

MARIBYRNONG



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MESSENGER

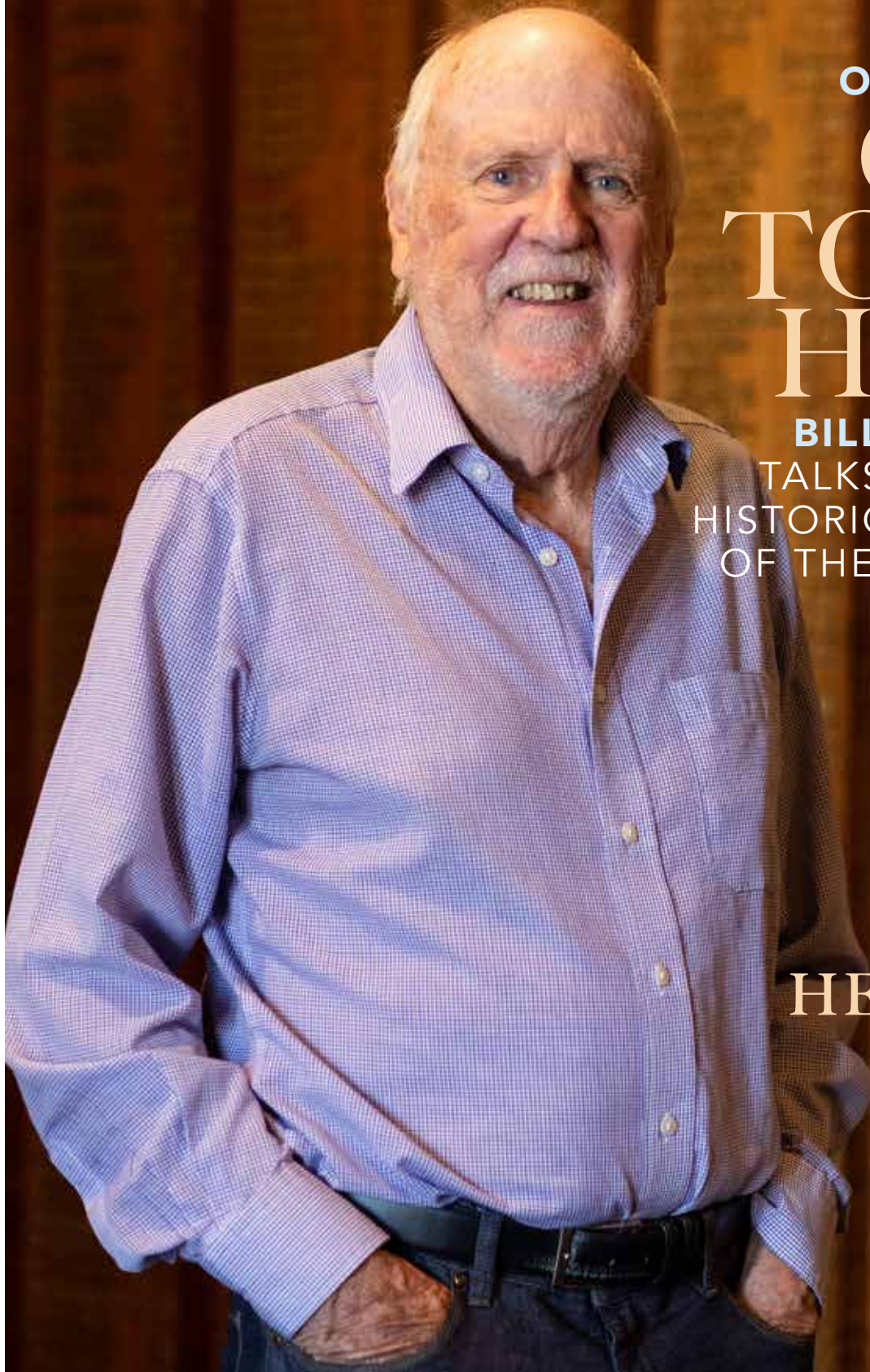
Autumn 2022

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

OUR HISTORY OUR TOWN HALL

BILL HORROCKS
TALKS ABOUT THE
HISTORICAL ASPECTS
OF THE FOOTSCRAY
TOWN HALL

LOOKING
AFTER OUR
UNIQUE
HERITAGE



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the autumn edition of Maribyrnong Messenger.

Just as the seasons change, so does our City. It has been shaped by generations of diverse communities, from our First Nations peoples to early settlers to the many waves of immigration and industry.

