What's Happening December to March 2027

Mayor Linda Aitken's Message

Welcome to the final edition of What's Happening for 2026.

This edition celebrates the Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre, as the City of Wanneroo proudly delivers on this fantastic facility.

From a grassroots advocacy campaign to a state-of-the-art aquatic centre, head to pages 4 and 5 to read how the project came about.

I'm pleased to announce another season of the City's Signature Events Series, a program of family-friendly events delivered across our suburbs.

With concerts, cultural celebrations and community days, the series brings people together to celebrate, connect and enjoy everything our community has to offer.

This edition also serves up some wonderful community stories, so make sure you have a read about how pickleball popularity has landed in Wanneroo, read all about Girrawheen Library from one of our longest serving staff members, Hang and hear from our first youth volunteer and his Dungeons and Dragons club.

New website now live

Our new website brings everything you need in one convenient place.

With a more intuitive design, simple navigation and enhanced self-service options, you're able to connect with the City quickly and easily. You can easily find your bin day, check out our events calendar, report issues on the go and explore local facilities, parks and beaches using the new Near Me tool.

Check it out today, visit **wanneroo.wa.gov.au**

Collect your free 2027 Calendar

Visit your local library or the City's Civic Centre to pick up your free 2027 City of Wanneroo Community Calendar.

This year's calendar shines a spotlight on the City's suburbs, showing how our community has changed over the years.

World Cup fever returns to Kingsway

The City is immensely proud that Kingsway's Rugby facility has been selected as an official training base for the Men's Rugby World Cup 2027.

Teams will use the facility, home of the Wanneroo Districts Rugby Union Club (Wanneroo Rugby Club), during the tournament's initial three pool phases. The tournament will be held across Australia from 1 October to 12 November.

The Rugby World Cup training will be met with upgrades to the Kingsway Rugby pavilion and changerooms. The first phase will deliver four new changerooms on the western side of the existing pavilion, enhancing the club's capacity to support female rugby participation and high-performance training.

Works are well underway at the site with a sod-turning event held in October to mark the start of Stage 1 works. The two-stage redevelopment of the facility is being supported by a $3 million contribution from the State Government and the Rugby World Cup 2027 Legacy Program.

This project is part of PlayOn WA, the WA Government's initiative to deliver 2,030 community infrastructure items across WA by 2030. Construction for Stage 1 is scheduled for completion in June 2027.

Pickelball is a big dill

Pickleball courts are popping up around our City as the sport rapidly increases in popularity.

Pickleball is a fun and fast-growing sport that blends tennis, badminton and table tennis. With its small court size and simple rules usually played in a two vs two format. The popularity has been highlighted at Kingsway Indoor Sports Stadium, offering Pickleball casual sessions since July 2025 and are on track to reach over 1,000 attendees in 2026.

Pearsall resident Dee Farrell (pictured) first learned to play the sport at one of Kingsway's casual sessions and has been "hooked" ever since. Now 79, Dee is a breast cancer survivor who uses pickleball to keep active multiple times per week.

“Lots of retirees like me enjoy playing doubles, but also couples and young families playing singles,” she said.

“Many of us are former tennis, badminton, squash and ping pong players. Many elements of scoring and playing in pickleball is similar, making it easy to learn.”

Two public tennis courts have also been adapted with pickleball linework for casual, community-level participation, at both Koondoola Park and Hudson Park. These courts have been overlaid on existing tennis courts, making use of current nets and lighting to support casual use for players without requiring additional courts or nets.

Koondoola Park and Hudson Park courts are free to use on a first-come-first-serve basis. Kingsway’s casual pickleball sessions are available for all ages and skill levels for just $10 per session, on Tuesdays 9am-10.30am and Thursdays 10am-11.30am.

Bookings can be made on 9405 6545 or book online at **leisure.wanneroo.wa.gov.au**

Welcome to the Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre

Back in 2022, thousands of our community members got behind the Let’s Pool Together campaign to help secure funding for the Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre (AARC).

Now, that vision is a reality. AARC is the largest infrastructure project ever delivered by the City of Wanneroo and will provide a world-class aquatic and recreation facility for Perth’s rapidly growing northern coastal corridor.

Thanks to your incredible support, the project secured the funding needed to bring AARC to life, 16 years ahead of schedule. When you signed up, shared your support and helped advocate for this project, you played a direct role in making it happen. We wanted to take you behind the scenes, share how far the project has come and thank you for being part of the journey.

