What's Happening August to November 2026

Mayor Linda Aitken's Message

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

Get ready to meet some local legends from the City's youngest food business owner to a Hocking park enthusiast.

You'll also hear from a local artist on what inspires her and find out what really goes on behind the front desk with a Customer Services Officer. I am excited to let you know we are launching a new and improved City of Wanneroo website later this year. Bringing more of the City's services and information together in one place, we have listened to community feedback and designed a website that is simpler and easier to use.

The new website will make it easier to check your bin day, pay a bill, attend a free event or book one of our facilities.

Make sure you flip over and check out the Kid's Zone - we learn what saving Carnaby's Cockatoos mean to some local kids and which local park has an awesome new upgrade. Read on to find out more about capital works happening in your backyard.

Digital waste vouchers

A new online portal is making it easier for residents to access their waste vouchers. Simply register online, verify your property and access your vouchers instantly. Every eligible household is entitled to one set of waste vouchers each year

- Clean green waste voucher - up to four visits
- Recycling drop-off voucher - unlimited visits
- Compost or shredded greens voucher - two visits

Previously, these were distributed in the City's annual rates notice package each August. Under the new system, tenants can now request and access waste vouchers online. Before vouchers are issued, a tenant's landlord, real estate agent, or housing officer must verify they live at the property.

If you are not confident using online services, support is available at the Civic Centre or at any City library. If you're a City of Wanneroo resident, you can now register and access your waste vouchers online at **wanneroo.residentservices.com.au**

Impressive course revamps to drive local golf revolution

Your local golf course is getting a whole lot more social.

Major upgrades are coming to Carramar and Marangaroo Golf Courses that will make it easier than ever to grab a bucket of balls after work, learn the game with friends or enjoy a meal overlooking the fairway.

New floodlit driving ranges, smart golf technology, upgraded clubhouses and expanded hospitality spaces are all part of the transformation, creating welcoming destinations for experienced golfers, first-timers and everyone in between.

Whether you're looking to perfect your swing or simply try something different, the new facilities are designed to make golf more accessible, social and fun.

Construction is expected to begin from August, with the upgrades set to transform both courses into recreation hubs for the northern suburbs. Find out more and view the project plans at **wanneroo.wa.gov.au/golfcourseupgrades**

Talent on display in Dalvik Park glow-up

Dalvik Park in Merriwa has a fresh new look, courtesy of some talented young artists. And it won't be the last time that local creatives leave an impression on the City's first legal street art wall.

Over two weekend workshops, Merriwa Primary School students recently transformed the former tennis court hit-up wall into a vibrant, large-scale practice area for students of street art.

Before picking up a spray can, they were taken through the fundamentals of concept design by mentors Cal and Nicole from Blank Walls.

What initially started out as experiments on canvas quickly evolved into a vibrant mural. Now, the space is open to other young creatives to contribute their artistic talents.

The wall provides a free, legal, safe and engaging opportunity for young artists to get creative with other like-minded artists and will evolve over time. New layers of artwork will be added to reflect the voices, culture and creativity of local young people, ensuring the space remains dynamic, vibrant and responsive to the community.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the project demonstrated the City's commitment to supporting local arts and creating positive opportunities for young people.

"This ever-changing mural space gives young people and emerging artists a safe, legal and inspiring place to express themselves," she said. "Murals bring colour, vibrancy and life to public spaces and this project allows young artists to contribute to their community in a meaningful way."

5 minutes with Customer Relations Officer, Peta

What does a day in the life of a Customer Relations Officer look like?

A typical day involves supporting residents with their questions - anything from rates, maintenance or waste queries, through to animal registrations and building and planning requests. Sometimes residents have questions you wouldn't have even thought of!

People are often surprised by how much goes on behind-the-scenes. What looks like a simple question can involve multiple policies, departments and tracking systems.

It's a bit like being a detective, just with more paperwork. I like to say my job is part customer service and part problem solving! Feedback is provided to residents directly on the phone and through email. I log service requests and coordinate with different departments to get requests resolved in a timely manner.

No two days are ever the same, which always keeps me on my toes.

What is the most unexpected part of your job?

