



# LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

COMMUNITY UPDATE #2

wyndhamcity



### Acknowledgement of Country

Wyndham City Council recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Custodians of the lands on which Australia was founded.

Council acknowledges the Wathaurung, Woiewurrung and Boonwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which Wyndham City is being built.

Council pays respect to the wisdom, learning and diversity of past and present Elders. We share commitment to nurturing future generations of Elders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and supporting learning with the community.

### NOTE FROM THE MAYOR

As Wyndham City Council's Mayor, I am extremely proud of the key achievements and progress that we can report on in this Second Community Update of the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023.

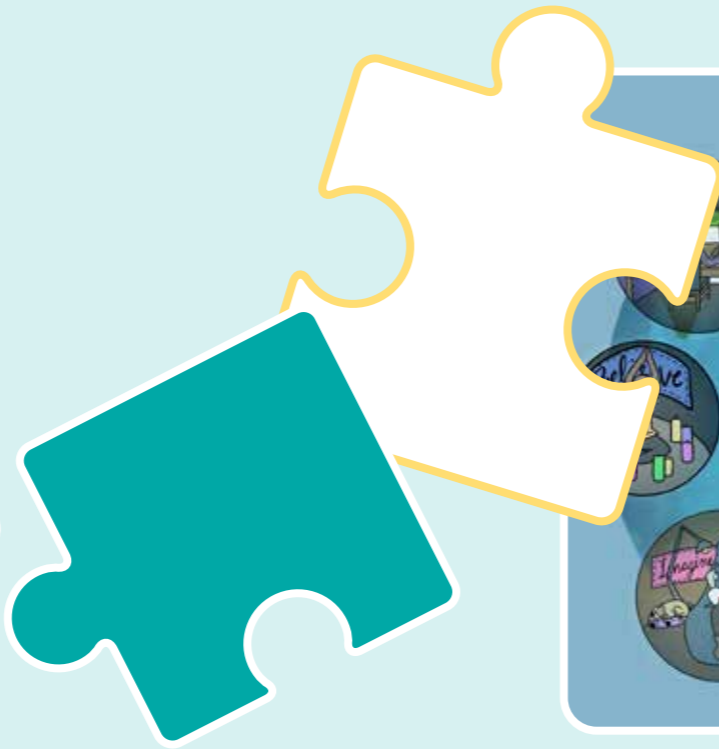
Council is committed to raising awareness of the Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 and promoting life-long and life-wide learning. This strategy is committed to creating a sustainable, healthy city that encourages and inspires people to pursue the journey of learning.

With the Learning Community Strategy as our guide, we have continued to pursue the vision of a community where there is equitable access to education. Access to life-long and life-wide learning opportunities enables and drives equity and inclusion.

Last year had many challenges; both globally and locally. The Wyndham community showed strength, resilience and determination. Faced with challenges, the Learning Community in Wyndham has continued to achieve and reach its goals. The strong partnership between Council, education providers and the community has been realised with passion and dedication and this 2020 update reflects the commitment and drive to life-long and life-wide learning of hundreds of individuals and teams within and beyond Council.

Wyndham City Council continues to lead dynamic and positive change, and 2020 highlighted that as a proud member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, we can proudly stand as a global leader as a Learning City and support individuals and local communities on their learning journey.

Sincerely,  
Wyndham City Mayor Councillor Adele Hegedich,  
April 2021



### NOTE FROM LEARNING CITY PORTFOLIO HOLDER

As the Learning City Portfolio holder, I am passionate about learning and ensuring every Wyndham resident has the opportunity to learn and develop. The Learning City portfolio aims to develop a deeper understanding of the diverse learning needs of the Wyndham community and strives to support the creation of learning environments that promote civic and social participation, fosters thinking and innovation, encourages equity and inclusion, and are localised and place based. One of the roles of this portfolio is to ensure services such as community centres, kindergartens and libraries provide opportunities for all our residents. To promote learning across all ages and all stages of life, through both formal and informal learning experiences. We also advocate for the creation of new schools in the City of Wyndham to cater for the increasing population and the diverse needs of our community.

As you read on through this Community Update, I would like to invite you to reflect on the many achievements Wyndham has made as a Learning City during a challenging time and to feel great pride and optimism for our collective futures. I am also extremely proud of the success and progress Wyndham has made as an officially recognised UNESCO Learning City.

