

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Summer 2022

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

FACES
BEHIND
THE
FLOOD
CLEAN-UP

WATER SAFETY
OVER SUMMER

WE HAVE
MOVED

MYMARIBYRNONG
IS LIVE



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

With the sunshine here and a new year in front of us, welcome to the summer edition of Maribyrnong Messenger.

It is an incredible honour to be elected as your Mayor for my third term in the role after 15 years of service. It is also a great source of pride for me to be the first woman in the Council's history to achieve this feat.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow Councillors for putting their faith in me again. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor, Cr Anthony Tran, one of the youngest Mayors in Australia's history, as he passes the mayoral baton over to me.

As we look forward to enjoying the festive season, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season, recognising that Christmas is a time of great joy for many.

It will also be a challenging time for those residents impacted by the devastating October flood event, still so fresh in our minds and with a long road to recovery ahead.

Council staff have been at the coalface providing relief services and helping with the clean-up since the Maribyrnong River broke its banks in the early hours of Friday 14 October and will continue to support residents through recovery.

What has been particularly heartening, has been to see the closeness and resilience within our municipality as our diverse community has banded together to support their neighbours affected by this catastrophic extreme weather event.

Let us continue to demonstrate compassion and care in the weeks ahead. We have the greatest, most special community. Yes, I am biased, but it is true and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Council will be hosting a string of family-friendly public events over the coming weeks for those in the mood to celebrate. This includes a meeting with Santa at the Braybrook Christmas Picnic, a singalong at Yarraville Carols in the Gardens and shop for gifts at Footscray Night Markets with the year ending on a high with the return of the annual New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Eastern Lawn at Footscray Park.

I'm looking forward to catching up with you in the New Year.

Cr Sarah Carter
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



INSIDE THIS EDITION

3 Introducing MyMaribyrnong

4 The faces behind the flood clean-up

6 Town Hall move

7 Put water safety first this summer

8 Community engagement update

10 Festival City

12 Environment update

13 Arts and libraries update

14 Infrastructure update

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The meetings will be held at the Braybrook Community Hub, 107-139 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 6, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

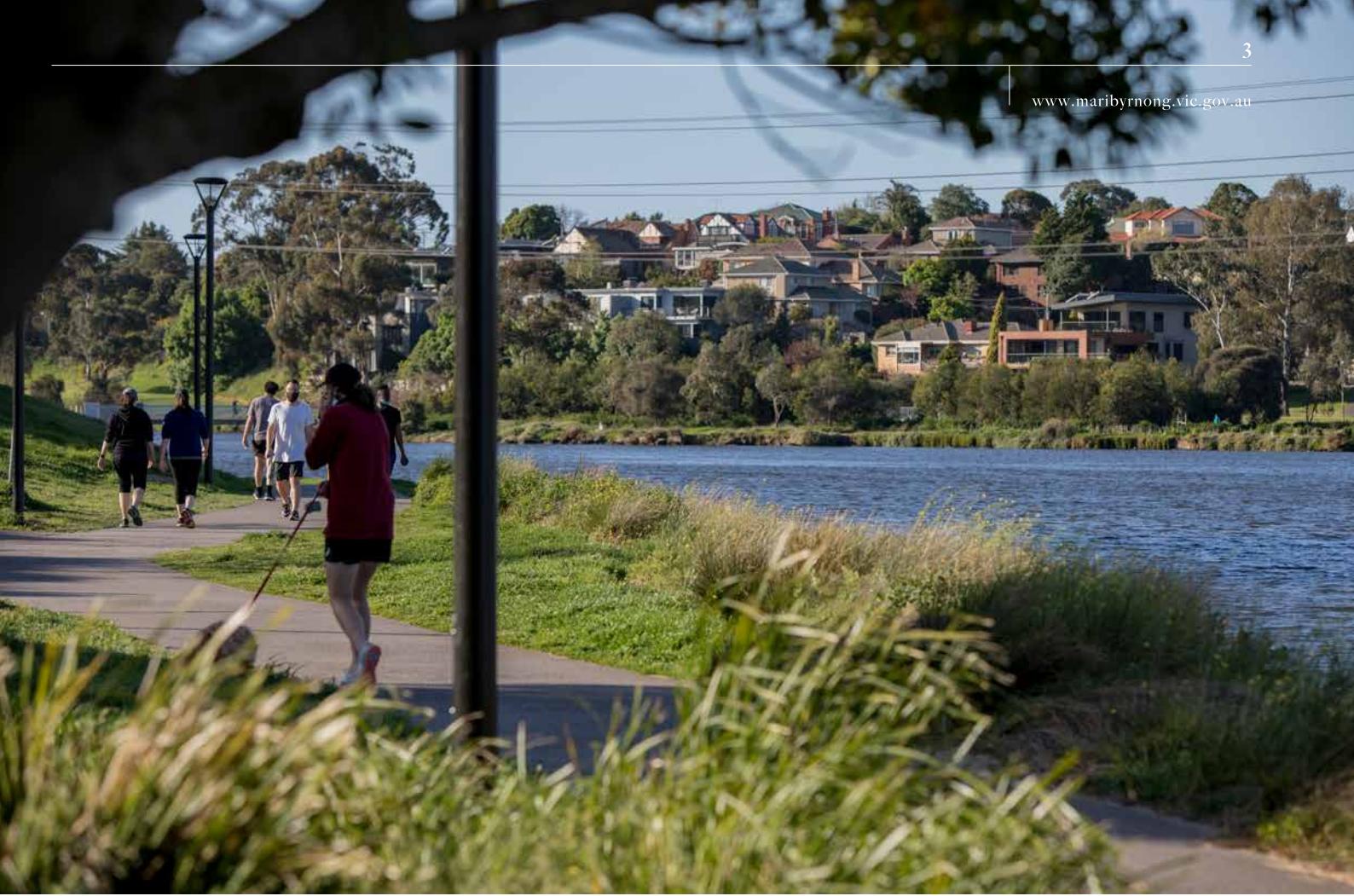
Tuesday 13, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

