and being away from basketball, school and friends.

"We had a session with Cam Rigby, a former NBL player, who is now a strength and conditioning coach – you're a much bigger risk of getting hurt when we come back.

"We're hoping to do nutrition."

Green Gully senior soccer team had already played five games in the National Premier League before the season was postponed, then cancelled.



**Main:** Mark Williams talking to the Werribee playing group last year. (Luke Hemer) **Above:** Broadmeadows Basketball zoom session. (Pictures: Supplied)

All junior competitions were postponed.

Club general manager Ray Mamo said they had originally wanted to get the season back up and going.

"Things were all going really well, until the first outbreak and lockdown," he said.

"Our senior players were wanting to play and our juniors wanted to continue playing. Kids need to be playing a sport.

"We thought we would be playing, but the right decision was made. We have to make sure the safety of all participants is first and foremost."

Mamo said communication had been the key to handling the unknown most effectively.

He said during the first and second lockdowns, coaches have made a point of reaching out to the playing group.

"From under-18s down doing video analysis with the players. They pick a game from overseas and they go through the game individually then the coaching staff will ask them questions on formation and so forth.

"[We] try and educate players as well to hopefully be able to read the game and know what coaches are looking for once they resume training.

"We are keeping in touch with most of the players through match analysis and Zoom meetings as well."

He said the teams were also trying to find their own motivation.

The under-14 boys team set a running challenge. Between the 14 players they ran 738 kilometres in a week, with Kyle Zahra running an incredible 100 kilometres.

Mamo said they were hopeful that they

might get their junior sides on the park later this year, but it was a wait and see game.

At Werribee Football Club, the season being cancelled has halted its activity on and off the field.

On the field, they had been hoping to improve on their 2019 semi-final performance, while off field the club had been hoping to continue their work in the community.

Werribee chief executive Mark Penaluna said it had been a challenging few months.

"We've basically had no income since the middle of March, so that means basically our staff are all on JobKeeper ... managing that and coming out the other side is fairly daunting.

"We're doing our best to stay positive, but at the same time I think everyone is doing it tough and you have to walk the balance of communication and how you work with them.

"The human element is what you miss, not sitting down and having a coffee directly or with someone at work.

"It's very hard because as you don't know what you're going through in life and you can generally pick those things up.

"From a managerial and support point of view I'm finding it much more difficult to do that remotely."

"Choco [Mark Williams] and the footy boys do a wonderful job through Whatsapp and have regular Zoom meetings with the players, coaches, support and staff."

The club normally contributes \$100,000 per annum to the local community, mostly in sponsorship and donations to sporting clubs and charity groups. It will likely push that back to some stage next year. Penaluna said they

were trying to launch new initiatives, such as an online auction.

The playing group had played a couple of practice matches before the first lockdown and eventual season cancellation.

Some players have headed interstate for the football season, getting the opportunity to play in other state leagues. Penaluna said they had no issue with that, as players still try to find a way onto an AFL list.

He said the playing group was trying to stay active.

"Some of the players have been involved providing video content for schools and local clubs, our players and community team have been very much at the front.

"I haven't seen anyone do it better than we have ... I'm very proud of what they've been able to achieve with that.

"Choco is the Wyndham council, Find Your 30 ambassador and we've been supporting that as well.

"Our community team is working with other stakeholders, especially the council, around what we can be looking to support them with.

"We've also had regular contact with the Salvation Army and others, looking for ways and means we can help those non-for-profits."

Penaluna is just as proud of the local community and its support of the club.

"We haven't had any sponsors ask for a refund on their sponsorship dollars," he said.

"Of all of our members, we've only had two get in contact ... and ask for reimbursement.

"I think it says a lot about the members and the broader ... community about the loyalty and passion they show towards our club."



# Where learning and wellbeing go hand in hand

When principal Marlene Jorgensen joined Catholic Regional College Melton at the start of this year, she quickly recognised the school’s biggest asset.

“It’s our community – students, teachers and families – all working together to give our students the best opportunities and outcomes,” Mrs Jorgensen says. “We are alongside them every step of the way.”

This collaboration supports diverse learning experiences, faith development and a strong focus on wellbeing.

“It’s about developing a student’s resilience and a positive growth mindset. We need to ensure they are equipped to face the challenges ahead, both individually and as global citizens.”