This makes ours truly a one of a kind City in its combination of cultural, social, natural and industrial heritage which is also one of the things that is attracting increasing numbers of people who want to live, work and play here.

It is important, even as we grow and continue to develop, that we stay true to our roots, our heritage and protect it for future generations.

Our new Heritage Strategy, is about ensuring Maribyrnong's important traditions, memories, objects, natural features, buildings and places are understood and safe-guarded. This document will establish a framework to identify, protect and promote our heritage.

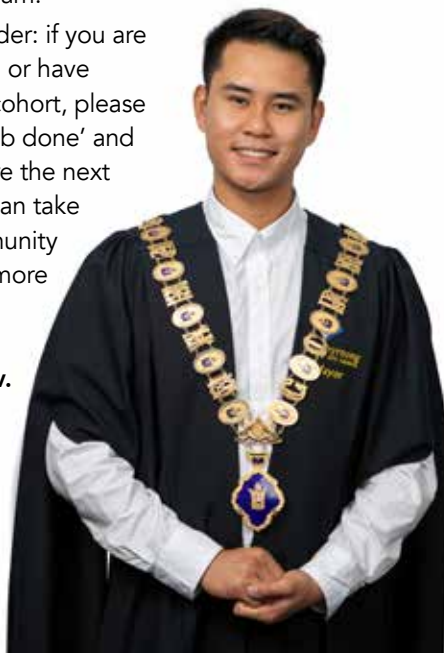
Because the past belongs to all of us, we want to understand the things that are important to you regarding our heritage so this can also be considered in our future planning. Find out more about this project on page 3.

Our local small businesses shape our City too, and as a way to help them continue to prosper and connect with other businesses, Council last year introduced the Business Elevate Program.

The program, which was extremely popular, helped connect local businesses with other local services and suppliers to 'Elevate' their businesses, by either helping them overcome a weakness, or amplifying a strength. Skip to page 7 to read about the program.

Also a friendly reminder: if you are due for your booster, or have children in the 5-11 cohort, please book in to 'get the jab done' and choose vax. These are the next important steps we can take to support our community and each other. For more information please visit our website at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/choosevax

Cr Anthony Tran
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

MARCH

Tuesday 15, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 22, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

APRIL

Tuesday 12, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 26, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

MAY

Tuesday 3, 4.30pm: Enterprise Maribyrnong Delegated Committee

Tuesday 17, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 24, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

In line with the advice from the Department of Health, Council meetings will be closed to the public until further notice.

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's YouTube channel and community members can submit questions for public question online by 12pm on the day of the meeting.

Please note the meeting process and schedule is current at the time of printing. Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings or phone **9688 0200** for more information.

LOOKING AFTER OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE



**We are reviewing how we identify, protect and promote our heritage
and want to hear what you think.**

Our City has been shaped by generations of diverse communities and as we grow, we want to ensure Maribyrnong's important traditions, memories, objects, natural features, buildings and places are understood and safeguarded for future generations.

We want to know:

- > What does Maribyrnong's heritage mean to you?
- > What key heritage features are important to you?
- > What should be prioritised in future?
- > What are we doing well and what can we improve in recognising and managing our heritage?

This is the first step in our engagement process and we will use your feedback to prepare an issues and opportunity paper that we will share with you for further discussion.

Share your thoughts and find out more by visiting yourcityyourvoice.com.au/heritage



OUR HISTORY

OUR TOWN HALL

There's a memorial at the top of the winding marble staircase at the Footscray Town Hall that some may pass without a second glance, while the enlightened linger, hair on end at the seemingly never ending rows of names – more than 2,000 names of locals – who served in World War I (1914-18).

Bill Horrocks, who is a former Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong and former President of the Footscray Historical Society, is one of the enlightened ones. He places a gentle hand on the Honour Board's gold painted names.

"It's probably the largest honour board in Australia, a quarter of those names are of deceased soldiers – didn't come back – and not every Footscray person is on that board," he notes.

Made with Blackwood panels and rounded pillars, it records the names of soldiers from Yarraville and Footscray who served in the Great War. Originally designed to support 1,200 names, the Honour Board doubled in size to accommodate the expanding list of locals enlisting, which by August 1917 had significantly increased. At the time of his presidency of the historic

society in 2016, Mr Horrocks was involved in setting up a website to help uncover the stories behind the names.

"Look at the Millers," he says as he points to nine surnames, rolling from one to another on the board.

By logging onto the website, it is possible to gain some insight into the lives of those who lived and served in the area.

