

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

APRIL 2022

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## Stribling Reserve pavilions redevelopment

**We are proud to have partnered with the Lorne community in delivering the \$6.635 million Stribling Reserve Pavilions Redevelopment Project, culminating with the official opening of the community pavilion on 14 April.**

The project, which included building of a new netball pavilion, resulted from a Stribling Reserve Masterplan created by Lorne community members and Council, and endorsed in 2017.

Redevelopment of the community pavilion included addition of a new second level with community spaces, commercial kitchen and other amenities.

Council contributed \$3.274 million to the pavilions project, including underwriting of a \$500,000 community contribution that has now been successfully raised. We acknowledge contributions of \$3.274 million from the Australian Government through its Building Better Regions fund and \$86,061 from the Victorian Government through Sustainability Victoria.



## Getjawil Garden: a place to come, gather and grow together

**The opening of Getjawil Garden in Torquay has seen the community come together – an ode to its Wadawurrung namesake, getjawil, meaning 'many'.**

Located at Nautical Linear Reserve in the Quay, the community-led project is part of Council's Community Project Development Program.

Featuring edible Indigenous plants for locals to pick, eat and maintain, the space provides opportunities for people to come together, and learn from the garden.

Informative signage with details about the plants, the various species, and how to use them in cooking, feature throughout the newly installed space.

The community members who led the project, were able to source additional funding from Energy Australia to include a Yarning Circle within the garden.

This circle of seating rocks is based on the traditional meeting place of Australia's First Nation where stories are shared, and all who come are considered equal.

## A new chapter for Winchelsea Shire Hall

**Earlier this year, the newly refurbished Winchelsea Shire Hall reopened its doors to begin its next chapter as home to the Winchelsea Community House.**

It now offers a range of community activities, including events, exhibitions, children's story time and youth drop-ins. It also houses Council's maternal and child health services and the Winchelsea Visitor Information Centre.



# Let's build the Surf Coast Cultural Centre

Council has been working hard seeking funding for the exciting Surf Coast Cultural Centre. It will provide new and more spacious state-of-the-art facilities, provide a place for lifelong learning, social connections and expression, and will support pandemic recovery.



The centre, to be in Torquay's Surf City precinct, will create a striking new cultural hub incorporating:

- The Australian National Surfing Museum
- Torquay Library
- Multi Arts Centre with maker and rehearsal spaces
- Torquay Visitor Information Centre
- Wadawurrung First Nations cultural heritage
- Surfing Victoria office

It will be a purpose-built cultural incubator for one of regional Australia's most-creative communities and provide a home and displays worthy of an internationally-significant collection of local, national and international surfing artefacts and history. Council has approved concept plans and a business case for this project.

Stage one, scheduled to start in 2024, will cost \$36.9 million and include an expanded surfing museum with its internationally-significant

collection, expanded library and visitor centre, with the new building incorporating the existing redeveloped Multi Arts Centre, MAC.

Council has committed \$8 million as well as the site, and has been actively pursuing government and philanthropic funding for the balance.

The total project will bring significant economic benefits for the region, with construction projected to support 148 jobs and a completed stage one forecast to inject an additional \$173 million in direct and indirect economic impact in the Great Ocean Road region, supporting more than 750 jobs.

This is such an exciting project and we need your help to secure funds to build the centre. We know we will be able secure funding if other funders see community support for the project. You can help out by going to [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CulturalCentre](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CulturalCentre) and adding your voice to our campaign to generate support from other levels of government.

# Karaaf Wetlands

The Karaaf is part of a saltmarsh system that connects to the Thompson Creek estuary and then the ocean at Point Impossible.

We acknowledge the impact of stormwater on the ecological health of the Karaaf Wetlands. We need to better understand the water quality and the impact of fresh water flows into the Karaaf as well as sediment from work-sites.

## Short-term works to manage inflows:

- An education and enforcement campaign is underway to ensure nearby building sites are properly managing litter and soil dispersal.
- Gross Pollutant Traps in north Torquay were cleaned in November and January, and the next clean is scheduled after Easter.
- Monthly water quality testing is occurring. The tests show the constructed wetlands are having a positive impact, resulting in improved water quality downstream including at The Sands and the Karaaf Wetlands.
- We're working with the developer of the Dunes wetland to ensure ongoing maintenance is occurring.
- The Zeally Sands system was inspected by a qualified wetland assessor in December 2021 with the auditor reporting that the wetland is in good condition with no Typha weed present. A more detailed audit is planned.

## Longer-term works - review of the overall stormwater system:

- Environmental assessment to assess current condition and set targets for the future.
- Stormwater network assessment - a complete review of the system including performance.
- Planning framework to create a legal framework and confirm responsibilities.
- Infrastructure plan - future capital works identified through the review stages.

This will result in an integrated water management plan for the north of Torquay and the Karaaf Wetlands.

## Weed removal works at Whites Beach wetland



## We recently completed works to remove an invasive weed from the constructed wetland at Whites Beach, Torquay.

The introduced species of Bulrush (also called Typha or Cumbungi) can choke waterways preventing other indigenous flora and fauna from growing.

The wetland had been overtaken by the Bulrush weed, which was changing the dynamics of it and impacting water flow.

This clean-up program is part of a series of works Council is doing to improve the overall water management system for Torquay North. It will also help reinvigorate the local ecosystem by allowing other plants to grow and improve the habitat for a wider number of bird species.

## Want to know more?

Visit [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/karaafwetlands](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/karaafwetlands) for updates and more information.