

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED 13 MARCH 2026

## NEW DATES - FARMER CONSULTATIONS



Three Farmer Consultation sessions were postponed due to staff illness.

The sessions have been rescheduled as below:

### Nhill Memorial Community Centre

Tuesday 17 March 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

### Dimboola Old Shire Hall

Thursday 19 March 2026, 9:00am – 10:30am

### Jeparit Memorial Hall

Thursday 19 March 2026, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Join us to discuss the upcoming 2026/2027 budget and capital works program, road maintenance program, tree trimming, heavy vehicle access and Landcare projects.

*Please note that sessions were also held in Rainbow, Netherby and Broughton in February.*

We hope to see you there!

## COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS - APPLY NOW!

### COMMUNITY ACTION GRANTS



Round Two of the Hindmarsh Shire Council Community Action Grants Programs is now open until 5:00pm Friday 10 April 2026.

Application forms are available on the Hindmarsh Shire Council website at [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/apply-for-grants) and can either be downloaded or completed online.

Funding can be applied for in one of the **three categories**:

- Community Assistance
- Event Sponsorship
- Small Equipment

Applicants are encouraged to read the guidelines and speak with a member of Council's team about their project prior to applying.

For more information, please contact our Community Wellbeing team by phone 03 5391 4444 or email [community@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au)

## WELCOMING THE 2026 YOUTH COUNCILLORS



Hindmarsh Shire Council formally welcomed the 2026 Youth Councillors with a certificate presentation on Friday 6 February 2026 at the Dimboola Library.

This year's Youth Council is made up of five returning members and seven new members. The Hindmarsh Shire Youth Council for 2026 is: Anora Corbett, Eh Chrit Htoo Shwe, Elora Williams, Georgia McKinnon, Grace Wundersitz, Katie Muller, Lawson Lynch, Lisa Klee, Matilda McKinnon, Rebecca-May Williams, Ryan Wallace and Trinity Rethus.

We're excited to see what the Youth Councillors will achieve this year!



# JOIN THE HINDMARSH PRIDE COMMITTEE



## Join the HINDMARSH PRIDE COMMITTEE

Council is welcoming expressions of interest from members of the community to join the Hindmarsh Pride Committee.

### What is the purpose of the Hindmarsh Pride Committee?

The Hindmarsh Pride Committee was established by Hindmarsh Shire Council to strengthen the voices of the LGBTIQ+ community.

If you are a passionate member or ally of the LGBTIQ+ community and interested in becoming a member of this committee, please complete the expression of interest form linked on Council's website.

Expressions of interest are rolling; you can apply at any time.

For more information, visit [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/pride](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/pride).



## ANIMAL REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Animal registration renewals for dogs and cats in Victoria are due by **10 April** each year.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's Animal Registration Renewal Notices were distributed from 11 March 2026. Please ensure that registration details are up to date with Council, including both animal and owner details.

If your animal has passed away or has been desexed in the past year, you can contact Council at any time so that records can be updated and maintained. This will also mean that you don't receive a Notice unnecessarily or a Notice with incorrect fees.

If you do require updates to any of your details, please contact our Customer Service Team on (03) 5391 4444.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY EVENT



Hindmarsh Shire Council celebrated International Day of People with a Disability with a wonderful community event held at the Dimboola Bowling Club on Wednesday 11 February 2026.

Around 60 participants attended the celebration, with the event providing a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone to connect, have fun and enjoy each other's company.

Attendees enjoyed music, a delicious BBQ, a range of games, and the opportunity to try their hand at lawn bowls. While the weather was hot, everyone was able to cool down and have their lunch in the fully air-conditioned club rooms.

Hindmarsh Shire Council would like to sincerely thank the Dimboola Bowling Club for hosting the event and supporting such an important day. We also extend our gratitude to all participants and volunteers who helped make the celebration such a success.

International Day of People with a Disability is an opportunity to promote community awareness, understanding and acceptance, and to celebrate diversity within our community. Hindmarsh Shire Council is proud to support this event.



