



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Autumn 2020

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

VISIT OUR
CULINARY
GEMS

MEET OUR
2020 CIVIC
AWARD
WINNERS

CELEBRATING OUR
MANY CULTURES



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the autumn issue of Maribyrnong Messenger.

As the cooler months approach, we encourage you to get outdoors to soak up the beautiful autumn weather and keep up to date with our autumn festivals. Check out our 'What's On In Maribyrnong' section on page 13 for information about upcoming events.

We have a generous 2020 autumn calendar packed with vibrant family-friendly events and exciting new updates within our community. In particular I am looking forward to the annual Harmony Feast at Maidstone Community Centre.

This year's ten Civic Awardees included individuals and local businesses, the awards event celebrating their generous efforts to strengthen the community. Award recipients included Citizen of the Year recipient John Ng, founder of community website Humans of SKY, and Pride of our Footscray Community Bar, who received the Contribution to Business Community Award for their efforts in creating a welcoming and inclusive space that celebrates the diversity of our community. Head over to page 4 to read more about our inspiring winners that make our City a great place.

Our City is continuing to evolve and you will begin to see new features throughout our city that reflect this. This can be seen in an innovative trial of asphalt made from recycled materials, expanded free public WiFi, energy efficient lighting and air-monitoring sensors as part of our 'Footscray Smart City for Social Cohesion Project'. We also purchased two weed steamer trailers to reduce our reliance on chemical weedkillers. You can read about all of these exciting projects and more in this issue.

Cr Sarah Carter
Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 3 Taste the best of Melbourne's West this March
- 4 Inspiring locals recognised
- 6 Lina Pahor: Maribyrnong's humble hero
- 8 Hot stuff coming through: Council invests in two weed steamer trailers
Maribyrnong River fun in Footscray
- 9 Greener roads pave the way in Maribyrnong
- 10 A smarter, more digitally-engaged Footscray
- 11 Get moving during the Get Active! Expo
- 12 Celebrating the many cultures that call our City home
- 13 What's on in Maribyrnong
- 17 Child and family services
- 18 Mindful March
- 19 Autumn Book Binge
- 20 Capital works update
- 22 Welcoming our newest citizens
- 23 Sons of the West returns to Maribyrnong this March
#GenerationEquality
- 24 Boosting our businesses with BID grants
- 25 For the love of Braybrook
- 22 Annual Community Survey results highest in 15 years
- 27 Festival City
- 28 Craftwork Roasting Co.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

MARCH:

Tuesday 17, 6.30pm. Ordinary Council

Tuesday 24, 6.30pm. City Development Special Committee

APRIL:

Tuesday 21, 6.30pm. Ordinary Council

Tuesday 28, 6.30pm. City Development Special Committee

MAY:

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm. Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 26, 6.30pm. City Development Special Committee

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

Visit our website for the schedule of meetings for 2020.

Please visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings or phone 9688 0200 for more information.

A unique collaboration between Melbourne's western region councils and Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, Eat Drink Westside (EDW) shines a light on the area's culinary gems and enviable food community.

A regular fixture of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, this year's EDW is running from 19-29 March and features 17 enticing events that are as diverse as the west itself. Dine on cuisines including Ethiopian, French, Lebanese and many more.

If you enjoy a slow and steady food pace join the Westside Crawl – savour charcuterie, cheese and French hospitality at Small French Bar, then head to the rejuvenated Victoria Hotel for refined pub classics with new-wave wine. Round things out with Mr West's cutting-edge cocktails and wine with food delivered from next-door neighbours.

Small French Bar also teams up with Yarra Valley's Medhurst Wines to showcase the best of French food and wine for French Flavours, a seven course meal pairing regional French cuisine with matching wine.

If you're in the mood for something a little spicier, head to the Spice Bazaar for a cooking class on traditional Turkish cuisine. Suitable for both confident cooks and those just starting out on their cooking journey, this hands-on class will culminate in a feast of 13 dishes, with six paired wines in a fun and social atmosphere.

What about some delicious Food for Thought? Small Graces in Footscray will stay open late to bring you face-to-face with the people who grow your food at an inspiring, community-focused dinner. This Footscray cafe will host Anna and Chris of Flock Stock & Basil, a regenerative farm in South Gippsland, to share their story and their produce in a one-off event that illustrates the farm to fork journey. All fresh produce will be sourced from Flock Stock & Basil's small-scale farm and showcased from root to leaf by the Small Graces team. Culminating in a four-course meal of shared dishes, paired with local wine.

TASTE THE BEST OF MELBOURNE'S WEST THIS MARCH

Discover why so many food-lovers, trailblazers and gamechangers are being drawn to the west during Eat Drink Westside.



The Plough Hotel in Footscray will be hosting Ducks, Pints and Pinot, an afternoon family-friendly event that will serve up confit duck legs, duck-fat potatoes, boudin, croquettes, Peking duck and foie gras. Food will be complimented by Shadowfax Wines and Hop Nation beers.

If a foody party is more your style, book your tickets to the Seddon Laneway Party or the Westside Big Smoke Party. Hosted by two of Seddon's favourite restaurants, Luxsmith and Copper Pot, tickets to the Seddon Laneway Party will give you entry to the laneway, live music and entertainment with food and drink available for purchase. While masters of low and slow cooking, Up in

Smoke, mark the end of the Eat Drink Westside for 2020 with The Westside Big Smoke Party. Gather some friends and spend the afternoon enjoying fresh meat from the smoker, along with independent beers, local wines and rocking tunes.

Still feeling hungry? These are just some of the delicious food and beverage experiences on offer in the Eat Drink Westside 2020 program.

Eat Drink Westside

19-29 March

Various locations

Visit melbournefoodandwine.com.au/eatdrinkwestside for further information and bookings.



Our 2020 Civic Award winners.

INSPIRING LOCALS RECOGNISED 2020 CIVIC AWARDS

OUR CIVIC AWARDS CELEBRATE 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

JOHN NG

John is the founder of Humans of SKY, a website dedicated to sharing stories of everyday people from Seddon, Kingsville and Yarraville. Over the last three years John has profiled 122 people that have helped shape the inner west – those who make it such a strong and thriving community.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LINA PAHOR

Lina has volunteered with the Footscray Soup Van for more than 13 years, providing an evening meal and social connectedness to some of the most vulnerable people in the community. Lina has been instrumental in expanding the Footscray Soup Van service by reinstating the Saturday night service and recruiting volunteers.

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AWARD

FRIENDS OF STONY CREEK

Friends of Stony Creek are a dedicated group of community members who volunteer and advocate for the health and wellbeing of Stony Creek. Since the devastating Tottenham warehouse fire in August 2018, they have been integral to the recovery efforts including clean-up and planting, weeding, engaging with community members and key stakeholders and contributing to the Stony Creek Rehabilitation Plan.

ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG SPORTING AWARD

BRAYBROOK SPORTING CLUB

The Braybrook Sporting Club centres on Aussie rules football and has been in operation for almost 150 years. The club aims to provide a variety of programs for the community, with a focus on equality, fair play, teamwork in a safe and supportive environment.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

ALHASSAN HABAB

Hassan has inspired young people to have a voice and how they can address important issues in their lives such as social media addiction and the effects of digital technology. He has been involved in Council's Raw Elements Hip Hop program for the past five years and has made songs and videos about issues that are important to him and shared them online.

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD: CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY AWARD

PRIDE OF OUR FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY BAR

Pride of our Footscray Community Bar was set up to celebrate and reflect the diverse community of Footscray, in a relaxed, welcoming and inclusive space. The community-run bar has created a LGBTQIA friendly space where people from all walks of life can gather and connect and has also provided a performance and exhibition space for artists and musicians to showcase their talent.

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD: NEW AND EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD

HEAR US ROAR

Hear Us Roar is an online marketplace that curates clothing options for women ranging from a size 12 to size 26. Its founders identified the need for stylish quality clothing solutions for plus size women – a major gap in the fashion market. The company is passionate about helping women feel beautiful and stylish by creating inclusive runway shows and photoshoots and offers customers remote styling based on an online questionnaire.

ENTERPRISE

MARIBYRNONG AWARD: INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AWARD

ECOPACT GROCERIES

Ecopact Groceries is a small-scale grocery store based in Footscray. Its purpose is to provide customers with a more sustainable and affordable bulk alternative to standard grocery items. They stock a wide variety of products including nuts, fruit, dairy, meat, grains, laundry and cleaning products, toiletries and much more. They also provide biodegradable, reusable and recycled packaging options for bulk items and encourage customers to bring their own containers.

ARTS AWARD

TROCADERO ART SPACE

Trocadero Art Space is a non-profit artist-run gallery space, operating for more than 12 years in the heart of Footscray. The gallery is run by a strong group of volunteers with a commitment to providing a safe and engaging environment for artists to exhibit in, develop from, and contribute to, the Maribyrnong community. More than 400 artists have taken part in annual exhibitions, artist talks and workshops.

MAYORAL AWARD

RON 'JAKE' JACOBSON

Ron Jacobson, more commonly known as Jake, has been heavily involved in the sporting community for more than 60 years. Ron was instrumental in saving the Maribyrnong Community Youth Club, when it faced closure in the 1960's, where he developed a lifelong passion for boxing. Throughout his time at the club, Ron became an accredited and winning boxing trainer. He has trained a number of boxers who have gone onto win prominent titles as well as gold and silver medallists for World Police and Fireman's games.

LINA PAHOR

MARIBYRNONG'S
HUMBLE HERO

SIMPLY PUT, LINA IS A LOCAL HERO,
AND A HUMBLE ONE AT THAT



AS A VOLUNTEER OF VINNIE'S FOOTSCRAY SOUP VAN FOR THE PAST 18 YEARS, AND PRESIDENT FOR THE LAST THREE, LINA IS THE DRIVING FORCE IN ORGANISING OVER 250 VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER 62,121 MEALS ANNUALLY TO THOSE IN NEED.

It comes as no surprise that Lina was awarded Volunteer of the Year at Council's 2020 Civic Awards for her longstanding work with the Footscray Soup Van; but for Lina – she would much rather be on the road in the Soup Van helping people, than attending an awards ceremony.

Based out of Council's kitchen at the Activity Centre on Raleigh Street in Maribyrnong, the Soup Van operates seven nights a week throughout the western suburbs. It visits various boarding houses, social housing, residential locations and public street stops. The Soup Van supports people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and those with financial difficulties. It also helps people who are socially isolated connect while receiving an evening meal and information for local services.

Lina is without a doubt the backbone of the operation, on any given night you can find her heating up soup in the kitchen, training new volunteers, driving around in the vans, or having a friendly chat with a regular – all with a big smile on her face. For Lina, the reason she is so dedicated to volunteering is simple: there is a need for it and she has the ability.

"Just knowing you've got the ability to help someone, that's why I do it.

"It's rewarding, sometimes what you do as a volunteer is more rewarding than holding down a job or a business.

"Deep down you are making a difference," Lina said.

It is with this enthusiasm and matter-of-fact attitude that Lina wrapped up her landscape design business in early 2019, to focus wholly on her volunteering. As Lina explains it's definitely not semi-retirement, as

she estimates the Soup Vans help on average 200 people most nights of the week – making it a full time job. A job she is always looking to recruit for.

"What people don't realise is, it takes a lot of people to get all the vans on the road every night. We are always looking for volunteers."

"We take people from all walks of life, whether you're retired, if you haven't been able to get work and you're able to pass a police check and working with children check, even university students."

Lina explains that helping the soup van comes in many forms and there are many jobs behind the scenes that people can help with.

"If you're not comfortable going on the run, there are other jobs like warming up soup, packing the eskys and getting the vans ready."

Although, Lina admits it's not all hard work.

"You get to meet people – like minded-people – and you get to make another circle of friends.

"It's nice to commit to something where you're giving back. I think people don't realise how rewarding it can be, just doing something knowing that you're helping others," Lina said.

For those wanting to try out volunteering, Lina's advice is to give it a go and commit.

"Commit to six months and commit on a regular basis – fortnightly or every three weeks – then see how you feel at the end of six months. Six months is enough to hook, line and sinker you in

forever because you get to know the people you're helping."

Amazingly, Lina's community strengthening does not stop there. She also initiated the Maidstone Community Reading Club in mid-2019. The club offers free after school reading aimed at helping primary school aged students improve and enjoy their reading. Lina's idea for the reading club was inspired by an interaction with a young girl at the Soup Van's annual Christmas party for all the people they serve during the year.

"We had three trestle tables of books set up – picture books, reading books, coffee table books. Some of the kids were just going for the picture books. I said to them, 'there's heaps of novels and young primary school reading books'. One girl, she was probably 9 or 10, said to me 'No, I can't read'.

"It got me to think, how are we going to give these kids a hand up? I thought, we give them food security – but that's about it. Wouldn't it be great if these kids had another outlet?" Lina said.

So the reading club was born. Based out of Maidstone Community Centre, the club is aimed at students who may not get to read at home, can't afford tuition or find reading challenging.

Lina has bigger plans for 2020 and how she can help more people, but for Lina it's not about the recognition for her work, it's the reward.

"You might never get a thank you, you might never meet the people that you're helping, but it's knowing that you've contributed," Lina said.

To find out more about how you can volunteer with Footscray Soup Van, visit www.vinnies.org.au



HOT STUFF COMING THROUGH

We are now the proud owners of two new weed steamer trailers, which will further reduce our reliance on chemical weedkillers

This comes after Maribyrnong began phasing out the use of all glyphosate-based products in early 2018 – leading the way for many other Council's in Victoria. Since then, we have been out-sourcing weed steaming in high-use areas in the municipality, in conjunction with other methods of weed management.

