



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Summer 2023

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

CHANDRA MAHATO: GROWING OUR CULTURAL CONNECTION

MARIBYRNONG'S
HOTTEST EVENTS
THIS SUMMER

OUR GUIDE
TO THE CITY'S
BEST PARKS



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the summer edition of Maribyrnong Messenger.

It is a great honour to be elected as your Mayor for my second term in the role after more than a decade of service as an elected Councillor for Saltwater and Stony Creek wards. Having emigrated from Vietnam to Australia as a refugee in 1978, I am incredibly proud to be Mayor of such a culturally diverse community where neighbours support and help each other thrive in our wonderful City. I also particularly enjoy attending our monthly Citizenship Ceremonies, and celebrating with our new residents.

I encourage you to read the stories of Chandra and Rima who are among our newest citizens, adding to the rich diverse tapestry of our municipality, on page four.

Culture gives us something to hold onto and feel proud of who we are, and it was heartening to see hundreds of our residents take the time to engage with us – more than 650 in person – to help develop the first draft of our first Intercultural Strategy, which will come into the chamber for adoption next month.

As a multicultural community representative and advisor for health organisations, including Western Health, I also remain heavily invested in the health and wellbeing of our residents – and urge residents to take the opportunity to share your vision for the current Footscray Hospital site with State Government during engagement to determine the future of the land and buildings, once the new facility opens in 2025. Read more on page three.

Council will be hosting a string of family-friendly public events throughout the summer period, including the Braybrook Christmas Picnic, Yarraville Carols in the Gardens, the Footscray Night Markets, and our annual New Year's Eve Fireworks on the Eastern Lawn at Footscray Park. See a more detailed calendar on page six.

Please also take care of each other over summer and note preparedness planning Council and other agencies undertake, particularly heeding health advice issued for extreme heat events. You can find more information about this on page nine.

I want to take this opportunity to also wish you and your family a safe and happy festive season.

Councillor Cuc Lam
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 3 Examining a new future for the Footscray Hospital Site
- 4 New citizens reinforce diverse community tapestry
- 6 Maribyrnong's sizzling Summer: The hottest events in town
- 8 Our guide to the City's best spots this summer
- 9 Environmental update
- 10 Community engagement
- 12 New gateway sculpture arrives in Footscray
- 13 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence
- 14 Infrastructure update
- 16 Portuguese comfort food in the heart of Footscray

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

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

DECEMBER

Tuesday 12, 6.30pm: Council

Wednesday 13, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 20, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 27, 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.



EXAMINING A NEW FUTURE FOR THE FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL SITE

Footscray Hospital, Gordon Street, Footscray, taken between 1950 and 1954. *Courtesy of State Library Victoria.*

It was through public campaigning, that started back in the 1880s, that the current Footscray Hospital was eventually established – more than 34 years after residents first began the push for a hospital on our side of the river.

The “Hospital Movement”, a group of residents, trade unionists, business owners and councillors, raised the £2,000 needed from community donations to buy the land on Eleanor and Gordon streets (a five and a half acre plot in the highest part of Footscray), organised a building fund, and built and paid for the first clinic on site.

It wasn't until 1947 that construction on the actual hospital began. Costing £205,000, of which the community contributed almost half, the 205 bed facility with medical, surgery, midwifery, and children's wards and premature nursery opened in 1953, with more than 35,000 outpatients and 3,700 in-patients treated in the first 12 months.

Over time, it grew in both status and size, continuing to serve the community that was instrumental in getting it off the ground.

Council owns a small area of land within the precinct, previously the Southampton Street depot, which is currently used for car parking and includes the recently upgraded Berbert Park.

With construction of a new hospital on the corner of Geelong and Ballarat roads now well underway, we know interest in what will become of the land and buildings housing the ageing Footscray Hospital is also growing.

The Reimagining old Footscray Hospital community group – a modern day Hospital Movement – has started developing their own plan to capture insights and values from local residents.

Recognising the wider community's long-standing and ongoing interest and investment, Council is encouraging residents

to also share their vision directly with the site owners, State Government, as part of a formal engagement process launched earlier this month.