## COUNCILLORS OUT AND ABOUT



Hindmarsh Shire Councillors have been out and about in December, January and February at Australia Day celebrations, a Citizenship Ceremony, International Day for People with a Disability event and other various events held throughout the Shire, along with community and committee meetings; you may have even heard them on the radio!

You may have seen Cr Ismay and Cr Barker at the Australia Day celebrations in Rainbow, Jeparit, Dimboola and Nhill, Cr Clark and Cr Aitken at the Rainbow Silo Art soft opening event or Cr Barry and Cr Uoy along with Cr Barker and Cr Aitken at the Youth Council Presentation night.

To contact a Councillor or invite them to your event, visit [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/councillors](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/councillors).

To find out what Councillors and the CEO have been up to, see section 6, Activity Reports, of any of our Council Meeting agendas. These are available on our website at [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/council-meetings).

## PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

All Hindmarsh Shire Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries will be **closed** on the following public holidays:

- **Friday 3 April 2026** - Good Friday
- **Monday 6 April 2026** - Easter Monday
- **Monday 8 June 2026** - King's Birthday

All Transfer Stations will be **closed** on Good Friday. Waste collection services within Hindmarsh Shire will not be affected by these public holidays - bins will be collected as normal.



## RAINBOW SILO ACCESS OPEN AGAIN



After a temporary closure due to technical issues from recent rain events, the Rainbow Silo Art is open for public access again!

Make a stop at Rainbow Silo Art and experience one of Australia's most unique Silo Art attractions. Climb the tower - or use the lift, explore the artwork, and take in the views over the Wimmera Mallee. Whether you're local or visiting, make time to stop by and take it all in.

For more information about the Rainbow Silo Art and how to access it, visit [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/rainbow-silo-art](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/rainbow-silo-art).

We thank the community for their patience and would like to remind visitors that for their safety, please avoid accessing the viewing tower during periods of adverse weather; gate access may be closed for public safety where required.

## MAYORAL MATTERS WITH CR RON ISMAY



Read the latest from Hindmarsh Shire Council Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay, about what he has been up to throughout February. In this month's Mayoral Matter, Cr Ismay discusses:

- attending a Rural Councils Victoria event with CEO, Monica Revell
- attending a Caravan and Camping Show with Cr Aitken to promote the Wimmera Mallee Grampians region
- Farmer Consultations

Mayoral Matters columns can be found on Council's website at [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/latest-news](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/latest-news).

*Pictured L to R: Councillor Roger Aitken, Craig 'Macca' McGown and Mayor Ron Ismay.*

# COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY VIDEO



A Council meeting summary video has been published on Council's Facebook page where you can hear from Mayor, Cr Ron Ismay and Deputy Mayor, Cr Rosie Barker as they provide an update on what was discussed during the Hindmarsh Shire Council meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2026.

At this meeting, Council:

- noted the Quarterly Finance Report for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025
- authorised the CEO to sign the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Tourism Memorandum of Understanding
- adopted the S6 Instrument of Delegation
- endorsed for Council Officers to engage with Community Asset Committees re reporting and compliance
- approved a Public Art Proposal and Grant Auspice Request
- awarded the Regional Community Events Grants 2025/2026 Round 2
- authorised the use of the Common Seal for a Section 173 Agreement
- endorsed the Resource Ready Readiness Strategy

You can find this video on the Hindmarsh Shire Council Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshirecouncil).

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN JEPARIT



Hindmarsh Shire Council, in partnership with the Jeparit Township Advisory Committee, was pleased to host the second International Women's Day Jeparit Riverbank Fiesta on Saturday 7 March 2026.

Held once again in the picturesque setting of the Jeparit Riverbank Precinct, attendees arrived in time to browse market stalls and grab a bite to eat from the food vendors, before settling onto blankets and camp chairs to enjoy the evening with guest speakers followed by live music by 'Shannon and the Flipside'.

