

Dam proposal concerns

The West Party and Friends of yaluk barring park have expressed concern about Melbourne Water’s shortlist of flood mitigation options for the Maribyrnong river.

Earlier this year, state government authority Melbourne Water released a shortlist of potential mitigation options for further engagement with the community.

Consultation closed 22 July with Melbourne Water now considering feedback.

An option that has raised concern is the Arundel Retarding Basin.

“Its exact location is unclear and if built near Arundel Road, could flood farmland, parts of yaluk barring Park, and Organ Pipes National Park,” said Sydenham West

Party candidate and former councillor Bruce Lancashire.

Mr Lancashire says the proposed area is dangerously close to Melbourne Airport.

“Any large body of water located near the alignment of the third Melbourne Airport runway increases the risk of a potential of bird strike for aircraft.”

Mr Lancashire and the West Party was instead proposing the assessment of two smaller basins further upstream on Jackson and Deep creeks.

“This could lower costs, reduce land impacts, avoid damaging key environmental sites and be safer for Melbourne Airport.

“Any captured stormwater should be considered for reuse, such as irrigation for parks, sports grounds, agriculture, and for industry including data centres.”

Melbourne Airport has said it is aware of proposed plans but that “planning for and operation of retarding basins outside of Melbourne Airport’s estate are not managed by Melbourne Airport”.

The state government said Melbourne Water is engaged in consultation and that no final decisions have been made.

“The Maribyrnong River Flood Mitigation Study is investigating potential solutions to help reduce flood risk,” a spokesperson said.

Brimbank council said it will continue to work with neighbouring councils on how to minimise the impact of future flooding in the community.

“We are part of the project working group on the Maribyrnong River Flood Mitigation Study, which includes several proposed flood mitigation options, such as building a retarding basin at Arundel or smaller retarding basins along the catchment,” a council spokesperson said.

“Any future flood mitigation proposals for Maribyrnong River would need to consider a range of factors, including the local environmental and cultural heritage, and the impact on surrounding properties.”

Consultation open on disability plan

Brimbank council has endorsed its Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2027-2029 for community consultation. The three-year strategic framework seeks to reduce systemic barriers and promote equitable participation for people with disability and their carers across the region.

The new strategy builds directly upon progress achieved under the preceding Disability Action Plan 2022-2026. Key initiatives delivered in recent years include the installation of a Changing Places facility at the Brimbank Aquatic & Wellness Centre, the rollout of wheelchair and scooter charging points, communication boards in leisure centres, and Auslan training for library staff.

Underpinned by the social model of disability, the proposed plan focuses on overcoming environmental and institutional obstacles rather than treating disability as an individual impairment. The draft was developed following extensive community engagement involving individuals with lived experience, advisory committees, community workshops, and public surveys.

Feedback from local residents highlighted the paramount importance of personal independence, accessible pedestrian infrastructure, inclusive community events, and addressing discrimination associated with non-visible disabilities.

The strategy is structured around four primary pillars: People, Places, Prosperity, and Leadership & Governance. Together, these focus areas aim to expand accessible information, apply universal design across public spaces and transport infrastructure, strengthen inclusive employment pathways, and embed accessibility training into council operations.

To ensure broad accessibility across the entire community, the final strategic document will also be published in an Easy English format.

“While data helps us understand who lives in our community, lived experience helps us understand how people experience it,” council said.

Public consultation is open from 16 September to 7 October. Members of the community can review the document and submit feedback online via the Your Say Brimbank platform or participate in scheduled engagement sessions. These include an online drop-in session on Tuesday 22 September from 6 to 7.30 pm and an in-person session on Wednesday 23 September from 10am to noon at Sunshine Library. Following the consultation period, a revised draft incorporating community feedback will be presented to council at its meeting on 16 November.



From left, Wally Gatt (school president for 32 years), current principal Paul Busuttill and past principals Brian O'Dea (1994 - 2006) and Terry O'Riley (1986 - 1993). (Supplied).

St Albans East PS celebrates major milestones

St Albans East Primary School proudly celebrated two significant milestones on Tuesday 15 September - 70 years of St Albans East Primary School and 25 years of the St Albans East Deaf Facility.

The special celebration brought together past and present students, principals, staff, families and members of the wider school community to celebrate the school's history and the many people who have helped shape it over the past seven decades.

The celebration opened with a traditional Vietnamese dance, choreographed by current

staff member Tina Nguyen, who has worked with the Vietnamese community at the school for more than 30 years.

The school community was honoured to welcome former principals Terry O'Riley (1986-1993) and Brian O'Dea (1994-2006), along with Wally Gatt, who served as School Council president for 32 years.

The school also welcomed Marie Fram, who, alongside Brian O'Dea, helped launch and coordinate the school's deaf facility when it opened in 2001.

Among the special guests were Joe Ribarow

and Nick Szwed, two of the school's first enrolled students in 1956. Their connection with the school has continued, with Mr Ribarow and Mr Szwed documenting its history over the years.

Guests and current students were also able to step back in time through a special photographic display arranged across the decades, showcasing the evolution of St Albans East Primary School. The display featured photographs of the school's original buildings, classrooms and learning spaces alongside images of its current facilities and new learning environments.

Book lovers rejoice as Manga-thon returns to Brimbank Libraries

Book lovers of all ages are invited to take part in Brimbank Libraries' Manga-thon+ Reading Competition, returning this year with more ways to read, participate and win.

Running until 31 October, the competition encourages library members to borrow and read as many manga, young adult (YA) books and graphic novels as they can for the chance to be crowned the Manga Master.

To take part, participants can place their borrowing slips in entry boxes avail-

able at all library branches, or simply borrow eligible books and let the library's system automatically track their entries. Only physical books from the eligible Manga, YA and Graphic Novel collections borrowed during the competition period will count.

The competition is open to all current library members, with prizes including AirPods Pro or Samsung noise-cancelling earbuds for first place, Sony or gaming headphones for second place, and a

\$50 voucher for one participant at each branch in third place.

Manga fans can also have their say on the future of the library's collection by voting for their favourite titles from a selection of new and popular manga. Voters can nominate titles they would like to see added to the shelves and go into the draw to win one of four \$50 book vouchers.

Visit your local Brimbank Library and get reading!