Last year was very disruptive and brought many challenges to the Wyndham and wider community. The COVID-19 pandemic changed many aspects of our lives. Adapting to the closure of schools and workplaces all over the world brought new ideas and perspectives to learning. Educational providers have reframed the way they teach, and learners have adapted the way they learn; with different ways of connecting, engaging, communicating, obtaining and assessing information and the biggest change; learning online.

As we make tentative steps in recovering and adapting to living with the effects of COVID-19, learning can provide new opportunities, new skills and the chance to overcome many challenges. We aim to encourage new and various opportunities to increase our preparedness to overcome future challenges and to obtain new skills.

The 'Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023' builds on four themes: to celebrate, to advocate, to facilitate learning and to be innovative. Learning happens everywhere. Without continuous learning, a community will not progress. Learning provides us with new information, new skills, new knowledge, new perspectives, new inspiration and excitement.

Together, let's build a community that encourages, values and celebrates learning.

Sincerely,  
Cr Jasmine Hill, Learning City Portfolio holder  
April 2021

### LEARNING IN WYNDHAM

According to recent data, the City of Wyndham continues to undergo rapid change in its demographics and character, due in part to a high and increasing birth rate and a large influx of new residents and relatively young population. With significant cultural diversity including the largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Greater Melbourne area, the richness of culture is woven throughout the entire community. In order to ensure excellent social, health and economic outcomes for our growing and wonderfully diverse population, Wyndham City Council is committed to building and maintaining a lifelong and life-wide learning culture which is dynamic, diverse and accessible to residents across all life stages.

As a member of the Global Network of Learning Cities, Wyndham utilises the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) "Learning City" definition as one which:

- Promotes inclusive learning from basic to higher education
- Revitalises learning in families and communities
- Facilitates learning for and in the workplaces
- Extends the use of modern learning technologies
- Enhances quality and excellence in learning, and
- Fosters a culture of learning throughout life

Wyndham City Council's Learning City Portfolio Committee provides input and guidance to deliver on the Learning Community Strategy actions helping to improve learning outcomes in Wyndham. The Committee is made up of members of the community and key learning stakeholders and strives to ensure Wyndham residents have access to quality education and learning opportunities.



### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action comprising 17 interlinked global goals designed to create a better, equal and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs were agreed upon in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly with the goal to achieve them by 2030. Through the Learning Community Strategy and its principle of lifelong learning, Wyndham City Council supports the aims of the 2030 SDG Agenda and recognises that learning underpins the achievement of many of the SDGs. WCC has been working with the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) over the past twelve months to help progress the SDG agenda through our work in lifelong learning. SDG 4 works to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” (UN 2016) and has corresponding targets that the Wyndham Learning Community have been using to guide their work. Beyond this, lifelong learning is seen as vital for the attainment of many other SDGs, including gender equality (SDG 5); decent work and economic growth (SDG 8); health and well-being (SDG 3); sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11); responsible consumption and production (SDG 12); and climate change mitigation (SDG 13). Wyndham will continue to provide focused input into learning city policy and programs both locally, nationally and on the global stage, guided by the SDG’s to ensure our work improves the lives of all.

### OVERVIEW OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2018-2023

The Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023 is Wyndham’s driver for innovation and change in learning, and functions as a roadmap for developing an equitable, inclusive and innovative learning community. The strategy establishes Lifelong Learning as the guiding principle driving social, economic, environmental and cultural life in the community, and includes 18 key actions, which are organised according to 4 themes:

- **CELEBRATING living and Learning**
- **ADVOCATING for equity and quality in service provision**
- **FACILITATING partnerships and collaboration across sectors**
- **INNOVATING learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit**

### PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING KEY ACTIONS:

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Celebrating living and learning in Wyndham.	<b>ACTION 1:</b> Learning Festival as Wyndham’s signature learning event	<p>The global pandemic meant that for the first time since its inception, the Wyndham Learning Festival took place between 23-30 November 2020 (rather than the usual 1-8 September) and was fully delivered online. But not even a pandemic could dampen the enthusiasm of over 78 event providers, who offered more than 150 free online classes, talks and workshops. The Festival was led by Wyndham Community &amp; Education Centre (WCEC), supported by Wyndham City Council and sponsored by Victoria University (VU) Polytechnic. Quite coincidentally, this year’s Festival theme was ‘Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives,’ with activities relating to this theme and more, offered for all interests and ages, including Chinese lantern making, Brazilian drumming, karate classes for beginners, dance grooves from West Africa, lessons of global cooking skills, ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs, and stories of resilience, peace and conflict resolution shared by the Matsunaga Institute in Hawaii.</p> <p>Moving from running the festival as a live event to a fully virtual experience from required a proactive approach in maintaining partnerships and engagement, innovation around the Festival delivery and an open - hearted approach to the challenges facing everyone involved including event providers, sponsors, community partners, working group members and community attendees.</p> <p>The 2020 Wyndham Learning Festival presented a unique opportunity to respond to the isolation felt by many due to the COVID-19 crisis, using the virtual platform to bring the world to Wyndham and Wyndham to the world with attendees and events connecting from across the globe. This spotlight on Wyndham created new dynamic and fortuitous partnerships and networks, and has enhanced the profile, work and leadership of Wyndham as a Learning City.</p>
	<b>ACTION 2:</b> Transformative Education Showcase	<p>On Friday 24 July 2020, Wyndham Council’s Learning Community unit, in partnership with WCEC, ran a three-hour online Transformative Education Showcase. With 105 registrations, and over 65 attendees on the day, participants hailed from across the Wyndham Community and across the globe, including Denmark, France and the UK and from industries including the Department of Education, community organisations, schools and academic researchers. The rich conversations from attendees and stimulating presentations from across the globe by speakers including Casper Rongsted of Nordic Schools in Denmark, Charlotte Bagnall from Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, Dr Santino Atem Deng from Victoria University and Alison, Yolette and Rennis from the Western English Language School, encouraged us to think differently and work towards change in global learning and education. The speaker presentations, the panel Q&amp;A and finally the 2 breakout sessions addressing two of Wyndham’s ‘wicked transition’ problems provided an interactive and dynamic showcase with a high degree of engagement from the participants. Additionally, World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Qatar published a piece on the outcomes from this event and have shared this with their global audience.</p>

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Advocating for Equity and Quality in Service Provision	<b>ACTION 3:</b> Strong Advocacy to Ensure Learning for All	<p>After strong advocacy campaigning, our schools4wyndham campaign welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement in November 2020 that they would fund five additional schools for Wyndham. This included land for a new high school in Truganina, sites for primary schools in Manor Lakes and Werribee, and two new primary schools in Tarneit. This is a significant increase on the number of schools provided annually to Wyndham in recent years. The five schools are expected to open by 2023.</p> <p>As part of the state government's School Building Blitz to create more construction jobs, there will also be upgrades to Woodville Primary School, Hoppers Crossing Secondary School, and Warringa Park School, as well as additional rooms for Saltwater P-9 and Doherty's Creek P-9 to be built in 2021.</p>
	<b>ACTION 6:</b> Best Practice in Transition	<p><b>Virtual Community Learning Forum – showcasing good practice in Wyndham</b></p> <p>On Tuesday 23 June 2020, the Learning Community unit, in partnership with The Smith Family, ran a Virtual Learning Community Forum. Out of over 80 registrations, over 60 attended joining from across the globe including the Wyndham community, the Philippines, UK, Denmark and Germany. The forum showcased the work of The Smith Family's Partnership for Education Program and the transition point between kindergarten and prep and showcased the WynTasker and VCAL programs focussing on those completing VCAL as a robust alternative to VCE. The then-Mayor Councillor Josh Gilligan impressed as MC and facilitated an engaging Q 'n' A with the panel after the series of highly informative presentations. This event was also aligned to Action 12: Engaging, Participating and Leading Globally.</p>
Facilitating Partnerships and Collaboration	<b>ACTION 7:</b> Inclusion and Equity	<p>Building on several months of planning and design and the achievements of Wyndham Integrated Learning Group (WILG) from the previous Learning Community Strategy, the WILG2 project re-launched in June 2020. With the goal of enhancing inclusion and equity in learning for People with Disability aged 15-30 in Wyndham, WILG2 is comprised of 15 community and Council leaders from learning sectors, local government, disability action groups and higher education. WILG2 utilises evidence-based approaches to support equitable pathways and outcomes for place-based learning needs for the target cohort in Wyndham, with ambitious goals including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the enhancement of learning providers' organisational culture, structures, systems, processes and practices to ensure they are designing learning for People with Disability from the target age cohort</li> <li>• Advocating for learning recruitment and promotion which targets People with Disability</li> <li>• Advocating that choice and control drives learning opportunities for 15-30-year olds with disability in Wyndham</li> <li>• Supporting learning providers in Wyndham to continuously adjust teaching and learning strategies to support learning for People with Disability</li> </ul>