How quickly priorities and scenarios can change. I could start my morning supporting a resident with questions about their rates, and the next moment I'm taking a call about an entire herd of cows blocking a road! Working in local government teaches you to expect the unexpected and to always keep a sense of humour handy.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Turning a difficult experience into a positive one. When a customer calls feeling upset and leaves the conversation feeling heard and supported, that's a win. It's nice knowing I can make someone's day a little less stressful.

Working in local government teaches you to expect the unexpected.

Hard work is the secret ingredient

Given pastries are his passion, it comes as no surprise Marco Robbetze is the youngest licensed food business owner in the City of Wanneroo.

After watching his Ouma (grandmother) and mother run a family bakery, the City of Wanneroo resident was inspired to start a South African-inspired small batch food business called Marco's Creations at age 14.

His vision was clear: graduate high school, win Masterchef, study at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and continue exploring his love of baking. Marco set off to make this dream happen and helped in his school's canteen where he was encouraged to complete his FoodSafe certificate.

"I researched whether I could open a business at my age. I applied for a Tax File Number, then an Australian Business Number and finally the City of Wanneroo food business registration. I was nervous but determined," he said.

"The City of Wanneroo's Environmental Health Officer George inspected my kitchen and he told me I could start operations the following Monday. He made my dream come true and it was the best day of my life."

Marco registered his trading name and soon after received his first order - the rest was history! Check out Marco's Creations on Facebook and Instagram.

Local café thriving at Kingsway

Wanneroo local Aimee Heidemann is the heart and soul behind the new local café at Kingsway Indoor Stadium - Banksia Food Co.

Aimee (pronounced em-ay) took over the Kingsway café space in March this year after a successful stint serving coffee to City staff from her van at Ashby Operations Centre.

She said starting her own coffee van felt like a distant dream while working as a wholesale manager, but took the leap into becoming a business owner after the loss of a close friend Kelley Jane - who she named her coffee/events van after.

After successfully securing the Kingsway Indoor Stadium space and weeks of renovations, Banksia Food Co opened its doors in March.

“We’ve been received so well by the community,” Aimee said.

“Not only by the sporting users and their families, but we are also being frequently visited by passers-by and other locals who pop in for a coffee and some lunch.

“Having a quiet kid’s corner inside and a space to play outside, we are also building popularity for mums with small children.”

Priding itself on “homestyle food”, the café has continued to evolve to cater for its customers, with netball visitors able to place their orders online so they don’t miss a second of the action on the court while waiting for their coffee.

A daily dinner menu has also been a favourite for parents and families while sports games are on. Check out Banksia Food Co’s social media pages for updates and opening hours.

Levelling the playing fields

The City of Wanneroo is making positive strides in its quest to create a level playing field for local sportspeople - thanks to a new partnership with national disability inclusion program, Sport4All.

Inclusion Coach Dani Pickett has joined forces with the City’s Community Facilities Operations team to help ensure local sports clubs are as welcoming, accessible and inclusive environments as possible, particularly for people living with disability.

Recent Sport4All statistics show that only 14 per cent of adults with disability in Australia participate in sport- related activities once a week. This is despite 75 per cent expressing a desire to do so.

Dani brings a lifelong connection to sport and community clubs to the role. This has included coaching, administration and program development duties.

She also brings her lived experience as a mum of two boys with disability. Son Bailey represents Wanneroo Football Club in their Integrated All Abilities Team with Dani the team manager.

Sport4All is committed to providing resources and training for all club coaches, volunteers and school faculties to promote inclusive practices that encourage participation from people of all abilities, cultures and identities.

It also supports local sporting clubs with tailored assessment reports to identify opportunities to enhance inclusion and accessibility, training opportunities and information about available grants.

About 30,500 people in Wanneroo currently live with some form of disability. “For some members of our community, there are barriers that make participation more challenging. My role is about working with clubs to break down those barriers and ensure everyone feels welcome,” Dani said.

“Choice is powerful. It is important we can all choose how to be involved, how to feel included, how to be ourselves and feel the same as everyone around you.”

