

MARIBYRNONG



MESSENGER

Spring 2022

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

WEMBLEY
WASTE
WARRIORS
MAKING CHANGE
ONE STEP AT A TIME

CYCLING IN
MARIBYRNONG

WE'RE ON
THE MOVE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the Spring edition of Maribyrnong Messenger.

Following two community conversations to inform its development, the Annual Budget 2022/23 has now been adopted.

Council will spend \$209 million over the next 12 months to support the community now, while also planning for a growing community – with our population forecast to increase to an estimated 150,000 by 2041 leading also to an increase in demand for services.

Of this, \$85.35 million is allocated to Capital Works, including funding for the redevelopment of the iconic Footscray Town Hall into a community and civic precinct, the construction of a new splash park at Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre, and implementing improvements to the Western Lawn at Footscray Park to support active and passive community use, in line with community feedback and the Footscray Park Masterplan.

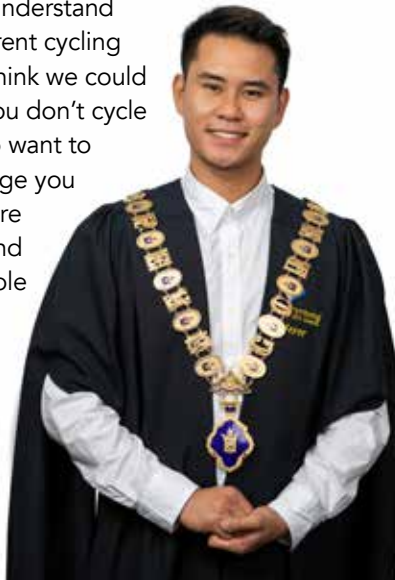
This year Council will pass through the 1.75% increase in total rates revenue collected to support the delivery of much-needed community services and infrastructure, as per the rates cap set by the State Government.

Keep an eye on your letterboxes in the coming weeks for your rates notice for the 2022/23 year, along with a rates brochure outlining how your rates are calculated and spent.

In preparation for the redevelopment of the historic Footscray Town Hall, we have started packing up our offices. While you may not find us at Town Hall for the next two years, we will still be available to support the community – just at a different location. Find out more about our move on page 6.

As we continue to improve transport connections in our City, we are keen to understand what you think of our current cycling network and where you think we could make improvements. If you don't cycle but would like to, we also want to hear what would encourage you to do so. You will find more information on page 3, and there is a postcard available in this edition for you to provide feedback and send back to us.

Cr Anthony Tran
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 3 Cycling in Maribyrnong
- 4 Making change one step at a time
- 6 We're on the move
- 8 Community Engagement update
- 10 West Set returns for 2022
- 11 Environment update
- 12 Upcoming things to check out
- 14 Community asset upgrades
- 16 TRU Coffee

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The meetings for September, below, will be held at Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 13, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 20, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

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

OCTOBER

Tuesday 4, 4.30pm: Enterprise Maribyrnong Delegated Committee

Tuesday 18, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 25, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 8, 6.30pm: Council Meeting (Election of Mayor)

Tuesday 15, 6.30pm: Council Meeting

Tuesday 22, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

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

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

CYCLING IN MARIBYRNONG

Cycling is good for us.

It can boost brainpower, fitness, bank balances and help save the planet.

Riders benefit through improved physical and mental health, savings on travel costs compared to other modes of transport, and in today's traffic – it often means getting from A to B faster.

Cycling also benefits the community as a whole, by reducing noise and air pollution, easing congestion on roads and public transport, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and eliminating parking problems.

Less pollution and traffic means our communities will become greener, healthier and less stressful places to live. Not to mention, cycling can also be heaps of fun regardless of age and ability! It keeps our kids physically active, benefits their learning, and can be enjoyed with friends and family for life.

We want to ensure everyone in our community who wants to get on their bike is provided with a safe and

connected cycling network to do so. Every year we work on improving our network bit by bit with 40km of bike lanes created across the municipality so far.

As we continue to deliver on our objective, we want to be sure we understand the specific needs of our community. For those who already cycle, we want your feedback on the existing network and your suggestions for improvement. For those of you who don't cycle, we want to know what the barriers are and what we could do to encourage you to start riding.

You'll find a postcard in this issue of Messenger where you can share your feedback and send it back to us postage paid.