2023 meeting dates will be confirmed in the New Year.

Meetings are live streamed via Council's YouTube channel, and community members can submit questions for public question time online before the Meeting commences.

Please note the meeting schedule is current at the time of printing. Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings or phone

9688 0200 for more information.



INTRODUCING MyMaribyrnong

A new one-stop shop to streamline and enhance interactions with Council

This new online portal provides residents direct access to Council services to self-manage transactions and interactions – at the click of a mouse.

MyMaribyrnong can be used to pay for animal registrations, apply for parking permits and check the bin collection schedule or arrange for hard rubbish removal. Property owners can find out when the next rates instalment is due, view historical rates information, order kerbside bins, and follow up on building and planning applications. Local bookworms can access library services, and swimmers can manage sessions at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre.

You can find MyMaribyrnong on Council's website using your computer, tablet or smartphone. It is simple to navigate and quick to use, making accessing Council

services online easier than ever before. Though residents who prefer to interact with us offline can still do so by phone and in person.

Residents with an email address linked to their existing Council account can expect to receive an email from us between now and mid-December with an invitation to activate their MyMaribyrnong account. Your contact details will need to be up to date for this to happen. Residents who are not currently registered with Council can set up their own MyMaribyrnong account on the Council website.

For more information and to use the portal, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/MyMaribyrnong or email mymaribyrnong@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

THE FACES BEHIND THE MARIBYRNONG RIVER FLOOD RESPONSE AND CLEAN-UP EFFORTS



In the weeks since the Maribyrnong River breached its banks in the early hours of the morning on Friday 14 October, there has been an outpouring of support for impacted residents.

Following the evacuations in the Maribyrnong area, the Maribyrnong Community Centre transitioned into an Emergency Relief Centre to support impacted residents offering food, hygiene packs, direct access to services and help with temporary accommodation and other immediate requirements.

Once the waters began to recede, the clean-up commenced with hard waste collections and street cleaning, and volunteers began supporting flood affected residents in person.

The tight-knit nature of our community has been demonstrated. Hear from some of those involved in the flood response and clean-up efforts below.

JANETTE, RELIEF CENTRE STAFF MEMBER

It was eerie driving into work on Friday morning knowing the community you work in had changed dramatically overnight, but not knowing the full extent of the impact.

The Maribyrnong Community Centre had become an Emergency Relief Centre within hours of the River evacuation

warning being issued in the early hours of the morning. My role, and those of my colleagues at the Centre, was to do all that we could to assist members of the community as they arrived throughout the day. We assessed their needs and provided the relevant support as soon as possible. Given the breadth of the flood impacts, individuals' needs were varied.

Understandably, emotions were high and to have a place to catch your breath, something to eat, make a phone call, charge your phone or talk to other affected neighbours were paramount for those impacted, and we were pleased to be able to provide this safe space.

Throughout the end of October and into November, we continued to offer services needed and also introduced a selection of regular programs back into the Centre, to allow our community to begin the recovery process.

I am proud to be one of a myriad of people supporting residents now and into the future as they recover.

JACQUIE, VOLUNTEER

Wonderful things happened during the week after the floods. The Flood Warrior network of volunteers banded together straight after the flood, to support the impacted residents.

The devastation brought the best out in people. Residents were so grateful and volunteers were so willing to offer goods, people power and compassion. The camaraderie displayed by the community was outstanding.

Simple posts on Facebook resulted in generous donations of items that were desperately needed, such as water, cleaning equipment, masks, meals, toilet paper, food and pallets of boxes. We had volunteers from across the City coming together to help unpack and distribute the much-needed items.

