



Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

# MESSENGER

Autumn 2019

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

FROM  
TRADING  
TO  
TREATS

PET  
EXPO  
FUN

MEET OUR  
CIVIC AWARD  
WINNERS



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's been wonderful to ring in the New Year by spending time with our proudly multicultural community at a number of different events.

This includes attending the fantastic annual New Year's Eve celebrations hosted at Footscray Park.

I also attended a number of Lunar New Year celebrations across the municipality hosted by our Vietnamese and Chinese community to mark the Year of the Pig.

Our Vietnamese community celebrated the annual East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival, one of our longest running festivals, established more than two decades ago in our City.

While the iconic Heavenly Queen Temple in Footscray was the centre of Chinese New Year celebrations in our municipality.

I also had the pleasure of hosting our 2019 Civic Awards ceremony, recognising a remarkable group of people who are actively working to strengthen our community and make our City the wonderful place that it is, read about our awardees on page 6.

This issue of Maribyrnong Messenger gives you more information on many of the other community celebrations we have lined up. This includes rolling out our annual Eat Drink Westside program and Comedy Westside events.

March is also a time we celebrate Cultural Diversity Week and International Women's Day. It is always heart-warming to see the various ways our residents and traders embrace these significant occasions and is part of what makes our City great.

Also, My fellow Councillors and I are delighted to welcome Cr Megan Bridger-Darling who was elected and officially sworn in on 21 January after the Victorian Electoral Commission conducted a countback for the vacancy in Stony Ward. I look forward to working with Cr Bridger-Darling to continuously improve our much loved City.

**Cr Martin Zakharov**

**Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong**



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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

**MARCH:** Tuesday 5, 4.30pm Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee.

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm Ordinary Council.

Tuesday 26, 6.30pm City Development Special Committee.

**APRIL:** Tuesday 30, 6.30pm Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee.

Tuesday 30, 8.00pm Ordinary Council.

**MAY:** Tuesday 14, 4.30pm Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee.

Tuesday 21, 6.30pm Ordinary Council.

Tuesday 28, 6.30pm City Development Special Committee.

Meetings are held at Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.

Please visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings) or phone **9688 0200** for more information.

# MARIBYRNONG PET EXPO RETURNS FOR ANOTHER PURRRR-FECT YEAR

With over 7,000 dogs and 2,000 cats registered in Maribyrnong, it's clear we love our pets, and they are all in for a treat at this year's Maribyrnong Pet Expo, which will be held in Coulson Gardens on Sunday 31 March from 10am-2pm.

The biennial Expo promotes responsible pet ownership, including pet registration, microchipping and pet health education, and will be a fun event for the whole community.

For the first time in 2019, visitors to the Expo will be treated to a free on-site pet portrait of their dog by award-winning photographer Belinda Richards from Frog Dog Studios in Yarraville.

In 2018, Belinda won the coveted title of '2018 AIPP Emerging Photographer of the Year' in acknowledgment of her terrific pet portraiture work.

"My favourite part of photographing dogs is the different personalities you come across. Just like people, no two dogs are the same," said Belinda.

"I am looking forward to meeting all the new doggo personalities of the inner west at this year's Pet Expo. Make sure to bring the cheeky ones – they're my favourite!" she added.

The Frog Dog Studio pop up photo booth will run for the entire event, however visitors are encouraged to get there as early as they can to ensure they don't miss out!

Expo visitors can also enjoy carnival rides, jumping castles, face painting, a petting zoo, a reptile display, a live crocodile, and food from local food trucks, as well as tips and hints on caring for animals. There will also be a competition for 'Best Dressed Pet' and 'Pet/Owner lookalikes' with great prizes to be won!

For more information about the Maribyrnong Pet Expo 2019 visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

**Maribyrnong 2019 Pet Expo**  
**Sunday 31 March, 10am-2pm**  
**Coulson Gardens, Chifley Drive, Maribyrnong**



## DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER PETS BY 10 APRIL

**It's time to renew pet registrations for your beloved cat or dog, helping us provide a safe environment for your pets and maintain off-lead parks and programs.**

Under Victorian Law, all dogs and cats must have their registration renewed with their local council by 10 April each year to avoid a fine.

Registration fees provide important services for pet owners, including helping to reunite lost pets with their owners, maintaining off-lead parks for owners to take their dogs for a run and programs to prevent and manage nuisance animals and dog attacks.

Local resident Kath Brewer who runs 'Kath's Passion for Pets Minding

& Walking' said, "I believe pet registration is extremely important as it helps to reunite lost pets with their family. It also helps fund the role of animal management staff who are there to help in a number of situations – from collecting stray pets to maintaining our dog parks and facilities."

To be eligible for a reduced fee, dogs or cats must be either desexed, more than 10 years old, kept for breeding by a proprietor or a domestic animal business, registered with an approved organisation, have undergone obedience training, or be kept for working stock.

Renewal notices were posted to current pet owners in February – if you didn't receive one in the mail, please contact us on 9688 0200.

To register your pet for the first time please do so online at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)





# FROM TRADING TO TREATS

IN 2017, BOUTIQUE CAKE STORE **MRS TRISHEE** OPENED THE DOORS TO ITS FOOTSCRAY SHOP IN WHAT WAS A HUGE LEAP OF FAITH FOR OWNER **TRISH NGUYEN**.

**P**rior to taking the plunge to open her own shop, Trish was working in the corporate world and baking was simply a hobby she was passionate about.

"One day I just had enough...and decided to open a small business. Some of my family thought that I was crazy as I hadn't had any formal training in baking, no qualifications in hospitality and have not taken any classes to learn how to bake," she explains.

For Trish baking is her passion, it is what drives her to get out of bed in the morning and she wanted to pursue a career in the industry.

In her last corporate role where she was working as a stock broker's assistant, Trish joined the morning tea club where members would take turns preparing the morning tea.

"When it was my turn I'd bake for everyone! I found that baking relaxes me and provided me with a creative outlet. I grew to love baking and started to bake more and more. Baking became my escape."

Mrs Trishee didn't happen overnight. It was a long, and at times, frustrating journey to get the business where it is today. There was almost a year where Trish was seeking the perfect location for her store, signing a lease and setting up for the first day of trade.

"I've surrounded myself with positive and supportive people and have found that they have really helped me, especially through the tough times and the moments of self-doubt," Trish said.

Although born in Hobart, Trish was still young when her

family moved to Melbourne and settled in the west. One of her fondest memories is walking home from Gilmore Girls and cutting through Forges to browse what was on offer.

"Growing up in Footscray, I appreciate the diversity of the community and the warmth and support. Footscray is familiar and comfortable for me, it's home and so where better place to open my business then in a community that is welcoming and supportive," Trish stated.

Having a small business and being a sole trader can be all consuming and for Trish work-life balance was non-existent in those early months. She was required to do it all from baking to doing the books, replying to customers, serving and cleaning.

As a small business owner Trish has learnt she has to be extremely organised, prepared and willing to do anything that comes your way.

