

## 10% rate waiver *in 2020/21 Budget*

**Council's 2020/21 budget was adopted at the 25 August Council meeting with a 10% waiver on Council rates for the 2020/21 financial year. The waiver will apply to all 81,319 ratepayers as a gesture of support from us to you.**

Council's decision recognises that everyone in our community is doing it tough. Some have lost jobs, others have businesses that are threatened and all of us are anxious about what's going to happen. Everyone is impacted in some way and that's why the waiver applies to all Monash ratepayers.

At the time Council put the proposed waiver forward in our draft budget in June, Victoria had not gone into the second lockdown but many families and businesses were already under severe pressure. The second lockdown has increased that pressure significantly, reinforcing our belief that this is the right decision to make to support ratepayers at this incredibly difficult time and return some money to their pocket.

The 10% waiver is applied under Section 171(1)(b) of the Local Government Act to all rateable properties on the 2020/21 declared rate as at 1 July 2020. Council has also extended its hardship policy so that any ratepayer impacted by COVID-19 can apply to defer paying their rates until 30 June 2021 without having to pay any penalty interest.

Council's 2020/21 budget includes a \$46.3M (new and carry forward projects) Capital Works Program for 2020/21. The Capital Works Program focuses on core services such as drainage, footpaths, road and waste improvements identified by the Monash community as important upgrades.

Council's recycling contract is secure until April 2023 but the increased costs for this service remain. For 2020/21 Council will continue to charge a "Recycling & Waste Charge" at \$27 per rateable property which is a service charge to meet those increased costs and

also cover the increase to the State's Waste Levy. Pensioners will continue to receive a rebate for the full amount of the recycling levy.

### Highlights of the budget include:

- » Completion of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre redevelopment into an outstanding integrated multi-purpose sports precinct
- » A new purpose built child and family centre in Mulgrave to replace the ageing Wellington Kindergarten and co-located Maternal and Child Health Service, completed by 2021/22 with a total budget of \$4.52M, including \$1M in grants from the State Government
- » Improve sports facilities at Caloola, Mulgrave, and Brentwood Reserves. A multi-sport pavilion at Caloola (\$2.01M); a new pavilion built at Brentwood Reserve (\$1.92M); design and construction of a new pavilion will start at Mulgrave Reserve (\$1.80M) including a State Government grant of \$900,000
- » Road reconstruction programs totalling \$4.40M, which includes \$1.48M external grant funding
- » \$4.15M for footpath and cycleways renewal.

For more info: ☎ 9518 3555  
🌐 [www.monash.vic.gov.au/budget](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/budget)



# FACE MASKS now available

Wear a face covering or mask

Stay 1.5 metres apart  
**AT ALL TIMES**



The State Government has provided Councils and some local community services with a supply of face masks for people who are considered to be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.

People over 12 years who are being actively managed for these chronic conditions are eligible: poor immunity; heart disease, diabetes and stroke; obesity; chronic lung disease; alcohol and drug dependency and frailty.

Masks will also be provided to people:

- » in public housing, rooming houses, supported residential services, crisis accommodation, or are homeless
- » living with disability
- » experiencing mental health concerns or family violence
- » young people in residential facilities, and those receiving other health and human services or in mandatory facilities
- » Indigenous Australians.

It is mandatory to wear a face covering when leaving home. Face coverings can include scarves, face shields or homemade masks.

For more info: [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-covid-19#what-does-wearing-a-face-covering-mean](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-covid-19#what-does-wearing-a-face-covering-mean)

If you need masks but can't collect them, talk to the organisation you contact below and they can assist with deliveries if required.

## Council Community Connector Team

- » Mon-Fri ☎ 9518 3555
- » Masks will be mailed out to residents or delivered under urgent circumstances.

## Power Neighbourhood House

- » Mon & Fri 10am-1pm, Tues 12pm-3pm ☎ 0432 150 799
- » Call ahead to arrange collection
- » 54 Power Ave, Ashwood

## Mackie Road Neighbourhood House

- » Open for mask collection Tues 1pm-2pm ☎ 9548 3311
- » Please email to arrange collection [✉ info@mackierdnh.org.au](mailto:info@mackierdnh.org.au)
- » 36-42 Mackie Rd, Mulgrave

## Monash Oakleigh Community Support & Information Service

- » Open Mon-Fri 10am-1pm ☎ 9568 4533
- » 25 Downing St, Oakleigh
- » [✉ admin@mocsis.org.au](mailto:admin@mocsis.org.au)

