

# MARIBYRNONG news

AUTUMN 2016

GET ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG EXPO

*is back for another year!*

HEAR FROM VENERABLE TAN

*at the Quang Minh Temple*

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

*Colour on our city streets*

*City of Maribyrnong*

2016 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

KON KARAPANAGIOTIDIS



Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Maribyrnong News, our very first for 2016. We have plenty to talk about in this edition and so much happening in our great city over the next few months.

We proudly recognised our 2016 City of Maribyrnong Civic Award winners and nominees on Australia Day. Every year, we marvel more and more at what innovative programs our community is doing and what inspiring, hardworking people we have here in Maribyrnong. Read about them all in more detail on pages four and five. Our warmest congratulations and thank you to all nine award recipients.

Over the summer, we showcased some outstanding events here in Festival City. Colour, community, sights, sounds - we had it all! Check out page seven to see what events you need to lock in for next year. And even though the weather is cooling, things don't slow down in Festival City. By partnering with some of Melbourne's most renowned festivals, we are presenting a cultural feast all year long. Check our events calendar on page 19 for what's on.

Keeping our community healthy and well, both physically and mentally, is a key priority for us. Taking part in things like the Get Active Maribyrnong! Expo creates real pathways to getting fit and getting more connected to the people around you in your community. Sign up for classes that grab your interest - there are about 50 of them to choose from. Read more on page six.

Looking to 'go green'? In Maribyrnong, there are countless ways we can get you there. Whether it be through joining our Green Army, going along to environmental events, incorporating more cycling into your daily life or spending more time in our great outdoors. Check out pages eight and nine for more and don't forget to tag us on Instagram with a pic of your favourite street tree!

Art and culture breathe life into any community. And here in Maribyrnong, we are overflowing with inspiration around every corner through things like our StreetWORKS street art program, our local places of worship led by passionate leaders and more community projects being delivered in Footscray. We are truly proud of what we have on offer here in the City of Maribyrnong so read all about it in this edition. If you want to get involved and have your say, learn about the ways you can do that on page 16.

Don't forget to subscribe to our lifestyle blog [www.cityofmaribyrnong.com.au](http://www.cityofmaribyrnong.com.au) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and our newly launched Instagram page to keep your finger on the pulse about what's going on in our edgy, dynamic, thriving city.

As your elected representatives, your Councillors welcome the opportunity to discuss ways to make our great City even better. If you would like to contact us you can find our details on the back cover.

**Cr Cameron McDonald**  
**Mayor**

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Above: Maribyrnong City Council. L to R: Cr Grant Miles, Cr Sarah Carter, Cr Martin Zakharov, Mayor Cr Cameron McDonald, Cr Nam Quach, Deputy Mayor Cr Catherine Cumming, Cr Michael Clarke.



Front: 2016 Citizen of the Year Kon Karapanagiotidis



## YOU LAUGHED SO HARD... IT'S BACK!

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF) always has a big audience out west and, for the 2nd year running, the MICF is partnering with the Council's Festival City program for Comedy out West.

One of the highlights of last year's program was the full-house event 'Westside Open Mic, with sides', which is back again in 2016. Hosted by Rusty Berther from 'Scared Weird Little Guys', the night will see local and imported comedians battle it out for the all-important audience vote. And with the coveted C.O.W Bell again up for grabs, competition will be fierce! There was only two points between the winner and second place last year.

We chatted to Rusty about this hilarious event, which will again be held at the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray.

**Rusty, Westside Open Mic is back for a 2nd year running due to popular demand. Why do you think the punters should come back for more?**

*By coming along to see this show, you are helping to provide a warm, welcoming audience to inexperienced 'up and coming' comedians. That will give you a contented feeling on top of any laughs you may get. So you will simultaneously experience two positive emotions - which I think is a good thing.*



## COMEDY OUT WEST

*to delight audiences in Maribyrnong*

**What can people expect to see at this year's event?**

*I haven't seen the running order yet, but there's a very good chance you will see some stand up comedians telling jokes.*

**Last year's Champion Micheal Shafar is back again in 2016 to defend his title... how do you rate his chances?**

*With a year of 'stomping the comedy boards' under his belt, I am looking forward to seeing if the new material Michael comes up with can withstand the onslaught of the other competitors. It was extremely close last year, so there will be some stiff competition.*

'Westside Open Mic, with sides' happens on Thursday 14 April at 7pm. Tickets are free but online bookings are essential as the room will fill up fast! To book go to [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

Other local events running as part of the Festival include 'Fairy Tale News', 'Committed to Mediocrity' and 'Naked'. For more info visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

## MAC'S HEALTH CLUB BETTER IS THAN EVER!

**Calling all health buffs!**

The Health Club at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) has undergone quite the face lift! This upgrade and expansion, completed in early March, provides our members (and members-to-be) with a new large training space, new exercise equipment and more group training sessions, with a small outdoor training area also set to open soon. With even more ways than ever to meet your health and fitness goals, now is the time to check out MAC's health club and join.

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

## BE OUR GUEST

*in the West*



Lovers of all things gourmet were spoilt for choice in Melbourne's west with eat.drink.westside, which featured a range of culinary events from 4 to 13 March.

With an offering of 20 epicurean events as part of the 2016 Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, the eat.drink.westside program is presented annually by Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley and Wyndham City Councils.

Melbourne's inner west is blessed with a range of cuisines from all across the globe. This year's eat.drink.westside program featured 20 unique events providing authentic cultural experiences and the opportunity to try something new.

Visit [eatdrinkwestside.com.au](http://eatdrinkwestside.com.au) or [melbournefoodandwine.com.au](http://melbournefoodandwine.com.au) to see what foodie hot spots in the west you should try.

# 2016 CIVIC AWARDS

The first thing you'll notice when entering the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) in Footscray is the intoxicating scent of spices in the air, wafting from the upstairs kitchen.

Here, volunteers are chopping vegetables, stirring broths and preparing hundreds of home-cooked meals as part of the Community Meals Program, which provides around 100 nutritious hot lunches to asylum seekers each weekday.

Having launched from a tiny shop with only a few boxes of food, the ASRC has grown to a thriving hub which now offers 30 holistic programs that protect asylum seekers from persecution and destitution, support well-being and dignity, and empower people to advance their own future. The hard work of the ASRC was recognised by Council at the 2016 Civic Awards where it won the Community Strengthening category.

Now located literally across the street from its humble start, the ASRC is supported by more than 1,400 volunteers and 80 staff, and provides assistance to around 3,200 people each year. At the helm of this community-lead, not-for-profit organisation is Maribyrnong City Council's 2016 Citizen of the Year – **Kon Karapanagiotidis**.

For more than 20 years he has worked at the grassroots level with marginalised communities as a lawyer, social worker and teacher. Inspired by the struggles of his parents and his own experiences with racism, Kon has been driven by a desire for justice and equality.

We sat down with Kon to talk about how he stays positive, why Footscray is the perfect home for the ASRC and how people can get involved.

