



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Winter 2018

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

SPORTING FEATS OF MONIQUE CONTI

COMPUTERS
AND COOK
BOOKS

WHAT'S ON IN
MARIBYRNONG



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's the time of year to keep warm and there's nothing better than to snuggle up with a copy of our latest Maribyrnong Messenger.

You can read all about Monique Conti who has shown incredible sporting skill on the football field and the basketball court. She's won gold for Australia in basketball and just recently was awarded the Australian Football League Womens (AFLW) best on ground in the grand final premiership game in March, playing for the Western Bulldogs.

It's suitable that we celebrate her success in this edition which has a strong focus on the achievements of women. Our NAIDOC Week story highlights the contribution of Jacqueline Watkins has made in the area of health to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Also, find out all about our WEL's Young Women's program that's being run at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC), each week participants receive free swimming and water safety lessons.

MAC is just one our facilities that offer programs throughout the year that are low cost and enjoyable. Our community centres are hubs of activity with Yarraville Community Centre and Braybrook Community Hub running valuable programs such as computer classes where anything can happen, even the development of cook books. Read about the project on page 14.

Our libraries also offer wonderful programs and a great selection of books and other e-learning products. Read about how Braybrook Library is helping newly arrived residents become Australian citizens on page 16 and our successful Food for Fines campaign. This campaign helped library members reduce their fines by donating food items to library branches.

Now, don't let the cold weather keep you indoors. Remember we always have something going on in our festival city! Read through our upcoming events in our What's on in Maribyrnong section on page 12.

We hope you enjoy our latest Maribyrnong Messenger. If you're keen to know what's happening in our City on a daily basis follow us on Facebook.

Cr Cuc Lam
Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

JUNE: Tuesday 5, 6.30pm Special Council (Hearing of Submissions)
Tuesday 26, 6.30pm Ordinary Council
Tuesday 26, 8pm City Development Special Committee

JULY: Tuesday 24, 6.30pm Ordinary Council
Tuesday 31, 6.30pm City Development Special Committee

AUGUST: Tuesday 7, 4.30pm Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee
Tuesday 21, 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.



BECAUSE OF HER WE CAN!

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have played, and continue to play, a significant role in our community. Their achievements have empowered past generations and have paved the way for generations to come.

This year NAIDOC Week celebrates the invaluable contributions made by women and the impact they continue to have on our community, our families, our history and our nation under the theme 'Because of her, we can!'

The annual event highlights the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and will run from Sunday 8 to Sunday 15 July.

Jacqueline Watkins, Manager of Aboriginal Health Policy and Planning at Western Health, is valued for her contribution to the health of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the West.

Born in Darwin and raised in Alice Springs, Jacqueline is a descendant of Jingili and Mudburra people. She joined Western Health in 2014, seeing it as an opportunity to make a difference for the

ever growing Aboriginal population in the West.

The theme of this year's NAIDOC Week has its own meaning for Jacqueline, who takes inspiration from the most important woman in her life, her mother.

"My mother was taken from her family at the age of eight and spent the rest of her childhood at a Catholic Mission on Melville Island, north of Darwin. Mum was the only one removed from her family, because she had lighter skin. She never knew her parents, grandparents, brother, sisters, uncles, aunties," she said.

"Mum was never angry about what happened, but would have liked it if she was able to keep contact with her mother. It was almost half a century before mum was reunited with her siblings and we were able to finally have our connection to our culture, language and land.

"So every time I feel like things are too much, I reflect on what my mother lost, the sacrifices she made, her devotion and love for us [her children] was unconditional, a truly great woman and an angel. My mother has and always will be my inspiration," Jacqueline said.

NAIDOC Week is Jacqueline's favourite time of year.

"It's when we all get to celebrate our achievements and showcase them to the wider community. I have lived and worked in the West since arriving in Melbourne 11 years ago, we are such a diverse community and I see so many of our women who work extremely hard, without recognition, to make this a better place to live and work.

"I will be proud to recognise these women and recognise the invaluable contributions that they make and the

inspiration they give to our young women to become leaders," Jacqueline continued.

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated in Melbourne's west with a photography exhibition featuring portraits of inspirational local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Jacqueline has worked on the photography project, which invited community members to enter photos for possible inclusion in the exhibition.

Thirty portraits have been chosen for display as part of the exhibition, which will launch during NAIDOC Week. The photos will then be on public display throughout western region municipalities, including Footscray.

Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au for further details about the exhibition.

RISING STAR



Monique Conti is in the spotlight for her recent stellar success on the footy field. It follows her achievements on the world stage in basketball in 2017 and 2016. She's an 18-year-old that's set her sights on Olympic gold for the Opals and is doing the hard work to get there.

She's unflinching in her commitment, a ready smile and a beat to her step shows she's enjoying the journey.

Her big ticket wins include being awarded the Australian Football League Womens (AFLW) best on ground in the grand final premiership game in March, playing for the Western Bulldogs.

She's also proud of playing for the Melbourne Boomers in the Women's National Basketball League (WNBL), signed for a four year contract. This is on top of her success with the U17 World Cup team.

"I represented Australia in 2016 for the U17 World Championship in Spain which is where I won gold and beat USA in the semi-final, as well as my All Star 5 achievement," she said. This was an impressive coup as the USA had previously never been defeated in the championships.

"I also represented Australia in 2017 for the U19 World Cup team in Italy." The same year she completed VCE.

"Being one of the All Star 5 in the tournament was probably one of my best achievements to date – they pick the five best players of the tournament and that was pretty special, a bit like beating USA because it was so rare," she smiled.

Monique trains back-to-back for both her basketball and footy competitions during the summer and autumn months.

She also regularly travels interstate for basketball and footy and overseas when playing basketball in the world championships.