A collaborative effort from volunteers demonstrated compassion, care and commitment. Volunteers worked in pairs to door knock and check on residents daily, providing food and cleaning products. This was a great way to find out if people required support, particularly for the elderly who were not able to request assistance via the Flood Warriors Facebook page. Others volunteered to help residents remove soaked furniture and carpets before mould could set in.

This was one of the most rewarding things that I have ever done in my life. Thank you to the many people who travelled from nearby suburbs and further afield to support the Maribyrnong community.

BEN, OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE STAFF MEMBER

While the first few weeks were extremely busy with the post-flood clean-up, staff from across Council came together and rolled up their sleeves, moving from their normal daily tasks to help work on a range of flood relief and recovery activities to support impacted residents.

I couldn't be any more proud of the effort that has been put in by the entire Operations and Maintenance team to help support our community during this catastrophic event.

We've had staff on the ground since the River breached and have worked all hours of the day, night and weekends to help support residents in need and to make the impacted areas safe. We've had office-based staff on the ground assisting with the debris clean-up and waste collections to support our maintenance teams who have been overwhelmed with the clean-up efforts.

We also appreciate the support that has been provided by neighbouring and distant councils with offers of assistance and additional machinery loans to help us complete the vital tasks needed to make our community safe.

As we travel through the recovery phase, we're very proud of the work we do in maintaining and caring for all of the open spaces in our municipality for our residents, and we will continue our efforts over the coming months to ensure they are repaired and reopened for the entire community to enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge the great work done by staff across Council in coming together to help our community during this time of need.

PRADEEP, LOCAL TRADER AND WEST FOOTSCRAY TRADER ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Upon seeing the devastation the flooding had caused I volunteered for the simple reason that it could've been me or it could've been someone I love, and that if I have the means and ability to assist I should and hopefully others would join to help each other.

As a community we banded together to do what was right and what was needed.

The clean-up was dirty and smelly, but it was extremely satisfying working with Council officers, residents and meeting members of the Flood Warriors group. One elderly resident was walking around with a high pressure hose, hosing our gumboots down to make them less slippery and that's the assistance he could offer but the fact that he was doing all he could was immensely appreciated.

One the most overwhelming times was when residents broke down when I offered them a simple cup of coffee and I just felt so lucky to be able to be there, along with the many others, to simply have a chat and tell people that everything will be okay.

The one thing I did take away from this experience is that it doesn't matter your nationality, your religion, your gender or if English is your first language or not, but as a community we banded together to do what was right and what was needed.

The saddest part is that it takes such a miserable incident, such a disaster, for us to actually get together and do good. We desperately need to join as a community more often for the right reasons, and not only in times of desperation.

I would particularly like to thank all of the volunteers for assisting selflessly and Council who assisted in quickly getting the right permits and infrastructure needed to help those impacted.

FLOOD INFORMATION

For more information about Council's response to the flood and further information about the services available to impacted residents, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood

TOWN HALL MOVE

The Footscray Town Hall will be fenced off in the coming weeks ahead of contractors moving in to begin the renovation of the historic building, and demolition of the existing office and community services buildings.

Melbourne-based award-winning commercial construction company, Ireland Brown Constructions Pty Ltd, have been awarded the contract for the multi-million dollar works, which will include the refurbishment and conservation of the 80-year-old heritage listed Town Hall building (in line with Heritage Victoria requirements), along with the demolition of the two existing office buildings and construction of a new, modern six-star Green Star administration building, and a new community park.

Council staff, previously based at the Town Hall, have relocated to temporary offices on the ground floor of the Central West Shopping Centre on the corner of Ashley Street and South Road, Braybrook, where officers are available to meet by appointment.