To ensure our community voice is reflected, and clearly recognisable in any future decision-making, complete the survey on the Engage VIC website where you will also find information on a final information session in February. The survey, will remain open over the holiday period, closing February 2024.

The State Government is undertaking preliminary investigations and technical assessments to inform their decision-making. These assessments are due early in the second quarter of 2024, at which point Council will become more formally involved in the project to ensure the views of the community are heard and considered throughout site planning.

There are a number of potential constraints that will impact on what will be possible. This includes the heritage listing of the former Psychiatric Centre – a Brutalist architectural landmark – which would likely need to be retained and re-purposed in any development, and soil conditions associated with the former quarry on which the current hospital was built.

The new \$1.5 billion hospital is due to open in 2025. One of the State Government's largest ever health infrastructure investments, it will deliver more than 500 beds and provide acute and specialist facilities, clinical support spaces, teaching, training and research spaces, and car parking – under the auspices of Western Health.

For more information and to share your thoughts, visit engage.vic.gov.au/footscray

NEW CITIZENS STRENGTHEN DIVERSE COMMUNITY TAPESTRY

MARIBYRNONG WELCOMED 970 NEW RESIDENTS AT 24 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. EVERY ONE OF THESE NEW CITIZENS COMES WITH THEIR OWN STORY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, CELEBRATING AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY'S RICH DIVERSE FABRIC.



Hope, courage and big dreams drove Chandra Mahato to leave his war-torn homeland and travel to Australia as an International Student in 2009 seeking peace and opportunities.

Chandra was born in Nepal where a protracted armed conflict between the government and Communist Party raged from 1996 to 2006. This resulted in the deaths of over 17,000 people – many of them civilians – and the displacement of hundreds of thousands.

"I grew up during the civil war, which did dreadful things to our beautiful country," Chandra explains.

Without access to quality education – one of the things that suffered – he felt compelled to leave. "My ambitions were very high, but I did not have the opportunity to do anything

in my own country, so my cousin here in Melbourne encouraged me to come."

Chandra's dream was to migrate, study medicine and become a surgeon, but things didn't quite go according to plan. Instead, he leveraged his passion for cooking to enrol in a hospitality course.

While working in the kitchen of Southbank restaurant Platform 28, Chandra gained his Certificate IV in Commercial Cookery in 2015. He then became a chef at Red Spice Road, where his employers sponsored his application for permanent residency, granted in 2020.

Life in Footscray, especially in those first few years, often felt a long way from the people Chandra left behind – his beloved girlfriend Pratima among them.

After sharing a long distance relationship over five years, the couple wed in their native Nepal in 2014, and soon after Pratima joined Chandra on the other side of the world in Footscray. "Although we have roots elsewhere, this is now our home," he proudly states.

Chandra and Pratima are among a small group of Nepalese who have settled here, which has helped them maintain the link to their culture and homeland. But this couple has also embraced the opportunity to form friendships with many people from all faiths and backgrounds for whom the City of Maribyrnong is also home.

"Sharing values and our cultures is a vital part of building social and cultural connections as well as for personal and

community growth," Chandra believes. "When we show kindness and work to better understand each other, we can live in peace."

And living in peace is something that is particularly important to Chandra, when you recall escaping the conflict in Nepal was what drew him to Australia and to Maribyrnong.

Chandra and Pratima are now Australian Citizens – Pratima received her certificate in May this year and Chandra in September – and both are studying Biomedical Science at Victoria University. For Chandra, this reopens the door to the career in medicine that first brought him to our shores 14 years ago.

RIMA'S LIFE-CHANGING DECISION

Already qualified as a physician in her homeland of Bangladesh, Rima Akther was used to making life-changing decisions for her patients. In 2017, she made a decision that would change her family's life, after relatives encouraged her to emigrate.



Leaving her engineer husband, Shahidul, behind in Dhaka to continue caring for his elderly parents, Rima packed her bags and brought their young son, Wasiq, then aged five, to Australia.