It's an intense schedule that includes studying in the car on the way back from practice, doing required reading in flight and balancing her schedule to catch up on missed classes by staying back at school when she was in VCE.

Monique appreciated the flexibility at Maribyrnong College, a state-funded Sports Academy. The school would help organise her studies around her training and competition timetable.

She finished with successful grades, commencing her

undergraduate degree at Deakin in Burwood in 2018.

"Education is important – my parents always said that. I don't know what I want to do with the business degree but it is so broad that I'm sure I'll find something to make out of it."

The workload doesn't leave much time for a social life but Monique enjoys catching up with her close friends, like best friend Vanessa, and her family whenever possible.

"There was a time when I was kind of a bit annoyed but at the end of the day it was my decision to play both those sports," she said. "I sort of find my social life with footy and basketball – I have made some life long friends."

She's one of three children and Monique's younger sister Gabby, 10, also plays basketball.

She sometimes visits Gabby's junior club to watch her sister play, which is also her former junior basketball club in Moonee Ponds. "I would have a lot of little girls coming up to me and I love it – I think being so young I can connect with them and give back in a way."

Monique has also given motivational talks to her junior football club, enjoying the chance to inspire young players. Her key motto is: 'Find your point of difference'.

“To keep progressing in sport and life we just have to find the point of difference,” she said. “I say it's great to work on your weaknesses but if you work on your strengths as well, that makes you a whole lot stronger.”

It was her brother Nathan, 23, that inspired her to play basketball and football.

"He played basketball and football," she said. "I wanted to copy everything he did so I wanted to give it a go."

It took a bit to convince her mother to get permission to play football.

"She said, no, you're not allowed to play you might get injured. Dad was like, no, let her play she will be great at it and in the end Mum said: ok – you can only play footy if you run really, really fast."

Her speed on the field and the court has been noted which has been described as causing 'fits' for opposing guards on the basketball court.

But it's all in a day's work for this rising star who's set to shine for some time to come.

ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR ALL ABILITIES PLAY SPACE

A BRAND NEW PLAY SPACE
IS COMING TO FOOTSCRAY PARK
WHERE IMAGINATIONS WILL
RUN WILD!

Families can soon look forward to a whole lot more fun at Footscray Park following the commencement of work on the new all-abilities play space.

The new play space will include:

- > a fully fenced play space within a garden setting
- > a range of play experiences for children of all abilities including water, sand and nature play and other sensory play elements
- > a variety of active play equipment – flying fox, multi-swings, 'tree houses', bird climber and nest
- > picnic and gathering areas with shelter, seating and lawn areas
- > public toilets with connecting paths to the river and within the play space.

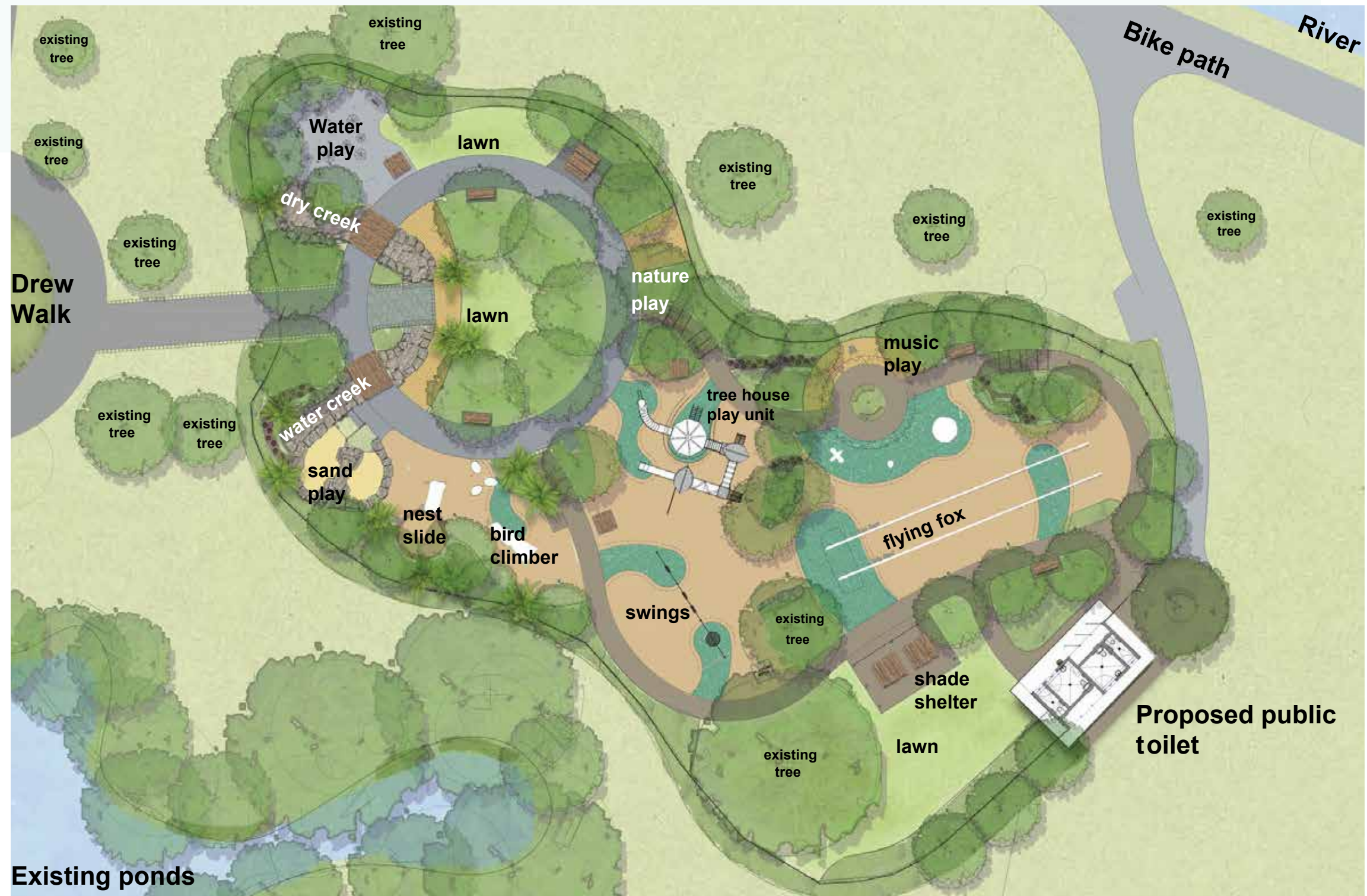
Imaginations will run wild in this magical space that celebrates the setting of the significant Edwardian gardens. The water area, which will be particularly popular during the warmer months, will contain treatments to ensure it is hygienic and safe.

