

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter edition of Maribyrnong Messenger.

We have recently wrapped up our conversations with the community on the Proposed Budget 2022/23, and I want to thank you all for taking the time to provide your feedback. The last twelve months have again proved challenging for our community, and with COVID-19 still a factor our dilemma.

our community, and with COVID-19 still a factor, our dilemma continues to be how we deliver the facilities and services our community is asking for on a finite income.

Recognising and considering the ongoing effects of COVID-19 on our local economy, we have remained focused during the development of this year's Proposed Budget, on balancing revenue and expenses to deliver the services to support the needs of our growing community as we start the journey to recovery.

Council is now considering your feedback before the final Budget is endorsed by Council in June. You can read more about the Proposed Budget on page 6.

One of the things that is always top of mind for Council is providing facilities for our ever-growing community. By 2041, it is estimated that the population in the City of Maribyrnong will grow to 150,000 – an increase of over 40%.

We know that there are not enough indoor sporting courts available in the municipality and that a new indoor sports facility would not only relieve the current shortage but also enable local sporting clubs to meet membership demands into the future.

That's why we're exploring the opportunity to build a new indoor sports facility that would provide indoor courts that can be used by multiple sporting codes (think futsal, basketball, netball and volleyball) to service the whole of the Maribyrnong community. This is just an idea at this stage, and we want to know what you think – head to page 8 to find

Work also continues on the Civic and Community Precinct, with detailed design for the redevelopment now complete. We're still working on the landscaping for the new outdoor park and we would love to know what you would like to see in this space.

More information on this can be found on page 3.

Cr Anthony Tran Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

JUNE

Tuesday 14, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 28, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

JULY

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 26, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

AUGUST

Tuesday 2, 6.30pm: Enterprise Maribyrnong Delegated

Committee

Tuesday 16, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

Meetings are livestreamed via Council's YouTube channel and community members can submit questions for public question time online by 12pm on the day of the meeting.

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



Detailed design has now been completed for the Civic and Community Precinct, which will see the historic Footscray Town Hall restored and returned to the public, and a new office building constructed. W e have spoken to the community about their aspirations for the civic buildings and are now turning our attention to the new outdoor park.

When completed, this area will be a space for the community to gather, relax and enjoy.

We've heard your earlier calls for an attractive, accessible, and inviting space that provides shade and places to sit, with native or edible plantings as part of the design.

Your priorities included a soft surface, with areas for picnicking and a play space for children; pedestrian and disabled access; and visitor bicycle parking.

You also raised the prospect of using the new outdoor park to host some form of community outdoor events.

We've activated the ideas wall on Your City Your Voice to continue to gather your ideas and also gauge the level of support for those already presented, as we continue to explore the best use of this space.

Now is your chance to share your vision for this new open space with us.

Visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/civic-precinct



SKATING HER SKATING BLISS

For those familiar with superheroes; there's a moment when they do a spin, step into a phone booth, or slip on a mask that transforms the ordinary person into a force to be reckoned with.

And that's certainly true of Yarraville's Belle Hadiwidjaja. Once she straps on her roller skates this mild mannered mum of two transforms into a larger than life whirling delight – emitting a glow of happiness that might have you shading your eyes.

Belle's roller skating powers first featured on ABC News in 2020 and when global magazine, TimeOut, named Yarraville the fifth coolest suburb in the world – she received a mention for adding to its cool factor.

This is because during COVID Belle gained a reputation for bringing a sense of wonder and excitement to her locked down community, skating through the neighbourhood in costume, doing pirouettes and tricks. She soon built a firm following and was frequently invited to skate in front of people's homes for kids' birthdays when social distancing forced us to enjoy our entertainment differently.

Once restrictions eased, Belle found herself teaching both children and adults how to skate, performing at festivals and generally sharing her love of skating. This effortless ongoing contribution to community wellbeing saw her receive a Community Strengthening Award at Maribyrnong City

Belle first started skating in lockdown to boost her own spirits. "It's my passion, it takes away all my worries. I'm just in the moment and I am happy instantly, I'm just free that's why I want to share roller skating with other people, to give them that feeling."