Hindmarsh Shire Council's Deputy Mayor, Cr Rosie Barker opened the event with a rousing speech referencing the ongoing efforts and achievements of women, and encouraging the crowd to support, recognise and appreciate the women in their lives. Angela Murphy of Allied Justice (formally Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service) then gave an informative presentation which touched on this year's International Women's Day theme of 'Balance the Scales'.

Hindmarsh Shire Youth Councillors were also involved in the event, helping with set-up and handing out merchandise and introducing themselves to attendees throughout the evening.

*Photos supplied by Les Graetze.*

## HINDMARSH OUTDOOR POOL SEASON WRAP UP

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has visited and supported our pools throughout the season. It has been fantastic to see the facilities enjoyed by both local residents and visitors, and we will be creating an end of season survey in the coming weeks seeking feedback on how the pools operated this season and could operate into the future.

Towards the end of the season, many of our lifeguards headed off to university - fortunately, we still had a number of our fantastic team available to open some of the pools for a few bonus days after the final advertised closing day (Monday 9 March 2026)!

Leading into next season, we encourage the Hindmarsh community to put their hand up for lifeguarding opportunities so that we can avoid closure days as much as possible.

**Thank you again for a great season!**

# QUARTERLY FINANCIAL & PERFORMANCE UPDATE (Q2)

Hindmarsh Shire Council produces quarterly Financial Reports that demonstrate how income, expenditure and our cash position are tracking against the adopted budget, list any key variances, provide an update on the adopted Capital Works Program and – for the second quarter – a mid-year update on Local Government Performance Reporting measures.

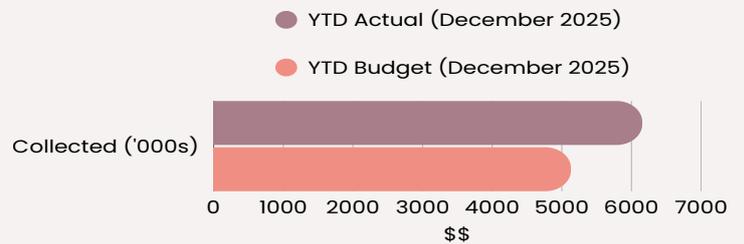
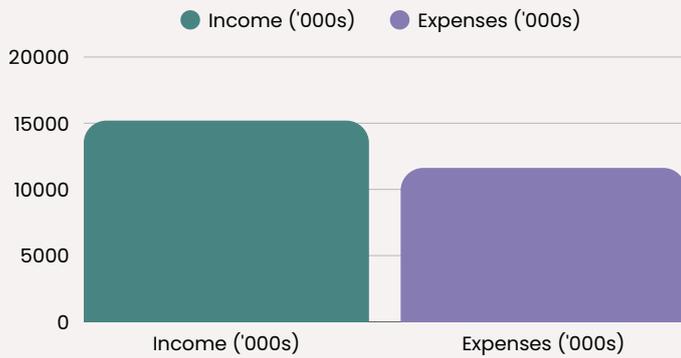
The Q2 report, covering the period from 1 July to 31 December 2025, provides an overview of Council's financial health, with regular reporting supporting timely oversight, early identification of emerging issues, and informed decision making throughout the financial year.

See below a quick glance at how Council is performing as of 31 December 2025.

## At a glance:

Our **surplus** for the year is currently \$3.574m against a budget of \$5.644m, this largely because Council received half of our Financial Assistance Grants funding in 2024/2025.

Total **rates and charges collected** so far this year is \$6.15m against a budget of \$5.131m, this higher amount is because of the timing of installments, with some people choosing to pay the total yearly amount upfront.