Trish wakes at the crack of dawn and heads to the shop Tuesday through Sunday to start baking. Ensuring that her treats are baked fresh daily is important to her and what she believes her customers deserve.

When orders for her customised cakes started to flourish, she found herself working over 80 hours a week. At the end of last year she made a conscious decision to be more mindful of how much she takes on.

"My business has grown and I am lucky that custom cake

orders have been flowing in. But I have learnt how much I can take on and so it has allowed me to be better with my work-life balance," Trish explains.

"Although it is hard to keep away from what you are passionate about so you will often find me out of business hours baking in my shop kitchen."

One of the things Trish loves most about being in the hospitality industry has been the opportunity she's had to meet people from all walks of life, people she wouldn't have had an opportunity to otherwise meet.

"People share their stories and life with me, and I consider it a great privilege to now have loyal customers who are my second family," she said.

And it is the feedback she receives from her customers that makes the long hours and hard work all worth it.

"When a customer tells me how much the cake, cupcakes or cookies they purchased from my shop are enjoyed, it fills my heart with such joy."

For Trish it is hard for her to imagine her life without baking in it.

"I love it, it makes me happy when I see people enjoy my baked goodies and drives me to continue to push the boundaries, experiment with flavours and techniques so I can introduce my customers to new items."

And her advice for others wanting to embark on a new project or career change is simple: **do it!**

# INSPIRING LOCALS

## RECOGNISED: 2019 CIVIC AWARDS



THE ANNUAL CIVIC AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES THE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WHO HELP MAKE THE CITY A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT.

THE MUNICIPALITY HAS A NUMBER OF TALENTED, COMPASSIONATE AND INSPIRING COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND IT IS ALWAYS AN HONOUR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THESE PEOPLE.



## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### CHRIS GOODEN

Local business owner Chris creates connection and community in everything that he does. An advocate for the LGBTQI community, Chris planned a 'yes' mural for the outside of the café and held a street party in support of marriage equality. His community work is constant – if he sees a need, he will seek a solution to assist.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

### PETER AND LOLA ANDERSON

Peter and Lola have been instrumental in the preservation and advancement of Cruickshank Park. They were founding members of the park planning committee and for over 20 years have established and managed the Friends of Cruickshank Park group.

## COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AWARD

### WESTGATE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES GROUPS (WCIG)

Over the past 12 months, WCIG has delivered education, training, employment and other services across Maribyrnong to more than 500 individuals experiencing disadvantage. Through Disability Employment Services, WCIG has assisted 147 jobseekers, while training has been provided to 282 local community members across 23 offerings.

## ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG SPORTING AWARD

### WESTGATE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

The Westgate Basketball Association has provided increased opportunities in sport with the formation of an all-girl basketball skills program for five to ten year olds. More than 100 girls have taken part in the program.

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

### BILAL AKALO

At only 21, 'Coach Billy' as the kids know him, has been a fixture in youth basketball in Maribyrnong. He has had a profound impact on a generation of youth, providing a safe and nurturing environment for kids to play a team sport and he is a role model to many.

## ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD: CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY AWARD

### FOOTSCRAY ASIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (FABA)

FABA is a non-profit organisation serving the local business community. FABA run annual events for the community and the organisation have for a long time been advocates for the local business community, particularly local Vietnamese in the area.

## ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD: NEW AND EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

### ALL FOR ONE STUDIOS

All for One Studios is a health and wellness centre that helps deliver health, purpose and meaning to clients. Passionate about delivering a holistic and evidence based approach they provide ongoing support, education and resources.

## ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD: INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AWARD

### AUSTRALASIAN FRESH

Australasian Fresh is a fresh food manufacturing business based in Maribyrnong who recently opened a new food facility putting the plant at the forefront of food manufacturing technology. The new line provided a superior system to give longer shelf life and higher food safety.

## ARTS AWARD

### JENNIFER PIPER AND KINDRED STUDIOS

#### JENNIFER PIPER

Co-founder of wit incorporated, Jennifer provides professional theatre to residents of City of Maribyrnong. She has personally mentored dozens of local theatre-makers in technical, artistic and production skills while also providing work opportunities for local members of the community.

#### KINDRED STUDIOS

Kindred Studios is a purpose built space for creative individuals and organisations. They have the facilities to cater for musicians, bands, photographers, designers, dancers, actors, artists and entrepreneurs alike.

## MAYORAL AWARD

### CARMEL TAIG

Carmel Taig is a retired teacher, author and Secretary of the Footscray Historical Society. A local resident, she has been extremely active in the community and was recognised for her dedication to the Historical Society in recording and cataloguing the history of the Footscray district.



## DECLUTTERING WITH PURPOSE

Environmentally conscious residents have jumped on the art of decluttering bandwagon, recycling their pre-loved clothing, homewares, and electrical waste through Council's Thread: Collect service and drop-off hubs.

Working with the Southern Cross Recycling Group, the Thread: Collect service enables residents to call up, or book online to have their unwanted clothes, household items and small electrical waste collected from their door. Council also has seven drop-off hubs around the City for clothing and electrical waste, which residents can use to recycle their unwanted good. All items collected are reused or recycled, saving them from landfill.

Remarkably, since December 2017 to October 2018 residents in Maribyrnong City Council have recycled a whopping 91,470kg of clothing and 10,360kg of electrical items. This equates to an average 9,275kg of items collected each month, by an estimated 16,792 users!

Not only is the amount of items impressive, but there was also a huge number of savings made. Including \$15,275 worth of landfill fees saved, while the environment benefitted greatly too – with over 2.7 billion litres of water, 6 million kilos of greenhouse gases, and over 1.8 million kWh were saved purely by residents recycling their unwanted items.

Clothing and e-waste are two of the fastest growing waste categories in Melbourne. Textile waste makes up approximately 4% of waste sent to landfill throughout Melbourne. Electronic waste is also a growing concern and Council is committed to providing residents with electronic recycling options in preparation for the State Government's ban of e-waste from landfill which will come into effect on 1 July 2019.

The collection service supports Council's Waste Minimisation Strategy that aims to substantially increase our waste to landfill diversion rate from 34% to 46%.

**Find out more about how to book a collection here: [threadcollect.com.au](https://threadcollect.com.au)**



## SHORT FILM FESTIVAL LANDS IN MARIBYRNONG

Maribyrnong will be hosting its very own short film festival – with a twist! School students are invited to submit short videos that demonstrate correct recycling techniques to help fight the war on waste.

The *Rescue Your Recycling* short film festival will encourage students to get creative as they step beyond the classroom to create a short video which shows how to rescue recycling from common mistakes.

Every year Maribyrnong processes over 7,000 tonnes of recycling from resident's yellow top bins, but unfortunately 17% of recycling often has to be thrown away, because of some simple recycling mistakes. The film festival will take aim at the 1,190 tonnes of recycling that potentially ends up in landfill as a result.

The winning video will receive a video making workshop with a professional videographer and their creation screened at The Sun Theatre in Yarraville, while runners up will receive a National Geographic voucher for their class. Entries are open to grades 1 to 8 of schools within the City of Maribyrnong, classes can only submit one video per entry between 30-60 seconds long.