Originally planning to settle in Canberra, where her cousins were living, Rima opted instead to take advantage of free education opportunities for her son that were available to temporary visa holders in Melbourne. After taking up her husband's suggestion to visit first to see if she liked the place – the rest is history.

Settling in Maribyrnong, Rima secured a full-time job as a receptionist at a local medical centre. "I had a strong wish to get a job where I could use my medical knowledge," she said. Able to leverage her training while developing her administration skills, she is now the centre's practice manager. Both Rima, and her son Wasiq, who has been "man-of-the-house" for a while now, became Australian Citizens in September. Like many Aussie kids, he enjoys playing soccer and cricket with his friends at school.

Rima says they are both loving life in their new home and, like Chandra and Pratima, are grateful for the welcome they have received from the residents of one of Victoria's most inclusive communities.

"When I first came here to West Footscray I had lots of help, and we also received lots of support from my son's school and his friend's mother," Rima said. "Now I'm renting our own house. My son's school, shops, public transport and my work are all in walking distance. I am happy with our choice to live here."

Both Rima and Wasiq will be happier still when Shahidul joins his wife and son in West Footscray next month, after six years apart.

Maribyrnong has long been recognised as a multicultural city – one with multiple nationalities, languages, and beliefs. Interculturalism goes beyond people, culture, beliefs, and faiths – to the very way we connect, share and grow together. In line with our commitment to a City that promotes inclusivity and diversity, while recognising this shift in focus, Council expects to endorse its first ever Intercultural Strategy, informed by community feedback, this December.

MARIBYRNONG'S SIZZLING SUMMER: THE HOTTEST EVENTS IN TOWN

JOIN US FOR A JAM-PACKED SEASON OF EVENTS AND FESTIVALS – FROM OUR ANNUAL FOOTSCRAY NIGHT MARKET TO VIBRANT CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS, THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. GET READY TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN A WHIRLWIND OF EXPERIENCES THAT WILL MAKE THIS SUMMER IN MARIBYRNONG TRULY UNFORGETTABLE. FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND UPDATES ABOUT ALL THE EVENTS BELOW AND MORE, VISIT **FESTIVALCITY.COM.AU**



FOOTSCRAY NIGHT MARKET

Friday 1, 8 and 15 December
Railway Reserve, Footscray

For three lively Friday evenings, Railway Reserve near Footscray Station transforms into a bustling twilight market – featuring a variety of food,

stalls, entertainment, and music. Starting with Asian night on Friday 1 December, then Afro Latin night on Friday 8 December and with the grand finale of Christmas night on Friday 15 December. Roving performers, free face painting and a bouncy castle are also sure to delight the little ones too!

SUNDAY LOVE BLOCK PARTY

Sunday 3 December

Nicholson Street, Footscray

Get ready for Cuban and African party vibes in the heart of Footscray. Take part in a free Salsa class then practice your moves and dance the afternoon away with great DJs and traditional Cuban and African bands.



NYE FIREWORKS IN FOOTSCRAY PARK

Sunday 31 December

Eastern Lawn, Footscray Park

Footscray Park is the place to be this New Year's Eve. Catering for families and locals, the event includes stage and roving entertainment, carnival rides, food trucks and a spectacular fireworks display at 9.30pm. Don't miss this year's headline act, iconic Aussie rock band Regurgitator.

EAST MEETS WEST LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Sunday 14 January

**Byron Plaza and surrounds,
Footscray**

Celebrate the coming Year of the Dragon at Footscray Asian Business Association's annual Lunar New Year celebration. This free event will include a stage program featuring traditional and contemporary performances, lion

and dragon dancing, street decorations, food and market stalls and children's activities.

MIDSUMMA WESTSIDE

21 January – 11 February

Across Melbourne's west

Midsumma Westside, Australia's premier queer arts and cultural festival, returns this summer with another full program of events across Melbourne's west. With exhibitions, drag, live music, performances, circus, picnics and walks, the Midsumma Westside program will have festivities for everyone to enjoy.

QUANG MINH TET FESTIVAL

Friday 9 February

Quang Minh Temple, Braybrook

Experience the Quang Minh Temple as it comes to life with colour and culture for the Lunar New Year. The Tet festival celebrates the beauty and richness of Lunar and Buddhist traditions, and includes performances, firecrackers, fireworks, chanting and delicious vegetarian food.