You'll also find a more comprehensive survey, along with information on our existing cycling network and current projects supporting cycling outcomes at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/cycle

- > Forget apples – riding is the way to keep the doctor at bay. Research from the University of North Carolina found people who cycle for 30 minutes, five days a week, take about half as many sick days as those who don't.
- > 20 bicycles can be parked in the same place as one car.
- > It takes around five percent of the materials and energy used to make a car to build a bike and a bike produces zero pollution. Bikes are efficient too. You travel around three times as fast as walking for the same amount of energy, and taking into account the 'fuel' you put in your 'engine' cyclists do the equivalent of 2,924 miles to the gallon.
- > Cyclists are exposed to less air pollution (8,000 ultrafine particles per cubic centimetre) than passengers in buses, taxis (around 100,000 ultrafine particles) and cars (40,000 ultrafine particles) – likely because they ride at the edge of the road and are not directly in the line of exhaust smoke.

FAST FACTS:



MAKING CHANGE ONE STEP AT A TIME

Wembley Waste Warrior representatives Sam, Ivana, Hamish and Isidora (L-R).

A group of local school children at Wembley Primary School in Yarraville are on the journey to make big changes for their community in the sustainability and environment space – one step at a time.

When you peer through the gates of Wembley Primary School (WPS) in Yarraville, you see colourful artworks taking over the classroom windows and children running through the playground – but there's so much more going on than meets the eye. The children – along with help from a group of dedicated teaching staff and volunteer parents – are paving the way for serious sustainability change, one idea at a time.

Wembley Waste Warriors (WWW) was formed in 2020, during the midst of the COVID-19 lockdowns, by a group of parents keen to help their school increase their sustainability

practices and embed it as a core philosophy of the school – to teach children the importance of becoming greener both at home and at school.

WWW is part of the ResourceSmart Schools Program run by Sustainability Victoria, supporting primary schools and high school students, teachers and school volunteers embed sustainability in everything they do – and WPS recently won the 2021 School Volunteer of the Year Award for WWW.

“The ResourceSmart Schools program helps teach the children about ownership and the different things they can do day to day to make an impact. They learn that every little thing helps,” says program co-founder Louise Hudson.

“In the last 10-12 months we've seen the program gain momentum across the school, with children from all year levels stepping forward to be involved and coming up with great ideas they can implement at school and at home.”

“We're only just getting started on the sustainability journey with the WWW, and it really is a collaborative team effort with the parents, teachers and kids, with the kids driving it which is great,” comments program co-founder Christabel Borlin.

“The ResourceSmart School program has provided our school with a foundation to improve sustainable practices on campus and the children are excited to keep the momentum up with a number of their ideas being implemented this year. They’re so passionate and want to make change.”

School Captain and member of the WWW Leadership Team, Isidora, says “it’s important to help reduce waste that we would otherwise send to landfill, and I feel so proud of my school and proud to be able to work with other students – it makes me feel like I have accomplished something, working together with everyone else.” The children, with support from the teaching staff and parents, have implemented a range of programs to help increase the school’s sustainability, including waste stations across the school that have recycling, general waste and soft plastics bins with information about what goes into each bin, along with lunchtime waste collections. The school also has a vegetable garden and the children contribute to planting and maintenance of the garden beds and the grounds to increase greenery at the school, so they can learn about biodiversity and the natural environment around them. The WWW meet weekly to come up with ideas and programs that can be implemented both at school and home, and WWW Tips featured in the weekly school newsletter are shared with all families, to help encourage sustainable practices at home – beyond the school gates. Students recently learnt that single-use plastic toothbrushes don’t breakdown and remain in landfill forever, and were encouraged to swap their plastic toothbrush with a bamboo toothbrush – which a local store supported and provided a discount for – and further information was shared to teach the student’s about the simple change and the long-lasting impacts it would have on the environment.

“We’re so proud of what we have done so far, but there’s still more work to do. We’ve got to start small and get bigger and bigger,” comments School Captain Sam and Vice-Captain Ivana, and that’s exactly what they plan to do – they plan to perfect all of their small steps today to help have a bigger impact. They also aspire to one day reach a five-star sustainability rating with the ResourceSmart Schools Program, something only very few Victorian schools have reached, and want to help other schools begin their ResourceSmart journey and endeavour to be a leader in the space – for other local schools, broadly in the inner west and across Victoria.

Assistant School Principal Taxia Katsourinis comments that “the momentum of the program has really grown and it’s helped increase the student voice – a genuine student voice, with students given the space to shape their own education and to actively participate in school.” The change is also echoing across the school, with the program influencing sustainable practices like the transition to online forms, a reduction in printing and a suggestion for no single use plastic bags on excursions.

When talking about the benefits of the program for the



children, Mental Health Teacher Tom Penberthy says “we know the classroom environment isn’t as engaging for everyone, we know that some students can benefit from activities and programs outside of the regular classroom environment and it’s great to be able to provide this type of nature-based learning for students – something we know is incredibly beneficial for them – especially coming out of lockdown, to help them find their learning groove again.”

