

# WHITEHORSE news



## Life in Plastic

Friday 28 February, 7.30pm

February 2025

An Electric 2025 Season awaits at The Round 6-7  
How to apply for our community grants 3  
Jazz at the Lake returns 5

## Mayor's Message

### Cr Andrew Davenport

I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Lunar New Year.

This is a joyous time of year for our Chinese community and we will be celebrating with them at the Whitehorse Lunar New Year Festival. Council will also be launching our presence on the social media platform WeChat this month, an exciting new way for us to connect with our Chinese community.

Whitehorse, and Melbourne more broadly, is going through a period of significant growth and change driven by State Government planning policies. Our city is home to 2 of the 6 new Suburban Rail Loop stations (Box Hill and Burwood), which will come with a substantial increase in housing development. The State Government recently released the final Visions for these precincts, which you can view at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au).

In addition, the State Government has set ambitious targets for increased housing, as well as developing



new 'activity centres' surrounding train stations at Mitcham, Nunawading and Blackburn. These activity centres will act as a hub for more development including housing, employment and services.

All these changes have major implications for Whitehorse. If you would like to learn more, I encourage you to attend our upcoming community forum. The forum will feature a panel of independent planning experts who will explain the changes, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Details are in the article below.

## Whitehorse community forum on State Government planning reforms

We are holding a community information forum about the State Government's proposed planning reforms. This includes the Suburban Rail Loop, housing targets, and the newly proposed activity centres around Blackburn, Nunawading and Mitcham stations. This will be an opportunity for you to pose questions to an expert panel of planning and industry professionals.

**When:** Thursday 27 February, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Where:** The Round, Nunawading

**RSVP:** [whitehorse.vic.gov.au/planning-reform-forum](http://whitehorse.vic.gov.au/planning-reform-forum)

You will have an opportunity to submit your questions after you register.

Scan the  QR code for details



# Community grants applications open this month

Our annual Community Grants Program is back for 2025, with applications to open on Monday 24 February.

If your community organisation is based in Whitehorse, it may be eligible to receive a grant ranging from \$1000 up to \$10,000. The grants are for programs and initiatives that enhance the health and wellbeing of the Whitehorse community.

**The categories for this year's program include:**

- Health and wellbeing
- Diversity and inclusion
- Creativity
- Positive ageing
- Environmental sustainability



We will be running free information sessions and grant writing workshops in February and March to help groups with their applications. **Scan the QR code to register for a session.** A session specifically for seniors' groups will be held on Thursday 27 February from 10am to 12pm at The Round.

Applications will be open until Sunday 6 April. Search **'Community Grants'** on Council's website for more information.

Scan the QR code for details



## Rates payments due

If you pay your Council rates in either a lump sum (1) or quarterly (4) instalments, payments are due on the following dates this month:

- Full payment: Saturday 15 February
- Quarterly (3rd instalment): Friday 28 February

Other flexible payment options are also available through our Payble platform. Visit [pay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](https://pay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au) to learn more.



## Shape the future of the Whitehorse Art Collection

We are looking for 3 community members to join Council's Visual Arts Advisory Committee.

The committee's mission is to provide advice, information and recommendations to Council on the development of the Whitehorse Art Collection. This includes potential artwork acquisitions, public art commissions and art conservation.

To apply for these voluntary positions, email [artspace@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:artspace@whitehorse.vic.gov.au) by Friday 28 February.



## Tree pruning schedule

Our workers will be continuing our proactive tree pruning program in the following suburbs in the coming months:

- Blackburn South: until Saturday 15 March
- Nunawading: Saturday 15 March to Wednesday 30 April
- Vermont South: Thursday 1 May to Monday 30 June

Search **'Street Trees'** on Council's website to find an interactive map to tell you when tree pruning will next occur in your suburb.





## Funding success for Gardiners Creek Reserve

We have been successful in advocating for \$189,000 from the Federal Government for a revegetation project at Gardiners Creek Reserve in Box Hill South.

The project will regenerate and extend native vegetation along the creek – including enhancing a wetland adjacent to Gardiners Creek (KooyongKoot).

Woody weeds in the area will be removed and new native plants will be planted to improve ground cover and increase the extent of canopy trees.

Works are set to begin this month and be finished by late 2027. Council will provide support towards tree works and in-kind project management.

## Open space is shaping Whitehorse



Did you know Whitehorse is home to 661 hectares of open space? That's equivalent to 326 Melbourne Cricket Grounds and 30 Melbourne Zoos.