There were Millers who fought and returned in 1918 to wives and family, and then among the grieving there were the parents, George and Kate, who lived in Gordon Street, Footscray. They lost two boys. Their eldest Percy – a moulder by trade – was killed in action in Gallipoli in 1915 six months after enlisting. He was 21 and has 'no known grave'. Walter – a cabinetmaker before enlisting – fought for 10 months and turned 20 in the heat of battle before he was killed in action. He is buried in France.

Their story is among 1,500 recognised by digitised handwritten certificates of appreciation. Families and friends of those who served, and sometimes the soldiers themselves, provided the information of the lives of these ANZACs who contributed to their local communities then went to the front lines. Their sacrifice is part of the nation's story. Just as the Honour Board, and the Footscray Town Hall where it stands, contribute to the national story.

"To open that Honour Board to a whole range of people who had no idea that some of their relatives are on there, is important," Mr Horrocks explains. "It is part of our history, Australia's history... the First World War was very terrible from the point of view of the people who volunteered and served," he continues, as well as those left behind. "That Honour Board should be accessible, that's how you keep history alive."

Originally installed in the previous Town Hall in 1921, the Honour Board was

carefully transported and reinstated in the new administration building. It was a feature of a virtual tour of the historic Town Hall building hosted during COVID-19 as part of the Open House Melbourne program, which provides opportunity for a look inside properties of note by interested visitors from across Melbourne. You can take the tour at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/tour

"The actual history is fascinating, the Town Hall is a unique building," and not just for its design, "it has been the centre of decision making for the City for many years, and is important from this aspect as well," Mr Horrocks says.

The Town Hall, which still stands today, was built in 1936 to replace the one erected in 1875, which had housed the Municipal Offices, Court House and Post Office. It had in turn replaced the 'old tin shed' – an iron tenement in Moreland Street where the first Council established in 1859, when Footscray became a municipality, first met.

Designed by British born architect, Joseph Plottel, the existing Town Hall was built by A.R.P Crow and Sons. The firm, established in Yarraville by Scottish immigrant Archibald Rae Patterson Crow, in 1886, specialised in highly technical brickwork.

Made from bluestone and freestone the two-storey building is the only example of Romanesque style architecture applied to a civic building in Victoria. It was finished within the year at a cost of forty thousand pounds and is known for its dignified portico – with arches supported by Corinthian influenced columns, an entrance floor with a mosaic of Footscray's coat of arms, unusual brickwork, and the notable elliptical marble staircase.

The building was later extended over several stages, with the last construction works completed in June 1984 – overseen by architect Laurence Attley.

Mr Horrocks was the third Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, established in 1994 following the amalgamation of the

City of Footscray and parts of the City of Sunshine – which was first governed by Commissioners. The first elected Mayor was Mai Ho in 1997 – who was also the first Vietnamese Mayor in Australia.

During his mayoral term in 2000, Mr Horrocks was behind the move to have her portrait, which hangs in the Reception Room, painted in colour. "You'll notice there's portraits on the wall of men in black and white from the nineteenth century and then you have Mai. The only woman and the only one in colour." Local artist Paul Borg secured the commission, which he completed in 2005.

Bill Horrocks served as a Councillor for 10 years, with a second term as Mayor in 2002. "I was helping people as much as I could," he said. "That was important to me."

During his tenure, the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre opened following the closure of the old Footscray Pool, a decision that sparked a number of protests and strong reaction from the community. A retired teacher by profession, he also supported the development of the Braybrook Community Hub, with its library and community centre, increasing learning opportunities in the area.

In many ways he is part of our history through his contribution to civic and community life that he gave willingly. "I loved my time in Footscray and the privilege of serving in a city once known as the Birmingham of the south."

Where its predecessors chose to replace the previous Town Hall completely, the current Council has resolved to renovate the historic building and return it to the community for their use. You can find out more about the project at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/civic-precinct

CREATING CHANGE, ONE COFFEE AT A TIME



Our Community Grants program is an opportunity for local volunteer, community groups and organisations to create the change they want to see in our City.

For the 2021/22 program, there was a particular focus on supporting projects with the potential to build resilience within the community in a post-pandemic world.

Twenty-four projects shared in the \$174,000 to respond to local needs and issues and build an inclusive community. The McAuley Coffee Connections project was among those funded. It aims to bring together women who have experienced family violence and homelessness, providing an opportunity for social connection and to develop coffee and barista skills.

It starts with Lavazza Coffee Company who will initially train eight women in a five-day intensive course to learn skills, including different coffee styles, and how to teach others to use a coffee machine.

Felicity Pringle, from the McAuley Community Services for Women, said residents and staff worked together to conceptualise the program.