“We can do a million and one things to improve sustainability in the school, but we need to focus on doing one thing right and embed it – starting with correctly sorting waste.”

‘Respect’ and ‘responsibility’ are WPS core school values embedded into the curriculum, and “the children need to learn to have respect for their environment to understand their responsibility to help look after it and preserve it,” notes Tom.

The passion and enthusiasm really is infectious and you can feel the excitement radiating from the students when they talk about the program. They are the unsung local heroes here in the inner west, carving the way for serious sustainability change one idea at a time.

Everyone at WPS is a Wembley Waste Warrior – a badge they wear with pride – and everyone can get involved to help make change.

Council is working with the community to address the climate emergency, which it acknowledged in 2019, with the endorsement of the Climate Emergency Strategy in 2020, and more recently in July 2022, the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which outlines 96 high level goals it intends to achieve over the next four years.

For more information about Wembley Waste Warriors, contact Wembley Primary School via email at wembley.ps@education.vic.gov.au



WE'RE ON THE MOVE – CENTRAL WEST WILL BE OUR TEMPORARY NEW HOME

We've begun packing up our offices at the Footscray Town Hall to facilitate the delivery of the multi-million dollar Civic and Community Precinct.

The development will see the 80 year old heritage Town Hall building refurbished and returned to residents for meetings and gatherings and the creation of a new public park, providing an exciting new space for the community and Council to meet and come together.

The existing civic offices and community services buildings will be demolished in favour of a modern, efficient and sustainable six-star Green Star administration building. Along with an upgrade to meet building code and universal access requirements, the project will also allow for the original Napier Street portico entry to once again be used.

Council is expected to award the construction contract at its September meeting, which will also be the last meeting hosted at the Town Hall until the redevelopment is completed. The Council Chamber is being relocated to the Braybrook Community Hub with the first meetings to be hosted there in October.



The Braybrook Hub is the only Council venue able to accommodate all the broadcasting, technological and space requirements to enable the hosting of official meetings – including the monthly Council Meeting, City Development Delegated Committee, Audit and Risk Committee, briefings and special meetings – while the Town Hall is out of action.

We've been contacting all existing hub users to identify alternative accommodation, either in another room there, or another Council-owned venue, where possible during this period.

A new temporary customer service centre will also be established at the Footscray Library for the duration of redevelopment works, where residents will be able to come in for face to face advice and support and make payments.

Customer Service will be among the last members of our team to relocate which will be around the same time council meetings move to the Braybrook Hub. Until then, residents can continue to

come into the Town Hall as usual. During the redevelopment works all other Council staff currently based at the Town Hall will relocate to temporary accommodation on the ground floor of the Central West Shopping Centre at 67 Ashley Street, Braybrook, where we will be encouraging meetings by appointment only.

We'll provide more details around these changes and how you can continue to contact us, closer to the time.

It is expected Town Hall will be fenced off sometime in October to commence the demolition of the two existing office buildings, begin construction of the new administration building and start of the conservation works at the 80 year old Town Hall building.

Council has received a permit from Heritage Victoria for this work which will involve renovations to the interior and exterior of the heritage building, in keeping with the outcomes sought by the community.

Externally, conservation works will support the return of the south façade

with specialist works to remove the abutting building and undertake repairs where needed. We will also be reinstating the windows to the Council Chamber, and restoring and repairing the large feature window above the internal staircase.

The internal facelift will involve painting, flooring, and reconfiguring of some spaces within the existing footprint to facilitate the shift from civic function to community meeting spaces. A conservation specialist has analysed the paint work with a view to replicating the original interior paint colour and finish, if possible.

The final designs, endorsed by Council in June, incorporate many of the elements the community has asked for, including a warm and inviting space with a second entrance off Napier Street into the Town Hall and the use of environmentally friendly materials and sustainable design elements to support Green Star accreditation. They also strike a balance between maintaining historical aspects and creating modern assets for future users.

The forum space, which is the physical link between the old and the new, will include a new entry off Hyde Street connecting to the community meeting spaces and new civic park. The latter considers shade and places to sit, with pedestrian and disabled access, a focus on soft surfaces where practicable, and reflection of the cultural and indigenous history of the area.

Once the redevelopment works are complete, sometime towards the end of 2024, staff will move into the new civic administration offices, the Council Chamber will be returned to the refurbished Footscray Town Hall and the Main Hall at Braybrook Community Hub will again be available for community use, with existing users given first priority.