We are committed to protecting and expanding our open space network of parks, reserves and gardens. These green spaces are essential for the health of our community and our environment.

You told us in last year's Shaping Whitehorse community survey that open space is important to our community. We are planning for the future of our city through our Council Plan 2025-2029, Annual Budget 2025/26 and Long-term Financial Plan.

But we are not just planning for open spaces – we are creating them! Construction of a new open space near the Gardiners Creek Trail (at Hay Street, Box Hill South) is due to begin next month. We purchased the vacant land last year and have developed the plans for the new park with community input.

We will have more updates on both Shaping Whitehorse and the Gardiners Creek Trail open space projects in the coming months.

Search **'Shaping Whitehorse'** or **'Gardiners Creek'** at [yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.whitehorse.vic.gov.au) to find out more.



## Save 50% at Aqualink in February

Our Aqualink centres in Box Hill and Nunawading have a fantastic offer for new members this month.

**50% off for 3 months and no joining fee!**

**Offer on sale from Thursday 6 February to Thursday 27 February.**

Join any direct debit membership and receive 50% off your first 3 months, plus we will waive the joining fee completely. That's a saving of up to \$194.20!

With access to state-of-the-art gyms, aquatic facilities, and more than 200 weekly fitness classes, there is something for everyone.

Ready to find your fit? Search **'Feb50'** at [aqualink.com.au](https://aqualink.com.au) to find out more.

# WHITEHORSE JAZZ AT THE LAKE

FREE EVENT

## CONCERT LINEUP

- Jackson Wade Band
- Peter Gaudion's Blues Express
- Pippa Wilson Swingtet with Joe Ruberto Quartet
- Shirazz

**When:** Sunday 2 March, 4pm to 8pm

**Where:** Blackburn Lake Sanctuary, Central Road, Blackburn

Limited parking is available in the surrounding streets. We suggest carpooling with friends or taking public transport. Bus route 736 stops just outside the venue.

### Weather warning:

In the case of a Total Fire Ban, the event will be relocated to Halliday Park, Mitcham. Keep an eye on the Creative Whitehorse website and social media pages for updates.

### More information:

Search 'Jazz at the Lake' at [creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au) or phone 9262 6333 to speak to a team member.

## Groove into autumn at Jazz at the Lake

In the heart of Blackburn, where the rustling leaves meet the soothing ripples of Blackburn Lake, an intimate musical experience awaits.

Following its successful debut last year, Jazz at the Lake is back in a new twilight timeslot. Enjoy smooth jazz, delicious food and a picturesque setting for a perfect family friendly outing.

This year we have partnered with Community Music and Performances Inc to deliver a fantastic lineup of local talent. Four brilliant acts will perform including traditional jazz masters Shirazz, the soulful Jackson Wade Band and its Hammond-based

blues, the Pippa Wilson Swingtet backed by the Joe Ruberto Quartet, and the versatile Peter Gaudion's Blues Express.

Bring your picnic blanket and camp chairs to relax under the skies and enjoy the music while the kids play on the playground. Food trucks will also be on site with coffees, ice creams and other snacks available for purchase.

Best of all, this event is **free!** Bring your loved ones and friends and welcome autumn in style at our annual Jazz at the Lake concert.



Scan the QR code for details





# YOUR GUIDE TO THE ROUND'S 2025 SEASON

High-voltage entertainment is on offer throughout 2025 at Melbourne's newest premier performing arts venue, The Round.

Following a hugely successful debut year, our 2025 season Electric features an impressive array of performances from international and local award-winning acts.

February begins with a stellar lineup of the Grammy award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir and musical theatre star Christie Whelan Browne's 'Life in Plastic'.

Other must-sees include thrilling circus performances by Circa,

the Kath and Kim-inspired drag comedy 'Fountain Lakes in Lockdown' and dazzling productions from Paulini, The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Todd McKenney.

Comedy fans are also in for a treat with the return of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow and political satire specialists The Wharf Revue for its final tour ever.

Located in Nunawading in the Whitehorse Civic Centre Precinct, The Round offers ample free car parking and is a short walk from Nunawading Station.

Tickets are selling fast. Subscription packages and single tickets are available now.

