

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter edition of Maribyrnong Messenger – an opportunity for you to see what Council is working on to make our community the vibrant and inclusive place that it is.

Community engagement plays a major role in shaping our community, and this year we have some big conversations in store as we review the Community Vision contained within the Community Plan, Asset Plan, Financial Plan and create a new four-year Council Plan.

We have launched a new two-way communication tool to help you engage with us on these key strategic documents. Read more about Hello LampPost on page 9. We look forward to providing an opportunity for our community to share their vision with us so we can create a better Maribyrnong together.

We also shared the Proposed Budget last month, premised on a 2.75 per cent increase in total rates revenue to deliver on community priorities around open space, sustainability and environment, transport infrastructure, city amenity and safety, and health and wellbeing. Thank you for your input and comments to inform this document to help us determine resources and allocations for services, projects and capital works. The final version will go to Council in June. Find out more at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/budget24-25

Earlier this year, we held our Civic Awards event, which provided an opportunity to recognise our local heroes. I would again like to acknowledge, congratulate, and 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. Over on page 6 you can learn more about these inspiring people.

Looking ahead, this year's round of Community Grants will open in July giving community groups and organisations a chance to share in \$255,000 to support

projects and events in Maribyrnong.

Applications open 9 July -

for more information visit maribyrnong.

vic.gov.au/communitygrants

Councillor Cuc Lam 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 18, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 25, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

JULY

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 30, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

AUGUST

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.

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

GREEN SPACE

TO FOSTER GREATER CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION THIS YEAR



andscapers will soon begin work on creating Maribyrnong's newest green space.

The civic park will be part of the multi-million dollar redevelopment of the heritage Footscray Town Hall and new civic administration building on Hyde Street.

In line with what we heard from the community, shade, seating, and a focus on soft surfaces and cultural and Indigenous history will all be reflected.

Alongside a large open lawn for gatherings, picnics and community events, and a smaller lawn for more intimate get-togethers, we will be planting 105 new trees. Up to 80 per cent of all plantings will be Indigenous and we are also liaising closely with First Nations around opportunities to incorporate a gathering circle to celebrate Country.

The civic park, which will also include accessible paths, ramps, and stairs, will provide a central focus for the new Civic Precinct and Community Hub, scheduled for completion by the end of 2024.

The new open space will adjoin a new two-storey office and community building featuring flexible working spaces, multi-use spaces to support community activities, fully accessible toilets, and a wide range of community meeting rooms integrated with a Community Forum and the heritage Town Hall.

Council has considered all opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and enhance biodiversity during the build, with the aim of achieving a six star Green Star accredited rating for the building.

Along with construction of the civic administration building, refurbishment and conservation works are also progressing on the iconic Town Hall building to upgrade internal finishes and provide new public meeting spaces.

Additional footings and columns have been added to improve the structural integrity of the almost 90-year-old building and the metal roof has also been replaced. Restoration works, including brick and mortar repairs, are now underway on the rear façade, which was previously connected to the old office building.

When the project is complete, the historic Town Hall building will have been returned to its former glory with a modern and sustainable operational workplace addition and new green space that will help grow and foster the civic and community connection.



A LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION CELEBRATED WAL HOPKINS OAM

THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE LOCAL LEGEND



THE FIFTEENTH OF MAY HOLDS
A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR WAL
HOPKINS OAM – A LIFELONG RESIDENT
OF FOOTSCRAY AND TWO-TIME CIVIC
AWARD RECIPIENT – AS HE MARKS A
MOMENTOUS OCCASION, HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY.

Wal has a treasure trove of tales spanning his youthful days of football and cricket, to witnessing the remarkable transformation of his hometown from an industrial hub to a vibrant metropolis. "I can't put into words the experience of watching Footscray transform into the active city it is today," Wal said.

"I would have never predicted that this industrial town would one day be the bustling city it is now."

Recalling his upbringing on Hocking Street, he reminisces warmly about the mischief he and his friends would get into on the football field behind their homes (known today as Whitten Oval), accessed through their backyard fence.

Wal still lives in the house he built in 1951 under the supervision of a good friend. He recalls moving in during construction at a point where there were no internal walls, so "we could easily move from room to room through the walls making it easy to get to the heater during winter."

