

What's Happening August to November 2025

Mayor Linda Aitken's Message

Welcome to the second edition of What's Happening for 2025.

We've got a packed issue for you, with updates on some of the groundbreaking projects under construction in the City, from new playgrounds to our state-of-the-art Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre and Dordaak Kepup, our library and youth innovation hub, which is due for completion by the end of the year.

This edition also celebrates the legacy of a Freeman of the City, the late Nick Trandos OAM JP.

Nick's passing in June was deeply felt by both the Wanneroo and Joondalup communities.

Remembered as a man with great vision and community spirit, we pay tribute to Nick's legacy of leadership and service to our cities.

We thank Nick for all he has done for our region. May he rest in peace.

Mayor Linda Aitken

Help shape our City

Sign up to Your Say, the the City's Community Engagement Hub, to help improve our services and guide our planning and investments.

Your feedback and involvement in community engagements helps us address concerns and incorporate your ideas into our decision-making.

Create an online account to receive updates on engagement topics you're interested in straight to your inbox.

Registration is quick and easy, visit yoursay.wanneroo.wa.gov.au

Vale Nick Trandos

In 1949, a teenage Nick Trandos travelled more than 12,000km from Kefalari, Greece, to begin a new life in Wanneroo - unaware of the incredible legacy he would go on to build.

Widely respected as both the last Shire President and the first Mayor of the City of Wanneroo, Nick Trandos OAM JP was a true pioneer of Perth's northern suburbs. His passing in June at the age of 90 was deeply felt across the Wanneroo and Joondalup communities, where his influence spanned more than 50 years.

After completing his schooling at Wanneroo State School, Nick joined his father Dimitrios in the family's vegetable farming business. Dimitrios had arrived in Wanneroo 11 years earlier, working hard to establish a new life before reuniting with his wife and two sons after WWII.

In 1960, Nick began what would become a long and remarkable career in local government, first as a member of the Wanneroo Road Board - now the City of Wanneroo. He went on to serve 24 years in local government between 1960 and 1988, helping shape the region through decades of growth and change.

Among his many achievements, Nick played a key role in fast-tracking the extension of the Mitchell Freeway to Ocean Reef Road, delivering lasting benefits to the region.

Beyond council chambers, he was also the founding member of the Olympic Kingsway Sports Club, served as President of the WA Market Gardeners' Association for 25 years, and held the role of National President of the Australian Vegetable Growers' Federation from 1983 to 1985.

A passionate advocate for his community, Nick was honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 1988 and was named the first Freeman of the City of Wanneroo, which at the time included the City of Joondalup.

That same year, he retired from local government, remembered as a leader with vision, dedication and heart. Nick's legacy continues through the strong community foundations he helped lay.

The City of Wanneroo offers its sincere condolences to the Trandos family and expresses its heartfelt thanks for Nick's tireless work in shaping our community.

5 minutes with Turf and Irrigation Technical Officer Cam

Of the 90 sporting fields within the City of Wanneroo, several are high-use and require close maintenance and care by a dedicated team.

That's where Cam comes in. Part of the City's Parks and Conservation Management team, he has a wealth of knowledge in turf, having worked at Wanneroo and Cottesloe Golf Clubs for 12 years.

What sporting grounds in the City do you cover and how does each ground differ?

Our team looks after about 104 hectares of active sport turf. I look after about 40 individual fields in the southern part of the City. Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex is my biggest reserve and has 17 different sporting fields ranging from football, rugby, soccer, cricket and baseball.

Many of our sports fields are cut with a rotary mower, which still gets a really good quality cut, but for the high-use grounds like Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, we get a cylinder mower across the turf as much as we can to get a nice flat finish.

Winter's a challenge because we get a lot more wear. When the weather cools down, we don't get a lot of sunlight and the kikuyu grass doesn't grow as much, so we 'overseed' with rye grass to keep the high-use surfaces looking top notch, as we have a lot of play on them seven days a week.

What is some of the technical work the City does to overcome these challenges?