**Phone our box office on 9262 6555 (Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm) or book tickets online at [theround.com.au](http://theround.com.au)**

## OTHER 2025 PROGRAMS



**UNDERGROUND CABARET**  
ELTON JOHN YOUR SONG



**MIDWEEK MATINEE**  
MAKE 'EM LAUGH



**BRIGHT SPARKS (FAMILY SEASON)**  
JOSEPHINE LOVES TO DANCE

# ELECTRIC

2025 HIGHLIGHTS

**SELLING  
FAST**



**LIFE IN  
PLASTIC**



**FOUNTAIN  
LAKES IN  
LOCKDOWN**



**THE WHARF  
REVUE**



**MELBOURNE  
INTERNATIONAL  
COMEDY FESTIVAL  
ROADSHOW**



**PAULINI:  
SINGS THE  
AMERICAN DIVAS**



**DUCKPOND  
BY CIRCA**

Scan the  
QR code for details





## Shopping Strip Spotlight: Nunawading Shopping Centre

"Setting up on the bustling Springvale Road in Nunawading was a natural choice. Our location offers a unique blend of accessibility and charm, drawing customers from all over Melbourne. The supportive community and lively shopping strip create the perfect environment for us to flourish. We're proud to be part of such a dynamic and welcoming neighbourhood."

– Julie-Anne, Costume Factory and Upstage Dancewear

*Visit Costume Factory and other businesses in the Nunawading Shopping Centre precinct along Springvale Road, Walkers Road and Station Street, near Nunawading Station.*

## Workshops and classes at Creative Whitehorse venues

Activate your body and mind with our diverse range of creative, lifestyle and performing arts classes and workshops at Box Hill Community Arts Centre and Strathdon House & Orchard Precinct.

Click the 'What's On' tab at [creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://creativewhitehorse.vic.gov.au) to explore the full term 1 program.

## Council Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chamber in the Whitehorse Civic Centre. Meetings are also live streamed at [webcast.whitehorse.vic.gov.au](http://webcast.whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

Search 'Council Meetings' on Council's website for agendas, minutes and more information.

### Next meetings:

- Monday 17 February, 7pm
- Monday 3 March, 7pm

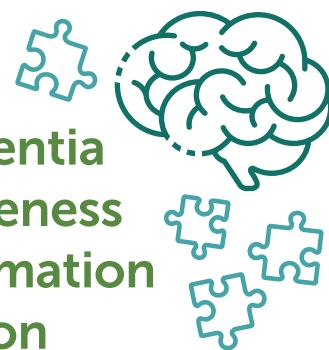
### Councillor updates online

Scan the QR code to read more from our Councillors.



*The views expressed are those of individual Councillors and do not necessarily reflect Council policy or the views of Council as a whole. Our Councillors have been elected to serve until October 2028.*

## Dementia awareness information session



Hosted by the Whitehorse Positive Ageing team and Dementia Umbrella Café, learn more about dementia prevention and management strategies and enjoy expert presentations about diet and social connection. Includes optional movement session and morning tea.

**When:** Thursday 13 February, 10am to 12pm

**Where:** Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Arbour Room

**More information:** Book your spot at [trybooking.com/CXHKB](http://trybooking.com/CXHKB) or phone 9262 6333.



**Simpson Ward  
Cr Prue Cutts  
Deputy Mayor**



As this is my first Ward column following the local government elections, I would like to sincerely thank the residents of Simpson Ward for re-electing me. It is an absolute honour to serve the wonderful communities of Mitcham and Vermont. My commitment remains to 'Listen, Act and Deliver' over these next 4 years, and I am looking forward to bringing positive change to our community. Please reach out about any issue or idea you may have. For those on Facebook, I encourage you to keep up-to-date with the latest news by following me @councillorpruecutts. Have a great 2025!

0409 867 540  
Prue.Cutts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

**Lake Ward  
Cr Hayley Weller**



I am honoured to have been elected to Whitehorse City Council.

Thank you to Lake Ward residents for electing me to represent you. I am here to help you as a neighbour would, so please reach out about any Council matter. I look forward to working with you over the next four years.

I also thank our emergency service workers for their tireless efforts as summer is a particularly busy time.

I hope you have had a sublime start to the year and that 2025 is all that you want it to be and more.

0431 486 836  
Hayley.Weller@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

**Mahoneys Ward  
Cr Jason Martin**



I am looking forward to serving the residents in Mahoneys Ward and the broader community in Whitehorse. January has been a busy month for Council as the budget is being prepared for the 2025/2026 financial year. Some changes relevant to you include the State Government recently announcing a rate cap of 3%, and increases to the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (formerly known as the Fire Services Property Levy), which appears on your rates notice.

To keep up-to-date please visit the Whitehorse City Council website, subscribe to our newsletters and of course the *Whitehorse News*.