## Monash Waverley Community Information & Support

- » Mon, Wed & Fri, 10am-1pm ☎ 9807 9844
- » Located at the rear of Mount Waverley Community Centre
- » 47 Miller Cres, Mt Waverley

## Dixon House

- » Open Weds & Thurs 10am-12pm & 1pm-3pm ☎ 9543 8911
- » 2 Dixon Street, Clayton

## Amaroo Neighbourhood House

- » Open daily ☎ 9807 0570
- » 34 Amaroo St, Chadstone

## Other Locations

Community health providers, some community pharmacies and general practitioners may also have a supply of masks to provide free of charge to their own patients and clients. Residents should contact these services directly.

# UPDATE ON COVID-19

At the time of going to print on 2 September, the State of Disaster and Stage 4 restrictions were still in place with further announcements yet to be made by the State Government.

Council is continuing to provide services to the community including immunisations, Meals on Wheels and Aged Care and kerbside bin collection.

As of 2 September, our service centres at the Monash Civic Centre (293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley) and the Oakleigh Service Centre (3 Atherton Road) remain closed to the public ☎ 9518 3555

[✉ mail@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@monash.vic.gov.au)

[www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au) (webchat)

Library branches, playgrounds, Aquatic and Recreation Centres and Monash Gallery of Art also remain closed.

**Please note: this information is up to date at the time of printing. Refer to our website for more recent updates and any changes.**

[www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au)

## Monash Civic Centre (Closed)

[📍 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley](#)

## Oakleigh Service Centre (Closed)

[📍 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh](#)

☎ 9518 3555 [✉ mail@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@monash.vic.gov.au) [www.monash.vic.gov.au](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au)  
**National Relay Service** (for the hearing and speech impaired) 1800 555 660

## Language Assist

普通话	9321 5485	Italiano	9321 5483
Ελληνικά	9321 5482	हिंदी	7005 3000
廣東話	9321 5481	Việt Ngữ	9321 5487
සිංහල	7005 3002	தமிழ்	7005 3003

We welcome your feedback about the Monash Bulletin:  
 ☎ 9518 3678  
 ✉ joanne.robertson@monash.vic.gov.au



한국어 9321 5484  
 Bahasa Indonesia 7005 3001

## MESSAGE FROM Mayor Stuart James

I remember fondly the moment I was named Mayor of this great city. It was an incredibly proud and exciting moment for me and my family, including my wife, children and parents who were all there to witness it. I'm proud of my achievements over this term of Council, and there have been many, but the introduction of support services for parents and carers to address social isolation and associated mental health issues has been a highlight.

Like many of us, I had big plans for 2020, but none of us could have predicted what was to come our way with Covid-19 crisis coming straight off the back of the most devastating bushfires in living memory. Whilst it hasn't been the Mayoral year I had envisaged, it has been a life-changing experience for me to lead this Council through the toughest crisis it has ever faced. Acknowledging my bias, I could not be more proud of the way our organisation has responded during the Covid-19 crisis. We were one of the first in the country to guarantee employment to our staff, we cut our fees and charges for community and sporting organisations, refunded businesses who had paid footpath trading fees and then set about finding ways in which we could provide financial relief to our community, culminating in a 10% waiver on rates across the board.

Despite all of this, we worked hard to ensure critical services remained available to all of you, but beyond that, we have reached out to the isolated, the



lonely, and the elderly and vulnerable to support them in whatever they needed. Whether it was a friendly phone call to check in, delivery of books to the home, or working with other organisations to ensure supplies of food and necessities, we have been there. I am a very proud resident of Oakleigh. I love living and raising my young daughters in Monash, and I am grateful to be part of a community and an organisation that cares for others and looks out for those with less.

Walking around my neighbourhood recently my spirits, and those of my two youngest daughters, were lifted by a new spoonville that had popped up; another sign of community life in lockdown. As we move forward to the post-lockdown world, let's continue to build on that spirit of care and kindness. Thank you to everyone who has supported me this year; my Council colleagues, the team at Monash, my wonderful family and all of you who make Monash the unique place it is.

If you're interested in finding out more about what I've been up to around our city, like my [Facebook](#) @crstuartjames or follow me on [Instagram](#) @crstuartjames and join me on the journey.

## NEXT COUNCIL Meeting

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 29 September** from 7pm. The meeting's agenda will be published on Council's website from 5.30pm on **Thursday 24 September**. Monash residents and ratepayers can ask questions at the meeting, with questions to be submitted to Council by 2pm on Tuesday 29 September.

