



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Spring 2017

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

IN THE SPOTLIGHT –
JACINDA RICHARDS

**AEROPLANE PARK
TAKES FLIGHT**

**WINNERS OF
OUR PHOTO
COMPETITION**



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Spring is here, a time of new beginnings and that includes the redevelopment of Braybrook's Aeroplane Park.

Improved infrastructure that delivers quality outcomes for our community, especially for our children, is something I always work towards and celebrate. We are confident this new park will provide a stunning focal point for the local community; a place to come together to play, socialise and create memories that will last a lifetime.

This September we are also rolling out Fringe Westside in partnership with Melbourne Fringe. We're building on our previous connection to the festival to offer an artistic and cultural experience like no other.

The extraordinary theatre production *The True History of the Tragic Life and Triumphant Death of Julia Pastrana, the Ugliest Woman in the World*, a play by Peel the Limelight is a highlight of the festival program.

We're also pleased to announce the opening of the Little Saigon Plaza and carpark in Footscray. The five-level development will house a four-level carpark and nine new shops on the ground floor.

Remember there's always something new to learn. Read about what's happening at our libraries and community centres – drop into your nearest one to check out what courses are running.

For instance, with our reliance on technology, it can be hard to navigate the digital highway and keep up with the rapid changes. In this edition of Maribyrnong Messenger we highlight classes at Braybrook Community Hub that teach people how to effectively use iPads and new technology.

We've also turned the spotlight on one of our incredible residents, Jacinda Richards who runs Hip Hop workshops across the West for children who are from newly arrived or refugee backgrounds.

She teaches about 122 young people at centres in three municipalities in the West, representing 29 cultural groups, showing a real commitment to community strengthening and inclusion.

Cr Catherine Cumming – Mayor



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

SEPTEMBER, Tuesday 19, 8.00pm

OCTOBER, Tuesday 24 6.30pm

NOVEMBER, Tuesday 21 6.30pm

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

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

AEROPLANE PARK TAKES FLIGHT!

Braybrook's much-loved Aeroplane Park, which tragically burnt to the ground in December 2015, is set to rise from the ashes in time for summer.

Retaining the theme of flight, the new playground will create a regional destination for Braybrook and provide a fantastic community focal point for the neighbourhood.

Following an extensive consultation period with the local community to re-imagine the new playground, the final design was endorsed by Council in late 2016.

The design of the new space has retained a strong theme of flight, journey and travel and will offer a variety of play experiences and challenges for all ages.

Key elements of the new playground include a giant steel aeroplane which will have swings underneath the wings, a tall 'traffic control' play structure, terminal with seating, plane rockers and baggage carousel, sea-saws at the tail of the plane, a double flying fox, palm island with clambering rocks, spinner, and a low bridge feature with tunnel and slide.

Other features of the space include exercise equipment, open lawn areas, scooter

and trike track, an upgraded community garden and picnic area.

Local designers BigFish, who designed the original wooden aeroplane structure that was destroyed in the fire, were commissioned to design and create key elements of the new aeroplane structure.

Based in Footscray, BigFish specialises in the delivery of sculptural forms and play spaces and are behind a number of iconic structures in our city, including Mimi the Australian Muttaborrasaurus at Cruikshank Park in Yarraville.

"Working closely with Council, we set out to design a unique and iconic play structure to mark Braybrook which honoured the theme of flight in memory of the former park – which clearly meant a lot to so many," said Chris Goff from BigFish.

"The wings are inspired by classic aluminium planes like the Douglas DC-3, with just enough detail for kids to imagine that they may have flown once upon a time.

"Over the last few weeks we have been working



on bringing the enormous metal wings to life and are thrilled with how they are coming together. There are 1596 aluminium rivets in the tops of the wings alone, and a 'registration number' featuring the postcode of Braybrook and the year. It's been a lot like building a giant model aeroplane.

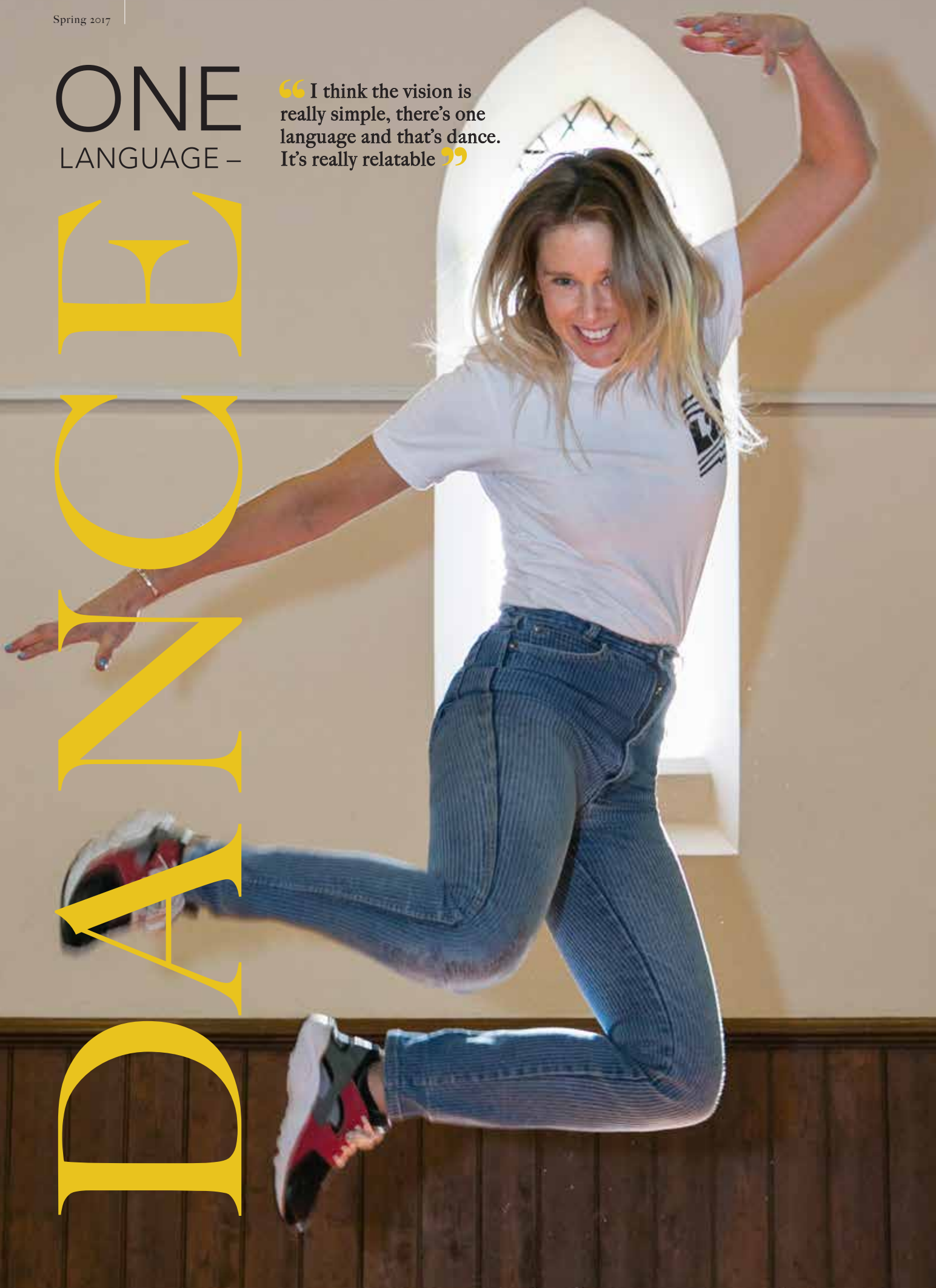
"The park will also include a 'pole maze' which features paper plane wind vanes and instructions for children to fold their own. One of the planes is the world record holder for distance, so we may have to hold a competition to see if anyone can beat it.