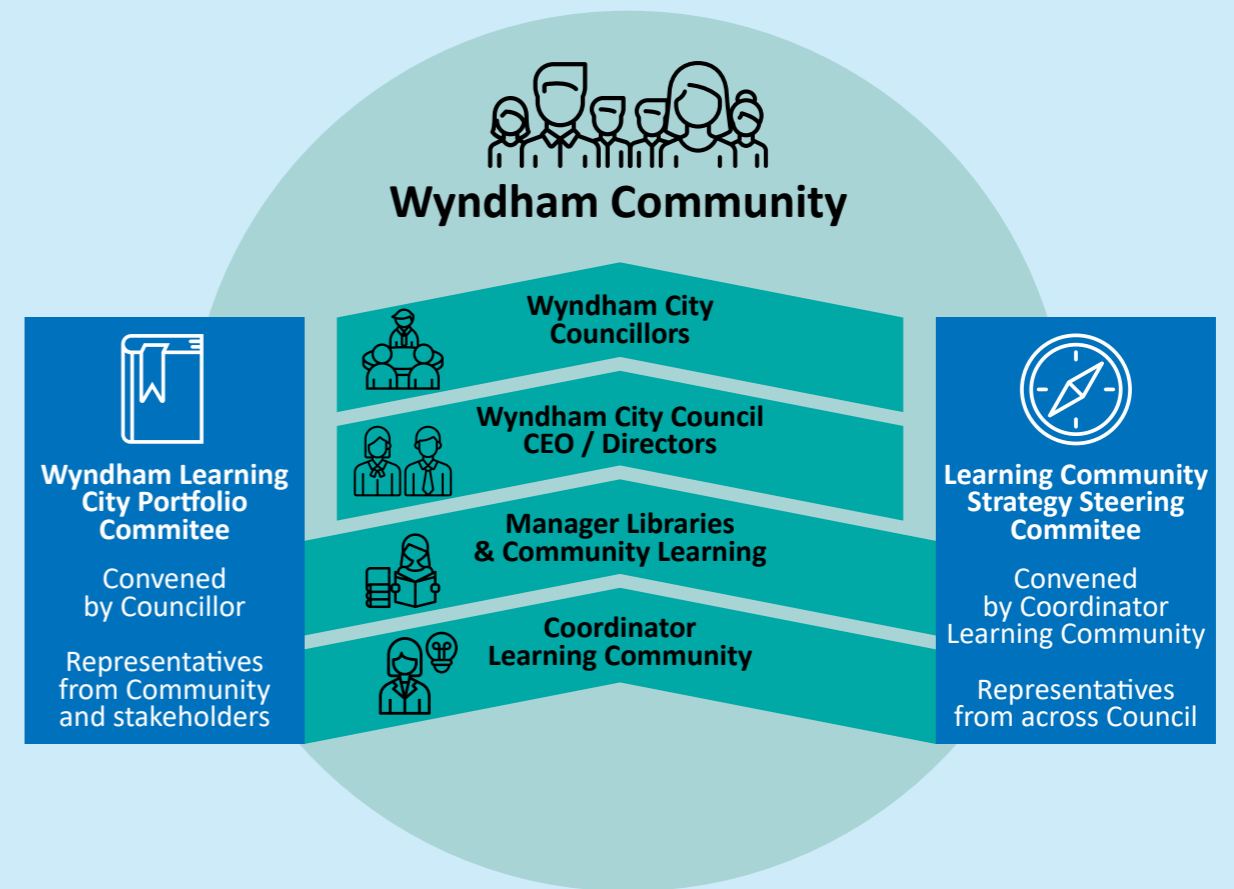
Theme	Action	Progress To Date
Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing a shared vision statement across Wyndham on learning access and equity until 2023.</li> </ul> <p>During 2020, members completed a baseline survey around disability awareness, undertook Disability Awareness Training, and used the Access and Inclusion Organisation self-assessment tool to help give members a snapshot of their organisation's current disability confidence across key areas. This work and the results from each organisation drove ongoing discussion and planning. Each meeting also included a mini PD led by different members, based on the gaps in knowledge and practice by members.</p>
	<b>ACTION 8:</b> Literacy and Numeracy Network	The Literacy and Numeracy Network finalised a bookmark project, releasing a virtual version in the form of an at-home craft activity due to COVID-19. A partnership with the Ardoch Foundation enabled a modified Numeracy Buddy initiative, where 11 Big Buddies engaged virtually with their little numeracy buddies to blog, chat and inspire enthusiasm in maths.
	<b>ACTION 9:</b> Aboriginal Culture Driving New Ways To Learn	Supporting this action, and as part of the 2020 Wyndham Learning Festival, the Learning Community unit ran an event with Lisa De Santa-Ana and Judy Dalton-Walsh who are the Department of Education and Training's Western Region Koorie Engagement Support Officers. This PD themed 'Introduction to the Kulin Nations' ran online on 24 November and had a strong attendance from across Wyndham and beyond.
Innovating learning and fostering new entrepreneurial spirit through integration with, and promotion of, Wyndham's Smart City Agenda.		<p>From 1-4 September, the City of Melton and the City of Wyndham co-led the inaugural Global Learning Festival (GLF) with over 20 other partners including the PASCAL Observatory and the Australian Learning Communities Network (ALCN).</p> <p>Over 110 events ran across the globe, with many different countries and continents represented including Turkey, U.K., Israel, Qatar, Taiwan, Colombia, Mexico, U.S and Australia, taking advantage of the many lifelong learning opportunities over the 4 days of the festival.</p> <p>The aim of this initiative was to support hope and solidarity during the challenging times that the world found itself in. The GLF encouraged people to learn something new as well as meet new people, virtually, from around the globe. The final evaluation report which includes Most Significant Change Technique stories and the Collective Impact Assessment Tool to measure the impact of this innovative partnership has been circulated to various community partners locally and globally, including the PASCAL International Observatory, and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.</p> <p>The Festival also highlighted and relied upon many successful collaborations and partnerships across the world, ensuring a dynamic and successful Festival and prompting some ongoing collaborations.</p>