With the fertilising, we have a scheduled program in place. In all of our parks we use information from soil testing and turf analysis to get things spot on and we base our program off what's recommended through those tests.

Olympic Kingsway was used as one of the training facilities for FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023 - does the City do any extra work for these special occasions?

It's a pretty long process and requires planning as far in advance as possible. A big part of that is working with the clubs to make sure we have time off the ground so it has a chance to recover, and limiting training times on the pitch.

From there we'd be looking at seeding programs, the best-looking presentation we can get on these pitches is when they've got a nice healthy coverage of rye grass.

With the mowing schedule, we'd be looking at mowing it a lot more regularly, with slightly different equipment where we're not using heavy ride-on machinery with heavy tyres, it would be a hand-pushed cylinder mower.

It just means someone has to spend a bit more time walking around instead of sitting on a mower, and they'd be doing that regularly and in the same direction for a nice striped-finish.

Local artists take centre stage in 2025 Art Awards

Anna Speirs has been awarded the top honour at the City of Wanneroo Art Awards, receiving the grand prize for her captivating painting, Moonlight Solitude.

Anna was among 15 talented artists recognised in the 2025 awards, sharing in a total prize pool of \$19,900.

There were 135 entries to this year's awards, including 88 paintings, 21 works on paper, 13 photo, film and digital pieces and 13 sculptures.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the Art Awards exhibition once again highlighted the depth of creativity and talent within our community.

"We're proud to host this exhibition each year, celebrating local talent and providing emerging artists the opportunity to showcase their skills and storytelling methods," she said.

"Each piece tells a story and collectively, the exhibition reflects the diversity, imagination and passion of our community."

wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawards

Historic SS Alkimos lifeboat finds new home at Wanneroo Regional Museum

The last surviving lifeboat from the SS Alkimos has moored at Wanneroo Regional Museum, 61 years after the ship sank off the City's coast.

It's link to one of WA's most well-known shipwrecks offers a rare opportunity to interpret local maritime history and enrich the City's museum's collection.

The lifeboat was recovered in May when its former owner contacted the City, saying the historic memento had been owned by her family for decades and they were now eager to share it with the community.

"The lifeboat was kept on a property off the coast of Two Rocks and was a family treasure for generations," Wanneroo Regional Museum Curator Alana Part said

"The owner remembers the ship sinking when she was 16, and now she's in her 70s. When we were transporting it away, she was watching, and she was quite emotional because it clearly meant a lot to her."

"She wanted people to see it in our museum because it's such an interesting story and an important part of Wanneroo's coastal heritage."

A former WWII Liberty Ship, the 7,000-ton SS Alkimos was first launched in 1943 to supply war cargo from the USA to Britain. It was originally named the George

M. Shiver before it was sold to the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission and named Viggo Hansteen.

In 1953, the vessel was sold to a Greek shipping company and renamed the Alkimos. It struck a reef travelling from Jakarta to Bunbury in 1963.

This mishap was the start of a tragic chain of events. The ship was towed to Fremantle for temporary repairs before being towed again to Hong Kong. The vessel left Hong Kong in May 1963, but when the tow line snapped, it was left aground near Two Rocks and stranded for four months with a caretaker on board.

In January 1964, two attempts were made to refloat the ship - both unsuccessful. A third, successful attempt was squashed when the tug boat carrying the SS Alkimos was seized by authorities due to an unpaid debt and escorted back to Fremantle, leaving the Alkimos anchored in deep water.

In May, the ship's anchor chain broke and the vessel drifted to its present position, only 270m from where it had been previously stranded. The ship was then declared a wreck and sold for scrap.

In 1969, it caught fire while salvors were dismantling the hulk - adding to its reputation of a haunted ship. Fortunately the 7m-long, 2.5m-wide lifeboat from the wreck has been preserved in impressive condition.

"We were really happy when we saw it, we weren't expecting much, knowing the state of the Alkimos and the fact that it's been exposed to the elements over the years," Alana said.