At this point, the heritage Town Hall building will begin a new chapter, providing opportunities for our community to utilise this much treasured space and ensure its longevity for decades more to come.

We'll keep you updated on progress on our website at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/TownHall



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

McIVOR RESERVE MASTER PLAN –

We're listening

We're working our way through the hundreds of comments you provided on improvements you would like to see at McIvor Reserve – and your views on potentially siting an indoor sports facility there.

We received more than 1,100 individual responses to our survey and an additional 109 questions specific to the opportunity for the indoor sports facility, via Your City Your Voice.

We heard the primary reasons you visit the Reserve are exercise, both personal and for your pets, to play or watch organised sport, and just relax and chill out, and many of you spend time there weekly, if not daily.

You also told us you want more trees, shade, better lighting, publically accessible toilets, overall facility upgrades and improvements to the existing dog park.

We also heard that there is a real need for indoor sports facilities within Maribyrnong with supporters seeking a state of the art facility to meet our growing community's needs. Equally you reinforced how important public open space

is to the community. You've given us a lot to think about – and we appreciate all those who took the time to share their thoughts. It's exactly why we asked the question – to understand how the community might feel about the idea and what issues or concerns they might have.

We acknowledge we have not been able to provide the level of detail sought. That is because no decisions have been made. There is no pre-determined outcome.

This conversation has provided us with an understanding of the issues and opportunities to enable us to refine our thinking.

But until a draft masterplan is prepared and resolved by Council to be shared for engagement, there is no certainty, what, if any further improvements or development will in fact occur on the site.

Visit Your City Your Voice to follow the project, read the Q&As and a summary of our most recent engagement yourcityyourvoice.com.au/mcivor

A NEW PROTECTED BIKE LANE FOR MELON STREET, BRAYBROOK

We're looking to install a new bike lane along Melon Street in Braybrook to support safe access for the local community and visitors to Cranwell Reserve and the Maribyrnong River to the north and Central West and Tottenham Station to the south.

The new separated bi-directional (two-way) bike lane would run the length of Melon Street between South Road and Ballarat Road, linking into the existing shared user path on South Road and future bicycle lanes along Lacy Street. It would be installed along the western side of the street except for between Cremorne Street and Ballarat Road where it would be on the eastern side. A concrete kerb will separate cyclists from motorists.

We proposed two options and are now reviewing feedback received to understand the community preference for Melon Street to remain open to two-way traffic or become one-way in parts, before a final proposal is considered by Council later in the year.

For more information on the project and to stay up to date, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/melonstreet



STREETSCAPE AND AMENITY UPGRADES ALONG BARKLY STREET, WEST FOOTSCRAY

Barkly Village is a thriving shopping, dining and entertainment hub in West Footscray stretching nearly one kilometre and linking neighbouring precincts in Footscray and Braybrook.

We're proposing a range of improvements to Barkly Street to make the area safer, greener and more attractive for local residents, traders and visitors.

We've heard from more than 250 members of the community on the proposal which will inform the next design phase.

We'll be continuing the conversation in the coming months. To stay up to date with the project, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/barklystreet

NEW STRATEGY TO SUPPORT BIKE SPORTS IN MARIBYRNONG

Bike sports, like mountain biking, cyclo-cross and BMX, road cycling and gravel riding are growing in popularity in our municipality.

The trail counter at Quarry Park, for example, where there is a downhill course and BMX facilities, recorded a 100% increase in late 2021 over the same period the year before.

To support the continued interest in bike sports activities, Council is looking to develop a Bike Sports Strategy to guide our investment in bike sports and bike sports facilities within our municipality for the next 10 years.

We've started a conversation with our community to better understand how you view bike sports, what helps or hinders your ability to participate, and the types of facilities and amenities you might like to see Council support.

Feedback is open until 31 August, to share your thoughts visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bikesports

VISIONING SEDDON

Seddon is a unique village on the doorstep of Footscray, only 6km from the Melbourne CBD. It's a highly walkable suburb with tree-lined streets, a tight knit community and excellent food offerings.

Big changes are occurring on the boundary of this dense little suburb with neighbouring Footscray, which is attracting significant State Government investment.

Given this, we want to know how you want Seddon to evolve – your vision for Seddon.

Your feedback will help inform the review of the Seddon Urban Design Framework 2010 to identify public realm upgrades, infrastructure needs, and opportunities to direct investment and advocate for a prosperous and liveable village.

Visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/seddon to let us know your thoughts.

While you're there – let us know your preferred location for new public toilets. There are six possible locations for you to choose from.

