



Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

# MESSENGER

Summer 2021

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

CREATING  
COMMUNITY:  
MEET  
BULLDOG  
PRIDE  
PRESIDENT  
AMY FABRY-  
JENKINS

SHARE YOUR  
FOOTSCRAY  
TOWN HALL  
MEMORIES

CHOOSE  
COMMUNITY  
CHOOSE  
VACCINATION



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**W**elcome to the summer issue of Maribyrnong Messenger.

It is an honour to be your new Mayor and I look forward to advocating for your needs and contributing to a positive change within our community. If the past year has taught us anything – it is that if we band together we can move mountains.

This message shone through clearly in our COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which features local community members and leaders sharing their personal reasons for getting vaccinated – to help increase vaccination rates in Maribyrnong, which was among the lowest in Melbourne.

The campaign tapped into the tight-knit village-feel and community spirit for which the inner west is renowned, encouraging our diverse community to get the job done for our clearest path back to normal. Pop-up vaccination clinics hosted at places of worship and community centres have made it easy for locals to get vaccinated in places they are familiar with.

In addition to getting vaccinated, another way we can show our support for our community now that things are slowly returning to normal is shopping local – especially as we head into the festive season. Buying presents, catering and groceries locally means a lot to the small businesses in our City. For inspiration where to shop, check out the Love Your Local directory at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/loveyourlocal](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/loveyourlocal)

The pandemic continues to be challenging for our community and Council continues to provide support where it can, including an additional support package for the community and businesses that will take effect in the coming weeks.

It is great to be able to experience additional freedoms and while life is far from normal for many of our community, I sincerely hope you will be able to enjoy a festive season with your family and friends and look forward to engaging further with you on Council's projects, plans and activities in the New Year.

**Cr Anthony Tran**  
Mayor of the City  
of Maribyrnong



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# COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

## NOVEMBER

Tuesday 9, 6.30pm: Council Meeting (Election of Mayor)

Tuesday 16, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

## DECEMBER

Tuesday 7, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 14, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

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

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's YouTube channel and community members can submit questions for public question time by emailing [governance@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:governance@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) by midday on the day of the meeting.

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

# SHARE YOUR FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL MEMORIES

The history of the Footscray Town Hall is rich and layered – from the initial redevelopment of the original building in 1936 to the planned renovation in 2022 of the now nearly 90-year old heritage building.



**D**esigned by British born architect Joseph Plottel, the new building in 1936 paid homage to its predecessor maintaining similar physical attributes while also adding Corinthian columns, an ornate mosaic floored ballroom and maple balustrades.

In its early days, the current Town Hall hosted public occasions; some were official, others were community gatherings to mark social milestones. Towards the end of the century, the building was largely used for council matters.

Now it's all about to change again.

Just as back in 1908 when The Age reported the then Mayor's lament over the poor state of the Town Hall and Courthouse building, councillors today have also acknowledged the current Town Hall is no longer fit for purpose as a civic administration building.

It will be handed back to the community, following renovation.

As we look to a new chapter for this iconic building, you have told us you want to see an inviting space that can

be used in different ways by community organisations and social groups for training, large talks, and celebrations. But you also want us to retain the beauty and character of the existing building while incorporating modern green initiatives such as solar lighting, recycled materials and electric car charging.

As we continue to work on the re-design of the building, we are also asking the community to dig into their personal archives to share photos and stories of time spent at the Town Hall – whether attending a ball, receiving citizenship, or attending some other special event or meeting there – so we can collate into a memory book as part of Council's commitment to celebrating the heritage of this iconic building.

Visit Your City Your Voice to upload your photographs and memories to help commemorate the new Civic and Community Precinct as a living museum of our shared past **[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/civic-precinct](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/civic-precinct)**

Photos courtesy of Footscray Historical Society

# BEYOND PAPER DOLLS—

CREATING  
COMMUNITIES

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## It was in her late teens that Amy Fabry-Jenkins decided to reach beyond the paper doll roles presented to her, and create a more genuine and inspired relationship with her world.

Amy is a 'doer'. She knows some of her choices are considered alternative to mainstream society and finds herself motivated to create a community where labels fade under the light of compassion.

