

MARIBYRNONG



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MESSENGER

Winter 2023

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

MAKING
MOVES
TOWARDS
INCLUSIVITY
THROUGH
DANCE

MAKING IT
SAFER AND
EASIER TO
WALK AND
RIDE

PROTECTING
MARIBYRNONG'S
UNIQUE
HERITAGE



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter 2023 Maribyrnong Messenger, celebrating our community and its resilience.

Our latest Community Survey shows improved financial, physical, and mental well-being three years after COVID-19. However, the cost of living increases in a post-pandemic environment and last October's flood event still affect some in our community.

That's why Council's Proposed Budget for next year has been premised on an increase in total rates revenue of 2.9 per cent – not the entire 3.5 per cent rates increase allowed by the State Government – to balance our community's ability to pay while still delivering the services and facilities you are asking of us.

While also streamlining our capital works program, the proposed spending includes just over \$16 million on improving Council-owned roads, laneways, and footpaths across the municipality – one of the areas nominated in the 2022 Community Survey for Council to address. You'll find a further update on the Proposed Budget on page 9.

We continue to work with our community to support recovery following last October's flood event, which impacted around 600 properties. A Community Recovery Committee has now been established with eight representatives from the community and myself as Council's representative. I look forward to working constructively with members to advocate on the community's behalf.

I was pleased to also acknowledge some of our flood heroes with Mayoral Awards during this year's Civic Awards event.

Congratulations to all the recipients for their remarkable dedication and commitment to making Maribyrnong a great place to live. Read more on page 6.

In closing, I want to pay tribute to Sika Kerry OAM, the first female elected councillor in the City of Footscray, who recently passed away. Sika achieved a lot in her lifetime and advocated strongly for women and migrants during her time on Council and as Mayor. Vale Sika.

Councillor Sarah Carter
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



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COUNCIL MEETING DATES

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

JUNE

Tuesday 20, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 27, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

JULY

Tuesday 18, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 25, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

AUGUST

Tuesday 1, 4.30pm: Enterprise Maribyrnong Delegated Committee

Tuesday 15, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 22, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

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

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



MCIVOR RESERVE MASTER PLAN GETS GREEN LIGHT

Council is moving forward with the Master Plan for McIvor Reserve, including the inclusion of the municipality's first indoor sports facility.

The project has sparked spirited debate over more than ten months of engagement, receiving more than 4,000 individual pieces of feedback and hundreds of questions of Council, resulting in a number of modifications to the draft document to better align with community expectations.

This includes:

- > Tree removal has been minimised, along with a plan to plant two new trees for every one removed.
- > An additional off-leash dog area to compensate for a reduction in the existing dog park.
- > Reduction in the facility footprint to minimise the impact on open space.
- > Adjustments to traffic and parking arrangements to minimise the impact on the surrounding streets.

Council has also committed to continuing to explore ways to further reduce the impact on green space and tree loss, conducting further traffic studies, and continuing to liaise with community members, including dog owners and neighbours during the Plan implementation.

While supporting existing use and social interaction, the Master Plan addresses the increasing demand for an indoor sports facility to support the growing needs of Maribyrnong's young people.

The Master Plan also includes a new and improved dog park, additional greenery, more amenities like toilets, lighting, play spaces, seating, bins, shelters, and footpaths to support passive use of the space, and upgrades to the sporting fields and amenities to support local clubs' use of the Reserve.

ALYSHIA CLARKE MAKING MOVES TOWARDS INCLUSIVITY THROUGH DANCE

Focusing on the ability, not the disability.

Passion and kindness radiate from Alyshia Clarke, the founder of Maribyrnong small business, Dance 4 All, an empowering and inclusive learning environment designed to break down the barriers for children with additional needs who just want to dance.

Her vision is clear, to foster connection through ability rather than focus on disability.

"It was lockdown 2020 when I started brainstorming the idea with my partner, Daniel. What if there was a program specifically designed for children with a disability to come



From left to right: Class assistant Linda, Anna, Alyshia, Alyssa, partner Daniel, Alex and Lily.

together and dance? A program that facilitates equal access to recreation and enables these children to express their creativity while working through their individual therapy goals at the same time," shared Alyshia.

Dance 4 All opened its doors in February 2021 with its All Abilities class addressing the access gap for children with a disability looking to participate in extracurricular activities.

"I didn't know what to expect when we launched, and the interest was more than I could ever have hoped, which I believe is a testament to the importance and strong need for these types of programs within our community. We do not separate or categorise dancers. We welcome every child of any ability and focus on building on what they can already do, not what they can't," Alyshia said.

Students are able to build on their social skills, develop motor skills, and improve balance and flexibility. For Alyshia, the rewards come from seeing them not just learn to dance, but also blossoming into happy, strong, confident children.

“There are so many special moments throughout their dancing journey, from seeing their faces light up when they enter the studio, to when they learn a new move or when a non-verbal child speaks for the first time in class. It's just so beautiful to be a part of these small but significant milestones for the child and their family – it brings a tear to my eye.”

Alyshia, who has studied dance most of her life, also works full time as a Special Education Teacher, but dreams of the day her dance studio, which blends both her life passions – special education and dance – becomes her full-time endeavour.

"To me it doesn't even feel like work because I love it so much. I still get so much joy from school teaching, but being able to channel both my passions through Dance 4 All has been incredibly fulfilling.

"I would love to see it grow into a bigger space and be able to run multiple classes in various styles for children with additional needs and of all ages and abilities. I'd also like to focus on building public awareness, and educating and mentoring other dance teachers on the value of incorporating inclusion techniques – creating a safe environment, free of judgement, where children can be themselves and have fun."

Alyshia's dedication to disability advocacy was recognised at this year's Civic Awards, where Dance 4 All won the Enterprise Maribyrnong Award for New and Emerging Business.

"It was extremely humbling and made me quite emotional as this is not just an award for me, but an award for all of the hardworking dancers and families who attend my studio," said Alyshia.

With the spotlight on her business, she hopes "the work we are doing can also inspire and spark conversations on inclusion within our community, and help educate and raise awareness around the harmful effects of disability discrimination."

Once a student enrolls at Dance 4 All, with the consent of the parent or guardian, the studio will connect with the child's healthcare provider and the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to work together to support their overall therapy goals. Alyshia also works with the NDIS to help her client's access financial assistance if needed but keeps the price of her dance classes as low as she can to give as many children as possible the opportunity to join.

The All Abilities dance students made their debut performance at the West Footscray Holi, Festival of Colours in March performing a routine to the song Roar, by Katy Perry.

After seeing how much fun the children had on stage, Alyshia hopes to secure more local performance opportunities in the future.

"I was more nervous than the kids. They blew me away with their confidence, and as soon as it was all over, they were itching to go back on stage and do it all again. Providing my dancers with more opportunities like this to be out in the community performing and breaking down the stigma is something we look forward to."

Currently, Dance 4 All runs mainstream classes from Wednesday to Friday and two All Abilities classes on Saturday mornings during school terms. To learn more about Alyshia and Dance 4 All visit dance4all.net.au





CIVIC AWARDS 2023

Dedicated residents making a difference

As we emerged from the pandemic, 2022 was a year for rebuilding infrastructure, connection and community. It was also a year that continued to test the resilience of many in our community when the Maribyrnong River breached its banks in October.

This strength, resilience and connectivity were all reflected in the high calibre of nominations received for the Civic Awards, where we show our appreciation to those who have donated their time and energy to support those in need and improve the lives of so many in our municipality.

Known for his advocacy for cycling infrastructure in the West, Dr John Symons was named 2023 Citizen of the Year. As the founding member of BikeWest and the Maribyrnong Active Transport committee, he has been one of the pioneers of active transport advocacy in Maribyrnong.

"There are so many flow-on benefits of cycling, whether it's health, environmental benefits, climate change or productivity. Increasingly active transport is now considered a serious form of mass transit," he noted, adding, "It's very humbling to win this award – it is a large honour."

Along with our Citizen of the Year, awards were also presented across a number of categories including, arts, business, sport, youth, and volunteering.



2023 CIVIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: Dr John Symons

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Sanda Aye

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD: Daniel Melican

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AWARD:
Andy Fithall

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD:
CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY –
Sheridan Rose Shaw, MAMAWEST

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD:
NEW AND EMERGING BUSINESS AWARD –
Alyshia Clarke, Dance 4 All

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD:
INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AWARD –
Julian Hills, Restaurant Navi

ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG SPORTING AWARD:
West Footscray Football Club

ARTS AWARD: Bernadette Fitzgerald

2023 MAYORAL AWARDS

The Flood Warriors

State Emergency Service Footscray Unit

Inspector Paul Morgan of Victoria Police

This year's Mayoral Awards also recognised those who supported our community in the immediate aftermath of the October flood event, with awards going to the Flood Warriors, State Emergency Service Footscray Unit, and Inspector Paul Morgan of Victoria Police.

To read about all our 2023 winners and watch a video interview with Dr John Symons, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/civic-awards-2023](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/civic-awards-2023)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER:

WHAT WE HEARD AND NEXT STEPS

Each quarter Council develops and delivers Maribyrnong Messenger – this hardcopy magazine – to letterboxes across the municipality.

In late 2021 we asked readers to share thoughts on the magazine which generally includes information on local news and events, including what's happening at local libraries and community centres, key Council initiatives and projects that are either

underway or that we are seeking community views on, and recent achievements.

Of the more than 500 residents who sent in feedback, 95 per cent told us they liked receiving the magazine in their mailbox and enjoyed finding out about local news, events and activities, learning about what Council is doing and opportunities to provide feedback. You felt it helped provide a sense of connectedness to the community –

especially during the pandemic. Since the survey, we have seen increased interest in articles and updates included in each edition, and higher response rates to community engagement activities included in the magazine. And while many like to retrieve Messenger from the letterbox, there are also others who would prefer to receive it in an electronic mailbox.

That is why we are now inviting residents who would prefer an electronic copy to register their details, and we'll email future editions to you. To sign up, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/messenger

PROTECTING MARIBYRNONG'S UNIQUE HERITAGE THROUGH A NEW HERITAGE STRATEGY



Council plays an important role in identifying, conserving and promoting our City's heritage, which includes things like historical buildings, streetscapes, art collections and archaeological sites, as well as unseen heritage, such as cultural practices and traditions.

Our work has been guided by the Maribyrnong Heritage Plan, published in 2002. But, with significant legislative, technological and demographic changes, along with shifts in the way our community values heritage, we are now developing a new Heritage Strategy.

We started this work with a conversation with the community in 2022 to identify heritage priorities. This feedback from the community, Traditional Owners and key stakeholders, coupled with a review of the existing Plan has highlighted a number of challenges for the years ahead.

Each challenge also brings opportunities which include: protecting natural and Indigenous heritage, working with the community to grow awareness of heritage in the City, supporting and empowering local heritage organisations and the work they do, working to balance the impacts of climate change on heritage places, and celebrating our City's unique heritage.

We're now seeking feedback on these challenges and opportunities to inform tangible actions to include in the draft Heritage Strategy, before it is shared back with the community for comment. To read more about heritage in Maribyrnong and provide any comments visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/heritage. Feedback closes midnight 14 May 2023.



SUPPORTING SENIORS IN MARIBYRNONG

As our community ages, it is important we understand how we can continue to support them to live their best life. In 2021, 15 per cent or 13,191 of our residents were aged 60 or over. That number is set to rise as our population not only continues to grow, but also to age.

We know access to services, activities, and opportunities for connection close to home is important in supporting positive health and wellbeing as well as independence.

Council currently supports the delivery of meals, centre-based respite services, and home maintenance and modifications, which includes a lawn-mowing service, and also funds community transport.

The question we are now asking the community is what role they think Council should play in supporting or providing these services and opportunities going forward.

While the views of our seniors aged 60+ are important to us in understanding what they think it means to age well in Maribyrnong, we are also keen to hear from their families and carers, as well as the community generally and especially those aged 40 to 60, who will be the next generation of seniors, to help inform our future decision-making.

We look forward to talking face-to-face with visitors to our libraries, community centres and senior centres during a number of information sessions in May and June. You will find details, times and dates, along with a questionnaire at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/supporting-seniors.

HITTING THE PAVEMENT WITH A NEW WALKING STRATEGY

Earlier this year, we asked our community to share some thoughts with us around walking - why they walked, how often they walked, and the reasons why they did not walk more or more often.

We heard from more than 800 residents – from families with children, dog walkers, and older residents – who told us they enjoyed walking both as a form of recreation and a way of getting to and from places, and that they tended to walk daily.

You also told us lack of canopy trees and vegetation, proximity to trucks and fast-moving traffic, poor lighting and perceptions of safety, as well as time and distance constraints – were among the main barriers to walking more and more often.

Respondents wanted safer pedestrian crossings, more urban greening, improved lighting, and better maintenance of existing paths, and also shared some site specific locations for us to investigate and improve.

We're now using this feedback to help inform a new Walking Strategy to guide future improvements to our pedestrian network. We'll be sharing a draft with the community for comment in the second half of this year.

For more information and to keep up to date, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/walking.

FUNDING SERVICE DELIVERY– PROPOSED BUDGET

Council is proposing to spend \$208 million to support the delivery of services and infrastructure during 2023/24 – which is just one million more than budgeted for in the last financial year.

A little over one-third of this, or \$72.96, would be used to maintain, redevelop, renew and improve assets as part of a targeted, streamlined capital works program. This proposed allocation also recognises the ongoing challenges of returning to pre-pandemic service delivery levels given availability of contractors, supply chain interruptions, and escalating costs.

In line with requests from the community to address road and footpath maintenance, around one-quarter of the proposed capital works investment, or just over \$16 million, would be spent on improving Council-owned roads, laneways, and footpaths across the municipality. The Proposed Budget 2023/2024, which will be considered for adoption at the June Council meeting, is premised on a 2.98 per cent increase in total rates revenue collected, which is lower than the 3.5 per cent maximum cap set by the State Government. While the compounded effects of years of rates caps, three years of COVID-19, and the flood has had an impact on Council's overall position, in not passing through the maximum rate increase allowed, Council is attempting to support the rejuvenation of our City while also balancing our spending against the ability of our residents to pay.

For more information and to keep up to date, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/budget.

ENVIRONMENT



MORE TREES FOR A COOLER GREEN WEST INITIATIVE

Council is one of 76 locations across the West that will share in a \$2 million investment by State Government to plant an additional 131,504 trees by mid-2024 as part of its More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West program.

A number of these trees will be planted across the City to combat urban heat by creating shade and cooling space for local communities. This will add to the 192,000 trees planted across the western region since the beginning of the Government program.

CONTINUING TO GROW OUR CANOPY COVER

Our Street Tree Planting and Open Space Planting Programs for 2023 have commenced with approximately 3,000 trees set to be planted throughout the City from now until October. Each year we are one step closer to achieving our target of 20 per cent canopy cover in public spaces by 2040. The tree species selected are chosen for climate suitability and their contribution to a resilient urban forest.

SUPPORT OUR PLANTING EFFORTS

We will be hosting a number of volunteer community planting events in collaboration with our 'Friends of' groups – local volunteer groups dedicated to supporting some of Maribyrnong's most loved natural spaces.

Join a planting event at Cruickshank Park, Newell's Paddock or Stony Creek Reserve from May until August.

For dates and times, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/planting-events.

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Every year, eight million tonnes of plastic waste wash into our waterways and oceans, with devastating impacts on our marine wildlife and ecosystems.

There are, however, a number of simple actions we can all take to help change this – including avoiding single-use plastics and other disposable items.

Join those pledging to reduce their plastic waste during Plastic Free July by making simple swaps such as:

- > Takeaway coffee cups → reusable cups at local cafés
- > Buying bottled water on the go → reusable drink bottles
- > Cling film/plastic wrap → beeswax wrap and reusable containers
- > Balloons → bubbles

Council endorsed a Single-Use Plastics Policy in 2021, and you can find tips to help transition to an environment free of single-use plastics on our website maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/singleuseplastics

FREE RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKSHOPS

Council – as part of the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA) – is partnering with renewable technology experts, Renew, to hold nine free online workshops covering topics such as all-electric homes, solar and batteries, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and more. To register, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/renew-Workshop-Series-2023

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

Tuesday 20 June

7pm – 8.30pm Winter Energy Efficiency for Renters

Saturday 24 June

10pm – 11.30am Winter Energy Efficiency

Thursday 20 July

7pm – 8.30pm Electric Vehicles

Saturday 12 August

10pm – 11.30am Solar and Batteries

ARTS

ARCHITECTURE OF THE SOLE

Maribyrnong's newest public artwork will be launched as part of the opening of the new Henry Turner South Pavilion later this year.

Fabricated by Sculpture Co., the aptly named Architecture of the Sole, takes its inspiration from the soles of a pair of well-worn sports shoes; and gives consideration to the way people connect to lifestyle, culture and nature.

"Sports shoes, trainers, gym shoes, runners, however we refer to them, are the people's choice for casual footwear, they are the shoes we all have at home," explains artist Tracey Lamb. "They are also the one item of clothing that enables us to try out almost any sport outside of our own backyard."

She adds, "Many thousands of people on the site where this installation will be located will have done exactly that, put on their trainers and headed out to the grassy playing fields and the tennis courts for a game with their family, friends and teammates."

Her sculptural installation is made up of brightly coloured modular pieces whose rounded abstract shapes are placed in vertical stacks and horizontal seat-like forms in a loosely circular formation echoing the high gloss metal finish designs found on the soles of sports shoes.

"When designing this installation I considered the way we gather and connect with each other to enjoy our leisure, lifestyle, culture, and nature. The three tall forms in Architecture of the Sole will be a bright gateway marker and meeting point alongside three abstract seats for those who need to take the weight off their soles," Tracey continued. The human scale, contrasting colours, and rounded cut-outs will invite closer inspection and provide a variety of views of the recreation and sporting activities in the surrounding area.



2023 FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE EXHIBITION

Winners of the nationally recognised Footscray Art Prize 2023 will be announced in June, with shortlisted works on display at an exhibition from 15 July at Footscray Community Arts.

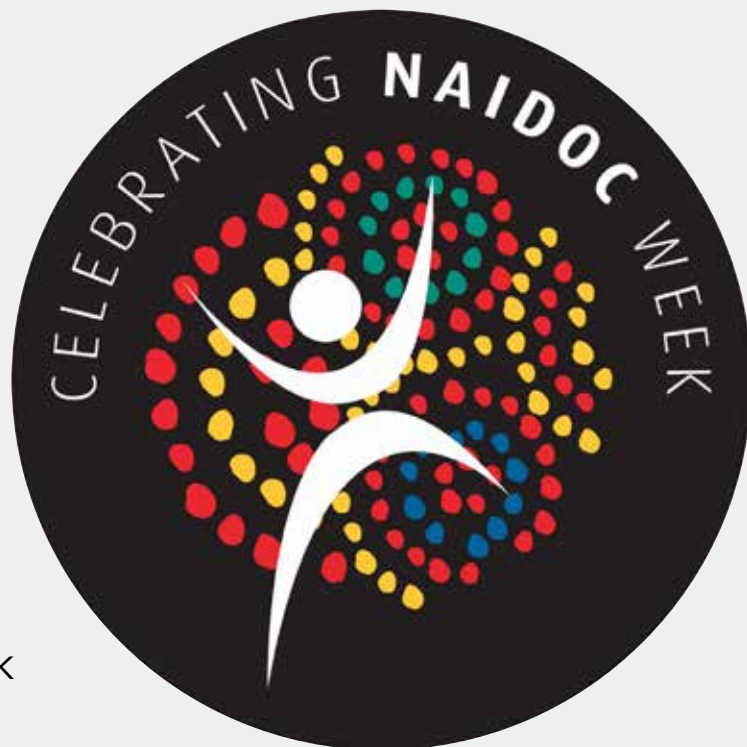
The biennial visual art prize celebrates visual artists

(locally and nationally) by raising their profile and providing the opportunity for their work to be seen. In recognition of the ongoing impacts of the pandemic on visual artists across the country, this year, the Main Prize money has doubled.

Now in its fourth iteration, the Prize is a partnership between Victoria University, Maribyrnong City Council, Footscray Community Arts and the Rotary Club of Footscray, who will be hosting a Dinner and Auction on Saturday 5 August 2023 to raise funds for local youth projects. For more information visit

footscrayartprize.com

EMBRACING INDIGENOUS HERITAGE AND UNITY



RECONCILIATION AND NAIDOC WEEK EVENTS IN MARIBYRNONG

Council will be celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities during Reconciliation Week (27 May - 3 June) and NAIDOC Week (2-9 July 2023), helping to foster unity, understanding, and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Events are taking place at Maribyrnong Libraries, Braybrook Community Hub, and the Maidstone Community Centre. There will be StoryTime sessions at all library branches, featuring stories from First Nations authors and providing an engaging way for children and their families to learn about Indigenous culture and perspectives, while cultivating empathy and understanding within the community. Dates and times can be found on the libraries website maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/libraries

Our libraries also have a wide range of books by First Nations authors, available to borrow both in print and in the eLibrary. As a special Reconciliation Week offering, 'Everything You Need to Know About the Uluru Statement from the Heart', an eAudiobook by Megan Davis and George Williams, is available for unlimited loans until

29 June via the BorrowBox app – no queues or reserves. BorrowBox is free for Maribyrnong Libraries members, download the app or head to the libraries website to get started.

The Braybrook Community Hub will be hosting an afternoon tea and screening of the movie "Beyond Sorry" on Thursday, 1 June, at 1pm. Beyond Sorry tells the story of two Arrente women from different backgrounds in their senior years, highlighting the contrasting experiences of growing up in Indigenous and non-Indigenous worlds

Then on 6 July, the Braybrook Community Hub presents a NAIDOC Week event showcasing the work of a First Nations artist where attendees will be provided lunch while also appreciating the beauty and significance of Indigenous art.

At the Maidstone Community Centre, a playgroup event on 5 July, from 9.30-11.30am will feature a light morning tea, Indigenous art and craft activities, and a story-time session exploring Indigenous culture and history.

Council's vision for reconciliation involves the entire Maribyrnong community celebrating the histories

and cultures of the Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Boon Wurrung Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation, and all First Nations Peoples within the community.

After embarking on its formal reconciliation journey in 2017, Council developed a Reconciliation Action Plan in 2020 with the support of the Maribyrnong Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee.

It outlines initiatives to raise awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture, nurture positive relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and enhance equity and opportunities for Indigenous Australians in Maribyrnong.

Through Council's participation in Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, and other endeavours stemming from the Reconciliation Plan, residents can learn, engage, and celebrate the unique history that has shaped the Australian identity. These efforts can guide the Maribyrnong community towards a more inclusive future, inspired by the insight and resilience of its First Peoples.

CONNECTING CHILDREN TO THE WORLD AROUND THEM WITH A PASSPORT TO PLAY



COUNCIL HAS UNVEILED PASSPORT TO PLAY, A UNIQUE RESOURCE CO-CREATED WITH LOCAL CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN THAT AIMS TO FOSTER CONNECTEDNESS WHILE PROMOTING THE BENEFITS OF PLAY.

The passport-sized booklet shares information on spaces, places and play ideas children and families can enjoy together. The interactive format allows children to mark their favourite places to play on a map of the City, and draw pictures of play activities they enjoy and who they enjoy playing with.

Featuring artworks and comments from local children, the passport is a one-

stop-shop for all things play, creativity and learning.

A Children's Leadership Group made up of Footscray Primary School students helped steer the project, championing children as collaborators and celebrating them as the experts in play. A series of in-person workshops with children aged up to 12 from various cultural backgrounds within the

municipality then helped bring it to life. Copies of Passport to Play are available at local libraries, primary schools, and community centres, or from Council's website.

For more information, to download your copy, or find a local facility near you where you can pick up a copy, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/PassportToPlay

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A PROJECT?

Be the change you want to see in our City with Council's 2023 Community Grants program, which seeks to help fund projects that will benefit the Maribyrnong community. Applications open in July. Check the website for updates at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communitygrants where you will also find details around information sessions and grant writing workshops to support applicants.

IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS THE CITY



MAKING IT SAFER AND EASIER TO WALK AND RIDE

We're enhancing the municipality's bike paths and pedestrian infrastructure to deliver on our commitment to fostering a safer, more connected cycling network to encourage healthier, environmentally-friendly transport options for our residents.

Recent projects include:

- > Upgrades to Dempster Street in West Footscray, which involves the installation of new infrastructure, shared user paths, and pedestrian crossings to support safe walking and cycling. Additional improvements include line markings, redesigned intersections, and new car parking spaces.
- > After feedback from the community, Council will work with government agencies to improve cycling infrastructure on Ashley Street, including a signalised crossing at the intersection with Ballarat Road, as a priority.

Improvements are also planned for Owen and Gordon Streets in the suburb of Maribyrnong, where a safer walking and cycling corridor will connect Footscray and Highpoint Shopping Centre.

Proposed changes include relocating part of the pathway towards Edgewater Boulevard and a new shared crossing at the Owen Street/Edgewater Boulevard intersection. Draft designs will be shared for feedback in the second half of 2023.



CIVIC PRECINCT AND COMMUNITY HUB – WORKS PROGRESSING

We're making progress on the redevelopment of the Civic Precinct and Community Hub in Footscray with demolition of the old administration and community services buildings now complete.

This makes way for a modern six-star Green Star building, a 200-seat multi-purpose facility, and a new community park. The heritage-listed Town Hall is also being refurbished, ensuring the preservation of this historic building for generations to come.

The project, scheduled for completion in late 2024, is a significant investment in improving the connection between Council and community. Stay up-to-date at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/townhall](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/townhall)

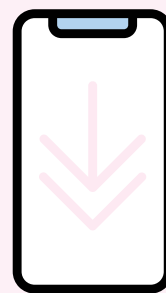
ACTIVE PATHS PROGRAM – FINAL SCHOOLS ADDED

Our Active Path program is making it a lot easier to walk, cycle, scoot or skate to school.

St Monica's and St John's primary schools in Footscray, Wembley Primary in Yarraville and Footscray Primary have now also joined the program, which means all primary schools across the municipality now have a range of marked active pathways students and parents can follow to and from school.

Parents who may drive their children to and from school are encouraged to park away from the school gates and join one of the active paths to complete their journey.

Find the active path that's right for you at: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Active-Paths-Program](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Active-Paths-Program)



UBI PARK: REAL-TIME PARKING APP

To help make life a bit easier, Council has also been working with long-term partner Ubi Park to make it easier for users to identify parking availability in the municipality in real time. Nearly 3,500 Smart Parking sensors have now been installed across most of the Council-owned carparks – in our main activity centres and shopping villages – to support this. The Ubi Park app can be downloaded for free on both Apple and Android.



BRAYBROOK EATERY CAFÉ

A fusion of flavours and cultures

The local food scene welcomed a fresh addition in February, with the opening of Braybrook's Eatery Café.

Located on Ashley Street, this new restaurant is co-owned by family friends Guru Bhusal, Dilli Aryal, and Tilak Bhurtel, who have over 20 years of collective experience in the hospitality industry.

"Our goal was to open our own place to provide quality, affordable food, as this is our passion," said Guru Bhusal.

"Braybrook is a growing area with a diverse population, which is reflected in our wide variety of menu options."

These range from breakfast favourites to parmas, steaks, and pasta.

The trio of co-owners take particular pride in their fusion offerings, such as their signature momos (Nepalese dumplings) which capture the taste of the Himalayas.

"We are especially interested

in providing fusion options so people can experience the food of different cultures," said Dilli Aryal.

Their spin on Nasi Goreng, the popular Indonesian dish featuring chicken, prawns, Asian slaw and housemade nasi paste is another standout item.

Tilak Bhurtel said the trio has a clear vision: "We want to be the local go-to spot for Braybrook residents, providing great food, service, and vibes."

Eatery Cafe is open seven days a week, from 8am-9pm. Customers can choose to dine in or order online for delivery and convenient pickup. The owners hope to expand to include functions and catering.

Braybrook Eatery Café
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braybrookeatery.com.au

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