WEST SET RETURNS FOR 2022

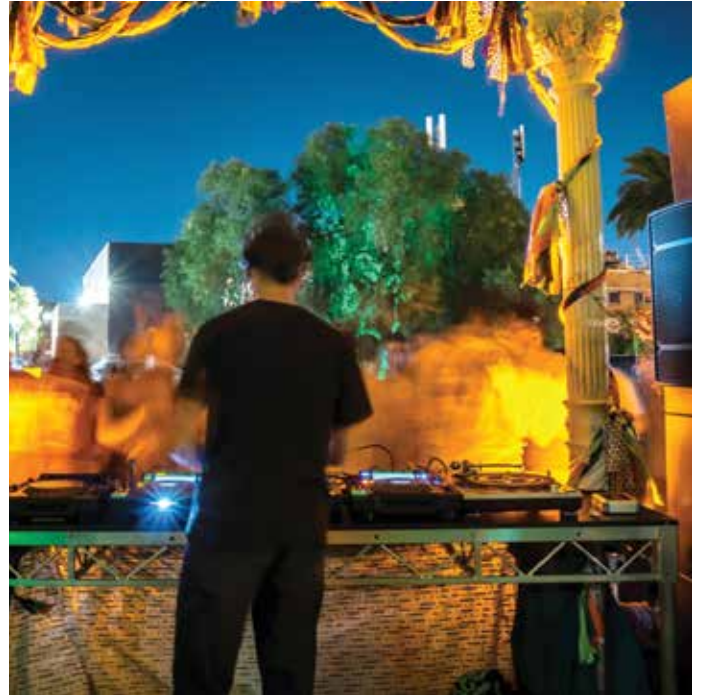
West Set – a rolling program of live music staged in the heart of Footscray – returns this October for the first time since 2019, thanks to the support of the State Government’s ‘On the Road Again’ initiative.

With a mix of free and ticketed performances, audiences can enjoy a cross genre mix of live music performances, including Ethio and Latin Jazz at a new pop-up venue at the Footscray Library forecourt, world-class DJs, pop acts ‘On The Green’ at Railway Reserve next to Footscray Train Station, and big band and funk sounds programmed across local emerging venues dedicated to live music.

There will also be all ages sessions to late night licensed gigs, and delicious food offerings from our local multicultural traders.

West Set takes place from Friday 14 October to Sunday 30 October, so come along to support our local artists and venues while welcoming back the live music scene in Melbourne’s west.

For more information please visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Events



CHILDREN’S WEEK 2022

Children’s Week, which runs from 22-30 October, is an annual celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children across Australia.

This year’s theme, ‘All Children have the right to a standard of living that supports their wellbeing and healthy development’, has been drawn from Article 27 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This year Council is hosting a range of fun and engaging

events across the municipality to celebrate, including outdoor Junior Ranger sessions, activities at Braybrook Hub, and Loose Parts Play sessions, which are interactive sensory play activities where children and adults will have the freedom to use their imaginations and create artworks and objects using a range of ‘loose parts’.

For more information and to register, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/childrensweek

AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN TAKES SHAPE

We know our City has a high rate of health problems associated with air pollution – a legacy from our industrial past combined with the continued operation of manufacturing and processing plants, and vehicle pollution from trucks, trains and cars.

This has also resulted in poor health outcomes not just for our community but also our environment.

Because Council wants to do what it can to protect our residents, it has developed an Air Quality Improvement Plan, informed by feedback from the community, that outlines actions it can take to improve air quality in Maribyrnong. This includes continued advocacy to Government around truck bans and curfews, improved air quality monitoring, more tree planting and transitioning our vehicle fleet to electric vehicles.