Her decision can be linked back to her choice to study what she loved at the time, Spanish and criminology, and the resulting question as to what career those subjects would lead to.

"Spanish and criminology, what are you going to do with that?" she asks with a smile. "Work in a Mexican prison?" Her answer was to organise a women's mentoring network.

Amy was the women's officer at Melbourne University's student union at the time where she connected undergraduates with women who could help explore career pathways beyond traditional roles.

"There are so many jobs out there – jobs that aren't fire fighters and nurses, the kinds that you cut out as paper dolls as a kid – you have no idea what these other jobs are when you're at university, what for instance does a project manager do?"

It was also at university that Amy met her spouse. They worked together on the university's national women's student conference Amy also organised. "They had a huge crush on me, I was like: 'what hours can you do on the conference' and they were like: 'all of them'," she laughs.

It was the start of an eight-year journey together. "My partner, was born a woman and was a woman when we got together. While we've been together for eight years, they came out as non-binary, they've started taking testosterone, and changed their name," Amy shares.

At the end of her final year at university, Amy became a youth organiser at the Victorian Trades Hall Council. She continued working with them as an Occupational Health and Safety Online Organiser for two years after graduating. During this time the debate about marriage equality was in the news.

Amy is a long-time advocate of marriage equality and campaigned with her spouse from 2015 to make gay marriage legal. This included door knocking and setting up stalls in Footscray, Yarraville, Hawthorn and Frankston.

"You had to literally explain yourself to strangers,"

Amy recalls the sometimes challenging reactions she experienced to sharing her belief in social justice and marriage equality.

Campaigning opened her eyes further to the contradictions of stereotypes. Like tatted up, 'rough' men she encountered being supportive of marriage equality because they were engaged to each other, or the couple in their eighties who'd been together for thirty years. "When I was campaigning in Heathmont, where my own grandma lives, there were two nice older ladies coming out of the butchers and they'd been together for thirty years. You're just born that way – it's not a recent invention."

ABC TV news filmed Amy and her spouse in their lounge room the morning the same sex marriage plebiscite results were announced in 2017, making way for same-sex couples to legally marry. They celebrated this historic milestone by tying the knot in 2018 at Footscray Community Arts Centre.

2017 was the same year Amy helped organise Bulldog Pride, the social group for Western Bulldogs LGBTIQ+ supporters. The group watches the games together and run inclusive social events.

Growing up in West Footscray with Whitten Oval down the road, she'd always called herself a Bulldogs supporter but didn't get involved in the club until she met her spouse and the two started going to games together.

The volunteer Bulldog Pride group has two focuses. "One is making sure that queer people have allies and a crew to go to the football – often people will stop going to the football when they come out and they don't feel safe. The other part is working with the club to make it a safe place to be – we're an officially recognised coterie group," she explains.

Members of the group range in age from 10 years old to those in their sixties and they cross the spectrum of LGBTIQ+ including parents who come along to support their children who identify as queer.

Amy, who is the Bulldog Pride President, helped organise the pride march in early 2020 in Footscray from Nicholson Street Mall to Whitten Oval. Drag performers from Pride Of Our Footscray Community Bar led the parade with Bulldog Pride adding pageantry and colour. Crowds cheered as they passed.

The march was a visible show of support for the LGBTIQ+ community. "We used to talk about tolerance," Amy reflects. "But that sounds begrudging. I want people to be compassionate to each other. It is about justice – equality is about being treated the same – I want more than equality, I want a just world, a kind and compassionate world."

*Council is currently undertaking community engagement on the LGBTIQ+ Strategy and Action Plan. Head to page 8 for more information.*

# THE FESTIVAL CITY IS HEATING UP AGAIN THIS SUMMER

**We are thrilled to be able to support a number of opportunities for our community to get together over the Summer enjoying some of the best Maribyrnong has to offer.**

All events will proceed in line with State Government health orders and directions at the time.

## FOOTSCRAY NIGHT MARKET

**The Footscray Night Market returns for four Friday evenings in December in the beautiful historic gardens of Railway Reserve.**

Travel the globe every Friday night with each week's cuisines, entertainment and music showcasing a different culture.