Located in Alkimos Central, the AARC is giving families, swimmers, sporting clubs, schools and the wider community a new place to swim, train, play, get active and spend time together.

At the heart of the facility is Wanneroo's first 50-metre public swimming pool, alongside an eight-lane indoor pool and a range of aquatic, fitness and recreation facilities designed for people of all ages and abilities.

The centre will also feature a fully equipped gym, dedicated fitness studios, four multipurpose sports courts, a sauna and steam room, a crèche, café, contemporary change rooms including changing places, community use meeting and function rooms, and on-site parking.

AARC at a glance

- $88 million landmark City of Wanneroo project
- 16 years ahead of the timeframe originally anticipated
- Wanneroo's first public 50-metre swimming pool
- Eight-lane outdoor competition pool
- Eight-lane indoor pool
- Leisure and program pools
- Kids' splash pad
- Fully equipped gym
- Dedicated fitness studios
- Multipurpose sports courts
- Crèche and café
- Accessible facilities
- Contemporary change rooms
- On-site parking
- Adjacent to the Alkimos METRONET station

Sanctuary Park, Ridgewood

A Ridgewood hidden gem is becoming even better with two new gazebos being installed at Sanctuary Park.

The new 20sqm gazebos replace two outdated ones, providing welcome shade and a comfortable gathering place beside the park's recently upgraded playground.

The wider park upgrade delivered new play equipment, barbecues, bike racks, pathways and landscaping.

Kingsway rugby pavilion upgrades, Madeley

Kingsway Rugby Pavilion is being expanded with four additional changerooms to support the continued growth of Wanneroo Districts Rugby Union Football Club.

Home to one of WA's largest rugby clubs, the club fields 27 teams and continues to grow across junior, women's and summer touch rugby programs. The new facilities will help meet increasing demand and support the venue's ongoing operations including the hosting of international teams for the Rugby World Cup 2027.

Project construction commenced in October with service relocations and concrete works currently underway. This project is part of PlayOn WA, the WA Government's exciting initiative to deliver 2,030 community infrastructure items across WA by 2030.

Upgraded road, path and streetscapes, Girrawheen

Girrawheen Avenue is undergoing various upgrades between Wade Court and Nanovich Avenue as part of Stage 2 of this project to create a safer, greener and more accessible streetscape.

Upgrades include road resurfacing, stormwater drainage improvements and a three-metre-wide red asphalt shared path from Amberton Avenue to Nanovich Avenue. This project is also delivering upgraded median island, three new bus shelters and 21 native and waterwise trees.

Artwork at the Hudson Avenue bus stop has also been included with students from Our Lady of Mercy Primary and Girrawheen Senior High School helping to install the mural in October. Stages 3 and 4 of this project are planned for completion in 2027/2028.

Neerabup industrial lots, Neerabup

New industrial land at Lot 9100 Mather Drive is taking shape in the Neerabup Industrial Area, supporting future business investment, local jobs and economic growth. The project will deliver 41 lots, new roads, drainage, underground services and other infrastructure needed for future development. Site establishment and early civil works recently commenced in October.

New beach access way and Two Rocks Road, Two Rocks

A new beach access way, carpark and footpath are taking shape at Two Rocks Foreshore Reserve, providing additional access to the coast for locals.

The project includes a 50-bay carpark with two ACROD bays, lighting, bike racks, conservation fencing, bins, stormwater drainage and a stabilised limestone path to the beach.

Construction of another project within this precinct has also been incorporated with these works and includes modifications to the Two Rocks Road intersection, with minor road widening, a median island, new street lighting and a footpath connection.

Revegetation in this area will continue over five years and makes up $2.1 million of the overall project budget.

Rotary Park playground upgrades, Wanneroo

Families can now enjoy a brand-new engaging playground near Lake Joondalup, following the completion of stage two of the Rotary Park upgrade.

The new play space features a playhouse, climbing nets, swings, sand play, a toddler area and nature and imagination play zones.

A children's cycling path, communication board and upgraded shelters, barbecues, seating, fencing and drinking fountains make the park more welcoming and accessible. Mature trees and the carousel have been retained, and there are new shade sails, improved lighting and irrigation.

Upgraded skate park lighting, Banksia Grove

Grandis Park Skate Park is getting new floodlighting, making it safer and easier to use after dark. The upgrade improves visibility and accessibility, while extending evening use, creating more opportunities for recreation and community connection.