*“In this city, we are the success story of multiculturalism”*

**How do you stay positive when the issue of asylum seekers is often frustrating and heartbreaking?**

We stay positive by keeping perspective, recognising the extraordinary struggles and life and death battles that refugees



## With arms wide open

### Talking compassion and activism with our 2016 Citizen of the Year: Kon Karapanagiotidis

experience and by being inspired by the resilient and courageous people we work with. Personally I stay positive because I know that while it can test me and challenge me, it is a gift to be doing this work and an honour to be doing something that matters.

It's easy to say "it's too hard" and the harder thing in life is to care and be compassionate. We need to remember how privileged we are in this country, and that we have a moral duty to 'pay it forward' to others.

**How did you come to choose Footscray as the location for the ASRC?**

We're proud of Footscray and of

**As 2016 Citizen of the Year, what is your message for the people of the City of Maribyrnong?**

My message for the people of Maribyrnong is: Care. Act. Donate. Whether it is your time, your energy, your goodwill or whatever you can spare... Get involved and be proud of your community. Be known as a community that welcomes the next generation of new Australians and refugees. Be proud to be a community on the land of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong and to be proud of the fact that in this city, we are the success story of multiculturalism.

**How can people get involved and help support the ASRC?**

People can volunteer across the ASRC, be it at reception answering phones, volunteering in our Foodbank, cooking lunch, teaching English, helping people find work and providing legal, welfare and health assistance. There are roles for mentors, counsellors, lawyers and so much more across our 30 different programmes. Keep an eye on our website for details of our three major volunteer intake nights for this year, and come along.

**Learn more about the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and how you can get involved at [www.asrc.org.au](http://www.asrc.org.au)**





Shaun Rodgers accepted the award on behalf of John Lord

### Volunteer of the Year Award John Lord

For more than 60 years, John has volunteered in football and cricket in the West in a variety of roles. In 2012, John was acknowledged by Cricket Victoria as one of the Association's Volunteers of the Year. Congratulations John for helping young sportsmen achieve their goals.



### Active Maribyrnong Sporting Award Ray O'Hara

Ray began playing for the Kingsville Football Club in the 1960s and he has continued to serve the club, now known as the Yarraville Seddon Eagles Football Club. He attends every game, training session, social and fundraising event. The first person to arrive and the last to leave, 'Uncle Ray' embodies 'true blue' footy passion.



### Mayoral Award Friends of Newells Paddock

This passionate group of locals promote this important piece of wilderness in our City through their very active Facebook page. They host a range of activities such as planting days, informative and historical talks and weeding workshops.

Friends of Newells Paddock also provide Council with valuable feedback on the park's future direction and management. Without them, Newells Paddock would not be the great place it is today.

### Community Strengthening Award Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

Operating since 2001, the ASRC runs with a team that averages one staff member to 20 volunteers and they have helped more than 3,200 people seeking asylum with legal advice, employment and training opportunities, health services, hot meals and material supplies. This organisation works tirelessly to support the most vulnerable people in our community.



### Enterprise Maribyrnong Award: Contribution to Business Community Dancing Dog Café

A staple in Footscray for 15 years, Dancing Dog Café has been a central hub and host to art, theatre, live music and fundraising activities that have supported local businesses and international causes. Its importance to the community was made evident when a Pozible public campaign called 'Save the Dog' was created.



### Enterprise Maribyrnong Award: New and Emerging Business Rudimentary

In addition to top notch coffee and food, this café has been involved in various fundraising initiatives such as Cafesmart, Tipitforward and raising money for Oxfam Australia during the Nepal Earthquakes. The opening of this venue has revitalised an underutilised area of Footscray and had a positive impact on the wider community.



### Youth Leadership Award Celia Tran

Celia has actively worked with peak bodies to advocate for young people, multicultural affairs and refugees. She took part in the Dual Identity Leadership program, receiving the award for person 'Most Likely to be Prime Minister'. She also led a successful UNHCR fundraising project. We can't wait to see what you do next Celia.

### Enterprise Maribyrnong Award: Innovative Business Idea Collective

Founded in July 2013, The Idea Collective is a co-working space for desk-based creatives in Melbourne's inner west. This venue offers permanent, part time and casual working spaces. This venue makes it possible for small businesses and sole traders to work in a professional environment without substantial setup costs. Furthermore, it cultivates a strong sense of community and support network for entrepreneurial and creative thinkers.





# MORE OF ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG THIS AUTUMN



AS WE SAY FAREWELL TO ANOTHER GLORIOUS MELBOURNE SUMMER, OUR ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG PROGRAM IS RAMPING UP FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON!



## Maribyrnong Get Active! Expo



A 'simply cannot miss' series of health and fitness events, our Maribyrnong Get Active! Expo delivers a five week program choc-a-block full of clinics and 'come and try' days to suit everyone's tastes. Running from 19 March to 27 April, the whole family can take part in activities that showcase our parks, reserves and facilities. The best part, you ask? It's completely free!

In its third year, the Expo is designed to showcase the huge range of sport and

recreation opportunities on offer in our city. It's the ultimate 'try before you buy' sporting program. With approximately 50 activities to choose from, you will undoubtedly find your inner athlete, just like the 1,537 participants did in last year's Expo and get a taste of what new sport lies in your horizon.

Have you ever wanted to try street orienteering, Pacific Island Hula Dance (a first this year), lacrosse, cardio tennis, Zumba fitness, trugo, flip flop bowls or archery? Or perhaps your fitness flavour is more along the lines of cricket, rugby, archery, badminton, basketball, footy, volleyball or soccer. Give them all a go! All you have to do is register online and every participant will receive a free four week membership to the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre.

Sessions across the entire Expo program are accessible to all ages and abilities. Council is proud to be partnering with some of Victoria's premiere sporting organisations including Western Bulldogs, Melbourne Renegades, Melbourne City Football Club, Volleyball Victoria, Tennis Victoria, Melbourne City Soccer Club and Melbourne United Basketball Club. There are also plenty of local sporting clubs from the City of Maribyrnong taking part in the Expo.

For more information or to register, visit [www.activemaribyrnong.com.au](http://www.activemaribyrnong.com.au)

## VU Western Spurs Football Team

This one's for the girls! Football for women is on the rise like never before, now that the Victoria University (VU) Western Spurs call Henry Turner North Reserve in Footscray their home ground as of this year. They are the only female State League team in Melbourne's western region. We are so proud to partner with them and welcome them to the City of Maribyrnong from their previous home in St Albans. They have started their year off with a bang with record numbers at practice sessions but they tell us they're always looking for more team members. For more information visit [www.westernspurs.com.au](http://www.westernspurs.com.au) or follow them on Facebook and Twitter. Go the Spurs!



Photo courtesy of VU Western Spurs

## Sons of the West program gets Maribyrnong men moving

And now, it's the boys' turn! For the third year running, Council and the Western Bulldogs Football Club have been kicking goals through the Sons of the West program, which addresses the health and wellbeing of men. The 2016 program has started strong – and there is always room for more participants. For more information read page 17.