The journey begins in Africa with rich spice seasonings and complimentary program of African Artists from the Melbourne International Jazz Festival. Then onto to Asia with spicy dishes accompanied by Bollywood beats and Lion dances, followed by an Australian showcase with indigenous food offerings and smoking ceremony. Finally to Europe where we embrace the festive spirit with Christmas carols, gift stalls and a special appearance from the big man himself!

Free, family fun in the heart of Footscray.

**Date:** Every Friday Night starting 3rd Dec. to 24th Dec.

**Time:** 5-10pm

**Location:** Railway Reserve, enter via Cnr Nicholson and Irving streets, Footscray

For full details visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)



Photo by Ceballos Photography

## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY

**This year's Christmas program is all about celebrating the magic of Christmas with fun activities for the whole family to enjoy.**

### MARIALITY

Start with our new initiative that brings selected images around our City to life. Direct the MARiality app, which can be downloaded to your phone, at one of our selected street murals to make it come to life with augmented reality technology. The app is also home to a fun activity that turns a regular colouring sheet into a 3D piece of moving art. Be sure to wait until the end to enter the colouring competition.



### SANTA AND SIRENS

Enter our Christmas colouring competition through the MARiality app to win a personal visit to your home from Santa and helpers on board a vintage fire engine.

### A CHRISTMAS E-CAROL

Last year we launched our own 12 Days of Christmas carol that gives a shout out to each of our suburbs. Get into the Christmas spirit by singing along to the lyrics, record and send it to us. We'll incorporate your clips into our 12 Days of Christmas video for 2021.

### CHRISTMAS PASTE UP TRAIL

Christmas characters will be popping up throughout our business districts. See if you can find them all featuring sweet mouse and her friends.

### CHRISTMAS PROJECTIONS

Christmas light shows will be projected on the walls of the Footscray Town Hall and Maddern Square in the lead up to Christmas. Come along and enjoy the display.

For full details visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

## FLOW

**27 November 2021**  
Footscray Community Arts Centre  
Amphitheatre

FLOW Festival is back with its second edition on Saturday 27 November in the beautiful surrounds of the Footscray Community Arts Centre. Showcasing the abundance of local talent, the festival will feature a completely Victorian line-up, while providing the essentials of Soul, Jazz and Hiphop worldwide.

Visit [flowau.net](http://flowau.net) for further details.

## MELBOURNE PASIFIKA FESTIVAL AND CHARITY WALK

**4 December 2021**  
Footscray Park

Melbourne's annual celebration of Pasifika culture comes to Footscray Park for the first time with traditional island food, arts and crafts, children's activities and traditional and modern performances. There's also a Charity Walk along the Maribyrnong River raising funds for Humanitarian Projects in the Pacific Islands.

Visit [melbournepasifikafestival.org](http://melbournepasifikafestival.org) for further details.

## EAST MEETS WEST LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

**16 January 2022**  
Central Footscray

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

Visit [faba.org.au](http://faba.org.au) for further details.

## MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE

**23 January - 13 February 2022**  
Various locations

Celebrate a diverse mix of LGBTQIA+ artists and performers at a range of events taking place during Midsumma Festival in Melbourne's west.

Visit [midsumma.org.au](http://midsumma.org.au) for further details.

## QUANG MINH TET FESTIVAL

**31 January 2022**  
Quang Minh Temple, Braybrook

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

Visit [quangminh.org.au](http://quangminh.org.au) for further details.

## KIWI FEST

**19 February 2022**  
Footscray Community Arts Centre  
Amphitheatre

This annual celebration of New Zealand culture brings together one of Melbourne's largest immigrant communities for a diverse festival of all things Aotearoa. Kiwi Fest is an all-ages event featuring live music, cultural performances and traditional Kiwi food and drink.

Visit [kiwifest.net](http://kiwifest.net) for further details.

## HEAVENLY QUEEN WEEKENDER

**27 - 28 February 2022**  
Heavenly Queen Temple, Footscray

Marking the first ever festival hosted within the majestic grounds of the Heavenly Queen Temple, the Heavenly Queen Weekender is a two day arts, culture and music festival. Saturday 27 is a licensed 18+ ticketed event, while Sunday 28 is a free all ages event with food, music and activities for the whole family.