The \$1.14 million dollar project is funded in part by the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program with a grant of \$205,000 from the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund.

ONE LANGUAGE –

“I think the vision is really simple, there’s one language and that’s dance. It’s really relatable”

FOR KIDZ



Young people find a home in the space between rhythm and movement at Jacinda Richards' L2R dance workshops, one of the most successful hip hop programs to run in Melbourne's West.

L2R started at the request of students that attended Braybrook's Western English Language School (WELS) – a school for newly arrived, migrant and refugee children that focuses on developing language and literacy skills before they enter mainstream schooling.

Jacinda, a Community Development Officer at the school in 2009, used her background in dance to bridge language barriers and foster artistic talents.

"Initially they don't talk a lot," she explains about the students who have often fled war or refugee camps to attend the school. "They do a lot of dancing and slowly dance skills develop and at the same time their language skills develop as they listen, learn and talk to others."

It was the school's graduates who asked Jacinda to run classes outside WELS.

"So we decided to set up a little free community dance class at RecWest in Braybrook," Jacinda recalls. "Straight away we had fifteen kids."

There are now 122 young people taking part in the dance programs held at centres in three municipalities in the West, representing 29 cultural groups.

The classes are open to 6 to 25-year-olds and remain free. The sessions continue to break down social barriers including age, race, religion, culture and gender while promoting resilience in the community.

"I think the vision is really simple, there's one language and that's dance. It's really relatable," she said.

This is a concept that Jacinda first encountered when she taught dance in Korea, travelling overseas when she was a Box Hill TAFE dance student.

"We did a lot of laughing – there was no talking and a lot of dancing. It's so amazing how we can communicate through our body, without any verbal communication."

While studying at Box Hill TAFE Jacinda started teaching dance at Flemington Community Centre, she continues to teach there after 15 years due to the grassroots community connections.

"When I started teaching at Flemington there were a lot of Sudanese, Eritrean and Ethiopian young girls wanting to dance and I learnt that there was a need for dance teachers to go beyond the dance studio," she said.

"I guess I knew I had to work in a community setting instead

of just a dance school environment. I always take the time to meet with parents, guardians and family members to discuss the importance of dance and how dance can keep their children active, healthy and socially connected."

Later while undertaking further study through Deakin University Jacinda travelled to Ghana to learn West African dance.

"It really opened me up to musicality, the different rhythms and joyful interaction with others while dancing."

Early in her studies Jacinda also travelled to remote Aboriginal communities to conduct dance workshops.

She said low self-esteem and 'shame' is common in indigenous communities. "Through dance we tried to empower the kids to embrace their natural move and groove and find their flavour, it was an amazing journey to be a part of."

Jacinda investigated the importance of dance in her Honours Contemporary Arts research project at Deakin University in 2014, titled: *The role of Hip Hop dance in young people's sense of well-being*.

In particular, she explored whether "Dance has the potential to be used as a tool to shed light on other facets of life and open perspectives to the world in which newly arrived, migrant and refugees now live."

Jacinda is empowering her L2R students to become emerging artists, making dance a viable career option.

"They'll be teaching soon and we will have a sustainable teaching model," she said. "It's great to see the kids who have come through that refugee and migrant experience to embrace peer to peer mentoring then become emerging artists, teachers and potentially L2R board members in five to ten years."

Jacinda is determined to see the not-for-profit organisation have a successful future and has set up a strong governance structure that includes a Board of Directors.

The success of the registered charity is presently dependant on grants. The search for large grants can be demanding and distract from the day-to-day running of L2R which is why a Treasurer is being sought by the organisation and a Chair who is expected to provide a guiding hand for Jacinda and the organisation.

Jacinda also welcomes skilled volunteers to help with a range of tasks to support the growth of L2R from filming to catering as children receive a snack at the start of each dance workshop.

L2R is a 'soul' home for Jacinda as much as it is for the students. "Watching the journey of many kids coming out of WELS into mainstream schooling and then transition into L2R has been pretty incredible. I guess they are my inspiration."

Jacinda is a panellist on the *Art as a Game Changer*, a Fringe Westside event. More information at artsasagamechanger.eventbrite.com.au

NOWHERE DOES FRINGE LIKE MELBOURNE'S INNER WEST



VIEW THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE THIS SEPTEMBER AS
MELBOURNE FRINGE VENTURES WESTSIDE

The inner west is a unique and thriving cultural hub, with a dynamic and progressive culture that reflects the creativity of those living and working in the west. After five successful years of presenting Fringe Out West as part of the Festival, this year Council is partnering with Melbourne Fringe to bring the City of Maribyrnong an artistic and cultural experience like no other.

With an extraordinary selection of performances, talks and workshops for all ages, the 2017 Fringe Westside program is set to be better than ever.