The inclusiveness of the play space will encourage interaction between children and their families and provide a great space for everyone to enjoy.

The early concept for the space was supported by residents, schools, stakeholder groups and the community following consultations held in 2016.

This new space joins many existing playgrounds in Maribyrnong providing fun for both young and old - whether it be a three metre tall dinosaur in McNish Reserve Yarraville; the 22 metre long aeroplane in Braybrook; or the recently updated toddler play area and beginners skate and scooter track at Johnson Reserve, West Footscray.

The new playspace, which is part of the Footscray Park Masterplan, is scheduled for completion by the end of June.



ENVIRONMENT

REVIVING THE ROPE PLANTERS TO GIVE US TEA, BEES AND A TASTE OF ITALY!



Rope planters are being converted into wicking beds and placed across the municipality ticking the sustainability boxes of 'reuse and reduce' as part of Maribyrnong City Council's My Smart Garden initiative.

The project comes with the bonus of each bed expected to display foliage of a particular theme - this includes herbs for tea, bee attracting flowers or Mediterranean gardens and as a result increase the community's interaction with sustainable living practices as they harvest and maintain the beds.

The wicking beds reuse the seven large rope planters that were previously located along Barkly Street.

Wicking beds are often described as a self-watering pot that reduce water wastage. They are containers that sit in a reservoir of water and are designed so plants can be watered from below rather than above. Plants draw moisture up through the soil as needed from the reservoir, giving the plant exactly the right amount of water at exactly the right time.

Residents were involved in the wicking bed project, attending free sessions at Yarraville, Braybrook and Maribyrnong Community Gardens, the History Garden and Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House. The wicking beds will remain under the care of volunteers for the various locations.

Another rope planter was gifted to the students at St John's Primary School in Footscray to allow them to produce their own sustainable wicking bed.

My Smart Garden is a free program that will help you grow food, shelter your home from the sun and wind, create homes for local wildlife, use water wisely and recycle waste.

It doesn't matter if you have a backyard, balcony, courtyard or only a couple of pots - you will be sure to benefit from gardening more sustainably.

Visit mysmartgarden.org.au

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TREE DAY



If you would like to do something positive for your local environment and community, why not join our tree planting event at Cranwell Park in Braybrook?

National Tree Day is nearly upon us! Trees that are planted will help to fill gaps in vegetation across the region, allowing native species to flourish and migrate.

National Tree Day

Date: **29 July 2018**

Time: **10am-12.30pm**

Location: **below Cranwell Reserve on the Maribyrnong River**

This free event is open to the whole community and will include a free BBQ, coffee, face painting and a wildlife show.

National Tree Day is Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event and our planting day aims to increase habitat for native local and migratory animal and bird species by planting 1,000 new trees and shrubs.

The planting activity will support our commitment to the Greening the West of Melbourne (1 million trees) project. Greening the West is a regional initiative that aims to enable sustainable, liveable, healthy communities through urban greening in Melbourne's west. As part of this project, we have committed to planting 16,000 trees along the river corridor in Braybrook, Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Yarraville and Footscray.

To find out more visit:

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/events

BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG

Business in Maribyrnong continues to thrive as we welcome many new businesses to our municipality. Council offers workshops, grants and networking events throughout the year to encourage continued business development.

Here's an update on some of the opportunities available to our local business community.

SMALL BUSINESS FESTIVAL: AUGUST 2018

The Small Business Festival is just around the corner and Council will be running a number of free training sessions for business-savvy locals throughout August, including:

- > Small Business Recruitment
- > Getting Social Media Right
- > The Changing Face of Business in Footscray
- > Be a Stickler for Language

These events will take place at a variety of locations across Maribyrnong.

The highlight of the annual program is the Business Networking Breakfast which will take place on the morning of Wednesday 22 August. Guests can learn how to turn a small business dream into a reality whilst making valuable connections within the business community.



To search events Council is hosting visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/events

DOING BUSINESS IN MARIBYRNONG

Council assists the business community in establishing and growing a business with the Doing Business in Maribyrnong kit available. The kit, a starting point for businesses, provides checklists and details of key Council areas based on business needs and requirements. For more information or to request a copy of our Doing Business in Maribyrnong kit please contact the City Business Unit on **9688 0200** or via email business@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

BUSINESS SEMINARS: JUNE 2018

Council hosts a number of business training sessions

every month. Upcoming seminars include: Facebook for Your Business on 6 June; Tax Essentials for Small Business on 18 June; Starting a Business on 20 June and Record Keeping Workshop on 27 June, all at Footscray Town Hall.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) GRANTS

Council delivers funding through the BID grant program, which aims to strengthen the city's business districts and promote destination marketing. Applications will be accepted from traders associations and groups of businesses (five or more) within the boundaries of our City.