Under the restrictions introduced by the State Government to slow the spread of Coronavirus, Council meetings will not be open to the public to attend. However, the meeting remains a public meeting with the community able to watch via our livestreaming service at [webcast.monash.vic.gov.au](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/webcast)

During this time a representative of Council will act as the representative in reading out any public questions and providing a response over the livestream. A written response will also be provided.

[www.monash.vic.gov.au/meetings](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/meetings)  
9518 3555

## COUNCIL elections

**The four year term of Monash's current councillors is coming to a close, with Council elections to be held in Monash (and across Victoria) this October.**



Monash is represented by 11 Councillors across four wards: Glen Waverley, Mt Waverley, Mulgrave and Oakleigh.

Councillors make decisions on behalf of the community on a wide range of matters, including setting the Council budget and rates; planning and building regulations; and sporting and recreation facilities. The Victorian Electoral Commission is conducting Monash's election, which will be held by postal vote. Ballot packs will be mailed to residents and ratepayers from Tuesday 6 October and Thursday 8 October 2020, with people to complete their ballots and put them in the mail by 6pm on Friday 23 October 2020.

The current Council will go into caretaker mode from midnight Tuesday 22 September, meaning the Council will avoid making significant policies or decisions that could unreasonably bind a future Council. During the caretaker period, Council will continue to decide upon statutory matters, such as planning permit applications, and carry out its normal everyday services.

For more info: [131 832](tel:131832) [www.vec.vic.gov.au](https://www.vec.vic.gov.au)



# CAT CURFEW to start April 2021

**A night time cat curfew will be introduced in Monash after a survey revealed majority community support for the plan.**

The survey attracted 680 responses with 75 per cent of respondents supporting a curfew for cats.

The curfew will be between sunset or 7pm (whichever is the latter) and sunrise.

Council decided at its May 2020 meeting to hold off introduction of a cat curfew until April 2021, when pet registrations are due.

In the interim period, given a specific question about a cat curfew had not been directly asked as part of the previous consultation, particularly to registered cat owners in Monash, Council believed it was important to further consult with the community, including registered cat owners and wildlife groups.

The most common reason survey respondents supported a curfew was to help reduce nuisance caused by cats and to protect wildlife and impact on the environment.

Survey responses also found:

- » 96 per cent of non-cat owners support a night time curfew
- » The majority of cat owners (61 per cent) who responded also supported the proposed curfew
- » Most cat owners (73 per cent) already kept their cats in at night
- » Those who opposed a cat curfew believed it was hard to contain cats at night.

Council is hoping that through a heightened awareness of the cat curfew and the benefits of keeping cats in at night, owners will comply because it's good for wildlife and the best thing for their pets.

For more info: [www.monash.vic.gov.au/cat-curfew-survey](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/cat-curfew-survey)

# COMMUNITY Engagement Policy

**Monash Council recognises that the involvement of the community in making decisions and plans is fundamental to good governance. Monash is a culturally diverse and engaged community, rich with experience and expertise, and Council values the community's contribution in planning for the future.**

Under the Local Government Act 2020, all Councils are required to have a Community Engagement Policy in place by March 2021. Over the past few months, Council staff and members of Council's advisory groups collaborated on a new policy and framework. We also consulted widely across the community on preferences for community engagement. We heard from 800 respondents in our Community Satisfaction Survey and found that one in six (16%) residents had previously participated in a consultation and almost one in two of those respondents (49%) were willing to participate in future engagements.

The new engagement policy and framework sets a clear standard of engagement for Council.

## Council is committed to:

- » offering opportunities for the community to contribute to the decisions made by Council
- » effective communication of information between Council and the community
- » ensuring effective community representation
- » decision making that is transparent and works in the interest of the community, considering our diverse stakeholders
- » ensuring effective community engagement planning.

The framework applies to the projects and decisions you find on Council's Have Your Say webpage. It does not apply to community engagement processes that are prescribed by other Victorian legislation such as land-use planning applications or other Council processes such as service requests or complaints.

For more info: [9518 3678](tel:95183678)  
[www.monash.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-policy](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-policy)



# HAVE YOUR SAY

## on draft Tennis Plan



**Council's draft Monash Tennis Plan has been released for consultation and we are keen to hear your thoughts on what is being proposed.**

The plan was developed as a result of an extensive consultation period and work with tennis clubs in Monash to strategically address key issues for the sport.

The consultation and evidence-based approach have helped us define the guiding principles and key actions outlined in the plan to ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for tennis in Monash.

### Feedback on the draft Monash Tennis Plan is welcome online:

[www.monash.vic.gov.au/tennis-plan](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/tennis-plan)

or written submissions and comments can be sent to:

✉ Attention: Recreation Services Monash City Council  
293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley VIC 3150

✉ [recreation@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:recreation@monash.vic.gov.au)

All submissions and comments will be reviewed and considered before a final Monash Tennis Plan will be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement.

## WAVERLEY WOMEN'S Sports Centre plan

**Council is seeking further community feedback on proposed upgrades to the Waverley Women's Sports Centre Precinct.**

Following consultation with the community earlier this year, and further discussion with key stakeholders including the State Government, Parks Victoria, relevant State and regional sporting associations, we have a draft precinct plan that outlines what we are proposing.

This is a significant sporting precinct in Monash that is a regional venue for netball and softball and is home to the Waverley Night Netball Association, Waverley City Netball Association and Waverley Softball Association.

The centre has four indoor and eight outdoor netball courts and a pavilion for softball users plus 10 diamonds (fields).

All submissions and comments received will be reviewed and considered in the preparation of a final Precinct Plan for the Waverley Women's Sports Centre which will be presented to Council at a future meeting. **Consultation closes on 9 October.**

### Have Your Say:

[www.monash.vic.gov.au/waverley-womens-sport-centre](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/waverley-womens-sport-centre)

✉ [recreation@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:recreation@monash.vic.gov.au)

✉ Attention: Recreation Services  
Monash City Council  
293 Springvale Road  
Glen Waverley VIC 3150

☎ 9518 3555

## SUBURBAN RAIL

### Loop project update

**Council is continuing to talk with the Suburban Rail Loop Authority (SRLA) about future plans for the location of the SRL station in Glen Waverley and has further deferred the design of the proposed mixed-use Montclair car park until April 2021.**

The mixed use multi-deck carpark was set to provide a minimum of approximately 1,000 car park spaces including 499 new spaces for the Glen Waverley Activity Centre (GWAC). The removal of 99 car parks from Kingsway was also planned.

The project has been on hold since March 2020 when Council first decided to defer design of the car park at 31-39 Montclair Avenue for up to six months while discussions with the SRLA about the station location in Glen Waverley progressed.

At its August 2020 meeting, Council decided to again defer the design until April 2021, as the SRLA has not yet announced its preferred locations for the stations in Glen Waverley, Clayton and Monash University.

Council acknowledged that future planning for the GWAC needs to take into account the planning for the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) as well as the Kingsway streetscape works.

Monash Council is also seeking funding from the State Government to assist in future planning and infrastructure to meet the expected growth in activity precincts where the new Suburban Rail Loop stations will be located in Monash.

Council believes it is critical that precinct planning for the "place" around these stations begins as early as possible so it relieves some financial burden on Monash ratepayers in responding to any SRL proposals.

For more info: [www.monash.vic.gov.au/montclair](http://www.monash.vic.gov.au/montclair)



# COUNCILLOR NEWS

## Cr Brian Little

As this Council term ends, I am reflecting on what it takes to succeed. There are three standouts: to do it right, it might take a bit longer, beware the unknown complications and you always need a plan. The Waverley District Netball Association facilities at Ashwood is a good example.

The WDNA runs a phenomenally popular netball competition with up to 1500 people, mostly female, making use of the facilities. In 2017 they successfully got a Federal Government grant to upgrade 12 netball courts and introduce sports flood lighting for full competition standard. But the grant ran out. The only building was the umpires' building with limited toilet facilities. The need for better utilities, especially toilets, became the focus of my budget bid for the 2018-19 year, and subsequently, the 2019-20 year.

So first hurdle – no overarching plan for the site. We needed an Integrated Site Plan. I secured some funds in the '18-'19 budget but that was now, in part, to fund the ISP.