One of the program highlights is *The True History of the Tragic Life and Triumphant Death of Julia Pastrana, the Ugliest Woman in the World*, a play by Peel the Limelight, a professional English language theatre company based in Thailand. Based on true events, the play tells the true

story of an indigenous Mexican woman born in the 1830s with a disfiguring genetic condition and sold as a child to be exhibited in freak shows around the world.

But this unprecedented theatrical experience has a twist – the audience will be, and must remain, blindfolded to experience the show.

Peter O'Neill, Peel the Limelight Artistic Director, said that the experience of sitting in darkness during the performance is one way that the audience can relate to the messages about exploitation and human trafficking.

"The play takes away one sense but delights and teases the others. We get to work with people's perceptions," said O'Neill. "Because the play is in the dark, we take away the element for which Julia Pastrana was exhibited, and it gives her back some humanity."

EVENTS

INVITE ME TO PLAY

Invite Me to Play asks young people (aged 5-16 years) to join artist Clare Walton on a journey that explores the notion of play in public space.



THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE TRAGIC LIFE AND TRIUMPHANT DEATH OF JULIA PASTRANA, THE UGLIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD

This unprecedented theatrical experience is based on true events, telling the story of an indigenous Mexican woman who was born with a disfiguring genetic condition and sold to be exhibited in freak shows around the globe.



TEA WITH CHEKHOV

A collection of three of Anton Chekhov's famous short comedies in which a woman accepts the challenge of a duel from a man (gasp); the worst marriage proposal ever takes place; and old men dodder... with tea and biscuits.

ART AS A GAME CHANGER – ART FOR A CAUSE OR A CAUSE FOR ART?

Is there an onus on artists to probe fault lines, social protocols and areas of discomfort, or to create art that encourages social change? What about art for art's sake? Hear from a diverse panel of artists and activists who will come together to talk about the role of art and social change.



FOREST FRINGE X MELBOURNE FRINGE

UK-based risk-takers Forest Fringe are heading Westside for the *Forest Exchange Lab* – an innovative residency project bringing together local and international artists to explore the streets and spaces of Melbourne's West.

THE KABOOMS ARE RIDONKULOUS!

The Kabooms want to read their favourite story book, but something has gone wrong and they need your help! An interactive, chaotic and colourful hour looking at storytelling, literature and improvisation perfect for kids aged 4+.

TIM FRANKLIN TRIO

Performed by a trio of saxophone, keyboards, and drums, Tim Franklin's music explores themes of modernity and

isolation through highly interactive and exploratory improvisation in the context of complex, yet accessible compositions.

VAPORPLAY

From the writers of *Sexy Dead Schoolboys* comes *Vaporplay*.

The bar's about to close and they aren't quite drunk enough and the only club left open has some bizarre expectations. But then again, the world is ending.

Another highlight of this year's Fringe Westside program is the *Forest Exchange Lab*, which will see UK based risk-takers Forest Fringe collaborating with three local artists during an innovative residency providing a time and place to exchange ideas in the context of Melbourne's West.

Carving out a Fringe-away-from-Fringe, the *Forest Exchange Lab* will be a space for critical conversation, deep experimentation and the seeding of new work.

The first week of the residency will culminate in a 'Day of Action', day long performance creation projects, and an 'Afternoon Assembly', come-one-come-all afternoon showing, in Footscray.

Deborah Pearson of Forest Fringe said that the project is an experiment in making a performance happen with other artists.

“The residency will be an experience of joining in and trying out something new together, which is just as important as the final product,” Pearson said.

"Forest Fringe has always been a place of messy, collaborative fun... a place where we are serious about what we do, without taking ourselves too seriously. The audience should expect to be a part of something fun, open and generous," Pearson continued.

Don't miss the opportunity to explore our creative city during Fringe Westside, taking place from 14 September – 1 October.

For full program details, visit festivalcity.com.au

RIVER CONNECTIONS

UPGRADES TO THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER TRAIL

Cyclists and walkers can now travel with ease and in picturesque surrounds from the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook to Cranwell Park due to a recent extension of the Maribyrnong River trail. This is the first of three planned upgrades to the trail by Council.

This new off-road shared path runs alongside the river edge, starting from the border with the City of Brimbank, past the Quang Minh Temple and connects with the existing shared path adjacent to Cranwell Park, constructed in 2015.

The connected paths now enable cyclists to travel from the south side of the river, at the Quang Minh Temple through Braybrook where they can cross the river using the Melbourne Water Pipe Bridge to continue their journey east along the north

side of the river.

The new three metre wide shared path extends for 1.2km and is located in a tranquil environment, surrounded by trees with a view of the river.

The next phase of the trail extension will seek to link the Melbourne Water pipe bridge crossing with the existing trail at Waterford Green Estate in Maribyrnong. This link is currently in the planning stage.

Once this section is complete commuters will be able to travel more easily and safely by bike from Sunshine to Maribyrnong and beyond to Highpoint Shopping Centre.

The third component of the planned trail upgrade is a path through Cranwell Park, enabling people to travel from Cranwell Street through the park to the river's edge



to join the main river trail. This link will improve access to the river and provide an important connection into the trail network.

These upgrades to the trail are part of Council's commitment to improving cycling pathways and infrastructure in the City and are recognised as priority actions in the Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy 2014, City of Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy and Braybrook North Precinct Masterplan.

Council's longer term objective is to establish a 'Temple to Temple' connection – a shared path

linking the Quang Minh Temple on the western edge of our City with the Heavenly Queen temple to the south, on Maribyrnong City Council's side of the river.

Achieving this objective will require access to the Maribyrnong Defence Site in order to create a 3km path on the south side of the river edge that stretches around the defence site and connects with the existing shared path. Maribyrnong City Council is currently in discussion with the Federal Government about gaining access to the site.



SOLAR LIGHTS SHINE AT ANGLISS RESERVE



Solar lighting was recently adopted as part of the Angliss Reserve car park upgrade – solving both a logistical challenge and an environmental one.

The car park was transformed to include vegetation, a sealed road surface as well as the installation of solar lighting – all part of a bigger project to enhance the Pavilion.

When considering lighting options Council wanted something that could be installed quickly and easily and be as environmentally friendly as possible.

The solar lighting solution that was chosen includes an 'easy pole' design with a hinge mechanism. Installing the pole only requires a shallow hole in the ground and does not require a crane to insert it into the ground – saving time and money. Instead, the base of the pole is installed in the earth using a number of large screws and the pole can be easily pulled into position.