His primary school mate, Vern Roberts, who is also celebrating his centenary this year, has been Wal's neighbour for the past 74 years. The pair greet each other daily through a specially crafted window cut into the boundary fence. A piece of PVC pipe acts as an internal mailbox where Wal finds the daily paper once his mate has finished with it for the morning. He returns it to the PVC pipe before dinner so Vern can view the evening's television programming.

More than neighbours, these two are good friends. Their enduring bond is just one example of the many community connections Wal has cultivated through many years, supporting his community raising much needed funds for various causes and dedicating many hours to those in need through a range of community organisations – including the local scouts.

It was in 1934, at the age of 10 that Wal joined the Kariwara District Scouts in Hyde Street, Footscray, igniting a lifelong passion surpassed only by his love for his wife and children. Three years later, while still a teenager, he became Patrol Leader, advancing to Group Leader by 1952 – a role he held for 25 years before becoming Assistant District Commissioner.

His commitment to scouting over eight decades was recognised with the awarding of the Order of Australia. Even after retiring, he continued to serve as Scout Quarter Master for Kariwara District for many years.

Though now less formally involved, Wal still shares tales of past jamborees and the Stradbroke Cup, a camping competition he cherishes.

A love of sport, especially cricket and football, also led to an impressive innings with the Victorian Umpires Association, where he officiated 313 games over 17 years. He had bypassed the Reserves to be appointed umpire with the District League, a rare honour.

His contribution was later recognised with a lifetime achievement award.

Umpiring didn't always align perfectly with his personal life, however. Wal tells the story of a time when officiating a game in Gippsland necessitated an overnight stay, which did not go down well at home, perhaps not unsurprisingly. "My wife Ev was not overly impressed," he recalls, "as the game happened to coincide with our first wedding anniversary!"

Known for his "I can fit that in" attitude, Wal also dedicated himself to the YMCA, serving on its Board of Management alongside his scouting commitments. This led to his role as Chairman of the Coordinating Committee of Footscray, fostering his enduring relationship with Maribyrnong City Council. He has been twice honoured as Citizen of the Year at Council's Civic Awards – first in 1984 and again in 2008.

A humble man from humble beginnings, Wal has given generously to his community throughout his lifetime.

On the occasion of his 100th birthday, Council acknowledges his role in helping shape his community through his endless acts of giving and wishes him a very happy milestone birthday. Congratulations also to Vern who will receive his telegram from the King on 21 October.



CIVIC AWARDS 2024

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The 2024 Civic Awards drew an impressive array of nominations, exemplifying our community's unwavering commitment to supporting one another, creating positive change, and enhancing our collective wellbeing.

Awards were presented across various categories encompassing arts, business, sports, youth, and volunteering.

The prestigious Citizen of the Year Award went to Martin Wurt for his tireless advocacy in championing the removal of truck traffic from Maribyrnong's residential streets, ensuring the safety of our neighbourhoods and enriching the lives of countless residents. President of the Maribyrnong Truck Action Group since 2019, Martin's leadership has played a pivotal role in driving change, including securing full truck bans along Francis Street and Somerville Road.

The inaugural LGBTIQA+ Award went to the Eleanor Clinic, a trailblazer in delivering healthcare services in the inner west, particularly through collaborative efforts and advocacy initiatives. The Eleanor Clinic has also spearheaded educational events for healthcare providers, addressing critical gaps in transgender healthcare and paving the way for a more inclusive healthcare landscape.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our award recipients, we acknowledge the contribution of all the nominees to making Maribyrnong a vibrant and inclusive place to live, work, and play.



2024 CIVIC AWARD RECIPIENTS

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR: Martin Wurt

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: Helen Welch

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD:

Donna-Joe Newman and Farzad Ihaab Ahmad

COMMUNITY STRENGTHENING AWARD:

Duke Street Community House

ACTIVE MARIBYRNONG SPORTING AWARD:

Richard Tonelli

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG CONTRIBUTION TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY AWARD:

Belle Hadiwidjaja, Princess on Skates

ENTERPRISE MARIBYRNONG AWARD FOR NEW AND EMERGING BUSINESS:

Donna Sherwani, Sher & Séo

ARTS AWARD:

Jessie Deane and Anna Bourozikas

LGBTIQA+ AWARD:

Dr Antje Theilhaber, Eleanor Clinic

2024 MAYORAL AWARDS

East African Women's Foundation, Quang Minh Buddhist Temple, Australia Light Foundation

TIME TO STAND FOR MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

If you're a leader in your community or feel ready to take on a leadership role, consider standing for Council in the 2024 local government elections.

