

MARIBYRNONG ESSENGER

Summer 2018 www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR TAKES ON TECH

CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's been a pleasure to serve this city as Councillor for ten years and I am honoured to take on the role of Mayor. I thank my fellow Councillors for electing me and to Cr Cuc Lam for the all the work she's done in the past year.

Our City faces a number of challenges – catering for our growth, managing congestion on our roads, encouraging more sustainable transport options, and obtaining the best outcomes from major infrastructure projects in our municipality. I look forward to working with the community vision to create a City that is vibrant, diverse and striving for a sustainable future.

We're here to look after every member of this community. We will be guided by our Council Plan, Maribyrnong 2040 – our Community Plan, and respond to the needs of our community.

This includes:

- upgrading and building facilities that our community requires
- providing valued programs and services and
- providing opportunities for our community to come together at events.

This summer we are excited to share with you the new allabilities play space at Footscray Park. This is set to become a favourite with the kids who can enjoy a range of play options such as a sensory play section and water play area.

December also sees the start of our festival city calendar which is full of family friendly, alcohol-free events. There are a range of activities for everyone to enjoy including the return of the always popular NYE fireworks in Footscray Park and an evening of carols at Yarraville Gardens.

Read through our upcoming events in our What's On in

Maribymong section on page 13. And remember to follow us on Facebook.

I wish everyone a safe holiday season and look forward to the next 12 months.

Cr Martin Zakharov Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong

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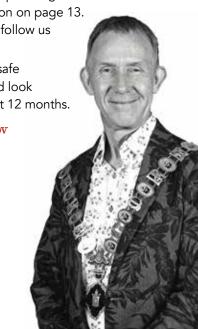
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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

DECEMBER: Tuesday 11, 6.30pm Ordinary Council. **FEBRUARY**: Tuesday 12, 6.30pm Ordinary Council. 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.





CELEBRATE THE FESTIVE SEASON with FUN FAMILY EVENTS

We have a lot planned to help you get into the festive spirit this year, so gather your friends, neighbours and family and make the most of our special festive events.

Family Festive Fairs

This year three Family Festive Fairs will be held in Footscray and Yarraville. Come and enjoy a live 'elf choir', face-painting and craft activities for the kids and photo opportunities with Santa on his throne. The Family Festive Fairs will be held from 9am-12pm on Saturday 1 December at Nicholson Street Mall, Footscray; Saturday 8 December at Byron Street Plaza, Footscray; and Saturday 15 December at the Pop Up Park, Yarraville.

Elf yourself!

Transform yourself into one of Santa's little helpers with our giant Elf-Yourself cut out boards, located in Footscray near Café Bulldog in the mall and Huxtaburger in Little Saigon Plaza; West Footscray near the library; and Yarraville near the Sun Theatre during business hours this December.

Post your letter to Santa

It's time to start working on your letter to Santa! Once you've written your letter (templates are available from Maribyrnong libraries and community centres), address it to 'Santa Mail, NORTH POLE, 9999' and pop it into a Santa post box, located at Footscray, West Footscray and Braybrook Libraries. Add your name, address and a 65 cent stamp to get Santa's response.



Yarraville Carols in the Gardens

Gather your nearest and dearest and head to the beautiful Yarraville Gardens from 7pm on Saturday 15 December for Yarraville Carols. Carollers will be treated to performances from acclaimed musical acts, a visit from Santa and a spectacular fireworks display.

Decorations and roving performers

Keep an eye out for Council's festive decorations around the City. Join in and decorate your own homes or businesses with lights or decorations. Also keep a look out for our quirky festive roving performers and choirs which are set to pop up around our City. And don't forget to shop locally and support your local retailers! If you can't get down to your local shops during business hours, Seddon's beautiful boutique stores will stay open late in December for all your shopping needs.

NYE Fireworks in Footscray Park

Ring in the New Year with our spectacular Fireworks in Footscray Park. Kicking off at 6.30pm, this special event draws thousands to the banks of the iconic Maribyrnong River for a night of free live entertainment and an incredible early fireworks display.

The 2018 on-stage line-up includes: The Turner Tribute Show – delivering a flawless rendition of Tina Turner's greatest hits; Lamine Sonko and the African Intelligence – a big band sound of African roots, music, jazz and reggae; BigCityBeat presents The Stuck in the 80s Show – belting out all your 80s favourites; and The Amazing Superhero Show – guaranteed to get the littlies up on their feet.

The night will be MC'd by Sami Shah – a multitalented writer, comedian, performer and broadcaster and cohost of ABC radio's breakfast show.

There will be food trucks offering a variety of different cuisines and carnival rides for the kids. Settle in for an amazing fireworks display that will illuminate the sky from 9.30pm.

This year's event is proudly sponsored by R&F Property Australia, which is currently developing the Kinnears Rope Works site in Footscray. Vice President, Thomas Chiu, said: "We are delighted to be principal sponsor of this much-loved event which celebrates the inner west's ethnic diversity and community spirit."

For event details, directions and transport information, as well as information about our full Festive Season program of events, visit www.festivalcity.com.au





TAKING ON

disability t

TECHNOLOGY

YARRAVILLE RESIDENT **NOAH CALLAN'S** JOURNEY HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN A SMOOTH ONE, BUT THE 21 YEAR OLD IS USING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND VOICE TO CREATE AND ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE.

Noah has cerebral palsy and is a quadriplegic, and due to the restrictions of his disability he has relied heavily on technology for most of his life. And while discovering new technologies is always filled with excitement, for Noah it can often take months of exhaustive searches, emails and correspondence to find the right combination of software and hardware to suit his own physical capabilities.

"The exhaustive searches, trial and error, can make the experience a lonely one often filled with many disappointments and failures," Noah explained.

In November 2015 Noah chose to write a letter to Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, explaining the restraints of Apple products for those with disabilities. In particular, Noah wrote about his concerns for swipe technology as it would lock someone with physical capabilities like him out of the Apple tech world.

In October the following year, instead of showcasing their latest technology at the Worldwide Development Conference, Apple chose to focus on tech accessibility for people with disability.

Although Noah never directly heard back from Tim Cook, there was no doubt his letter was read and his message was heard.

"I learnt from this experience the importance of speaking up and being an advocate for people within the disability community." "Apple later released a source of pages that display information about how their products now use assistive technology to give people with disabilities a way in, to access a new platform of devices."

Shortly after his contact with Apple, Noah realised he could make a difference for those in a similar situation to him. In 2017 he launched his own platform – Disability Tek.

Disability Tek seeks to help others access and share the best possible technology available to improve the lives of people with a disability.

Through online forums and news, users can learn and discuss matters related to assistive technology. And 'user set ups' offers an opportunity to share with others the way an individual can access and use their own technology. Now just 15 months old, Disability Tek has some 500 'user set ups' for people

to access and over 500 people visiting the site monthly.

"Disability Tek is growing organically, and we are learning so much as we go." "We want to be the one place people feel they can go to for information, support and discussion."

Noah believes part of his passion for technology comes from his time spent in Japan, having lived there with his family when he was younger.

Japan is a country that very early on embraced the internet.

"My family and I lived in Japan for eight years. I can remember at about the age of three accessing our Windows XP laptop with Clicker 4 to practice writing sentences with only a jelly bean switch."

"Later I discovered Wivik, an onscreen keyboard that enabled me to move the mouse and click any letter to write a message to my family."

And this is what Noah treasures the most – the fact technology can enable him to communicate with people.

"Even at such an early age I could see the power that technology could give me in my life. I was also able to play computer games, basic ones, but for the first time in my life I was able to do something other able-bodied kids could do."

Having lived in Yarraville for a long time, Noah is a regular visitor to the Sun Theatre and enjoys the local cafes and restaurant scene. He is a huge Seinfeld fan and a passionate Geelong Football Club supporter. He has also been studying film editing.

66 I don't focus on my disability. I know how lucky I am even though I have some physical challenges. I understand I am so fortunate to have a supportive family and a great place to live. 99

Noah describes himself as a selflearner and it is this drive that has seen him create his own business at the age of 20.

"When you are involved in a start-up you have to be willing to put in a lot of hours."

"I believe technology can change someone's life. It has the capacity to create independence, connectivity and empowers a disabled person within their community."

Disability Tek currently relies on donations, to find out more visit: **www.disabilitytek.com**

Summer 2018

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT FOOTSCRAY PARK

FOOTSCRAY PARK, ALREADY A DRAW CARD WITH ITS BEAUTIFUL EDWARDIAN GARDENS AND RIVERSIDE LOCATION, IS SET TO BECOME A FAVOURITE WITH THE YOUNGSTERS FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF A NEW REGIONAL ALL-ABILITIES PLAY SPACE.



Kids of all abilities can enjoy a range of play options such as sensory play, water play with a creek bed and splash plaza with water sprays and imaginative play featuring a wading bird sculpture, nest and eggs.

The fun doesn't stop there, there's various physical challenges including a high 'tree house' and climbing equipment, sand pit, clambering rocks, climbing nets, swing with accessible harness, slides, carousel and dual flying fox.

Families can also enjoy picnic facilities and the convenience of a newly constructed public toilet on the grounds.

The design for the play space was developed following extensive community consultation in 2016.

Residents, schools, community and stakeholder groups, such as Melbourne Water, took part in the consultations and were supportive of the early draft concept plans.

The Maribyrnong Disability Advisory Committee also took part in consultations along with Rosamond Special School and the Heritage Advisory Committee. Over 1,500 properties in the area near the park were letter dropped and online consultation took place on our online consultation site.

Council invested \$1,100,000 in the play space and \$400,000 for the public toilet.







THE SMALL, BUT MIGHTY VOLUNTEER GROUPS HELPING TO KEEP MARIBYRNONG BEAUTIFUL



B ehind the scenes of Maribyrnong's reserves, waterways and streets are dedicated volunteers that donate their time and effort to help keep our City beautiful.

With support from Council, nine groups made up of over 200 members meet regularly to mulch, plant, remove weeds and pick up rubbish.

In 2018 alone, these mighty groups have collectively:

- ⊘ planted around 9,000 native plants
- ⊘ removed about 13,000m³ of weeds
- ⊘ mulched 150m3 around plants, and
- Ø picked-up around 5,880 bottles and cans, and
- \oslash removed 3 tonne of other general rubbish.

Maribymong City Council would like to give a special thank you to all the members of these groups for their outstanding efforts:

- 🍐 The Green Army
- ✤ Friends of Newell's Paddock
- 🍐 Friends of Cruickshank Park
- 🍐 Friends of Footscray Park
- Friends of Stony Creek
- 🍐 Friends of Maribyrnong Valley
- 4 Footscray runners
- Maribyrnong River clean up group
- Love our streets.

For more information on how you can get involved in these groups, please contact: Martin Forster, Park Ranger on martin.forster@Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

SURVEY OF SAVVY STUDENTS SHOWS SINGLE-USE PLASTICS TOP CONCERN

Switched on primary school students across Maribyrnong have revealed that plastics are their biggest concern when it comes to waste. Of the 111 students surveyed at Footscray City, St John's and St Monica's Primary Schools, 78% said plastics including single-use bags and straws should be a focus area for Council in their war on waste.

Aligning with concerns of Australian's young and old, plastics - especially those that are single-use, have been a popular point of discussion in 2018 following the recent plastic bag ban at major supermarkets.

Results from the primary schools' survey will form part of Council's Waste Minimisation Strategy review; which will explore existing services and plan for future waste minimisation practices.





WASTE MINIMISATION STRATEGY REVIEW

HELP US FIGHT THE WAR AGAINST WASTE

We are committed to achieving our vision of a community that generates minimal waste and considers the waste that is produced as a valuable resource to be managed sustainably. We also aim to be innovative in how we manage waste.

To help us reach this, we are reviewing our current Waste Minimisation Strategy, and are inviting community members to give us feedback on current waste practices and share their ideas for future services.

You can participate in walk and talk workshops, forums or complete an online survey to contribute ideas to the review. For more information and to have your say, please visit: **yourcityyourvoice.com.au**

Consultation closes Sunday 16 December 2018.



BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG

CO-CONNECTED HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

O-Connected, a new initiative designed to assist start-ups and create valuable networking opportunities, has got off to a flying start with hundreds of people attending the program's first five workshops/ meet-ups.

The program kicked off in September with a launch at the Dream Factory, attended by well over 100 people.

SAY **HELLO** TO FOOTSCRAY'S NEW CREATIVE HUB



Pootscray is a suburb on the move. Its long-held industrial infrastructure is rapidly being added to with hidden bars, chic apartments, microbreweries and creative hubs. And it's not going unnoticed, with Qantas magazine recently observing that "nowhere else in Australia does the post-industrial vibe like Footscray".

Creative spaces particularly flourish in Footscray with the former Footscray Drill Hall now home to the Snuff Puppets and Women's Circus. The old riverside meatworks has been Workshops and meet-ups including 'Strategyzer', 'Investment Panel', 'Co-Working Panel' and 'Valyou X Youth' followed with audiences of budding entrepreneurs eager to learn how to enhance their services and products and connect with like-minded people.

Running until August 2019, the remaining workshops and meet-ups will cover a range of topics including; intellectual property, pitching and marketing and sales as well as events in Maribyrnong's newest Makerspace FAB9. For further information and details visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

transformed into the Footscray Community Arts Centre. And now in the centre of Footscray a new creative hub is emerging to be known as 'Chambers District'. Entrepreneur Nick Foley, who has developed several notable hospitality offerings around Melbourne including Holy Moly, Cop Shop Espresso and Upsy Daisy is the creative mind behind Chambers District with big plans for the site, located at 101 Nicholson Street and overlooking Madden Square. Nick has fitted out the building with a number of new retail stores including Counterweight vinyl record shop and a NY style pizza by the slice offering operated by the Burn City Smokers crew. The top floor will house central Footscray's first open rooftop bar, complementing a wave of new cafes and bars that have opened in the area over the last 12 months in the area.

"Footscray is a fascinating place and so well-suited to small creative businesses, however when I looked into it I noticed that most of the sites available had really large floor spaces and high rents – making it difficult for small businesses to really thrive. To be able to break down a large warehouse space into smaller shops with much lower rents has paved the way for some really cool up and coming offerings, which is really exciting for the area," said Nick.

To celebrate the opening of Chambers District, Nick has engaged local creatives Working Class to bring together a team of local artists to run a series of special community events over the coming months, funded through a Maribyrnong City Council Business Improvement District grant.

The first of five events was held in Madden Square in late November and saw people from all corners of the City and beyond flock to Madden Square for a day of music, fun, food and art. The second event on 22 December will celebrate all things Christmas, offering free photos with Santa, live music, food and market stalls. The other events will take place in early 2019. Check Council's website and social media for more details.

KINGSVILLE TENNIS PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT TO SERVE UP MODERN MULTI-USE SPACE

Following the removal of the current pavilion that was built in the 1950's, construction of the new Kingsville Tennis Pavilion has begun at Hansen Reserve, West Footscray.



The new facility will provide updated player and member amenities, large modern social space for club activities and functions, a commercial grade kitchen, a large undercover outdoor viewing area, upgraded accessible amenities and improved accessible pathways around the site, improved lighting for the tennis courts and pathways, and upgraded storage.

The pavilion will be a multi-purpose space that will not only cater for the Kingsville Tennis Club's growing competition, coaching and social membership, but will also allow for a range of community programs that the Club runs. Kingsville Tennis Club's motto is 'sport for all – regardless of age, level or ability', and this commitment is demonstrated through their community programs, including running sessions for people with physical and intellectual disabilities, as well as people with mental illness. The club president, Marg Lind, said that the upgraded pavilion will help them expand on these community programs. "Kingsville Tennis Club is privileged to have the support of Maribyrnong City Council with the building of our new clubhouse. Tennis is a sport for all ages and abilities, and a new facility to help foster the growth of tennis and participation provides a place where we can share common interests and grow together as a community," Marg said. Paralympian and Australian Open champion Dylan Alcott grew up playing at Kingsville Tennis Club.

"Kingsville Tennis Club is where I began my tennis journey. It has always been a very generous and accepting club catering for all members of the community, providing opportunities for everyone. I am forever grateful to the club for getting me started on my tennis pathway, and a new clubhouse would not just benefit the tennis club, but the entire community around it," Dylan said.

The pavilion redevelopment is scheduled to be complete in June 2019. For project updates, visit **maribyrnong.vic.** gov.au

CELEBRATING LIFELONG LEARNING

Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong Community Centres are the heart of community life and learning in the City. By walking through the centre doors, you could discover a new hobby or learn a new skill. Here, three residents reflect on their recent learning experiences.

LISA MAIDSTONE RESIDENT

If you're like the old me, you may have peeked under the hood of your car but have no idea what's going on in there. That all changed when I took the Car Maintenance for Women course at the Maidstone Community Centre, taught by fabulous mechanic Monica Camilleri.

Fun and informative, the class brought together a broad mix of women with little experience but a can-do attitude. Together we learnt basics such as checking and topping up oil and water, the correct PSI for tyres, and more advanced knowledge on how engines work, changing fuses, testing the battery, starting the car if the battery is flat (turns out there is an easy-to-use device for that), and even changing a tyre. Plus, Monica had great tips on the best and cheapest car products so we don't waste money.



Everyone was very supportive and no question was too big, small or silly to ask. A highlight was bringing in my own car so I could ask questions and try out the things we learnt. Best of all, I feel confident now when talking to my mechanic and safer when driving, secure in the knowledge that if something goes wrong, I might just be able to fix it.



HENRY 6³/₄ years old YARRAVILLE RESIDENT

I've been going to Wit Kids at Braybrook Community Hub since the start of Term 2 this year. Belinda, my teacher, has taught us lots of new games - my favourite ones are 10 Second Objects and Sausage. I've made new friends like Elliott and Zachery. We play in the playground and library every week after class. I feel happy and excited about the things I'm going to be doing each week. We performed a monster play for our parents, I think we did really well. My character was Terry, Elliott's character was Avery and Zachery's character was Iona. We all turned into monsters and frightened our teacher. It was SO MUCH FUN! Kids who like acting, being silly and playing fun games would like Wit Kids.

LAURA

MARIBYRNONG RESIDENT

I have been participating in the Introduction to iPad/iPhone program since the start of this year.

As most seniors today in this high tech world, we all own a mobile phone/ iPad, but do we really know how to use it properly? I use my iPhone mostly every day, pay my bills (never have to wait in a queue at post office), check the weather, however there is so, so, much in that iPhone I don't know how to use. With a hunger to learn and understand more than just the basics, I enrolled as a senior student looking forward to becoming iPhone/iPad savvy.

At every class I learn new things, firstly understanding the functions of your iPhone/iPad, messages, emails, iCloud, photos, iMovie, calendar, Instagram, hashtags, translate, downloading Apps, and some very beneficial and life saving Apps like the Red Cross and Emergency+.

As a senior, learning new skills with an educator who is patient and understanding really stimulates your brain, and gaining knowledge and confidence has empowered me. This is something I would highly recommend to others, and it is also a great opportunity to meet and make new friends.

Take the leap and discover a learning experience that is perfect for you by visiting maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/learn

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG



10 FOR SUMMER LAUNCH – BRUNO LETTIERI IN CONVERSATION WITH ROSALIE HAM

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 6.30-7.30pm FOOTSCRAY LIBRARY

Celebrate the launch of the 10 for Summer reading program at Footscray Library. Acclaimed author of The Dressmaker, Rosalie Ham will be in conversation with local literary guru Bruno Lettieri to discuss her new book The Year of the Farmer which is featured in our 10 for Summer line-up.

FOOTSCRAY FINDS

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER 8am-1pm THE LINE

This bustling monthly market offers an eclectic mix of the unique and boutique. Find that special Christmas gift at the next market in December.

ALBANIAN FESTIVAL

9 DECEMBER 2018 YARRAVILLE GARDENS

Experience a taste of Albanian culture, food and music as part of the Albanian community festival set in the beautiful Yarraville gardens.

FABA NIGHT MUSIC

14 DECEMBER 2018 & 8 FEBRUARY 2019 6-10pm SAIGON PLAZA, CNR. BYRON & LEEDS ST, FOOTSCRAY

Enjoy free live music and entertainment in the heart of Footscray with hawker food stalls.

FESTIVE SEASON

DECEMBER 2018 VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Celebrate the festive season with a jam-packed program of special family-friendly events – see page 3 for details.

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME SESSIONS

MONDAY 10 – FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER ALL MARIBYRNONG LIBRARY BRANCHES

Celebrate the final storytime sessions of the year with a visit from a very special guest.

Sessions run throughout the week for more information visit **maribyrnong.vic.** gov.au

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WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

COMMUNITY BBQ

WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 5.30-7pm MARIBYRNONG COMMUNITY CENTRE, RANDALL STREET MARIBYRNONG

Join us as we celebrate the end of the year, meet your neighbours and hear about what's in store for Maribyrnong Community Centre in 2019.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER 6-8pm AEROPLANE PARK, CHURCHILL AVE. BRAYBROOK

You are invited to Braybrook Community Hub's Picnic in the Park to celebrate another great year. This free event will feature a magician, face painter, pony rides, art activities, roaming musicians, yummy sausages from the BBQ and much more.

CAROLS IN YARRAVILLE GARDENS

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER 2018 7-10.30pm YARRAVILLE GARDENS

Bring a picnic, family and friends to help celebrate the 25th Yarraville Carols. See page 3 for details.

NYE FIREWORKS IN FOOTSCRAY PARK

MONDAY 31 DECEMBER 2018 6.30-10.30pm FOOTSCRAY PARK

Ring in the New Year with a night full of free entertainment, including live stage performances, carnival rides for the kids, food trucks and an exhilarating early fireworks display. See page 3 for details.

JANUARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

MONDAY 14 TO FRIDAY 25 JANUARY ALL MARIBYRNONG LIBRARY BRANCHES

Beat the heat this summer with some great performances and activities during the school holidays. Visit **maribyrnong.** vic.gov.au/library for full details.

MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE

19 JANUARY 2018 TO 10 FEBRUARY 2019 VARIOUS LOCATIONS

This fabulous program draws together the wonderful array of events that take place during Midsumma Festival in Melbourne's west. See page 27 for details.

EAST MEETS WEST LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2019 10am-10pm. FOOTSCRAY CBD

Experience the best of Vietnamese culture in the heart of Footscray with the East Meets West Lunar New Year Festival.



WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

QUANG MINH TET FESTIVAL

4 FEBRUARY 2018 6pm-1am QUANG MINH TEMPLE, BRAYBROOK

Celebrate the Lunar New Year at one of the largest Buddhist Temples in the Southern Hemisphere, with performances, chants and delicious vegetarian food.



YARRAVILLE FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 17 FEBRAURY 2019 9am-7pm YARRAVILLE VILLAGE

An annual event in the heart of Yarraville since 1981 providing entertainment and activities for locals and visitors of all ages.



ST JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 9 FEBURARY 2019, FOOTSCRAY PARK 11am-10.30pm Enjoy one of Australia's premier music festivals, featuring international artists and bands, in its new home in Footscray Park.



SEDDON FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2019. 10am-5pm. SEDDON VILLAGE The streets of Seddon village will be pumping with live music, food stalls and activities for the whole family during this much-loved community event.

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG

MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE

Melbourne's inner west will host an array of special events showcasing the best in queer theatre, contemporary visual art, installations and more as part of Midsumma Westside, running from 19 January to 10 February 2019.

PERCEPTIONS OF OUR FUTURE

15 JAN – 17 FEB PRIDE OF OUR FOOTSCRAY

Perceptions of our Future explores the future that is now in our society, and the futures that may be. It explores futuristic design and use of emerging technology. It explores what dreams we wish for in the future and takes a light-hearted and cheeky approach to how warped these dreams may become.

POLARI

16 – 26 JAN TROCADERO FOOTSCRAY

Polari brings together a range of local, interstate and international queer artists to explore ideas of language, symbols, gesture and communication in relation to their own arts practices, artwork as a medium for these concerns. Curated by Matto Lucas, Polari will take over all of Trocadero's exhibition spaces for ten days.

MOUTHY

31 JAN – 2 FEB

BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPACE Women are to be seen and not heard... or is that children? Either way, these three have never done what they're told. Mouthy is a showcase of Melbourne's most out, loud and prominent lesbian comics. Starring - Sharon Andrews (Raw national finalist), Gabe Hogan (JOY94.9) and Kellyn Lee (South Africa, radio host).

WESTGAY

2 FEB LITTLEFOOT BAR

A very special Midsumma WESTGAY edition, presented by the kids who bring you the fab FRIYAY and CLOSET parties. WESTGAY turns Littlefoot, Footscray's nicest neighbourhood cocktail bar, into the big, gay party westside queers have been waiting for.

MAMA'S LITTLE GAYBY

6 – 9 FEB

BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPACE

In this 'One Woman Cabaret' by an emerging artist, Mamas' Little Gayby shares stories of growing up in the 90s with lesbian mothers and discovering her own queer in her 30's. As a Cis, Hetero, Mono woman, in a community and family of LGBTIQA+ peeps, Courtney pays respects to those who don't have the same privilege in the nuclear norm, while sharing where she fits in.

QUEER ASIANS ANONYMOUS

7 – 10 FEB FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

How does it feel to be a minority within a minority? Welcome to another group session where queer Asian men unpack issues and concerns that impact them being not only a sexual minority but also a racial minority in a predominantly White Australia.

MARIBYRNONG NEWS

Stay up to date with the latest news from across Maribyrnong by subscribing to Maribyrnong News. Visit **maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/subscribe** to be added to our mailing list.

MATERNAL AND CHILD/YOUTH SERVICES

TACKLING ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

H ot Topics member, Julia Coscolluela, explains what the group is hoping to achieve and how you can get involved.

Hot Topics is a committee of young people who are passionate about creating conversational events revolving around topics and issues that are important to our local community's young people. We are part of the FReeZA program, an initiative that provides opportunities for young people to organise and enjoy live music competitions, fashion parades, dance parties and other fun recreational events.

Hot Topics aims to provide a platform for youth to speak up and give their thoughts and opinions, especially on topics that are relevant to us. The events we organise are casual and informal in nature; we invite speakers and young people to share their own experiences rather than give professional opinions. We also feature local young talent at our events, such as spoken word poets, film makers, artists and musicians!

We held two events in 2018 – one was centred on the topic of mental health amongst young migrants, refugees and those from a multicultural background; the other focused on the theme of transitioning into adulthood.

Since becoming a member of the committee, I have felt a stronger connection towards my community and peers. My



involvement has made me more confident in myself and my ability to express my ideas and opinions to other people.

We are currently looking for new members to join Hot Topics in 2019. New members will be able to have their say on the events we plan next year and membership is open to all young people between 12 to 25 years old who live, work, study and/or recreate in Maribyrnong.

If you are interested in organising events and passionate about raising awareness on issues that are important to young people, then we would love to have you as part of our team! To apply, please contact Maribyrnong Youth Services on **9091 4700** or email **phoenix@maribyrnong. vic.gov.au**

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS WELL UNDERWAY AT THE NEW CHURCH STREET CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Church Street Children's Centre redevelopment is moving along. The site has now been cleared, and the ground floor columns and slab are in place.

When the redevelopment is complete, the double storey facility will offer childcare with integrated kindergarten, along with sessional kindergarten and three year old programs. The indoor and outdoor areas will provide modern learning spaces to allow the service to offer high quality education and care programs. The new facility will help meet the increasing demand for child care and kindergarten places in the West Footscray area.

Construction is expected to be completed in August 2019. Families with children eligible to attend sessional kindergarten and the three year old program in 2020 can register now via the Central Registration System.

To register your interest for childcare, 3yo and 4yo kindergarten programs, please call the Maribyrnong Central Registration System on **9688 0116** or visit **maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/crs**

SUMMER READING CLUB



Kids, it's time to get up close and personal with some Curious Creatures this summer!

From real creatures to the imagined, actual to mythological, microscopic to megafauna, and Australia's marvellous marsupials to all the classification of Animalia in between, this summer children aged 5-12 years will be encouraged to explore and connect with a curiosity of creatures during the Summer Reading Club.

Taking place from 17 December to 29 January, the Summer Reading Club is a fun and engaging way to encourage kids to continue reading during the school break. We all know that it can be difficult to sustain reading habits over the summer months when school is out, but the reading club will help combat that!

The Summer Reading Club offers an interactive website, providing fun and engaging online activities such as book

raves, writing competitions, games, recommended reading lists, and much more.

Kids will be able to discover a new world thanks to this year's theme, Curious Creatures, which encourages readers to explore animal facts and kingdoms, learn about real life animal heroes, and explore the concept of anthropomorphic characters (fictional talking animals that possess human-like qualities).

To register for the Summer Reading Club, drop in to your local Library and collect an activity pack to start reading.

Once ten books (or more) have been read, return the reading log to enter the prize draw. The more books that are read, the greater the chance of winning a prize!

Registrations open 17 December.

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

TEN FOR SUMMER

Unwind this summer with some of the best new books.

With a focus on Australian authors, readers will be able to pick from ten exceptional novels that have been written by some of the best local and national authors to read over the summer months.

With stories ranging from the collapse of what was to be a gleaming monument in Melbourne, to a powerful memoir about growing up black in white middle-class Australia, there is something for everyone on this year's Ten for Summer list.

The Year of the Farmer by Rosalie Ham, The Bridge by Enza Gandolfo, Common People by Tony Birch, Nine Perfect Strangers by Liane Moriaty, The Lucky Galah by Tracy Sorensen, The Hate Race by Maxine Beneba Smith, The Power of Hope by Kon Karapangiotidis, The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton, The Shepherd's Hut by Tim Winton, and The Life to Come by Michelle De Kretser.

To take part in this year's Ten for Summer, just visit your local Library branch and pick up your copy of the selected titles.

And make the most of your summer reading by taking your book to your favourite reading spot to unwind!

THE YEAR OF THE PIG

Celebrate Lunar New Year at your local library

Get the family together to celebrate the Year of the Pig with vibrant lion dancing, Chinese cooking demonstration, and bilingual story time sessions at our libraries.

See in the New Year with afternoon tea and borrow from a selection of new Chinese and Vietnamese books and DVDs. Lunar New Year celebrations kick off on Saturday 2 February. For more information about the events taking place, visit **maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library**

WRITERS' GROUPS

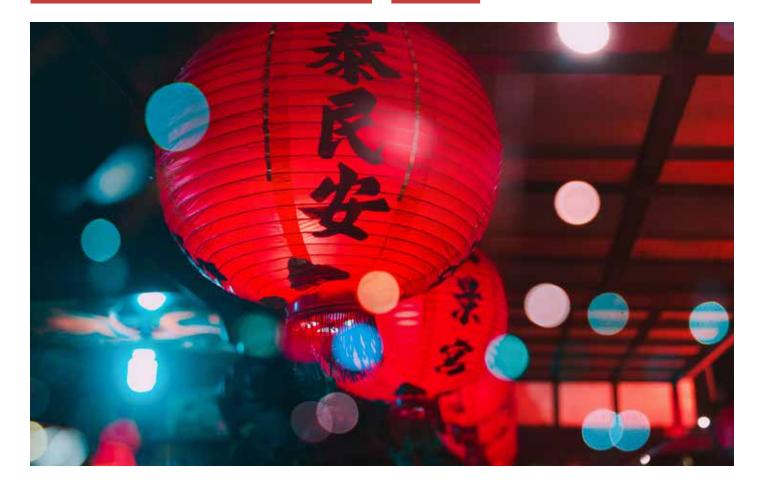
Supporting local writers

Are you an accomplished or budding author? Are you looking for ideas, information and support? Join one of the Yarraville Library Writers' Groups.

<mark>Yarraville Writers' Group #1</mark> First Wednesday of each month – 1.30 - 3pm

Yarraville Writers' Group #2

Second Tuesday of each month – 6.00 - 7.30pm Braybrook Writers' Group 1st Monday of the month – 2.00 - 3.30pm



CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE



PIPEMAKERS PARK

Marsha Thomson MP recently announced a \$1 million State Government grant for Council to upgrade and improve the much-loved Pipemakers Park. The upgrade will include a new children's naturebased play space, upgrades to tracks and paths, and restoration of the History Garden.

HOPKINS STREET RECREATION PLAZA

Following extensive community consultation, a 20 metre long, 4 metre high-climbing wall located under the Hopkins Street Bridge was officially opened in late November. The colourful plaza space under the bridge, on the Maribyrnong River Trail in Footscray, also includes seating and exercise equipment.



MARTIN RESERVE WEST FOOTSCRAY DOG PARK

Martin Reserve dog off lead area in West Footscray is getting a makeover! The upgrade is based on our previous consultation with park users and expert advice on designing for dog behaviour. The main features of the upgrade include: a fenced small dog / quiet zone along the south edge of the reserve; a hard-wearing surface of granitic sand in the centre of the reserve for vigorous play; improved grass surface on the other runabout zones; a dog training zone together with extensive log edges and rock scrambles; additional user signage; and new seating and tree planting. Works have commenced and will be finished in early December.

NEW TOILET FOR BRAYBROOK PARK

Braybrook's beloved Aeroplane Park is getting a brand new toilet, which should come as welcome news to the many people who requested it during our consultation period for the play space. The unisex double cubicle unit will be fully accessible and centrally located to serve the playspace, community garden and adjacent park. Construction will commence in Autumn 2019 and be ready in time for Winter.

ROGER RESERVE PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

We've finalised the plans for the upgrade of Rogers Reserve in Maidstone, following community feedback. Scheduled to begin in Autumn 2019, the upgrade will include: a new nature play area featuring more challenging play equipment; a new shelter with barbecue facilities and picnic settings; a new informal scooter/ bike circuit with 'roundabout' and 'rumble strips'; and improvements to existing garden beds as well as new tree and garden bed planting.





ANGLISS RESERVE PLAYGROUND UPGRADE

We're planning to upgrade the playground at Angliss Reserve in Yarrarville in response to requests from the local community to enhance the space. Scheduled to begin in Autumn 2019, the upgrade will include: new play equipment and basket swing; informal timber and boulder steppers circuit; new granitic sand path with seating and shade tree planting; and removal of fencing between the playground and lawn areas to encourage use of the adjacent open space.





STREET LIBRARIES HAVE POPPED UP IN NEIGHBOURHOODS ACROSS MARIBYRNONG, ENCOURAGING A LOVE OF READING ON SUBURBAN STREETS

Earlier this year, with the help of Braybrook Men's Shed, we built 17 Street Libraries and, through an expression of interest process, we found loving hosts for them across the City.

The small book exchanges were decorated and personalised by each host, and have been placed in their front yards so that they are accessible from the street – an open invitation to share the joys of reading with your neighbours.

The concept is simple: if you have a book that you don't need, leave it in the Street Library for others to read; if you find a book that takes your fancy, take it and have a read, swap it for another or return it when you are done. The books come and go and there is no need to check them in or out.

Catherine, a Maidstone resident who was one of the lucky Street Library recipients, said one of the main reasons she wanted to install one was because of her own love of reading.

"I wanted to make books, and reading, accessible to anyone. Sometimes making a trip to the local library can be an effort, but finding a Street Library in your neighbourhood can overcome this," Catherine said.

The libraries are also a great way to connect with other people in the community, which is the other reason Catherine wanted a Street Library at her place.

"It is so lovely seeing families out for an evening walk that stop by and look to see what books are available. Our neighbours have been so welcoming and appreciative of our Street Library, I certainly feel like it belongs to the whole neighbourhood and is taking on a life of its own," Catherine continued.

There are now more than 20 Street Libraries in the City of Maribyrnong, and anyone is able to install their own Street Library on their property.

To find a Street Library near you, or for more information about installing your own, visit streetlibrary.org.au

For more information about where Street Libraries can be installed, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/ streetlibraries



KEEPING FIT AT ANY AGE

Looking for ways to improve your health and wellbeing?

Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre has a range of great options for older people looking to improve their wellness.

Maintaining an active lifestyle is important at any age, but is especially important as you grow older - staying active can have a range of positive effects on both your physical and mental health.

The benefits of exercise ranges from boosting energy levels and managing symptoms of illness, to enhancing mobility, flexibility and balance, and improving sleep, mood and selfconfidence.

Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) offers a range of wellness programs for older people who are looking to stay active and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

On top of the everyday programs, there are classes that are perfect for active older adults, including Zumba Gold, Yin Yoga and Aqua Zumba.

In addition to the group fitness classes, MAC also has Scifit rehab and cardio equipment in the health club that is specifically designed to support mobility, and improve bone density and strength.

Local resident Hong has been attending MAC for the last ten years and enjoys taking part in Yoga, Zumba, Pilates and BodyPump classes.

"I like to keep active so that I can stay fit and strong my mobility is important," she said.

Hong said that she loves attending MAC because it has everything to offer.

"MAC has great pool facilities, a range of group fitness classes, personal training and health club services. The hydrotherapy pool is great as well as other low impact machines in the health club," Hong continued. For more information on the facilities and programs available, call Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre on 9032 4100, or visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac

WESTERN BULLDOGS ANNOUNCE GOAL PROGRAM

The Western Bulldogs Football Club and the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation are proud to have a long-standing history of supporting African communities in the west. As a Club, the Western Bulldogs pride themselves on their dedication to diversity and inclusion, welcoming all comers regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation.

As part of this, the Club has developed an African Action Plan, put in place to provide leadership within the community in response to the widely publicised supposed "African Gangs" crisis.

The Club's African Action Plan was born from a consultation session earlier this year, involving various stakeholders across the South Sudanese and broader African community, as well as State and Local Government representatives, Victoria Police, Victorian Multicultural

Commission members and local schools.

With the aim to improve access to employment and training for members of African communities, the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation has developed the GOAL program.

Commencing in February 2019, the GOAL program is an eight to twelve-week codesigned initiative whereby members of the local African youth community will be paired with a Western Bulldogs player

and community mentor to increase their understanding of engagement, education, employment and training pathways and opportunities. Western Bulldogs **Community Foundation** General Manager Kashif Bouns said the Club's dedication to diversity and inclusion and attachment to multicultural communities in the west, drove the need to establish this program.

"The program will engage African youth aged between

14-18 who will be matched with mentors from our playing group and will participate in a number of workshops," said Bouns. "We are lucky to have role models like Jason Johannisen and Reuben William at our club who have already done some work in this area.

"AFLW player Ellie Blackburn who has been doing some vouth work with Ladder will be also instrumental in supporting the program."





The Tottenham (West Footscray) warehouse fire on 30 August was the biggest fire in metropolitan Melbourne since Coode Island. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) was quick to respond with 41 trucks and 145 firefighters in attendance.

Council actively sought to reassure residents and facilitated a public meeting that night for the MFB, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and support agencies to respond to residents' concerns about the impact of the fire. A second public meeting was held on 6 September where emergency authorities again responded to concerns and a live Q and A was held via Facebook on 12 September. The MFB transferred management of the site to Council in September and Council continues to work with other agencies involved, such as Melbourne Water and EPA, in managing the recovery. Three sub committees were established to facilitate the recovery, this includes the Communication and Engagement, Natural Environment Recovery and the Regulatory and Risk subcommittees. A Cruickshank Park Community Day was also held on 18 November to provide an update on the recovery of Stony Creek and allow attendees to ask any questions. Council advertised a request for nominations to create a Stakeholder and Community Advisory Group in November and that group is presently being formed. It is made up of residents and representatives from key stakeholder groups. The group will advise on the development and implementation of the recovery plans for Stony Creek. Some of the activities undertaken since the fire include:

• Testing of air quality, water and sediment has been carried out since the fire to better inform clean-up activities.

- 170 m³ of contaminated silt has been removed, stockpiled and contained ready for safe disposal in a secure landfill. By March 2019, another 500 m³ or more of contaminated silt will have been removed and stockpiled
- Black sludge has been removed from the banks of the creek
- Booms and hay bale bunds have been placed throughout the creek. This is being complemented by Melbourne Water's eductor truck which is removing floating contaminants and debris. A CCTV inspection of the culverts has been done and the footage will inform how these will be cleaned.
- Specialist arborists wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) worked with cranes to remove trees and other vegetation in sections from Stony Creek. Further testing and assessment will be undertaken by EPA during the work and after it is complete to ensure the creek has been remediated to appropriate levels.
- EPA officers are continuing to inspect the fire site regularly, to monitor compliance with statutory notices and ensure appropriate management of risks and Council ensures safety of the site.

The EPA advises everyone to follow the instructions found on signs placed around Stony Creek and to avoid contact with water in Stony Creek. Don't let pets swim in the area or drink the water and, as a precaution, avoid eating fish from Stony Creek. If you come into contact with contaminated water, remove wet clothing and wash areas of your body that have come into contact with contaminated water with warm soapy water. Seek medical attention if you feel unwell. For more information visit our recovery page www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/recovery



RIBBETING NEWS: NATIVE FROGS RETURN TO STONY CREEK

Local frogs are jumping back into Stony Creek following the pollution caused by run-off from the West Footscray/ Tottenham factory fire.

To further encourage the return of native frogs to the creek corridor, Council, Melbourne Water and Friends of Cruickshank have been working together to create frog friendly habitats – and turning it into a learning opportunity for young people along the way.

Some of Maribyrnong's youngest residents at Clare Court Kindergarten and young visitors of Council's Stony Creek Community Day had the chance to learn more about our native frog species, the Eastern Banjo, Common Froglet and Spotted Marsh frogs, and how to make frog friendly habitats in their own backyard. Two frog ponds will be installed, one along Stony Creek in Cruickshank Park and another at Clare Court Kindergarten. By creating a frog-friendly habitats, it helps to provide a vital habitat for these little creatures.

Frogs are crucial to our local environment as they help control insect populations and provide an essential food source for many predators. More importantly they can act as an indicator of waterway health as they are often sensitive to changes in their habitat.

More workshops will be held in early 2019 where young people can learn to design and construct their own frog friendly habitat and pond for their homes. Make sure you're following our Facebook page for updates on future events www.facebook.com/Maribyrnong

Summer 2018



UNCLE LARRY MURAL FINDS A NEW HOME AT FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE, FOUR YEARS AFTER ITS ORIGINAL INSTALLATION Part of the inaugural StreetWORKS program, Daniela Rodriguez's iconic photographs of Indigenous elder and storyteller Uncle Larry were installed in paste-up format on the pier at Bunbury Street Rail Bridge in Footscray in 2014.

Due to weathering and repeated vandalism, the artwork had significantly deteriorated and was removed. But because of the artworks popularity in the community, it was decided that the work would be reinstalled in a more durable material and safer location.

The new work, which consists of two large black and white photographic prints of Uncle Larry, is now located on the rear exterior wall of Smorgon Gallery at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

ART PRIZE BRINGING THE WORK OF TALENTED ARTISTS TO THE WEST

Footscray Art Prize is back after a successful inaugural year

Influenced by a rich industrial heritage and diverse multicultural community, the west is a thriving and innovative creative hub, with a growing reputation for being a centre of arts and culture.

It's because of this vibrancy that Footscray is perfectly placed to host an art prize, which was reflected in the large number of high calibre submissions for the inaugural Footscray Art Prize in 2017.

Local artist Heesco, who won the Street Art category in the 2017 Footscray Art Prize, said he was extremely grateful to be able to contribute to Footscray's art scene.

"Footscray is simply amazing. There's a very genuine sense of community always present. The cultural diversity and vibrancy creates a welcome atmosphere, especially for a first generation migrants like myself. Being able to contribute to this community with my murals is a huge privilege to me," Heesco said.

Heesco's winning work, Miss Citizen of the World, was one of three works shortlisted in the Street Art category in 2017, and is on display on Building D, Victoria University Nicholson Campus.

"Winning the Street Art Prize was definitely one of the highlights of my career so far. That mural will forever remain one of the most important works of my life," Heesco continued. Entries for the 2019 Footscray Art Prize are now open, giving artists from across Australia the opportunity to showcase their art in the thriving hub of Footscray and share in \$17,500 worth of prizes across four categories – Footscray Art Prize (Main), Street Art Prize, Tertiary Prize and Young Artist (Secondary and Primary) Prizes.

Entries close on 15 March 2019, and winners will be announced in June. Shortlisted works will be on display at a Footscray Art Prize exhibition, which will be held at Footscray Community Arts Centre (Main and Street Art Prizes), and VU at MetroWest (Tertiary and Young Artists Prize).

For more information, visit footscrayartprize.com

The biennial Footscray Art Prize is a unique collaboration between Victoria University, Maribyrnong City Council, Footscray Community Arts Centre and the Rotary Club of Footscray.



FESTIVAL CITY FESTIVAL CITY IN FULL SWING!

TAKE A WALK OUT WEST FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE MIDSUMMA



Sunshine Boy is one of the many events being hosted as part of the Midsumma Festival.

Melbourne's inner west will host an array of special events showcasing the best in queer theatre, contemporary visual art, installations and more as part of Midsumma Westside, running from 19 January to the 10 February 2019.

Midsumma is Melbourne's premier annual gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQA) arts and cultural festival with events right across metropolitan Melbourne.

Midsumma Westside draws together the 18 wonderful Midsumma events that take place in Melbourne's west, bringing a new face to a partnership between Midsumma and the Councils of the inner West that stretches back a decade. .

In 2019, Maribyrnong will host six events including Perceptions of our future, Polari, Mouthy, Westgay, Mama's little Gayby, Queer Asians Anonymous. Explore! Dive right in! Take a walk out west with Midsumma Westside! Take a walk out West for an unforgettable experience!

Check out page 16 to view the full list of Midsumma Westside events.

For more information visit **www.festivalcity.com.au** or **www.midsumma.org.au**



IKA8 SERVES UP SQUID ON A STICK IN FOOTSCRAY

Taking its inspiration from the street foods of South East Asia, IKA8 is Footscray's newest snack joint serving up whole deep-fried and grilled giant squid on a stick.



Located opposite Footscray Station and next to Footscray Market, IKA8 is born from the desire of its owners to 'shine a spotlight on squid' and bring something new and different to Melbourne's food scene.

"I have always loved the taste of squid and noticed there was no place in Melbourne specialising and honouring squid," said Co-owner Jenny Pham. On a visit to Singapore, Jenny and fellow owner CJ Duong saw giant squids on sticks being sold in the streets and just knew they needed to bring it to Melbourne. When determining a location for their new store, Jenny and CJ and had their sights firmly set on central Footscray. "We both grew up in the west and the Footscray Market is where we were first discovered fresh and exotic flavours. When a shop space opened up right next to the market, we knew it was time to turn our dream into reality!" said Jenny.

It was then over to Head Chef Eddie Huynh to inject the seafood snack with a variety of flavours using traditional Asian ingredients such as tom yum sauce, soy and ginger Japanese glaze, Singapore salted egg sauce and spicy Korean dressing. In addition to its famed giant squid on a stick, IKA8 offers squid in different shapes and sizes - in trays, rings and balls - served up with rice, chips and salad "We love seeing the neighbourhood crowd come in - local students, business owners and workers. We've even had people travel for two hours to visit us which is a humbling experience," said Jenny.

IKA8

24 Irving Street, Footscray Open daily 11am–9pm

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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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.

MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

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