## Southern Australia University Games coming to Footscray

Are you ready to welcome more than 2,000 student athletes and officials to Footscray from 3 to 7 July? We hope so because they are on their way! Maribyrnong City Council, in partnership with Victoria University, will host 14 sporting competitions across the city including basketball, tennis, hockey, netball, volleyball and more. With 12 universities from across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania going head to head, there will be a great atmosphere and a spirit of friendly competition to look forward to this winter. Keep your eyes on Council's website ([www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)) for more information to come.



# 2015 IN FESTIVAL CITY – WHAT A YEAR!



Our vibrant Festival City calendar is jam packed with events for everyone in the City of Maribyrnong. Our thriving arts scene and cultural diversity provide the perfect platform for our community to come together and celebrate all through the year.

Here is just a taste of the events we delivered in 2015...



Bathukamma Festival of Flowers



Festive Season



Yarraville Festival



East Meets West Lunar New Year



New Year's Eve



Australia Day



New Year's Eve



Yarraville Festival



New Year's Eve



Emerge in the West



## We're now on Instagram!

The coming year is set to be another colourful and busy one and Instagram is our new way of showing off how great Maribyrnong is!

Come and join us on Instagram by following @CityofMaribyrnong and sharing your photos with us using #MariMoments



# GREEN ARMY

*on the march into Maribyrnong*

**Green Army teams will soon begin work with Council to help protect and enhance natural areas across our City.**

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical environmental action program that supports local environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia.

Two Green Army teams will work with Council to undertake valuable work such as weed control and revegetation in Pipemaker's Park, Frog Hollow Reserve, Burndap Park and Newells Paddock and will help to roll out our Greening the West of Melbourne (1 Million Trees) planting project.

The 1 Million Trees project provides the opportunity to significantly increase our tree canopy cover, which will contribute to urban cooling, carbon reduction and increasing native wildlife habitat.

## FOOD KNOW HOW A Recipe for Taste, Not Waste

Did you know food waste makes up over 50 per cent of the domestic waste collected by Council? This means we are throwing away over \$2,000 in food each year.

But it's easy to save money, save time and reduce food waste - join the Food Know How Program at [www.foodknowhow.org.au](http://www.foodknowhow.org.au)

The Food Know How Program is calling for program members who want to learn smarter ways to shop, cook and live life better. The program will provide you with videos, tools, tips and loads of incentives to help you reduce the amount of food you waste leaving you with more money to spend on you!



Importantly, the project will also help build capacity and increase community awareness in local environmental issues.

**We're looking for young people aged 17 to 24 to volunteer for this program including Indigenous Australians, school leavers, gap year students, graduates, and job seekers.**

Green Army members will be paid an allowance during their placement and will also gain practical skills, undertake training and make new contacts, while working alongside Council teams, contractors, volunteers and Friends groups.

This is an exciting opportunity for young people who want to gain experience in environmental conservation and management.

## Register for a free 'Turn It Down' Energy Saving Audit

Would you like to learn how to reduce your impact on the environment? With the help of a qualified energy auditor from Positive Charge you can learn how to turn it down to reduce your electricity and gas bills.

A limited number of audits will be available until May, each audit includes:

- Assessment and advice on billing and tariffs
- Cost and explanation of lighting upgrades
- Hot water system temperatures and options
- Discussion around the temperature of heating, cooling and appliances
- Weather proofing opportunities
- Solar PV potential
- Discussion of building fabric and insulation

To register for an audit call 9385 8555 or email: [hello@positivecharge.com.au](mailto:hello@positivecharge.com.au)



Turn It Down



To register interest in joining the Green Army and getting involved in the 1 Million Trees planning project visit [www.conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au)

We'd also love to hear from you if your school is interested in planting native trees within its grounds as part of the 1 Million Trees project. Get in touch by email to [ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

*The Greening the West of Melbourne (1 Million Trees) planting project is supported by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme (part of the National Landcare Programme) and Lead West.*

## NEW BIKE CAGE HELPS RIDERS LOCK UP LOCALLY

Bike riders have been given an extra incentive to opt for two wheels for short trips following the opening of a new bike cage at Yarraville Station.

The Parkiteer cage offers a secure place for riders to lock up their beloved bike when taking a train or bus.

Yarraville Station is a popular spot for commuters and the cage has already become a welcome addition for commuters who ride to and from the station for work and school.

The Yarraville Parkiteer cage is part of Bicycle Network's Parkiteer Program which provides secure 24 hour access bike parking.

Riders who sign up and pay for a swipe card (which is a one off refundable payment of \$50) are able to access this cage, and more than 70 other cages at railway stations in metro and regional Victoria including cages at Footscray and West Footscray Stations.

To sign up to use a cage or for more information and the location of your nearest cage, call Bicycle Network's Parkiteer Program Coordinators on 1300 546 526 or visit [www.parkiteer.com.au](http://www.parkiteer.com.au)







The lovely leafy avenue that is Robbs Rd, West Footscray



Spotted Gum in Ernie Shepard Gardens, Maidstone

# Loving our leafy City

Are you proud of a tree in your local street or park? Trees help to improve street appeal and make our City more welcoming and green.

Each year Council cares for over 61,000 trees and thanks to the recent weather many of these are at their best right now.

Help us celebrate the our leafy collection by posting a photo of your favourite tree on our new Instagram account.



Tag us @cityofmaribyrnong and use the #MariMoments for a chance to have your photo shared on our social media channels.



Crepe Myrtles in Junction St, Seddon



Palm tree in Johnson Reserve, West Footscray

## ENVIRO EVENTS



### Friends of the History Gardens, Pipemakers Park

Every Tuesday in March, April, May, 9.30am-12noon

Pipemakers Park, opposite the Living Museum of the West, Maribyrnong  
maelor@melbpc.org.au or 9374 1902

Weed, clean up and plant. New helpers always welcome. Tools provided. Bring gloves and work clothes.

### Pruning in Autumn, Prep for Winter

2 April, 10am-12noon

Maribyrnong Community Garden, Hortense St, Maribyrnong

Free workshop, register at

[www.mysmartgarden.eventbrite.com](http://www.mysmartgarden.eventbrite.com)

Scott Hitchins from Werribee Park Heritage Orchard will take you through how and when to prune to establish a new tree to maximise fruit and limit tree size.

### Growing Berries

9 April, 10am-12noon

Maidstone Child & Family Centre, 23-25 Burns St, Maidstone

Free workshop, register at

[www.mysmartgarden.eventbrite.com](http://www.mysmartgarden.eventbrite.com)

Learn the tips for growing luscious berries.

### The Low Carbon Cook

16 April, 10am-12noon

Yarraville Community Centre, 59 Francis St

Free workshop, register at

[sustainablemaribyrnong.eventbrite.com](http://sustainablemaribyrnong.eventbrite.com)

Learn to select and cook foods lower down

the food chain and with less embodied carbon, use less fossil fuels in your cooking and cook outdoors with an old television!

### Friends of Maribyrnong Valley

1 May, 10am-12noon

Maribyrnong River behind Medway Golf Course, Maidstone

More info: [ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or 9688 0200

Help establish valuable habitat on the Maribyrnong River. Funding from Melbourne Water Corridors of Green Program.