Now that weed-steaming will be done in-house, it will enable us to use this method in more places – including community gardens, playgrounds, BBQ areas and around exercise equipment. Staff have received training on how to use the steaming units, which will again be used in conjunction with



manual weeding, mulching and other weed suppression activities.

The steaming method uses super-heated water and wet steam to destroy weeds on contact – most importantly, it is safe to use.



MARIBYRNONG RIVER FUN IN FOOTSCRAY

The community is encouraged to enjoy the Henderson House wharf upgrade by taking part in creative workshops and fun activities on the banks of the Maribyrnong River.

The Many Hands Project will take place at the wharf in Footscray with creative workshops, activations, a pop-up bar and result in a creative installation. For workshop dates head to festivalcity.com.au.

Activations include key family fun days held behind Footscray Community Arts Centre with free lawn games like giant jenga, quoits and lawn bowls to enjoy on March 14 and March 28, 3-8pm.

Participants in the Many Hands Project will use cold (Blacksmith) forging to contribute to the installation. They will be given a coin to press with a positive symbol or icon which will be hung along the railings of Henderson House Landing forming a temporary

creative installation.

Council called for creative ideas to utilise and activate Henderson House Landing. River Edge Creative Alliance, a collaboration between the Waterside Metal Art Studio, BiGfiSh and Footscray Community Arts Centre were successful applicants and will be rolling out the Many Hands Project. Henderson House Landing is located along the Maribyrnong River Trail at the end of Maribyrnong Street, Footscray. The upgrade to Henderson House Landing was funded by Parks Victoria and Council. Future works are planned for the area along the wharf.

For more information, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/festivalcity

GREENER ROADS PAVE THE WAY IN MARIBYRNONG



As part of a new trial, Harriet Street in Seddon has been resurfaced using a more sustainable and durable asphalt known as PolyPave, which incorporates recycled materials.

Made up of glass and plastic bottles, PolyPave also uses a warm mix asphalt with reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP). RAP is made from old road pavement that has been broken down and recycled into new asphalt mix. The warm mix application requires less heating than the traditional hot mix application, resulting in a lower carbon footprint. It also makes the roads more hard wearing and is less sensitive to increased pavement temperature.

It is estimated that by using RAP in Harriet Street, it reduced landfill by 41 tonnes and saved 270 kilograms in carbon emissions. About 3,100 two-litre plastic bottles and 23,400 glass bottles were repurposed for this stretch of road – the equivalent of 638 recycling bins of glass and plastic.

Harriet Street is the first street in Maribyrnong that will trial the recycled asphalt. This puts into practice our commitment to reducing its impact on the environment and working within a circular economy – reducing carbon emissions, using recycled materials and using a sustainable, locally developed product.

Council stepped up its position on climate change in February 2019, acknowledging that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government.

Our Climate Emergency Community Advisory Group has been formed and will work on developing the Climate Emergency Plan, which is expected to further our work on climate change and carbon emissions with increased urgency.

BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG

A SMARTER, MORE DIGITALLY-ENGAGED FOOTSCRAY



GET READY AS WE ROLL OUT NEW SMART TECHNOLOGIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

The technologies – which range from digital kiosks and expanded free public WiFi to energy efficient lighting and air-monitoring sensors – will form the 'Footscray Smart City for Social Cohesion Project'.

Footscray will be placed in a league with other smart cities around the world with improvements funded by a \$400,000 Australian Government Smart Cities and Suburbs Program grant and boosted by funding from Council and Victoria University.

Victoria University's College of Engineering and Science will develop a platform (the 'Social Cohesion Platform') that collects data from smart sensors. This platform will enable data-driven decision making that supports ongoing improvements to Council's service delivery.

Businesses and the community are also expected to reap the rewards of this exciting new project.

The roll out of the solutions and infrastructure will result in the installation of:

- > **monitoring sensors that measure the air quality** in and around Footscray to help us advocate for improved health outcomes for the City. This monitoring is also expected to contribute to our commitment to an improved climate emergency response
- > **energy efficient smart lighting** that reduces the maintenance and cost of public lighting, contributing to our commitment to an improved climate emergency response
- > **expanded free public WiFi** in the Footscray business district and Footscray Park, to enable the community to better access educational, tourism, business and public transport information at no cost

- > **pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle counting technology** to help reduce congestion and improve transport and transport connections in the Footscray business district and other areas
- > **interactive signage** at key locations to promote the City's history, tourist destinations, public transport options and other information as part of a digital kiosk
- > **Footscray Park App** featuring environmental education functions listing flora and fauna found in the Park and the Edwardian gardens, giving users the opportunity to learn more about the Park's history and habitats
- > **Integrated Smart City Data Platform**, that compiles information gathered from the sensor network and is accessible to the public
- > **LoRaWAN network**, considered a 'gateway' and part of 'The Internet of Things (IoT)', will share information gathered by Council with Victoria University.

We will ensure the safety and security of people and assets and maintain high standards of privacy in leveraging the value of data. No personal information will be collected by the smart technology.

Installation will take place at key locations in Footscray over the summer months, with completion expected by mid-2020.

This project stems from the Footscray University Town initiative, a visionary partnership between Council and Victoria University which combines efforts of both organisations to align university, business and community interests and activities.

For more information visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



GET MOVING DURING THE **GET ACTIVE! EXPO**

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

Have you ever wanted to try trugo, taekwondo, lacrosse or flip flop bowls? Or perhaps you prefer self-defence, table tennis, street orienteering or basketball. Give them all a go during the Get Active! Expo.

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

Running from 15 March to 22 April, the whole family can take part in activities

that showcase the parks, reserves and facilities across the City of Maribyrnong. The best part? It's completely free! And all registered participants receive free passes to Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre and RecWest Footscray.

Now in its seventh year, the Expo showcases 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, this is your chance to find your inner athlete and get a taste of what new activity lies on your horizon, with sessions across the entire Expo accessible to all ages and abilities.

The Expo kicks off on Sunday 15 March with a fun-filled launch day at Skinner Reserve in Braybrook, and will culminate on Wednesday 22 April with a movie night at Sun Theatre, Yarraville. For more information or to register, visit activemaribyrnong.com.au

CELEBRATING THE MANY CULTURES THAT CALL OUR CITY HOME



Make sure you bring your appetite to the eleventh annual Harmony Feast, taking place on Sunday 22 March at Maidstone Community Centre.

Harmony Feast, a free multicultural event that is part of Cultural Diversity Week, showcases the diversity, strength, kindness, and generosity of people from the local community, who come together to cook and share a part of themselves and their culture with others.

It is a beautiful expression of togetherness that gives people of all ages and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to connect, share stories, meet new people and enjoy each other's company while eating, listening to music or being involved in various cultural activities.

Local resident Deb first attended Harmony Feast last year, and said that the event is pretty hard to resist, regardless of who you are or what your background may be.