The key dates are as follows:

- > Monday 21 May - Applications open

- > Thursday 7 June – Afternoon drop-in session, 3–5pm
- > Friday 6 July - Applications close

MARIBYRNONG LIQUOR FORUM

Council in conjunction with Victoria Police and local traders associations are hosting two Liquor Forums in 2018. Working collaboratively with key stakeholders, we will promote economically prosperous and vibrant nightlife precincts while seeking to minimise the potentially harmful effects of alcohol.

The next forum is scheduled for September and will be hosted by the Yarraville Club. If you own or operate a licenced premise within the city and would like to attend, email business@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au for further details.



KEEPING SAFE AROUND WATER

In partnership with the Western English Language School and Phoenix Youth Hub, Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre is helping young women learn to swim.

In Australia, we are constantly surrounded by water – swimming pools, rivers, lakes, beaches... water is all around



us – which is why it is so important for everyone to feel confident around water.

Being able to swim is an important skill for people of all ages, but for many people, there are a range of barriers to learning such a skill.

This is why Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) and Phoenix Youth Hub have teamed up with the Western English Language School (WELS).

Each week, the participants of WELS' Young Women's program attend MAC to receive free swimming and water safety lessons.

These sessions provide newly arrived residents with the opportunity to increase their confidence in and around water, build social connections, and feel a sense of belonging within their new community.

New students attend the program each term, and to date over 50 women have taken part in the lessons.

Many of the participants now attend the Women's Swim Nights, which are held at MAC on Sunday evening, with their friends and family.

The Women's Swim Nights allow women and girls of all ages to make the most of the facilities at MAC in a female only environment.

For more information about the programs and activities taking place at MAC, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac

WHAT'S ON IN MARIBYRNONG



JAZZ OUT WEST

1–10 JUNE
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Jazz Out West is back and bigger than ever! Experience global jazz stylings, laid-back beats, old-school funk and soul-inflected grooves with these free events in the West as part of the 2018 Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

STEPPING INTO TOMORROW

FRIDAY 1 JUNE
THE LINE, FOOTSCRAY

Leading Melbourne beatmakers pay tribute to the greats of jazz, featuring fresh interpretations by Amin Payne (George Benson), Walla C (Stan Getz), Pataphysics (Miles Davis), Dan San (Eddie Harris), Sadiva (Donald Byrd) and Skomes (Joe Zawynul).

THANDO

SATURDAY 2 JUNE
BLUESTONE CHURCH
ARTS SPACE, FOOTSCRAY

Singer/songwriter Thando is fast becoming Melbourne's reigning queen of alternative RnB, soul and jazz. Experience the spine-tingling intimacy of a rare acoustic set featuring Henry James (guitar).

DJ ENNIO STYLES

THURSDAY 7 JUNE
LITTLEFOOT BAR,
FOOTSCRAY

Local Melbourne DJ, occasional music maker and 3RRR presenter, Ennio Styles will be stylin' your evening down the path of soul and sonic street grooves.

COOL OUT SUN

SATURDAY 9 JUNE
THE REVERENCE HOTEL,
FOOTSCRAY

Fusing traditional Afro Cuban rhythms with hip-hop, N'Fa Jones, Sensible J, Lamine Sonko and Nui Moon are a phenomenon when experiences live, bringing drums, drums and more drums to the stage.

LEARNING LAB

VARIOUS DATES
IN JUNE AND JULY

Learning Lab is a series of workshops designed to support better grant writing, project development, maximising and building networks, and project and grant budgeting. These sessions are perfect for those interested in applying for a Community Grant, and are open to Maribyrnong community members. Free, registration essential as spaces are strictly limited.

Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au full for more details

DEAD AIR

14–23 JUNE AT 7.30PM
BLUESTONE CHURCH
ARTS SPACE, 8A HYDE
STREET FOOTSCRAY

Dead Air is a chilling tale about the world where faith and science meet, as it sets about answering the question of "Are we alone in the universe?" with terrifying consequences.

More information www.bittenbyproductions.com



THE OTHER TALK: TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

TUESDAY 19 JUNE, 5.45–8PM
ST MONICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, FOOTSCRAY

Learn how to talk with your child about alcohol and drugs, get the facts, dispel the myths and arm yourself with information about how to manage real-life situations involving your child in this session facilitated by the Alcohol and Drug Foundation. Ideal for parents and guardians of children aged 8–15 years, and teachers and professionals who work with young people.

Register at theothertalkfootscray.eventbrite.com.au

GAME CHANGERS – YOUR WASTE IS MY BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE
6–7.15PM
METROWEST
138 NICHOLSON STREET
FOOTSCRAY

Join in the Conversation and investigate the innovations that are turning waste into opportunity, minimising waste creation and helping everyday consumers break ingrained habits. Game Changers events are free and open to the whole community.

To register go to:
yourwastemybusiness.eventbrite.com.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

WINTER SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS
MARIBYRNONG
AQUATIC CENTRE

A fun and active sport and fitness program perfect for children aged 5–12 years. Sessions include kids gym, ball games and more.

More information phone **9032 4100**

TOUR DE FRANCE CYCLE CHALLENGE

SUNDAY 1–TUESDAY
31 JULY
MARIBYRNONG
AQUATIC CENTRE

Record the most visits to RPM/Cycle classes throughout the month and go into the draw to win a prize.

More information phone **9032 4100**

LES MILLS LAUNCH – 80S THEME

SATURDAY 7 JULY
8.15AM
MARIBYRNONG
AQUATIC CENTRE

Trial new Les Mills choreography and releases in our 30 minute group fitness express classes running back to back. Dress code is 80s theme.