Learning and wellbeing go hand in hand at the college. The pastoral care program ensures students feel connected and supported throughout their secondary years and Mrs Jorgensen says an independent review of the school had highlighted its success.

“Wellbeing of students is a priority at the college. We have many initiatives that enable students to develop empathy, mindfulness and the skills needed to manage their mental and physical wellbeing. All of these lead to better outcomes for young people.”

The college offers a broad curriculum in Year 7 and 8, which leads into the Gadal Learning Program in Year 9.

“Having a separate learning program for our Year 9 students, with a core team of staff and a different model of learning and teaching, promotes engagement and self-confidence.”

From Year 10, students begin to consider their senior pathways with a range of comprehensive VCE and VCAL options available. There are also many extra-curricular programs

This year, the college celebrates its 40th anniversary and Mrs Jorgensen says it’s timely to reflect on how far the school has come and to



Principal Marlene Jorgensen will continue to focus on student wellbeing. (Supplied)

build on its core strengths.

“Our facilities continue to expand to meet the growth in student population. Our magnificent Sheehan Stadium provides state-of-the-art sporting facilities, and the Alexandria Resource Centre is a modern library space that also houses our careers and IT team, meeting

rooms and spaces for collaborative learning.

“We have also finalised our Master Plan which will see the addition of a Year 8 Learning Centre, with a focus on critical and creative thinking skills in STEM.

“As well, the college has a strong emphasis on leadership development and social justice

activities, with students in all year levels encouraged to act on their faith and be a collective voice for change.”

**Catholic Regional College, 109-141 Bulmans Road, West Melton. Inquiries: 8099 6000 or [www.crcmelton.com.au](http://www.crcmelton.com.au)**

# Catholic Regional College Melton

## ENROL NOW

Enrolment applications for Year 7 2022 are due on Friday 9 October 2020. Applications are also being accepted for limited places in Year 8 to 12 in 2021. To obtain or submit and application form email [enrolments@crcmelton.com.au](mailto:enrolments@crcmelton.com.au)

We invite you to take a Virtual Tour of the College led by our Year 12 student leaders, which includes a live Q&A session with our Principal, Mrs Marlene Jorgensen. To reserve your place visit: [www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours](http://www.crcmelton.com.au/join-us/college-tours)

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# Online a great tool for 'touring' schools

Every parent would surely agree that this has been the strangest school year ever: open, lockdown, open, lockdown, repeat, writes Carole Levy.

Schools have responded admirably to the coronavirus challenges, quickly setting up online learning, teaching kids (and groaning parents) how to use their particular system, setting up Zoom passwords, doling out devices, and generally showing huge dollops of patience and kindness.

So far, so good – even if most of us aren't enjoying the remote learning experience much, especially true for parents juggling their own work from home. And the new discipline required has been testing pretty well everyone.

Just when we think we're all getting there, it's time to face another potential challenge around getting our kids educated: finding the right school for next year while the schools are closed.

Fortunately, many schools are organising virtual tours, and even virtual open days. While not as detailed as an in-person tour, these virtual substitutes do a great job letting parents see the school's facilities.

Virtual open days are even better, with principals and teachers interacting online with prospective students and their families. Questions get answered, any reservations are discussed and, most of all, we get to "meet" the staff and get a feel for who they are as teachers.

It almost seems old-hat now, but school websites are a terrific information source generally. Exploring the entire website can often throw up good 'insider' info, too – for example, reading the school's newsletters can be quite revealing about how a school rolls.

Failing any of that, keep it simple by calling to chat to the principal who will be keen to explain the benefits of their particular school.



Take advantage of online tools to 'tour' prospective schools. (iStock)

Schools are always looking for new enrollees and, during this peculiar COVID-19 season, that hasn't changed – and principals are likely have more time for phone conversations right

now as well.

Check out the schools in your zone that look appealing at first glance, then find out if they're running virtual tours or open days, or

something else that will help. We've managed to duck the 3pm traffic snarls on the way to school pick-ups, but we can't duck getting our kids enrolled for next year.



**Enrolment Applications for 2021  
close on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**



**For details of our enrolment process and to request an enrolment form please email [office@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:office@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au)**

Please note that we are currently working through enrolment applications that have already been submitted and will be contacting those families regarding interviews/places available between now and the end of this term.