0431 486 973  
Jason.Martin@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

**Sparks Ward  
Cr Peter Allan**



Thank you to Sparks Ward voters for electing me back on to Council. I look forward to the next 4 years to achieve great results. Happy New Year and especially Chinese New Year of the Snake!

Over the past 3 months I have either met with or attended functions with (among others) the Louise Multi-Cultural Centre, Asian Business Association of Whitehorse, MCC Baseball Club, Surrey Park Cricket Club, Box Hill Hawks FC, Box Hill Open Space Committee, Box Hill City Band, Surrey Park Model Boat Club, Alkira, healthAbility, Box Hill United Soccer Club and Surrey Park Swimming Club.

0423 504 325  
Peter.Allan@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

**Terrara Ward  
Cr Jarrod Gunn**



With the whirlwind of the election, mandatory training over and the new year underway I am settling into this new role with gusto.

I have already taken on some serious debates in the Chamber and have begun work on my delegated subcommittees (Sport and Recreation, Metropolitan Transport Forum and Reconciliation Action Group). I am already enjoying the variation of purpose in this new role – a healthy combination of being proactive on planning and forecasting as well as being responsive to resident issues and concerns. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

0431 487 348  
Jarrod.Gunn@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

**Walker Ward  
Cr Ben Stennett**



I'd like to begin my first Ward column of the new year and the Council term by acknowledging the support and trust given to me by being re-elected. I've already hit the ground running and have met with residents, business owners, Councillors and Council officers to ensure I am effectively advocating for the community. On my radar are the release of master plans for Walker Park and Charles Rooks/Dagola reserves, and ensuring Council responds to the State Government plan to dramatically increase development in Whitehorse, including Nunawading and Mitcham. Please contact me to discuss any local matters.

0448 375 937  
Ben.Stennett@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

## Italian | Italiano

**Sovvenzioni per la comunità 2025**

A partire da lunedì 24 febbraio 2025 sarà possibile presentare le domande per il nostro programma di sovvenzioni per la comunità.

Il tuo gruppo comunitario ha la possibilità di chiedere sovvenzioni per importi tra i 1.000 e i 10.000 dollari.

A febbraio e marzo presenteremo sessioni informative e seminari gratuiti per aiutare a compilare le domande.

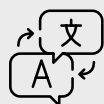
Per maggiori informazioni cerca 'Community Grants' sul sito web del Comune.

**Gli spettacoli di The Round per il 2025**

Sono adesso in vendita i biglietti per gli spettacoli della stagione 2025 di The Round "Electric".

Puoi scegliere tra 19 spettacoli di teatro, musica e commedia.

Prenota ora al sito [theround.com.au](http://theround.com.au)

**Servizio di interpretariato gratuito**

Chiama il numero 131 450 menziona la lingua che parli e chiedi di essere messo in contatto con il Consiglio comunale di Whitehorse.

## Greek | Ελληνικά

**Επιχορηγήσεις Κοινότητας για το 2025**

Οι αιτήσεις για το πρόγραμμα Επιχορηγήσεων Κοινότητας 2025 ανοίγουν τη Δευτέρα 24 Φεβρουαρίου.

Η ομάδα της κοινότητάς σας μπορεί να υποβάλει αίτηση για επιχορηγήσεις από \$1000 έως \$10,000.

Θα διοργανώσουμε δωρεάν ενημερωτικές συνεδρίες και εργαστήρια τον Φεβρουάριο και τον Μάρτιο για να σας βοηθήσουμε με τις αιτήσεις σας.

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, αναζητήστε το «Community Grants» στον ιστότοπο του Δήμου.

**Παραστάσεις στο The Round 2025**

Τα εισιτήρια για τις παραστάσεις της σεζόν του Round 2025 με τίτλο «Electric» είναι πλέον διαθέσιμα προς πώληση.

Υπάρχουν 19 παραστάσεις για να επιλέξετε, συμπεριλαμβανομένων θεάτρου, μουσικής και κωμωδίας.

Κλείστε τα εισιτήριά σας τώρα στο [theround.com.au](http://theround.com.au)

**Δωρεάν υπηρεσία διερμηνείας**

Καλέστε στο 131 450, αναφέρετε τη γλώσσα που μιλάτε και ζητήστε να συνδεθείτε με το Δήμο Whitehorse.