Councils are the closest level of government to community, and to represent their communities successfully, they need great quality candidates to put their hand up for election. The 2024 local government elections are approaching and you could be a voice for those in your community.

If you have a passion for your local area and want to have a role in shaping the future of the City of Maribyrnong, now is the time to put your hand up to stand for council.

We are participating an in-person candidate information session at 6.30pm on 5 June in partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria at Wyndham City Council where prospective candidates will learn valuable information such as the role of a councillor, the electoral process, and campaign tips.

We are also hosting an online candidate information session at 6pm on Wednesday 31 July where prospective candidates can learn the foundations of being a councillor. For more information and to register, visit maribyrnong.vic.

gov.au/standforcouncil

HOUSING:
GETTING TO
THE HEART OF
THE MATTER
FOR OUR FUTURE
NEEDS

WITH MARIBYRNONG'S
POPULATION PROJECTED
TO GROW TO OVER 155,000
RESIDENTS IN 2051, COUNCIL
NEEDS A PLAN TO MAKE SURE
WE HAVE A DIVERSITY OF
HOMES TO MEET EVERYONE'S
DIFFERENT NEEDS.



The new Strategy will aim to ensure housing is appropriately located and distributed across the City, provide certainty to our community about where change will occur and what form it will take, ensure residential development is environmentally sustainable and helps mitigate the impacts associated with climate change, and clarify Council's role in facilitating social and affordable housing.

To help inform the new Strategy, we're hosting an initial conversation with

our community to understand your thoughts on housing and what you would or would not like to see in the future, in terms of accommodating our growing population.

From previous community conversations for the Medium Density Design Guide and Visioning Footscray, Council has some early indication of community preference when it comes to housing including maintaining neighbourhood character and encouraging high quality design. Discussions on housing typology has occurred in Maribyrnong and greater Melbourne for decades. More recently, local commentary on the topic indicated residents wanted to see more

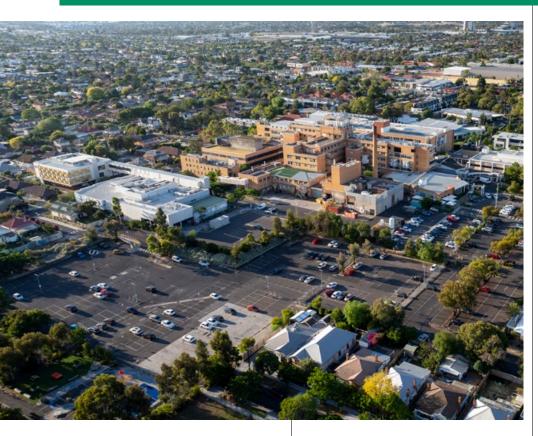
trees and greener places and better access to affordable options.

A new Housing Strategy would look at themes such as the supply of housing, different housing types and design, neighbourhood character and heritage, residential amenity, accessibility, affordability and environmental sustainability.

Help kick start our planning by completing the postcard inside this edition of Maribyrnong Messenger and mailing it back to us by midnight Sunday 30 June 2024. You can also join the conversation online at yourcityyourvoice.com.au/housing



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



OPEN SPACE AND HOUSING IDENTIFIED AS JOINT PRIORITIES FOR THE EXISTING FOOTSCRAY HOSPITAL SITE

Council and the community confirmed to be on the same wavelength around future development once the new Hospital opens in 2025

Council's proposed vision, outlined in a draft Advocacy Plan for the site, includes the potential for housing, a municipal park with 3.65 hectares of open space, safe walking routes, cycling paths and multiple gathering areas.

Initial recommendations fell under four categories: access and movement,

public open space, housing, and social infrastructure.

They included items such as integrating the site with the existing movement networks and proposed active transport network, creating attractive and vibrant open spaces, encouraging housing diversity and affordability through innovative ways, and supporting mixed use and adaptive reuse of the former psychiatric building.