The Historic Shipwrecks Act means most of the SS Alkimos' historical artifacts are kept in the Maritime Museum, but this newly recovered lifeboat provides a rare opportunity to keep a piece of history in the City.

"Having something like this evokes so many strong memories and its linked so much with cultural heritage," Alana said. "It helps enrich the museum collection and allows us to tell stories about the Alkimos with something really concrete that we didn't have before. It's really important to preserve it because we have a suburb named after it as well."

"In the future there'll be people that ask questions when we can no longer see the Alkimos when it's completely under water and these will be the last remaining things we have from such an important shipwreck."

An intensive conservation and preservation project is now underway to ensure the lifeboat stays in pristine condition before it is considered for a future display.

For more information about the Wanneroo Regional Museum visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wannerooregionalmuseum

Camira Park, Quinns Rocks

Quinns Rocks is now home to a new playground just a short walk from Quinns Dog Beach. Offering a nature play experience for kids, there is also seating, picnic tables and shade sails.

Gumblossom Community Centre, Quinns Rocks

This multi-use facility has been given a much-needed revamp, with amenity, accessibility and sustainability improvements.

Stage one of the redevelopment was completed in June and included the refurbishment of wet areas, general amenities and the kitchen, along with a renewal of shared spaces. Redevelopment of the sports hall and playgroup area is due to begin in early-2026.

Kingsway Aquatic Playspace, Madeley

New public toilets and a Changing Places facility are now open at the Kingsway Aquatic Playspace.

The Changing Places facility has a height-adjustable adult changing table, overhead ceiling hoist and an accessible shower, toilet and basin.

The project was supported by a State Government Changing Places Grant through the Department of Communities and the Australian Department of Social Services.

Montrose Park, Girrawheen

Significant upgrades at Montrose Park will provide a boost for local tennis enthusiasts.

The park's tennis courts will also be resurfaced, and upgraded fencing and improved sports lighting will be installed to ensure the courts can be used safely into the evenings.

Other upgrades include new toilets, a kiosk, changerooms, a multipurpose space, a storeroom, a cleaning room and a verandah that offers improved spectator views.

Once complete, the facility will serve as a hub for local clubs and the broader community to enjoy.

Bird Viewing Structure, Lake Joondalup

Yellagonga Regional Park will soon be a destination for bird watching enthusiasts, with construction of a Bird Viewing Structure underway. The structure will provide the community with safe facilities to birdwatch while ensuring plant and animal life within the park remains protected from unauthorised access. A new footpath to the structure has been completed already providing a new bushwalking experience.

Grandis Park, Banksia Grove

There's a new place for the local young people to connect in Banksia Grove, and it was designed by young people themselves.

The new gathering space was delivered as part of the Grandis Park Youth Project, which saw the creation of a turf mound, concrete seating, shade sails and natural features such as mulch and log steppers. The footpath and seating area are now decorated with vibrant artwork designed by local teenagers, who also helped bring the space to life during the installation process.

Sanctuary Park, Ridgewood

This revamped park is delighting locals in Ridgewood. The new playground features shade sails, modern play equipment including nature play elements and a double barbecue.

The upgraded space is split into three zones - a main playground, an embankment slide and a basket swing - all connected by a new concrete path encircling the play areas.

Roundabout upgrade, Girrawheen/Koondoola

Work is underway to upgrade a notoriously busy roundabout dividing Girrawheen and Koondoola to improve safety.

Identified in the Federal and State Government's Black Spot Program, the project included the road realignment of Mirrabooka Avenue, asphalt resurfacing, installation of brick paving and kerbing and replacement of the concrete path.

Bike ramps have also been installed at Mirrabooka Avenue, along with a new bus shelter.

Heath Park Pavilion complete

Officially opened in May, Eglinton's Heath Park Pavilion is already a vibrant hub, attracting local sports enthusiasts and community members. The new pavilion features changerooms, first aid rooms, activity rooms, an umpire's room, universal access toilets and showers, kitchens, kiosks and storage.

Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said this development marks a significant investment for our northern corridor.

"We are thrilled to see the completion of this fantastic new sports amenities building, the new go-to venue for active locals and sports lovers in our growing suburb of Eglinton," she said. The City is grateful to have received funding contributions of \$1.97 million

from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, \$930,701 from the WA Government, administered through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, including \$710,000 through the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.

A further \$220,701 has been provided under the Club Night Lights Program to support important floodlighting upgrades, which are currently underway.

Heath Park's mural mystery

There's more to our murals than meets the eye and Heath Park's latest artwork, Flora and Fauna of Yanchep - Search and Find, is a perfect example.

This isn't just a pretty picture - it's a visual treasure hunt packed with hidden local wildlife and native plants, ready for you to discover.

Take a moment to explore the details and see how many creatures you can spot. Don't forget to snap a pic and tag us @cityofwanneroo

Framing the future of AARC

The Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre has reached an exciting milestone, with steel framework lifting the project from the ground.

Structural steel installation has been completed for the sports courts and flooring is now in place for the pools. Steel structures will continue to rise in stages across the sports hall, crèche, aquatics hall, and outdoor 50-metre pool area before roofing begins on the sports hall and community facilities area.

The City is grateful to have received funding commitments of:

- \$30 million from the Australian Government, including \$25 million under the Priority Community Infrastructure Program and \$5 million under the Female Facilities and Water Safety Stream Program
- \$12.6 million from the State Government, including \$10 million under the WA Recovery Program, \$2.5 million from the Community Sports and Recreation Facilities Fund and \$178,792 through the Changing Places program
- \$15.2 million through the Alkimos-Eglinton Developer Contribution Plan

This is in addition to the City's own \$30 million contribution to the project. Further updates can be found at wanneroo.wa.gov.au/alkimosaquatic

CCTV rebate scheme success

Local residents and businesses have embraced the CCTV rebate scheme, with just over \$1 million worth of security cameras installed across the City. From January 2024 to June 2025, 499 applications totalling \$235,000 worth of rebates were approved.

Alkimos and Landsdale were the suburbs with the most approved applications, followed by Banksia Grove and Yanchep.

The rebate allows residents to claim 30 per cent (up to \$500) of the total cost of a new CCTV system, with the aim of enhancing safety for our community.

Applications for the next rebate scheme open on Monday 4 August. To register or for more information, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/CCTVrebate

Dordaak Kepup enters its final stages of construction

The highly anticipated Landsdale library and youth innovation hub, Dordaak Kepup, is in the final stages of construction.

As work continues on the building's striking exterior, equally important efforts are bringing cultural significance to the spaces within.

The library and youth innovation hub's name Dordaak Kepup, meaning Place of Living Waters, was chosen through consultation with Noongar elders and community members to reflect the site the facility will sit on, overlooking Broadview Park.

Meaningful cultural names have also been given to key spaces within the facility - ensuring the building not only stands out architecturally, but respects the rich cultural heritage of the land on which it's built.

The Noongar-naming theme will extend throughout the facility, with each space given a special Noongar name that reflects its use.

The names were selected by Noongar naming consultant and Emeritus Professor, Dr Len Collard, from Moodjar Consultancy, and members of Ni Kadadjiny Koort, the

City's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community reference group. Wanneroo Mayor Linda Aitken said It was important to maintain ties between the building and the native Noongar land and culture it is connected to.

"Using Noongar names for spaces within this building is a meaningful way to recognise the enduring connection of Aboriginal people to this land," she said.

"It fosters greater understanding, respect and pride in our shared history, while keeping language and culture alive for future generations."

We look forward to welcoming the community to Dordaak Kepup in December 2025.

Young people at the heart of new hub

Grandis Park in Banksia Grove is now home to a vibrant new youth space brought to life by the creativity of local young people - thanks to a partnership between the City and WA Police.