"This may sound a little odd, but I love the bustle and the chaos of it all. I love hearing people conversing in an array of different languages, bonding over stories, and art, and how amazing the food is," Deb said.

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. This year we will have food from Australia, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Malta, Pakistan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Somalia, South America, Thailand and the United Kingdom.

"I believe that the love of a good meal, as well as the emotions that it can incite, are universal. The action of sharing one's food breaks down barriers in a way that nothing else can. It is an action that displays generosity, vulnerability and a willingness to put aside differences to share a common experience," Deb continued.

In addition to the delicious fare, there will be a range of cultural activities and entertainment on the day, including henna and face painting, French braiding, Bollywood dancing and workshop, live singing performances, a magician 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.

Harmony Feast

Sunday 22 March, 12-3pm

Maidstone Community Centre

Free

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

KULTURE GARAGE

**SELECT WEEKENDS
THROUGH MARCH
MADDERN SQUARE,
2 CHAMBERS ST FOOTSCRAY**

Pop up arts and craft market.

For confirmed dates go to: <https://www.facebook.com/kulturegarage/>

HOME MAINTENANCE FOR WOMEN

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH, 10AM-1PM
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Learn how to do basic activities around the house in this three hour workshop, including how to hang pictures and curtain rails, change washers, fix door handles, attach door stoppers, patch holes, apply grout and more!

MARKETING YOUR BUSINESS – HOW TO GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH, 6-9PM
MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL**

Learn all the ins and outs to establish a strong brand and to build a loyal customer base through the development, implementation and management of a successful marketing plan in this two-hour workshop!

Bookings: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

SMALL BUSINESS BUS – MENTORING

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 10AM-4PM
FOOTSCRAY LIBRARY**

Established and upcoming business owners are encouraged to take part in private business mentoring sessions to help develop and grow their business ideas and capabilities. Delivered by experts from the Victorian Government's Small Business Mentoring Service, the sessions are free and bookings are essential.

Bookings: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 7AM
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL**

Come and enjoy a free breakfast and network with fellow business owners while learning how to make strategic business choices in the digital space. Bookings: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

SUNDAY 8 MARCH

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. To find out how Council is marking International Women's Day, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/IWD](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/IWD)



SOCIAL DROP IN POOL AND TABLE TENNIS FUN

**EVERY TUESDAY FROM
10 MARCH – 12 MAY,
10.30AM-12.30PM
EVERY THURSDAY FROM
12 MARCH – 14 MAY,
6.30-8.30PM**

MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Bring a friend or drop by the Maidstone Community Centre to meet some new people and put your game skills to the test in a social round of pool, billiards, snooker or table tennis.

BEE KEEPING WORKSHOP

**SATURDAY 14 MARCH, 1-3PM
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Come and learn the fundamentals of beekeeping and the rules and regulations valid for Victoria as part of this two hour workshop.

THE MANY HANDS PROJECT

**14 AND 28 MARCH, 2-8PM
60 MARIBYRNONG ST, FOOTSCRAY**

Pop up container bar and free kids activities down by the new wharf adjacent to Henderson House. Activities include oversized noughts and crosses, lawn croquet, ninja slackline balance challenge, hula hoops, mini stepping stones balance challenge, hopscotch fields, mini handball tennis court, quoits, oversized Jenga and juggling. Kids can also come and try 'cold forging' – creating an imprint on the face of a small metallic token expressing a simple positive aspiration.

For more information go to <https://watersidemetalart.org/>



WEST FOOTSCRAY FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

**15 MARCH, 11AM-4PM
BARKLY ST, WEST FOOTSCRAY**

The much-loved West Footscray Festival of Colours is an annual, free, event celebrating the diversity and strong community of West Footscray. The festival includes market stalls, food vendors, entertainment and of course the highlight of the day – the throwing of the colours!



WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

**GET ACTIVE! EXPO**

15 MARCH – 23 APRIL
VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

The Get Active! Expo is back. The free five-and-a-half week program is full of interactive clinics and events that highlight the range of sport, recreation and wellbeing opportunities available throughout the City of Maribyrnong, and has sessions available for all ages and ability levels.

Register at activemaribyrnong.com.au

SONS OF THE WEST

EVERY TUESDAY FROM
17 MARCH – 26 MAY, 7-9PM
RECWEST FOOTSCRAY
EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM
18 MARCH – 27 MAY
RECWEST BRAYBROOK

Sons of the West is a free 10-week men's health program, which aims to improve the physical, mental and social health of men, aged 18 years and over, who live or work in the City of Maribyrnong. Each week the program includes an hour of key health information on a range of different topics followed by an hour of physical activity.

For registration details please visit sonsofthewest.org.au

EATING IN HARMONY

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH, 12.30PM
BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

In a celebration of food and culture, come along and enjoy traditional dishes from cuisines all around the world, cooked right here in the City of Maribyrnong by our very own community members. This free event will also feature multicultural entertainment and activities.

EAT DRINK WESTSIDE – MELBOURNE FOOD AND WINE FESTIVAL

19-29 MARCH
VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Discover new places to eat, drink and be entertained in Melbourne's west with 17 delicious events running as part of the 2020 Melbourne Food & Wine Festival. Visit mfwf.com.au/eatdrinkwestside for more details and to purchase tickets.

HARMONY FEAST

SUNDAY 22 MARCH, 12-3PM
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Try homemade dishes from all around the world and celebrate our multiculturalism in the annual Harmony Feast. Part of Cultural Diversity Week, Harmony Feast is the nineteenth annual Feast which celebrates our cultural diversity and promotes inclusion, understanding and respect across cultures. The Feast, which is cooked mostly by locals, features an abundance of traditional dishes from around the world including vegetarian and halal options.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH, 6-9PM
MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

Small and medium business owners are invited to learn about legal requirements in business and how to protect and grow their business in this three-hour workshop by Tania White, principal lawyer of boutique commercial legal practice and business consultancy, Cross the T. Bookings: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business

MARIBYRNONG COMMUNITY MARKET

FRIDAY 27 MARCH, 5.30-8.30PM
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Explore all the artisanal products our local creatives and artists have to offer at the annual Maribyrnong Community Market. Comprising of up to 45 stalls, the market will highlight a range of local creatives, including local jewellery makers, artists, candle makers and clothes makers, along with yummy food vans and free, live entertainment.

WOMINJEKA FESTIVAL

3-5 APRIL, VARIOUS TIMES
FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

The much-loved Wominjeka Festival returns to FCAC for its tenth anniversary. Celebrating the local environment and culture of the West, it is an invitation to gather on the banks of the Maribyrnong River to bring all people who dwell on the Kulin lands together. For the full program visit footscrayarts.com

**MOMO FEST: NEPALESE DUMPLING FESTIVAL**

4-5 APRIL, VARIOUS TIMES
FOOTSCRAY PARK

Momos are known as food that bring families and friends together. You will be spoilt for choice at this festival with plenty of food stalls, live music, DJs, multicultural performances, roving entertainment, rides, games and competitions.