Respondents agreed that green space, active transport, and housing options were the top priorities most appropriate to the area.

Once endorsed, the Advocacy Plan will inform our approaches to State Government on opportunities for the 6.6 hectare site and associated buildings on behalf of our community. If we can put up a good case there may be an opportunity for the site to be handed over to Council (at least in part) for community use that benefits existing and future residents, and in line with our joint priorities.

HOW ARE YOU 'FELINE' ABOUT A CAT CURFEW IN MARIBYRNONG?

We know residents with a feline friend consider them part of the family and want to do the right thing to keep them safe and happy.

While dogs are required to be confined to an owner's property in line with Victorian legislation, responsibility for determining what any confinement of cats might look like, falls to local councils.

With this in mind, we are seeking to understand our community's appetite for a cat curfew, and what that might look like – should it be 24/7 or just overnight – or whether there are other things, including community education programs you think we should consider to support better cat management within our City.

Keeping cats within a property boundary can reduce the risk of pets breeding, going missing or getting injured in fights or hit by vehicles, and killing or injuring native wildlife. In 2023, there were over 3,000 registered cats in the City and in the same year, 399 stray cats and kittens were trapped by Council's Animal Management team.

Join the conversation by midnight Sunday 30 June at **yourcityyourvoice. com.au/cat-curfew**

Feedback will help inform a discussion paper to be shared back with the community.



EXPANDING OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

We have introduced a two-way communication platform called Hello Lamp Post to enable more residents to engage with us.

Hello Lamp Post has been launched to kick-start conversations to support the review of the Community Vision contained within the Asset and Financial plans, and development of a new four-year Council Plan – key strategic documents that will inform the future direction of Council and determine service delivery.

The two-way communication platform supports live interactions straight from your smartphone, with posters erected at more than two dozen locations across the municipality.

Anyone with a phone can use it, simply scanning the QR code or texting the mobile number on the sign. There are also options to chat in Vietnamese, Hindi, Chinese, Arabic and Telegu. The first conversation, now live, seeks to understand how residents would like to engage on these important projects – specifically the methods and tools they would most prefer to use. Hello Lamp Post will complement

in-person and online engagement via Council's digital engagement platform, Your City Your Voice.

We'll also be drawing on the Maribyrnong Matters Panel, a group of 250 residents who have expressed an interest in being part of Council's decision-making, and calling for expressions of interest from the community generally to participate in focus groups and workshops, towards the end of 2024.

For more information about the development of Community, Council, Asset and Financial plans, visit yourcityyourvoice.com.au/communityplan

Register for the Maribyrnong Matters Panel at **yourcityyourvoice.com.au/ community-voice-panel**

GROWING A GREENER SEDDON

DRAFT PLANS LOOK TO ENHANCE SUBURB AND NEIGHBOURING HARRIS RESERVE

pportunities to grow a greener Seddon, connect community, enhance cultural and festival life, and activate and strengthen commercial spaces while building on the unique neighbourhood character of the suburb are outlined in a draft neighbourhood plan to guide and manage future growth in the suburb.

An additional 2,000 people are expected to call Seddon home by 2051. This means around 425 new homes and associated infrastructure including retail and commercial premises to support this influx – the majority likely concentrated in an expanded Seddon Neighbourhood Activity Centre.

Recognising land limitations, the draft Plan, informed by community feedback from previous community conversations in 2022 and 2023, considers a number of opportunities to create a leafier, safer and more accessible suburb. The draft Plan also outlines a number of significant future public realm projects Council is considering, which include investigation of a new civic space on Austin Street, improvements to pedestrian safety and priority at the Pilgrim Street underpass and

the northern end of Williamstown Road and Seddon Station, as well as a number of greening initiatives across the suburb.

Along with feedback on the proposed built form guidelines for Victoria and Charles streets, we're keen to understand which projects you would want prioritised to help us with our planning.

Council is also looking for feedback on the draft Harris Reserve Master Plan, which follows on from community engagement in 2021. Initial feedback told us open space and greenery were important considerations, and respondents wanted a public toilet installed at the Reserve – which was delivered in 2023.

You can provide feedback on both draft plans by midnight Monday 10 June at yourcityyourvoice.com. au/seddon



Trees, plants and vegetation are a valued natural community asset and the most visible element of our municipality's green infrastructure.