"Women shared with us that ongoing COVID-19 restrictions had created challenges in beginning and maintaining social connections. Coffee Connections will provide the continuity of connection that they crave. What better way to build community than over a coffee?" Felicity said.

The participants will be able to use their new skills to run regular 'Coffee Connections' sessions to bring current and former McAuley clients and residents together to build ongoing relationships based on their shared experience of homelessness or the journey to regaining independence after experiencing family violence.

"This program will build on our established Skills For Life program, which allows women who have experienced family violence and/or homelessness to rediscover their purpose, exposing them to opportunities and activities that foster their skills and capabilities," Felicity continued.

For more information on other Community Grant recipients, and on future funding rounds please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitygrants

BUSINESSES IN
MARIBYRNONG

HELPING EACH OTHER

Our small business community has embraced the recently launched Business Elevate Program, which matches small businesses with a panel of Preferred Suppliers to help 'Elevate' the small business, by assisting them to overcome a weakness or boost a strength.

Fiona Johnston, Chartered Accountant and Founder of Peach Business Management is one of 37 to join the Preferred Business Suppliers panel.

"After twenty years of experience in small and medium business, I've seen the wins and challenges of thousands

of businesses. I'm excited to be part of the Elevate Program because I love working with the diverse businesses located in the Inner West. In the last seven years living and working in the City of Maribyrnong I've been blown away by the amount of creativity, ingenuity and passion in our small business community. I love being part of that and helping business owners to thrive financially and emotionally," Miss Johnston said.

"Businesses can help each other by promoting each other, looking for ways to collaborate and support each other, and by buying from each other. Recommending and sharing the amazing businesses around you is a great way to build a strong and resilient

business community while living your own values. Getting out there and meeting other business owners helps you feel less alone, gain skills and benefit from others' experience too." A total of \$70,000 in vouchers, each valued at \$2,000, were distributed to 35 applicants on a 'first in best dressed' basis in mid-January to support the delivery of the program, which was timed during the COVID-19 recovery period to increase business confidence. Businesses interested in participating in the next round, which will open after June 2022, should register on the Maribyrnong Localised platform via maribyrnong.localised.com.au

LET'S TALK

We have a number of community engagement opportunities currently open for community input, and we are keen for you to get involved on the projects that matter to you.



BECOMING A SMARTER CITY

With the rapid acceleration of new technologies, Council is committed to using innovation and technology to support a green, liveable and sustainable environment for our community to enjoy well into the future.

Together with our residents, businesses, industries and partners, we intend to make the most of the opportunities and benefits of digital technologies, data and innovation to keep our community healthy and safe through Smart City initiatives.

Council has already delivered a number of smart city projects, including:

- > a free public WiFi network
- > digital movement counters for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles

- > a number of air quality sensors
- > a network of smart parking sensors
- > digital touch-screen kiosks
- > smart public lighting

We are now looking to continue this Smart City journey more formally, with the development of a draft Smart Cities Strategic Framework that will confirm Council's intentions, plans and initiatives to address local challenges with community focused and technology driven action.

The Framework will also set a course for us to continue to improve energy efficiency, keep our streets clean, decrease traffic congestion and support the smooth delivery of essential services. It will guide Council to better support and respond to the needs of the community with leading technology, skills, infrastructure, and systems.

Now, we want to check with our community that we are on the right track. You can view the draft Smart City Strategic Framework and provide feedback by visiting yourcityyourvoice.com.au/smartcity



VOLUNTEERING IN MARIBYRNONG

Volunteering is a vital part of our tight-knit community and a great way to give your time and expertise to give back by supporting community programs and organisations.

Because we know contemporary volunteering is evolving, we sought input from the community in 2021 about ways we can strengthen volunteering and its infrastructure in our community to develop an integrated model of civic participation.

We used this feedback to develop our draft Maribyrnong People and Participation Strategy to support people to stay connected and participate in community life. It also aims to ensure an equitable and inclusive approach that will result in civic participation and leadership from across the municipality. Recognising the COVID-19 environment, we are now keen to continue the conversation to understand if the pandemic has had an impact on your ability or willingness to volunteer, and whether there are any other barriers for getting involved in the community in a voluntary capacity, before finalising the strategy.

Head to yourcityyourvoice.com.au/volunteer to view the draft Strategy and share your thoughts.

COUNCIL WALKING THE TALK ON REDUCING HARM FROM GAMBLING

Electronic gambling machines – colloquially known as ‘the pokies’ – are recognised as one of the most harmful gambling products in Australia, accounting for around half the 24 billion dollars spent on gambling in 2017/18.