## Simplified Chinese | 简体中文

**2025 年社区补助金**

我们的 2025 年社区补助金计划将于 2 月 24 日星期一开始接受申请。

您所在的社区团体可以申请 1,000 澳元到 10,000 澳元不等的资助。

我们将在二月和三月举办免费的信息交流会和研讨会，以帮助您完成申请。

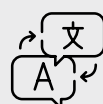
详情请在市议会网站上搜索“Community Grants (社区补助金)”。

**2025 年 The Round 剧院演出安排**

“The Round 剧院” 2025 年演出季“Electric”的门票现已开始发售。

有 19 场演出可供选择，包括戏剧、音乐和喜剧。

立即在 [theround.com.au](http://theround.com.au) 预订。

**免费口译服务**

请拨打 131 450，说明您使用的语言，并要求接通 Whitehorse 市议会。

## Vietnamese | Tiếng việt

**Tài trợ Cộng đồng 2025**

Chúng tôi sẽ mở hồ sơ đăng ký cho chương trình Tài trợ cộng đồng năm 2025 vào thứ Hai, ngày 24 tháng 2.

Nhóm cộng đồng của quý vị có thể nộp đơn xin tài trợ từ \$1000 đến \$10000.

Chúng tôi sẽ tổ chức các buổi thông tin và hội thảo miễn phí vào tháng 2 và tháng 3 để giúp quý vị chuẩn bị hồ sơ.

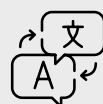
Để biết thêm thông tin, hãy tìm kiếm 'Community Grants' trên trang mạng của Hội đồng.

**Các cuộc biểu diễn của The Round vào năm 2025**

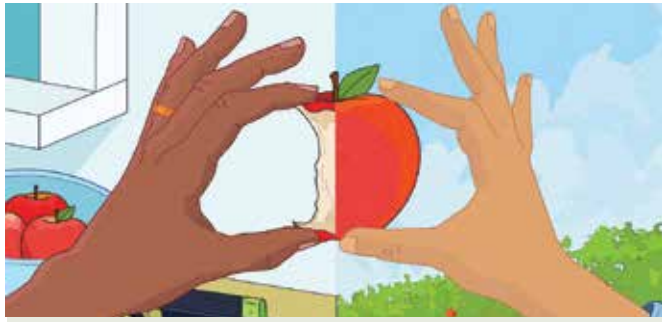
Vé xem các buổi biểu diễn trong mùa 2025 'Electric' của The Round hiện đang được bán.

Có 19 chương trình để lựa chọn bao gồm sân khấu, âm nhạc và hài kịch.

Đặt vé ngay bây giờ tại [theround.com.au](http://theround.com.au)

**Dịch vụ thông dịch miễn phí**

Gọi số 131 450, cho biết ngôn ngữ quý vị nói và yêu cầu được kết nối với Hội đồng thành phố Whitehorse.



## Keep our FOGO pure!

Help us to create clean, high-quality compost by putting food scraps and garden waste in your Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin.

Compost created from our FOGO bins improves soil quality across Victoria, helping grow food for our families and the community.

You can add food scraps loose, wrap them in a small amount of newspaper or paper towel, or use bright green compostable liners with the AS 4736 code.

Residents can access 2 free liner rolls per household each financial year – you can pick them up from our Civic Centre in Nunawading.

For more information and tips, search 'FOGO' on Council's website.

## Supporting anxious children

Does your child worry, feel anxious or seem stressed at times?

Get some tips to support them at these free online information sessions, which we are delivering in partnership with Yarra Ranges, Maroondah, Knox and Boroondara councils.

### Participants will learn:

- Strategies to support children through understanding the role of anxiety and normal childhood development
- How to identify the signs and symptoms in your child
- Relaxation and mindfulness techniques
- Where to go for more help and support.

### The sessions are tailored to parents and carers of children in the following groups:

- Monday 17 February – 0 to 6 years
- Thursday 20 February – primary school-aged children
- Wednesday 5 March – secondary school-aged children.

Register for these sessions at: [trybooking.com/CXQDN](https://trybooking.com/CXQDN)



## Contact Whitehorse City Council

Whitehorse City Council,  
Locked Bag 2, Nunawading, VIC 3131  
[customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer.service@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

[whitehorse.vic.gov.au](https://whitehorse.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 9262 6333  
NRS: 133 677 then quote 9262 6333

### Go paperless today

Scan the QR code and sign up to receive **Whitehorse News** via email.