STARTING A BUSINESS FOR NEW MIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

MONDAY 6 APRIL, 6-9.30PM
MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

Take your business ideas to the next level and learn about the Australian business culture and legislation to help plan, prepare and test your idea before going live! This group workshop includes a free follow-up, one-on-one mentoring session. Bookings:

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

COMEDY OUT WEST OPEN MIC NIGHT

FRIDAY 17 APRIL, 7.30–9.30PM
KINDRED STUDIOS, YARRAVILLE

The Comedy Out West (COW) Open Mic Night returns to the west for its sixth edition. This is a night filled with comedy not quite raw, more medium-to-well done, as local and imported comedians assemble in the west to battle it out for the all-important audience vote.

MADE IN BRAYBROOK

SATURDAY 18 APRIL, 10AM–2PM
CENTRAL WEST SHOPPING CENTRE

From paintings to jewellery and everything in between, the Made in Braybrook pop-up market is a monthly event where you can purchase beautiful handmade gifts while promoting the network of local artists and creatives.

AFRICA DAY SPORTS FESTIVAL

18 APRIL, 10AM–5PM
HENRY TURNER SOUTH RESERVE

Get your team together and enjoy a day of healthy competition or just head down to support your favourite sports people. This is a day filled with team comradery, food stalls and entertainment whilst you cheer on your team!

SETTING SUN FILM FESTIVAL

6–12 MAY, VARIOUS TIMES
SUN THEATRE AND KINDRED STUDIOS, YARRAVILLE

Starting as a short film festival in 2014 to showcase the film-making community in Melbourne's West, the Setting Sun Film Festival has now grown a national and international reputation attracting entries from around the world.

CELEBRATING NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK

FRIDAY 15 MAY, 4.30–6.30PM
MAIDSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

This open house evening features hands-on activities for all ages and is a great way to meet tutors and representatives from the Community Groups, and learn about the programs and activities on offer at the centre.

GOOD BEER WEEK

15–24 MAY
VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

11 events over 9 days at some of the West's best beer venues including Hope Nation, Mr West and Navi.

HRAFF WESTSIDE – HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS AND FILM FESTIVAL

16 MAY
VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

A series of events focusing on the experiences of migrant and Indigenous communities that co-exist in the Maribyrnong community.

TAKING YOUR BUSINESS ONLINE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

THURSDAY 21 MAY, 6–8PM
MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

Build your knowledge of all things digital, from online advertising to search engines, technical requirements and more, to prepare you in taking your business into the digital space! Whether you are an upcoming online business or a bricks and mortar business, this workshop is the perfect tool to equip you with the latest digital tricks and tips!

Bookings: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/city-of-maribyrnong-19887199699>

THE BIGGEST MORNING TEA

THURSDAY 28 MAY, 10.30AM–12PM
BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB

Come and enjoy a homemade cake, a hot drink and support the Cancer Council in the annual Biggest Morning Tea to help raise funds for lifesaving cancer research, prevention, support programs and information.



JAZZ OUT WEST – MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

31 MAY, 12–4PM YARRAVILLE VILLAGE POP-UP PARK

Kick-back and enjoy a free afternoon program of Jazz for all ages as part of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

LIBRARIES

Find out what is on at your local library this autumn.

WRITERS' GROUPS

VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES
ALL LIBRARIES

Are you interested in writing? Are you an accomplished or budding author? Are you looking for ideas, information and support? Join one of our Writers' Groups that aims at providing support and encouragement for local writers.

SPANISH LITERATURE GROUP

WEDNESDAYS AT 2PM
MARIBYRNONG LIBRARY

Connect with other Spanish literature enthusiasts in the Maribyrnong community.

CHINESE BOOK GROUP

THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH
AT 10.30AM
FOOTSCRAY LIBRARY

Connect with other Mandarin/Cantonese literature enthusiasts in your local community.

MOBILE DEVICE ASSISTANCE

VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES
FOOTSCRAY AND BRAYBROOK
LIBRARIES

Bring your eBook reader, smart phone or tablet with you and we'll do our best to answer your questions and help you troubleshoot any issues.

CODE CLUB

VARIOUS DATES, TIMES
AND LOCATIONS

Children aged 8-15 years can put their digital skills to the test and learn how to design their own computer games, animations and interactive stories using the programming language, Scratch.

TUESDAY TECHIES

TUESDAY TECHIES
TUESDAYS, 4-5PM
BRAYBROOK LIBRARY

Children can come and discover different technologies in this four-week course and create their own robots, digital codes and more!

YARRAVILLE KID'S BOOK GROUP

TUESDAYS, 3.30-4.30PM
YARRAVILLE LIBRARY

In this strictly kids-only club, children can learn all about the latest book trends and spend time with fellow readers soaking up all of the books that the library has to offer!

Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library to find out about all the events taking place at our libraries.

LEARNING LAB

Come along for a range of free skills based workshops for Maribyrnong community members, volunteers and those working in the not-for-profit sector who are interested in applying for grants and developing projects, held at Footscray Town Hall.

GOVERNING A COMMUNITY
ORGANISATION

WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH, 6-8.30PM

COMMITTEE ROLES &
RESPONSIBILITIES

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH, 6-8.30PM

DEVELOPING GRANT IDEAS AND
HOW TO FORM PARTNERSHIPS

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL, 6-8.30PM

BUDGETING -
HOW DOES IT WORK?

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL, 6-8.30PM

UNDERSTANDING & ASSESSING
DATA AND LOCAL STATISTICS

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY, 6-8.30PM

PROJECT PLANNING AND DESIGN

WEDNESDAY 20 MAY, 6-8.30PM

Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/learninglab for full details and to register

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



PARENT SEMINARS

Keen to learn more about cybersafety and how you can build resilience in children? Join us at the following seminars for parents and carers of children 0-12 years.

CYBERSAFETY

This presentation explores the latest research into online safety, technology trends and the benefits and risks of social media. It includes case studies and targeted advice on helping young people to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

Thursday 12 March, 6.30-8pm

Footscray Library 56 Paisley St, Footscray

Bookings: safetyonline.eventbrite.com.au

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHILDREN

This interactive workshop will encourage parents to build their children's resilience, problem solving, independence, optimism and skills in social competence. Social worker and teacher, Chris Daicos, will assist you in reflecting on parenting practices and encourage you in supporting your children to develop independence with the thinking 'let's not do for children what they can do for themselves'.

Wednesday 10 June, 6.30-8.30pm

Footscray City Primary School 10 Hyde St, Footscray

Cost: \$10, free for concession card holders

Bookings from 14 April: parentcarerseminar.eventbrite.com.au

These seminars are part of an ongoing year round series presented by Council to support parents in raising their children. Other sessions are being planned for 2020, and we encourage parents and carers to get in touch via email with topic suggestions for consideration – infoearlyyears@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

IMMUNISATIONS

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

The immunisation program for 2020 has now begun, and there are appointments available each week at Braybrook Community Hub (Tuesdays), Footscray Town Hall (Wednesdays), and Gowrie Clare Court (Thursday). All appointments can be made by calling 9688 0501 or via the online booking request form at www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mch.