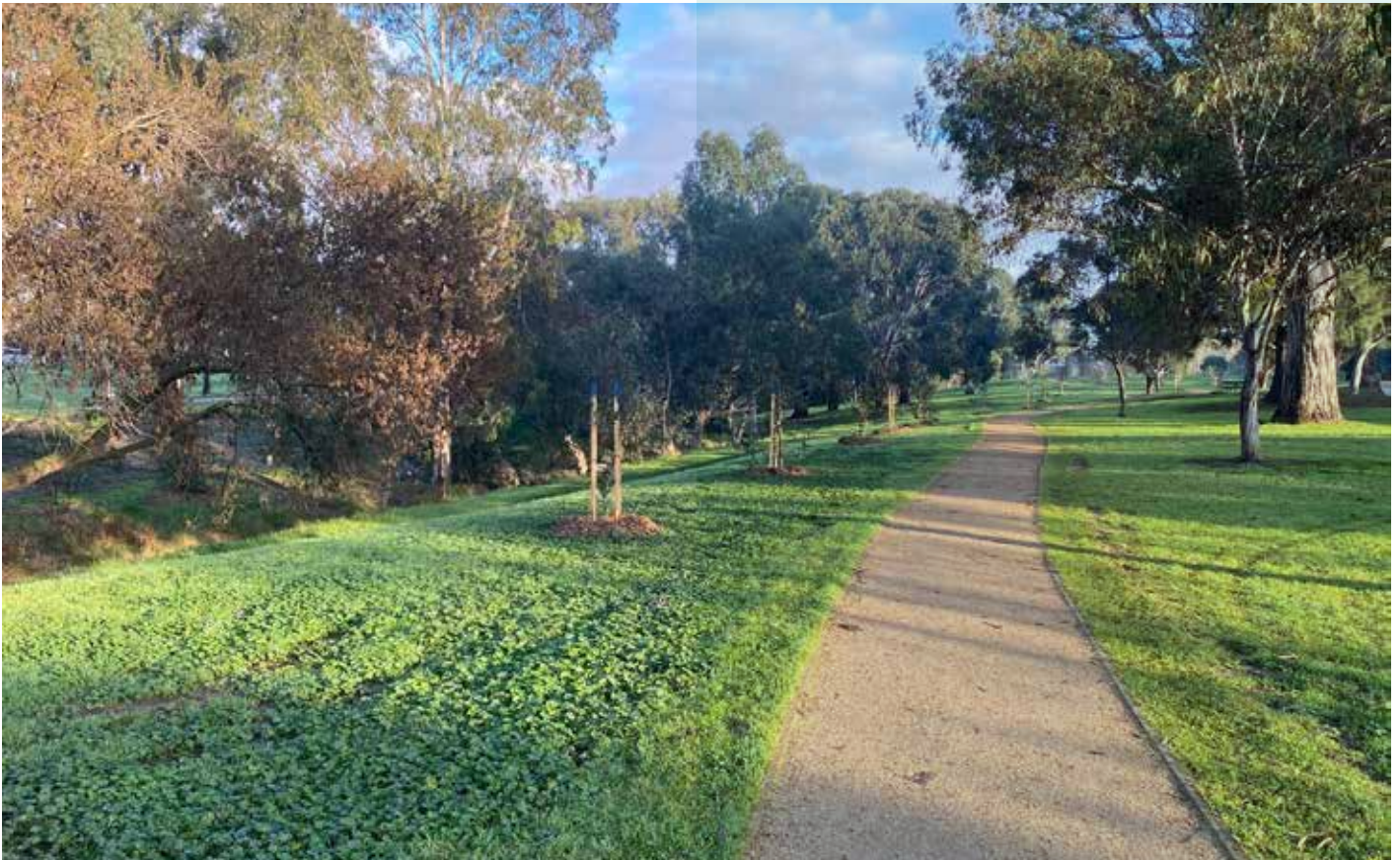
While this may seem like a 'small step', it is an important one that recognises we all have a role to play when it comes to improving air quality. On an individual level, small choices such as walking and cycling where you can, planting more trees, shopping closer to home and increasing the energy efficiency in your home all make a difference. To learn more about air quality in the City of Maribyrnong, please visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/airquality

GREENING MARIBYRNONG

Over the last three years, we've been actively working to improve the tree canopy in the City. We've planted more than 9,000 trees in streets, parks and public spaces across the municipality, and, with the planting season now in full swing another 3,000 trees will be planted in the coming months.

This is on top of the 570 new trees already planted as part of the State Government's More Trees for a Cooler Greener West initiative, the majority of these are natives with some exotic species selected to thrive in our urban environment. A further 7,500 trees and shrubs will also be planted under this program along wildlife corridors of the Maribyrnong River to provide habitat for native birds and animals.

The addition of these new trees will help make our streets, parks and open spaces greener and increase vital canopy cover, reduce urban temperatures and improve biodiversity by providing more homes and food for wildlife. Providing more accessible green spaces also improves our community's mental and physical health by increasing connections with nature.



UPCOMING THINGS TO CHECK OUT

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Melbourne Fringe Festival is back for 2022 and will run from 6-23 October. The annual independent arts festival, which takes place across Melbourne, features a range of art forms, including theatre, comedy, music, performance art, film, cabaret and digital art.

Here in Maribyrnong this year, the Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray will once again be the host for a diverse and exciting program of contemporary performances for the community to enjoy. Events include:

- > *Relate*, an exploration of difficult relationships through the medium of dance, circus arts, and spoken word.
- > Local puppetry artist Opal Crafter who will present HELLMOUTH22, a giant puppet show exploring climate crises and destruction myths, and the sequel to *Anthropocene*, which was presented in the Bluestone Church Arts Space in 2019.
- > A double bill of physical theatre including, *Waiting Game*, a contemporary dance against disillusionment, and *I Would Die for You*, a dark comedy exploring the power of vampires.

For more information about the events and to book, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture



Photo provided by Opal Crafter.



NEW MURAL AT ANGLISS RESERVE

Have you checked out the new mural down at Angliss Reserve in Yarraville? Game On has been painted on the hit-up wall by local artists Mike Makatron and Camilo Delgado.

Supported by Council's StreetWORKS program – which supports innovative, visual street art to enliven public spaces – this collaborative project adds a pop of colour in the Reserve and integrated focus points to provide targets for ball practice.

2022 MARIBYRNONG FOUND WORKS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Recipients of the 2022 Maribyrnong Found Works Program have been announced! Found Works is a pilot program that encourages artists from the west to revisit partially lost or delayed works due to disruption over the past two years, including the impact of COVID-19, via a personalised creative development plan and mentorship with an arts industry leader.

The five selected artists, Daniele Poidomani, Irihepeti Waretini, Bella Waru, Karla-Livingston-Pardy, CB Mako and Opal Crafter, will be developing a broad range of performing arts projects, including interactive workshops and performances for children, a solo dance work, live theatre responding to the digital world, creative writing on Fangirling and a cross-cultural First Nations' collaboration on connection to ancestors.

For more information, visit

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT A COMMUNITY CENTRE OR LIBRARY NEAR YOU

COMMUNITY CENTRES

R U OK? Day

Come along to the Braybrook Community Hub on Thursday 8 September, 10am-2pm for a cuppa and cupcake to mark R U OK? Day – a reminder that having meaningful conversations with mates and loved ones can save lives. Remember to say hello to those around you as it could be what makes a dark day a little brighter.

Braybrook Community Hub

Braybrook Community Hub is also hosting a fragrant morning of spice blending on Tuesday 13 September from 10am-12pm, where participants will create two beautiful spice blends using herbs such as cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, black pepper, ginger and turmeric; and make a lentil soup for lunch using a spice blend created on the day. Admission is \$10 and bookings essential at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Maribyrnong Community Centre

Looking to learn more about growing and caring for Orchids? Head down to Maribyrnong Community Centre on 10 and 11 September and 12 and 13 November to check out the Maribyrnong Orchid Society's spring shows, where you can enjoy a colourful array of plants, learn tips and tricks, and pick up all of your gardening supplies. Admission is \$5.

Maidstone Community Centre

Maidstone Community Centre is hosting a bread baking class from 10am-12.30pm on Thursday 1 September. Come along to learn the basics of baking bread and create some classic French baguettes and rolls, New York style soft yet chewy bagels, and twisted pretzels. Admission is \$15. Bookings essential, call the Centre on **9688 0543**.



LIBRARIES

Home library service

Maribyrnong libraries offer a free home library service for residents unable to visit the library to borrow a wide range of materials, such as books (including Large Print), magazines, resources in other languages, DVDs, Music CDs, Talking Books and eResources.

Our librarians and network of volunteers provide this friendly, personalised library service for residents who are housebound, determining what you like to read, watch or listen to, and selecting items according to your preferences which will then be delivered to your home on a regular basis. To confirm eligibility, or find out more information, contact the library on **9688 0290** and ask about the Home Library Service or visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library

Book Club

Keen to share favourite authors or books you are enjoying with others? Why not join a local Book Group at a library near you, and come together with likeminded locals for a friendly chat about what you are reading. There are regular in person and online Book Groups at Yarraville, West Footscray and Maribyrnong libraries for kids and adults, as well as Book Clubs delivered in Spanish and Chinese, and a Queer Book Group facilitated by a member of the LGBTQIA+ community where you can read and discuss books by gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual and queer voices.

Visit the website to find a Book Club near you and book today maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library

COMMUNITY ASSET UPGRADES



FOOTSCRAY PARK INITIATIVES FOR 2022/23

Council is this year funding \$4.3 million for upgrades to Footscray Park, a much-loved and utilised open space in our municipality.

Lining the banks of the Maribyrnong River, it is a favoured destination for recreation and enjoyment for both residents and visitors.

To ensure this space continues to provide for the community now and for generations to come, we'll be reconstructing and reinstating the Western Lawn to ensure it continues to support a range of community activities, including casual use, dog walking, festivals and events, and community sport.

The construction of the nearby Henry Turner South Reserve Pavilion, which commenced earlier this year, is also scheduled for completion in early 2023 and will provide upgraded amenities and facilities for the community and local sporting codes, such as Rugby Union, Grid Iron and Cricket.

New connecting paths will also be installed to support safe access to the area and the Maribyrnong River and new pontoon.

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

MEET THE MARIBYRNONG RIVERKEEPER

If you frequent the Maribyrnong River Trail – or anywhere along the Maribyrnong River for that matter – you might run into ecologist Dr. Nicole Kowalczyk, the recently appointed Maribyrnong Officer – an independent voice for the Maribyrnong River or ‘riverkeeper’ with the Yarra Riverkeeper Association.

Within the role Nicole spends her time looking after and advocating for the Maribyrnong River (Mirrangbamurn) – one of the biggest tributaries of the Yarra River. She’s keen to see further improvements along the River enhance the local ecosystems, with better quality water readings, more greenery and native trees, and better stormwater management but her main focus is on the introduction of a Maribyrnong River Protection Act that would provide a comprehensive framework to improve practices such as pollution management and greater environmental flows along the River, and bring First Nations Peoples into decision making.

Nicole has extensive community activation and conservation experience, with her recent work in the litter space while at the Yarra Riverkeeper Association receiving the Premier’s Sustainability Award (2020) for ‘Environmental Protection’ as well as the Premier’s Recognition Award. Keep an eye out for Nicole when you’re traversing the banks of the mighty Maribyrnong! For more information, visit yarrariver.org.au

NEW WATER SLIDE AND SPLASH PARK UNDERWAY AT MAC

Works will soon commence on the new Splash Park at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre. Jointly funded by the State Government and Council, the \$10.2 million redevelopment will deliver two new water slides, catering for all ages and abilities, along with a 400m² interactive aquatic leisure park. Additional change rooms will also be incorporated with wet, dry and accessible options.

Works are scheduled to take 12 months to complete, with the new facilities open to the community during the second half of 2023.

There will be minor disruptions for users during the works, including some noise from the northern side of the Centre where the slides are being installed, and later when the new facilities are connected to the existing building.

Keep an eye on the MAC website for updates at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/MAC



10 YEAR COMMUNITY ASSET PLAN ENDORSED

The long-term Asset Plan, which guides the efficient and effective management of public assets like buildings, roads, and drainage systems, through to footpaths, bike paths and parks and ovals, was endorsed by Council in June.

It is focused on ensuring the approximately 54,000 infrastructure assets in the municipality are managed in a way that ensures they are fit for purpose for the community – now and for future generations – while also providing best value outcomes throughout their lifecycle in terms of cost, taking into account things like population growth, demographic changes, ageing infrastructure and technology advances.

The Plan focuses on four asset classes: Open Space, which includes parks and ovals; Drainage, which includes underground drainage pipes; Transport, which includes public roads and footpaths; and Buildings, which includes building assets, ranging from sporting and community facilities through to public toilets.

For more information, visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/AssetPlan

STATE GOVERNMENT GRANT TO REJUVENATE FOOTSCRAY’S LITTLE AFRICA PRECINCT

Thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the State Government’s Creating Safer Places program, Council (in partnership with Victoria Police, Public Realm Lab, Africause and local traders), will revitalise the Little Africa precinct.

This will include the installation of decorative feature lighting to help illuminate the street, as well as piloting the creative activation of long term empty shop fronts on Nicholson Street. This will involve a trial of once a month night-time closures of the street, in consultation with local traders, to encourage more visitors to enjoy an open-air dining and shopping experience after hours.



TRU COFFEE

At the age of eight, David Facciolo had his first taste of the hospitality industry, helping in his parents' café. After more than 20 years working for some of Melbourne's most notable food and beverage venues, he opened his own café by the Maribyrnong River – TRU Coffee.

TRU Coffee is inspired by David's passion for an exceptional coffee experience where people are made to feel welcome and appreciated. The TRU stands for "Truly Reliable Understanding" of coffee.

He says, "As the coffee capital of the world, Melbourne boasts more cafes and restaurants serving specialty espresso and batch brews than just about anywhere else. And while the knowledge, flavours and interest continues to grow in coffee itself, I feel that customer service has not grown quite as strongly."

So he began the search for what should be behind a 'true' coffee experience. "It's more than the style of coffee, number of sugars or favourite milk. TRU Coffee is our way of saying, 'we know what you're afterafter'," he said.

Seasonal menus featuring hearty soups, gourmet pies, rolls, sweets, fresh juices and loaded croissants complement the daily single origin catch brews.

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

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