\*\*\*\*\*

**\*\* St Lawrence of Brindisi Primary School is expected to open in 2022. New families living in the St Lawrence catchment area who would like to commence in 2021 will commence at St Anthony's Primary School in 2021 and will then transfer to St Lawrence once it opens.**

<b>St Anthony of Padua Primary School</b> Wilson Road Melton South <b>03 8099 7800</b>	<b>St Lawrence of Brindisi Primary School</b> Waterway Boulevard Weir Views – Opening 2022 ** <b>03 8099 7800</b>
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# Keep the kids active in homeschooling

With online learning again in full swing and a myriad of subjects to tackle, it can be easy to overlook one of the most important aspects of the curriculum – physical education, writes Danielle Kutchel.

PE at home doesn't have to be stuffy and regulated. Consider slipping it in as part of the day and you'll be well on your way to ticking those education boxes!

**Make it fun**

People often say they 'hated PE at school', with many looking to drop it the moment they could. Meanwhile, the mean PE teacher has become a movie trope. The answer? Make PE great again by injecting a bit of fun into the routine. PE doesn't just have to be a class game of cricket or following the provided curriculum in regimented steps. Homeschooling allows for a certain amount of creativity (especially the second time around) Invent games for your kids or make it competitive: who can jump the highest? Who can run the furthest? What's the latest crazy TikTok dance routine – see what the kids can do with it!

Think about what games and sports your kids prefer and encourage them to keep those up. Older children, for example, might like to go for a bike ride or run. For younger kids, break out the chalk and draw some hopscotch on the pavement outside for an outside-the-box activity. Don't forget to use what the school has

provided. They will have ideas and suggestions for you and there will, of course, be certain tasks the students need to complete, but that's no excuse for a boring lesson.

**Make it incidental**

Your kids are used to going out at lunch time and burning off some steam. Don't let them become couch potatoes just because they're learning from home. Schedule lunch time in for a consistent time each day and make that the time you head outside. If there's nothing prepared for lunch, get the kids to jump on their scooters or bikes and head to the shops – not only does this ensure they get their physical activity quote up for the day, but it doubles as an excuse to get some chores done! You can even use PE to break up the day. Finished that maths task? Celebrate with 20 star jumps to get the blood pumping before you get back into the books.

**Make it real**

Don't be afraid to ask for help! If you're struggling, get in touch with your child's PE teacher and ask for advice. They're there to support you and they'd probably be grateful to hear from you and get an update on their students.



Think outside the box when it comes to PE at home. (iStock)




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Sudoku

Fill the grid so every column, every row and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.



EASY



MEDIUM

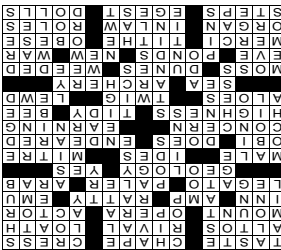


HARD

Quick crossword solution

Across: 1. Avidly, 4. Ending, 9. Free, 10. Aberration, 11. Snatch, 12. Disturb, 13. Temporary, 15. Cede, 16. Sure, 17. Perpetual, 21. Schooner, 22. Resist, 24. Get a move on, 25. Steady, 27. Grieve. Down: 1. Arrange, 2. Inert, 3. Leather, 5. Normal, 6. Intersect, 7. Goodbye, 8. Tender-hearted, 14. Perforate, 16. Success, 18. Partner, 19. Absolve, 20. On hold, 23. Spree.

WordFit



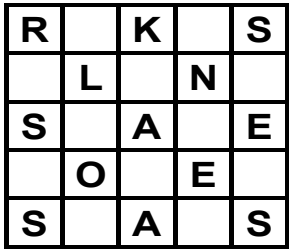
WordBuilder

aglin, ail, alligun, ani, gain, gal, gin, gila, lag, latin, lly, ling, llinga, nag, nail, nil

Quiz solution

- 1 Cate Blanchett, 2 Jupiter, 3 Ray Davies, 4 The Winged Keel, 5 Johann Sebastian Bach, 7 Human, 8 Cabbage Patch Kids, 9 Portugal, 10 Parmesan.

5x5



Insert the missing letters to make ten words — five reading across the grid and five reading down.

Note: more than one solution may be possible.