Council's Annual Civic Awards in February 2022.

Her roller skating abilities are an extension of her ice-skating skills which she developed in Indonesia, where she grew up, later moving to Malaysia where she competed professionally. After Belle moved to Australia to study at RMIT, finishing the last year of her animation multi-media course in Melbourne, she again took to skating – swapping her blades for wheels. It wasn't long before 'Speedy Wasabi', as she became known,

joined the Roller Derby circuit. She could deliver a powerful hit, jamming the other contestants, and sprinting to lap the opposing side. She stepped off the circuit after she had her first child, now six years old.

"Roller derby is just not suitable for a body that has given birth," Belle explains. "It was a big loss but I slowly accepted it."
Life as a new mum, at age 36, brought new challenges including an unexpected period of anxiety. While Belle says she knew deep down that everything was fine she couldn't help worrying, even when her baby was safely asleep. Being on constant high alert took its toll.

"That was the darkest time," she murmurs. "I didn't know what was going on, one time I had a panic attack and I didn't know what it was – I thought 'I'm going to die'."

Some therapy, the support of other mothers, and developing some new tools to manage her anxiety helped.

"At the time I didn't enjoy skating and my husband would say 'go for a skate, come back whenever', but I couldn't enjoy it. I had to learn to make sure that I had time to myself and let go of my worries."

When she had her second child three years later, Belle was not only much better prepared she was ready to lace up her skates again.

"I'm happy when I skate and people say they get a glimpse of that too, it makes them happy. The children love it, they see me skating dressed as a dinosaur or butterfly and they keep talking about it for days."

These days the children, and some adults, are doing more than talking about it – they're learning from Belle how to do it themselves. Her students range in age from three to 53, with people often approaching her to arrange lessons when they see her out and about on her skates.

She can also be seen wheeling her trolley of skates down to Beaton Reserve for free 'come and try' sessions for those who just want to give it a go.

Belle's not just clever on her feet, she was also a contestant on 'Ninja Warrior' – the show where competitors put their strength and agility to the test attempting to complete a crazy hard obstacle course in the fastest time. She didn't make the final cut, but Belle is more creative than competitive.

And it's skating where she is able to best express it.

While her Masters in Animation brought her to Melbourne and website development was a career for a while; she is happiest when she is choreographing a new routine. But, importantly for Belle her skating is also bringing others joy – so much so she sees her future now as a teacher and performer.

"It's become a way of supporting myself, I managed to quit my desk job a year ago, to just do skating and it was a really life changing experience to be pursuing something that I love." For more information visit **princessonskates.com.au**

To find out about the recipients of this year's Civic Awards, please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/civic-awards



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY



DAUGHTERS OF THE WEST

The long running Daughters of the West, a free 10-week women's health program, is now taking registrations. The program is designed for women over the age of 18 who live, work, study and recreate in the City of Maribyrnong.

The 2022 program, which will commence in July, is available online or in person at either RecWest Footscray or Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre.

It includes weekly education on a variety of women's health topics and a range of fun group physical activities guided by a personal trainer and exercise physiologist. Participants will also have access to a provisional psychologist each week and learn about local opportunities within Maribyrnong that will help to improve their health and wellbeing.

Daughters of the West

Mondays at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre 10.30am-12.30pm from 11 July to 12 September Tuesdays at RecWest Footscray 6.30-8.30pm from 12 July to 13 September

EXPERIENCE INTERACTIVE AUGMENTED REALITY ART IN THE HEART FOOTSCRAY

Residents and visitors to Footscray can now experience the suburb with a new lens, through a suite of interactive augmented reality artworks scattered throughout the CBD.

64 Ways of Being is an exciting new self-guided augmented reality public art project launched right here in Melbourne's west – in the heart of Footscray.

The new artworks are scattered throughout Footscray, linking to each other and providing an interactive journey through the area. They're accessible via physical markers, like graphic signs on a wall or intriguing posts near a footpath, that trigger artworks accompanied by soundtracks from local Melbourne musicians such as Ajak Kwai and Allara Briggs, and narration from Elders and local figures including N'arweet Dr Carolyn Briggs AM, Uncle Larry Walsh and Samuel Gebreselassie who share stories, memories and knowledge about the landscape.