Theme	Action	Progress To Date
		<p><b>Australian Learning Communities Network</b> Throughout 2020, Wyndham has continued its position on the executive of the ALCN, chairing this important network which offers collegiate support and resources to learning cities across Australia. Wyndham, in partnership with the ALCN also convened the Australian Learning Communities Network 2020 Roundtable. This event featured dynamic presentations from various speakers and learning cities on entrepreneurship from across Australia, including Daryl Wilson from the WCC Climate Futures Office.</p>
	<b>ACTION 13:</b> WynTalks	<p><b>WYNTalk 1: Don't just Rebuild, Re-imagine</b> As Wyndham's signature contribution to the Global Learning Festival, the first WYNTalk for 2020 was very well received with over 230 registrations. Kate Roffey from Wyndham City Council moderated a stimulating, interesting and thought-provoking conversation between workplace culture expert Steve Simpson, Futurist Graeme Codrington and City Design and Liveability Planner Ludo Campbell-Reid. The theme of Don't Just Rebuild; Reimagine brought people together from across the globe including locally from Wyndham and others from across Australia and as far as South Africa, India, Kenya and the UK, to consider the opportunities in re-imagining our futures post-COVID.</p> <p><b>WYNTalk 2: Finding Your Voice with Clare Bowditch</b> The signature event of the 2020 Wyndham Learning Festival featured Clare Bowditch and took place on 29 November 2020. This fun, engaging, confidence-boosting, empowering and interactive event had the charismatic actor, singer and author Clare sharing stories from her own life, singing and answering questions. There were over 180 registrations for the event, and over 50 attendees on the day including the new Learning City Portfolio Committee holder Cr Jasmine Hill who welcomed the audience.</p>



## GOVERNANCE AND WORKING GROUPS

WYNDHAM LEARNING COMMUNITY 2018 - 2023 GOVERNANCE MODEL



## LOOKING FORWARD

As the world enters uncertain times due to the COVID-19 virus, we are seeking alternative and creative ways of delivering our 2021 Learning Community Strategy actions. Now, more than ever, Council continues to promote a sustainable Learning Community where lifelong and life wide learning drive equity, inclusion and a healthy and safe environment for all.



## FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

An electronic copy of the *Learning Community Strategy 2018-2023* is available at:  
<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/learning-community-strategy-2018-2023>

For more information about the Learning Community Strategy, or to connect with our network, please contact:

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wyndhamcity