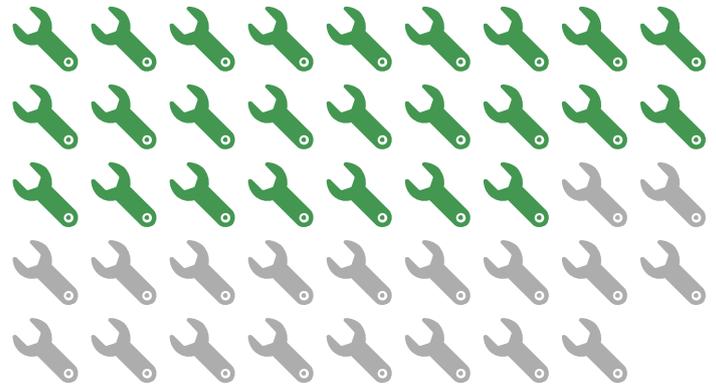


## Non-financial quickstats:

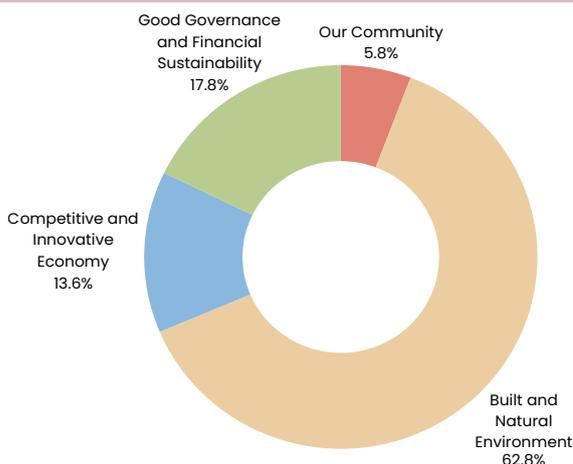
- 52 Animals** through the pound
- 11 Planning Permit** applications
- 11 Planning Permits** issued
- 100%** of **Planning Permits** decided in the Statutory timeframe
- 10 Movies** screened
- 48 People** (on average) per movie
- 2901 Telephone Calls** to the Nhill office
- 5187 Customers** assisted at Customer Service Centres
- 1074** Visitors to the **Rainbow Silo** (December only)
- 85.45%** of **Council Decisions** made in open Council
- 98.29%** of roads maintained to **condition standards**

## Capital works program:

From our **capital works program**, 25 projects are complete or underway, and 19 haven't started yet.



## Where the money is going (YTD 31 December 2025):



**\$9.06m** on our **Built and Natural Environment**

**\$2.56m** on **Good Governance and Financial Sustainability**

**\$1.96m** on creating a **Competitive and Innovative Economy**

**\$0.83m** on wellbeing services for **Our Community**

# WHAT CAN I PUT IN MY PURPLE GLASS BIN?

Some glass items melt differently, which means that not all glass items can go into your purple glass recycling bin.

## Glass items ALLOWED in your glass bin include:

- ✓ Bottles and jars from foods (sauces, condiments, oil, pasta sauce, jam, spreads, pickles, coffee etc.)
- ✓ Beverage bottles (from soft drinks, juice, water, milk, beer, wine and spirits)
- ✓ Medicine and toiletry jars and bottles (from medicines like cough syrup, vitamins, supplements, and cosmetics such as lotions and oils)

## Glass items NOT ALLOWED in your glass bin include:

- ✗ Glass kitchenware and cooking dishes
- ✗ Vases and candles
- ✗ Perfume bottles
- ✗ Window and mirror glass

Please put these items in your red lid general waste bin.

It's important that you rinse and clean glass before putting it in your glass bin, as when glass collected is over-contaminated, the delivery to the glass crushing facility is refused. This results in Council incurring the cost of transferring the full load of glass to landfill - this is money that could otherwise be spent on important Council services.



## Where does my glass go?

Glass collected in Hindmarsh Shire is delivered to a facility in Bendigo to be crushed and is then recycled to produce more glass.

## Glass contamination

If the glass collected is over-contaminated, the delivery to the collection facility is refused. This results in Council incurring the cost of transferring the full load of glass to landfill - this is money that could otherwise be spent on important Council services.

## GLASS BIN COLLECTIONS

All purple glass bins in Hindmarsh will be collected on the following Fridays:

- 10 April 2026
- 3 July 2026
- 25 September 2026
- 18 December 2026
- 12 March 2027



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## MARCH



### GET CREATIVE AT NHILL LIBRARY

Join us at the Nhill Library for a Get Creative session every second Friday.