Download the free 64 Ways of Being app on your smart phone to access the experience at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au 64 Ways of Being has been developed by RMIT University and supported by Creative Victoria.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



RECREATION RESERVE UPGRADES

As our population grows – increasing from 85,000 to an estimated 150,000 by 2041 – so too does the demand on our sport and recreation facilities.

We need to ensure we plan and provide for this, which is why we are looking to deliver new and improved facilities at a number of recreation reserves across the municipality.

We're starting a conversation with the community around potential upgrades to McIvor Reserve, such as sports fields, lighting, and the existing pavilion – and we're also keen to discuss the potential for a new multi-use indoor sports facility.

We know there aren't enough indoor courts in our municipality now, and the existing courts won't be enough to service our growing population into the future. There is space at McIvor Reserve to support a multi-use six court facility, with associated amenities that would also service the existing sports fields, and could accommodate a range of sporting codes such as basketball, futsal and netball – without impacting locals and members of the clubs based there.

Access to multi-court facilities that allow for the efficient running of competitions is a critical issue for most indoor sporting clubs and associations in Maribyrnong.

We're inviting initial feedback on opportunities to redevelop the Reserve, including the inclusion of a multi-use indoor sports complex on the site, until mid-June at yourcityourvoice.com.au/mcivor



OUTDOOR DINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MARIBYRNONG

which saw more than 50 traders expand their footprint into our City streets – Council is now seeking feedback on a draft policy to support the pandemic parklets and extended outdoor dining areas to become a permanent feature in the municipality.

The draft Outdoor Dining Policy outlines the proposed criteria and requirements for a permanent installation and associated fees.

You can provide feedback on the draft document at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/outdoordining

The pop-up park on Ballarat Street in Yarraville was one of the new pandemic installations that proved popular with locals. Around 70% of the more than 2,800 responses to a recent survey are keen to see it stay long-term.

We have drawn up a concept plan around how this might look, which you can provide feedback on at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/ballaratst

The State Government has provided \$120,000 for an initial refresh, though there would still need to be an injection of additional funds from Council to support its permanent retention.

Council has also received funding to support lighting and beautification works to Nicholson Street Mall, Maddern Square and Byron Plaza in Footscray; Clarke Street in West Footscray; and the City Centre at Seddon.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS - WE'RE NOW CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

Council has commissioned a study to determine the feasibility of a proposal to establish a medicinal cannabis enterprise as a way to reduce the rates burden on the community.

The study, which includes a risk assessment, is designed to gather the information and detail to understand if the concept is achievable. This includes identifying the operational model, business structure, timeframes and specifically costs. This follows five months of community engagement – from September 2021 to January 2022 – to gauge the community appetite for the idea. Of the 600 residents who responded to a survey on the issue, 74% answered yes to the question

"Would you support Council entering the medicinal cannabis

business?"

The main reasons given for support related to health benefits and the opportunity to reduce rates. While respondents recognised and applauded what they saw as innovative thinking, this was also tempered by a call for caution and need for confidence in an achievable outcome.

Council will consider a report on the study and assessment in October before deciding next steps. It has already publicly stated if the numbers don't stack up the venture won't proceed.

For more information, visit **yourcityyourvoice.com.au/ medicinal-cannabis**



WINTER WARMERS AT BLUESTONE CHURCH ARTS SPACE

AMPLIFY

Settle in at the Bluestone Church Arts Space to hear songs and stories from artists you love, and discover new favourites as part of Amplify – a sure fire line-up of live music and literary performances by local artists from the western suburbs.

Celebrate local emerging talent with Rude Baby Records, a local music label, as they put together an exquisite afternoon showcasing exciting new artists from Melbourne's west on Sunday 19 June from 4pm.

See out NAIDOC Week with a stunning celebration of female First Nations talent in a guest program by Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation on Sunday 10 July from 4pm.

Head to the website to find out more at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture

Photo courtesy of Songlines Music Aboriginal Corporation.



A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

ocal theatre artist Fiona Roake is this year's recipient of Council's Bluestone Church Arts Space Artist in Residence Program. This annual program gives local artists time, space, equipment, and a stipend to develop a new artistic work here in Maribrynong at the Bluestone Church Arts Space.

Fiona will collaborate with fellow artist Penny Baron to

develop a live performance work titled A Woman of Influence, which will tell a multi-generational family story through rewriting the myth of Persephone and Demeter, a Greek Mythology about the deep connection a mother shares with her daughter.

A public showing of this work will be held towards the end of July. Head to the website to find out more **maribyrnong.** vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



SUSTAINABILITY LEARNINGS PORTAL

While we know climate change is a direct result of greenhouse gas emissions that are released into our atmosphere, sometimes it can be difficult to recognise how this impacts our day to day lives, because the effects often only present themselves over a long period of time and the solutions may feel overwhelming.

Here in Maribyrnong, like the rest of Australia, we're already experiencing these climate related impacts – from the 2021 storms that devastated parts of our municipality to sweltering heatwaves that often run from summer well into autumn.

To help our community better understand climate emergency and related local impacts, Council recently launched the Sustainability Learnings Portal – an online hub that gives access to a wide range of information and tools that explain the risks and challenges, how they impact our community and ways everyone can be involved to bring about change.

To learn more about the environmental issues our community is facing from the changing climate and ways to address the issue, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/sustainability-learnings-portal

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME IN 2022, GET OUTDOORS AND HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY? WHY NOT BECOME A CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER!

More than 200 volunteers come together across the municipality to help plant, mulch and remove weeds from revegetation areas and open spaces, and collect rubbish, to keep our City looking great.

With their help, we planted 17,000 trees and shrubs across 12 conservation reserves in 2021. Our key planting months are from April to August, so now is the perfect time to get involved.

Local conservation groups that you can be part of include:

- > Friends of Newell's Paddock
- > Friends of Cruickshank Park
- > Friends of Footscray Park
- > Friends of Stony Creek
- > Friends of Maribyrnong Valley
- > Footscray Runners
- > Maribyrnong River clean up group
- > Love our streets

For more information on how you can get involved in these groups, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY RECYCLING STATIONS

I tems that can't be recycled in the kerbside bins can now be dropped off 'for free' at Council's new Community Recycling Stations.

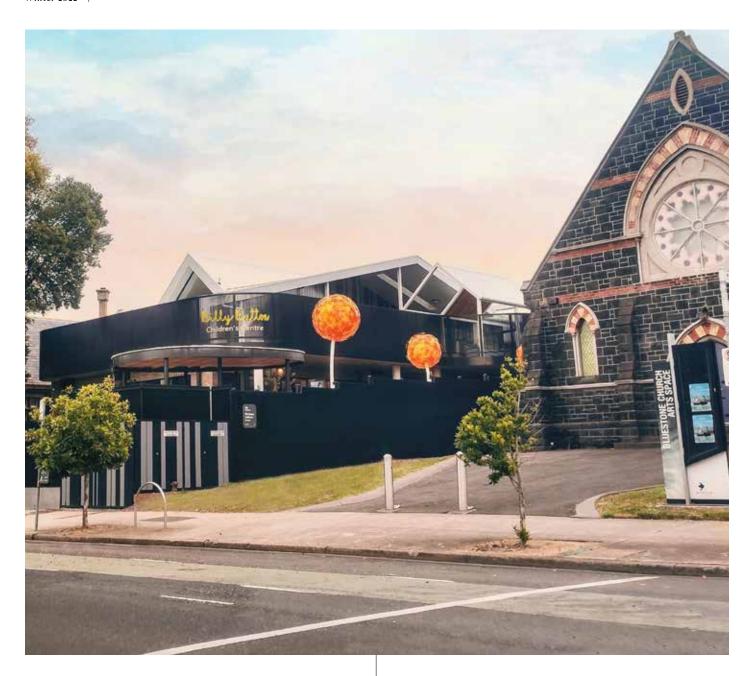
This includes:

- > CDs
- > DVDs
- > VHS and cassettes
- > floppy discs
- > light globes and fluorescent light globes
- > X-rays
- > pens, textas and old stationary items

Stations are located at the following sites:

- > Braybrook Community Hub: 107 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook
- > Maribyrnong Community Centre: 9 Randall Street, Maribyrnong
- > Footscray Town Hall: 61 Napier Street, Footscray
- > Maidstone Community Centre: 21 Yardley Street, Maidstone
- > Recwest Braybrook: 39 Lily Street, Braybrook
- > Phoenix Youth Centre: 72 Buckley Street, Footscray Visit the website for more information

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/waste



BILLY BUTTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE OPENING

The foundation pupils are now enjoying their early education at Maribyrnong's newest Early Learning Centre on Hyde Street in Footscray.

Billy Button Children's Centre is a state of the art building designed to provide high quality early learning education and care. It pays homage to the native yellow flowers that grew in the area, and Billy Button Creek, that once flowed behind the new centre and through Footscray.

The facility includes spaces for sessional kinder, long day care and maternal and child health and is part of the Footscray Learning Precinct, jointly funded by Council and State Government.

Families wishing to enrol should do so via Council's Central Registration System: earlyyearscentralregistration@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or on 9688 0116.

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO 'RETURN YOURSELF TO THE LIBRARY'

As restrictions continue to ease, we're looking forward to seeing residents return to our local libraries, which are often referred to as the 'community loungeroom.'

This is because of their welcoming and inclusive spaces to just 'be', to participate in programs and events, and in some cases also enjoy study spaces with librarians onhand to help.

Return Yourself to the Library, a state-wide campaign run by Public Libraries Victoria, features a series of heartfelt videos that showcase the variety of services available – including Story Time, book groups, conversational English classes and much more.

You can watch the videos, including one filmed at Footscray Library, at www.facebook.com/MaribyrnongLibraries
Maribyrnong Libraries also has a free Home Library
Service for residents who may not be able to come into the library due to illness or frailty. Give us a call to discuss eligibility on 9688 0290 and ask about the Home Library Service.



GET CRAFTY OR SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS WINTER AT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community centres are the heart of a community – where you can discover a new hobby, learn a new skill and meet interesting new people from your neighbourhood.

A broad range of courses, activities and services are offered across all our centres, which are located in Braybrook, Maidstone and Maribyrnong.

This winter, at the Maribyrnong Community Centre, you can take part in a fun macramé workshop, and learn various traditional knotting techniques to create a beautiful boho style wall hanging. This three hour course is on Saturday 18 June and is suitable for beginners.

If the kids would like to try their hand at macramé, there is a school holiday workshop on Thursday 29 June for those aged 10 or older who will learn how to make a macramé rainbow key chain. All tools and materials are provided.

Stay warm and celebrate Refugee
Week at the Maidstone Community
Centre at the Spread the Warmth
Winter Lunch on Wednesday 22 June
from 12:30pm, where an aromatic
chicken soup and a spicy red lentil
soup will be served with a crusty bread
roll. If you would like to meet other
local people, and enjoy a tasty warm
lunch, register on 9688 0543.
For more information, to register for
these events, or find out what else is
happening at our community centres,
visit www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/
communitycentres

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



FOOTSCRAY WHARF COMPLETION

The \$12.8 million revitalised Footscray Wharf and Promenade – promising a better connection to the River – will soon be opening to the public.

A 230 metre timber boardwalk (a continuation of the Henderson House Landing) with lower landings, and a pontoon for small vessels and recreational boats is nearing completion.

The boardwalk will also include a wide promenade and

shared path along the river bank, along with extensive planting, seating and lighting, sheltered picnic and barbecue spaces.

The project was jointly funded by Council and the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Fly over the wharf and see the latest developments close up at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/footscraywharf

HENRY TURNER PAVILION ON TRACK

Piling and foundation works are now underway to support the construction of a new pavilion at the Henry Turner South Reserve in Footscray.

The new pavilion, jointly funded with State Government, will include a large multipurpose social space, meeting room, commercial kitchen, four large change rooms with gender neutral amenities, tiered spectator seating and a new public accessible toilet.