*This newsletter can be placed in your recycling bin (yellow lid).*



## Acknowledgement of Country

Whitehorse City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the land. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

**Cover photo:** *Artwork from Life In Plastic starring Christie Whelan Browne – part of The Round's 2025 season Electric.*

## Connect with us on social media

Search 'Whitehorse City Council' or [@whitehorsecitycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/whitehorsecitycouncil)



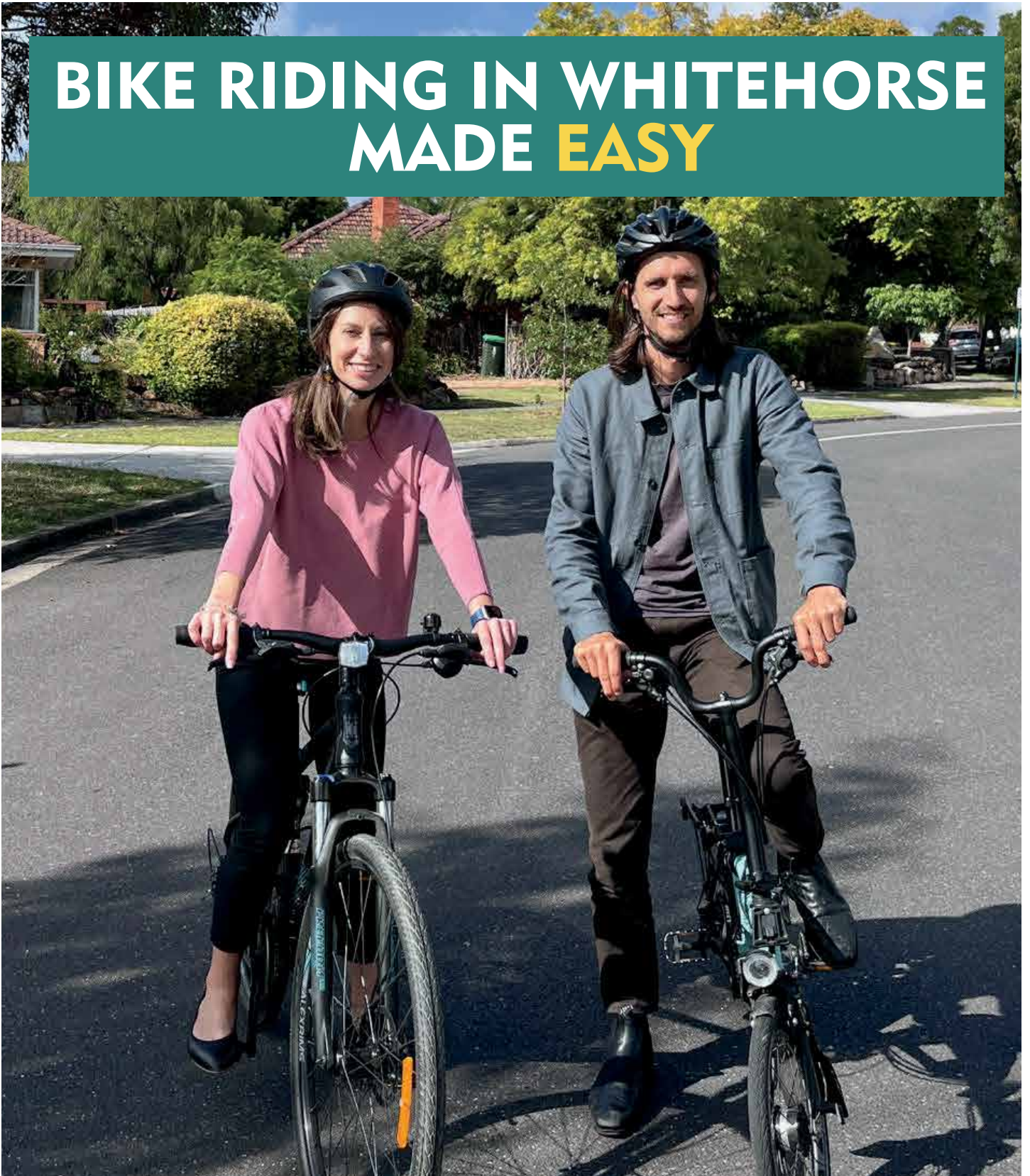
## Customer service centres

**Whitehorse Civic Centre**  
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

**Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre**  
Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 1pm

**Box Hill Town Hall**  
Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 1pm

# BIKE RIDING IN WHITEHORSE MADE **EASY**



Scan the QR code to find your nearest

## **EASY RIDE ROUTES**

OR SEARCH '**EASY RIDE ROUTES**' AT  
[WHITEHORSE.VIC.GOV.AU](http://WHITEHORSE.VIC.GOV.AU)



WHITEHORSE  
CITY COUNCIL