Last year, the City secured a WA Police grant to deliver a 12-month project aimed at engaging local young people and helping foster a stronger sense of connection and pride in their community.

Kicking off earlier this year, the project brought together students from Joseph Banks Secondary College, local businesses, community members and local police to co-design a new youth hub at Grandis Park.

Working alongside the City's design team, students created a welcoming gathering space complete with seating, a large shade sail, plants and vibrant public art.

Students led the creative process, taking part in workshops to explore what matters most to young people in the area. They collaborated with local artist, John Herne from Blank Walls, to develop and paint the final artwork on the seating areas and footpaths.

The project culminated in a community celebration in May, designed and delivered by the young participants themselves.

The official launch event, 'Hangout at the Grove', featured live performances, food trucks, bubble soccer and more.

Now complete, the Grandis Park youth space is more than just a place to hang out. It's an example of what can be achieved when young people are given the tools and trust to shape their own community.

Who says bus stops have to be boring?

The Girrawheen Avenue bus stop just got a bold new makeover - and it's anything but ordinary.

Completed in May, this vibrant mural turns a regular wait for the bus into a celebration of community spirit.

Designed in collaboration with students from Girrawheen Senior High School and Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, along with John Herne from Blank Walls and the City's Place Management team, it's a colourful tribute to the cultural diversity that makes our City shine.

Look closely and you'll see greetings from around the world - 'Hello' and 'Welcome' in the many languages spoken right here in Girrawheen. Find it on Girrawheen Avenue, between Wade Court and Patrick Court.

Candid chat with Gallery Curator, Leah Robbie

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of an art exhibition?

We sat down with Wanneroo Regional Gallery Curator, Leah Robbie, to ask some burning questions and get an update on our exciting upcoming exhibition that explores the allure of Pompeii centuries after its discovery.

Tell us about your role, Leah.

As the Gallery Curator for the Wanneroo Regional Gallery, I have the pleasure of providing exhibitions for the residents of the City of Wanneroo and the wider Perth community.

Our exhibitions are designed to provide an engaging experience, while promising to inspire and spark meaningful discussions.

Tell us about the gallery's upcoming exhibition, Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European way of life. Photographs by Luigi Spina.

Late last year, we were very fortunate to have Inside Pompeii: Origins of a European way of life by Luigi Spina offered to us by the Delegation of the European Union to Australia.

Why do you think Pompeii has remained such a powerful subject of interest across the centuries?

There's a lot of reasons that people are fascinated by Pompeii, which is a UNESCO historical site. It provides a snapshot of pre-modern life, but what I find so interesting is how life in 79 A.D. isn't all that different to today's economic and social structures.

Pompeii's enduring influence on contemporary culture plays a part in this continued interest. Pompeii has inspired art, cinema and literature.

What makes this Inside Pompeii exhibition different from other exhibitions about Pompeii that have been held around the world?

This exhibition is shown through a visual arts lens, rather than an archaeological or anthropological exhibition that is largely shown in a museum context. I think what makes this exhibition different is that Spina records the frailty, complexity and vulnerability of the site to highlight the importance of sustainable preservation and restoration.

Many of the places he photographed had been closed for quite a long time and they'd only been opened for conservational purposes.

What do you think Pompeii teaches us about European identity and culture?

I'm going to quote the European Union Delegation here: "It teaches us the importance of safeguarding historic sites, monuments, artefacts and living traditions. It's a shared cultural history."

How much influence do you have over the layout and flow of this exhibition?

Spina has carefully chosen 38 images for us to display here in Australia. The dimensions of the artworks have been established by the artist; I see this as an opportunity to creatively utilise our movable gallery walls.

My goal is to arrange a floor plan that mimics a lived-in space, making it feel as though you are navigating a setting similar to your own home. I'm not confined to the gallery walls, it's about embracing creative thinking to curate an exhibition that captivates the senses and offers a truly unique experience.

Exhibiting 13 August to 4 October at Wanneroo Regional Gallery
wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wanneroogallery

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No fee, just a tree

We're making changes to our tree planting program to help newly planted verge and street trees thrive.