This project reflects the City's ongoing commitment to investing in quality community infrastructure and fostering active, connected neighbourhoods.

Five minutes with Library Services Officer, Hang

Library Services Officer Hang has a special place in the hearts of many community members, recently celebrating 30 years of service at Girrawheen Library. Fluent in both English and Vietnamese, Hang has played an invaluable role in ensuring the library is an accessible and welcoming space.

What has changed in the last 30 years at Girrawheen Library?

I have been very happy to live and work at the City of Wanneroo for the past 30 years. Girrawheen Library has felt like a second home to me.

I have had the opportunity to work with enthusiastic and dedicated leaders, as well as wonderful colleagues who are always willing to help, learn and share with one another so that we can grow and improve together.

A library in the modern day is not just books and a quiet place. Now we have a lot more programs like Rhymetime, Storytime and a LEGO Club. Young children can come and learn STEAM, technology and science.

We even have a knitting group, English conversation group, meditation and Tai Chi which shows that libraries are now thriving community hubs.

When I started 30 years' ago, everything was a lot more manual. If you issued a book, it was all done through manual processing, but everything is digital now.

What is a highlight of your job?

The main part of our job is customer service and I often help people from different cultures and different backgrounds, especially because I can speak in Vietnamese.

Migrant people often feel confident to come over and ask me for help with different forms and applications. I really love the human interaction - our customers can be very.

New City golf courses progress through major milestones

The City's two golf courses under construction, Marangaroo and Carramar, continue to progress. Hoskins Contracting has been awarded the construction contract for the redevelopment of Marangaroo Public Golf Course.

Work is commencing on a new pro shop and changerooms, a two-level 44-bay undercover driving range featuring the latest golf technology, expanded hospitality areas and additional parking. The Marangaroo redevelopment is scheduled for completion in late 2027.

A favourite among local golfers for almost 40 years, Marangaroo is being transformed into a modern golfing destination, featuring enhanced facilities that create more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in and enjoy the game.

In line with the Public Golf Course Strategic Plan, the redevelopment balances significant new infrastructure with a continued focus on course quality. Ongoing investment in the maintenance and enhancement of fairways, greens and other course facilities will ensure a high-quality playing experience.

The City recently held a turning of the sod ceremony to mark the official commencement of works at Carramar. Yanchep-based Hickey Constructions has secured the construction contract for Carramar Golf Course, which will deliver a new 33-bay undercover, floodlit driving range and refurbished clubhouse.

Additional works will include a commercial kitchen, lounge area, outdoor deck overlooking the 18th green, upgraded changerooms and an electric cart storage facility. Both golf courses are managed by Belgravia Leisure on behalf of the City.

Seniors battled head-to-head at Kingsway

The City of Wanneroo proudly sponsored the annual North Metro LiveLighter Aged Care Games, an almighty clash between seniors living in aged care facilities.

Hosted by the Seniors Recreation Council of WA at Kingsway Indoor Stadium in September, the event attracted 170 people including 115 participants aged over 70, with the oldest participants aged 101.

The seniors took part in four games adapted to suit a range of abilities, with the event supported by the City's Community Grant funding. Seniors Recreation Council of WA Administration Officer Jill Moulden said they received positive feedback from the participants.

"For many, the Aged Care Games is a highlight of the year, with teams training for months to Game Day," she said. "Their enthusiasm, smiles and joy is abundant at the event."

The games provided an important opportunity for seniors in care to build mobility, coordination and confidence through months of training and participation, while creating connection, enjoyment and a sense of achievement.

Peak behind the curtain at Limelight Theatre

Did you know Wanneroo has a community theatre? Run by dedicated volunteers, Limelight Theatre has been entertaining audiences for more than 50 years.

Tucked away next to Wanneroo Aquamotion, the theatre is managed and operated by not-for-profit organisation Wanneroo Repertory and sits on land leased from the City of Wanneroo.

President RJ Smolders said with comedies, dramas and musicals across six major production seasons a year, the group prided themselves on putting on shows for a diverse range of audiences.

"The theatre's first production for 2027 is a musical called Ride the Cyclone, a dark comedy about a group of teenagers who get killed while riding a Cyclone rollercoaster," he said.

"Come on down and we look forward to seeing you here!" Ride the Cyclone starts on Friday 15 January. For tickets, visit **taztix.com.au/event/limelight**

Summer safety starts with you

Now is the time to take simple steps to help keep your family, pets and property safe.