Bring your own project that you are working on & chat and enjoy the company of others.

**Friday 13 & 27 March 2026**

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Nhill Library, 5 Clarence Street

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### THANK DUCK IT'S FRIDAY

The community event of the season is back, celebrating live music, family fun, and delicious food!

**Friday 13 March 2026**

6:00pm onwards

Jaypex Park, Nhill

**Live music:** Free performance by Headrush!

**Food & drinks:** BBQ favourites, duck burritos, duck fat chips & more!

**Family fun:** Face painting, plus a Wiggles singalong with Piggery Lane Players

This event is brought to you by Luv-a-Duck.

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### RESONANT SPACES - ART EXHIBITION OFFICIAL OPENING NIGHT

Turbo Gallery presents is excited to be officially opening its next art exhibition - Resonant Spaces.

This exhibition brings together audio and visual artworks which explore music and visual art through contemporary digital practices, bird song, performance and technology converge - inviting audiences to experience sound as image and image as rhythm.

**Exhibition Opening Night:**

Friday 13 March 2026

From 6:00pm

Turbo Gallery, 58 Federal Street, Rainbow

For more information, please contact Belinda

Eckermann on 0429 357 966

or email [info@turbogallery.com.au](mailto:info@turbogallery.com.au).

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### OASIS RAINBOW BIG SKY FESTIVAL

The fourth Big Sky Festival will take place at the Oasis Rainbow on **Saturday 14 March 2026**.

Market stalls from 10:00am - 2:00pm

Live music from 2:00pm - 9:00pm

Free Entry | Onsite Catering | BYO seats and alcohol

All ages welcome

For more information, please contact Ben Gosling, Oasis Rainbow on 0428 127 700.

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### NHILL CLASSIC MOVIE - Laughter in Paradise

Join us for a classic movie screening in Nhill!

**Tuesday 17 March 2026**

Morning tea at 10:00am | Movie at 10:30am

Nhill Memorial Community Centre,

77-79 Nelson Street

Gold coin donation at the door | Rated G



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### NHILL KIDS CRAFT CLUB

Join us at the Nhill Library every third Wednesday of the month for Kids Craft Club FREE of charge!

**Wednesday 18 March 2026**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Nhill Library, 5 Clarence Street

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### WRITING HOUR AT THE NHILL LIBRARY

Join us at the Nhill Library on the third Thursday of every month for Writing Hour.

**Thursday 19 March 2026**

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Nhill Library, 5 Clarence Street

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### FREE COMMUNITY SCREENING OF 'SHARED TABLE: REGIONAL HEROES'

Hindmarsh Shire Council will be hosting a free community screening of the documentary by the CALD Community Voices - **Shared Table: Regional Heroes**.

**Friday 20 March 2026**

Doors open at 6:15pm | Evening commences at 6:30pm | Guest speaker from 7:00pm

Nhill Memorial Community Centre, 77-79 Nelson Street

The film explores the lives of Karen (Myanmar), Hazara (Afghanistan), and Nepalese migrants who have made their homes in regional Victoria.

Bookings are not required.

If you have any queries, please contact our Community Wellbeing Team on (03) 5391 4444 or by email at [community@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:community@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au).

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### CUPPA CONNECTIONS AT HINDMARSH SHIRE LIBRARIES



### VISIT FROM CANCER SUPPORT NURSE AT CUPPA CONNECTIONS

Come and meet Nicole Miller, Cancer Support Nurse from West Wimmera Health Service, for an informal chat about her role and the services that they have to offer.

Nicole will be attending our Cuppa Connection session in Jeparit on the following date:

**Jeparit Library**

Wednesday 25 March 2026 from 10:00am - 12noon

Everyone is welcome!

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### CREATION STATION AT DIMBOOLA LIBRARY

Join us at the Dimboola Library for The Creation Station every second Wednesday. Facilitated by our librarian Jo, these sessions will see participants using their imagination and working on projects that span the entire month.