BRAYBROOK BMX FEST

10-11 February

RampFest Indoor Skatepark, Braybrook

A celebration of all things BMX with riders from around the country, this event combines the Freestyle BMX National Championship, Old-School BMX Show & Shine, Downunderground Flatland BMX Championships and a Freestyle BMX Brand Showcase into one weekend.

YARRAVILLE FESTIVAL

Sunday 3 March

The Goods Yard and Yarraville Village Precinct

A true celebration of the Inner West, Yarraville Festival has been an annual event in the heart of Yarraville since 1981. Join us for quality food, entertainment, market stalls and activities for locals and visitors of all ages.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

AUGMENTED REALITY EXPERIENCES WITH MARIALITY

**Late November – January
West Footscray and Yarraville**

Download the MARIALity app and bring selected images around our City to life via Augmented Reality (AR). These unmissable experiences include a search and find adventure for six cheeky AR elves in Yarraville, and a magical gingerbread hunt in West Footscray.

SEDDON FUN AND GAMES FAIR

**Saturday 25 November
Greig St and Harris Reserve, Seddon**

Get the festive cheer started early with laughter and games in Seddon. Enjoy the spectacular return of the Seddon waiters race, have a go at the dunking machine and enter your pooch in the dog show. You'll even get your first glimpse at Santa on a fire truck.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP CHRISTMAS LAUNCH

**Friday 1 December (program runs until 23 December)
Metro West Shopping Centre, 47 Paisley Street, Footscray**

Santa's Workshop, in the heart of the Footscray CBD, will launch on the first day of December and keep the little ones busy throughout the month. The program includes lots of free activities with visits from Santa, entertainers, face painting, crafts and an Augmented Reality Mr and Mrs Claus. Bring the kids to one or more of the awesome activities we have planned. No bookings required, just roll up and be ready for fun.

BRAYBROOK PICNIC IN THE PARK

**Friday 8 December
Braybrook Community Hub**

A family-friendly picnic complete with a visit from Santa on a firetruck and children's entertainment. Free sausage sizzle and coffee cart, an interactive wildlife show from the crew at Wild Action Zoo, Western Bulldogs sports activities and Manny the Magician.

YARRAVILLE CAROLS IN THE GARDENS

**Saturday 16 December
Yarraville Gardens**

Be sure to pack a picnic and bring your family and friends to celebrate Christmas and the 30th Anniversary of this special event in the beautiful Yarraville Gardens. Hosted by the acclaimed Footscray-Yarraville City Band and the Rotary Clubs of Yarraville and West Footscray, this free event is one of Victoria's best Christmas Carols celebrations.





OUR GUIDE TO THE CITY'S BEST SPOTS THIS SUMMER

There's plenty to see and do around our City, and now is the perfect time to get out and about. Here is a list of some of our favourite spots to play, picnic and get moving.

BEST PARKS FOR PLAYGROUNDS

- > McNish Dinosaur Park, Yarraville
- > Pipemakers Park playground, Maribyrnong
- > Hansen Reserve playground, West Footscray

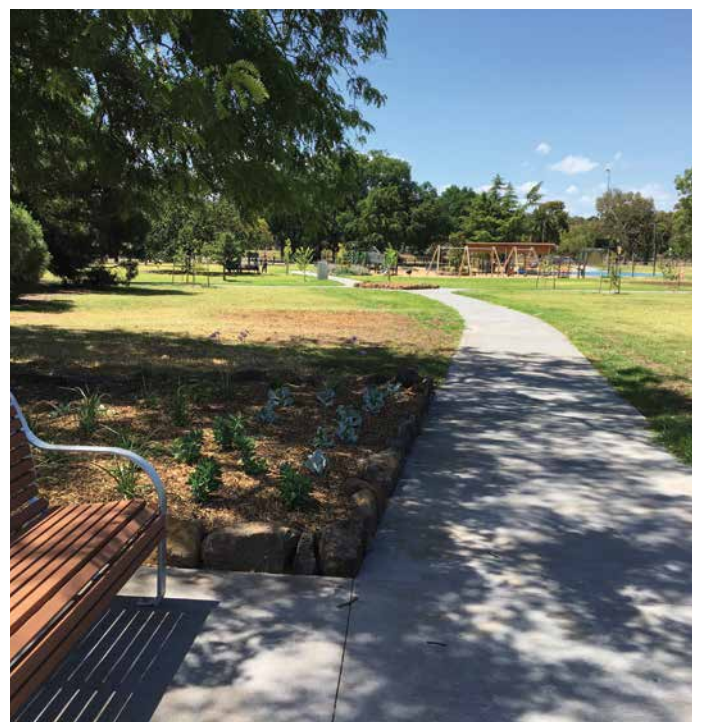
BEST PARKS FOR PICNICS

- > Coulsen Gardens, Maribyrnong
- > Clarke Street pop-up park, West Footscray
- > Footscray Wharf, Footscray
- > Newell's Paddock, Footscray

BEST PARKS FOR EXERCISE

- > Chifley Drive, Maribyrnong
- > Cranwell Reserve, Braybrook
- > Hopkins Bridge, Footscray

For more tips on walking trails, parks, reserves and open spaces, bike riding trails around the City and more visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/ActiveMaribyrnongGuide



ENVIRONMENT

MY SMART GARDEN WINS TOP AWARD

Council's pioneering planting program 'My Smart Garden' has been recognised as the winner of the Tidy Towns and Cities Award in the Education category.

In addition to this accolade, the program, which takes a holistic approach to 'smarter' home gardening, has also been named as a finalist in the Premier's Sustainability Awards.

My Smart Garden helps residents turn their outdoor spaces into productive, functional gardens, increasing community awareness and inspiring behavioural shifts to respond to the climate emergency and broader sustainability concerns.

Participants learn how to grow food, shelter their homes from the sun and wind, create homes for native plants and animals, use water efficiently, and reduce waste.

Whether it's a backyard, balcony, courtyard or a couple of pots, there's a workshop that will make a positive difference to the way residents garden. A collaborative council-run sustainable gardening initiative, My Smart Garden has been empowering community members since its establishment in 2012. Since its inception, over 6,500 participants from across 10 councils have taken part in the varied array of free offerings, encompassing both traditional in-person and contemporary online gardening workshops and events. Additionally, the program offers extensive online resources and hosts community events.

To learn more about upcoming My Smart Garden workshops and to get involved, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/news



STAY SAFE THIS SUMMER

With predictions of a long, hot summer, please stay safe this season.

Extreme heat can quickly result in heat exhaustion and other illnesses. Simple things like using damp towels, placing your feet in a bucket of ice water, closing curtains and blinds can help keep you cool if you don't have air conditioning. Heatstroke can be fatal in up to 80 per cent of cases, but it is preventable. Most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition. On hot days, remember to drink water, never leave children or pets in cars, and reduce outdoor physical activities.

It's also mosquito breeding season. You can prevent bites by eliminating stagnant water from your backyard. Tip out water from objects such as gutters, pot plants, buckets, discarded tyres or tins, and refill pet water bowls and bird baths regularly. Keep lawns and gardens trimmed back to reduce areas where mosquitos rest, use personal insect repellents, and try to avoid mosquito-prone areas especially around dusk and dawn.

When enjoying water-based activities stay alert and remember the importance of safe supervision practices.

During Water Safety Week – 4-10 December – Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) will be including additional water safety activities during lesson times appropriate to age and skill level.

You can play it safe around water by following these simple steps:

- > Keep watch – always keep watch around water.
- > Keep children under five within arm's reach at all times, children under ten should be actively supervised at all times.
- > Watch swimmers, not your phone.
- > Never swim alone – always take someone else with you when swimming in open water and keep an eye on each other.
- > Know your limits – stay within your depth.
- > Lifeguards are not babysitters – parental supervision is important.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

WEBSITE REFRESH ENHANCES ACCESSIBILITY AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

We've completed a refresh of our website and online community engagement platform, Your City Your Voice to deliver a modern and user-friendly experience that more effectively caters to the evolving needs of our residents and wider community.

Some key changes include enhanced accessibility through the UserWay accessibility tool, empowering users with varying abilities to customise the website's appearance to suit their specific needs. Users can now easily increase the font size, adjust font spacing, modify contrast settings, hide images, and even convert the site into a dyslexia-friendly format.

In our continuous commitment to enhancing user experience, we've also taken steps to make navigation more intuitive and streamlined including integrating our website with

Your City Your Voice to support participation in community engagement activities. Additionally, we've repositioned the My Neighbourhood feature, ensuring local information and upcoming events are prominently showcased on our homepage.

As part of the Your City Your Voice refresh, we have also created a more inviting homepage, simplified the language for project statuses, provided an overview of our engagement processes, and introduced a newsfeed directly on the homepage for quick updates on engagement projects of interest.

These enhancements combine to make Council's platforms accessible to everyone, enhancing our community's ability to access Council information and services online.

PROTECTING OUR BIODIVERSITY IN MARIBYRNONG

Biodiversity loss poses a threat not only to our environment but also public health, social wellness, culture and the economy. Given our proximity to the Maribyrnong River and Stony Creek, biodiversity and protecting our natural environment is important for our community.

Biodiversity can be measured by the numerous benefits it provides; food and shelter, clean air and water, cultural relationship to country, improved mental health, aesthetic quality, increased recreation options, opportunities for research, and safeguarding us against the symptoms of climate change.

This is why Council is dedicated to creating our first nature plan.

The Plan will recognise the environmental, social and economic benefits of biodiversity conservation to Council and its community to ensure projects are adequately resourced. We'll also be looking at actions to

help connect more people to nature, empowering our community to support biodiversity in their own homes and backyards, establishing a network of biodiversity corridors and a stepping stone to help wildlife move through the municipality and identify, protect and expand remnant and revegetated sites across the City to improve habitat values generally.

We are beginning a conversation with our community to ask "what elements of our natural environment do you most value?" (think plants, animals, fungi and other things) and "what things could we collectively do to enhance the natural environment in Maribyrnong?"

This information, along with further research, will help inform the development of a draft nature plan in 2024.

Share your comments by midnight Friday 15 December 2023 at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/nature-plan



ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING NEW

Earlier this year, Council started a review of our Nature Strip Landscape Policy and Guidelines. The Guidelines provide direction for residents wanting to plant out the nature strip in front of their residence, subject to receipt of a free permit, issued by Council.

The review sought to understand community views generally on nature strips and ideas on what they could look like in the future. We also wrote to current permit holders with additional questions on the permit process, specifically.

Almost 250 responses were received, with the majority of respondents believing nature strips contribute to the look and feel of a street through colour/visual pleasure, and there was support for greater use of nature strips.

Council is using this information to help inform an updated Nature Strip Landscape Policy and Guidelines document, which will be shared with the community for feedback in early 2024.

To stay up-to-date on the project, click the 'follow' button on **yourcityyourvoice.com.au/nature-strips**



WE'RE CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET

Balancing an Annual Budget is a complicated process – we must consider all the demands for services and how they will be paid for, while meeting legal and policy requirements, and ratepayer expectations.

To help us plan for next year's Budget, we are asking for input from our community to help shape how and where they would like their money to be spent, in 2024/25.

Engage with us online to let us know your priorities using last year's popular 'fund-it' tool, which allows residents to allocate points to their five priority service areas such as roads and rubbish, youth services and open space.

This initial feedback will help guide the development of the Proposed Budget which will be shared for further feedback in April 2024.

Share your priorities and any feedback by midnight Friday 1 December 2023 at **yourcityyourvoice.com.au/budget2024-25**

NEW GATEWAY SCULPTURE ARRIVES IN FOOTSCRAY

Photo credit: Anna Kiparis



FOOTSCRAY HAS WELCOMED A NEW ADDITION TO ITS LANDSCAPE, WITH THE INSTALLATION OF *MARIBYRNONG* – A SCULPTURE BY RENOWNED MELBOURNE ARTIST GEOFFREY BARTLETT – AT THE HOPKINS STREET BRIDGE.

The 10-metre vertical sculpture, constructed from durable painted steel, copper, and bronze, features abstract steel sail forms that appear to be in constant motion, symbolising Footscray's maritime history, drawing inspiration from sailing and shipbuilding.

The sculpture is a key feature of the Joseph Road Precinct. In addition to Lilardia Park (which is currently under construction) it will provide valuable community spaces, promoting social interactions and enhancing the overall

living experience for all residents, both new and existing, in the surrounding area.

Positioned as a focal point for residents, pedestrians, and commuters, it offers various viewing angles from spots such as Hopkins Street Bridge, Joseph Road, and the Maribyrnong River.

Maribyrnong mirrors the herringbone patterning on the Boat House development facade, a tribute to timber boat decking. Artist Geoffrey Bartlett, one of Australia's highly regarded artists, has left a lasting impression on Melbourne's art scene. From his

iconic sculpture at the entrance of the National Gallery of Victoria to his major retrospective at McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Bartlett's work is celebrated and collected both nationally and internationally.

The work was commissioned by the Boat House Public Art Commission initiative, a joint partnership between Council and Blue Earth Group to enrich Footscray's urban environment by integrating public art into new developments, aligning with Council's Public Art Strategy 2019-2029.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Maribyrnong is proud to once again support the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, featuring local activities as part of international efforts to raise awareness of gender-based violence.

16 Days of Activism starts on 25 November, coinciding with International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and wraps up on 10 December, which marks Human Rights Day.

With a range of thought-provoking events and activities that seek to engage the community with social justice and human rights issues, there are a number of ways you can get involved and show your support for the cause.

16 DAYS OF ALLYSHIP

Learn about practical things you can do to prevent gender-based violence. There are 16 actions which equate to one a day during the campaign.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM READING LIST

Maribyrnong Libraries has created a reading list for children, young people and adults.

16 DAYS 'IN CONVERSATION' EVENT

Maribyrnong Libraries will be hosting an 'In Conversation' event at their Footscray branch. The thought provoking event will provide an opportunity to engage community through discussions and topics that promote positive gender roles, healthy masculinity and respectful relationships.

BIG BANG: SPORTS AND REC PROGRAM

Young people aged 12 to 20 years are invited to this weekly sport program at RecWest Braybrook to play friendly games of soccer, volleyball, badminton and basketball. In December, there will be two special events around the theme of women in sport.

SAFE STEPS WALK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Attend the walk in the Melbourne CBD on Friday 24 November. For more information visit safesteps.org.au For a full list of events and activities taking place during 16 Days of Activism, visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/16days

CONTINUE TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

FREE RAPID ANTIGEN (RAT) TESTS AT MARIBYRNONG LIBRARIES

While the worst may have passed, living with COVID means we need to continue to keep our community safe. One way you can do this is by testing when you have symptoms or if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive to the virus.

You might also want to test before attending a crowded event, social gathering or visiting people at risk of serious illness, as COVID can spread before you have symptoms. You can help protect others by checking you are negative before leaving home.

And it doesn't cost anything to do it. You can pick up a free test from any of the five Maribyrnong Libraries branches. If you have COVID symptoms, please do not visit in person, instead ask someone to pick up a free test for you. For more information visit, maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



MARIBYRNONG'S FIRST CHANGING PLACES FACILITY

We are progressing work on Maribyrnong's first Changing Places facility as part of an upgrade of the public toilets at Yarraville Gardens.

With the support of funding from State Government, the new toilet block will include a height-adjustable adult-sized change table, a privacy screen, and a ceiling track hoist system, in addition to an accessible toilet (with child's pan and change table), two all-gender ambulant toilets, along with a shower, change stall and a small storage area for use by local sporting clubs.

The new toilet block will leverage environmentally sustainable design principles and include artwork by Art Life, an art program for people with disability who have an interest in art and creativity.

Construction is due to begin in 2024.