Far from a harmless leisure activity, ‘playing the pokies’ is becoming increasingly recognised as a public health concern with harm extending beyond financial losses to health and social issues such as depression, family violence and other criminal activities.

There are 471 electronic gaming machines across nine venues in Maribyrnong. This is the maximum allowed under law. Combined they provide opportunity to gamble 24 hours a day seven days a week and take in tens of millions of dollars each year – from \$13 million in 1992-93 to \$58 million in 2019.

Council’s draft Reducing Harm from Gambling Policy seeks to address the impact from gambling in all forms, though electronic gaming machines feature more than other forms given this is the area where Council has the most influence. The draft document confirms Council’s intent to continue advocating to State Government for gambling reforms, including the introduction of a \$1 maximum bet, removal of ATMs and cash machines from gambling venues, and reduced operating hours with a mandatory 2am to 6am shutdown. Council has previously resolved not to encourage or promote gambling through its facilities, programs or services, and the Policy proposes it continue not supporting leases for new operators and restricting additional pokies on Council-owned land where possible.

Additionally it is also proposing it will not hold official meetings, events or community activities at gaming venues. The community will be able to provide their feedback on the draft document by visiting yourcityyourvoice.com.au/gambling

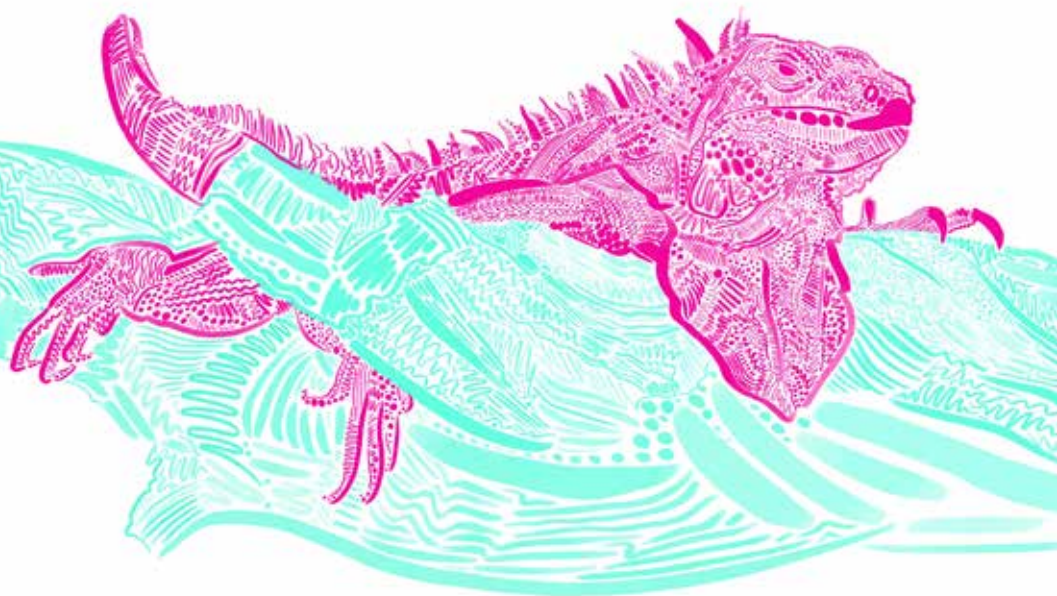
WE’RE REVIEWING THE WAY WE CARE FOR YOUR ASSETS

We maintain and manage more than \$930 million worth of public assets on behalf of our community. This includes things like parks, playgrounds, sports facilities, footpaths, roads, and community centres and libraries.

To ensure these public assets are managed and maintained efficiently and effectively now and into the future, we are developing a ten-year Asset Plan, which we want to ensure reflects the aspirations and expectations of residents and ratepayers.

We are seeking community feedback, in the first instance, on the various types of assets residents use – specifically whether there’s enough of them, whether their quality and condition meet community needs and expectations, and whether they’re accessible and do their desired job. This could include whether there are enough playgrounds and rubbish bins, whether the quality of footpaths are up to scratch, and whether our community centres and libraries are accessible. There will also be opportunities for residents to be part of an Asset Plan Working Group – dedicated to further unpacking community comments to support the development of the draft Plan, which we will also share with the community for further comment.

To read more about the project and to share your thoughts, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/assetplan



LEVELLING UP WITH THE FORTÉ MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The inaugural Forté Mentorship Program, launched in early 2021, provides an opportunity for local artists to take the next steps in their creative career.