More information phone **9032 4100**

COMMUNITY GRANTS INFORMATION SESSION

TUESDAY 10 JULY,
2–3PM AND 7–8PM
FOOTSCRAY TOWN HALL

This information session will cover specific details on the Maribyrnong City Council Community Grants program, including when applications open, how to apply, the different grant categories, selection criteria and budgets.

Free event Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au full for more details

COMMUNITY GRANTS

GRANT ROUNDS
OPEN 17 JULY

The annual community grant program supports local community groups and organisations to respond to identified community needs, supports local networks, promotes and encourages participation in community and cultural life, facilitates innovation and promotes access and inclusion. Applications close 30 August. Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au for details



OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

28–29 JULY
VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Open House Melbourne will see the doors open to nine buildings across our city that display outstanding architectural design and wonder. From Jacks Magazine to the Dream Factory, this is your opportunity to have a peek inside and explore and celebrate our City.

For information and to book visit www.openhousemelbourne.org

THE 3 MUSKETEERS

1–11 AUGUST 8PM
(6PM ON SUNDAY
5 AUGUST)
BLUESTONE CHURCH
ARTS SPACE, 8A HYDE
STREET, FOOTSCRAY

This new adaptation of Alexandre Dumas' novel brings the classic characters to the stage in a fast-paced romp through 17th century France - a rip-roaring, gender-bending, breakneck tale of passion and intrigue, comedy and tragedy, plus splashes of music. Embracing the familiar themes of loyalty and the bond of friendship. The 3 Musketeers also explores the dark side of one of its ostensible heroes, to bring you the ultimate swashbuckling adventure... with an edge.

Bookings at trybooking.com/ VNTC or call **0423 049 880** for more information

TEAM PERSONAL TRAINING

WEDNESDAY 10–FRIDAY
31 AUGUST
MARIBYRNONG
AQUATIC CENTRE

Small group personal training sessions within the health club.

Members \$20 for 60 minutes, non-members \$30 for 60 minutes.

More information **9032 4100**



FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB IS SERVING UP MORE THAN YOUR AVERAGE COMPUTER CLASS.

A love of food and cooking has collided with a computer class' passion for learning. The outcome? A delicious cook book!

Over two semesters, the participants of the Intermediate Computer Class, which is funded by Yarraville Community Centre, attended weekly classes at Braybrook Community Hub.

With a focus on advanced Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and internet skills, the class gives students an opportunity to create slideshows with sound and animation, explore social media, and use the internet to shop and book flights.

It was when tutor Jason discovered the student's love of tasty, home cooked meals that the idea of creating a cook book together came about.

"Over the duration of the course, morning teas would often be enhanced with a delicious plate of food that one of the participants had made and brought along for everyone to try," Jason said.

"After discovering we were a multicultural group of food lovers, it seemed the natural path to take. Why not

combine the process of making a cook book together into a computer based project and learn how to use technology along the way?" Jason continued.

Each student cooked a meal that best represented them and their background, and then styled and photographed the food. They then wrote the recipes and together worked to design and style the book using the skills learnt during their classes.

With sweet and savoury dishes from a range of cuisines, the cook book includes empanadas, pork adobo, turrone, rocky road and much more.

Local resident Prelene contributed a Leche Flan and Stir Fry Noodle recipe to the book.

"I am happy that I met different people and I felt comfortable to share my skills in writing. Studying has helped me improve myself and my confidence in using the computer. I just want to keep learning more." Prelene said.

Our Cook Book is available to purchase at Braybrook Community Hub from July. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook will go towards funding a new creative educational program for students.

There is a range of creative learning opportunities available at Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong Community Centres that put students at the centre of the learning journey.

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

REDUCING HARM

TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS.

Addressing the harms associated with alcohol and other drugs (AOD) has been a long term and complex problem. The misuse of alcohol and other drugs is widely recognised in Australia as a major health problem – one that has broader social and economic costs.

We have a strong history of taking action on this issue, and we work closely with the community, health organisations and businesses to prevent alcohol and drug misuse and its associated harms.

The recently endorsed Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy 2017-2021 outlines Council's overall position and guiding principles in the management of harms.

It is important that we all work together to limit how much our children are exposed to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Evidence shows that the earlier parents start talking about alcohol and other drugs with their children, the higher the likelihood they will defer drinking to a later age.

Natasha Jager, Manager Workplace Services at the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF), said that although it's not always easy, it's important to



give your child the knowledge and support to make good decisions.

"Starting the conversation early also means you create an understanding that when it comes to alcohol and other drugs, no question is too silly and no topic is off limits," Natasha said.

Young people consider parents to be credible sources of information – parents have a major influence on their adolescent child's drinking behaviour and can help prevent them from drinking alcohol or from harmful use.

When parents disapprove of their children using AOD, their children are less likely to use these substances and to experience related problems.

"It is recommended that parents take the steps to educate themselves before starting the conversation with their kids, as there's a lot of misinformation out there," Natasha continued.

In partnership with the ADF, we are hosting **The Other Talk: Talking with your child about alcohol and drugs** at St Monica's Catholic Primary School, Footscray on Tuesday 19 June at 5.45pm. This session will arm parents and guardians of children aged 8-15 years with the tools to talk to their children about AOD and information about how need to manage real-life situations

To register, visit **theothertalkfootscray.eventbrite.com.au**

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Help your little one beat the flu season this year.

Children aged six months to five years are eligible to receive the influenza vaccine free of charge to provide protection against the flu.

The vaccine will be available at all drop-in immunisation sessions in June. This is also a good opportunity to make sure all children are up to date with their immunisations.

For more information about drop-in sessions, visit **maribyrnong.vic.gov.au**

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH APP

Finding accurate and reliable information about your child's health, learning and development can be a challenge.