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mch

Open sessions are also available for immunisations, and are held once a month from 10am-12pm at Maribyrnong Library (second Monday of each month from 10am-12pm), Maidstone Child and Family Centre (third Monday of each month from 10am-12pm), RecWest Footscray (first Monday of each month from 10am-12pm), and Footscray Town Hall (fourth Tuesday of each month from 4-6pm). **For more information, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)**

YOUTH PROGRAM RECOGNISED

The Western English Language School's Human Relations Program, which is run in partnership with Women's Health West, cohealth, Centre for Culture Ethnicity and Health, and Maribyrnong City Council, won the Victorian Public Healthcare – Secretary's Award for excellence in culturally diverse health in December 2019.

The program aims to resource newly-arrived teenage students, from interrupted schooling backgrounds, with respectful relationships and reproductive health knowledge so that they can make safe and informed decisions about their futures.

Running for 18 years, the program allows the students to develop a common language and understanding when making more informed decisions, which in turn contributes to an overall healthier and safer community for all.



MINDFUL MARCH

TAKE A MORE MINDFUL APPROACH TO LIFE AND ENJOY FINDING WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE PRESENT MOMENT FULLY

Now more than ever, we have an increasing number of things constantly competing for our attention. Learning the art of being present, curious and compassionate with ourselves and others are important life skills, and being more mindful enhances our wellbeing, sense of self and connection to our community, family and friends.

Mindful March is a month-long event that aims to raise awareness of the ways and places in the west where community members can experience a variety of activities and experiences that can cultivate a more mindful approach to life.

Cathy Koman, founder of Mindful Storytelling, has been the driving force behind Mindful March, which came about from her passion for wanting to engage and support families to learn about mindfulness.

'Mindfulness is bringing your attention to your body, breathe, thoughts and actions, now, in this moment, while embracing

an attitude of non-judgement and curiosity,' Cathy said. During the month of March, a range of free workshops, classes and talks will take place throughout our libraries, community centres and local businesses.

'Mindful March will have something for everyone – there are yoga classes, children's dance, tai chi, mindfulness and meditation in the workplace, women's circles, sessions supporting us to be mindful about our health and the choices we make for ourselves and the world, to name a few. There will also be an online program that schools, teachers, families and community members can join which follows a sequence of mindfulness activities that are delivered to your inbox daily,' Cathy continued.

All sessions and activities are free and designed to support families and community members to learn about mindfulness and other tools that enhance our sense of wellbeing, connection to the people in our lives and thus celebrating the gift of being present together.

'I am hoping that community members find a new activity that enhances their wellbeing, supports them to reframe and put their thoughts into perspective so that they can be here now,' Cathy said.

For more information about Mindful March and the activities taking place throughout the month, visit mindfulmarch.org.au



AUTUMN BOOK BINGE

Give Netflix the flick and stay entertained with some binge-worthy books this autumn

Research shows that reading has positive benefits on a person's health, wellbeing and personal development, and reading for pleasure plays a significant role in a person's happiness and success.

In an effort to encourage people to read more, the State Library of Victoria is inviting the community to participate in the Autumn Book Binge.

There are nine categories of topics/genres to choose from – including books set in Victoria, biographies, and books published in the last 12 months – with a range of suggested titles in each category.

Throughout the Book Binge, which will take place from March to May, the challenge is to read one book from each category for a chance to win one of three Readings book store vouchers that are up for grabs.

So head in to your local library to find out how you can take part in the challenge.

APP-TASTIC

Maribyrnong Libraries has launched a new app, with all things library related now in the one place

Now available on all iOS and Android devices, the Maribyrnong Libraries app is your new one stop show for everything library related.

Users will be able to manage their library accounts, search the library catalogue, renew and reserve collection items, and see what's on at your local branch. You will also be able to store multiple barcodes within the app so you don't have to bring your library card with you to borrow.

The app features integration with many of your favourite eResources including BorrowBox, Libby, Kanopy, PressReader and more. Search for Maribyrnong Libraries in the App Store or Google Play Store and download today.

NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

Celebrate books and literacy at your local library this May.

On Wednesday 27 May, libraries, schools, preschools, childcare centres, bookshops and many other locations across Australia will read the same book at 11am as part of National Simultaneous Storytime.

Now in its 20th year, the storytime is held annually and a new picture book that is written by an Australian author is chosen each year. This year, a hilarious tale of two chooks – Whitney and Britney: Chicken Divas by Lucinda Gifford – will be read for National Simultaneous Storytime.

Braybrook, Footscray, Maribyrnong, West Footscray and Yarraville libraries will take part in the storytime, with a range of fun activities also taking place.



HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Unable to visit the library?

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

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, frail, aged or a resident in a care facility.

For more information contact the library on 9688 0290 and ask about the Home Library Service.

Volunteer with the Home Library Service

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

Do you have time, a positive approach and an interest in working with frail and disabled residents? We are seeking expressions of interest from prospective volunteers to contribute to the provision of a high quality home library service.

For more information on volunteering with the Home Library Service please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/hls or contact the library on **9688 0290**

CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE



A SPLASH OF COLOUR FOR MADDERN SQUARE

To celebrate 40 years since its official opening, Maddern Square in Footscray received a mini-makeover complete with colourful new street furniture.

Residents and visitors alike can enjoy the bright new addition of three sets of fixed cafe tables and seating along with newly resurfaced concrete areas.

Unveiled in November 1979, Maddern Square was named after former Mayor and Councillor Frederick Maddern for his important work in forming grassroots connections between Council and the local business community in Footscray. The square was originally designed as a quiet resting place to complement the establishment of Australia's first pedestrian mall, Nicholson Street Mall.

Photo taken by Damjam Janevski, courtesy of StarWeekly

SCOVELL RESERVE PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT

Maidstone's newest sporting pavilion at Scovell Reserve is now complete and ready to home both local clubs, Footscray United Cricket Club and Maidstone United Soccer Club.

Supported by the Victorian Government, the redeveloped pavilion now features four unisex changing rooms with amenities, a commercial kitchen, and a large multi-purpose room for club and community activities and functions; the new Pavilion will also be made available for community use outside of club occupied hours.



The new works have been complemented by fresh landscaping, and soon the three existing buildings will be demolished to enable an extension of the existing perimeter footpath.



40KM/H IN YARRAVILLE, KINGSVILLE AND FOOTSCRAY

Following the successful implementation of reduced speed limits in Seddon and parts of Yarraville in early 2019, we will now reduce speed limits on Council owned roads in Kingsville, and remaining parts of Yarraville and Footscray.