The program is specifically designed to enhance the skills and experience of First Nations artists, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse artists, and artists who are deaf or disabled, and who are working in any art form at any career stage.

Forté protégé, Lillian Hull, is a digital and analogue artist with a background in costume making. She is Maiawali, grew up on Ngannawal Country (Canberra), and is currently living on Wurundjeri Country. During the 2020 lockdowns, Lillian rediscovered her love of painting and eventually expanded that to different mediums, which

resulted in a decision to combine her love of fabric and painting by making sustainable, wearable textile art. Lillian is developing her arts practice and arts business during her mentorship with support from Wiradjuri and Ngilyampaa artist, Charlotte Allingham.

"Working with Charlotte is intellectually and artistically nourishing. Being able to discuss thoughts and ideas with a peer who is a successful and busy artist has been wonderful. Charlotte challenges me to believe in myself and my artistic work, and to think strategically about my arts business," Lillian says.

The Forté program focuses on connection and capacity building in the artistic community, fuelling the future of artists' creative practice. It features a "community of practice" pillar, where artists meet and share process. Artists will also deliver and share an outcome to the wider community.

The aim is to provide local artists with space for growth, and the seeds for new ideas and ways of working. Keep an eye out for Forté outcomes and events in coming months on Maribyrnong Arts and Culture social media channels, as well as the Art Bytes newsletter.

ENVIRONMENT

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



IMPROVING AIR QUALITY IN THE CITY OF MARIBYRNONG

Poor air quality and the ongoing inhalation of air pollutants can have adverse impacts on the health of humans, animals and the environment.

Even though Maribyrnong has the youngest demographic and the lowest smoking and adult obesity rates in the inner-west, its residents present some of the poorest lung health in the State reflected in the level of hospital admissions for breathing and lung illnesses in Victoria for young people aged 3 to 19, which is 70% above the Victorian average.

Our environment directly influences the quality of the air we breathe. This includes the emission of tonnes of diesel and petrol pollutants each year from cars, trucks, and trains travelling through our municipality, exacerbated by our proximity to the Port of Melbourne and the West Gate Bridge, which lies on the southern end of the City and carries up to 200,000 vehicles per day. Industrial precincts also add to these emissions.

Council is looking at ways to address the environmental and health concerns brought about by the poor air quality and the impact on the Maribyrnong community. To learn more and to be part of the conversation on ways to address the issue, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/airquality

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Globally, the planet is experiencing the hottest years on record as the climate continues to warm, and the frequency and intensity of heatwaves, floods, bushfires, and extreme weather events are increasing.

We're also feeling the effects locally. We don't have to think back that far to recall the increasing frequency and severity storms wreaking havoc – the most recent last December, bringing down or damaging hundreds of trees in our municipality and requiring weeks of clean-up.

We also know urban areas are more vulnerable to rising temperatures because they trap more heat than natural landscapes, especially where greenery is limited, as is the case in Maribyrnong. This further exacerbates hotter weather and increases reliance on fans and air conditioning, which can in turn create financial pressure, especially on the more senior members of our community.

We know that if we do nothing, temperatures will continue to rise and our community will struggle through increasingly brutal heat waves, especially the young, elderly, people with pre-existing conditions or a disability, those experiencing homelessness and people living in poverty.

Council is working on the things it can do to address the climate emergency and prevent long-term damage – like planting more trees and creating an urban forest that reduces the ground temperature in summer months, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy.

However, we cannot do this alone. Learn more about the climate emergency and what it means for you locally on our website. There will also be opportunity in the coming weeks to provide feedback on actions we can take to address the issue together via yourcityyourvoice.com.au/climateemergency



LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES UPDATE



CONNECT AND COMMUNICATE

SENIORS TECH HELP PROGRAM

This program will help you develop technology skills for socialising, accessing important services, and staying safe online.

Join Footscray, Braybrook or Maribyrnong libraries for the six-week program starting 15 March, which includes group training as well as the opportunity for one-on-one sessions.

The program will help you stay in touch with family and friends; access government, health and other essential services; learn about how to buy online safely; and meet new people.

The program is presented in partnership with Lively, a not-for-profit organisation that brings young and older people together to share skills and learn from each other. The young Lively Helpers provide technology help in a friendly and relaxed environment.

Speak to your local library to secure your spot, as bookings are essential.