To make this easier, the State Government has developed the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) App as a reliable tool for parents and carers to find essential and trustworthy information.

Head to the App Store or Google Play to download the app.

THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN

Have you registered for three year old program and four year old kindergarten?

Now is the time to make sure your child's kindergarten preferences are up to date. To be part of first round kindergarten offers, you must register before 29 June the year before your child is eligible to attend.

To update your preferences or to register, visit **maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/crs**



BECOMING AUSTRALIAN



Braybrook Library is helping newly arrived residents become Australian citizens.

Arriving in a new country can be overwhelming for many people, but Braybrook Library is trying to make the transition a little easier for those applying for Australian citizenship.

The library is hosting Citizenship Test Assistance sessions that are designed to familiarise participants with the format of the citizenship test.

Directly aimed at newly arrived community members, the sessions provide valuable information and helpful tips in answering some of the common questions.

After identifying a need in the local community around Braybrook, facilitator Awan Madding suggested the initiative.

"The citizenship test assistance came as a result of my interaction with community members who always ask for assistance with their citizenship

questions. As someone who had undertaken the same test in 2008, I understand the difficulties and frustration some people might go through," Awan said.

The sessions cover information about Australia and its people, traditions, geography, symbols, Australia's democratic beliefs, rights and liberties, values, government and laws, as well as the responsibilities and privileges of being an Australian citizen.

"The sessions are helping many new arrivals to pass their citizenship test. One participant has already passed her test and was extremely grateful to have the opportunity to be able to attend the Citizenship Test Assistance," Awan continued.

A number of upcoming Citizenship Test Assistance sessions will be held at Braybrook Community Hub. For more information, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library or call 9188 5850.

FOOD FOR FINES SUCCESS

Over 1,500 non-perishable food items were donated to libraries across Maribyrnong as part of Food for Fines.



The community rallied behind the Food for Fines campaign during the month of April in support of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC).

Library members were able to reduce their library fines by donating food items to library branches across Maribyrnong. The collections were given to the ASRC Foodbank who provide support to almost 700 people, many of whom are children, who are food insecure.

But the libraries also received many donations from community members who had no fines!

Karen Williams, Food and Goods Donation Coordinator at ASRC, said that without community participation the Foodbank would not be possible and those who rely on the donations for their weekly groceries would go without.

"All food donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated. When each person contributes, it helps to fill our shelves to support people seeking asylum," Karen said.

If you didn't get a chance to donate, you can still donate goods directly to the Foodbank.

"Heading into winter, we will need lots of warming foods to get our members through the colder months," Karen continued.

For more information about how you can get involved, visit asrc.org.au



YARRAVILLE WRITERS' GROUP

Are you a budding author? Would you like to meet with other authors to share ideas, give and receive feedback, and encourage other authors?

Why not join the Yarraville Writers' Group?

Meeting monthly at Yarraville Library, the group provides an opportunity to take your writing to the next level with like minded local authors.

For more information, call Yarraville Library on 9688 0294 or visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

TIME TO GET JOB READY

Learn how to create a resume and cover letter that stands out from the rest at the informative Resume Writing and Interview Skills sessions, to be held at Braybrook Library in June and Footscray Library in August.

Delivered by Proven Resume and Recruitment Results, the free sessions will provide essential tips surrounding the interview process, key selection criteria, and how to get the most out of LinkedIn.

Resume Writing and Interview Skills

Wednesday 13 June, 2–3.30pm. Braybrook Library.
Friday 3 August, 10.30am–12pm. Footscray Library.

LET'S WALK!

Now's the perfect time to get to know your neighbourhood while keeping active.

We have teamed up with Victoria Walks to help people get active with the Let's Walk project, which maps walking routes to encourage people to get out into their community, enjoy their neighbourhood and get to know their neighbours.

Walking is a great way to improve health and fitness over these colder months and with routes in Yarraville, Footscray and Braybrook, there is plenty for you to explore.

Local Yarraville resident Anne said that she has enjoyed starting her day with a short walk.

"With Let's Walk, I get to start my day by walking with other local people. It is a very easy pace and you get to enjoy the interesting streetscape along the way. The walk is complete before you know it!" Anne said.

So what are you waiting for? Let's Walk!

Let's Walk Yarraville

This Yarraville walk features the Beaton Reserve area with its tree-lined streets and historical architecture. The park offers plenty of seating, drinking fountains, shade and play options for the little ones. There is also the opportunity to stop by the Yarraville Community Centre, Seniors Centre or Trugo Club along the way.

Let's Walk Angliss in Footscray

When walking around the Angliss area of Footscray you will find the Newell Street Historic Area, featuring the house of former Footscray Mayor, Cr David Newell, built in 1875. You will also find the William Angliss Worker Housing Precinct, the best known example of worker housing groups erected by an employer in the region.

On your walk you will find opportunities to admire sculpture, street art and architecture, or stop at one of the playgrounds. There is also the opportunity to stop by the Angliss Neighbourhood House, The Angliss Children's Centre or the Senior Citizens Centre along Vipont Street.

Let's Walk Braybrook

With four walking routes, the Braybrook community is spoilt for choice! Walkers can choose from the Kinder Smith, Braybrook Park, Braybrook Streets or Dinjerra Primary School routes.

Ranging in length, the walks incorporate a range of interest points along the way including Braybrook Commons Community Garden, Aeroplane Park, Cao Đài Vietnamese Temple, Kinder Smith Reserve, a range of public art and much more.

Visit victoriawalks.org.au for more information.