In partnership with VicRoads, we will lower the speed limit on local roads to 40 kilometres per hour from early April.

Reduced speed limits will also be rolled out across remaining suburbs in the municipality in a phased approach over the next three years.

By lowering the speed limit it will reduce the risk of injury or fatality and encourage more residents to use more sustainable methods of transports like walking or cycling. It is also expected that lowering the speed limit will also reduce existing road congestion, enhance fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air and noise pollution.

For more information and a map of the area please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/SaferLocalRoads

SHOPPING STRIP IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Mitchell Street shopping strip in Maidstone is the first of ten projects to receive improvement works to revamp the area for business owners and local shoppers.

Mitchell Street received new bench seating, asphalt resurfacing, and newly painted parking bays with wheel stops. To coincide with our planting season in late March to early April, eight new trees will be planted along the strip.

Shopping strips in Churchill Avenue in Maidstone, South Road in Braybrook and Wembley Avenue in Yarraville will also receive upgrades similar to Mitchell Street.



WELCOMING OUR NEWEST CITIZENS

On 26 January, 80 people became Australian citizens in our first Citizenship Ceremonies for the year

Citizenship ceremonies are a significant milestone, and for many, they are the final step in the journey to becoming an Australian.

The ceremonies, which are held multiple times a month, bring us together and remind us how lucky we are to be living in such a peaceful and free nation.

Last year alone, over 800 people from more than 50 countries took the pledge in ceremonies held at Footscray Town Hall, officially becoming Australian citizens.

The Honourable David Coleman MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs said:

“Australia has succeeded as a nation by embracing – and defending – our national values. We believe in freedom, in the rule of law, in democracy. We believe that all people are equal, regardless of their cultural background, gender, race or religion.”

Maribyrnong is one of the most diverse communities in Victoria, with 40 per cent of residents born outside Australia. The people who call our city home come from over 135 different countries and speak more than 80 languages.

Our strength as a City comes from our diversity, and we can't wait to welcome more citizens to Maribyrnong throughout the year.

SONS OF THE WEST RETURNS THIS MARCH

Australia's biggest men's health program is back for 2020

Sons of the West, a free health program for men aged 18 and over, aims to improve participants' mental health and physical health through a series of workshops, presentations events and experiences.

The ten week program helps men learn about their health and wellbeing and caters for all levels of knowledge and fitness, and kicks off on 17 March in West Footscray, and 18 March in Braybrook.

The sessions aim to provide participants with a greater understanding of the importance of incorporating physical exercise into their daily lives in a fun, achievable

and enjoyable way.

Facilitated by qualified exercise physiologists, the program covers physical activity, physical education, nutrition, and mental health.

Sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings in West Footscray and Wednesday evenings in Braybrook.

To be a part of Australia's biggest men's health program, all you need to do is register online or attend one of the registration nights and you're on your way to a healthier and happier lifestyle.

For more information and to register, visit sonsofthewest.org.au

West Footscray

Tuesdays 7-9pm, weekly from
17 March until 26 May
RecWest Footscray

Braybrook

Wednesdays 6-8pm, weekly from
18 March until 27 May
RecWest Braybrook



#GenerationEquality

Come together this International Women's Day as we collectively work towards a gender equal world.

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. The year 2020 is a pivotal year for advancing gender equality worldwide, as the global community takes stock of progress made for women's rights.

The theme of this year's IWD is *I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights*, which draws attention to the fact that gender equality is essential for economies and communities to thrive, and that a gender equal world can be healthier, wealthier and more harmonious.

The multigenerational campaign marks the galvanising moment in the gender equality movement, the emerging global consensus is that despite some progress, today, not a single country can claim to have achieved gender equality.

2020 represents an opportunity to mobilise global action and progress conversations on how we continue to work together for a gender equal world.

To find out how Council is marking International Women's Day, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/IWD



BOOSTING OUR BUSINESSES WITH BID GRANTS



Our Business Improvement District (BID) grant program boosts our business districts, funding innovative ways to increase the profile of local traders and lets the wider community know what's on offer.

BID grants are available for trader associations and groups of five or more businesses across the city - the next funding round opens May 2020.

Applications for funding between \$1,000-\$50,000 should meet one or more of the following objectives:

- > Promote destination marketing and other opportunities to increase trade and business opportunities.
- > Strengthen business districts through improved public realm initiatives.
- > Increase the viability of business districts through the development of innovative business practices.
- > Promote and strengthen business groups that have a shared and common economic interest.

Projects that make the night-time economy come alive will be highly regarded by the Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee that decide on the successful applications.

The West Wedding Collective was one of 2019's successful applications. This innovative group of creative services and suppliers based in the inner west, offers those planning their Big Day a one-stop-shop as 'creators of unforgettable memories'.

It brings together the businesses of Abbey Road Classic Car Hire, Annette of Melbourne, Cakes and Vases, Casa Di Tutti, Chiccreative, Benny Roff Marriage Celebrant, Kirina Hair and Makeup, Memory Box Studios, On Trend Event Hire, The Line, Uniform Black and Videoboutique with locally based marketing agency Inka Creative supporting the group.

Other successful 2019 applicants included: Footscray Traders Association, Yarraville Traders Association, Seddon Village Traders Association, West Footscray Traders Association and the Buckley Street group of businesses that include Lay Low Bar, Luxe Cutters, 'Rocco's Deli, The Exercise Room, The Brotherhood Yiros and Grill.

For further information, contact Council's Economic Development team at business@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or (03) 9688 0200.

FOR THE LOVE OF BRAYBROOK



LOCAL ARTIST AMANDA NEVILLE HAS BEEN WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE A MOSAIC COFFEE TABLE

As part of the Braybrook Community Engaged Artist in Residence Program, which provides an opportunity for artists to work with and celebrate the communities of Braybrook, Amanda Neville wanted to create a piece of public art for Braybrook Community Hub.

'I think it's really important for the local community to be involved with creating artworks that will be in their space,' Amanda said.

Amanda started the project by asking the community what they love most about Braybrook. A number of themes came from the feedback

that was gathered: people and community, diversity, friendliness and the opportunity to make new friends, nature, to name a few.

The community's love for Braybrook Community Hub was another strong theme to come from the feedback, with the community saying that the Hub is a 'well used and appreciated space' that enriches everyone's lives through human relationships that are based on support, respect, inclusiveness, and safety – everyone is given an opportunity to grow and flourish.

With these ideas in mind, Amanda went away and created four designs for the coffee table, incorporating universal symbolism and colour that reflect the atmosphere at the Hub and the strong sense of community in Braybrook.

The community was then invited to vote on the four designs to decide on the final option for the table, and then work with Amanda during a number of workshops to create the mosaic.

'It has been a great way for community members to meet new people, perhaps people they ordinarily wouldn't meet, and find a common ground in learning a new skill and having the satisfaction and joy of creating something that will be a permanent fixture in Braybrook Community Hub,' Amanda said.