This helps keep our City healthy with range of environmental benefits, including reducing summer temperatures, reducing storm water run-off, improving air quality, providing habitat for local fauna, making our streets and neighbourhoods more attractive, and contributing to the wellbeing of the community. As Maribyrnong experiences rises in both population and urban density and impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, the importance of a resilient tree network is going to increase.

In support of our vision for a greener, more liveable Maribyrnong, underpinned by Maribyrnong's Urban Forest Strategy, Council plants thousands of new trees every year. Since the Strategy's endorsement in 2018, 13,844 trees have been planted across nature strips, parks, and public spaces with our Arboriculture crew responsible for the care and maintenance of 12,050 park trees on a yearly cycle, and contractors maintaining 37,753 street trees on a 16-month cycle.

Looking ahead, our objectives remain focused on further enhancing our tree population and canopy cover to deliver quality shade and amenity for our community.

Recognising the importance our community places on trees, we encourage residents with available space in their nature strips to reach out to our Urban Forest team to assess and facilitate tree planting opportunities.

Phone **9688 0200**, email us **email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au**, or submit a 'Tree Maintenance' request directly on our website.

GREEN LINKS

PLANTING AND FENCING
ARE BEING ESTABLISHED
AT KEY WETLAND AREAS
AT FROG'S HOLLOW AND
NEWELL'S PADDOCK AS PART
OF A PROJECT TO SUPPORT
REVEGETATION ALONG STONY
CREEK.

The fencing, along with 6,000 new plantings, will help expand and enhance biodiversity and safeguard vulnerable wildlife.

Delivered by the Friends of Maribyrnong Valley in collaboration with Council, the Maribyrnong River and Stony Creek wildlife protection and habitat creation project signifies our commitment to preserving and enhancing our local ecosystems. This project has been supported by the State Government's Green Link Grant.

LIVING FUTURE EXPO:

INSPIRING AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO EMBRACE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THEIR DAILY LIVES.

WHEN: 10AM-5PM, SUNDAY 2 JUNE

WHERE: THE LINE AND FOOTSCRAY COMMUNITY ARTS,

MORELAND STREET, FOOTSCRAY



The inaugural Living Future Expo promises to be a celebration of sustainability in action this June.

Scheduled to coincide with International Bike Day on 3 June and World Environment Day on 5 June, the Expo will showcase a range of Council initiatives, community exhibits, workshops, and interactive experiences designed to educate and motivate attendees around eco-conscious living and innovation.

From eco-friendly transportation solutions to strategies on how to become more self-sufficient in your own backyard, the Expo will feature a diverse array of exhibitors, each showcasing innovative approaches to sustainability. Visitors can expect to learn about the current status of the climate emergency, air quality, electric vehicles, and nature and biodiversity, in a day full of exploration and discovery.

The festival is not just about learning – it's also about taking action. Attendees will have the chance to participate in hands-on workshops, interactive demonstrations, and hear from sustainability experts about the practical actions required to make positive changes and combat the climate emergency.

Whether you are a seasoned environmentalist or just beginning your journey toward a more sustainable lifestyle, mark your calendars for the Living Future Expo on Sunday 2 June.

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

BIN IT BETTER TO REDUCE CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING BINS

We have launched a recycling education campaign to reduce the amount of contamination in recycling bins, which often occurs due to misunderstandings about what can be recycled.

Research reveals that even committed recyclers make mistakes, such as recycling old or broken glassware and crockery. 'Bin it Better' aims to inform residents about recycling practices to maximise recycling and minimise contamination.

The campaign, co-funded by Sustainability Victoria, seeks to empower Maribyrnong residents to place the correct items in the right bins for collection. By providing clear guidance and education, Council aims to enhance community awareness and engagement in recycling efforts.

By working together to improve recycling practices, everyone can contribute to a cleaner future for the community.

Stay tuned for upcoming events and resources, and take our survey to tell us how you can 'Bin it Better': maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/bin-it-better



YARRAVILLE LIBRARY: THE NEXT CHAPTER

COUNCIL WILL SOON BEGIN A SECOND CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMUNITY TO SHAPE THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE MUCH-LOVED YARRAVILLE LIBRARY.