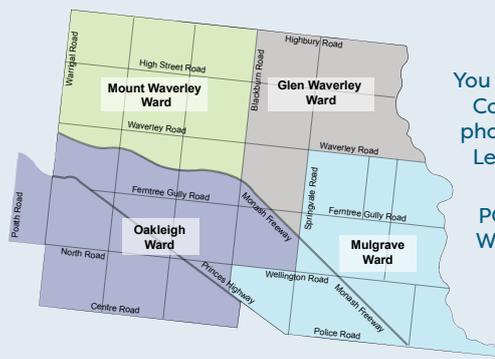
Come the end of 2018 and the ISP was progressing but problems with the site were becoming apparent: difficult topology with steep slopes for both cars and pedestrians and limited asphalt / concrete. The car park is gravel, poorly graded and turns to mud in winter. The pedestrian paths are only partially sealed. There is a difficult slope for pedestrians between the upper and lower level courts, particularly challenging for those with a mobility issue. There is no player pavilion. The main entry / exit is into quiet suburban streets with limited access. It's at this stage you feel like shouting at the top of your lungs "All I wanted to do was provide some extra toilets". But don't panic – the ISP also provided an opportunity to set site development priorities and beyond the toilets the number one priority had to include improvements to some paths, for accessibility and safety. The plan was doing its job. An ingenious design was created by Council staff to maximise additional facilities at minimum cost, it went to tender and construction is now complete.

If nothing else characterises the last four years of Council for me it is the number, diversity and often sophistication of the plans that have been developed. We have seen a plethora of plans, frameworks and strategies emerge: the Open Space Strategy, Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy, Environmental Sustainability Strategy (which paved the way to Council committing to zero carbon by 2025). The Community Engagement Policy and Framework addresses how we engage with the community and we now have a Monash Loneliness Framework. They are all important. The next four years promise some exciting developments as we put these plans into operation.

Feel free to contact me on: ☎ 0407 878 033

✉ [Brian.Little@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Brian.Little@monash.vic.gov.au)

# YOUR Councillors



You can contact Councillors via phone or email. Letters can be mailed to: PO Box 1, Glen Waverley 3150

## Glen Waverley Ward



**Cr Geoff Lake**  
0411 645 281  
[Geoff.Lake@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Geoff.Lake@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Lynnette Saloumi**  
0466 465 355  
[Lynnette.Saloumi@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lynnette.Saloumi@monash.vic.gov.au)

## Mount Waverley Ward



**Cr Brian Little**  
0407 878 033  
[Brian.Little@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Brian.Little@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Rebecca Paterson**  
0437 959 163  
[Rebecca.Paterson@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Paterson@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr MT Pang Tsoi**  
**Deputy Mayor**  
0466 465 376  
[MTPang.Tsoi@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:MT Pang.Tsoi@monash.vic.gov.au)

## Mulgrave Ward



**Cr Paul Klisaris**  
0412 516 026  
[Paul.Klisaris@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Klisaris@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Shane McCluskey**  
0466 345 406  
[Shane.McCluskey@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Shane.McCluskey@monash.vic.gov.au)

*Cr Robert Davies resigned from Council on 17 August 2020.*

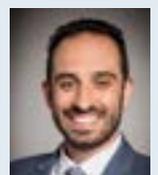
## Oakleigh Ward



**Cr Josh Fergeus**  
0466 465 421  
[Josh.Fergeus@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Josh.Fergeus@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Stuart James**  
**Mayor**  
9518 3524 / 0413 184 250  
[Stuart.James@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Stuart.James@monash.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Theo Zographos**  
0430 316 911  
[Theo.Zographos@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:Theo.Zographos@monash.vic.gov.au)

# MONASH YOUTH Film Festival 2020

Create, Connect,  
Inspire!

Monash Youth Services and  
Quiksound Productions is  
proud to present the annual  
Youth Film Festival 2020!  
This year the festival will  
premiere live on YouTube on  
Wednesday 23 September  
from 6.30pm.

Join us for free at  
[www.youtube.com/user/  
myfschannel](https://www.youtube.com/user/myfschannel) to support the  
young film makers of Monash.

To register for event reminders  
and to be entered into a draw  
to win a \$20 Uber Eats voucher,  
head to

[www.trybooking.com/  
BLAMQ](https://www.trybooking.com/BLAMQ)

For more info: ☎ 9518 3900  
[www.monashyouth.org.au](https://www.monashyouth.org.au)



## From 14 September 2020 through 2021

This year, the Monash Community Arts Expo has  
been reimagined.

Creatively Connected 2020 is an opportunity  
to learn, create and connect with the local arts  
and cultural community online. Join creative  
people to exchange ideas and learn new skills at  
a series of FREE online workshops and discussions  
including Instagram Tips and Tricks, Smartphone  
Photography and Chinese Lantern Making.