### Friends of Maribyrnong Valley

15 May, 10am-12noon

Maribyrnong River escarpment, meet at the end of Sedge Close in Braybrook

For more information: [ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:ParkRanger@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or 9688 0200

Help establish valuable Escarpment Woodlands along the River. This project, part of the Greening the West 1 Million Trees project, is supported by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme (part of the National Landcare Programme) and LeadWest.



# CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY of Maribyrnong

## FROM ALL THE LANDS ON EARTH WE COME

The City of Maribyrnong has a long and proud history of welcoming people from all across the world as part of our vibrant community – and we continue to be recognised as one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse municipalities in Victoria.

In 2015 alone, Council held 14 citizenship ceremonies to welcome 520 new residents coming from 51 countries around the globe.

That's 255 men, 209 women, 34 boys and 22 girls now proudly calling themselves Australian and calling the City of Maribyrnong their home.

With a waiting list rapidly approaching 400, 2016 is set to see many more new citizens welcomed to the City of Maribyrnong, with 34 new citizens already being welcomed on Australia Day this year.

In everything Council does, we work to promote inclusion, understanding and respect across cultures, drawing on the value, strength and power of our multicultural diverse community.

New citizens bring a delightful array of customs, food, music, art, fashion and more to our City. As the 'Festival City' we proudly celebrate all cultures with events throughout the year. See some of the highlights from 2015 on page seven.

### THE 51 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN INCLUDED:

- |                |                 |               |                  |                   |              |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. Afghanistan | 19. Ireland     | 37. Russia    | 41. Somalia      | 45. Taiwan        | 49. Vietnam  |
| 2. Bangladesh  | 20. Israel      | 38. Scotland  | 42. South Africa | 46. Thailand      | 50. Wales    |
| 3. Brazil      | 21. Italy       | 39. Singapore | 43. Spain        | 47. United States | 51. Zimbabwe |
| 4. Canada      | 22. Japan       | 40. Slovenia  | 44. Sri Lanka    | 48. Venezuela     |              |
| 5. China       | 23. Kenya       |               |                  |                   |              |
| 6. Colombia    | 24. Korea       |               |                  |                   |              |
| 7. Congo       | 25. Lebanon     |               |                  |                   |              |
| 8. Egypt       | 26. Malaysia    |               |                  |                   |              |
| 9. England     | 27. Malta       |               |                  |                   |              |
| 10. Eritrea    | 28. Mauritius   |               |                  |                   |              |
| 11. Ethiopia   | 29. Mexico      |               |                  |                   |              |
| 12. Finland    | 30. Myanmar     |               |                  |                   |              |
| 13. France     | 31. Nepal       |               |                  |                   |              |
| 14. Germany    | 32. New Zealand |               |                  |                   |              |
| 15. India      | 33. Pakistan    |               |                  |                   |              |
| 16. Indonesia  | 34. Peru        |               |                  |                   |              |
| 17. Iran       | 35. Philippines |               |                  |                   |              |
| 18. Iraq       | 36. Portugal    |               |                  |                   |              |



## DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Accessibility in our city is extremely important. But how do we know the best way to make our city's places and spaces accessible to all?**

Here in the City of Maribyrnong, we are lucky to have the Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) to provide us with knowledge, insight and advice about issues affecting people with disability. The DAC is comprised of people who have disability,

are a carer for someone with disability or work in the disability sector. Council has just completed the recruitment process for new members for 2016. Welcome to our new members Pamela Debrincat, Peta Ferguson, Rachel Harvey, Marilyn King and Paula Oliva. We are looking forward to another great year.

For more information on the DAC, visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/dac](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/dac)

## OLDER PERSONS REFERENCE GUIDE

There is so much happening in the City of Maribyrnong for our older adults. There are plenty of Senior Centres, clubs, services, activities and sporting organisations for older adults to get involved in. They are all listed in Council's Older Persons Reference Guide, which is available in printed or online versions.

For more information, visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or phone 9688 0200.





# For the love of art

## STREETWORKS 2016

Colour adds something special to the streets of our city. And our StreetWORKS program does just that! StreetWORKS is a community art project that creates innovative and visual street art to enliven our spaces and places, while discouraging graffiti and tagging.

Selected artists have been creating public art works that are inspired by or relevant to our local community since the program kicked off in 2014.

The following seven artists have been awarded commissions for the 2016 StreetWORKS program in the locations below. We can't wait to see their art installations mid year. Keep your eyes peeled for details at [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/artsandculture](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/artsandculture)

**Amanda Morgan - Kingsville Post Office, Somerville Road, Yarraville**



Award winning artist Amanda Morgan has been using light, photography and video to make Street Art, Public Art and Site-Specific Installations for over two decades. Her work looks at other ways of seeing the changing world of our cities.

**Cezary Stulgis - Footscray and District Angling Club, 70 Pentland Pde, Seddon**



Cezary Stulgis is a sculptor, painter and designer whose highly distinctive work fuses 'next-level' aesthetics with classical craftsmanship. He works with architects on large urban landscape sculpture projects as well as with designers in a studio.

**Creature Creature - Footscray Milking Station, 35 Bunbury Street, Footscray**



Creature Creature is the artist duo Chanel Tang and Ambrose Rehorek. Both with a background in fine art and graphic design, their work is a blend of both these practices with strong historical influences, mixed with a love of street art and illustration.

**Mayfield Palace - Carpark off Coral Avenue, behind Ballarat Road (near Summerhill Road), Footscray**



Artists Chuck Mayfield (Australia) and Júlia Palazzo (Brazil) have been collaborating since 2013 to create murals, exhibitions, illustrations and countless other creative projects.

**Carla Gottgens - Piccolo Bakery Café, Somerville Road, Yarraville**



Carla works across a range of mediums creating artwork that originates from the photographic. She has exhibited her photos, sculptures and installations widely across Australia and receives commissions for public murals and sculptural work

**Trashort - Littlefoot Bar, 223 Barkly Street, Footscray**



A Melbourne based street and print artist with a strong connection to community and collaboration. She often uses characters derived from nature to represent herself and the world around.

**Kelly Manning - Cellarbrations, 176 Somerville Road, Yarraville**



An artist for 24 years, Kelly combines printmaking techniques with her skills as a tattooist with stencil and aerosol paint. Primarily a portrait

painter, Kelly's work has always had a strong emphasis on social, human and environmental issues.



## F5: Footscray in Transition's final year

The F5: Footscray in Transition is a five-year project that has creatively captured the evolving urban, environmental, social and cultural changes in Footscray from 2011 to 2016. Each year, Council has commissioned a photographer to interpret 10 iconic landmarks in Footscray. This year is the fifth and final instalment of F5 and the exhibition will be held at Footscray Community Arts Centre from 24 May to 11 June.

The successful F5 artist commissioned has just been announced....will Kip Scott please come forward! Kip Scott is a freelance commercial photographer and video artist.

His proposed F5 work will include the use of light, photography, mixed with time-lapse video footage of the sites, with some voiceover to reflect his own experience of Footscray's changes.