This follows initial engagement in late 2023, where over 800 residents and library enthusiasts shared their insights on what they currently loved, what was missing, and whether it could meet future needs.

Just over half - 57.2 per cent or 112 respondents - of those who participated in the online survey affirmed Yarraville Library effectively meets their needs with respondents particularly appreciating the dedicated library staff, the convenient location, and the welcoming atmosphere.

Future improvements included an expanded collection of books and resources, additional space to accommodate growing demands, more areas that facilitate both quiet study and collaborative work, rooms that can be used by the community and outdoor space.

With the smallest footprint of the five library branches in Maribyrnong and the number of residents tipped to grow by 34 per cent to 21,688 by 2051, placing further demand on community infrastructure, these insights will guide the planning process for the future of the Yarraville Library. The upcoming second community conversation is scheduled for the second half of 2024. Stay tuned for further updates on yourcityyourvoice.com.au/yarraville-library





CHARGING UP: TRANSFORMING OUR NEW EV CHARGERS

TWO CUTTING-EDGE ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGERS – EACH BOASTING A ROBUST 150KW CAPACITY – ARE NOW POWERING UP VEHICLES ACROSS MARIBYRNONG.

Located in the Raleigh Street carpark in the heart of Footscray, these are the first fast chargers in Melbourne's West, able to accommodate four vehicles at the same time, helping address the growing demand for efficient charging infrastructure in our municipality and surrounds.

As a way of creating public artwork out of physical infrastructure, local artist and former ArtsBox resident, Andy Robertson has also created a full body wrap to surround the switch board and rectifier unit of the EV charger.

The artwork consists of a background image of a sweeping view of local suburbia (Footscray), with inset smaller images each representing a different ever-present source of renewable energy that surround us: sunlight, a light breeze and running water, in an urban environment and on a human scale – daylight streaming in a window and the wind aimlessly toying with fallen leaves.

The work's title, *The Air Abuzz With Energy*, contains a double-meaning: on one level, the air around us as we walk down the street is literally charged with numerous potential sources of energy, while on a metaphorical level the work celebrates the immense energy and effort being put into the urgent task of transitioning to a society powered by renewable energy.

The installation of the EV chargers has been funded through the Federal Government's Future Fuels Fund, which is administered by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.



PROVIDING A TASTE OF CREATIVE WEST

SHOWCASING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A NEW ARTS AND CULTURE HUB

As part of its advocacy for a new library and performance space in the heart of Footscray, Council hosted a party in April showcasing the potential to enhance Footscray's status as a vibrant hub for art and culture.

Get a taste of Creative West, a free live performance and arts showcase, put the spotlight on our local artists and performers.

Already considered a creative hub in the Western Metropolitan Region, Footscray currently lacks the infrastructure to support creative industries to thrive in the west. Currently, there is only one performing arts theatre that can seat over 500 people in Melbourne's greater western region, which by 2036 will have a larger population than present day metropolitan Adelaide.

If successfully funded, Creative West would address a significant regional gap for performers and audiences alike. A long standing aim for Council, the project (formerly known as the NeXT Project), if successfully funded, would address a significant regional gap for performers and audiences alike, providing access to greater learning and cultural opportunities through

the redevelopment of Footscray Library into a new library, creative and community hub.

For more information and ways you can show your support for Creative West – which would include a new library, performance space, increased green space, and future-proofed access to community spaces and technology in the heart of Footscray – visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

COWPER STREET

As part of its commitment to providing a safe and efficient transport network, Council is upgrading Cowper Street with new road, footpath, drainage and streetscapes.

These works will improve safety and accessibility for multiple sports clubs, businesses, and visitors to Yarraville Gardens by providing a much-needed overhaul to the area.

The improvements will complement the adjacent Harris Street Upgrade being delivered by the West Gate Tunnel Project, which will see the construction of an elevated cycle way from Yarraville Gardens to Melbourne CBD.



Completion is expected by December 2024, enhancing community safety and accessibility by revitalising Cowper Street into a functional and inviting thoroughfare. Businesses remain open during the works, with detours in place to support visitors and residents to navigate through the area.

JOSEPH ROAD PRECINCT PROJECT

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT WORKS UNDERWAY

Joseph Road, Footscray, is currently undergoing a major facelift as part of the broader Joseph Road Public Realm Project, designed to deliver necessary infrastructure to support the transformation of the former industrial area into a residential hub.

The multi-million dollar road reconstruction and streetscape works between Hopkins Street and the Heavenly Queen Temple began in March, starting at the northern end.

These works include the installation of separated bike lanes along Joseph Road South, facilitating safer access to the Maribyrnong River, as well as a raised pedestrian crossing to establish a direct link to the pedestrian mall.

Additionally, the project entails the creation of 20 parallel

parking bays, implementation of new street lighting, and extensive tree planting.

There will be some noise, dust and traffic disruptions during these works until the anticipated completion in December 2024.

The next stage will include the introduction of a new signalised intersection and remodelling of traffic signals on Hallenstein/Hopkins and Whitehall/Hopkins streets respectively, subject to approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.

The State Government also recently announced a new permanent 40km/h speed limit for Whitehall Street, in the section between Bunbury and Hopkins streets, surrounding St Monica's Catholic Primary School, with the change expected to occur before the end of this year.

Council has been advocating for some time for reduced speeds within the Joseph Road Precinct and welcomed the move as a significant step in addressing safety concerns for our community. It continues to push for further reductions including on Hopkins Street between Moore Street and Hopetown Bridge.



FOOTSCRAY PARK'S WESTERN LAWN

The Western Lawn at Footscray Park will soon reopen to the community as major reconstruction works come to an end.

The final phase of upgrades, completed in April, involved the laying of 30,000 square meters of turf, which is now being left to establish prior to opening for public use. Commencing in December 2022, the upgrades have turned the Western Lawn into a versatile green space capable of accommodating various community events, passive recreation, and sports activities.

To ensure the longevity and visual appeal of the newly laid turf, and protect it from adverse weather conditions and heavy use, irrigation and drainage systems have been installed under the surface.

Integral to Footscray Park's open space network, these upgrades have been carefully executed to enhance the overall experience for park visitors.

By revitalising the Western Lawn into a vibrant and functional space, these upgrades contribute significantly to the community's enjoyment and utilisation of Footscray Park for years to come.



LILARDIA PARK

NEW PUBLIC PARK OPENS IN THE JOSEPH ROAD PRECINCT

Lilardia Park, which sits on the corner of Warde and Whitehall streets and serves as an oasis for residents in this continuously growing pocket of Footscray, will soon be open to the public.

Named after Margaret (Lilardia) Tucker, one of Australia's earliest and most notable female Aboriginal activists, it provides an area of open space to support informal play and recreation.

The park aims to encourage residents to connect with nature and foster a sense of community and wellbeing amidst the surrounding urban landscape while also complementing the natural beauty of the nearby Maribyrnong River and its scenic River Trail.

BORN WEST

RESPONSIBLY SOURCED PRODUCTS FOR BABIES,
TODDLERS AND MUMS



Pounded by Laura de Vries and supported by her husband Nathan Rogers, Born West emerged from Laura's vision to establish a local fashion hub offering distinctive and ethically sourced attire for babies and toddlers.

Inspired during her maternity leave while strolling through Melbourne's western suburbs, Laura brought her concept to life with the opening of Born West in June 2022, initially situated in Yarraville. Recently, the store commemorated its first anniversary at its new location in Seddon.

Specialising in clothing and accessories for infants and toddlers (newborn to four years old), as well as self-care products tailored to expectant mothers and postpartum life, Born West prides itself on its meticulously curated

assortment. By showcasing a unique array of brands not commonly found in other Melbourne or Australian boutiques, they cater to customers seeking distinctive offerings.

Their inventory includes essential items like towels, blankets, and beanies for newborns, but the standout products are the toddler fashion lines from independent labels, which consistently fly off the shelves. With a commitment to providing responsibly sourced merchandise and fostering a sense of community in the western suburbs, Born West has quickly become a go-to destination for parents seeking both style and sustainability in children's fashion.

Born West 80 Charles Street, Seddon bornwest.com.au HOW TO CONTACT

YOUR COUNCILLOR



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You can also write to your Ward Councillor: c/- Maribyrnong City Council, PO Box 58, West Footscray 3012. If you don't know who your Ward Councillor is, please contact Customer Service on 9688 0200.

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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MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

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