WordBuilder



How many words of three or more letters, including plurals, can you make from the five letters, using each letter only once? No foreign words or words beginning with a capital are allowed. There's at least one five-letter word. Good 7 Very Good 9 Excellent 12

Decoder

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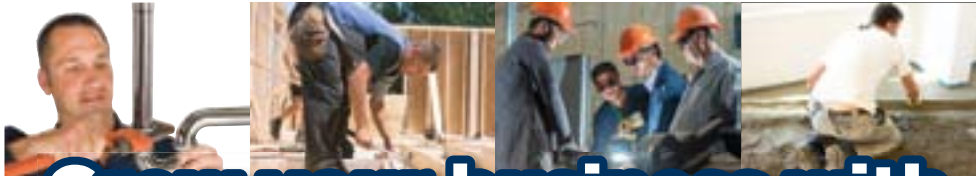


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# Good looks and performance

By Ewan Kennedy, Marque Motoring

Now in its fourth year on the market, Audi has given its S4 Avant a mild facelift and significant increases in equipment to provide added sales incentives.

Avant in Audi-speak stands for station wagon, the 'S' means it's got more gear and performance than the standard A4. Although it sits below the very pricey, very quick Avant RS it's certainly not slow.

This update sees the S4 being finished in metallic paint with Nappa leather sports seats and adjustable (pneumatic) front seats.

## Styling

The front grille is so large that there's nowhere to put the number plate – which spoils what is otherwise a great looking nose. Overall there's a sleek appearance that's rather plain in the sides, but that look expands at the rear. The metallic roof rails give it added visual oomph.

## Interior

The cabin of this high-performance upmarket German machine is a pleasant place to be in. It has suede-look trim inserts in a slightly different colour to the rest of the door trim, alloy highlights and the way the interior lights up at night are excellent.

Seating is good for four adults, with a rear-centre seat making it comfortable for five.

There isn't as much legroom in the back as we would expect in a car of this size. There's good headroom for all but very tall adults.

The rear seat backs don't fold completely flat.

## Infotainment

Bang & Olufsen 3D Sound System has 19 speakers including tweeters in the upper part of the A pillars deliver 755 Watts via a 16-channel



Audi's Avant S4 has the looks to match its high-performance credentials. (Supplied)

amplifier to provide beautiful music. The 2020 upgrade sees the provision of dual USB ports for rear seat passengers. Inductive phone charging is handily placed in the lidded stowage area between the front seats where it can be reached by all occupants.

## Engines / transmissions

Audi S4 Avant has a 3.0-litre six-cylinder engine with direct fuel injection, turbocharging and Audi's clever variable valve-lift system.

It has 260 kW of power from 5,400 to 6,400 revs. Peak torque of 500 Nm runs across a very

handy range, all the way from 1,370 to 4,500. In other words, you will have maximum torque under your right foot virtually all the time.

Transmission is to all four wheels using the Audi quattro system. The automatic transmission is an eight-speed unit with tiptronic changes to the driver. A zero to 100 km/h time of 4.9 seconds puts this load hauling station wagon well into sportscar territory.

## Safety

Features to try and prevent a crash are included in the Audi Assistance Package City;

these are autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian detection, side assist, pre-sense rear and exit warning.

Attention assist gives an alert tone and a visual signal if the car feels that the driver's isn't paying attention.

Audi pre-sense City with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) and pedestrian detection, detects impending collisions at up to 85 km/h and can reduce speed by up to 40 km/h.

An active bonnet moves up if the car senses it has hit a pedestrian. This provides a cushion between the human body and the hard components directly under the bonnet.

There are front, side and a head level curtain airbags.

Audi Pre-sense Rear helps to mitigate rear-end collisions, within system limits, through a series of measures including flashing the hazard lights at high frequency to warn surrounding traffic.

## Driving

A head-up display is part of this upgrade to the S4 Avant, it's clear and easy to see.

Dynamic, Comfort and Auto drive mode options are all useful in their individual ways. Dynamic gives you plenty of exciting performance but may prove a bit harsh in the suspension for boring day to day use. The suspension can be a somewhat noisy over rough and ready roads and really feels the bump-thumps on joins on concrete roads.

The Auto setting does its best to realise what you are looking for.

## Summing up

It's good to see a commonsense vehicle like the Audi Avant S4 providing excellent style, huge performance and good load lugging ability.

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 Notice is given in accordance with Section 130(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, that at a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, 31 August 2020, Melton City Council ("Council") resolved, having considered the 19 submissions received, to adopt the Municipal Budget for 2020-2021.  
 A copy of the adopted Municipal Budget will be available by appointment only for public inspection at the Civic Centre, 232 High Street, Melton, also available on Council's website melton.vic.gov.au  
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