To green our City, we plant about 3,500 new trees in parks, along streets and on residential verges each year.

To make sure we're sourcing the right tree for your location and planting at the best time of year to help them grow, we're moving the cut-off date for 2026 planting applications to 30 November 2025.

Check out the program and apply before 30 November. Search 'verge tree' on our website.

Don't wait to do your firebreak

Help keep our community safe this summer by making sure your firebreaks are in place by 1 November and maintained until 30 April.

The City's Fire Control Officers will be inspecting high-risk properties from 1 November. Getting it done early not only protects your property, it helps protect your neighbours too.

It's nearly time to renew your pet registration

Our furry family members give us love, laughs and loyal companionship - the least we can do is make sure they're properly registered.

All cat and dog registrations are due by 31 October, whether you've opted for a one or three-year registration. If you're the forgetful type, make life easier by choosing a lifetime registration - set and forget for good!

In WA, all dogs over three months old and all cats over six months must be registered with your local government. Registration helps our Rangers reunite lots of pets with their owners quickly and safely.

If you're registering your pet for the first time, you'll need to complete a Cat and Dog Registration form and provide some key documents, like proof of microchipping and sterilisation.

Not only does lifetime registration save you time, it can also save money, and if your pet sadly passes within three years, you may be eligible for a partial refund.

Key things to know

Dogs

- Must be registered and microchipped from three months of age
- Must wear a registration tag and a name/address disc
- Residential homes:
maximum 2 dogs
- Rural properties over 4 hectares: up to 6 dogs allowed
- Sterilised dogs: you'll need a vet certificate if registering online

Cats

- Must be registered, sterilised and microchipped from six months of age
- You can have up to three cats per household.
- Proof of sterilisation is required

To complete your registration or renewal, visit wanneroo.wa.gov.au/registeryourpet

Mini Mayor's Message Ellie

I'm excited to welcome you to another fun edition of What's Happening Kid's Zone.

Are you looking for fun things to do this Winter?

I know what I'll be doing... I'll be exploring my way through five themed play areas at Riverlinks Park!

If the weather is wet and rainy, there are still plenty of things to do indoors - such as National Science Week at our City libraries or getting involved in Children's Book Week.

I hope you enjoy this fun edition and join me in some of the great activities happening around the City.

Causing a buzz from the beginning of bee time

Did you know, Wanneroo's buzzing beekeeping history spans over 100 years?

Thanks to the area's abundant nectar supply from local flora, particularly around Yanchep, the area has long been a sweet spot for both hobby and commercial beekeepers. Bees may be small, but their impact has been large.

The first apiarist, which is a fancy word for commercial beekeeper, was Thomas Neaves. Arriving to the area in 1900, he was officially listed as an apiarist by 1912. Neaves showed off his honey in the early days of the Wanneroo Show.

By 1925, Wanneroo had its first district display at the Perth Royal Show, with Neaves' honey taking centre stage and wowing the crowds.

Fun facts

- Neaves Road is believed to have been named after local beekeeper, Thomas Neaves.
- A favourite for honeybees is the Marri and Jarrah trees that are renowned for the most delicious flowering gums.
- In 1952, Wanneroo was producing up to 50 tonnes of honey. That's the weight of about 10 elephants!

Children's Book Week 2025

Get ready for adventure this Children's Book Week (16 to 23 August) at your local City of Wanneroo library.

Young readers are invited to dive into magical worlds, daring quests and exciting new stories. A special take-home colouring activity will also be available!

Action-packed stories with ace storyteller, Glenn Swift

Join host super storyteller, Glenn Swift, on an interactive adventure packed with thrilling tales that will inspire and delight.

Saturday 16 August, Clarkson Library, 10.30am-11.30am

Wanneroo Library, 2pm-3pm

Perfect for ages 5-8 years, booking is free but essential via **Wanneroo Libraries Eventbrite**