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



# VENERABLE TAN

## *from Quang Minh Temple*

THE VENERABLE THICH PHUOC TAN OAM HAS BEEN THE ABBOT OF QUANG MINH TEMPLE IN BRAYBROOK SINCE 1997. HE HAS BEEN PRACTICING AND TEACHING BUDDHISM FOR MANY YEARS AND IS CURRENTLY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHISTS. IN 2008 HE RECEIVED AN ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDAL IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

We caught up with Venerable Tan recently to chat about Buddhism, the Quang Minh Temple and the relevance of both to our community and modern society.

**Maribyrnong is one of the most culturally diverse municipalities in Victoria. For those residents not familiar with the Buddhism philosophy– can you tell us a little about it?**

Buddhists view religion as a sort of 'medicine' to help relieve us from our suffering – it is 'medicine for the mind'.

Buddha gives us his teaching and experience of how he struggled to search for 'enlightenment', which means an awakening from suffering and freedom from illusion. Illusion is our own inherent selfishness and ego – and ego is ultimately what keeps us in the cycle of suffering. If we can let all of that go, we can live a much more peaceful and compassionate life.

Over the years, there have been many different techniques developed to help Buddhists achieve this enlightenment.

We believe that with the wisdom, compassion and the good concentration that comes from the practise of Buddhism, we will eventually be able to penetrate through illusion and relieve our suffering, and the suffering of those around us.

**What role does meditation play in the practise of Buddhism?**

Meditation is a general word for "many minds training". There are actually 84,000 types of meditation! Many different groups – both religious and non-religious – have their own form of meditation practice.

Buddhists use many different types of meditation, each designed to achieve a quieter, more pure mind. When the mind is in this state, you can more easily see all the different paths leading to the end of suffering and liberation from illusion, in other words – 'enlightenment'.

**What does an average day look like for Venerable Tan?**

I don't know if there's such a thing as an average day! Every day is very different. I tend to work here at the Temple most days from 9am to 5pm and outside of those times I try to make myself available to lead practise, as well as find time to do my own personal practise.

Nowadays running a religious centre like this is not just about religion, it's very much a cultural centre. People don't just come here to practise Buddhism – I'd say there are at least 10 to 20% who are non-Buddhist. So, my role here includes creating an inclusive hub for the community's broader cultural activities.

**Tell us a little more about Quang Minh Temple...**

Quang Minh Temple is one of the largest Vietnamese temples outside of Vietnam.

It was established in 1980 so has been here for over 35 years now.

There are now about 10 different community groups operating out of the centre, involving hundreds of volunteers.

We are definitely busiest on the weekend. Every weekend we prepare roughly around 2,000 free vegetarian meals to the public, prepared by over 200 volunteers. When we first started doing free meals it was for about 30 people a week, and it just grew and grew!

**In this era of technology, where so much networking is now done online, what role does a religious, or should we say, culture centre such as Quang Minh Temple play?**

Technology has its advantages but I'm concerned that we are getting to a place where the virtual world seems much more exciting than the real world – especially to young people who have been brought up surrounded by it. But we must not let technology deter us from reaching out to the real world, for that is how we build strong foundations for our community and develop lasting connections.

That's where centres such as ours play such an important role in the community by providing opportunities for people to come together and interact.

But technology is simply unavoidable nowadays and all we can do is try and control our use of it so it doesn't take over and get in the way of our real relationships.

I have myself recently made a New Year's resolution to cut down my time with electronics by 25%! So far, I'm doing okay....but it will definitely be a challenge!

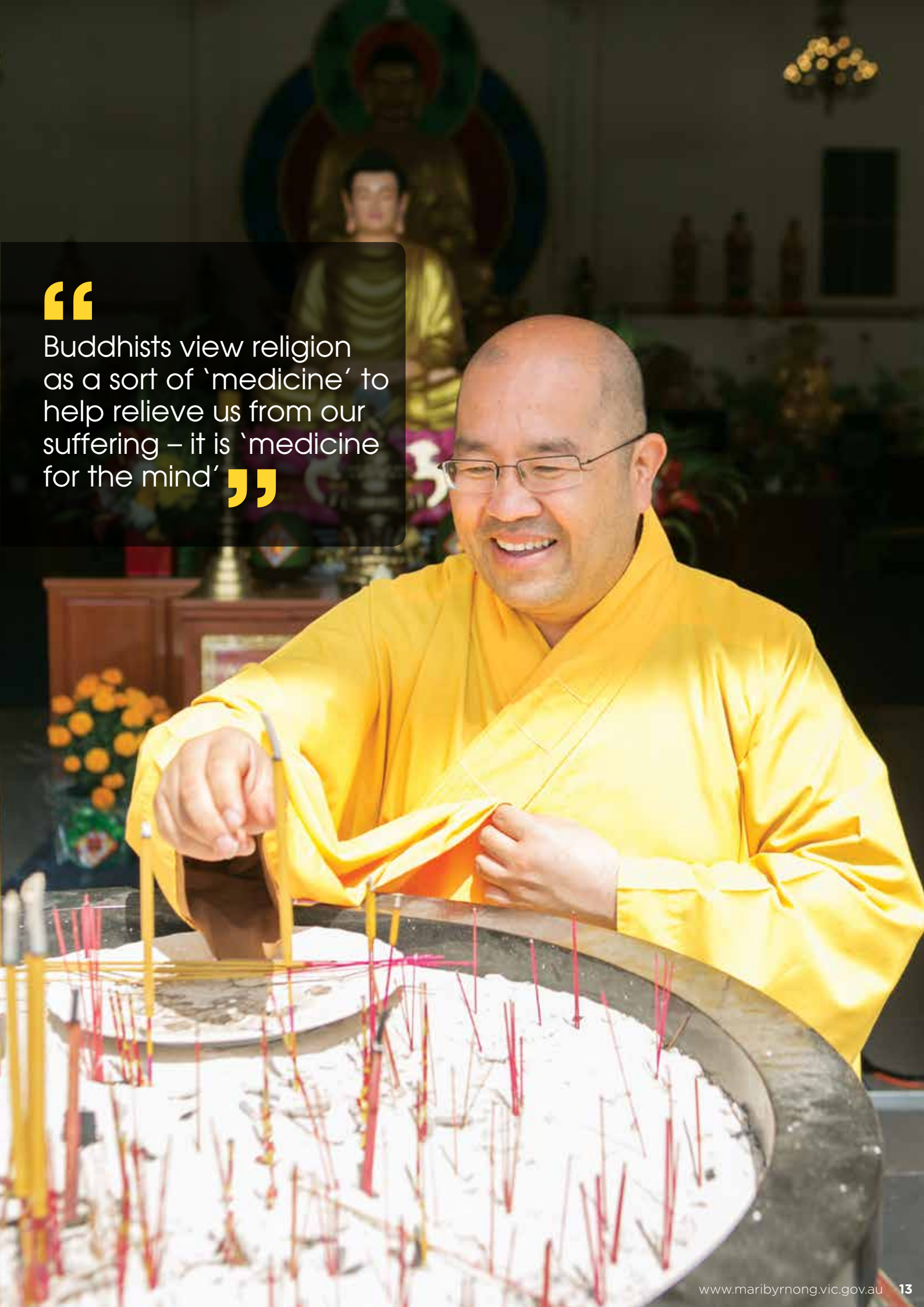
**Quang Minh Temple**  
**18 Burke Street, Braybrook**  
**[www.quangminh.org.au](http://www.quangminh.org.au)**





“

Buddhists view religion as a sort of 'medicine' to help relieve us from our suffering – it is 'medicine for the mind' ”





# NEW COMMUNITY PARKS FOR 2016

New parks are coming! Council is delivering three new parks in the coming weeks, thanks to our Maribyrnong Open Space Strategy, adopted by Council in 2014. We prioritise having open space accessible to everyone in our city. The Strategy has helped identify neighbourhoods that didn't have a local park within a safe and easy walking distance - so we made some. Check out the locations of our new parks below.