Visit [velodromeevents.com.au](http://velodromeevents.com.au) for further details.

## YARRAVILLE FESTIVAL

**5 - 6 March 2022**  
Yarraville Village

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

Visit [yarravillefestival.com.au](http://yarravillefestival.com.au) for further details.

## STONY CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL

**13 March 2022**  
McNish Reserve, Yarraville

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

Visit [yarravillefestival.com.au](http://yarravillefestival.com.au) for further details.

## WEST FOOTSCRAY FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

**20 March 2022**  
Barkly Village, West Footscray

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

Visit [westfootscray.com.au](http://westfootscray.com.au) for further details.



# VISIONING FOOTSCRAY – SHARE YOUR VISION

**Footscray is changing with many new developments, including a new hospital and learning precinct under construction. Recognised by the State Government as a Key Business Precinct, it is set to continue to grow – both in stature and population – as it attracts significant new investment.**

**T**o plan for this, we want to know how you want Footscray to look in the future – your vision for Footscray. Your feedback will help guide the development of the Footscray Public Realm Plan. It will build on existing plans focused on the opportunity to expand the network of public spaces and redevelop streets to make them more friendly and enhance local connections. It will identify infrastructure needs, and opportunity to direct investment and advocate for a prosperous and liveable City for all.

When developing your vision you may want to think about:

- > design and character of streets, open spaces and buildings
- > connectivity – how you might want to travel around
- > perceptions around safety
- > a personal reflection or experience

Share your vision for Footscray at

**[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/VisioningFootscray](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/VisioningFootscray)**

## LGBTIQA+ STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Council has a strong commitment towards inclusion, equality and pride in our diverse community, including our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and questioning, and allied (LGBTIQA+) people, families and communities.

To support our work in this space, we are developing the LGBTIQA+ Strategy and Action Plan to identify tangible actions to strengthen social and economic inclusion for the LGBTIQA+ community and reduce barriers to their participation in the city.

We are inviting the community – and particularly LGBTIQA+ people who live, work, study or recreate in the City of Maribyrnong, as well as their families, allies and local service providers – to contribute to this initial conversation by completing an online survey by 24 December via **[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/lgbtqa](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/lgbtqa)**

## 26 JANUARY

Last month we sent a postcard to the occupants of 38,000 properties in the City to start the conversation to better understand diverse community thinking to help shape a respectful way to respond to 26 January going forward.

We asked “Do you believe Council should take any actions to acknowledge the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on ‘Australia Day’, 26 January – and if so, what should that look like?”

If you haven’t already done so, please send it back to us with your comments or go to Your City Your Voice to provide your answers.

We understand this is a complex issue and there will need to be more discussions as we gather and unpack the view of local First Nations people, our diverse communities, and broader community. The dialogue will continue in the New Year.

Visit **[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/26jan](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/26jan)**

## Maribyrnong Messenger feedback

Thank you to all of our residents who shared feedback on our Maribyrnong Messenger magazine. We received over 850 responses, which we are currently reviewing. This feedback will help shape the future of Maribyrnong Messenger, and we will share more about this in the next edition.



## Choose Community Choose Vaccination

**We know the vaccine is our greatest ally in the fight against COVID and getting the jab done provides the clearest path back to freedom.**

While we are making progress towards a return to some form of normality with more than 60% of our community now double dosed, we are not there yet.

As part of a campaign to continue to drive up vaccination rates, local community leaders, business owners and icons are sharing their personal reasons for getting their jabs to support community members who may be hesitant or on the fence about getting the vaccine.



I did it for my friends, family, community and for me.

**Margherita Coppolino**  
Disability Advocate



I did it to protect myself against the long-term effects of COVID.

**Mat O'Keefe**  
CEO Pride of Our Footscray



I did it so I can welcome our customers back to the restaurant.

**Rozenn Blouin**  
Co-Owner Konjo Café



I did it so we can get as close to normal as possible.