Along with fresh landscaping, a new footpath will also connect Farnsworth Avenue to the new pavilion and existing tennis courts. Works are expected to be completed by early 2023.

During construction there is no access to the southern section of the carpark, however residents can still access the Reserve. There will be some pedestrian detours in place to ensure safety around work zones. For more information, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/HTSpavilion



BRAYBROOK'S SKINNER RESERVE UPDATE

The new turf laid at Skinner Reserve in Braybrook during the final stages of the \$3 million upgrade to the oval and surrounds, has had its first mow – paving the way for a reopening in the coming weeks.

More than 19,500 square metres of couch grass was laid along with new subsurface drainage and irrigation systems, to prevent water pooling on the surface. Four new lighting towers with energy efficient LED light fittings have also been installed to improve safey and support greater use of the reserve at night by the community.

A new 506m two-lane running track, topped with synthetic turf to provide a durable year round surface, will also be

available for runners and walkers of all abilities.

New coaches' boxes, boundary fencing, AFL goal posts, goal safety netting, spectator seating and an electronic scoreboard – which will double as an outdoor movie screen – are also part of the upgrade of the Oval which is expected to reopen in the second half of this year.

The Western Bulldogs Football Club, who are new tenants at the reserve, are funding half the costs of the redevelopment works to deliver the high quality turf to support their training and activities, as well as broad community use.

SALTRIVER PLACE

New open space proposed for the river's edge.

Council is proposing to transform an informal car park near the river's edge in Footscray into a new open space for residents to enjoy.

There is potential to transform the informal car park at the bottom of Saltriver Place, Footscray, which has been largely used as a defacto carpark in recent times, into lawn with trees, providing space for picnicking, kicking a ball around or just relaxing.

A draft concept plan has been developed to show how the area could look.

The alternative would be for Council to seal the area and establish the site as a formal car park as it appears in the Footscray RiverEdge Masterplan.

For more information and to share your thoughts, visit **yourcityyourvoice.com.au/SaltriverPlace**



MELBOURNE WATER UPDATE: MARIBYRNONG RIVER MAIN TO NORTH WESTERN SEWER CONNECTION PROJECT

The Maribyrnong River Trail in Avondale Heights will be closed during May as construction begins on a new wastewater main from Avondale Heights to Maidstone.

Melbourne Water is undertaking the works to manage future sewage flows.

Pedestrians and cyclists will be detoured off the trail at Canning Reserve and Grimes Flat to avoid the work zone. Keep an eye out for signs.

Residents will also notice increased truck movements to and from the Williamson Road site in Maidstone, to support the removal of materials once the tunnel boring machine is deployed. The launch shaft is currently under construction.

Site establishment at the rear of Medway Golf Course is also scheduled for May.

Melbourne Water will share more information directly with residents around these works.

To follow the project visit melbournewater.com.au/ mrm-north-western-sewer-connection

MAMMA CHEN'S

Much to the delight of music lovers in the west, Footscray's newest live music venue Mamma Chen's opened its doors earlier this year – breathing new life into Footscray's historic ANA building on Albert Street.

"Our focus is live music, with as many different styles as possible. In the future, we plan to open up the first floor to artists who want a space to paint, write or do anything creative. The main goal is to build a community of creatives in a safe, accessible and supportive way," Emily (Em) Chen said.

She and mother Linda wanted to create a safe space for people of all backgrounds to share their music and grow their performance experience.

Em has been playing music at venues around Melbourne and country Victoria since she was 14 and Linda has been Em's number one fan, supporting her from the front row or backstage when possible. The music community they are both a part of have come to know Linda as Mamma Chen – whose name is now also over the door of the new venue.

"Realising my dream of opening my own venue would not have been possible without my mum's support and insight, so I decided to name it after her," Em said of the ode to her mother.

Mamma Chen's is open from Friday to Sunday.

Mamma Chen's 42A Albert Street, Footscray @mammachens HOW TO CONTACT

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You can also write to your Ward Councillor: c/- Maribyrnong City Council, PO Box 58, West Footscray 3012. 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 maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or call Customer Service on 9688 0200.

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