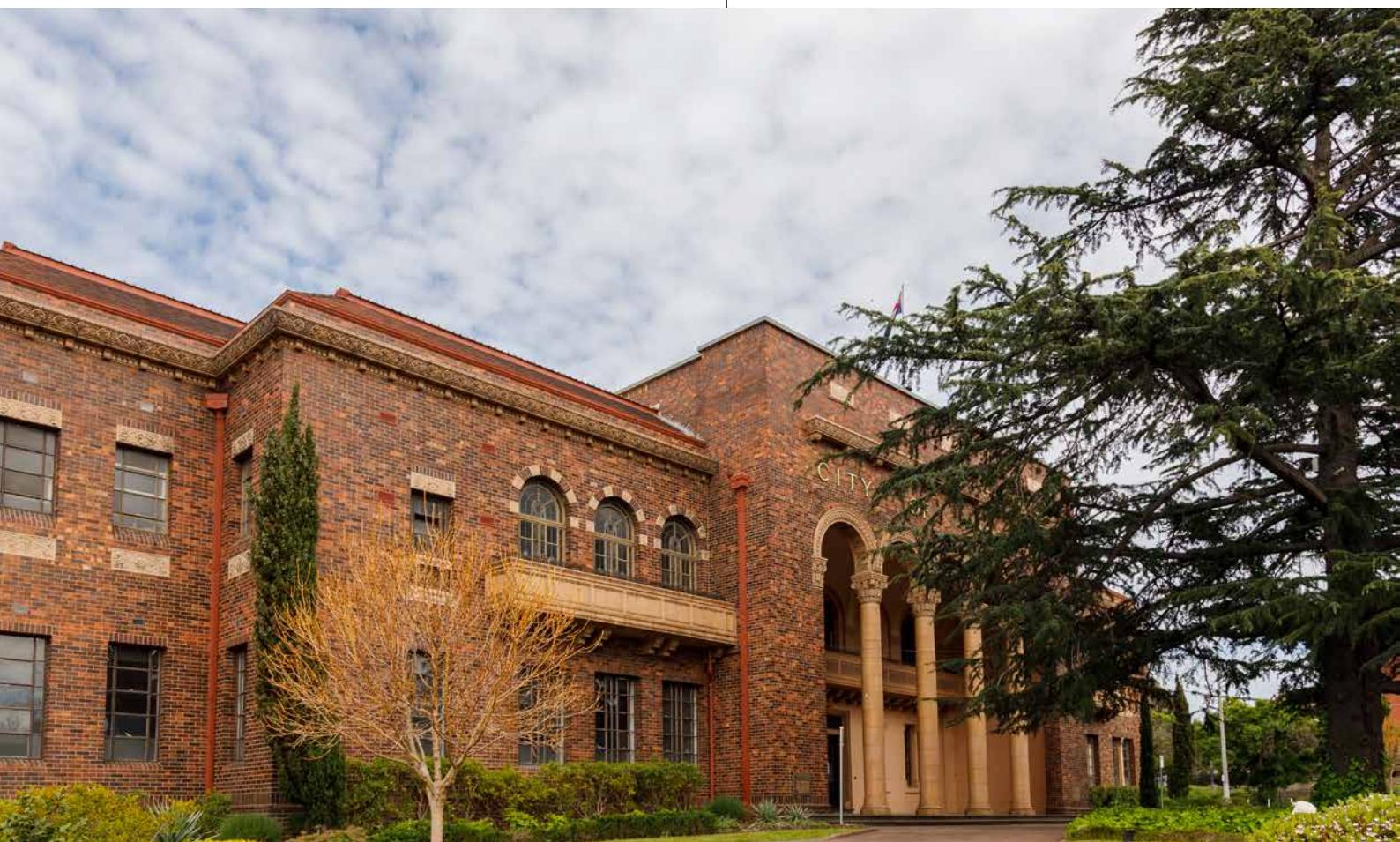
To make an appointment with our Planning team, send an email to UrbanPlanning@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or phone 9688 0253.

To make an appointment with our Building Services or Environmental Health teams send an email to email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or phone 9688 0250.

A Customer Service centre is open at Footscray Library, 56 Paisley Street, Footscray from 10am-5pm weekdays.

The Council and City Development Delegated Committee meetings are being held in the Main Hall at Braybrook Community Hub, 107-139 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook. Redevelopment works will take up to two years and, once complete will provide a modern, environmentally friendly civic administration space that pays homage to the rich history of the site and wider City, and a space that the community will enjoy for years to come.

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





PUT WATER SAFETY FIRST THIS SUMMER

As the warmer weather approaches and recreational water activities begin to appear on the social calendars of many local families, make sure you take advantage of the water safety programs and activities available at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC).

MAC has 75 dedicated water safety teachers, many of whom speak two or more languages, and host regular water safety programs and activities, and provide daily support to visitors to the Centre – to make sure they are safe. Locals of all ages, backgrounds and swimming abilities regularly attend these programs to learn and enhance their water skills, to increase their confidence and proficiency in the water.

Bill, a teacher from a local primary school said that the program was well organised, interactive and enjoyable for all.

"The MAC program had a great set routine with different activities such as experience in wearing lifejackets,

swimming through rough waters and swimming through seaweed."

Across Australia, 23 per cent of the drownings reported in the 2022 Royal Life Saving Australia National Drowning Report were from swimming pools. As we come into the warmer weather and with the new Splash Park and Water Slides currently being installed at MAC opening in time for summer 2023, now is the time to think about your water skills – and that of the little ones in your life – and make a plan to enhance them.

The MACqua Education Program teaches all students to swim in a positive, friendly learning environment. MACquaEd also facilitates the Royal Life Saving, Swim and Survive program and is currently running over 650 classes per week, for approximately 2,500 students across all age groups.