## **Southampton Street Park** *(pictured above)*

This pocket of Footscray has recently welcomed a brand new space converted from an asphalt car park located in the old Council depot site.

The park features a variety of surfaces including natural and artificial turf, garden bed and seating areas, and a small new playground space. Perfect for a sunny Maribyrnong afternoon.

## **Cowper Street Park**

Set to open mid year, this park will be located in Cowper Street, south of Napier Street, Footscray and will be created by using the

very wide road to reserve more space for pedestrians and park users.

The median strip in the centre of Cowper Street will be widened to make a central park space containing seating, planting and a playground.

The design of the space has been developed keeping in mind the heritage qualities of the surrounding streetscape. The space will be fenced for safety purposes, and provide a fantastic community focal point for this neighbourhood.

## **Fyan Morven Park**

This pocket of Yarraville near the West Gate Golf Course lacks access to local open space, however an under-utilised piece of Council land at the end of Fyan and Morven Streets has great potential to provide space for the community.

This space will be improved this year, with a new playground, seating and picnic area, garden bed and tree planting, and a new path linking the two streets due to be completed by April.

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



## THE NEW FOOTSCRAY HUB IS COMING SOON

Picture it now – kicking back and sipping a fresh coffee while reading your new library book in the 'chill out area' of the new Footscray Hub. The proposed design also includes new and improved space for our busy community to use, including a large function room, two smaller meeting rooms, a refreshed, modern façade, a kitchen, reception area and storage facilities. We thank all our community members for their feedback on the proposed design early this year. More info [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)



## Coffee ahead!

A morning coffee 'pop-up pit stop' is now available for all walkers, joggers and cyclists who use our city's river-side track near Dale Street Stables in Maribyrnong.

Miss Molly's Coffee and Cakes will welcome caffeine and sweet treat seekers under the pink peppercorn trees on the corner of Chifley Dr and Plantation St between the hours of 7am to 11am Thursday to Saturdays, beginning in March through to 30 June 2016.

## THE WEEKLY TICKET

What if a public art work was an actual artist? Launched in early February, the Weekly Ticket Footscray features an artist at Footscray Train Station for two hours per week for the next 15 years. The artist is local resident David Wells. Proudly supported by Council and Creative Victoria, the Weekly Ticket is an ambitious arts project - a living experiment in public art. For more information visit [www.weeklyticket.org](http://www.weeklyticket.org)







# BRAYBROOK CELEBRATES ITS SUCCESS

## BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY HUB TURNS ONE

As we blew out the candles and made a wish at the first birthday party for our \$12.5 million Braybrook Community Hub in March, we couldn't be prouder to keep the party going all year long. The Hub has a huge range of ongoing programs for our active and diverse community. Ever thought about taking part in Playconnect, meditation, storytimes, a Men's Shed session or yoga? And don't forget the kindergarten, maternal and child health centre and plenty more core services at the Hub perfect for every age and every stage of life.

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

## GET READING AT THE HUB LIBRARY

Braybrook's first ever library located at the Hub has been a smash success! Since opening in March 2015, we have almost 2,000 brand new registered library members. 102,025 items have been borrowed from our shelves and we have had a whopping 159,280 visits. Come and check out the huge range of items you can borrow, as well as the sessions and events you can attend. More info [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)

## COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM IN ACTION IN BRAYBROOK

Walk into a drama class at the Braybrook Hub and you will delight in seeing and hearing children as young as five (and up to age 12) discovering their flair for improvisation, mime and performing. Our friends at Wit Incorporated have created Wit Kids, weekly after-school children's drama classes at the Hub. The program is being delivered thanks to Council's Community Grants program. Drama classes improve literacy, concentration, build confidence, communication and social skills. Drama is an important emotional and creative outlet - and it's tons of fun!

### Wit Kids Drama Classes

4-5pm for 5 to 8yr olds and  
5.10-6.10pm for 9 to 12yr olds



## EXCITING FACELIFT FOR CHURCHILL AVENUE IN BRAYBROOK

Right on time with the one year anniversary of the Braybrook Hub, Council is undertaking a new project to revitalise the shopping strip on Churchill Avenue in Braybrook. The project will include visual upgrades to shopfronts along the strip. The vision is to create a vibrant and well-loved area to be enjoyed by both locals and visitors.

Implementation will commence in mid 2016 with the project to be completed later in the year.

## BRAYBROOK COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE



The Braybrook Community Garden has a new logo, thanks to one of our graduates from Council's Braybrook Onboard Leadership Program. Local resident Maria, who graduated from the Leadership

program in 2015, ran a fantastic competition through local schools to design the new Braybrook Commons Community Garden logo. Local school students submitted 68 designs. The winning image, pictured to the left, has been converted into a sign for the garden. Well done to everyone involved!

**The Braybrook OnBoard Leadership Program**, part of the Revitalising Braybrook Initiative, builds the skills and aspirations of community members who have a clear passion for Braybrook to become local leaders and advocates for the community.

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

## AEROPLANE PARK HISTORY TO REMAIN IN BRAYBROOK

Braybrook's beloved Aeroplane Park, the Lance Reichstein Playground, was tragically destroyed by fire in December.

Plans for a new playground will soon be considered and presented for community consultation.

We know our community has a special connection to this space and we are keen to ensure the designs best meet the needs of all who access this much loved area.

Officially opened in 1999, the playground was designed and built in partnership with residents, organisations, schools and community groups.

The community was actively involved in raising sponsorship dollars through the sale of handmade coloured ceramic tiles that were decorated with the names of local families and individuals.

Hundreds of tiles were sold for \$25 each, many of these little pieces of Aeroplane Park were salvaged from the recent fire and will be stored while the future plans of the site are considered.



Before fire



After Fire

Monday or Friday at the Braybrook Community Hub on Churchill Ave

Runs through school terms at low cost at \$20 per term

More info [witinc.com.au/wit-kids](http://witinc.com.au/wit-kids) or email [belinda@witinc.com.au](mailto:belinda@witinc.com.au)

### Community Grants enable community level projects to get up and running.

For the current financial year, Council gave a total of 45 Community Grants across a range of categories including arts and culture, community development, the environment and the Revitalising Braybrook initiative.

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



## COMMUNITY VOICE PANEL



VOICES AND OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY ARE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT IN BUILDING A CITY THAT TRULY REPRESENTS ITS CITIZENS. SEEING THIS GROWING NEED TO GATHER DIRECT AND BALANCED FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY, COUNCIL LAUNCHED THE COMMUNITY VOICE PANEL IN 2015.

The Panel is made up of 168 participants who represent the incredible diversity that exists in our city, ranging in age, language, cultural background, life experience, living situations and suburbs. Panel members respond to a maximum of three consultations per year but there is such a passionate bunch on the Panel that many members have expressed interest in seeing more.

We speak to Rob de Maid, one of our enthusiastic Panel members and West Footscray resident. Here is what Rob had to say.

### How long have you lived in the City of Maribyrnong?

We have been here for about five years. Like so many young families, we moved from another inner city area having never lived in the west. We moved here for financial reasons but have fallen in love with the place and we are staying because of the thriving community.

### Are you involved in the local community in other ways?

I am a member of the Maribyrnong Bike Strategy Reference Group. We did some really good work with Council to inform the development of the Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy 2014.

Our small pocket of West Footscray where we live has a very strong community, centred predominantly around Anders Park, or 'The Triangle' as it's known locally. It's such a great place to meet neighbours and spend some time relaxing. You really feel like you are part of a thriving community.

If I suddenly whip up some more free time, I would love to get involved with Permaculture out West. I've heard that so many people are doing a lot of good work in that group, I'd love to be a part of that.

### What attracted you to becoming a Panel member?

The City of Maribyrnong is a wonderfully diverse and vibrant community with a lot of opportunity. If people want to see the area improve then we need to harness this diversity and get involved in the decision-making processes - at or near inception - rather than complaining about outcomes at the end.

Panels like this may only be a minor contribution to our community but it shows that Council is trying to listen and it is important that we support these efforts.

### What sort of topics do you think Council should be consulting with residents on?

The short answer is "everything". Councils should use a diverse set of engagement tools to allow engagement on any topic the community believes is important. Where high-risk, high-value projects are being undertaken, community engagement should be carefully tailored to gain maximum benefit. However there still needs to be a place for residents to identify their own issues and have them raised at the appropriate level.

If I was to identify a single issue for consultation today, the one that sticks out most in my mind is land use and development, particularly for large, high value sites. I think a lot of mistakes can be made in this area, with ramifications that will last a life time.

Every day I ride my bike past sites where I see opportunities for Melbourne's biggest market, or a dynamic new arts precinct. Without engagement, these sites will probably just become another big box store. With a little thought, I can imagine sites like these could be so much more. I am happy to see that Council, the community and businesses are starting to sit down together to decide what we want to do with these sites and begin negotiations with owners so that all parties can come out in front.

## YOUR CITY YOUR VOICE

In 2015 Council introduced an online engagement site – Your City Your Voice. Accessible via Council's website, the site allows direct access to Council surveys and consultations. Contributions can be anonymous or you can register an email address to be kept up to date on what's happening.

Since its introduction, Council has conducted 24 online consultation projects and the site has received almost 6,000 visits. Consultations are done on issues such as park and play space design, building design,

and Council policies and services. To register or see what consultations are happening go to [yourcityyourvoice.com.au](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au)

Council recently used the Your City Your Voice site to ask our city's young people about the types of programs and services they would like in Yarraville. Survey respondents provided so many useful suggestions that are currently being considered by Council. Emma Hatty was the lucky winner of a \$100 Highpoint Shopping Centre gift card for completing the online survey.

## GOING DOWN THE DRAIN

Between now and October, we'll be undertaking a city wide drain survey to check the condition and understand how the system could cope during an intense storm.

To do this, surveyors (from Rapid Map Services Pty Ltd) will need to access drainage assets in easements on private property. We've sent letters to let residents know, but if you have any questions, please feel free to call 9091 5617.



## COUNCIL MEETINGS



Council holds Ordinary and City Development Special Committee public meetings on the third and fourth Tuesday of each month. The meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

**Ordinary Council Meetings** consider matters such as finance, governance and matters of high public and strategic interest.

**City Development Special Committee meetings** consider matters such as city development and planning.

### APRIL

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm, Ordinary Council  
Tuesday 26, 6.30pm, City Development Special Committee

### MAY

Tuesday 17, 6.30pm, Ordinary Council  
Tuesday 24, 6.30pm, City Development Special Committee  
Tuesday 31, 6.30pm, Enterprise Maribyrnong Special Committee

### JUNE

Tuesday 14, 6.30pm, Ordinary Council  
Tuesday 21, 6.30pm, City Development Special Committee

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

Please visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) meetings or phone 9688 0200 for latest location details or more information.

## Immunisations

Immunisation is a simple way to protect children against certain diseases. Council provides families with an immunisation drop in service and an appointment service for babies and young children.

## Developmental checks

You can track your child's early development with our experienced nurses at Council's Maternal and Child Health Centres across the city. Three and four year old developmental checks are important for accessing extra support services that can help your child.

## New parenting groups

Are you a new parent looking for information? Do you want to meet other new parents in your neighbourhood? There are many types of families in the City of Maribyrnong and ALL new parents are welcome to attend our sessions located at Council's Maternal and Child Health Centres across the city.

**For information on Immunisation, Developmental Checks and New Parenting Groups, please visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or contact Council's Maternal and Child Health on 9688 0200.**



## DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR PET

It's pet registration time! Keep a look out for your renewal notices. Registration is due by 10 April.

Registration fees provide important services for pet owners, including helping to reunite lost pets with their owners, maintaining off-lead parks for owners to take their dogs for

a run and programs to prevent and manage animal attacks.

To register your pet for the first time, contact the council on 9688 0200 or download an application form from [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

# WESTERN BULLDOGS COMMUNITY NEWS



The Sons of the West, a partnership program between the Western Bulldogs and inner west Councils, has returned for its third year of delivering men's health programs, kicking off 2016 with a pre-season program.

The pre-season program encourages both existing and new participants to join in exercise and physical education sessions in the lead up to the main program commencing in June.

The longer format will now include three programs up to November, each 10 weeks long, allowing participants to maintain their habits over a longer period.

Western Bulldogs CEO David Stevenson said he was excited to announce that the program would continue into a third year.

"With over 2,000 registered participants since the program's inception in 2014, we're thrilled that the Sons of the West program will continue to build on its foundations in 2016 from the previous two years.

"The program has had an enormously positive impact on the wellbeing of men across the west of Melbourne and their families.

"We, along with our valued partners, are very proud to continue to tackle better health outcomes for our men in the West."

The pre-season program aims to provide participants with a greater understanding of the importance of incorporating physical exercise into their daily lives.

The programs will be facilitated by qualified exercised physiologists, covering physical activity, physical education, nutrition, water, setting and timing and program rationale.

For more information, visit [www.sonsofthewest.org.au](http://www.sonsofthewest.org.au)

*Maribyrnong City Council is a proud partner of the Sons of the West program.*



# THE WOMEN WHO *lead by example*

EVERY PLACE YOU GO IN THE CITY OF MARIBYRNONG, AROUND EVERY CORNER, YOU WILL COME ACROSS A WOMAN WHO LEADS BY EXAMPLE.