Pets

During hot weather, ensure pets have plenty of fresh water, shade and cool resting areas. Exercise dogs during cooler parts of the day and keep them under effective control in public.

If you have missed the pet registration renewal deadline, it's not too late. Ensure your registration and microchip details are current to help reunite lost pets with their owners.

Property

Property owners are reminded to maintain firebreaks throughout the firebreak season and ensure their properties meet the City's annual requirements. Preparing early helps reduce bushfire risk and supports emergency services if an incident occurs.

Family

Planning a trip to the coast? Vehicles are prohibited on beaches within the City. Use designated parking areas to help protect public safety and sensitive coastal environments.

The City's new website also provides easier access to community safety, ranger services, parking, animal management and local laws, including online reporting and self-service options.

A little preparation today can make a big difference in keeping our community safe this summer.

For more information visit **wanneroo.wa.gov.au/communitysafety**

Youth volunteer finds new world at Dordaak Kepup

From battling dragons to rescuing captured monks, the City's first youth volunteer is transforming Dordaak Kepup Library and Youth Innovation Hub into a fantasy realm.

Ashdale Secondary College Year 12 student Riley volunteers at the Landsdale centre - which recently marked one year since its opening - and runs a fortnightly Dungeons and Dragons club with six other young people.

The 17-year-old is the City's first youth volunteer and proudly runs the role-playing club, which he said had "inadvertently" become aneuro-affirming club.

"It is a space where neurodivergent young people feel they're able to be themselves and feel welcomed and included within the space and not have to hide and mask who they really are," he said.

"It has been a really rewarding experience to be able to provide that for other young people, knowing that when I was their age, I didn't have any opportunity like that."

Leading the group in complex campaigns, Riley said it was convenient having the youth hub so close to his high school.

"It has been incredible having a space that's not only central to where the group lives, but also free and available when we need it," he said. "We're also looking at designing what the characters look like and then using the library's resin printer to actually create the miniatures." Riley said he encouraged other young people to get involved in volunteering at their local youth space.

"I would encourage other young people to volunteer if they have an idea that they're really passionate about," he said.

"Visit their local youth hub and see what resources are available or what spaces, or how can the youth workers help them to bring that idea to fruition.

"If a club like that doesn't exist, then the only way that it is going to happen is if young people step up and become a leader and create the club themselves."

To find out more, visit **wanneroo.wa.gov.au/volunteers**

Quinns Rocks foreshore now a bustling hotspot

After many years in the making, Dunes Beach Resort opened its doors in August, bringing 38 luxury glamping tents, restaurant and event facilities to the Quinns Rocks foreshore.

The opening marks a significant milestone for a site that has welcomed visitors to the coast for generations. The final development of Dunes was shaped through extensive community consultation, ensuring public access to the foreshore remains.

New community spaces, including a large public lawn, pathways, picnic facilities and gathering areas, have been incorporated to create a welcoming destination for residents and visitors.

The development also addresses an important gap in the City's tourism offering. When people stay longer in the area, they are more likely to explore local beaches, cafes, restaurants and shops, delivering benefits across the community.

dunesbeachresort.com.au

Striving for a graffiti free City

The City of Wanneroo is committed to keeping our neighbourhoods clean, welcoming, and free from graffiti, with almost 97 per cent of reported graffiti removed within 48 hours.

Our dedicated graffiti removal contractor works across the City, responding to reports of graffiti on public infrastructure and community facilities.

As part of the City's proactive approach, our graffiti removal contractor undertakes targeted suburb sweeps, focusing on the four areas identified as graffiti hotspots.

The contractor spends a week systematically inspecting these suburbs, identifying and removing graffiti from City-owned assets, often before residents have had the chance to report it.

This proactive approach, combined with prompt responses to community reports, helps maintain the appearance of our neighbourhoods and ensures public spaces remain welcoming for everyone. Help us keep the City look its best, report graffiti through the City's website or via the Snap Send Solve app.

An exhibition that looks beyond the surface

The City of Wanneroo is inviting residents to explore a remarkable story of design, immigration and cultural heritage through Underneath/Overlooked, an exhibition on now at Wanneroo Gallery.

Created by artists Penny Bovell and Gabby Howlett, the exhibition highlights the artistry and legacy of Italian immigrants Giuseppe and Anna Scolaro, whose handcrafted terrazzo tiles have become a distinctive feature of homes and buildings across Western Australia since the mid-20th century.