For further information please visit: yourcityyourvoice.com.au/yarraville-gardens



NORTH-SOUTH CYCLING CORRIDOR

We'll be exploring the best options for delivering a north-south cycling connection in Maribyrnong to meet the needs of all road users during 2024.

The proposed engagement reaffirms Council's commitment not only to improved cycling infrastructure in our municipality, but also to consult with its community before any infrastructure changes that may impact residential amenity are made.

Planning is underway to support initial conversations in the first quarter of the new year.

In the meantime, the like for like reconstruction of Summerhill Road and resurfacing of Rosamond Road will proceed in line with Council's commitment in the 2023/24

Budget prioritising the upgrade of the distributor roads in our municipality.

These works will include a pedestrian crossing at 68-78 Summerhill Road.

Council officers have also been asked to consider additional traffic calming measures, particularly along Rosamond Road, as part of the delivery of the resurfacing work, while also reviewing and updating the Integrated Transport Strategy, which will also be shared with the community for feedback.

Resurfacing works on Somerville Road were completed earlier this year and works on Mitchell Street are now also underway as part of the delivery of the Distributor Road Upgrade Project.

FUTURE-PROOFING THE YARRAVILLE GARDENS PRECINCT

Boasting a rich history, the Yarraville Gardens Precinct is the earliest public reserve in our municipality – pre-dating Footscray Park as a major recreational precinct. The urban oasis, which covers eight hectares, was originally designated for a botanical garden in 1859.

As we contemplate potential upgrades to the Precinct, we've started a conversation with residents on how we can enhance and improve the area so our community can continue to enjoy this space for many years to come.

We caught up with a number of dog walkers, sport and recreational users, visitors and neighbours on site to understand what is and is not working, what areas of the Gardens they love, and what areas they would like to see changed or improved. More than 100 people also visited our engagement portal, sharing additional contributions.

This feedback will help shape the development of a draft Master Plan for the Gardens, which will be shared with the community for further feedback in 2024.

A NEW PUBLIC TOILET IN SEDDON

Construction has begun on a new public toilet at Harris Reserve in Seddon, following community engagement last year, with completion scheduled for the end of 2023.

As part of the Visioning Seddon conversation, we asked the community to nominate a preferred location for the new facility, with Thomson Street – near the intersection with Gamon Street – a popular choice among residents.

The new public toilet will be clad with timber slats and include a child's toilet pan, after-hours auto-locking doors, sensor external lighting, change table facilities, sharps and sanitary disposal units, a hand dryer and soap dispenser. It will also be open from dawn to dusk.

The delivery of both the Yarraville and Seddon public toilets are both part of Council's commitment in the Maribyrnong Public Toilet Plan 2019-2029 to provide more accessible toilet facilities.

For further information visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/seddon-public-toilet

PORTUGUESE COMFORT FOOD IN THE HEART OF FOOTSCRAY



Santos Churrascaria opened its doors in August, introducing a distinctive blend of Portuguese warmth and flavour to Footscray's diverse food scene.

Eduardo Santos opened Santos Churrascaria with the aim of filling a gap in culinary offerings locally. With no Portuguese dine-in or take-away restaurants in Melbourne's west, Eduardo envisioned a space where authentic Portuguese gastronomy and traditional cuisine could take centre stage.

He draws inspiration from the essence of family gatherings, reminiscent of Sundays filled with the aromas of dishes crafted by generations – simple, fresh, and bursting

with delicious flavours.

As for the menu's most popular dishes, choosing a standout is a delightful challenge for Eduardo. He recommends everything from the grilled octopus to the seafood rice, and of course, the three-tiered tower of grilled meats, including Portuguese and Spanish chourico (similar to chorizo). The diverse array of offerings has garnered widespread acclaim, confirming a successful mission to bring a taste of Portugal to the heart of Footscray. It's not just a restaurant; it's a journey into the soulful realm of Portuguese comfort food.

**Unit 3/63 Paisley Street,
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santoschurrasqueira.com

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c/- Maribyrnong City Council, PO Box 58, West Footscray 3012. If you don't know who your Ward Councillor is, please contact Customer Service on 9688 0200 or fax 9687 7793.

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

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