CYCLIST SAFETY IMPROVEMENT WORKS

We have successfully completed cyclist safety improvement works on Hyde Street between Somerville Road and Francis Street, in Yarraville. This project has been funded, to the value of \$88,350, through the VicRoads' 2017/2018 Blackspot Program with the following works completed:

- > installation of a flat top hump at Hall Street, consistent with other intersections along the Hyde Street shared path
- > installation of 'Road Ahead' warning signs on the shared path, ahead of local road intersections
- > painting of green pavement on all flat top humps
- > installation of cyclist warning signs at local road intersections to alert vehicles exiting local roads
- > painting of green pavement on bike lane intersections with local roads, along both sides of Hyde Street



MAINTAINING PIPEMAKERS PARK FOOTBRIDGE

Pipemakers Park footbridge, a valued community asset, is currently undergoing routine maintenance to keep the bridge in good repair. This work is being undertaken by Maribyrnong City Council in partnership with Moonee Valley City Council.

The works will result in restricted access to the bridge and cyclists will be asked to dismount when crossing.

We will aim to keep disruptions to a minimum with works to be complete shortly, weather permitting.

The works include timber repairs, high pressure washing, sanding of the bridge and repainting.



SPORTS GROUNDS AND FACILITIES CAPITAL WORKS UPDATE

Kingsville Tennis Pavillion

The current pavilion, which was built in the 1950s, will be redeveloped to provide a new facility that will cater for Kingsville Tennis Club's growing membership. It will also cater for participants from a range of community programs run by the Club, including programs for people living with disability and/or mental illness.

Scovell Reserve Pavillion

Replacing the three outdated buildings currently at Scovell Reserve, a new pavilion will provide a multipurpose space that features female friendly facilities to cater for the growth in participation in the area. The location of the new pavilion will also allow for an extra soccer pitch to be hosted at the reserve.

Goal post safety netting

Safety netting has been installed at five Australian Rules Football ovals within the City. This netting restricts footballs leaving the playing fields from going onto nearby roads and car parks.

ADVOCATING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Local councils have a long history of influencing state and federal government issues and Council plays an important role in advocating on behalf of our community for the improvements, services and funds they need, where these are the responsibility of the State and Federal Governments or other third parties.

Located close to the Melbourne CBD and flanked by the Maribyrnong River our City carries much appeal including friendly neighbourhoods, a diverse and thriving arts, culture and foody scene, two

university campuses and the potential for riverside lifestyle.

These draw cards, however, also bring with them challenges as we experience rapid population growth and demographic change. They also present significant freight management and sustainable transport issues. Council's Plan 2017/21 commits to representing the interests of the community through lobbying of government, business and other organisations to achieve best outcomes for its diverse community.

More than 45 potential issues for advocacy were identified by Council and by the community during engagement during the development of the Council Plan 2017/21.

Developing a strategic approach to advocacy, priorities and opportunities were identified, acknowledging that not all advocacy issues can be covered adequately or effectively at one time. By developing a priority list, it does not limit Council's ability to advocate on issues, but focus on addressing key issues. These were assessed

according to their relationship to the Council Plan, their impact on the community and their relative urgency. Major infrastructure projects within our municipality and the upcoming State election also require Council to advocate for the best possible outcomes for the community. These projects include Maribyrnong Defence Site, Footscray Learning Precinct and Footscray Hospital. Earlier this year and in the State budget, a number of announcements were made that reflect our advocacy efforts. These included;

SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES

- > \$5 million Whitten Oval for women's facilities and sports
- > \$514,000 for rebuild of the Henry Turner Reserve south pavilion, new mountain bike facilities at Quarry Park and new floodlighting for Johnson Reserve
- > \$10 million for Football Academy at Footscray Park
- > \$82 million in State budget to encourage participation of women in sport by making sure venues meet their needs
- > \$60 million in State budget for the Community infrastructure Fund

VALUING OUR WATERWAYS

- > \$6 million towards Footscray Promenade Works

FOOTSCRAY LEARNING PRECINCT

- > \$3.3 million for an early learning facility
- > \$29.275 million for Seddon Secondary School
- > \$2.687 million in State budget for various projects in the precinct

FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL

- > \$10 million in State budget for planning and critical infrastructure
- > \$26.1 million in State budget for urgent infrastructure works Sunshine and Footscray
- > Line item in State budget "New Footscray Hospital – tbc"

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- > \$5 billion from the Federal Government for the Airport Rail link

CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

- > Ongoing dialogue with VicRoads and West Gate Tunnel project regarding cycling paths and links
- > \$22.7 million in State budget for "initiatives to encourage more Victorians to walk or ride"

HOUSING QUALITY AND AFFORDABILITY

- > \$156.7 million in State budget for a public housing renewal program

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- > \$14.5 million in State budget to provide funding to councils and the recycling industry to ensure the continuing kerbside collection of household recyclable waste

While some of the budget announcements are statewide initiatives, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our community and we will apply for grants where possible.

WESTERN BULLDOGS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION HOST ANNUAL FOOTBALL GALA



The Western Bulldogs Community Foundation's CALDplay (cultural and linguistically diverse) sports program hosted their eleventh annual Football Gala earlier this month at Yarraville Oval.

Hosting 170 participants from culturally diverse backgrounds, this term's event reached students from Victoria University Footscray and Yarraville Community Centre, while focussing on football skills that had been acquired

over the eight-week program.

Assisting participants drawn from AMES (Adult Migrant Education Services) and Community Centres across the west, the CALDplay program provides clients with social participation opportunities through the medium of sport and physical activity, whilst promoting healthy living. By participating weekly in sport, students gain a better appreciation and understanding of the

sport's rules and structure, while supporting them to maximise language proficiency and enjoy engagement in their new community.