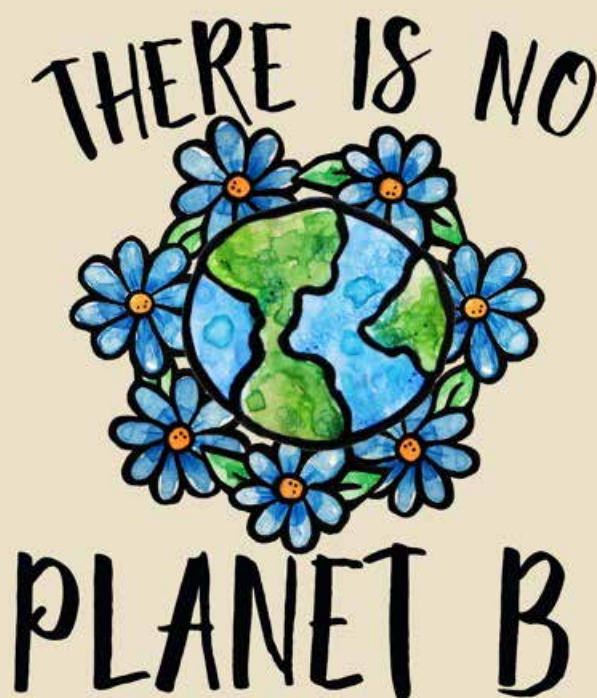
Learn more at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library

HOPE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY:

LOCAL IMPACTS AND SOLUTIONS

Join us at Maidstone Community Centre for this informative and interactive session on Wednesday 6 April at 10am where we discuss climate change, one of the most important issues of our modern age. The free workshop will address key questions including: what is the climate emergency, and why is it so important that we take urgent action? What are the local impacts? What are some of the things

we can do to be a part of the solution? We will be hearing from expert speakers on the science, as well as inviting you to share your lived climate change experience and ideas about creative solutions to help us create a stronger, more resilient community. Please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitycentres to book



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Council continues to keep our community connected with a range of events and activities that are delivered with COVIDSafe plans and are subject to change; check Council's website and those listed below.

YARRAVILLE FESTIVAL

27 March 2022
Goods Yard, Yarraville Village Precinct

An integral Westside affair since 1981, the Yarraville Festival offers food, entertainment and activities for locals and visitors of all ages.

yarravillefestival.com.au

STONY CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL

13 March 2022
McNish Reserve, Yarraville

The Stony Creek Music Festival is back this March and will be sure to set McNish Reserve alight. Put on your dancing shoes, pack up a picnic and bring the whole family down for some great local music at this free event.

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/festivalcity

WEST FOOTSCRAY FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

20 March 2022
Barkly Street Village, West Footscray

Join in the fun and entertainment at the 2022 West Footscray Festival of Colours. Held in Barkly Village this family friendly festival will not disappoint. The event features delicious food, market stalls, kids activities, performances and of course the iconic throwing of colours.

westfootscray.com.au

MACEDONIAN FOOD & CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Footscray Park
20 March 2022

Don't miss the Macedonian Food and Cultural Festival in Footscray Park showcasing a variety of Macedonian cuisines alongside traditional Macedonian folk singing and dancing.

[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/macedonianfoodfestivalofficialpage)

macedonianfoodfestivalofficialpage



COMEDY WESTSIDE

1 April 2022
Kindred Studios and other locations

Join us for a night of stand-up comedy with the return of Comedy Out West (COW) as part of the 2022 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

festivalcity.com.au

HRAFF WESTSIDE

29 April – 1 May 2022
The Sun Theatre, Footscray
Community Arts Centre and
Kindred Studio

Human Rights Arts and Film Festival is an annual fortnight of films, art exhibitions, performances and forums that explore the most pressing social and cultural issues of our time.

hraff.org.au

SETTING SUN FILM FESTIVAL

5-12 May 2022
Online and Sun Theatre and Kindred
Studios, Yarraville

The West's very own international film festival will be back on our screens in May. Setting Sun Film Festival presents quality, award-winning films from independent film makers around Australia and the world.

settingsunshortfilmfestival.com.au



STARGAZED FESTIVAL

6-15 May 2022
Various venues and locations across
Footscray and surrounds

After an impressive first edition in 2021, Stargazed Festival returns to Footscray to showcase some of the best in local arts and music.

stargazed.org/festival

BLACKSMITHS FESTIVAL

Waterside Metal Art Association
28-29 May 2022

The Maribyrnong River will ring with the sound of hammer hitting anvil as the (postponed 2021) Blacksmiths Festival hits its banks once again. This boutique, family-friendly event includes demonstrations, displays, workshops and live music. There are also taster sessions for beginners and a special kid's zone.

blacksmithsfestival.com

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



Artist impression

HENRY TURNER SOUTH RESERVE PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT

Construction of the new community pavilion at Henry Turner South in Footscray is now underway. The new pavilion, jointly funded with State Government, will provide modern gender-neutral facilities for people of all abilities in the local sporting community and will include a large multipurpose social space, meeting room, commercial kitchen, four large change rooms with gender-neutral amenities, tiered spectator seating and a new public accessible toilet.