**Maxine Beneba Clarke**  
Local author



I did it for my 73 year old mum.

**Kon Karapanagiotidis**  
CEO Asylum Seeker Resource Centre



I did it to protect my family, my community and the neighbourhood that I love.

**Joyce Watts**  
Lives and works in Footscray



I did it to protect my three children and my elderly parents.

**Alice Pung**  
Local author



I did it for my grandma because family is important to me.

**Mohamed Semra**  
Local youth human rights advocate



I did it for my family and my community within the Inner West.

**John Ng** Local business owner and  
Founder of Humans of SKY

Head to [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/choosevax](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/choosevax) for all the latest pop-up clinic information.

# FOOD AND GARDEN ORGANICS TIPS

## Handy tips for using your new food and garden organics service

Anything you eat can go in the bin, along with your garden waste.

- ✓ Food leftovers and bones
  - ✓ Fruit and vegetable scraps
  - ✓ Garden waste (leaves, grass, weeds, etc.)
  - ✓ Dairy products
  - ✓ Bread, pasta, rice and noodles
  - ✓ Coffee and tea grounds
  - ✓ Seafood, poultry and meat
  - ✗ Plastic bags or liners (even if they're biodegradable or compostable)
  - ✗ Food packaging or containers
  - ✗ Coffee pods or tea bags
  - ✗ Nappies, tissues or wipes
  - ✗ Pet droppings or kitty litter
  - ✗ Liquids or oils
  - ✗ Magazines or papers

## RECYCLING YOUR FOOD WASTE IN THREE SIMPLE STEPS

## 1. Collect your food waste

Use a container or the free kitchen caddy provided with your bin to collect your food scraps.

**Tip:** Freeze meat, poultry, seafood or other foods in a container until the night before collection, to limit odours from your bin.

## 2. Empty your kitchen caddy or container into your green bin

Place your food waste along with your garden waste into your lime green lidded bin, ensuring there are no bags or other prohibited items included.

**Tip:** Keep some garden waste handy to cover your food waste, and keep your bin in a shady spot if possible to keep it at its freshest.

### 3. Put your bin out

Put your lime green lidded bin out for collection each fortnight – on the alternate week to your recycling bin.

More information [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/foodwaste](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/foodwaste)

# WARM WEATHER REMINDER

The anticipated warmer weather means snakes will be coming out of hibernation and visiting local waterways and parklands in Maribyrnong. Although it is rare for snakes to bite, residents should be cautious and not approach, touch or attempt to capture a snake. If you see a snake at your home, contact a snake catcher. If you see a snake on public land, such as at a park, contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on **13 61 86**. If you see injured wildlife, call Wildlife Victoria on **1300 094 535**. It is an offence to kill, take, control or harm wildlife in Victoria, including snakes.



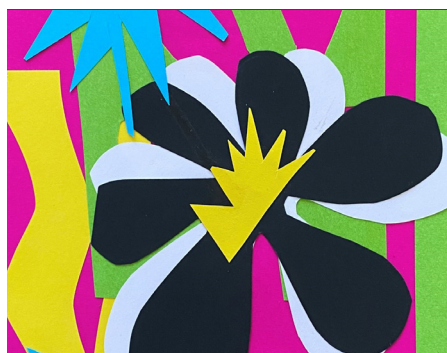


## LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES UPDATE

### BIG SUMMER READ

**Join. Borrow. Play. Win!**

The BIG Summer Read is a fun and accessible summer program designed to keep children engaged in literacy activities over the summer school holidays! There are some seriously great prizes up for grabs. Anyone aged 18 and under can sign up. Join online at [plv.beanstack.org](http://plv.beanstack.org) or pick up a registration form at a library branch.



### SUMMER ARTING FOR ADULTS

Renowned local Artist Amanda Neville will be hosting a creative day of Summer Arting for Adults early in the New Year. The one-day workshop is broken into two components: the morning session focuses on creative drawing followed by an afternoon of hands on creative collage making. All materials will be supplied.