It doesn't matter what your artistic or technical ability  
is - we aim to get you Creatively Connected in 2020.

To receive a full program of FREE activities via email  
sign up to Art and About - Council's arts and culture  
newsletter:

[www.monash.vic.gov.au/Leisure/Arts-Culture](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/Leisure/Arts-Culture)

[events@monash.vic.gov.au](mailto:events@monash.vic.gov.au) ☎ 9518 3636

[www.monash.vic.gov.au/events](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/events)

## MONASH GARDENS for Wildlife webinar series

We've teamed up with Sustainable Gardening Australia  
to bring you a series of FREE webinars. The first is:

**Introduction to Sharing  
your Garden with Wildlife**  
Tues 29 Sept, 10am-11.30am

Learn how to become a 'Champion for Wildlife' by  
incorporating food sources, water, shelter and nesting  
places in your garden for our indigenous animals.

For more info: ☎ 9518 3555  
[www.monash.vic.gov.au/wildlife-webinars](https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/wildlife-webinars)



# WordFest

Spoken Written Crafted

13 - 30 October 2020

**WordFest is the annual literature festival held by Monash Public Library Service that brings readers and writers together at a series of events. This year all WordFest events will be live streamed.**

The festival, which runs from 13 to 30 October includes author talks, workshops and a short story competition. Times for the author talks will be 7pm-8pm.

## **TUES 13 OCT Ramona Koval**

Ramona Koval is known for her wit and wisdom.

Although she pursued studies in science, during her celebrated career as a broadcaster she made interviews with significant writers her signature. She presented *The Book Show* on Radio National for six years and before that, *Books and Writing* for 13 years. She has written for newspapers and international journals, and had her interviews published in book form. Ramona will be discussing the WordFest theme of Spoken, Written, Crafted in relation to her most recent book, *A Letter to Layla: Travels to Our Deep Past and Near Future*.



## **SAT 17 OCT Cate Kennedy Short Story Workshop**

Cate Kennedy writes across most genres – fiction, poetry and non-fiction. Her short stories and essays regularly appear in magazines and literary journals. She is one of Australia's most popular teachers of the short



story form. This workshop will help you hone your short story ideas and avoid common writing traps. Delivered online and bookings essential.

## **TUES 20 OCT Christian White**

It took Christian White more than a decade to find "overnight success".

Before he became a screenwriter and an award-winning author with his bestselling *The Nowhere Child*, he slogged away at his computer on nights and weekends, relying on a long list of unusual day jobs to supplement his writing habit. As a speaker Christian is honest and self-deprecating, as he explains how writing for the screen helped him write for the page. Christian's latest book is *The Wife and the Widow*.



## **THUR 22 OCT Alice Bishop**

Alice Bishop is from Christmas Hills, Victoria. Her first book *A Constant Hum*, tracks the lingering aftermath of Australian bushfires. It was recently shortlisted for the 2019 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction and recognised in the Penguin Literary Prize. Alice's work focuses on place, people and climate - often highlighting the quiet moments that make us who we are. Alice's debut book is *A Constant Hum*.



## **TUES 27 OCT Tony Birch**

Tony Birch is a writer of short fiction, novels and essays. He is also an educator and teacher of writing and history. His novels engage with themes including relationships



within families, masculinity and the difficulties of communication between males and connection through community, memory and loss. Tony's latest novel is *The White Girl*.

## **THUR 29 OCT Nyadol Nyuon**

Nyadol Nyuon is a lawyer, community advocate, writer, and accomplished public speaker. Nyadol Nyuon was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and raised in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya. In 2005, at the age of eighteen, she moved to Australia as a refugee. Since then, Nyadol has completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor. She now works as a commercial litigator. She is a vocal advocate for human rights, multiculturalism, the settlement of people with refugee experiences and those seeking asylum. Nyadol will be discussing the impact of diversity and resilience on her writing.



## **SHORT STORY WRITING COMPETITION**

It's time for you to craft your own story! Enter the Short Story Writing Competition (open to ages 12-14 yrs, 15-17 yrs and over 17 yrs). Cash prizes awarded. Competition opens 10am Monday 14 September and closes 4pm Friday 30 October. Awards ceremony will be on Thursday 3 December. Short Story Workshop (Sat 17 October) will start at 2pm.

For more info and bookings:

🌐 [www.monlib.vic.gov.au/wordfest](http://www.monlib.vic.gov.au/wordfest)  
☎ 9560 1655