Council is deeply committed to gender equality and every year, we celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women with special events that mark International Women's Day. On 8 March, we launched an exhibition that featured the stories of seven incredible women in our city. Here is one of them. Ladies and gentlemen, we bring you, Mai Dzung.

## *Mai Dzung* *Braybrook College 2015 Dux*

**"Wisdom isn't always the most important thing, patience is."**

Mai Dzung was born in Vietnam and arrived in Australia in 2011 as her parents felt it would open new doors for her. In 2015, Mai completed her year 12 VCE and received an ATAR of 98.7, making her Braybrook College's dux, which is Mai's greatest achievement to date. Mai was accepted into Monash University in 2016 to study Chemical Engineering.

Moving to Australia was tough for Mai at first, she spent much of her time on the phone with her parents expressing how much she missed them. However, her parents kept reminding her that her future was here in Australia. As a naturally introverted person, Mai found many challenges building her confidence and speaking to people when she first arrived in Australia but Mai was continually inspired by her parents to get through. "My biggest inspiration are my parents because all I want to do is help them in the future, that's what drove me to continue."

***"There will be times where they face difficulties and challenges and they may want to give up, but it's important to just do your best to achieve your goals as best as you can."***

Looking back on her journey, Mai wished she had been involved in more after-school programs as she didn't have the chance to enjoy herself away from her studying. Mai believes it is important for young people, particularly newly-arrived young people, to be involved in their community as much as they can. This can help with developing their confidence and ability to talk to someone when needed, which is something Mai didn't have initially. "I couldn't find anyone to talk to when I first arrived, I use to keep everything to myself. It's really important to find a friend, someone you can talk to."

Mai's mother is her role model and a continuing support for her as she does everything for their family regardless of the hurdles she comes across. Now seen as an inspiring role model to her peers, particularly young women, Mai hopes that women continue to be celebrated so they can work towards being whatever they want to be. "There will be times where they face difficulties and challenges and they may want to



give up, but it's important to just do your best to achieve your goals as best as you can."

Mai has been overwhelmed with all the support she has received since arriving in Australia that she hopes to give back to others in years to come through charity work.



# Festival City Events Calendar

MARCH - JULY

MARIBYRNONG  
**Festival  
City**

The Festival City event program attracts and supports the best of Melbourne's festivals for the benefit of residents, businesses and cultural tourists. It provides something for everyone – you are sure to be spoilt for choice in Festival City!

For the full Festival City program, visit [www.festivalcity.com.au](http://www.festivalcity.com.au)

## Comedy out West



Part of Melbourne Comedy Festival  
**23 March to 17 April**  
Various venues

## Setting Sun Short Film Festival



**14-17 April**  
Sun Theatre, Ballarat St, Yarraville

## Emerge in the West



**14 May**  
Nicholson St, Footscray

## Jazz out West

Part of Melbourne International Jazz Festival  
**3-12 June**  
Various venues

## Circus out West

**6-10 July, 6-9pm**  
Bluestone Church Arts Space,  
10A Hyde St, Footscray

## Business Training Events, Workshops and Seminars



Council hosts a number of business training events, workshops and seminars for seasoned business professionals, up and comers and budding entrepreneurs. More info [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) click on 'Doing Business in Maribyrnong' in the 'Features' section.

**Understanding Marketing**  
**23 March, 6.30-8.30pm**

**Your Business in a Digital World**  
**13 April, 6.30-8.30pm**

**Effective Business Networking**  
**11 May, 6.30-8.30pm**

**Marketing for Growth**  
**1 June, 6.30-10pm**

**Improve Your Time Management**  
**22 June, 6.30-8.30pm**

**Develop Your Online Strategy**  
**20 July, 6.30-10pm**

## Women in Business Networking Breakfast

**20 April, 7-9am**  
Reception Room, Maribyrnong City Council Offices, Cnr Hyde and Napier Sts, Footscray

Network your way through a delicious hot breakfast and gain valuable insights on how you too can have the perfect work/life balance whilst growing your business to a roaring success! Draw inspiration from our leading business women as they share their drive, knowledge, skills and passion for all things business.

Free. Bookings essential. More info email [rosie.sallemi@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:rosie.sallemi@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or register at [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/women-in-business-networking-breakfast-tickets-22560402772](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/women-in-business-networking-breakfast-tickets-22560402772)

More info [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

## Maidstone Hall and Maidstone Tennis Club Community Open Day



**9 April, 10am-2pm**  
Corner of Norfolk Street and Thomson St, Maidstone

Celebrate Council's restoration of the 100 year old tennis pavilion, the rebuild of the tennis courts and the creation of a beautiful park. Sausage sizzle, facepainting and

come-and-try Hot Shot Tennis. More info [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

## Maribyrnong's Libraries and Community Centres



We host events and programs through the year that offer something for everyone. Visit [www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) to see what's on offer.



# Word on the Street



New kid on the block Jack B Nimble in Maidstone has impressed far and wide with their unique spin on Aussie classics. We spoke to co-owner, Deborah Ong, about their story.

## Tell us the story about Jack B Nimble's humble beginnings.

My co-owners Julien, E-Gene and myself had been itching to kickstart a project like this in the inner-west for quite a while.

Julien and I are both chefs by trade and E-Gene has previously owned his own cafes. We longed to have a place to call our own, and to serve the food that we loved to cook and eat. My old friend, Calvin came onboard as our financial controller and passionate barista, and our team was complete!

In Autumn 2014, we hunted for sites in the area, and looked at everything from old milk bars to brand new units at some of the recent developments. We never found anything as promising and as exciting as the spot we have now. It was an old bakery, closed for 15 years, across the road from a child care centre with ample parking. We were looking for a name that was fun, kid-friendly, and a little nostalgic for the big kid in all of us. Inspired by the classic nursery rhyme, 'Jack B. Nimble' was perfect!

## What was it about Maidstone and more broadly, the City of Maribyrnong that attracted you to set up shop here?

Well, first and foremost, we are all local to the area, which was incidentally how we found the site for the cafe! We've seen the area grow and develop over the last few years. We have seen the train stations get re-vamped, more young families move in and new shops popping up in Footscray and

West Footscray. We felt that it was time for Maidstone to have its own cafe for the local community.

The other thing that we absolutely love about the area, is its cultural diversity. We have had the pleasure of meeting people from all walks of life, and it's so heart-warming to see how everyone in the community seems to embrace difference in a very open way.

## Do you feel it's important for a business like yours to develop those relationships throughout the community?

We believe that relationships are the lifeblood of small businesses, no matter what industry you're in. We love people. Our desire is to create a space where people feel at home, and where we can share with people our love for good food and good coffee.

So far, everyone has been absolutely lovely and welcoming. There is nothing more intoxicating than loving the work you do, and serving people who appreciate what you have to offer.

## Now onto the food! What is your most irresistible menu item that will get us running to Jack B Nimble?

I would have to say that it's pretty hard to go past the Southern Fried Chicken Burger. It's comfort food at its best! Juicy, succulent chicken thigh in a crispy buttermilk batter between toasted milk buns and chipotle aioli, served with a refreshing green apple slaw. What's not to like?!

132 Mitchell Street, Maidstone

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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**.

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

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