Dani’s work will also extend into local schools where she can provide guidance, resources and practical support. If you’d like your City of Wanneroo-based sporting club or school to get involved, email Dani at **danielle.pickett@sport4all.com.au**

Abbeville Park, Mindarie

Local sporting clubs will soon have even better facilities to train, compete and connect, with major upgrades nearing completion at Abbeville Park.

Stage 1 will see new changerooms, an umpire changeroom, a universal access toilet, first aid facilities and additional storage will support growing participation across a range of sports.

Stage 2 includes an expanded kiosk, multipurpose room and extra community spaces for a more welcoming hub for players, volunteers and spectators.

The upgrades will benefit local sporting clubs while providing improved facilities for the many community groups who use the park throughout the year.

This project is part of the WA Government’s PlayOn WA, an exciting initiative to deliver 2,030 community infrastructure items across WA by 2030, with $419,266 in external funding committed for the delivery of the project.

Edgar Griffiths Park, Wanneroo

More local footy is coming after dark, with upgraded floodlighting now complete at Edgar Griffiths Park.

The new competition-standard lighting means the oval can now host night fixtures for Wanneroo Junior Football Club and Wanneroo Amateur Football Club, while also providing better visibility for evening training.

The upgrade is part of the City's ongoing investment in quality sporting facilities, helping local clubs cater for growing participation and giving the community more opportunities to enjoy sport close to home.

Yanchep Community Centre upgrades

Yanchep residents now have a refreshed and upgraded community centre thanks to recent upgrades completed in June.

Works commenced in February and included upgrades to the reception area, meeting room and a refurbishment of the main entrance doors. New vinyl flooring has also been added to the main entrance, hallway and kitchen.

Azelia Street, Alexander Heights

New traffic calming measures are making Azelia Street a safer place.

Completed in June, the traffic management improvements include a wide central median with raised islands, new pedestrian crossings, speed calming treatments and upgraded street lighting by Western Power to help slow traffic and improve visibility.

Council supported the need for traffic management in Azelia Street due to concerns about the high vehicle speeds and poor driver behaviour. The works have created a safer environment for people walking, riding and driving in the area.

Dragonfly Park, Banksia Grove

Dragonfly Park has a fresh new look, with upgraded playground equipment and new softfall making the popular play space safer, more accessible and ready for more adventures.

Completed in April, the improvements will help local families enjoy the park for years to come.

Kingsway lighting upgrades, Madeley

Kingsway's main baseball field is now equipped to host state and major competition games at night thanks to the new 750lux floodlights.

The project forms part of the Kingsway Regional Open Space, with $2 million committed by the Australian Government through the Investing in Our Communities Program.

The upgrades mean 750lux lighting at the inner field and 500lux in the outer field will allow for greater flexibility for both clubs to train at night. Both the baseball and softball clubs can host night games, including state competitions which will bring in more opportunities and revenue as they expand and grow the game.

The $2 million grant has also funded modular changeroom facilities at Kingsway's football ground with construction to begin this summer. Scrap metal from the former baseball floodlights was donated to the Waalitj Foundation, raising $3,500 for the local Aboriginal charity.

Kingsbridge Park, Butler

Kingsbridge Park is now even better for sport, play and everyday visits, thanks to a series of upgrades focused on accessibility, comfort and safety.

Recent upgrades have delivered improved accessible toilets at both the Kingsbridge changerooms and Butler Community Centre, making the facilities easier to use for people of all abilities.

Both facilities are also compliant with the latest Disability and Accessibility recommendations.

New pathway lighting has also been installed along the park's 900 metres of shared paths, improving visibility and making it easier for residents to enjoy the space into the evening.

The park has also had new pathway lighting installed across all 900m of pathways.

Smarter waste management

The City has taken another step towards a smarter and more sustainable waste future with its new Wangara Waste Transfer Station recently opening.

The new facility will improve how household waste is managed by consolidating waste into larger loads before it is transported for recycling, resource recovery or disposal.

By reducing the number of heavy vehicle movements and improving operational efficiency, the transfer station will help deliver a more sustainable waste service.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the opening of the facility marked an important milestone in the City's long-term waste strategy.