**Wednesday 25 March 2026**

3:30pm - 4:30pm

Dimboola Library, 101 Lloyd Street

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### HARMONY DAY 2026

Hindmarsh Shire Council and the Hindmarsh Pride Committee are excited to announce the upcoming Harmony Day - Market and Performances.

You're invited to participate in this event to celebrate and recognise our diversity.

**Saturday 28 March 2026**

10:00am - 1:00pm

Jaypex Park, Nhill

For more information, contact the Community Wellbeing team on (03) 5391 4444.

# APRIL

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## HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL MEETING

Join us at our next Hindmarsh Shire Council meeting. Council meetings are open to members of the public and livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel.

**Wednesday 1 April 2026**

From 3:00pm

Council Chambers, 92 Nelson Street, Nhill

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## NHILL CLASSIC MOVIE - The Out of Towners

Join us for a classic movie screening in Nhill!

**Tuesday 21 April 2026**

Morning tea at 10:00am | Movie at 10:30am

Nhill Memorial Community Centre,  
77-79 Nelson Street

Gold coin donation at the door | Rated G

## ONGOING



### Supported Playgroup

Parents with preschool-aged children are welcome to attend our Supported Playgroup sessions. Held weekly excluding school holidays.

#### Nhill Library

Mondays 10:00am - 11:00am

#### Rainbow Library

Mondays 2:00pm - 3:00pm

#### Dimboola Library

Tuesdays 10:00am - 12noon

#### Jeparit Kindergarten

Wednesdays 10:00am - 12noon

For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/hindmarshshiresupportedplaygroups](https://www.facebook.com/hindmarshshiresupportedplaygroups)

## RAINBOW CROCHET CORNER



### RAINBOW CROCHET CORNER

Grab those knitting needles or crochet hooks and pop down for a yarn with yarners! Bring your current crochet or knitting project and work alongside like-minded crafters.

**Held weekly on Fridays**

9:30am - 12:00pm

Rainbow Library, 49 Federal Street



### Story Time

Join us at your local Hindmarsh Shire Library for Story Time! Held during the school term!

#### Dimboola Library

Held weekly on Friday from 10:00am

#### Nhill Library

Held every second Friday from 11:00am

The next session will be on **Friday 27 March 2026**



### CUPPA CONNECTIONS

Join us at your local Hindmarsh Shire Library for weekly Cuppa Connections. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with friends.

#### Dimboola Library

Thursdays 10:00am - 12noon

#### Nhill Library

Thursdays 10:00am - 12noon

#### Jeparit Library

Wednesdays 10:00am - 12noon

#### Rainbow Library

Wednesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm

If you'd like more information about these sessions, please call us on (03) 5391 4444.

# JOIN OUR TEAM



To view all current vacant positions, position descriptions and application forms, visit [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/work-in-council](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/work-in-council)

SCAN



## CURRENT VACANT POSITIONS

### Coordinator Libraries and Customer Service

Full Time, Fixed Term 12 months

Applications close **12noon** on **Wednesday 25 March 2026**.

# CONTACT A COUNCILLOR



If you would like to raise a matter with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or a Councillor, or if you would like to invite them to an event, you may contact them directly. Alternatively, you can contact them via email to [info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) and put the Councillor name(s) in the subject line. To contact a councillor, visit [www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/councillors](http://www.hindmarsh.vic.gov.au/councillors).



Cr Ron Ismay  
**Mayor**  
West Ward



Cr Rosie Barker  
**Deputy Mayor**  
West Ward



Cr Roger Aitken  
**Councillor**  
North Ward



Cr James Barry  
**Councillor**  
East Ward



Cr Tony Clark  
**Councillor**  
North Ward



Cr Chan Uoy  
**Councillor**  
East Ward

# FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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**Nhill Cinema**  
[www.facebook.com/nhillcinema](http://www.facebook.com/nhillcinema)

**Hindmarsh Outdoor Pools**  
[www.facebook.com/hindmarshoutdoorpools](http://www.facebook.com/hindmarshoutdoorpools)



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