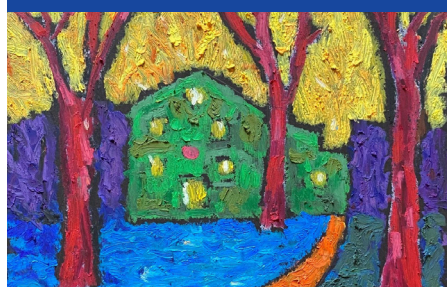
**When:** Wednesday 19 January 2022

**Where:** Braybrook Community Centre

**Time:** 10am-3pm with a break for lunch. Pack a picnic lunch

**Cost:** \$40/\$36 concession

**Bookings:** [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/community-centres](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/community-centres)



### PICNIC IN THE PARK

The Maidstone Community Centre will be hosting another fabulous Picnic in the Park during Random Acts of Kindness Week in late February. Similar to last year's picnic, there will be complimentary sweet treat boxes, reptile petting, a kid's treasure hunt and nature creations, table tennis, live music and of course random acts of kindness!

**When:** Sunday 20 February 2022

**Where:** Maidstone Community Centre

**Time:** 12-2pm

**Cost:** Free

To find out more about other programs and events at our Community Centres and Libraries please visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/community-centres](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/community-centres)

### BOOK BUNDLES

Request a Book Bundle, and we'll help you discover titles you'll want to read or watch – no need to browse the shelves, we'll do that for you. This service is free for library members!

Simply answer a few questions about your book and/or film tastes, and our staff will curate a personalised selection just for you. We'll call when your Book Bundle is ready for pickup at your preferred library.

Request a Book Bundle online, or by calling your local library.

To find out more about book bundles and other events happening in our libraries please visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)





# MEDICINAL CANNABIS AND SOLAR – ALTERNATIVE RATES FUNDING INVESTIGATIONS

**Council is exploring the opportunity to invest in innovative business ventures that could bring in revenue to reduce the burden on its ratepayers – with medicinal cannabis and solar energy two potential options.**

Earning income independently of rates would reduce the amount ratepayers need to pay to fund services and activities and, depending on the amount of extra income earned, deliver additional services.

Community feedback is currently being sought on the proposal to operate or partner in a venture to manufacture, cultivate and produce medicinal cannabis which Council believes has potential to provide employment, rates relief and improved health and wellbeing outcomes (for chronically unwell residents for whom conventional treatments may not work).

Grants money, funding from potential partners and Government, a loan or calling on reserves are options to fund a start-up. But Council is a long way away from getting a venture like this up and running with a number of risks, as well as opportunities, that need to be considered.

A feasibility study and risk assessment would be needed to provide a direction on an operational and business structure, market potential, costs, funding, and timeframes; and challenges around the likes of planning and licensing. Council will only commission the study if the majority of

respondents who provide feedback support this, and currently 74.5% of nearly 600 residents are saying yes to further investigations.

Until the study is undertaken there are still many questions Council does not yet have answers to. But should the proposal proceed beyond feasibility, it would need to demonstrate it is able to comply with the requirements of the Office of Drug Control (ODC) to obtain a licence. This includes the likes of security measures around any cultivation site and providing evidence those involved are 'fit and proper persons' to the satisfaction of the ODC.

If the venture was to go ahead, it is also intended the business would remain in the hands of Council. Though a future Council could take a different direction should there be no legal impediments.

The power of the sun also provides a potential alternative source of income to reduce rates, with the added benefit of also reducing the negative environmental impacts the City may produce through energy consumption.

There are a number of solar and sustainable projects, including community battery projects and neighbourhood scale battery energy storage systems programs Council has asked be investigated as a means to raise revenue, off-set power bills and provide power security.

To provide comment on Medicinal Cannabis, please visit [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/medicinal-cannabis](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/medicinal-cannabis)

**We've refreshed our Business Improvement District (BID) Grant Program with the introduction of a new opportunity to boost local businesses – via the Business Elevate Program.**

**A** total pool of \$70,000 is available to enable business to business interaction, transactions and support within the City through the development of a preferred supplier register of local businesses who, through their services, can help other local businesses grow and 'elevate' to the next level.