"The Wangara Waste Transfer Station is about working smarter. It will improve the way we manage household waste today while helping prepare for the future," she said.

"Importantly, it allows waste to be consolidated before being transported for recycling, recovery or disposal, making our operations more efficient and reducing environmental impacts."

The transfer station builds on the City's existing recycling operations at Wangara by bringing together general waste, recycling and green waste at one location.

From July, kerbside recycling will be consolidated on site before being transported in bulk to a processing contractor in Canning Vale.

The facility will also improve the management of bulk hard waste, with

recyclable materials sorted and recovered on site before the remaining material is transported to other waste management facilities for processing.

Fight against feral fish

Electrofishing is being used to stun feral fish at three City of Wanneroo lakes in a bid to save wildlife and improve the health of our local wetlands.

Feral fish are being removed at lakes in Studmaster Park in Wanneroo, Vintage Park in Gnangara and Da Vinci Park in Tapping as part of a City partnership with Murdoch University's Harry Butler Institute.

A specialised electrofishing technique is being used, which temporarily stuns goldfish and carp. Captured feral fish will be tested for diseases and other species will be released unharmed.

Mayor Linda Aitken said feral fish can significantly impact water quality at the City's lakes, spread disease and threaten local wildlife such as turtles, birds and frogs.

"We are excited to take part in this project which supports the delivery of the City's Local Biodiversity Plan and help our lakes get back to their natural state," she said.

Murdoch University's Harry Butler Institute Senior Researcher Tom Ryan said they were already seeing the benefits of the project, with 3.3 tonnes of invasive fish including 2,000 carp and goldfish removed across Perth.

"We also need to educate the community about managing their own fish at home. If you can't deal with those fish anymore, please never dump your pet fish in the local waterways, drains or ocean," he said.

"Instead, please contact your local aquarium retailer or vet, or humanely and safely dispose."

Visit **dpird.wa.gov.au** and search for 'Don't Dump that Fish' for more information.

The Carp and Goldfish Roundup Project is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust under the Urban Rivers and Catchments Program and Murdoch University, with support from Ozfish Unlimited, Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions), Cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup, Stirling, Melville, Gosnells, Rockingham and Busselton.

Discover the stories and history of Perth's Sunset Coast

Stories of the Sunset Coast brings together a collection of places across Perth's northern coastline, connecting them through stories of people, land and nature. Spanning the cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling, the guide encourages a deeper connection to the places around you.

The guide highlights local spots such as lakes, reserves, cultural sites and museums, helping you see familiar places in a new way and uncover the stories behind them.

With a beautifully designed map and an interactive digital experience, it makes it easy to explore the Sunset Coast at your own pace, with extra information available for each location.

Designed for curious locals and visitors, Stories of the Sunset Coast invites you to discover the history, culture and natural forces that have shaped the region.

This is a collaborative initiative between the cities of Wanneroo, Joondalup and Stirling, delivered through the Sunset Coast Alliance.

For more information, visit
destinationperth.com.au/stories-of-the-sunset-coast

Ramblers step out in Hocking

Keen for a weekly chat and walk out in nature? Join the Bembridge Ramblers.

Hocking resident Sue is looking for members to join her social walking group for a chat and an easy walk at Bembridge Park in Hocking on Sunday mornings.

She said Bembridge Park was a "lovely park with lots of lovely dogs" and "divine" trees. Sue said she was on a mission to keep physically fit and socially active after she became an amputee two years' ago.

"I'm always up for a chat!" she said. The Bembridge Ramblers meet Sundays from 8.30am at Bembridge Park in Hocking.

Dogs on lead are welcome. Any questions, ask Sue on **0414 713 407**.

A win for local accessibility

The City's first mobility map is set to improve access to the Wanneroo Town Centre for those with limited mobility. Developed in partnership with accessibility specialists Briometrix, the mobility map connects Wanneroo to a growing national network of mobility mapped locations using innovative accessibility data.

The map will help residents and visitors choose paths that best suit their mobility needs, including people who use wheelchairs, mobility aids, prams, or simply prefer flatter, smoother surfaces.