The Scolaro family emigrated from Capo d'Orlando in Sicily and established the Universal Tile Factory in Fremantle in 1952. Giuseppe, a self-taught artisan, transformed simple materials - marble chips, cement and vibrant pigments - into intricate, bespoke designs that adorned spaces across WA.

His work reflects the creativity and labour of a craftsman whose legacy has often been overlooked. This touring exhibition takes the hunt for surviving terrazzo floors to Perth's northern suburbs. Residents are asked to join the search for more of Western Australia's hidden terrazzo heritage by sharing information about any Scolaro tiles they have come across in their homes, businesses or local buildings.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the exhibition would resonate with the City's vibrant Italian community and provide gallery visitors with a chance to reflect on the contributions of generations of migrants who helped shape the region.

"With nearly 10,000 residents in our community identifying as having Italian ancestry, this exhibition is a meaningful way to celebrate our diverse heritage and shared cultural values," she said.

Visitors will find silk reproductions of Scolaro tile patterns, an interactive pattern-making activity, photographs of the tiles in people's homes and items from the Scolaro family's archives.

Artist Penny Bovell said her connection to the project began unexpectedly. "I first noticed the tiles on a studio floor. Then, in 2011, I impulsively bought a house with Scolaro tiles in almost every room," she said.

“That house turned out to be Giuseppe and Anna’s first home.

I was fascinated by the bold patterns and colours and it sparked my curiosity to learn more.”

Working alongside her daughter, artist Gabby Howlett, Bovell helped transform that curiosity into a collaborative project celebrating an often-overlooked creative legacy.

“We’ve found them under floorboards and covered with glue,” Howlett said. “Every new discovery adds to this incredible story.”

Underneath/Overlooked is presented at Wanneroo Gallery until 9 January 2027. The tour has been made possible through the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost, with funding managed by the WA Government and delivered by ART ON THE MOVE.

City’s Approval Services team in high demand

The City of Wanneroo Approval Services team is managing one of the largest approval workloads in the State, processing thousands of planning and building applications each year.

Demand remains at historically high levels, with monthly building approval volumes exceeding 650 applications.

In 2024/25 alone, the City approved 6,500 building permits, representing almost $2 billion in construction activity.

The Approval Services team helps shape entire communities, supporting everything from new growth areas, schools, parks and roads through to commercial centres, industrial precincts and residential neighbourhoods.

The team assesses major developments, land subdivisions and planning proposals, as well as individual homes, granny flats, patios, sheds and swimming pools, playing a critical role in delivering the infrastructure, housing, services and employment opportunities needed to support one of Australia’s fastest-growing communities.

For more information visit **wanneroo.wa.gov.au/planandbuild**

Mini Mayor's message Amelia

Hello and welcome to another exciting What's Happening Kid's Zone! In case you didn't know I'm Amelia and I am the City of Wanneroo's new Mini Mayor.

It was so exciting to be part of the Wanneroo Show and I look forward to checking out fun City events. There's plenty of fun to be had this summer! Cool off at Aquamotion or Alkimos Aquatic and Recreation Centre, or join in on Coco's Adventure and the Summer Reading Quest!

My favourite things to do in the summer holidays are swimming, learning to play the electric guitar and reading.

I hope you enjoy this edition, Amelia, 11 years old.

Calling space explorers

This school holidays you are invited to journey into a galaxy of fun and join our Summer Reading Quest!

Your mission is to read books, discover new worlds, complete challenges and collect prizes. Ask your local City of Wanneroo library team for a booklet and get ready to embark on your reading adventure.

Coco's Summer Adventure Quest - discover more of Wanneroo this summer.

Looking for things to do close to home this summer? Join Coco the Cockatoo on an adventure across Wanneroo and discover beaches, bushland, heritage attractions and family favourites along the way.

Coco the Cockatoo Discovers Wanneroo is a children's storybook for ages 6 to 10, following Coco as she explores some of the places that make Wanneroo unique.

Use Coco's passport to tick off the places you visit and see how many you can explore this summer.

discoverwanneroo.com.au/coco

Aussie aussie aussie - new citizens call Wanneroo home

Did you know that last year, we welcomed more than 1,200 new Australian citizens to the City of Wanneroo?

Amazing! The ceremonies are very joyful events, From South Africa and India, to Vietnam and the United Kingdom, we are proud of our diverse community and welcome all new citizens and families.