Following the final workshops in March, the finished product will now become a permanent piece in the foyer of the Braybrook Community Hub, to be enjoyed by those who use the space.

If you would like to contribute to the creation of the mosaic table, head along to Braybrook Community Hub and join Amanda at the following times:

Tuesday 3 March, 10am-2pm

Wednesday 4 March, 12-5pm

Tuesday 10 March, 10am-2pm

Wednesday 11 March, 10am-5pm

Saturday 14 March, 10.30am-3.30pm

Tuesday 17 March, 10am-2pm

Wednesday 18 March, 12-5pm

Tuesday 24 March, 10am-2pm



ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS HIGHEST IN 15 YEARS

Resident's overall satisfaction with Council services increased three per cent on last year's Annual Community Survey results, now reaching the highest level in 15 years.

The top performing services that the community are most happy with are library services, waste and recycling services, community centres and services for children, as well as neighbourhood houses, playgrounds, Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre and festivals and events.

We constantly review our services and we aim to deliver quality services to all our residents. The annual survey results provide us with valuable insight into what the community think of our services as well as areas that we can plan specific improvements on in order to meet their expectations. Some of the issues that residents want us to focus on over

the next 12 months include traffic management; parking; road maintenance and repairs; safety, policing and crime; planning and development; recycling services and facilities, with particular attention placed on ensuring that recycling is not sent to landfill. These issues are consistent with those recorded in recent years.

Conducted on our behalf by Metropolis Research, the survey involved face-to-face interviews with 800 randomly selected households from each of the suburbs across the municipality between August and September 2019. Metropolis Research conduct annual community surveys for many councils throughout metropolitan Melbourne.

The results of the 2019 Annual Community Survey are available on our website and will be reported in the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

FESTIVAL CITY



COMEDY OUT WEST

Laugh out loud at the COW Open Mic Night!

The much-loved Comedy out West (COW) Open Mic Night returns for its sixth year at Kindred Studios on Friday 17 April as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

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.

The evening gives you, the audience, the power to decide who takes the award for the best comedian in the west and gets to walk away with the much coveted cow bell for 2020.

Last year's winner, Sam Gebreselassie, beat 11 hopefuls by winning over the audience and taking home the COW Bell Award for 2019. Sam is a big fan

of local, grass-roots comedy events.

"It is so beneficial to have these events because usually we are practicing our material in small rooms to other comedians," Sam said.

"To have a live community audience listen to the material you've been working so hard to perfect is amazing and drives you to become better," he continued.

So make sure you join us for a free night out (bookings required) filled with belly aching and tear-jerky laughs!

COW Open Mic Night 2020
Kindred Studios Creative Space,
3 Harris Street, Yarraville
Friday 17 April, 7.30-9.30pm
Free, registrations essential
festivalcity.com.au

WOMINJEKA

Celebrate the local environment and culture in the West at Wominjeka Festival this April. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Wominjeka is a Ngargee (gathering for celebration), a Kulin cultural event, teaching and sharing from the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the greater Kulin nation.

Taking place at Footscray Community Arts Centre, it is an invitation to gather on the banks of the Maribyrnong to bring community – all people who dwell on Kulin lands – together.

Wominjeka's tradition is steeped in the values of home, heart, creativity, connection and culture, and this year, emerging First Nations artists will highlight and discuss environmental relationships and current issues through creating artworks, participating in yarnning circles, and hosting ceremony.

Through use of ephemera, the Festival will be a celebration of legacy, responsibility, and custodianship with the earth and its descendants.

Wominjeka Festival
3-5 April
Footscray Community
Arts Centre

footscrayarts.com.au

CRAFTWORK ROASTING CO.



A specialty coffee roaster based in Yarraville, Craftwork Roasting Co. is a group of coffee professionals dedicated to producing exceptional coffee. Sourcing high quality specialty coffee that is traceable back to the farm and producers is a priority for the team.

Head Roaster Caleb said that it is important to them to support small independent farmers.

"Ninety-five percent of the world's coffee producers are smallholders and we purchase our coffee from a select number of these growers. We believe in a sustainable model for purchasing coffee by supporting specific smallholders year on year," Caleb said.

"As a result of this unique supply opportunity, we have the ability to showcase some truly exceptional coffee from across the globe. Authentic specialty coffee, to the fullest extent of the word," Caleb continued.

For the best results, the coffee is roasted in small batch lots, which enables the team to create detailed roast profiles bringing out the best flavour characteristics of each coffee. "Even if you don't understand the science, you will taste the difference!" Caleb said.

Strong Suit is their best seller and the ultimate crowd pleaser – it is extremely versatile as it is made up of carefully selected in season specialty coffee, resulting in a sweet, balanced and well-rounded cup with or without milk. Currently consisting of 75 percent Colombia and 25 percent Guatemala, expect notes of caramel, hazelnut and apricot. If a delicate option is more your style, give Craftwork Roasting Co.'s flagship blend, Hall Street, a try – with 60 percent Colombia and 40 percent Rwanda, you can expect notes of orange, raisin and toffee. With an ever evolving portfolio of coffees to be appreciated, alongside their consistent house blends, Craftwork Roasting Co. has something for every coffee connoisseur.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR



RIVER WARD

**CR SARAH CARTER
MAYOR**

E: cr.carter@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0432 139 612



STONY CREEK WARD

CR GINA HUYNH
E: cr.huynh@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0429 324 484



**CR MEGAN BRIDGER-DARLING
DEPUTY MAYOR**

E: cr.bridger-darling@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0429 181 326



YARRAVILLE WARD

CR CUC LAM
E: cr.lam@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0429 383 099



YARRAVILLE WARD

CR SIMON CRAWFORD
E: cr.crawford@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0429 388 196



YARRAVILLE WARD

CR MIA MCGREGOR
E: cr.mcgregor@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0429 236 044



YARRAVILLE WARD

CR MARTIN ZAKHAROV
E: cr.zakharov@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Ph: 0432 139 613

You can also write to your Ward Councillor:
c/- Maribyrnong City Council, PO Box 58, Footscray 3011.
If you don't know who your Ward Councillor is, please contact Customer Service on 9688 0200 or fax 9687 7793.

For requests, comments and questions about Council services and programs, go to www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or call Customer Service on 9688 0200.

Disclaimer: Although all due care has been taken in the preparation of the Maribyrnong Messenger and its contents, Maribyrnong City Council does not accept any liability for any statement, opinions, errors or omissions contained herein. Fees quoted are subject to change without notice. Event details are subject to change without notice. All information has been collected according to privacy information guidelines.



<http://twitter.com/MaribyrnongCC> / www.facebook.com/Maribyrnong

MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

Street Address: Cnr. Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray

Postal Address: PO Box 58, Footscray, Victoria 3011

Phone: 9688 0200 Fax: 9687 7793

After Hours/Emergency: 9688 0200

Email: email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



NRS: 133 677 OR 1300 555 727
www.relayservice.com.au



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL