



Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

# MESSENGER

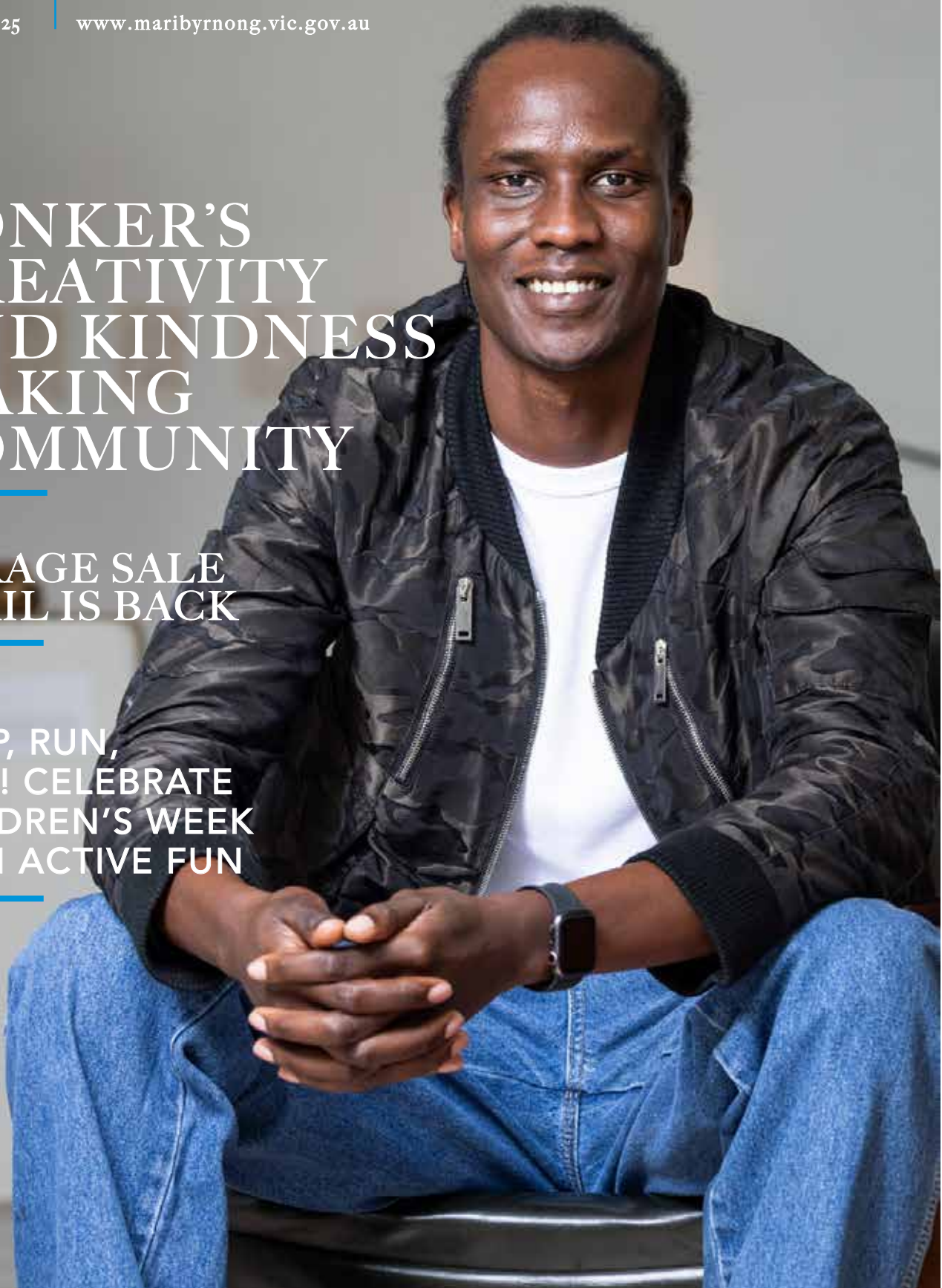
Spring 2025

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

## KONKER'S CREATIVITY AND KINDNESS MAKING COMMUNITY

### GARAGE SALE TRAIL IS BACK

### JUMP, RUN, PLAY! CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S WEEK WITH ACTIVE FUN



## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**A**s my first term as Mayor draws to a close, I've taken time to reflect on the progress we've made together over the past year.

One of our proudest achievements has been the adoption of four key strategic plans: the Council Plan, the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Asset Plan, and the Financial Plan – along with a renewed Council Vision. These will guide our City's future and ensure we continue building a community we're all proud to be part of. This progress wouldn't have been possible without the valued input of our community. Thank you to everyone who shared your insights and priorities. Read more about these important plans on page 7.

We're seeing positive steps in the revitalisation of the Footscray CBD. I'm particularly pleased the State Government will open a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in our City, bringing vital support services closer to home. Council has also endorsed a six-month safety initiative, with security guards working alongside Local Laws officers in the CBD. We'll engage closely with the Footscray community, trader groups, local businesses, legal and community organisations to ensure the program aligns with local needs and values.

On page 14, you can read more about the transformation of Maddern Square, including a new basketball half-court and bold new artwork.

A personal highlight this year was the Creative Places program, which turned vacant shopfronts in Footscray into vibrant creative spaces. Head to page 4 to read about Konker Malual – who participated in the program – and his inspiring non-profit work supporting young people to find their voice and share their stories.

As we continue to grow in our community, it's important to be aware of changes that help support the services we all rely on. This year, you'll notice a new item on your rates notice: the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy. Introduced by the State Government, this replaces the former Fire Services Property Levy and extends support to a wider range of emergency services. All funds collected through this levy are passed directly to the State to help ensure these vital services are there when we need them most.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in shaping our City's future.

**Councillor  
Pradeep Tiwari,  
Mayor of the City  
of Maribyrnong**



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**Please note:** Rediscovering the Collection on page 12 features the name and image of a First Nations person who is now deceased. Names and images have been shared with the permission of the family.

## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

The meetings will be held at the Town Hall.

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 16, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### OCTOBER

Tuesday 21, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 28, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday 18, 6.30pm: Council

Wednesday 19, 6.30pm: Council (Election of the Mayor)

Tuesday 25, 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 before the meeting commences.

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





# HONOURING SARAH CARTER: ONE YEAR ON

## MARIBYRNONG REFLECTS ON A LASTING LEGACY

**As August draws to a close, Maribyrnong is marking one year since the passing of former Mayor and Councillor, Sarah Carter.**

Sarah Carter was a trailblazer in local government. First elected in 2008, she served on Council for 16 years and was Mayor three times – in 2011, 2020 and 2023 – becoming Maribyrnong's first woman to hold the office on three separate occasions in its 163-year history.

Over the past year, Council and the wider community have honoured her memory through a series of lasting tributes that reflect her values and contributions. Her mayoral robes were formally unveiled in a ceremony at the refurbished Footscray Town Hall in June, presented by her mother, Gaynor Carter. They now hang permanently in the Council Chambers as a symbol of her dedicated public service. In recognition of her tireless advocacy for gender equity, Council introduced a new Sarah Carter Gender Equity category in the 2025 Civic

Awards, ensuring her leadership in this space continues to inspire others.

Another significant tribute was the naming of the new kindergarten at Maribyrnong Community Centre, the Sarah Carter Kindergarten. Community consultation showed strong support for the proposal, with Council voting unanimously for the name in July to acknowledge Sarah's commitment to early childhood education and family services.

A contemplative seat forged at Waterside Metal Art will also be installed in her name at Footscray Wharf later this year, offering a quiet space for reflection in a part of the City she deeply loved.

One year on, the tributes speak to the deep respect and affection Maribyrnong holds for Sarah Carter, not only as a civic leader but as a compassionate and strong advocate for her community. Her legacy continues to shape the City she served so passionately.

# KONKER'S CREATIVITY AND KINDNESS MAKING COMMUNITY

ONE MAN'S JOURNEY TO MAKE SPACE FOR YOUNG  
PEOPLE TO FEEL SAFE AND EXPLORE CREATIVITY.

**K**onker Malual has taken his experiences and used them to bring joy and creativity to young people in the City of Maribyrnong.

He is the founder and Director of The Rest of Us, a not-for-profit organisation aimed at empowering young people from under-represented and disadvantaged communities by providing creative workshops.

The journey to this uplifting endeavour began when Konker was a child, when his family fled South Sudan when he was three years old. They lived in a Kenyan refugee camp for four years, then lived in Kenya, before coming to Australia in 2003.

He joined the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program to learn English – which he did every Saturday – and through them received a full scholarship to Xavier College in Kew.

Konker said he used to travel all the way from South Yarra to Phoenix Youth Centre as a teen to learn how to make music, and credits it for giving his life direction.

"Having that positive outlet was really good when I was a young man, it stopped me from pursuing other things. Creativity can change lives, it changed the whole direction of where I went in my life," he said.