A list of preferred suppliers were identified through an Expression of Interest process earlier this year for the Business Elevate Program register, which can be found on our Maribyrnong Localised platform. These participating businesses will offer services valued at, or up to, \$2,000 across a range of categories including:

1. Accounting and Bookkeeping
2. Business Coaching and Consulting
3. Copywriting and Public Relations
4. Digital Marketing and Search Engine Optimisation
5. Graphic Design and Visual Merchandising
6. Human Resources and Recruitment
7. Legal and Intellectual Property
8. Marketing Consulting and Advertising
9. Photography
10. Printing and Signage
11. Videography
12. Web Design and Mobile App Development

Small business owners within the City of Maribyrnong can apply for a \$2,000 voucher to receive services and participate in the program, with applications open from 9am, Monday 29 November 2021 to 5pm, Friday 14 January 2022. Up to 35 local businesses will be able to participate and be matched with their preferred Business Elevate Program partner. Vouchers will be allocated to those who meet relevant selection criteria on a 'first in, best dressed' basis. To apply and for more information visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/localised](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/localised)



## JOIN THE BUSINESS ELEVATE PROGRAM TO BOOST YOUR BUSINESS

Eight trader groups, associations and collectives across the City used the \$225,000 allocated in this year's Business Improvement District (BID) Grant funding to produce projects that demonstrated agility, innovation, creativity and determination to push on despite the unique challenges of COVID-19 restrictions. A further 33 businesses shared \$52,000 in micro grants.

The funds were awarded in 2020/21, and the awardees recognised at a digitally streamed presentation ceremony held in September.

Awardees included the Better Business Incubator Program, developed by The Founders Co. – a collective of strategic and creative founders who specialise in strategic planning, brand and marketing, performance growth, digital strategy and content creation. Seventeen small business participants were able to immerse themselves into the eight week online program of weekly masterclass workshops, which were developed and delivered during the pandemic.

Five trader associations: Cotton Mills Business Association, West Footscray Traders Association, Seddon Village Traders Association, Yarraville Traders Association, and Footscray Traders Association; as well as three collective groups of businesses: The Founders Co, West Wedding Collective and Co-Working Westside, were BID Grant recipients.

### Connect with your neighbouring businesses – Maribyrnong Localised

Local businesses looking for more exposure have a new place to promote their goods and services and connect with other local business operators by joining the 'Maribyrnong Localised' online business community. This online platform is a business led initiative, supported by Council, and is available to all City businesses. Join Maribyrnong Localised at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/localised](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/localised)

#### Why join?

- It's a platform to share local news, business/tender opportunities.
- It gives business operators the opportunity to connect with other local operators.
- Gives business owners the opportunity to promote their goods and services to a wider audience (both through the business directory and then through articles that owners can post on the platform).

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND OPEN SPACE UPDATE



### MAJOR UPGRADES FOR MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) recently underwent a \$1.3 million overhaul, which saw the change rooms fully refurbished as well as a revamp to the main entrance foyer.

Completed at the end of October, the change room refurbishment included new tiling, fixtures, fittings, and an innovative new temperature specific air handling system which will make changing after a swim or workout a pleasant and comfortable experience.

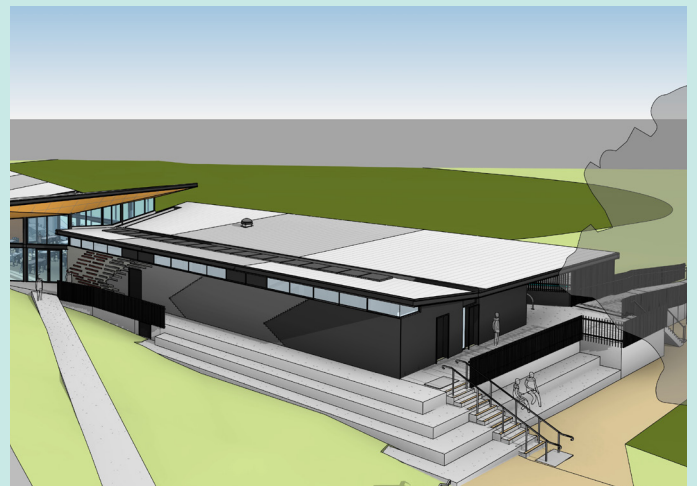
The customer service desk, entry foyer and centre access systems were also redesigned to enhance visibility to the

pools and gym and create a more welcoming customer experience. The redesign allows visitors to access the popular El Toucan café and retail area even if they are not swimming.