To gather the data, trained wheelchair pilots travelled along 37km of footpaths using smart sensors that measure real world conditions from the perspective of a person with limited mobility.

Wanneroo Town Centre is the first area in the City to be published, with Clarkson, Yanchep and Girrawheen planned for future mapping. Mayor Linda Aitken said the new mobility map helped the community plan safer, easier routes.

"We're excited to share the new mobility map for the Wanneroo town centre, a tool designed to help you move around your community with confidence," she said.

"Using real data collected by trained wheelchair pilots, the map shows how challenging each footpath may be, so you can choose the route that feels right for you.

"Mobility mapping across our key activity centres highlights the City's commitment to making the community more inclusive and accessible for everyone."

Former City of Wanneroo Disability Access and Inclusion Advisory Group Member Andrew Fairbairn (pictured) was a wheelchair pilot for the project and said mapping the City's town centres was a great idea.

"As a wheelchair user, I know how different features like gradients, surfaces and ramps can make a real difference for people with mobility challenges and can help them navigate public spaces with greater confidence and safety," he said.

"But this map is not just forwheelchair users, the City of Wanneroo has a lot of older residents, people using walkers, as well as new parents with prams.

“A good, connected path network can help everyone - if people can see pathway access set out on a website, that can help with planning an outing and make journeys smoother.”

You can explore the Wanneroo Town Centre Mobility Map using any smartphone, tablet or computer. During the mapping, some accessibility issues were identified and will be addressed through the City’s existing works and upgrade programs. If you notice an accessibility issue during your journey, we encourage you to contact the City and let us know on **9405 5000**.

Wanneroo pop-up

Make sure you check out our pop-up community space outside the Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre (WLCC). The temporary activation space, delivered in partnership with The Forever Project, forms part of the City’s ongoing revitalisation efforts and is designed to test how small changes can improve the look, feel and usability of public spaces.

The activation space is part of the Wanneroo Town Centre Revitalisation Project, a long-term initiative aimed at creating a connected and community-focused space.

With upgrades to key facilities, such as the WLCC, Civic Centre, Aquamotion and Wanneroo Central Shopping Centre already complete, the focus is on improving streetscapes and connectivity across the precinct.

The pop-up features a mix of indoor and outdoor areas, including seating, greenery and inviting spaces for people to relax and connect.

The Forever Project Managing Director Chris Ferreira said the aim was to emphasise a nourishing community meeting point by bringing the spaces to life.

“For this project, we were able to source the limestone, and the heritage items like the horseshoes,” he said. “The City was able to source the horseshoes from the area allowing us to honour and draw from the history of Wanneroo so that the past stays alive and relevant now and into the future.”

The space also includes Nyitting Wanneroo, a bespoke artwork by Noongar artist Courtney Hill that shares local stories and takes visitors on a journey through the City’s Aboriginal history.

New lease on life for Wildflower Society

Some of WA's most rare and endangered plants have found a new home at Kingsway after the City of Wanneroo granted a 15-year peppercorn lease to the WA Wildflower Society.

The Society's Northern Suburbs Branch secured the 3000sqm Village Place site after they had outgrown their old home at Old Landsdale Farm.

The new WA Wildflower Nursery - a purpose built rare and endangered plant nursery - includes a propagation tunnel, meeting room, office, toilets and soon-to-be-planted community garden.

Mayor Linda Aitken said the WA Wildflower Society played an important role to grow and protect the State's unique and endangered flora.

"This not-for-profit group not only helps the community in conserving our natural heritage, but they also offer their volunteers and members social connection," she said.

"We are proud to find this fantastic group a home at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, alongside planned neighbours Northern Suburbs Men's Shed and No Limits Perth."

The City granted the Society's peppercorn ground lease and built a carpark and access way, while State Government and Lotterywest funds were secured to construct the building.

The WA Wildflower Nursery recently hosted the City's successful Wannagrow plant giveaway and are open for sales Thursdays and Saturdays, 9am to 2pm. Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, Village Place, Madeley.

City's Art Awards inspire and connect community

For digital artist Allyda Nithasha, taking part in the City of Wanneroo's Community Art Awards helped her feel a sense of belonging.