He also did some modelling in Sydney before returning to Melbourne, where he earned qualifications in IT, and Child and Youth Services – credentials that eventually led to a job with Two Square Pegs, an organisation that helps refugees, migrants and underrepresented community members build and create projects to support local communities.

Konker said in 2023, there was a lot of media attention around African youths and African gangs in Footscray.

"I felt that fear in the community. I would go and get coffee and get weird looks. So I wanted to do my part of how I could address this, and the best way possible I thought was through creativity and music."

Leveraging on his personal and professional experiences and qualifications, Konker sought to give young people from disadvantaged and underrepresented communities an outlet for their creativity and energy – just as making music at Phoenix had done for him as a teen.

Konker named his endeavour The Rest of Us, to honour the overlooked, the disadvantaged and the diverse. It began at the Flemington and North Melbourne public housing estates, teaching young people how to make and produce music.

The next step for Konker was hosting poetry nights at restaurants in Footscray, a suburb rich in diversity but, in his view, needing spaces for healing, trust-building, and



community connection. Drawing from his own experiences growing up, he continued to run creative workshops for young people who, like him, were searching for direction.

In January 2025, Konker was selected for Council's *Creative Places* pilot program. The opportunity gave him a turning point: a permanent base in the heart of Footscray, on Paisley Street.

With a space of his own, Konker no longer had to rely on temporary venues like restaurants and parties. The community quickly rallied around him.

"Since then it blew up, and we've created a good diverse community here in the west," he said.

Having a dedicated space allowed Konker to expand his vision, holding regular events and providing a platform for artists often overlooked. He now runs monthly exhibitions showcasing local creatives.

One way Konker brings people together is through a dinner

series called *Breaking Bread*. Each dinner features a different cultural cuisine, with local chefs introducing the meal and sharing its story. The events not only highlight Footscray's diversity but also create opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange.

Another initiative Konker launched was a market day at Metro West Mall. The first, held earlier in May, featured 15 stalls. Buoyed by its success, he hopes to turn it into a recurring event and is keen to see it grow even further.

It is from Konker's tenacity and desire for communication, celebration and creativity, that The Rest of Us is now almost self-sustaining – and a goal to find a bigger place.

And it all stemmed from his decision to want to give creativity and direction to young people from diverse communities, and sow some healing in Footscray by bringing understanding and a sense of community.

Find out more about The Rest of Us at [trou.com.au](https://trou.com.au)





Photography: Bakri Mahmoud

FROM THE ROAR OF PUNK BANDS IN THE '80S, TO THE WAREHOUSE RAVES OF THE '90S, AND THE RISE OF HIP HOP IN THE 2000S, MARIBYRNONG IS A CITY THAT'S NEVER STAYED QUIET FOR LONG.

**L**egendary venues like 'The Totty Hotel', Kindred Bandroom, The Reverence, Pride of our Footscray, Commercial Hotel, Footscray Hotel, and the Yarraville Club have hosted artists who went on to shape Australia's music landscape, often before anyone knew their names. Major festivals like West Set, Laneway, and Dekmantel have also called the City of Maribyrnong home, bringing international acts (live and loud) to the inner west.

That legacy continues today in new venues like Mamma Chen's, Misfits, Moondog Wild West, Anglers Tavern,

Africa Town, Jambo, Footscray Records, and Coco Bananas; festivals like Jazz Westside, Sleepless, Misfits In Space and Good Fest, and countless grassroots and backyard events powered by passionate locals.

We want to see our City continue to be a vibrant stage, one that celebrates and supports musicians, venues, promoters, and audiences. To help realise this vision, we've drafted a new Live Music Action Plan 2025-30, shaped by comprehensive engagement with artists, audiences, venue owners, young people, promoters, and music industry bodies.

Much of this engagement took place during the development of *Maribyrnong's Creativity Strategy* in 2024/25, which offered insights into what our community values and where support is most needed. More than 500 community members contributed, with live music emerging as one of the most loved aspects of local culture, and one of the top areas for future growth.

With a focus on activation, economic development, and local identity, the

draft Plan looks to strengthen what's already here – a vibrant, DIY music culture rooted in place, community, and a positive expression of our diverse community. It will also look ahead by identifying the tools, mechanisms and partnerships we need to ensure live music remains part of daily life across our City.

The City of Maribyrnong has always punched above its weight culturally. With the *Live Music Action Plan 2025-30* – which is a key outcome of the New Horizons: Creative Maribyrnong 2030 strategy – we're supporting our community to play on.

We're keen to hear from all residents, musicians, promoters, and venue owners to ensure the draft *Live Music Action Plan* reflects lived experience and aspirations for live music in our City.

You can share your feedback online via Your City Your Voice or in-person at one of our in-person engagement activities.

Share your feedback by midnight Sunday 21 September 2025 at

**[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/livemusic](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/livemusic)**

# COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC DIRECTION FINALISED WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF FOUR KEY PLANS

SINCE JULY 2024, COUNCIL HAS ENGAGED WITH OUR COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUITE OF DOCUMENTS THAT WILL HELP SHAPE HOW THE MUNICIPALITY FUNCTIONS FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

**The Council, Asset, Financial, and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing plans form part of Council's Integrated Planning Framework and guide our strategic direction.**

Alongside this, the Community Vision is your vision to help guide the work Council does.

In July this year, we finished a year-long engagement that included three community conversations. We engaged with more than 2,900 people and received over 1,000 individual comments. The community's feedback was shared via online surveys, in-person conversations, the Foundations for Tomorrow deliberative workshops, kitchen table conversations, a deliberative survey, and a two-way community conversation tool, Hello Lamp Post.

At the August Council meeting, the final plans were endorsed – the Council and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans, which will guide how we operate for the next four years, and the Asset and Financial Plans, which reach out longer to ten years. We will also review the Council Plan annually to consider emerging community needs.

The new Community Vision was also endorsed: A sustainable, vibrant city where history is acknowledged, differences are respected, and diverse communities are supported to connect and thrive.

View the endorsed Council Plan, Asset Plan, Financial Plan, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and the updated Community Vision at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

# HOW DO YOU CURRENTLY ENGAGE WITH COUNCIL?



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY. HEARING FROM OUR COMMUNITY HELPS COUNCIL MAKE INFORMED, TRANSPARENT, AND INCLUSIVE DECISIONS THAT REFLECT THE DIVERSE VOICES AND VALUES OF OUR RESIDENTS.

**Community engagement is not just a step in the process, it's a priority for Council. We are committed to creating meaningful opportunities for you to share your ideas, concerns and feedback on projects, services and plans that impact you, both online and in-person**

Since 2021, we have transferred to a new online engagement platform – called Your City Your Voice – that provides new and innovative engagement tools, including online post-it walls, digital pin-drop maps and the fund-it tool to support our Annual Budget. In 2023, we introduced the UserWay accessibility tool across our website and Your City Your Voice to improve the experiences of visitors with disabilities.

We have also increased our in-person engagement, which includes engaging at shopping centres, parks, libraries, community centres, youth centres, festivals and markets.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we

are reviewing how we engage and want to understand what's working well and where we can do better.

We want to know:

- What encourages you to engage with Council?
- What are your preferred engagement tools and methods?
- What barriers do you have (if any) to participating in Council engagement activities?
- What does meaningful engagement look like to you?
- Do you have any other engagement tools or methods Council could consider?

Your feedback will help shape the next version of our Community Engagement Policy, to be shared for public feedback in early 2026.

We're also reviewing our Putting Customers First Strategy, which outlines our approach to delivering great customer service. You'll have a chance to tell us how we're doing and what improvements you'd like to see.

You can be part of the initial conversation by talking to Council staff at one of our upcoming in-person events, by completing and returning the enclosed reply paid postcard, via email, or online via Your City Your Voice.

For more information, visit [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/engagement](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/engagement)

Feedback closes midnight Tuesday 30 September 2025.



# FELINE GOOD ABOUT OUR DRAFT ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



A MAJOR AREA OF FOCUS FOR COUNCIL'S NEXT DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN WILL BE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A 24/7 CAT CURFEW AND THE MANDATORY DESEXING OF CATS – AND WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR COMMUNITY THINKS.

Domestic Animal Management Plans are an essential tool for Council to promote responsible pet ownership of cats and dogs for the safety and welfare of both the community and animals.

Our current plan is due to expire, and while much of the Plan outlines Council's legislative requirements, we have taken the time to identify opportunities to adjust our approach to animal management to reflect the expectations and needs of our community.

This includes a proposal to introduce a cat curfew, following community calls for action. Last year, more than 1,000 people participated in a discussion on the issue, with over 75 per cent supporting either a 24/7 or partial cat curfew.

Through this draft Plan, Council is proposing a 24/7 curfew, meaning cat owners will need to keep their cat contained on their property boundary 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Other proposed activities include:

- mandatory cat desexing (except for cat breeders)
- facilitating pet adoption days with Lost Dogs' Home
- investigating rewards/incentives for people who adopt pets from partner shelters
- investigating the pro-rata or discount fees for first year registration, multiple pets, pets under 12 months that are not yet desexed

We want to hear your feedback on the proposed activities, including the 24/7 cat curfew and compulsory cat desexing. Feedback will help finalise the Plan before it goes back to Council for endorsement later this year.

For more information, visit

**[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/damp](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/damp)**

Feedback closes midnight Sunday 21 September 2025.

## PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

OVERALL, ONLY AROUND ONE PER CENT OF THE CITY'S ORIGINAL VEGETATION REMAINS RELATIVELY INTACT, MAKING THE PRESERVATION OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT A KEY PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL.

To help us conserve, manage and restore nature in our City, we have drafted a Nature Plan.

Along with research and technical information, the draft Plan has been informed by feedback gathered during an initial community conversation in late 2023. During this engagement, we heard how much you enjoyed being in nature and your love for the Maribyrnong River, Stony Creek and our other parks and open spaces.

This has helped inform the first of three 3-year action plans, which outlines key actions including the development of a wildlife-friendly garden and nature strip planting guide for residents, and creating site-specific restoration management plans for natural areas across our City.

We are now seeking feedback on the draft Nature Plan and the first 3-year Action Plan before it goes to Council for consideration.



To make the draft Nature Plan accessible for more members of our community, we have also prepared an Easy Read version of the document and webpage on Your City Your Voice.

Find out how you can be part of the conversation, online or in person, at

**[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/nature](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/nature)**

Feedback closes midnight Sunday 14 September 2025.

# JUMP, RUN, PLAY! CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S WEEK WITH ACTIVE FUN

COUNCIL IS CALLING THE YOUNG  
AND THE YOUNG AT HEART TO  
JOIN A SERIES OF FUN AND FREE  
ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE  
CHILDREN'S WEEK RUNNING  
FROM 18 TO 26 OCTOBER

**C**hildren's Week is a valuable opportunity to reflect on the importance of nurturing and celebrating the rights of all children.

This year's Children's Week program encourages movement, creativity, and connection – bringing families together through a variety of inclusive and engaging events.

The *Go Family* event invites parents and children to team up for a friendly game of soccer, promoting physical activity and family bonding. Over at the Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre, *DadFit SportsFest* will feature former AFL and BBL players in a day of games, activities, and fun designed to inspire active lifestyles and strengthen community connections.

Grandparents won't miss out either, with special intergenerational events on offer. *The Intergenerational Walk* at Cruickshank Park in Yarraville and the *Walk on Country* at Pipemakers Park, which includes a guided nature walk and storytelling experience, are both perfect opportunities for generations to come together in nature.

Local Neighbourhood Houses will also be joining in the fun with *Express Yourself!* a sustainable art session for school aged-children, and *Move and Groove*, a fun performing arts play session for 2-5 year olds both hosted at Angliss Neighbourhood House. While Braybrook Maidstone Neighbourhood House will be holding a Mini Messy Play day as part of their weekly playgroup.

Find out more and get involved in the fun at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/childrensweek](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/childrensweek)





## ENVIRONMENT



# GARAGE SALE TRAIL

## AUSTRALIA'S FESTIVAL OF PRE-LOVED TREASURES IS BACK

**G**arage Sale Trail returns this Spring and Maribyrnong is ready to prove second-hand really is the best choice. Known as Australia's biggest treasure hunt, the national program will see more than three million pre-loved items hit driveways, footpaths and community halls over two weekends on 8-9 and 15-16 November 2025.

Local enthusiasm is already high after last year's record turnout: the City of Maribyrnong hosted 90 sales and stalls, more than double the year before. We welcomed 3,426 bargain hunters, and gave 10,351 items a second life, with 39 per cent of those goods saved from landfill. Sellers pocketed over \$45,000, while shoppers kept an estimated \$128,000 in their wallets by choosing to buy second-hand items. These figures show the circular economy at work, turning clutter into cash while cutting waste and creating new neighbourhood connections.

Households, schools, clubs, or even a whole street can register a sale for free when registrations open from 1 September. Early birds receive printable signage, social media tiles and step-by-step tutorials to help price, promote and profit. Shoppers can join the waitlist now and start planning their personalised trail map the moment listings go live.

Whether you want to clear space, raise funds, or hunt for vintage treasures, Garage Sale Trail makes it easy and fun to do good for both the planet and your pocket.

Help us build on last year's success on the Trail by visiting [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/garagesaletrail](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/garagesaletrail)

## PLASTIC BAG CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING AND FOGO BINS

**C**ontamination continues to be found in both the recycling and food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bins in the City of Maribyrnong, and plastic bags are the main culprit.

Plastic bags are one of the most problematic items in household recycling – they prevent proper sorting and often lead to entire loads being sent to landfill. Other common issues include contaminated paper (i.e. food-soiled paper, wet paper, plastic or wax coated paper) and electrical items, but plastic bags and recyclables tied in bags remain the top offender.

It is a similar story with the FOGO bin. Plastic bags are also the leading source of contamination here, followed closely by "compostable" bags. While some "compostable" bags are marketed as safe for composting, they are still listed as contaminants on Council's website as they do not break down properly in the composting process.

So let's keep it simple: don't place plastic bags in the recycling and FOGO bins.

Instead, place loose recyclables straight into the yellow-lidded bin and line the bottom of the green-lidded FOGO bin with newspaper, cardboard or paper towel before placing food scraps into the bin. By following these simple steps, you will help reduce waste going to landfill, support a cleaner environment and ensure our recycling systems work as they should.

For more information on how you can Bin it Better, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/binitbetter](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/binitbetter)

## TIME FOR A SPRING CLEAN: FREE HARD RUBBISH DROP-OFF DAY

Drop off your car batteries/household batteries, gas bottles, used motor oil and electronic waste (including white goods), and more! Free for City of Maribyrnong residents, just bring proof of residence (utility bill or rates notice).

**Sunday 16 November**

**7.30am-2pm**

Cleanaway Brooklyn Resource Recovery Centre,  
174 Old Geelong Road, Brooklyn.

For more information, visit:

[maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/dropoffday](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/dropoffday)



# RE-DISCOVERING THE COLLECTION: WOMEN OF THE WEST

AS WE CONTINUE TO REDISCOVER AND CELEBRATE THE CITY OF MARIBYRNONG'S ART COLLECTION, YOU'RE INVITED TO RECONNECT WITH THE STORIES, HISTORIES AND PEOPLE CAPTURED THROUGH ITS DIVERSE WORKS.

**C**omprising over 500 pieces, ranging from paintings and photographs to ceramics, sculptures and public monuments – Council's Collection is a rich visual archive reflecting the culture, environment and community spirit of our City.

*Women of the West*, a portrait series created in 2016 by Footscray-based artist and photographer Suzie Blake, pays tribute to the strength and contributions of women across Melbourne's west. The series includes a compelling portrait of the late Dr Ngardarb Francine Riches (1964-2024), a local artist, art therapist, and community leader whose enduring legacy continues to inspire the community.

Dr Ngardarb Francine Riches was a descendant of the Bardi/Jawi and Karajarri Tribes of the West Kimberley. Her artistic practice served as a tool for navigating intergenerational trauma, loss and grief. Riches assisted many organisations with reconciliation plans and ran weekly Aboriginal arts groups at the Living Museum of the West in Pipemakers Park in Maribyrnong.

Riches also mentored Indigenous artists and worked closely with Elders to run art groups in the West. In pastoral care, she was a Chaplain with the Indigenous players in the AFL and, alongside her husband, she established the first Aboriginal Church in the western suburbs. In 2014 was awarded Maribyrnong's Citizen of the Year and was added to the Victorian Women's honour roll.

In this portrait, Dr Ngardarb Francine Riches stands with a mosaic at Pipemakers Park designed by Maree Clarke and Sonya Hodge and fabricated by Libby McKinnon, titled *The Wurundjeri Garden*. This artwork symbolises the ongoing strength and determination of First Nations people and the area's connection and significance to the traditional owners of this land, the Boonwurung and Wurundjeri people.

Our City is host to a number of public artworks by Dr Ngardarb Francine Riches, including the façade of the cohealth centre in Footscray and the work *Reconciliation... it will take all of us* in the foyer of the Braybrook Community Hub.



Pictured: Dr Ngardarb Francine Riches (1964-2024) featured in a photograph by Suzie Blake, 2016.

Discover this piece and more at the *Summer Road to Saltwater* exhibition, exploring Footscray's evolving identity. Visit the exhibition at the Civic Precinct and Community Hub, Footscray, open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm, until 3 October 2025.

Find out more: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/summerroad](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/summerroad)

## CONNECTING THROUGH CREATIVITY

**TWO NEW CREATIVE WORKS SHARING THE STORIES OF THOSE IMPACTED BY THE OCTOBER 2022 MARIBYRNONG RIVER FLOODS ARE DUE TO LAUNCH IN OCTOBER.**

A public artwork developed by Liz Dalglish and a series of short documentary films by Bakri Mahmoud are being created to memorialise the experiences of the Maribyrnong community during and after the Maribyrnong River Flood.

Developed with flood-affected residents and the Community Recovery Committee, these works honour recovery and resilience. Dalglish's permanent pathway artworks incorporate residents' stories, while Mahmoud's films share personal reflections from the community. For details, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/flood)

# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE



**WE ALL PLAY A ROLE  
IN CREATING A SAFE  
ENVIRONMENT WHERE  
EVERYONE FEELS  
WELCOME.**

Simple acts like checking in on your neighbours, offering help to someone in need, or saying hello to those you pass in the street, help foster a sense of connection among residents.

Participating in programs such as our Street Libraries, volunteering with local community groups or 'friends of groups' provide further opportunities for you to get to know other locals – all while promoting connection.

Getting involved in community safety

initiatives is another important way to contribute. Whether it's joining a local neighbourhood watch group, staying informed on local issues, or reporting suspicious behaviour to police, it shows that you care about the community you live in.

By looking out for one another we can create a safe space for everyone.

A safe community is a thriving community, and your participation helps contribute to this. Together we can build a City where everyone feels at home.

Find out how you can get involved with your community here: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communityparticipation](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/communityparticipation)

## MAKING OUR LIBRARIES BETTER FOR THE FUTURE

**LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE – AND COUNCIL IS WELL UNDERWAY ON DRAFTING A NEW PLAN TO GUIDE OUR LIBRARY FACILITIES THROUGH TO 2030.**

**C**ouncil has a lot to be proud of with its libraries. We have about 140,000 items and 1,600 free programs for adults and families across our five library branches. We know our libraries are valued by the community and we want to make them the best they can be.

In June and July, we began the development of a new draft Library Plan. We heard from 750 people about what they love about libraries, what they would like to see, and what they thought would make them better.

A new Library Plan, when endorsed, will guide us on how we deliver library programs, spaces, services and technology through to 2030.

There will be more opportunities to get involved in the coming months. Head over to Your City Your Voice to follow the page for future updates at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/yourlibrary](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/yourlibrary)

If you aren't yet a library member, head to one of our five branches or jump online to join: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/library)

- **Braybrook Library**  
107-109 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook 3019
- **Footscray Library**  
56 Paisley Street, Footscray 3011
- **Maribyrnong Library**  
200 Rosamond Road, Maribyrnong 3032
- **West Footscray Library**  
539 Barkly Street, West Footscray 3012
- **Yarraville Library**  
32 Wembley Avenue, Yarraville 3013

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



### SHORTEN AND BARRETT RESERVES SET FOR MAJOR UPGRADE

WORKS TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER.

The long-awaited transformation of Shorten Reserve and RecWest will officially begin in September, bringing to life the community's vision through the endorsed Master Plan. Backed by a significant joint investment of over \$42 million from Council and the State Government, this major redevelopment promises exciting new facilities and spaces for everyone to enjoy.

RecWest will close its doors to the public on Monday 1 September 2025.

On Monday 15 September 2025, Shorten Reserve, Barrett Reserve, and Market Street will close to the public as demolition and upgrades begin. When complete, the new RecWest stadium will feature two indoor courts, an expanded health club, café, community rooms, accessible changing places, public toilets and extra storage.

Market Street will be partially closed to create a vibrant public space designed to host markets, community events, and encourage active transport between the reserves. To celebrate RecWest's legacy, Council will host a special closing event on Saturday 13 September 2025. Stay tuned to Council's website and social media channels for details.

### BRIGHT DESIGNS FOR MADDERN SQUARE

Maddern Square in the heart of Footscray is set for a bold upgrade, featuring vibrant artwork and a new basketball half-court. As part of Council's efforts to revitalise public spaces, the refresh aims to boost foot traffic and bring the community together. The court will also host events like the West Side Slam. Skate-friendly seating and improved lighting will make the square more welcoming, active, and safe for everyone.

Ethiopian-Norwegian artist Olana Janfa, who has lived in Melbourne since 2015, is set to transform this space with a unique mural and light boxes.

Olana has an extensive body of work including large-scale public art projects, and his works are bright, colourful and speak to his experiences with humour and a bold sense of fun.

The mural will be painted on the new basketball half-court and the light boxes are set to be installed in collaboration with nearby building owners.

Works are currently underway and expected to be complete by August with an event celebrating the refreshed space planned for October.

### MORE TREES FOR A COOLER, GREENER WEST

COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO PLANTING MORE THAN 12,650 TREES IN THE NEXT YEAR WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Over the last year, we have planted more than 1,300 trees on local streets and another 4,000 trees in our natural areas as part of revegetation projects and volunteer plantings, in an effort to increase our City's tree canopy.

To further support these efforts, we have recently received funding through the Victorian Government's More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West project to plant another 12,500 young trees and 150 advanced trees in Braybrook, Maribyrnong, Tottenham, Seddon, Yarraville and Kingsville. These trees will start being planted later in 2025 as part of Council's tree planting program.

In addition to this, we planted 4,000 trees last month as part of National Tree Day on 27 July.

To find out how you can get involved in other local community planting days, please visit

[maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/plantingdays](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/plantingdays)



## LAE STREET UPDATE

TRANSFORMATION OF THE FORMER COUNCIL NURSERY ON LAE STREET CONTINUES.

The first stage of the Lae Street redevelopment was completed late last year, turning the unused site into a shared public space.

The project paired broad community engagement with the creation of the Lae Street Nursery Community Advisory Group, which worked to clarify the site's purpose and refine the concept plan based on additional community input.

The second stage of works are now underway, which includes the construction of a new shelter over the gathering circle, a series of nature paths and nature play areas, and the completion of further plantings behind the gathering circle. These additional plants were chosen in consultation with the Bunurong Land Council and reflect the region and important plants for the community.

These works are expected to be complete in mid-September.



## MAC WATERSLIDE AND SPLASH PARK REDEVELOPMENT

CONSTRUCTION WILL SOON RESUME ON TWO NEW WATER SLIDES AS PART OF A \$12 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT AT MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE.

The project includes two water slides, a 400m<sup>2</sup> aquatic leisure park, plus family-friendly, gender-neutral, and accessible change rooms thanks to funding from the State Government, alongside Council's own investment.

The new facilities are anticipated to be ready for the community to enjoy in April 2027.

To stay informed on the progress of the project, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/splashpark](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/splashpark)



## SWIMMING IS FOR EVERYONE AT MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

As the weather starts to warm up, there's no better place to be than in or around the water. Whether it's splashing in the pool or heading to the coast, water plays a big part in how we enjoy spring and summer. But feeling confident and safe in the water doesn't come naturally to everyone – and that's where Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) can help.

Drowning is sudden and shocking, and people often don't realise it's happening until it's too late. In Australia, hundreds of families lose loved ones to drowning every year and more than 80 per cent of people who drown are adults. It's never too late to learn how to swim or just improve your strength in the water with tailored classes available for people of all ages and abilities at MAC. Anyone can learn in our positive, friendly environment with lessons for children aged



six months and over and a dedicated program for adult swimmers.

The team at MAC are always looking for ways to make our programs more accessible and meet the needs of our community, and we have a range of swim and fitness programs for you to choose from.

Learn more and enrol in our Learn to Swim program today at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac)

# CHICKEN JOAH

BOLD KOREAN FLAVOURS IN THE  
HEART OF FOOTSCRAY



**N**estled in the heart of Footscray, Chicken Joah is the result of a close friendship and shared passion for food between owners Nam and Song. The two met as housemates in 2021, and what began as a living arrangement quickly evolved into a lasting friendship and business partnership.

The word Joah means "like" in Korean, a word used to express fondness or affection. Nam and Song chose it to reflect the feeling they hope to create in their restaurant: a space where good food brings people together and sparks joy.

Chicken Joah is also a comeback story. Their first Chicken Joah store opened in 2022 near the Franco Cozzo building. Unfortunately, it was forced to close after a fire broke out in a neighbouring restaurant.

Two years later, the pair returned with renewed energy, encouraged by the unwavering support of the Footscray community to open Joah Kitchen.

Joah Kitchen reverted back to its original name, Chicken Joah in July.

Their signature dish is the Korean fried chicken, known for its crunch, flavour, and range of bold sauces. The most popular choices are the soy garlic and sweet and spicy boneless chicken. Customers often call it the best fried chicken in the west. Other favourites include the creamy rose tteokbokki and stir-fried japchae.

Chicken Joah is not just a restaurant. It is a second chance, a celebration of resilience, and a heartfelt thank you to a community that believed in them.

**1/32 Leeds St, Footscray**  
**chickenjoah.com.au**

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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](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or call Customer Service on 9688 0200.

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