Construction of the recently announced \$8 million waterslide park and splash pool, jointly funded by the State Government, is expected to begin in February 2022 and take 12 months to complete. Due to the design and location, the works should have minimal impact on current centre operations.

### HENRY TURNER SOUTH PAVILION REDEVELOPMENT

Work is scheduled to start in early 2022 on the Henry Turner South Pavilion, to service the needs of the local community and sporting clubs that call the Reserve home. Jointly funded with State Government, the new pavilion will provide modern universally designed unisex facilities for people of all abilities; to support increased player retention and participation. There will also be a large multipurpose space, commercial kitchen, meeting space, enhanced spectator seating and public toilets with greater connectivity to the existing tennis courts, and connecting pathways and landscaping around the perimeter.



## REDEVELOPMENT WORKS UNDERWAY AT SKINNER RESERVE

We're making improvements to the much-loved Skinner Reserve in Braybrook. While the oval itself is out of bounds during the works, the community can still access the reserve. Watch out for trucks coming and going.

Please follow the signs onsite to navigate through the area safely. Works are ongoing until April 2022. More information, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Skinner](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Skinner)



## NEW GARDEN BED IRRIGATION AT FOOTSCRAY PARK

Garden beds throughout Footscray Park are enjoying more than seven kilometres of new irrigation helping them flourish while also improving water management to enhance the overall maintenance of the Park all year round. The previous outdated irrigation system has been replaced with a new, modern system that includes smart technology which controls the moisture and watering

flows to ensure the correct amount of water is dispersed at the optimal time.

This new system also provides real-time data which allows Council to monitor the garden bed areas and make changes as needed to support and enhance the area – including closely monitoring and improving the health of plants during extreme weather conditions.

## MARIBYRNONG DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS PLAN

By 2051, the population in the City of Maribyrnong will grow to 164,637, and Council is committed to delivering new, upgraded and replacement infrastructure to support our growing community.

To help fund the delivery of critical infrastructure Council has prepared the Maribyrnong Development Contributions Plan, which requires developers to pay a levy that helps support and deliver local infrastructure. Council will use the money collected to assist in paying for facilities such as community centres, footpaths, playgrounds and bike paths. Over the next 30 years the Plan is expected to collect \$45.5m to help fund the delivery of 193 projects across the municipality.

The Plan has gone through a period of community engagement and is currently with the Minister for review. The Plan is not a new charge on existing residents or businesses, it is only charged when people choose to develop their land. It does not apply to extensions or renovations to existing residential property.

We are committed to delivering the infrastructure our community needs, and this Plan will help fund critical infrastructure for our growing community. For further information on the Plan including the projects being funded please go to [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Amendmentc164](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Amendmentc164)



## CHOCOLATE COATED EVERYTHING!

Coated Australia has launched its online store just in time for the festive season – think delectable chocolate coated marshmallows, raspberries, snakes, chewy caramels, bananas or frogs. Gift them to friends, family, work mates and educators, or keep for yourself to snack on whenever the cravings calls!

Yarraville locals Matt Grisold and his fiancé Tara are the chocolate lovers behind Coated. Matt has been in chocolate production at his family-owned and operated chocolate business since leaving high school, working as a head chocolate chef, production supervisor and line manager. Tara is a video editor and producer and has worked for a major TV network and a boutique marketing agency. She's the creative flare behind the social media and digital content.

These self-confessed chocoholics know a bit about chocolate and pride themselves on sourcing premium chocolate ingredients. All of their products are Australian made right here in Melbourne with their chocolate ethically sourced in partnership with the Rainforest Alliance.

Check out all the yummy white, dark and milk chocolate coated goodies at [coated.com.au](http://coated.com.au) and support local!



## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR



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contact Customer Service on 9688 0200 or fax 9687 7793.

For requests, comments and questions about Council services and programs, go to [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or call Customer Service on 9688 0200.

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