When near or around water, please take note of some of the basic water safety steps:

- keep watch: always keep watch

around water

- children under five must be within arm's reach at all times and children under ten must be actively supervised at all times
- watch me not your phone: make sure you pay attention to those in the pool and don't get distracted
- never swim alone: always take someone else with you when swimming in open water and keep an eye on each other
- know your limits: stay within the depth of water you are comfortable in
- lifeguards are not babysitters: ongoing parental supervision is vital

For more information about MACqua Education Programs and other activities at MAC, visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac/Lessons

For more information on the new Splash Park and Waterslides being installed at MAC, visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/SplashPark

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

PLANS PROGRESSING FOR MCIVOR RESERVE

The online community forum in August marked the end of phase one of engagement with the community on proposed enhancements to McIvor Reserve.

While we heard better lighting, more trees and seating, improvements to the dog park, and surface upgrades were wanted, much of the dialogue revolved around the proposal to potentially include an indoor sports facility at the Reserve. Of those who responded to the online survey, there was an almost equal split between those who supported the idea and those who were opposed. The key reasons given for support included the current deficit of such facilities in our City and the opportunity to create a new and inclusive space for the community to recreate.

Those opposed feared the loss of open space and the consequences for climate change, and the impact on the dog park. Traffic and parking were also issues raised.

Over one in ten responses wanted more detail on cost, placement, size, and impact on open space before they could make a decision.

Similar detail was also sought by many of those who posed 500 questions in the weeks after engagement closed.

Because this was an initial conversation with the community to understand their priorities, we had not yet done any in-depth investigations to answer these questions.

We have been doing this work over the past couple of months to provide greater clarity around what an indoor sports facility could look like if it were to be located on the Reserve in response to the community's request for more detailed information.

We have taken time so that we can deliver a draft Masterplan that provides the level of detail sought by the community and incorporates feedback we heard about general reserve upgrades. The draft Masterplan, considered by Council at the November meeting, can be found at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/McIvor where you can also provide your feedback.

ANNUAL BUDGET

Delivering quality services our community wants on a finite income is always challenging.

To help us plan for next year's Budget we again asked for your early input to help inform the development of the Proposed Budget to help shape how and where money would be spent, as opposed to just providing comments on the document once it is prepared.

Thank you to all those who shared with us your priorities by ranking the variety of services Council delivers during the initial engagement in November. Your feedback will help guide the development of the Proposed Budget for 2023/24, which will be shared for further feedback in April 2023.

Read more at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/budget

MELON STREET

Earlier this year, we asked for community feedback on two options for a protected bi-directional (two-way) bike lane between South Road and Ballarat Road to provide a safe cycling corridor to Tottenham Station and the 23 kilometre Maribyrnong River Trail for residents in Braybrook. While respondents generally supported the proposed measures to slow traffic and increase road safety, neither option was well supported. Primary concerns included the impact on street parking, traffic spilling onto surrounding side streets, and changed navigation for those travelling through the area.

Based on this feedback we have now shared six new potential options for community consideration. We are keen to hear from residents, visitors to the area, along with those who currently cycle or would cycle along Melon Street if a safe route was in place. View the latest options, and share your thoughts by Sunday 18 December 2022 at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/melonstreet

You will also find details there about opportunities to meet us in person and talk through the project on location at Melon Street and the Braybrook Community Hub.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As we approach the second anniversary of the adoption of the Community Engagement Policy, we are keen to continue to improve our engagement with our community and encourage increased participation. Over the past 18 months in particular, we have adopted a range of methods and continued to explore new tools, to ensure those who wish to be involved are able to make their views known. This includes transitioning our digital engagement portal, Your City Your Voice, to a new host platform offering greater functionality and opportunity for our community to engage with us by leveraging additional features, such as a social pinpoint tool that allows users to place a pin on a map and add comments directly on the area of interest.

We would like to understand which of the tools and methods we are using you prefer, and whether there are others you would like to see us employ. As we look to return to more face-to-face conversations post COVID-19, we would also like to get a feel for what form you would like in-person engagement to look like – for example pop-up sessions, workshops, conversations at markets, or something entirely different.

You can share your thoughts with us at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/engagement

BIKE SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The popularity of cycling sports, such as mountain bike racing, freestyle BMX, and cyclocross, is on the rise. With only a few places where riders can participate in these types of bike sports in our municipality, Council is looking at opportunities and potential locations to support the continued growth of these activities to encourage physical health and wellbeing in the community.