As the lights themselves run off their own individual solar panels there is no need to link the light poles to an energy source using underground wiring and as a result the entire operation was completed in just one day.

These solar lights are particularly efficient as they are sensitive to movement, dimming when there are no cars or people present nearby, saving battery consumption.

Over time, these lights will be cheaper than traditional lights to run as they do not use mains electricity and the

batteries last for up to ten years. Council expects that by the time the lights need to be replaced, technology will be even more efficient whereas electricity costs may have risen.

Investing in such technology is not only a sound financial investment but a reflection of our commitment to a greener and cleaner future as per our previous and current Council Plans. Our aim is to continue to reduce our underlying carbon emissions over time with further energy efficiency initiatives such as this that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2008 Council first set a target to reach zero emissions for its own operation by 2015 with its Carbon Neutral Action Plan. Since then, Council has implemented numerous energy efficiency initiatives in addition to purchasing carbon offsets in order to achieve this goal.

This solar lighting project builds on other work we have done to install similar lighting at various locations across the municipality including Kinder Smith Reserve and Southampton Street carpark. Recently solar bollards were utilised in a laneway between Tait Street and Rippon Street in Footscray where traditional street lighting would not fit. Council will be monitoring this pilot project and if it is successful, solar lighting bollards may be used at other similar locations.

BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG



Little Saigon Plaza and Carpark open in Footscray

Gracing the corner of Leeds and Byron Streets, a new plaza and carpark have recently opened in Footscray, offering a number of new shops and eateries and significant off-street parking – making it easier than ever before to visit the area.

The five-level development will house a four-level carpark and nine new shops on the ground floor. The space will also include an open-air plaza, giving visitors and shoppers even more opportunity to enjoy Footscray's offerings.

A rejuvenated Saigon Pharmacy, relocating from the former Little Saigon Market; Small Graces Café, serving delicious wholesome food and coffee; and Gong Cha – the fastest growing tea store in Asia; are the first shops to open.

The remaining shops will be announced soon and open in time for summer. They will include one of Melbourne's most acclaimed Japanese restaurants, a premium burger restaurant, a 'larger than-palm-sized' fried chicken store, a cutting-edge hairdressing salon and a traditional Chinese restaurant.



Business Improvement District Grants 2017/18

Council's Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee has recently awarded funding through the annual Business Improvement District (BID) grant program to five trader associations.

The BID grant program promotes destination marketing and opportunities to increase

trade and business, increases the viability of business districts through the development of innovative business practices and promotes and strengthens business groups that have a shared and common economic interest.

The successful business projects include:

African Australian Small Business Association (AASBA)

AASBA plans to redevelop the AASBA website and deliver the first Afro Aussie Small Business Expo in Footscray. The expo will allow businesses to showcase their trade to a broader audience increasing visitation to the business precinct.

Footscray Asian Business Association (FABA)

FABA will build on the success of the Footscray Saigon Night Market earlier in the year to deliver another series of markets from November 2017 to April 2018 (second Friday of each month, excluding January) on Leeds Street (between Hopkins Street and Ryan Street) in Footscray.

Footscray Traders Association (FTA)

The recently rebranded FTA will produce a series of promotional videos



showcasing Footscray as a great place to trade, shop and live.

Yarraville Traders Association (YTA)

YTA will build on the success of its 'Welcome to Yarraville' campaign to deliver the 'Our Village, Your Village' project which includes a great range of pop up experiences in Yarraville Village.

West Footscray Traders Association (WFTA)

The newly established WFTA will appoint a marketing consultant to develop a Marketing Plan for West Footscray that aims to raise the profile of the Village and attract new customers.

Doing Business in Maribyrnong

If you own a business in Maribyrnong make sure you grab a copy of our free Doing Business in Maribyrnong kit. A starting point for businesses, the kit provides checklists and details of key council areas based on business needs and requirements. For more information and to request a copy please contact the City Business Unit on 9688 0200 or via email business@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



L2P helps more than 50 young people in Maribyrnong gain their drivers licence

The learner driver mentor program L2P assists learner drivers under the age of 21 years of age, who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle, to gain the driving experience needed to apply for a probationary licence.

The community based program matches volunteers with young people who live, work or study in the Maribyrnong municipality and need extra support to learn to drive.

The VicRoads initiative was set up as part of the introduction of 120 hour minimum driving experience requirement, to remove barriers for young people who may not be able to gain their licence without the help of others.

L2P was implemented by Maribyrnong City Council in 2009 and over 160 young people have participated

since its inception. Of those participants, over 50 young people have gained their drivers licence as a result of being mentored as part of the program.

Girmay, a resident of Footscray, gained his probationary licence at the start of June. He said that without the L2P program, he may not have had the chance to learn to drive. "This program has really helped me, and I would encourage anyone who might not have the opportunity to get 120 hours of driving practice to use the service," Girmay said.

Over the last eight years, more than 80 volunteers have contributed to the program and have been an integral part of its success.

Local Footscray resident Jonathan has been taking time out of his busy schedule since 2010 to assist young people in becoming safe and confident drivers.

“So many people have helped me out over my life, so I see this as a way of giving back to the community,” Jonathan said.

For further information, or to register as a volunteer mentor driver or a learner driver, visit phoenixyouth.com.au. L2P is funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and managed by VicRoads.

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG



ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Saturday 9 September
NICHOLSON STREET MALL, FOOTSCRAY

Now in its 12th year, the Ethiopian New Year Festival will bring the sights, sounds and smells of Ethiopian culture to our City.

SILENT READING BEAN BAG PARTY

Thursday 14 September
6 – 7pm
FOOTSCRAY LIBRARY

Come along and celebrate the Reading Hour at Footscray Library. Bring your own book or borrow something we recommend and enjoy an hour of peace and quiet with some like-minded book lovers of all ages. Light refreshments provided.

FRINGE WESTSIDE

14 September – 1 October
VARIOUS VENUES

Explore the artistic edge of Melbourne this Fringe Festival with a multi-art form three-week program of adventurous and accessible art, bringing you an artistic experience like no other.

THE READING HOUR STORY TIME

Thursday 14 September
11–11.45am
MARIBYRNONG LIBRARY

The key message of The Reading Hour is sharing a book with your child for 10 minutes a day, an hour a week. To celebrate this special day we will have some favourite picture books to choose from to read to your child for 10 minutes during Story Time today. The reading hour is for everyone.

AWEGUST FOR AWETISM

On until 19 September
PHOENIX GALLERY,
PHOENIX YOUTH HUB

An exhibition by Patrick Francis, a prolific award-winning artist who finds his primary source material in the visual culture and art history of western civilisation. More information: phoenixyouth.com.au



MTF BATHUKAMMA FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

Saturday 23 September 2017
RECWEST, BRAYBROOK

The biggest community event for the Telugu Telangana Indian community in Melbourne, this colourful festival features Indian games, songs celebrating community and traditional dance.

MADE IN BRAYBROOK POP UP MARKET

Saturday 30 September. 10am – 2pm
CENTRAL WEST SHOPPING CENTRE

A pop up market showcasing handmade creations, with products ranging from jewellery, woodcraft, leather goods and more, all made by artists in our community.



LANTERN FESTIVAL

Saturday 7 October
Celebrating 42 years of Vietnamese settlement in Australia, this family-friendly festival includes traditional music and dancing and a spectacular night parade of glowing lanterns.

EAT TOGETHER

Wednesday 18 October
12.30 – 1.30pm
BRAYBROOK
COMMUNITY HUB

Come join us for a free community lunch. A great opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends. Places are limited, so bookings are essential. Contact the Hub on 9188 5800 to register your attendance.

FOOTSCRAY DIWALI

Sunday 22 October
Diwali is one of the most vibrant annual festivals in India signifying the victory of light over dark, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. Experience it in your own backyard with this new local festival featuring cultural music, movies, Bollywood dance performances, workshops and more.

CHILD AND FAMILY EXPO

Wednesday 25 October
To celebrate Children's Week (21-29 October 2017) the Maribyrnong Child and Family Expo will bring together local groups and organisations to showcase what is available for children, young people and families.

TILDE: MELBOURNE TRANS AND GENDER DIVERSE (TGD) FILM FESTIVAL

26 – 29 October
Showcasing and supporting the work of (TGD) filmmakers and artists and works that have TGD content, for the TGD community and a wider audience. Be treated to over 30 films that tell a rich array of stories and highlight

the diversity of the TGD community, both locally and internationally, at this significant community-based, international film festival.

BASIC BIKE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP – LEARN O TAKE CARE OF YOUR BIKE

14 November and
13 December
More information:
maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

EDGEWATER FESTIVAL

Sunday 19 November
HARBOUR PARK,
MARIBYRNONG

Now in its third year, this lively community festival includes a fusion of art, history, music, culture, food and crafts for the entire family to enjoy.

ONE NIGHT IN FOOTSCRAY

Friday 24 November
6pm till late
VARIOUS LOCATIONS
ACROSS CENTRAL
FOOTSCRAY

One Night in Footscray is a new and exciting platform to discover the art spaces, galleries and venues within central Footscray. Designed as a self-guided twilight journey through central Footscray, audiences and participants will be able to view and engage in a wide variety of high quality art in all different mediums and unexpected locations. It will showcase the works of local artists, organisation and venues and is a free program. More information: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/artsandculture

BIKE SKILLS TRAINING

25 November
Gain confidence riding your bike alongside traffic, aimed at confident regular riders keen to brush up on bike control skills and improve on-road riding techniques. More information: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

OPEN STUDIOS IN THE WEST

Saturday 25 –
Sunday 26 November
VARIOUS LOCATIONS
ACROSS MARIBYRNONG

Take a self-guided tour behind the scenes and discover the hidden creativity of artists living and working in Melbourne's inner west. Open Studios in the West offers a unique opportunity to explore the diverse range of artist's studios and galleries located in Melbourne's inner west. Now in its 10th year, the festival explores art behind the scenes and provides an unparalleled opportunity to visit the creative hubs of local artists, performers, collectives and designers, as well as a number of permanent gallery spaces. More information: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/artsandculture

BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Every Monday and
Wednesday during school
terms. 11am
CENTRAL WEST
SHOPPING CENTRE

Bilingual Storytime is presented in English, Hindi, Bengali, Vietnamese and Mandarin. All children aged from birth to five years and their families are welcome to join in the stories, songs and rhymes.

COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRAMS

BRAYBROOK,
MAIDSTONE AND
MARIBYRNONG
COMMUNITY CENTRES

Head along to your local community centre to take part in a wide range of courses, activities and events. By walking in our doors, you could discover a new hobby, learn a new skill and meet interesting new people from your neighbourhood. More information: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



FESTIVE SEASON

December 2017 –
January 2018
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Celebrate the festive season with a jam-packed program of special family-friendly events including outdoor twilight movies in parks, creative workshops for kids and Carols in Yarraville Gardens.

NYE FIREWORKS IN FOOTSCRAY PARK

31 January 2017
Ring in the New Year with a night full of entertainment, including live stage performances, carnival rides for the kids, food trucks and an exhilarating fireworks display. From 6.30 – 10.30pm.

For more information on our festivals and events, visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au www.festivalcity.com.au



ADULTS HAVE A LOT TO GAIN BY CONTINUING TO LEARN THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES

It is a common notion that when you finish school or higher studies, the opportunity to focus on learning is in the past. This couldn't be further from the truth, with adult learning providing a range of positive impacts on the quality of life and the wellbeing of adults.

Learning helps us to reach our full potential, and has the power to transform us. Not only do we get to broaden our skills, adult learning has a number of positive side effects, including increased confidence, happiness and wellbeing; improved health; and enhanced community cohesion.

Adult Learners' Week took place from 1-8 September, providing us with an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of learning.

A UNESCO initiative, Adult Learners' Week in Australia is celebrated annually is part of an international festival of adult learning that aims to increase participation and promote the range of learning possibilities available.

Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong Community Centres, along with the Neighbourhood Houses in the municipality, celebrated the week with a range of activities, and offer ongoing adult learning opportunities with a range of classes, workshops and activities.

One of the classes being offered at Braybrook Community Hub is the iPad and Tablet class, which has been a popular choice amongst community members.

With society becoming increasingly reliant on technology, it can be hard for those without the skills to navigate the digital highway and keep up with the rapid changes.

By offering hands on learning, the iPad and Tablet classes support the community to develop the technological skills they need to stay connected.

Local West Footscray resident, Helene, has been attending community centre classes for over ten years on and off, and is glad she has been able to learn new skills.

"Learning to use technology has allowed me to interact with people online, which means communication can happen much quicker," Helene said.

A recent addition to the community centre learning calendar is the Plarn Workshops at Maidstone Community Centre. The workshop involves crocheting plastic yarn into new items, like swag mats, from recycled plastic bags.

These mats are then donated to the homeless to provide insulation and warmth. With homelessness on the rise and people becoming more environmentally conscious, the Plarn Workshops combine two areas the community value and are passionate about.

Local resident Theresia wants to learn to plarn so that she can utilise her skills to assist a Balinese orphanage.

"I want to teach the children how to plarn so they can make items to sell, empowering them to become more self sufficient," Theresia said.

There is a range of classes, workshops and activities available at the City of Maribyrnong community centres to help you continue your learning journey.

So take the leap and rediscover learning.

Further info: maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitycentres

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MCH) SERVICES

Our team of experienced nurses provide health and developmental checks for children at key stages. If your child is due to attend one of these visits, please call 9688 0501 to book an appointment.

Weekly drop in sessions are also available. These shorter visits take place at the following locations:

MARIBYRNONG RIVER MCH

6 West Road, Maribyrnong
Monday 1pm – 3pm

ROBERTS ST. MCH

35A Roberts Street, West Footscray
Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30pm

CLARE COURT MCH

30 Court Street, Yarraville
Wednesday 1:30pm – 3:30pm

MAIDSTONE CHILD & FAMILY CENTRE

Cnr Burns and Sonley Streets, Maidstone
Thursday 1:30 – 3.30pm

IMMUNISATIONS

Under current state and federal legislation families attending 4 year old kindergarten and child care are now required to have up to date immunisations. Council provides families with drop in, and appointment, immunisation sessions.

Bookings can be made by calling 9688 0145.

CENTRAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM (CRS)

Council provides a central registration system for community managed long day care, 3 and 4 year old kindergarten. During school terms, the CRS team will be available at all immunisation drop in sessions to provide families with further information and to assist with registering your child. Families can also register online at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/crs or by calling 9699 0116.

CHURCH STREET CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The redevelopment of Church Street Children's Centre is underway. For information regarding redevelopment, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/churchstreet or ring 9688 0200.



Equitable access to parking

Residents and traders keen to see parking management improved across the municipality have put up their hand to be part of the Community Advisory Group.

The policy was formed to meet the parking demand now and in the future.

Increasing car ownership, population growth and changing land use has heightened the demand for public parking. Council, in consultation with the community, needs to have an approach that is consistent across the City and that is responsive to the needs of the community.

This approach is expected to ease congestion, improve the amenity for residents and ensure safety of drivers and pedestrians.

The drafted Parking Management Policy aims to provide fair, locally responsive and safe distribution of parking infrastructure throughout the City of Maribyrnong.

Council aims to achieve this by community engagement and parking management strategies that take into account the needs of everyone in our community.

The Community Advisory Group is comprised of residents and key business representatives from specific precincts across the municipality, advising Council on the development and implementation of the new draft policy.



LIFELONG LOVE OF BOOKS



Help your child get ready for school with 1000 Books Before School

Did you know that reading with your child is the best way to encourage a love of books?

Sharing stories with babies and young children helps develop literacy skills that will prepare them for reading at school.

Research shows that 'home literacy', or engaging with language and reading at home, increases reading readiness and prepares children to enter school with the skills they need to succeed.

The 1000 Books Before School program aims to make reading an enjoyable activity for both parent and child, with the benefit of developing a lifelong love of books. The State Library of Victoria have teamed up with libraries across Victoria to encourage families and children to develop positive reading habits.

"The ability to read is an essential life skill for everyone, and a child's development in the early years is so

important. Through this reading initiative, public libraries can empower parents to be effective first teachers, and prepare their children for school," said Kate Torney, CEO, State Library Victoria.

Perfect for children aged 0-5 years, the program is designed to influence the home learning environment in a positive way. By reading just one book each day with your child, the 1000 book target can be achieved in less than three years and your child will be set for a lifelong love of books and learning.

To take part in 1000 Books Before School, register at your local Maribyrnong Library and you will receive a registration pack, complete with a tote bag, stickers and a reading record. You can then record each book you read with your child, and rewards can be collected when you reach the special milestones along the way.

Register now at any Maribyrnong Library to start your reading journey!

For further information, visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library

FUN-FILLED ONLINE LEARNING FOR KIDS

busythings, Literacy Planet and Tumblebooks – online learning resources for kids

An award winning educational resource, *busythings* is a wonderfully quirky online learning centre for children of all ages. Filled with fun, humorous characters and lively colourful settings, children love to play the fun educational games and activities.

Encouraging the learning of essential English literacy skills through a motivational learning platform that is fun, compelling and addictive for students of all ages and ability, *Literacy Planet* puts the learning needs of every child firmly in the hands of those entrusted with their education.

Providing quality e-books for children that encourage and engage tech-savvy young readers, *Tumblebooks* is an online collection of read-along books, with music and animation that your child can read along with.

All three online educational resources can now be accessed from home, using your library card.

For more information, visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library



CALLING ALL YOUNG WRITERS

Maribyrnong Young Writers Competition is now open!

Young writers can enter a short story into the Maribyrnong Young Writers Competition for their chance to win a range of prizes.

This is the fourth year the writing competition is being held in partnership between the Rotary Club of Yarraville and the Maribyrnong Library Service.

Entrants must be primary school students, and must live or study Maribyrnong, or be a member of Maribyrnong Library Service.

Entries close Friday 13 October. For more information or to enter, drop by your local Maribyrnong Library or visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library



WEEKENDS AT BRAYBROOK LIBRARY

Opening hours at Braybrook Library have been extended to allow increased access to library resources for families, students and general public.

The library is now open on Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, and on Sundays from 2pm to 5pm, in addition to the current opening hours from Monday to Friday.

For further information, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library or call 9188 5850

WORKING TOGETHER

Seniors in Maribyrnong project keeping socially isolated older people connected

Staying connected and active in the community is crucial for maintaining good mental and physical wellbeing, especially as we get older. However, people who are socially isolated can often become invisible to the community, which can diminish their health and wellbeing. To help us support the right opportunities for active ageing, good health and social connection, Council is working collaboratively with older people to develop programs and services that will help those that are socially isolated stay connected with the community.

The Seniors in Maribyrnong project aims to increase program participation rates by looking at the barriers that prevent people from accessing opportunities they may be interested in, as well as getting a better understanding of what activities older people would like to see in their local community.

The ideas gathered throughout this project will be used to develop a number of innovative programs and service offerings that will be trialled during Seniors Week in October. It will also help with future planning of services, programs and facilities.

By working together and using a co-designed approach, the final programs and services are developed, facilitated,



recommended and supported by a broad cross-sector of older people from Maribyrnong.

For further information about the project and upcoming Seniors Week activities, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/workingtogether

Funding for this project has been provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

ENABLING WOMEN

Leadership program empowering women in the community

The Enabling Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women Leadership Program is underway, providing an opportunity for culturally diverse and migrant women with disability living in Melbourne's Inner West Region to come together, share their lived experiences, and support each other to develop a strong sense of leadership within their community.

This free community leadership program is empowering women with disability to have a voice about issues that relate to them and other women with disability.

Delivered by Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV) and a peer facilitator, the program is part of a series of offerings from WDV to strengthen women's resilience and to assist in the reduction of violence against women in the community.

The women involved in the program will graduate in October.

The Enabling Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Women Leadership Program is supported by Maribyrnong City Council, Women's Health West, and Multicultural Centre for Women's Health.

INFRASTRUCTURE

From freshly planted trees to upgraded open spaces – here is a snapshot of some of the work we have been doing to make our City as enjoyable as possible once the longer days arrive.

MARTIN RESERVE DOG PARK UPGRADED

It won't be hard to get in your dog's good books this upcoming spring as we have upgraded the Martin Reserve dog park to include a new water station with improved drainage, a new seating and sheltered area, double safety gates at the park entrances to prevent dogs running out onto the street and improved landscaping.

HANMER RESERVE PAVILION UPGRADED

The works to the Hanmer Street Pavilion in Yarraville have been completed. Works included an extension to the rear of the pavilion including new change rooms, amenities and storage facilities for the association. Works began on the project in October last year and were completed in June.

MORE BIKE REPAIR STATIONS

We have recently installed a third Bike Repair Station on the West Footscray Shared Path at West Footscray Railway Station. This Bike Repair Station will enable the users of this popular bike route to inflate bike tyres and make any repairs needed to keep their bikes working well. Maribyrnong's other BRSs are on the Maribyrnong River in Pipemakers Park and adjacent to the new pedestrian and cycling path on Shepherd Bridge.



USING SOLAR LIGHTING IN HARD TO REACH PLACES

Council has installed for the first time, solar bollard style lighting in our City – in the laneway between Tait Street and Rippon Street in Footscray. These solar bollards do not require any

wiring, do not spill light to nearby properties and are easy to install. Council will be monitoring this pilot project and if successful, solar lighting bollards may be used at other similar locations to improve visibility and safety.

RENEWING OUR ROADS

Numerous roads in our City have been enhanced over the last few months. One section of road in particular – Pilgrim Street (between Bristow Street and the Railway Bridge in Seddon) required a collaborative approach within Council in order to deliver a range of upgrades to improve commuter safety. We re-surfaced the road, widened the bike lanes, created new



speed cushions, installed lane separators and reconstructed sections of the footpath.

NEW GATEWAY SIGNS

Three new gateway signs have been installed at key entrance points to the City. The signs are located at Napier Street near the Maribyrnong River, Williamstown Road near

the West Gate Freeway and Ballarat Road near the Maribyrnong River – welcoming visitors to our City. Further gateway signs will be installed later in the year at other key entry points.



GREENING OUR CITY

As spring approaches, our planting season continues and thus far we have planted 500 new trees in reserves across our City.

Meanwhile, Council's ten year Street Planting Strategy is in its fourth year and as part of this we will plant over 1000 new street trees before the year is out. Tree species have been selected to enhance the overall character of the many neighbour precincts that exist within the municipality. As our City's population grows, the importance of a resilient tree network increases which is why we are aiming to plant 11,000 new street trees by 2023.

PLACES OF MARIBYRNONG PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS!

This competition turned the spotlight on our City's wonderful photographers. We received nearly 400 entries which, in keeping with the theme, focussed on places and viewpoints that photographers thought were special in the municipality. The competition was open to people who live, work or study in the municipality and winners shared a total of \$6,000 in prizes.



FIRST PRIZE – \$3000 worth of photographic related vouchers. Ralph Uy, Footscray Saigon Welcome Arch



SECOND PRIZE – \$2000 worth of photographic related vouchers. Gavin Howard, The Exuberant Puppy



THIRD PRIZE – \$1000 worth of photographic related vouchers. Joe Stuart, Sunny Day at the Heavenly Queen Temple



READY, SETTLE, GO



The Ready, Settle, Go program has been delivered to more than 18,000 newly arrived migrants and refugees residing in the west since the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation began the program in 2007.

Currently funded by the Department of Social Service, the program helps about 2,000 new Australians per year.

The program uses the unifying power of recreational activities and sports to introduce Australian culture and values whilst also promoting personal wellbeing and social connectedness.

For Western Bulldogs Community Foundation Adapter, Huynh Quang, settling into life in Australia wasn't always easy.

Huynh Quang was six years old when he fled Vietnam with his parents in 1992. Huynh and his family found their new home in Footscray, right across from Victoria University

Whitten Oval, on Adelaide Street when they arrived in Australia.

He draws on this experience while volunteering with the program to help other newly arrived migrants and refugees.

"I remember first picking up a football and thinking to myself, what a weird looking ball this is. I mean how am I supposed to even kick this thing?" he said.

With his English skills growing rapidly, Huynh gained enough confidence to join his local football club at the age of nine and later started volunteering with Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.

From the first moment I started, I knew that this was something special," Huynh said about the Community Foundation's settlement services program.

"Ready, Settle, Go doesn't just keep the kids fit, it allows them to learn English, interact with other kids, make friends and fit in to their new surroundings.

"Teaching and helping these kids brings me back to when I was younger and I can feel how they feel.

Coming to a new country and trying so hard to fit in with your new way of life is hard, I can tell you that. That's why these programs run by the Western Bulldogs are so important.

"I feel so proud to be working for a football club who care so much for their community and give so much back. I can tell you that when we won the Premiership last year, every

one of my Vietnamese uncles and aunties were cheering for the Bulldogs," Huynh continued.

For more information about Ready, Settle, Go, visit westernbulldogs.com.au



THE OTHER TALK

It's never too early to start talking about alcohol and other drugs with your child

At some point, we have all sat down with our parents for 'the talk'. It's not always easy, but learning about sex is an important conversation that every parent and child should have. The Other Talk is about families talking openly about alcohol and other drugs, and is an important step when preparing your child for a teenage party.

However, you could start talking to your child as early as eight years to make sure they have the right information and attitudes when they reach high school.

Starting the conversation early also means you create an understanding that when it comes to alcohol and other drugs.

Research shows that young people consider parents to be credible sources if information about alcohol and drugs. But many parents fear The Other Talk because it may raise questions that they feel ill-equipped to answer or explain properly.

Council has some Alcohol and Drug Foundation booklets available for parents wanting to learn about alcohol and other drugs to protect their children from associated harm.

If you think you should be having The Other Talk but you aren't sure where to start, call Council on 9688 0200 to request the handy resource.

Spring into Summer

Get ready to walk, swing or stretch your way to better health while having fun in the sun with the Spring into Summer series later this year.

The Active Maribyrnong Spring into Summer series, currently in its fourth year, will offer a range of free health and wellbeing programs across the City of Maribyrnong when it returns in spring.

The majority of programs will be delivered outdoors in local open spaces and are designed to showcase a range of the facilities and activities on offer across our city.

As an added bonus to encourage participants to keep active, all registered participants will receive a free ten visit pass to both the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre and RecWest Footscray.

The series is delivered through Council's Active Maribyrnong initiative, designed to improve the health and wellbeing of our community through physical activity and community participation.

Since the beginning of the Active Maribyrnong program in 2014, over 10,000 community members have found their inner athlete by participating in our range of events.



MAC Health Club gets a technology boost with new cardio gym equipment from Life Fitness

For more than 45 years, Life Fitness has been creating fitness products that get the world moving. Devoted to exercisers, they are constantly looking for new ways for users to surpass their goals.

Today, more than ever, people are keen to collect data about their training, sport, daily movement and body measurements to improve their wellness in everyday life. With Life Fitness LF Connect, users will be able to manage their lifestyle and keep engaged by monitoring their

Daughters of the West

Building on the success of the Sons of the West men's health program, Maribyrnong City Council will partner with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation to deliver a sister program called 'Daughters of the West' later this year.

Still in the development stages, the program will be an adaption of the successful men's health program model, targeting the health inequities that are experienced by women across the western suburbs of Melbourne.

For more information, visit westernbulldogs.com.au

Registration for Spring into Summer is essential and places are limited, so start planning your wellbeing journey and join the long list of active participants who have adopted a healthier lifestyle.

Registrations open at the start of October. To register and for further information, visit www.activemaribyrnong.com.au

progress using their wearable technology.

With a wide breadth of cardio equipment, exercisers of all abilities are able to choose exactly how they want to move, with equipment that caters for people with disability, sports injury rehabilitation, sports performance and more.

Head down to the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre's Health Club to try out the new equipment!

For more information, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac or call 9032 4100.

GET SET FOR A FABULOUS FESTIVAL SEASON IN MARIBYRNONG

The City of Maribyrnong's reputation as a destination for world-class festivals and events will be further boosted with a record number of festivals set to join our Festival City Calendar in 2017/2018

From major street festivals to cutting edge arts festivals and smaller community and cultural celebrations there is something for everyone. Join us in celebrating and creating great memories with our fantastic Festival City line-up this year.

2017

Ethiopian New Year Festival
9 September

Fringe Westside –
Melbourne Fringe Festival
14 September – 1 October

MTF Bathukamma Festival of Flowers
29 September

Lantern Festival
7 October

Footscray Diwali
22 October

Tilde: Melbourne Trans and Gender
Diverse Film Festival
26 – 29 October

Edgewater Festival
19 November

Albanian Festival
9 December

2017 Carols in the Gardens
16 December

NYE Fireworks in Footscray Park
31 December

2018

Wominjeka Festival
19 – 21 January



East Meets West Lunar Festival
21 January

Stony Creek Music Festival
26 January

St Jerome's Laneway Festival
3 February

Sports Festival by Team Melbourne
3 February

Yarraville Festival
11 February

Quang Minh Tet Festival
15 February

Melbourne International Comedy
Festival Westside
February – April



Seddon Festival
3 March

Eat, Drink Westside – Melbourne
Food & Wine Festival
16 – 25 March

West Footscray Festival of Colours
25 March

Setting Sun Short Film Festival
26 – 30 April

Human Rights Arts & Film
Festival Goes West
11 – 13 May

Emergence in the West
19 May

Jazz Out West – Melbourne
International Jazz Festival
1 – 10 June

Council also produces the Footscray Finds monthly market and a jam-packed Festive Season program.

For more information about Council's Festival City Program visit www.festivalcity.com.au

PHAT CHICKS OPENS IN WEST FOOTSCRAY

Phat Chicks – a new restaurant in Barkly St, West Footscray – is set to get everyone in a flap with its unique take on fried chicken favourites.

Owner Jenny Nguyen, who grew up in Footscray, has always dreamt of owning her own restaurant so when she saw the shopfront next to Thai Angels up for lease she jumped at the opportunity to make her unique mark on the West Footscray food scene.

"West Footscray is one of my favourite suburbs in Maribyrnong...it's so culturally diverse and I love how that's reflected in the local food scene. I'm excited to be able to add something a little different and fun to the area which I hope will complement the great stuff that's already here," said Jenny.

And Phat Chicks is definitely fun – from the moment you walk in, there's music pumping and a choice of tables and couches to relax into, as well as an alfresco dining area out the front.

The menu gives you a choice of five cuts — breast, thigh, wing, drumstick or



spare rib – and there are a variety of sauces and toppings, including spicy, sesame or original.

Nguyen creates all her own coating and spices and preps the ingredients herself so "no-one knows what goes into them". She even uses kettle style chips to bolster her secret recipes!

There's a great range of sides to choose from, including cajun, sweet potato or regular fries, onion rings, creamy corn kernels with melted cheese, rainbow slaw and mac n cheese with a bacon and garlic crumble topping – fast becoming a favourite with the locals.

Patrons can wash it all down with an ale or two – there's more than 40 beers and ciders to choose from including two on tap by Hopnation and West City Brewing, both from Footscray.

**Phat Chicks Fried Chicken
549a Barkly Street
West Footscray
03 9689 3030**

Hours:

Tue to Sun 11am –11pm

**facebook.com/
phatchicksfriedchicken**

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR



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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.

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



TIS: 131 450

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



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