Along with fresh landscaping, a new footpath will also connect Farnsworth Avenue to the new pavilion and existing tennis courts.

Works are expected to take twelve months. While during construction, there is no access to the southern section of the carpark, residents will still be able to access the Reserve, though there will be pedestrian detours in place to ensure safety around work zones.

More information: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/HTSpavilion



NEW PLAYGROUND AT HANSEN RESERVE, WEST FOOTSCRAY

Looking to check out a new playground during the current spell of warm weather?

Head down to Hansen Reserve, West Footscray to test out the new public playground adjacent to the new junior bike skills track. It is designed around a 'quarry theme', reflecting the historic use of the site, incorporating a combination of natural materials including stone, timber and steel.

The playground equipment caters for children of all ages and abilities with a mix of traditional and imaginative play elements, including a four-metre high enclosed slide, balance beams, swing sets, trampolines and a sand pit. The new playground adds to the existing facilities at the Reserve – park furniture, barbeques, a shelter and new shared use path that connects to existing path connections.

UPDATE: SKINNER RESERVE OVAL REDEVELOPMENT

The redevelopment of Skinner Reserve in Braybrook, which began in October 2021, is progressing. The playing area has been fenced off and the top layers of turf and soil removed, with some of the soil also set aside to be reused for the Oval and surrounds later down the track. Early in the New Year, we installed new irrigation and subsurface drainage systems, then backfilled the playing area. Construction of the new athletics track and installation of drainage layers of gravel, and sand and soil on the playing field also began in early February.

Neighbours will have started to notice additional truck movements bringing materials in and out of the work site. Trucks will continue to travel along Churchill Ave from Ballarat Road and Ashley Street with traffic controllers at the entrance of the Braybrook Community Hub car park along Churchill Ave, and in the car park itself, to direct traffic flow and ensure visitor and crew safety, as required. The target completion date for the project is mid-May. More information: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Skinner](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Skinner)

Progress shot, January 2022



MARIBYRNONG RIVER MAIN TO NORTH WESTERN SEWER CONNECTION PROJECT

Melbourne Water is installing a new wastewater pipe from Avondale Heights to Maidstone to manage future flows. Two work sites will be established in Maidstone, the main site at the now Department of Transport site on Hampstead and Williamson roads and the second at the rear of Medway Golf Course, allowing access to the Maribyrnong River valley. Melbourne Water's service providers, Safety Focused Performance Joint Venture, have started to mobilise the

site at Williamson Road and residents will start to notice new fencing, increased vehicle activity to and from the site as well as vegetation removal and excavation activities in the coming weeks.

Site establishment at the rear of Medway Golf Course is scheduled for early March. Residents will be provided further information closer to the time.

For more information or to follow the project visit: melbournewater.com.au/MRM-NWS-connection

EAT, DRINK, NEIGHBOUR

Owners Cameron Bobbitt and Sarah de Lean recently opened Nabo after seeing the wealth of community support for businesses shared in Kingsville.

The pair, who grew up in the area, had dreamed of starting a café for years – their aim was to build a special hub in the place they called home.

Sarah said the timing and practicalities of starting a new business had been daunting until the onset of COVID-19.

"We were so inspired by the way the community looked after one another during lockdowns – particularly in our little neighbourhood at the time – and it was our dream to create a space that honoured those connections," Sarah recalled.

They took the plunge and opened the café serving the coffee they love from Market Lane and their favourite dishes, some inspired by Sarah's travels in Scandinavia and around the world.

"I was really taken with the simple pared back meals – things like boiled eggs, pickles and cheese with some fresh bread. I think sometimes the less you do to good produce, the better!"

Favourites on the menu include Harissa Mushrooms and the Smörgåsbord, Tuscan Toast and Fresh Fig with Lemon Ricotta and Honeycomb, and patrons love the Cardamon bun by Söt. Nabo works with ethical local producers, believing in simple wholefoods made with quality produce.

The café's name is a salute to the couple's vision – Nabo is Danish for 'neighbour'.

"We are very proud that we built all of this from a dream in the middle of a difficult couple of years.

"We both have lots of creative ideas for how Nabo will evolve. We feel incredibly humbled and also so privileged to have a space to share our dream with others."

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