The film festival joins a range of free waste and environmental education programs for schools and child care facilities provided by Maribyrnong City Council. These programs teach students about how waste and recycling impact on the environment and how we can take simple actions to help reduce waste and save precious resources.

For more information please visit:

[maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/rescueyourrecycling](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/rescueyourrecycling)



### COMMON RECYCLING MISTAKES:

- ✓ Don't put your recycling in a plastic bag
- ✓ Eliminate soft plastics! Cling wrap, wrappers and plastic bags can't be recycled through your kerbside recycling bin.
- ✓ Wine and drinking glasses can't be recycled in your kerbside bin.

## WELCOMING MARIBYRNONG'S NEWEST COUNCILLOR

On Monday 21 January,  
the Victorian Electoral

Commission conducted the countback for the extraordinary vacancy in the Stony Creek Ward.

Council is pleased to announce that Megan Bridger-Darling was duly elected and officially sworn

in as a Councillor on the same day.

Cr Bridger-Darling plans to focus on transport in the municipality; having played an active role in Council's Parking Advisory Group and Bike West.

"Maribyrnong Councillors and I are delighted to welcome Cr Bridger-Darling on board and look forward to working with her to continuously improve our much loved City," said Mayor Cr Martin Zakharov.



## SHE MEANS BUSINESS

**The women behind some of Maribyrnong's local businesses will be in the spotlight this International Women's Day.**

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on 8 March and is a day to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go to truly achieve gender equality.

This year, we are marking IWD by sharing the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership, to promote awareness and understanding around the barriers and enablers for women.

She Means Business celebrates local leadership and women's independence by creating a greater sense of understanding of the experiences of women and their road to success.

The campaign creates an opportunity to progress conversations on how we continue to support women's financial independence, participation in community life, whilst working towards gender equity.

Ellen Turner, owner of Willow Wine Café, worked in hospitality for over 20 years, but felt that she had something more to offer others and wanted to do things on her own terms.

Ellen said that women looking to embark on a new project or contemplating a career change need to trust themselves. "Back yourself in your ideas and commit to your instincts. Trust that you know what you are doing," she said.

"And don't be afraid to ask for help," she continued.

A range of businesses from across the City of Maribyrnong are being featured in the She Means Business campaign, and each business will be holding IWD events to celebrate. Head to page 13 for full event details, or visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/genderequity](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/genderequity)

## SONS OF THE WEST RETURNS TO MARIBYRNONG

**Australia's biggest men's health program is coming back to Maribyrnong in 2019.**

Continuing with the success of the new-look 2018 program, Sons of the West is looking to be bigger and better in its sixth year.

Now in eight local government areas and fourteen sites across Victoria's west, the Premiership Season will kick off on Tuesday 30 April at RecWest in Footscray.

This year, participants can expect to reach their own mental, physical and social health goals, while receiving constant support from key health and wellbeing professionals.

Western Bulldogs Community Foundation General Manager, Kashif Bouns said the Club and

Foundation are looking forward to reaching new heights in 2019.

"We're really looking forward to launching our sixth consecutive year of Sons of the West," said Bouns.

"Witnessing firsthand the outstanding impact that this program has upon its participants is incredibly heart warming and encouraging."

In addition to the men's health program, Daughters of the West – the Club's women's health program – will also return in 2019.

Online registrations will open at [westernbulldogs.com.au](http://westernbulldogs.com.au) in March, 2019.





# GET MOVING DURING THE GET ACTIVE! EXPO

Find a new health and wellbeing hobby with a range of come and try days

**H**ave you ever wanted to try street orienteering, taekwondo, flip flop bowls, hatha yoga or boxing? Or perhaps you prefer hockey, skateboarding, archery or basketball. Give them all a go during the Get Active! Expo.

A series of health and fitness events, the Expo delivers a five week program jam packed with clinics and 'come and try' days to suit everyone's tastes.

Running from 16 March to 17 April, the whole family can take part in activities that showcase the parks, reserves and facilities within the City of Maribyrnong. The best part? It's completely free!

Now in its sixth year, the Expo is designed to showcase the huge range of sport and recreation opportunities on offer in our City. It's the ultimate 'try before you buy' sporting program.

With plenty of activities to choose from, you will undoubtedly find your inner athlete and get a taste of what new activity lies on your horizon.

Sessions across the entire Expo are accessible to all ages and abilities.

**For more information or to register, visit [activemaribyrnong.com.au](http://activemaribyrnong.com.au)**





# HARMONY FEAST

## Celebrate cultural diversity at Maidstone Community Centre

Make sure you bring your appetite to the tenth annual Harmony Feast, taking place on Sunday 17 March at Maidstone Community Centre, as the community comes together to celebrate the many cultures that call our City home.

Harmony Feast, which is part of Cultural Diversity Week, promotes inclusion, understanding and respect across cultures, highlighting our strength in diversity. The free event is the perfect opportunity for the community to come together to try new foods, share stories, meet new people and have fun celebrating the many cultures that reside in Maribyrnong.

The Feast, which is cooked onsite at Maidstone Community Centre, features an abundance of traditional dishes from around the world including vegetarian and halal options. In addition to the delicious fare, there will be a range of cultural activities and entertainment on the day, including Bollywood dancers, live music and more.

The event has gained enormous support from the community, with volunteers from over ten nationalities coming together over two days to prepare and cook the food for the event. Between 300-500 serves of each dish is prepared for the thousands of local residents who attend the feast each year.

Hashim, a local resident and Al-Taubah Centre President, has volunteered at the feast over the past few years, and



is often found weaving in and out of the crowds with his gold trays of tiny coffee cups brimming with aromatic coffee.

"It is a day many total strangers from totally different countries, cultures and religions come to get together, greet and smile at each other. It simply is a day of joy," Hashim said.

Maribyrnong is celebrated for its cultural diversity, having one of the most diverse populations in Victoria. Residents come from more than 135 different countries and speak more than 80 languages.

"The day is unique because we have a Harmony Day to celebrate our cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone," Hashim continued.



# WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

## WOMEN'S SWIM NIGHT

SUNDAY 3 MARCH, 7 – 9PM  
MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

To celebrate International Women's Day (taking place on Friday 8 March), women will receive free entry to the Women's Swim Night, with a complimentary aqua class. For more information visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac)

## LOVE LETTERS TO FEMINISMS EXHIBITION

20 FEBRUARY – 9 MARCH  
TROCADERO ART SPACE,  
FOOTSCRAY

Love Letters to Feminisms sees Footscray play host to an exciting series of events exploring feminism in its many complicated dimensions. The group exhibition presents selected works from twenty female-identifying artists – all based in Melbourne. They include artists from First Nations backgrounds, refugee and culturally diverse backgrounds, as well as current asylum seekers, newly arrived migrants, LGBTIQ artists and others.

The exhibition will culminate in a live performance event at Bad Love Club on Saturday 9 March to mark International Women's Day.

## MEET THE WOMAN BEHIND THE WINE

FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 5 – 7PM  
WILLOW WINE CAFÉ, 126  
WILLIAMSTOWN ROAD, KINGSVILLE

Enjoy a wine tasting as you meet local female winemakers. Sessions at 5pm, 5.40pm and 6.20pm. Places are limited, so bookings are essential. This is an International Women's Day event. It marks the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership.

## LEAD ON AGAIN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 5.30 – 7.30PM  
PHOENIX YOUTH HUB

An event produced by young leaders in the west, please join us for an evening celebrating culture, beauty, strength, acceptance and diversity. The night will include special guests and spoken word performances from the young women of the Lead On Again program – a leadership development initiative for young women 16-24 from migrant and refugee backgrounds. Food provided, all welcome.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 8 – 10AM  
MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

MAC will be marking International Women's Day by offering a free breakfast to celebrate the amazing achievements women from all over the world have accomplished. For more information visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac)

## THE NICHOLSON STREET MALL CIRCUS

FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 4 – 6PM  
BARKA UBAH ANBAH SHOP,  
141 NICHOLSON ST, FOOTSCRAY

Sit back and enjoy a performance by stilt walkers from the Women's Circus as you enjoy some delicious Somalian food. This is an International Women's Day event. It marks the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership.

## POP UP STREET PARTY

FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 12 – 2PM  
HONG GIFTS, CHURCHILL AVE,  
BRAYBROOK

Come along to take part in a leadership workshop run by the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, enjoy a dance performance and workshop by Australian Vietnamese Women's Association, and a Women's Circus pop up workshop. This is an International Women's Day event. It marks the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership.

## CUPCAKE DECORATING WITH MRS TRISHEE

SUNDAY 10 MARCH, 12 – 2PM  
MRS TRISHEE,  
18 ALBERT STREET, FOOTSCRAY

Join Mrs Trishee for this family friendly event, complete with cupcake decorating and face painting. This is an International Women's Day event. It marks the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership.

## BOLLYWOOD IN THE WEST

SUNDAY 10 MARCH, 4 – 6PM  
BOLLYWOOD FASHION 'N' BEAUTY  
AND ASPREY LAWYERS,  
567 BARKLY STREET,  
WEST FOOTSCRAY

Enjoy an afternoon of family fun with henna painting, Bollywood dance performance and workshop, and 'come and try a sari' photoshoot. This is an International Women's Day event. It marks the diverse stories of women making their mark in business ownership.

## MARIBYRNONG COMMUNITY MARKET

FRIDAY 15 MARCH, 6 – 8.30PM  
MARIBYRNONG COMMUNITY  
CENTRE

The Community Market is a great avenue for local artists and home based small businesses to promote and sell their works. It's also an opportunity for local community members to on-sell pre-loved items. With over 35 stalls ranging from artworks, jewellery, handicrafts, candles, clothing, toys, food, face painting, entertainment and more, there's bound to be something for everyone!

## GET ACTIVE! EXPO

16 MARCH – 17 APRIL  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Come and try a range of sport, recreation and wellbeing programs for all ages. Registrations now open via [activemaribyrnong.com.au](http://activemaribyrnong.com.au)



## WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

## HARMONY FEAST

SUNDAY 17 MARCH, 12 – 3PM  
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Food, fun, family and friends! Harmony Feast is on again! Come along and enjoy traditional delicious food from around the world, cooked by our very own community members plus fabulous multicultural entertainment and activities.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME –  
CELEBRATING CULTURAL  
DIVERSITY WEEK

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH,  
10AM – 12PM  
CENTRAL WEST SHOPPING  
CENTRE, BRAYBROOK

Come along and celebrate Cultural Diversity Week with a bilingual story time, songs and fun activities for children 0-5 years old and their families.

BUSINESS NETWORKING  
BREAKFAST

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH, 7 – 9AM  
FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS  
CENTRE (FCAC)

Whether you're starting out, established or still gathering ideas, you will have the opportunity to network with other businesses and key figures in the community. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

COMEDY WESTSIDE –  
MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL  
COMEDY FESTIVAL

23 MARCH – 2 APRIL  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The best of the fest is coming back to the West with another bumper Comedy Westside program for 2019, including the always-popular C.O.W Open Mic Night.



## WEST FOOTSCRAY FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

SUNDAY 24 MARCH, 11AM – 5PM

Savour the cultural delights of India, Latin America, and Melbourne's west with a fabulous festival of food, music, dance and colour. More information [wfnh.com.au](http://wfnh.com.au)

## MINTY PYTHON – OFF THE RADIO!

28 MARCH – 18 APRIL, 7PM  
KINDRED STUDIOS

Inspired by a chance meeting with John Cleese in Chapel Street, Minty Python – off The Radio is the creation of local dads Job and Pat who literally bumped into each other whilst searching for an 'all you can eat' buffet in the western suburbs! It's a comedy with parody song... a dream world meets the harsh reality of being an old dad who wants to make people laugh! Come and join them for a great night out! To read more about Comedy Westside, visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

EAT DRINK WESTSIDE –  
MELBOURNE FOOD & WINE  
FESTIVAL

31 MARCH – 9 APRIL  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Discover new places to eat, drink and be entertained in Melbourne's west with 25 delicious events running as part of Melbourne Food & Wine Festival.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING 101

THURSDAY 4 APRIL, 9AM – 12PM  
HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

Social media can help small business maintain customer connections. Build significant networks by establishing a presence where your potential customers congregate social media. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## BLOODBOOKS

3 – 7 AND 10 – 14 APRIL, 7PM  
BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPACE

Bloodbooks is a stand-up comedy show that captures the beautiful, funny and nation-changing meeting of east and west now happening in Australia. Australian-Indian comedian, Ashwin Segkar uses the Bible, the Bhagavad Gita and his own life as a migrant caught between the two cultures to deliver a truly unique hour of comedy.

Tickets at [comedyfestival.com.au](http://comedyfestival.com.au)



## WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

## THE DYKESIDE

THURSDAY 4 APRIL, 8.30PM  
FRIDAY 12 APRIL, 8.30PM  
SATURDAY 13 APRIL, 8.30PM  
BLUESTONE CHURCH, FOOTSCRAY

Lori Bell and Bobby Macumber are best mates and talented comedians who put on a comedy show like no other! Expect stand-up comedy and singing from both comics, some over the top dance moves from Bobby and non-stop heckling and laughs from Lori throughout the show. Tickets at [comedyfestival.com.au](http://comedyfestival.com.au)

## WOMINJEKA FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 4 APRIL –  
SUNDAY 7 APRIL  
FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY  
ARTS CENTRE

The much-loved Wominjeka Festival returns to FCAC with this year's Kulin cultural event being inspired by our rivers and held on the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

## LES MILLS LAUNCH

MONDAY 8 APRIL –  
SUNDAY 14 APRIL  
MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

Trial new class formats and choreography in the Les Mills launch. For times and more information visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac)



## WATERSIDE BLACKSMITHING &amp; METAL ART FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 27 APRIL, 10AM – 11PM;  
SUNDAY 28 APRIL, 10AM – 4PM  
WATERSIDE BLACKSMITHS, 60  
MARIBYRNONG ST, FOOTSCRAY

Come and join in the fun at one of Australia's largest gatherings of blacksmiths and metal artists on the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

## C.O.W OPEN MIC NIGHT

SATURDAY 13 APRIL, 7.30 – 9.30PM  
KINDRED BAR

Free Comedy Out West event.

Register via [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com), [festivalcity.com](http://festivalcity.com) and at the door

## SONS OF THE WEST

TUESDAYS FROM 30 APRIL, 7PM  
WEDNESDAYS FROM 1 MAY, 6PM

Sons of the West is a fantastic community health initiative that runs for 10 weeks. It supports men living and working in Melbourne's western suburbs to lead healthier lives. The program is returning for its sixth season and will launch in late April.

Tuesday sessions held at RecWest Footscray, Corner of Essex and Market Streets, West Footscray.

Wednesday sessions held at RecWest Braybrook, 39 Lily Street, Braybrook.

## SETTING SUN FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 2 MAY – MONDAY 6 MAY  
SUN THEATRE & KINDRED STUDIOS

The West's premier film festival which showcases local filmmakers from the western suburbs, alongside entrants from around Australia and the world.



## EMERGE IN THE WEST

SUNDAY 5 MAY  
NICHOLSON ST, FOOTSCRAY

Emerge in the West is a place for artists and people from Indigenous, refugee and emerging communities to have a voice and present a unique cultural program that showcases African arts, culture and talent.

## HOW TO TURN AN IDEA INTO A BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY 8 MAY, 6 – 9PM  
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL

Learn how to plan, prepare and test your business idea step by step in a small group setting. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL GOES WEST

10 – 12 MAY  
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

The Human Rights Arts & Film Festival explores diverse and inspiring human stories through the mediums of film, art, music and forums. More information [hraff.org.au](http://hraff.org.au)



## SMALL BUSINESS BUS – ONE ON ONE MENTORING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY 15 MAY,  
VARIOUS TIMES  
BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB

This workshop offers free mentoring and face to face assistance to help you start or build your small business. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## STARTING A NEW BUSINESS FOR MIGRANTS &amp; ASYLUM SEEKERS

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY, 9.30AM – 1PM  
BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB

If you are an asylum seeker, refugee or migrant with a business idea, this essential planning workshop will prepare you for the best chance of business success.



## WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG



## JAZZ OUT WEST – MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 1 JUNE  
YARRAVILLE POP UP PARK,  
YARRAVILLE

Jazz Out West returns to Maribyrnong for the sixth year with a day of jazz for the whole family at the Yarraville Pop-up Park out the front of the Sun Theatre.

## ATO EMPLOYER ESSENTIALS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

MONDAY 3 JUNE, 9.30 – 11AM  
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL

Understand your role and obligations as an employer and find out what to do when hiring workers, how to report fringe benefits and learn how to use the PAYG system. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## ENGAGE REAL FOLLOWERS WITH INSTAGRAM

THURSDAY 6 JUNE, 9.30AM – 12PM  
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL

Instagram is a powerful social platform for small businesses selling visually appealing products or services. Feature your brand to followers while using trending hashtags to expand your reach. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## ATO SINGLE TOUCH PAYROLL FOR SMALL BUSINESS

MONDAY 17 JUNE, 10AM – 11AM  
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL

Single Touch Payroll is a new way of sending tax and super information to the ATO from your payroll or accounting software. To register visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

## FRIENDS OF CRUICKSHANK PARK

## VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES

This group is actively involved in park maintenance and improvement, tree planting activities and clean-up days.

More information: [facebook.com/CruickshankFriends](https://facebook.com/CruickshankFriends)

## FRIENDS OF MARIBYRNONG VALLEY

## TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAYS 9:30AM – 12PM

## VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Members of this group strongly endeavour to not only maintain the amenity of the Maribyrnong River Valley, but to seek constant improvement to the river and its immediate surroundings. More information and to RSVP: [fmvonline.com](http://fmvonline.com)

## FRIENDS OF NEWELL'S Paddock

## VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES

Friends of Newell's Paddock started in 2014 and regularly hosts planting and weeding days, birdwatching days, frog census counts and other social and educational events. More information: [newellspaddock.org.au](http://newellspaddock.org.au)

## FRIENDS OF STONY CREEK

## VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES

The Friends of Stony Creek conduct plantings, clean-ups, weeding, tours and talks. We aim to improve the quality of the creek and surrounds for current and future generations, and to raise the profile of the creek in the local community. More information: [facebook.com/FriendsOfStonyCreek](https://facebook.com/FriendsOfStonyCreek)

## LOVE OUR STREET 3032

## VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES

A volunteer community who pick up rubbish for 1 hour a month, then celebrates their efforts with a coffee at a local café.

More information: [facebook.com/LoveOurStreet3032](https://facebook.com/LoveOurStreet3032)

## FOOTSCRAY RUBBISH RUNNERS

## VARIOUS TIMES AND DATES

Calling all Runners in the Footscray area who are into recycling and clean streets/parks. Here's a group that gets together every month to go for a run (around 4 to 5km) and collect rubbish while they go!

More information: [facebook.com/footscrayrubbishrunners/](https://facebook.com/footscrayrubbishrunners/)

## MARIBYRNONG CLEAN UP GROUP

## VARIOUS TIMES AND DATES

The Maribyrnong River Rubbish Club is a group of like-minded people who love our environment and want to make a difference. They get together once a month to collect rubbish from along the banks of the Maribyrnong River. More information: [meetup.com/Maribyrnong-River-Rubbish-Club](https://meetup.com/Maribyrnong-River-Rubbish-Club)

# MATERNAL AND CHILD/YOUTH SERVICES

## FAMILY SERVICES

### KINDERGARTEN

Is your child registered for 4 year old kindergarten in 2019? Children eligible for 4 year old kindergarten in 2019 have birth dates from 1 May 2014 to 30 April 2015. If your child fits within this date range and has not been registered for kindergarten, get in touch with us. There are kindergarten vacancies at the **Angliss Children's Centre, Cherry Crescent Preschool, Dobson Kindergarten, Hyde Street Kindergarten, Kingsville Kindergarten, Merriwa Kindergarten and Yarraville Community Kindergarten**. For details on how to register please call the Central Registration team on **9688 0116**

### IMMUNISATIONS

Immunisation is a simple way to protect children against certain diseases. Council provides families with an immunisation drop in service and an appointment service for babies and young children.

### DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKS

You can track your child's early development with our experienced nurses at Council's Maternal and Child Health Centres across the city. Three and four year old developmental checks are important for accessing extra support services that can help your child.

For more information about services available for young children and families, visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or ring **9688 0200**.

## BETWEEN THE BOOKS

**Hang out at Braybrook Library with a range of fun activities for young people**

What began as a way for young and emerging music artists to showcase their talents, has now evolved into a range of fun and engaging programs for young people aged 12-18 years.

Between the Books offers young people the opportunity to learn new skills, to get creative, build friendships and connect with various services.

Activities on offer include cooking classes where a facilitator teaches participants how to make delicious and healthy meals that the group can then enjoy together; arts and craft sessions to get those creative ideas flowing; drop-in sessions complete with music, games and snacks; and live music gigs.

The live music gigs are performed by young local artists who are given an opportunity to play their work in a supportive environment.

As part of the program, young people will also be encouraged to provide ideas about what they would like to see being offered in the future.

For more information about upcoming activities or to apply to perform a Between the Books live music gig, visit [phoenixyouth.com.au](http://phoenixyouth.com.au)







## PROUD TO BELONG – YOUR GENERATION, YOUR STORIES

### Celebrate with our libraries this Cultural Diversity Week

While almost half of all Victorians were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas, the same is true for over 60% of the City of Maribyrnong's population.

Maribyrnong's strength lies in its great diversity, which is why Council loves to celebrate Victoria's largest multicultural celebration, Cultural Diversity Week.

Free events will be hosted at the libraries across the municipality, reflecting this year's theme, 'Proud to Belong – Your Generation, Your Stories'.

- Bring your little ones down to multicultural story time sessions and introduce them to a world of diversity. Author Stella Stamatakis will read her new book that highlights the cultural significance of grandmothers, and the special relationships they share with their grandchildren, *What's a Yiayia?*, Taking place during regular story times sessions at all libraries from 19-23 March.
- Select the LOTE books you would like the library to purchase for your language collection. Suppliers will bring their stock and set up in the library for members to browse and select titles. Titles selected will be ordered

with prior approval from librarians. Taking place on Wednesday 20 March from 11am-12pm at Braybrook Library (Vietnamese and Chinese), and Thursday 21 March from 3-4pm at Maribyrnong Library (Italian).

- Enjoy an international film viewing and discussion nights at Footscray, West Footscray and Maribyrnong libraries.
- Learn a language with the library's free online resources. These one hour sessions will take place at all library branches between 16-24 March.
- Explore the new LOTE book/DVD displays with refreshments at Footscray Library on Saturday 23 March from 11am-1pm.
- What do you like most about living in Australia? Pin your answer to the map of Australia and enter the draw to win a prize at all library branches from 16-24 March

Cultural Diversity Week is held annually to coincide with the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Harmony Day on 21 March. In 2019, the week will be held from 16-24 March.

For more information about the events taking place at the libraries during Cultural Diversity Week, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)





## HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

**Did you know that Council offers a free home library service for eligible residents?**

Our Outreach Services Librarian works with a group of volunteers to provide a friendly, personalised library service for residents who are unable to come to the library.

The service is available to residents who are unable to visit the library for reasons such as disability; chronic illness; being a full-time carer; frailty; or a resident in a care facility or hospital. The service can be provided on a short or long-term basis.

If you think you might be eligible for the free home library service for reasons other than the above listed, please do not hesitate to call Footscray Library and ask to speak with the Outreach Service Librarian to discuss your circumstances further.

**For more information about the service, call 9688 0290.**



## HAVE YOU BEEN READING THE LIST OF 10 FOR SUMMER BOOKS?

**Author Tony Birch helps us say goodbye to the Summer months with an author event at Footscray Library**

Come along to an entertaining and thought provoking evening with award winning novelist, short story writer, poet and academic, Tony Birch.

With local literary legend Bruno Lettieri, Tony will discuss his popular book *Common People*, which was featured in the 10 for Summer booklist.

**Thursday 7 March, 6.30-7.30pm**

**Footscray Library**

**Bookings via [maribyrnong.eventbrite.com](http://maribyrnong.eventbrite.com)**

## SONGS AND STORIES WITH KUTCHA EDWARDS

To celebrate National Reconciliation Week in May, Braybrook Library will hold a special event with Kutcha Edwards to highlight the significance of Indigenous culture in Australia's history through songs and stories.

Born on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald, New South Wales, of the Mutti Mutti people, Kutcha is among the many of the Stolen Generations.

Kutcha has been combining activism and songwriting since 1991, when he joined Koori group Watbalimba and later Blackfire.

On 31 May, Kutcha will perform his original music at Braybrook Library, and discuss his journey as an Indigenous performer with Bruno Lettieri

**For more information, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)**



# CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE



## Legend

- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Asphalt surface
- Rollers
- Bermed corner
- 1** Start mound
- 2** Connecting path to skills park

## QUARRY PARK MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

The mountain bike facilities at Quarry Park in Footscray are officially underway! Once complete, riders of all levels will be able to enjoy a skills park incorporating learn-to-ride elements and technical features, multiple descent trails and a pump track. The Park will also feature a picnic area, seating and drinking fountain along with extensive landscaping and tree planting between trails. This stage of the works are anticipated to be complete by June 2019.



## Legend

- Mountain bike trail
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Rock Drop-off
- Bermed Corner
- Rock Garden
- Timber Drop-off
- Tabletop Jump
- Roller
- Skills track - granitic gravel & clay surface
- 1** Start Mound
- 2** Connecting path to pump tracks
- 3** Sheltered seating/picnic area
- 4** Picnic table
- 5** Environmental monitoring station (existing)

## CHILDREN'S CENTRES RENEWAL WORKS

Two Children's Centres in Footscray are looking fresh thanks to recently completed renewal works. Saltwater Children's Centre facilities received updates to amenities, replacement of all windows and doors, and a fresh coat of paint. While Brenbeal Children's Centre also received updates to amenities and external fences.





### SMOOTH SAILING FOR COMMUTING SCHOOL STUDENTS

Primary school students in Footscray and Kingsville will benefit from safer routes to and from school thanks to Bicycle Network's Ride2School Active Paths program.

Supported by Council, and complemented by \$210,000 in grant funding from VicRoads, the program will encourage students to walk and ride to school while learning more about road safety.

Tailor made routes to school, will guide students from a communal starting point to the school gate using brightly coloured stamps applied to footpaths, known as 'way points'. At every decision point along the route, markers direct students using supervised crossings and recommended paths. 'Stop point' markers are located on every road crossing to remind students to 'Stop, Look, Listen, Think,' before crossing sensibly.

The program aims to reduce serious casualties on local streets in metropolitan Melbourne and assist in creating a healthy and liveable environment and will be supported through the introduction of signage, line marking, speed humps and other infrastructure, as required.

The Active Paths program in Footscray and Kingsville will be completed to coincide with the start of Term 2 of the 2020 school year.

### FOOTSCRAY HOCKEY CENTRE

Works have kicked-off at Footscray Hockey Centre redevelopment which will provide accessible, updated female amenities, improved disability access across the building, as well as new umpires rooms, storage and meeting areas. The Centre, one of the busiest hockey centres in Victoria, will cater for Footscray Hockey Club's 600 participants, along with multiple sporting, school and community groups that use the facilities. The redevelopment project is supported by Sport and Recreation Victoria.



### KINGSVILLE TENNIS PAVILION

Construction of the Kingsville Tennis Pavilion is looking ace! The framing is now complete and the floodlights have been installed. Once the project is complete in May 2019, the new facility will provide updated player and member amenities, large modern social space for club activities and functions, a commercial grade kitchen, a large undercover outdoor viewing area, upgraded accessible amenities and improved accessible pathways around the site, improved lighting for the tennis courts and pathways and upgraded storage.



# GOOD NEIGHBOURS MAKE FOR GREAT COMMUNITIES

THIS NEIGHBOUR DAY,  
GET TO KNOW YOUR  
NEIGHBOURS



It was once very common to drop in to visit a neighbour unannounced, or to borrow some sugar, milk or eggs from the family next door. And although these neighbourly interactions have become less common, the inner west is jam-packed with tight knit neighbourhoods.

Whether it is the local travelling cake tin, a street library with donated books, or a walking group, there are plenty of neighbourly activities that take place every day in our community. Neighbour Day is taking place on 31 March, and it is the perfect opportunity to connect with those who live in their neighbourhood. Whether you are new to the area, or yet to reach out to those in your neighbourhood, why don't you take the opportunity to build better relationships with those around you!

## START SMALL

Say hello and introduce yourself.

## REACH OUT

If a new neighbour moves in, go over and introduce yourself, or leave a note to welcome them to the neighbourhood.

## CHECK IN

Some neighbours might need more support than others, especially those experiencing hardship, sickness or loneliness, so check in to make sure they are ok.

## LEARN AND TEACH

Maribyrnong is a vibrant and diverse multicultural community that is home to people with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Maybe you or your neighbour speaks another language – ask them to teach you some words in their language or share some of your own. Take some time to talk to your neighbours and maybe learn a new skill or teach them something they may not know.

## BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Understand and obey local laws relating to noise, pets, shared boundaries, and overhanging trees and vegetation. Be mindful and respectful of others.

## SHARE

Share and swap excess produce from your garden, build a Street Library to share and recycle books, or offer your neighbours use of your tools and equipment.

## HELP OUT

If you are mowing your nature strip, mow your neighbour's as well. Or offer to take an elderly neighbour's bin in and out; or while your neighbour is away collect their mail or feed their pets.

## HAVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S BACK

Support your neighbours when they are in need.

## CELEBRATE

Throw a party and invite all your neighbours, or organise a friendly cricket match or soccer game.

## BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Locals are being urged to back their neighbours, their mates, and their coworkers in a campaign aimed at reversing, modifying or slowing cuts to a Federal Government scheme that has helped thousands of people transition to new lives, into jobs and to become key members of communities across Australia.

Maribyrnong is among 22 councils across Australia, representing more than 2.7 million people, that have come together to try to ensure that people who have fled persecution do not suffer homelessness and destitution as a result of Federal Government cutbacks. Earlier this year, the Federal Government outlined a plan to cut support from up to 7,000 people who had come to Australia fleeing war and persecution.

Local resident Nayran Tabiei arrived in Australia after fleeing the violent civil war in Syria, leaving behind a successful career as a chef to bring her daughter to safety. Nayran now uses her cooking skills to give back, and every Friday, she cooks, serves, and cleans up hundreds of meals, making sure vulnerable people are well fed.

"My culture and religion taught me to be helpful to everyone, especially those in need. For me, the best way to show others you care is by sharing food," Nayran said.

To show your support for people seeking asylum, join the Back Your Neighbour campaign at [backyourneighbour.com.au](http://backyourneighbour.com.au)



## BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG

### Footscray fast tracked to become a Smart City

Imagine being able to walk through Footscray CBD and see all the developments that are planned for the area, simply by popping on a headset. Or get live traffic, train and weather updates on digital signs. This could soon become a reality thanks to a \$400,000 grant from the Australian Government to make Footscray a Smart City.

A joint initiative between Maribyrnong Council and Victoria University, the 'Footscray Smart City for Social Cohesion Project' will utilise smart technology and data analysis to improve the quality of life for the community whilst also driving economic growth and environmental improvements. Commencing early this year, the project will deliver a range of integrated smart technologies over a two-year period, elevating Footscray to Smart City status.

Key smart technology elements include: environmental monitoring, real-time information (traffic, weather, public transport, safety alerts, etc) captured and transmitted live; and smart spaces and places – with free Wi-Fi, touch screens, smart lighting and leisure based digital interactivity.

The project will also create a Social Cohesion Platform that leverages open data to inform city planning, catalyse ongoing innovation and enhance public experiences.

In addition to the \$400,000 Australian Grant, the two-year project will receive \$350,000 in funding from Maribyrnong Council and \$100,000 from Victoria University.



### Co-Connected continues to connect and inspire in 2019

Co-Connected, an initiative designed to assist start-ups and create valuable networking opportunities, is back for 2019 with an impressive line-up of special events including: Beer entrepreneurship: An evening with talented Footscray Brewers on Monday 18 March.

Running until July 2019, the remaining events will cover a range of topics including financing, co-working, business modelling, and working with Council's permit procedures. There are also ten events being held in Maribyrnong's new makerspace, FAB9, with the first taking place on Thursday 14 March. Learn all about makerspaces – what they are, how they operate, and how you can get started on your next dream project.

For further information and details about upcoming workshops visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Business/Co-Connected](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Business/Co-Connected)

### Business training events, workshops and seminars

Council hosts a number of business training sessions every month. This Autumn, we will run workshops on a range of topics including how to turn your ideas into a business, social media marketing, tax essentials for small business and more. To see the full list of events, please go to pages 13-16.

On Wednesday 21 March we will host our always popular Business Networking Breakfast, where we invite speakers to talk on a range of topics for the benefit of our local business community.

On Thursday 4 April, we will be running a new workshop on digital marketing in partnership with the Australian Small Business Advisory Service and Hobsons Bay City Council. This is the first in a series of digital marketing workshops that will run over a three year period. These workshops are only available to businesses that sign up for the full 'Digital Marketing' package which is available for three years and gives users access to on-line resources and two hours of mentoring for just \$55.

For more information about the Digital Marketing package and the other workshops taking place in Autumn, including the free Business Breakfast, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)



# TASTE THE BEST OF MELBOURNE'S WEST THIS MARCH

THE CULTURE AND CULINARY DIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S WEST WILL BE ON SHOW THIS MARCH WHEN EAT.DRINK.WESTSIDE (EDW) KICKS OFF IN STYLE WITH 25 DELICIOUS EVENTS RUNNING AS PART OF MELBOURNE FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL (MFWF) FROM 8-24 MARCH



**J**onathan Levitzke from Yarraville's new hot spot, Johnny's Emporium, has entered the Eat.Drink.Westside program for the first time, having been a fan of the program since its inception.

"EDW has always been my go-to program for events that are in the West. It can be overwhelming to pick and choose events from the entire MFWF guide, so the EDW guide is a great way to see what's local and worth checking out," he said.

To celebrate all that's Australian, Johnny's Emporium will be hosting a beastly three course dinner and sensory tasting session featuring some of Australia's most interesting small producers.

"Through EDW and MFWF, we have the opportunity to create something really special here in Yarraville. We'll have an array of wine and boutique beer makers as well as gin and vodka distillers on site to talk our guests through their



finest creations. This will be our biggest event since opening last August and we can't wait to treat our guests to an unforgettable night," Jonathan said.

Joining Johnny's Emporium's tasting extravaganza is an impressive line-up of special events featuring a range of cuisines from across the globe.

Enjoy a special one-night-only 'Battle of the Dumplings' dinner at Luxsmith in Seddon where you decide which dumpling is best – Asian vs Italian! Or feast on Ethiopian vegan dishes at Footscray's Konjo Café, complete with a traditional coffee ceremony.

Taste your way through a five-course degustation honoring seasonal veggies at Small Graces in Footscray; or enjoy some porky goodness at The Plough's 'Pig, Pints and Pinot', with all the profits going to local primary schools.

If you're the adventurous type, take a culinary tour of Footscray where a local chef will show you where to source exotic ingredients, before returning to Yarraville Community Centre to cook up your findings.

If you enjoy learning a new skill, then Eat.Drink.Westside has you covered. Let Spice Bazaar in Seddon guide you through creating six cheesy dishes matched to wine; learn how to make a cocktail with a twist, inspired by Footscray's ethnic diversity, at Littlefoot's 'Westside Mixology'; or attend a veal masterclass at Burn City Test Kitchen's 'Where did the Veal go?'

You can also learn how to make your own cannoli and marzipan pascal lamb using 150 year old recipes at Footscray's famed T Cavallaro & Sons special event. These are just some of the delicious food and wine experiences on offer in the 2019 Eat.Drink.Westside program.

This year's program is presented by Brimbank City Council, Hobsons Bay City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Moonee Valley City Council and Wyndham City Council.



For further information about the program visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au) or visit the Eat Drink Westside Facebook page. For bookings, go to [melbournefoodandwine.com.au](http://melbournefoodandwine.com.au)



Image credit: Wynter Projects

# WHAT IS FOOTSCRAY TO YOU?

Artist Chantal Wynter will explore and document community voices and opinions about Footscray during her Artsbox residency.

During March and April, Melbourne based artist and creative producer Chantal will occupy Artsbox, an intimate and creative space that provides artists with an opportunity to create new work, test and explore ideas, and develop their arts practice. The converted shipping container is located in the forecourt of Footscray Library, and is a dedicated home to artists-in-residence throughout the year.

Chantal will utilise Artsbox as a vox populi recording studio to develop a new series of works. Through audio interviews, street conversations and sound, she hopes to document Footscray.

"I will be creating a renegade audio recording studio in which the stories of locals and visitors to Footscray will be documented. Footscray is changing rapidly, which is why I want to use this opportunity to interview people. My line of

enquiry is 'what is Footscray to you?'" Chantal said.

On top of the local stories, Chantal will also record everyday scenes that are unique to Footscray.

"For example the hustle and bustle of the Footscray Market that we all love so much, as well as daily soundscapes from demolition, train announcements and restaurant kitchens," Chantal continued.

From these recordings, Chantal hopes to develop a digital audio tour of contemporary Footscray.

"The tour will reflect the rich diversity of Footscray. The interviews recorded with locals and visitors will drive the narrative of the audio story whilst the additional soundscapes will bring the tour to life. This project will be a positive reflection on what makes Footscray exciting and unique," Chantal said.

To take part in Chantal's project and to chat about what Footscray means to you, stop by Artsbox from 18 March to 30 April.

For updates and opening times, visit [wynterprojects.com](http://wynterprojects.com)



## FESTIVAL CITY

# LAUGH OUT LOUD WITH COMEDY WESTSIDE

The best of the fest is coming back to the West with another bumper Comedy Westside program for 2019. Comedy Westside will feature four main events in its bumper program – here's a rundown of what's in store this year.



### C.O.W OPEN MIC NIGHT

The always-popular C.O.W Open Mic Night returns for its fifth edition at Kindred Studios on Saturday 13 April.

This night of comedy is not quite raw, more medium to well done, as local and imported comedians battle it out for the all-important audience vote.

Last year's winner, Kingsville mum of three Amanda Brocklebank, beat 14 hopefuls to take out the audience vote and win the C.O.W. Bell Award for 2018.

"To be able to perform with such a great group of comedians in front of a supportive local audience was a fabulous opportunity," said Amanda.

"Open mic nights are the training ground for new comedians, so these type of events are wonderful for the performers and audiences alike," she continued.

### COMEDY HITS BLUESTONE CHURCH

Stand-up comedian Ashwin Segkar is bringing his show Bloodbooks to the west as part of Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

Australian-Indian Ashwin Segkar started his comedy career as a writer, producing comedy cartoon, Boymongoose, which went on to attract over 10 million views online. He has since toured around Australia performing comedy that is thoughtful, sharp and captures the experience of being a minority living between vastly different cultures.

Having grown up between India, Malaysia, England, New Zealand and Australia, echoes of this diverse upbringing is embedded in his latest show, Bloodbooks.

"Bloodbooks uses the founding holy book of the West, the Bible and the founding holy book of India, the Bhagavad Gita to dive into the differences between East and West in a funny, unpredictable and insightful show," Ashwin said.

The show – which goes past lazy clichés, taking you on a hilarious, and at times disconcerting, ride of stand-up, clown and personal storytelling to explore a meeting of East and West.

"You'll laugh, experience strange rhythms and hear ideas from cultures on the periphery of everyday life. Maybe even take some techniques away to bust out at dinner parties," Ashwin continued.

**For further information on comedy events visit the What's On section on pages 13-16.**



## LIVING THE DREAM



*On the Bone is Maidstone's new food hot spot, offering delicious and generous meals (think 1kg dry aged T-Bone steak!), some to eat selfishly but mostly to share.*

It is the first restaurant for owners George Tawil and Isaiah Inocencio – George, who left the corporate world after more than a decade to pursue his dream to start his own restaurant; Isaiah, a chef from the west ready to take on the new challenges of owning a restaurant. When it came to choosing a home for their new venture, Maidstone was an easy choice.

"West is the best – it's where we grew up and it is our home," George said. The team at On the Bone, including senior chef Savvas Papageorgiou, have a clear vision for their restaurant and have been working tirelessly to see it come to life, even rolling up their sleeves and

fitting out the restaurant themselves with the help of friends.

"We weren't on the side lines watching shop fitters and designers do the work for us. We literally worked every day and night for three month's straight to see our dream come to life," said George.

"We wanted a restaurant that people in the west could be really proud of. From the beginning we were very clear on our direction and what we wanted to stand for. We wanted to offer wholesome, good food. A lot of thought, love and time goes into every element of every dish and we strive to offer a consistent exceptional customer dining experience," he added.

"When it comes to dining, we understand and appreciate that anyone who walks through our doors has chosen to dine with us – they have chosen us over all the other thousands of restaurants in Melbourne. So we work hard to ensure that all customers leave feeling like they made a good decision," George continued.

George says his food represents what his multicultural team love to eat and the menu is designed to cater to all palates, including vegetarian/vegan options, and encourages a sharing style of eating.

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