Following feedback earlier this year, we have prepared a draft Bike Sports Infrastructure and Development Plan (formerly Bike Sports Strategy), which identifies potential facility locations to support the future of bike sports in our City. You can help us confirm we are taking the right approach by viewing the draft and completing the questionnaire by Sunday 18 December 2022 at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bikesports

LAE STREET NURSERY TRANSFORMATION



After almost a year of conversations, the transformation of the former Lae Street nursery to intimate Neighbourhood Park is moving closer. The site is on the traditional lands of the Bunurong people. Originally farmed by George Arthur and Raymond Thomas King, it was vested with Council on 18 May 1948, and housed the Council nursery for more than 40 years, from around 1980. It was closed due to the deteriorating condition of the site and buildings and has only been used as a temporary holding yard for plant stock in the years since.

Immediate neighbours, nearby residents, and representatives of community groups, who are members of the Lae Street Advisory Group, have been meeting since the start of the year to consider options for community use of the 4,900 square metre site, which they want to see become an area for relaxing, reflection and education.

Key elements on their wish list include a meeting space for community gatherings, a nature play area for children, pathways connecting to the adjacent A McDonald Reserve with trees for shade on sunny days, and to create a lush natural environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. They are also keen to recognise the historical connection of First Nations people to the area.

A concept plan that will bring the Group's ideas to life is being developed for Council consideration, with works likely to begin next year, subject to the Annual Budget.

The ultimate ambition is to create a continuous corridor of public open space, rich in biodiversity, linked by a connected trail network and park amenities alongside Stony Creek.

Read more at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/laestreet

THE FESTIVAL CITY

We are thrilled to be able to support a number of events and activities for our community to get together over the summer.
There is something for everyone!

FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE 2023

Applications open for the 2023 Footscray Art Prize. The biennial visual art prize for contemporary artworks across multiple platforms and disciplines is an opportunity for artists from across Australia to showcase their work in the thriving hub of Footscray and share in \$33,000 worth of prizes across four categories. Applications close on 20 March 2023, with shortlisted works on display at Footscray Community Art Centre from 15 July 2023.

Visit footscrayartprize.com

FOOTSCRAY NIGHT MARKET

Friday 2, 9 and 16 December
Railway Reserve, Footscray

A food lover's dream, the Friday night Footscray Night Market offers cuisines from around the world matched with entertainment and music showcasing a select culture. Starting with curry and spice night on Friday 2 December, then onto a herb and chilli night on Friday 9 December and finally to BBQ and grill night on Friday 16 December. There will also be roving performers, free face painting and a bouncy castle for the little ones to enjoy.



AMPLIFY: BRIDGE

4pm, Sunday 4 December

Bluestone Church Arts Space, Footscray

This performing arts event offers a tasting platter of emerging voices from the west and beyond through a collective of specialised practitioners supported by L2R Dance's Igniting Legends program. The guest curators' celebration of Hip-Hop culture will be filtered through the lens of the artists' respective communities, and will feature dance, spoken word, and music.

HIDDEN FOOTSCRAY

14 January-26 March 2023

Footscray Community Arts, Footscray

HIDDEN Footscray features artworks by six local artists. Working across a range of media, themes and creative expressions, HIDDEN highlights diverse aspects of overlooked culture, heritage and geography within Maribyrnong. Entry is free.

HEAVENLY SUNSET WEEKENDER FESTIVAL

18-19 February 2023

Heavenly Queen Temple, Footscray

Hosted within the majestic grounds of the Heavenly Queen Temple, the Weekender is a two-day arts, culture and music festival featuring a range of fresh music and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE IN THE BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPAC

Australia's premier queer arts and cultural festival brings together a diverse mix of LGBTQIA+ artists, performers, communities and audiences. Returning in January and February 2023, with a suite of shows and events, Midsumma will be staged across the City, including at the Bluestone Church Arts Space.

- **Amplify:** On the 23rd Day, Mars was in Gemini, 4pm Sunday 4 December
- **Thrive:** Queer Voices Out Loud, 7.30pm 24-28 January
- **Nothing to Hide:** Voices of Trans and Gender Diverse Australia, 6pm Sunday 29 January
- **The Big D:** 7pm 1-3 February

Visit festivalcity.com.au or maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts to browse the program and purchase tickets.

IS HEATING UP FOR SUMMER

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



This year's festivities are all about celebrating the magic of Christmas with fun activities for the whole family to enjoy. Check some of them out below or visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/xmas

AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCES WITH MARIALITY

Mid-November to January
festivalcity.com.au

Download the MARiality app and watch as selected images around our City are brought to life using augmented reality. These unmissable experiences include joining a gingerbread hunt in Seddon, watching Santa fly across the sky in Footscray, seeing our Christmas tree come to life in Yarraville and immersing yourself in the West Footscray art trail. The app is also home to a fun activity that turns a regular colouring sheet into a 3D piece of moving art.