The program acts to build trust, awareness, appreciation, understanding and skills for each sport, while enabling participants to develop social skills to assist with their integration into their new environment. Western Bulldogs Community Foundation General Manager, Kashif

Bouns said that the Foundation saw yet another successful CALDplay program this term.

"Our CALDplay program is growing every year, and each year we're witnessing some inspiring stories emerge from the program," said Bouns.

The Western Bulldogs Community Foundation's CALDplay sports program will focus on Soccer this term, with a gala event to be held at the end of the eight-week program.

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY SETS THE TONE FOR THE CREATIVE SECTOR IN MARIBYRNONG

Our City has a vibrant arts and creative-industries sector, is home to a significant artist population, and contains a broad array of arts organisation and creative sector businesses.

It is also home to a culturally rich and diverse community that is eager to participate in and engage with the arts.

This is why it is important that we continue to support and foster the arts in our community.

To do this, we have developed – in consultation with you, the community – a draft Arts and Culture Strategy 2018 - 2023. This document elaborates on the role we will play in supporting the progress and evolution of arts and culture in Maribyrnong.

This strategy aims to encourage participation, celebration and creative expression throughout the municipality. It will contribute significantly to the community's identity, its sense of place and its civic spirit.

It will also greatly enhance the wellbeing and cohesion of the community, as well as economic development.

The approach of the strategy is driven by need, and addresses recognised gaps in community cultural activities. It is underpinned by principles of inclusiveness and participation – it encourages active engagement of the community in planning, development and delivery of arts programs and projects.

We strive to ensure art is a mechanism for building social cohesion and a vehicle for social justice. Participation in the arts is a source of community wellbeing and a driver of economic vitality. Our investment in the arts is a catalyst for a better community.

The draft strategy is scheduled to be presented to Council in the coming months, after which time, it will be available to view at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts

FESTIVAL CITY COMEDY WESTSIDE WRAPS UP



In April, we partnered with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival to present a selection of comedy events in the West, including Comedy Out West (COW) open mic night. This year, mum-of-three Amanda Brocklebank beat 14 hopefuls to take out the COW audience vote.

Amanda said she'd been dipping her toe in comedy for about 15 years.

"I've done a handful of sets and had a crack at raw comedy years ago, but with kids and work I've never really pursued it properly," she explained. "This year I'm turning 50, so maybe this will be my 'midlife comedy crisis' and I'll really go for it!"

Amanda said she was never short on material, drawing on her everyday experiences.

"There's funny things happening all around you – it's a fact truth is stranger than fiction! With three kids, a dog, a partner and all the other things that go along with being a middle aged Melbourne mum, there's plenty to laugh at! In fact, if I didn't laugh sometimes, I'd cry!"

She added that events like the open mic night offered a 'good training ground' for new comedians.

"To be able to perform with such a great group of comedians in front of a supportive local audience was a fabulous opportunity."

KICK BACK TO THE SMOOTH SOUNDS OF JAZZ OUT WEST

From 1-10 June, jazz-goers from across Melbourne will be treated to global jazz stylings, laid-back beats, old-school funk and soul-inflected grooves at Jazz out West – part of the 2018 Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

A series of FREE shows include:

Stepping Into Tomorrow at The Line on 1 June

Thando at Bluestone Church Arts Space on 2 June

DJ Ennio Styles at Littlefoot Bar on 7 June

Cool Out Sun at the Reverence Hotel on 9 June

For more information visit festivalcity.com.au

DUE WEST FESTIVAL GAINS SUPPORT FROM CREATIVE VICTORIA

Council has been successful in securing funding from Creative Victoria for the Due West Festival. Due West, a biennial festival, will be held over 10 days in November 2019.

THE DUE WEST: IMMERSIVE ARTS

Festival will see a program of events showcasing works from local artists, organisations and venues across multi-disciplinary art forms.

FESTIVAL CITY GRANTS PROGRAM

Maribyrnong hosts and supports festivals that create great memories, inspire a sense of community belonging and excite visitors.

The 2018/19 Festival City program will see an exciting range of festivals presented to keep Maribyrnong flourishing.

The Festival City Grants round has recently closed and Council's Festival Advisory Panel is currently reviewing submissions. Successful recipients will be announced in August at festivalcity.com.au

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

As part of Open House Melbourne on 28 and 29 July, Council will open the doors of nine special buildings across our city that display outstanding architectural design.

From Jacks Magazine to the Dream Factory this is your opportunity to explore and celebrate some of the more hidden places in our City.

For more information and to book, visit openhousemelbourne.org



LUCKY PET



A tale of luck and love in West Footscray

Seven years ago West Footscray resident and animal lover Jo Vraca left the corporate world to set up a pet supply business and has never looked back!

"I just got to a stage in life where I craved doing something more creative and I really wanted to work for myself," Jo said.

"My husband Jeff came up with the idea to start our own pet supplies store and it made so much sense. We don't have kids but we have pets (three dogs and two cats to be exact!) and love them more than anything. Now, I couldn't imagine doing anything else!"

Since setting up Lucky Pet Supplies in 2011, the business has grown steadily and now sells stock to pet lovers across Australia.

"When we started the business, we had very little money but a lot of

enthusiasm! We originally ran the business online, however when we saw a little shop for lease on Barkly Street it made sense to have a physical shop as well. It was a very tight squeeze so when a bigger space became available across the road, we couldn't believe our luck! We now employ a great in-house team and they've been instrumental in our growth," Jo explained.

Lucky Pet Supplies has become a trusted partner in the West with a loyal following.

"Our local customers are just fabulous! Many have been with us from the very beginning. I feel so fortunate to be able to live and work in the West," Jo continued.

Lucky Pet Supplies
586 Barkly Street,
West Footscray.
luckypet.com.au
Telephone: 1800 565 333

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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.

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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