After she moved to Wanneroo last year, Nithasha entered artworks into the 2025 and 2026 awards, where she was named a finalist in both years. More than 130 finalists were selected from over 330 entries this year, with the works being exhibited at the Wanneroo Regional Gallery.

This year, her piece Twenty-Five was inspired by author Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar, created with an Apple Pencil and iPad using software that simulates graphite. Nithasha said she stumbled across the City's Community Art Awards advertising last year during a visit to the library.

"I've become a Wanneroo resident recently, so participating in the Community Arts Award provided me a very valuable opportunity to discover my local art community, and I found the experience really solidified Wanneroo as my home," she said.

"I would 100 per cent encourage other artists to participate in community driven programs, I think it enriches the local community and gives you a sense of belonging." Nithasha said her piece was titled Twenty-Five - her age at the time of creation - and this work allowed her to explore themes of identity and self.

"My piece was inspired by the fig tree analogy in The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath, the universal experience of being young and overwhelmed by the amount of choice and opportunity life has to offer," she said.

"At 25 I was faced with a potential of different vocations that I could choose from and I was feeling paralysed. I imagined myself under a low hanging branch of a fig tree, paralysed and reaching out."

The City has made some changes to the awards this year to better support artists, including the City's first dedicated First Nations category, a refined Young Artist Award open to ages 16 to 21, and an emerging artist category.

An independent selection panel was formed to review artworks and carefully determine which pieces were selected.

Find out more about the awards and exhibition at
wanneroo.wa.gov.au/artawards

New City website launching this year

Finding information, reporting an issue or accessing City services will soon be easier, with a new and improved City of Wanneroo website launching later this year.

Designed using community feedback, the new website will make it easier to get things done, whether you're checking your bin day, finding a local event, booking a facility, paying a bill or looking for information about your neighbourhood.

Bringing more of the City's services and information together in one place, it will help residents spend less time searching and more time doing. The City's Website Project Manager Maureen Beckwith-Lewis said the new website has been designed around the way people actually use it.

"We know people come to the City's website to get something done, so that's been our focus from day one," she said. "We've listened to community feedback to create a website that's simpler, easier to use and helps residents find what they need, faster." "We can't wait to share it with you later this year."

Join Your Say and help shape our City

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

Woof, meow and a cock-a-doodle doo

Did you know that the City of Wanneroo runs an Animal Care Centre, which is sometimes called a pound?

At the centre, we look after wandering animals picked up by our Rangers and help reunite lost pets with their owners.

Last year, we cared for 750 animals in need - from dogs, cats and rabbits to some surprise arrivals like roosters, a turkey and even a goat! See how we look out for animals by visiting **wanneroo.wa.gov.au/animalsandpets**

Prehistoric play at Kingsway Dinosaur Park

Grab your binoculars and safari hats, explorers - there's new play equipment at Kingsway Dinosaur Park.

Just when you thought the nature playground in Madeley couldn't get any more rawr-some, we've added some fun new surprises.

Can you spot a new dinosaur having a snooze and have you discovered another dino-mite surprise?

Make sure you check out Kingsway Dinosaur Park this weekend.
Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, 100 Kingsway, Madeley

Wanneroo's future leaders

Young leaders from across our community came together to work on their confidence, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving skills.
The City of Wanneroo proudly hosted students from nine local primary schools as part of our School Leadership Program.

These future change makers collaborated on real community projects and covered everything from recycling and littering to diversity and inclusion. Wanneroo's future is looking very bright!

Cockatoo protection on the menu

A new Alkimos 'café' has swapped coffee and croissants for banksia and hakea seeds to help protect Carnaby's Cockatoos.

Alkimos Primary School students, Perth Natural Resource Management (NRM) and the City of Wanneroo worked together in June to plant 600 plants - wow!

The students planted cockatoo foraging species including banksias and hakeas in the school grounds - creating a cockatoo café - which will grow and feed the endangered birds.

School students have also been working with the City to protect bushland in Axbridge Park and Broadford Park.

This project is jointly funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust, Perth NRM, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel, the City of Wanneroo and Alkimos Primary School.