SANTA AND SIRENS

4 November-7 December
festivalcity.com.au

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

GREET SANTA AND OFFICIALLY KICK OFF THE FESTIVE SEASON

10am, Thursday 1 December
Footscray Wharf, Footscray

Maribyrnong's Christmas program will see Santa arrive at the Wharf on board the Blackbird to meet the Mayor and members of the community, before handing out treats and posing for photos. There will also be a coffee van with free treats for both adults and children.

BRAYBROOK CHRISTMAS PICNIC

6-8pm, Friday 9 December
Braybrook Community Hub, Braybrook

A family-friendly picnic complete with a visit from Santa and children's entertainment. Free sausage sizzle and coffee cart, Western Bulldogs sports activities and Manny the Magician!

YARRAVILLE CAROLS IN THE GARDENS

Saturday 17 December
Yarraville Gardens, Yarraville

Enjoy a great night of carolling with the Footscray-Yarraville City Band and special guests. Stay until the end for the fireworks display.

NYE FIREWORKS

Saturday 31 December
Eastern Lawn, Footscray Park

Watch the sun go down and the fireworks light up the sky nice and early at 9.30pm – perfect for families who want to avoid a late night and city crowds.



CALLING ALL YOUNG LEADERS IN MARIBYRNONG

Expressions of interest for the Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC) are now open. MYAC represents the diverse voices of young people within the City of Maribyrnong by advocating for issues affecting local young people and leading various community projects. It brings together young people aged 15-25 who are passionate about their local community and leading positive change.

Visit Maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/MYAC

ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

10-YEAR TREE PLANTING WRAP

Time flies when you're planting trees. 2022 marks the tenth and final year of Council's Street Tree Planting Strategy. Since its adoption in 2013, more than 11,000 additional trees have been planted throughout 900 streets to help green the City.

Street trees are vital for our City's liveability. In the height of summer, canopy trees can shade hard surfaces, lower daytime temperatures and help reduce energy consumption. Trees also help clean the air, soil and water by removing pollutants, intercept rain water to reduce stormwater run-off, and they look great.

The more than 11,000 trees planted over the past decade supports our commitment to achieving 20 per cent canopy cover by 2040 as outlined in our Urban Forest Strategy (2018).

So, what's next? We will continue to explore tree planting in areas of high Urban Heat in our City, and monitoring our Urban Forest to ensure selected tree species thrive and contribute to the health, diversity, and resilience of our City for future decades.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

The local impacts of the climate emergency through extreme weather events are already being felt, with the recent October floods a devastating reality check for our community. As the temperature of the atmosphere becomes warmer, more moisture is held in the air causing heavy rainfall and stronger storm surges.

To play our part in tackling this global threat, Council adopted the Climate Emergency

Action Plan in 2022 to achieve the municipality's goal of transitioning to zero greenhouse emissions by 2030. With an estimated 34,000 trucks passing through our municipality daily and many manufacturing and processing plants based here, air pollution is a vital issue for Council to tackle. In August, we finalised the Air Quality Improvement Plan that addresses the environmental concerns brought about by the poor air quality in our City. The Plan is one of Victoria's first adopted by any local authority. You can view the Plan at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/AirQuality

The construction of large-scale residential and commercial buildings in our suburbs also contributes to emissions. In October, Council unanimously supported a proposed Planning Scheme Amendment, which would elevate the environmental sustainability of our built surroundings as a high priority. The Planning Scheme Amendment would make it mandatory to consider environmental impacts in all new and renovated buildings at the planning stage.

ARTS AND LIBRARIES

ARTSBOX RESIDENTS MAKE SPACE FOR CREATIVITY

Local artists continue to invest in their practice via a six-week residency in Artsbox, a converted shipping container turned artist studio, neighbouring Footscray Library.

Mimmelisa Trifilo, a local printmaking artist and resident until mid-December, is working on photographic printmaking with botanical elements. Residencies will continue in 2023 with Victoria McGinness, who will explore self-taught embroidery; and Margaret Hui, who will draw on her child-focused artistic practice for her residency.

For more information visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture

GET INVOLVED AT BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB IN 2023

Led by local artist Kate Geck, Machine Imagining is a community art project that will explore attentiveness to the natural world in collaboration with machine intelligence through a series of free workshops to be hosted at Braybrook Community Hub in February. Attendees will be invited to draw and photograph creatures from the local area – plants, animals and insects – with the final artworks informing the production of a community database of observations of the local, natural world. For more information visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts

SUMMER READING

Join the summer reading fun with Maribyrnong Libraries. The library has two reading challenges running, so no matter your age, there is a challenge for you.

BIG SUMMER READ

Get busy reading these holidays for the chance to win great prizes in the BIG Summer Read challenge.

The BIG Summer Read is open to those aged 0-18. It aims to encourage children to read for pleasure and addresses the issue of the “summer slide”, which is the loss of literacy experienced over the long summer break if children are not exposed to books or reading. The challenge is open 1 December to 31 January. Register now at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library or by downloading the Beanstack app, and select “Maribyrnong Libraries” as your library service.

DEEP DIVE SUMMER READS

Summer reading isn’t just for kids! Catch up on your ‘To Be Read’ pile with the Deep Dive Summer Reads challenge, open to those aged 18 years and over.

Pop into your local library to pick up an entry form and free bookmarks with reading list suggestions. There are lots of great prizes and Deep Dive events held at Footscray Library over the summer. The challenge is open December 1 to February 28. Learn more at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library



INFRASTRUCTURE



ROADWORKS REVIEW

Council manages over 290km of roads throughout the municipality, and each year we undertake improvements and upgrades to ensure they are safe and functional for all drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. 2022 was no exception, with the completion of several significant road infrastructure projects. Seven local streets were given a new lease on life this year with ageing asphalt resurfaced. Some also received raised crossings for pedestrians and prams. Others had footpaths paved, nature strips landscaped, line markings painted, and

traffic signs installed. Where needed, drainage has also been reconstructed.

Over 30 speed humps were added at various locations in response to community concerns about drivers travelling too fast through residential streets. A separated bike lane was also installed on French Street in Footscray to support safer travel for bike riders.

Several other enhancements to local roads are coming in 2023. Watch this space for updates, or please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/roads

WESTERN LAWN UPDATE

The tender submissions for the planned multi-million dollar upgrade to the Western Lawn at Footscray Park have now closed.

Council has accelerated the repair program and allocated resources to reconstruct and reinstate the much loved open space that had become increasingly degraded over

time, due to the saline soils, poor drainage, and high levels of use. The design includes the effective drainage system, irrigation and warm-season turf that will allow for greater use of the site.

The upgrade will commence this summer and likely be complete in April 2023.

NEW SOLAR POWERED 40KM SIGNAGE

In 2021, Council secured funding from the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund for road safety works along Somerville Road in Yarraville, which included the installation of four solar-powered electronic speed limit signs. The signs flash 40 during the morning and afternoon school times, reminding drivers to slow down and drive to the speed limit at a time when many of our youngest and most vulnerable road users are walking, cycling or scooting along Somerville Road. The installation supports Council's Safer Local Roads Program, which has seen speeds on most local roads now reduced to 40km/hr.

The five-year program focused on achieving safer speeds, encouraging sustainable transport, and creating a safer road environment for all road users – pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

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

FLOOD RECOVERY PLAN FOR OUR OPEN SPACES AND SPORTS FACILITIES

Many of our municipality's beloved open spaces and sports facilities were inundated with flood waters when the Maribyrnong River burst its banks in October. This impact has been significant, and the road to recovery will take some time. But we have been working around the clock to assess the damage and develop plans to safely return these venues to the community as quickly as possible.

The bike paths, playgrounds, BBQ and picnic facilities, and fitness equipment along the River trail were all impacted by the floods, and we are working to repair and open these for public use as quickly as possible. Some spaces may still be undergoing repairs – please stay safe and steer clear of fenced and taped-off areas. Our sports facilities at Henry Turner North and South, Footscray Boating Club, and Maribyrnong Reserve were also impacted, with building inspections and deep cleansing being undertaken.

There is an increased risk of gastroenteritis (stomach bugs) associated with recently flooded parkland. Be sure to practice good hand hygiene when around flood affected areas.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our sports facilities and open spaces to once again enjoy, once we are able to make them safe.

For up-to-date information about the parks and open spaces that have been impacted by the flood, visit
maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood





MAGANDEE CAFÉ AND THAI RESTAURANT

BRINGING A UNIQUE FOODIE EXPERIENCE TO HOPKINS STREET, FOOTSCRAY

Since opening a year ago, Magandee Café and Thai Restaurant has built up a loyal following for its authentic Thai flavours and quirky decor.

Owner Wirut Khemnak shares his passion for Thai street food by serving dishes hugely popular in his native Bangkok, which he says you will struggle to find on the menu elsewhere in Melbourne. "I wanted to introduce new dishes to the local community," Wirut says. Specialties include Kao Mun Gai, a Thai variation of Hainanese chicken rice. Others to try include Kua Tiao Ruer, also known as Thai Boat Noodles, and Pla Tod, a deep-fried fish served with apple salad and jasmine rice.

Wirut's background as a photographer and art teacher is also reflected in the decor at Magandee. The colourful dining space is akin to a museum, consisting of photos, anime figurines, vinyl records, vintage light fittings, musical instruments and memorabilia from the 1950s and 1960s. There is even a jukebox and a 1980s arcade game.

Magandee Café and Thai Restaurant
1A/68 Hopkins St, Footscray
[@magandeeafe](http://magandeeafe.wixsite.com/magandeerestaurant)

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

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