

MARIBYRNONG

MESSENGER

Summer 2020

www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

MEET DENISE
CLARKE –
THE HEART OF
YARRAVILLE
TENNIS CLUB

ENJOY OUTDOOR
DINING THIS SUMMER

MEET
YOUR NEW
COUNCILLORS



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome! I am humbled and privileged to have been elected as Mayor in this first term of office for our new Council. I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors, the Executive Team and community members.

The new Council is made up of a diverse group of individuals, a reflection of the diversity within our community.

There is a lot of work to be done to support the community as we move forward through this unprecedented time. We have endured the jack boot of an epidemic that has not been seen not only in this country but the entire world for over 100 years.

As a Council we have a responsibility to help our people, our community, and our business operators to get back on their feet. Our community is hurting and we are here to help.

The health and safety of our community is our number one priority and we are working to safely reopen our facilities in line with the State Government guidelines. You can find out more about Council's roadmap to reopening on page 8.

Maribyrnong has acted swiftly to create more outdoor dining opportunities for residents throughout the City. Parking bays have been repurposed to accommodate outdoor seating; footpath dining has been increased; streets and laneways utilised; and car parks and other vacant land converted to outdoor dining spaces.

In the lead up to the Christmas holiday period, I encourage you to remember to 'Love Your Local' and help boost our local business community. Many of our retailers live locally and choosing to buy directly from these businesses means that you are helping a neighbour after what has been a tough year.

As this will be the last edition of Maribyrnong Messenger for the year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your strength and resilience during what has been an extremely challenging time for many.

I wish every one of you a very happy and safe holiday season.

Cr Michael Clarke
Mayor of the City
of Maribyrnong



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COUNCIL MEETINGS

In line with the advice from the Department of Health and Human Services, Council meetings will be closed to the public until further notice.

Meetings can be livestreamed via Council's YouTube channel and community members can submit questions for public question time by emailing governance@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 8, 6.30pm Ordinary Council.

Tuesday 15, 8.00pm City Development Special Committee.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 16, 6.30pm Ordinary Council.

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm City Development Special Committee.

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



OUTDOOR DINING – PARKLETS AND MORE!

The City of Maribyrnong, known for its foodie culture and love of celebrating, is creating more outdoor dining opportunities for residents to safely enjoy the city's restaurant and café scene in a COVID-19 environment.

While restrictions may be easing, it's still not business as usual for traders with physical distancing continuing to restrict the number of patrons at restaurants and cafes. That's why we are working with businesses to increase their footprint outside, enabling an increased number of patrons to dine at a safe 1.5 metre distance from each other.

This includes the introduction of the innovative parklet program, which will be trialled for six months. Parklets are re-purposed parking bays that can accommodate outdoor dining and seating. With many residents still working from home, car spaces are not being used as frequently, so bays re-imagined for outdoor dining makes better use of the spaces for our hospitality outlets.



Council is also working with businesses to increase footpath dining where streets/laneways adjacent to restaurants and cafes are opened to pedestrians to enable alfresco dining. Car parks and other vacant land near to restaurants and cafes may also be converted into outdoor dining venues. We've opened Ballarat Street to pedestrians in Yarraville for dining at Luccellion, Vault Café Bar Restaurant, Advi's Falafels, Café Terroni and Grill'd. Yewers Lane in Footscray, adjacent to Back Alley Sally's, is also open to diners.

These new outdoor dining opportunities will be established in time for the festive season. There's still opportunity for additional outlets to be rolled-out where businesses can meet required conditions that include road safety audits, COVIDSafe Plans and supporting documentation that makes this a positive and safe experience for everyone.

These initiatives support the State Government's recent Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package and direction to make widespread outdoor dining safe, practical and a reality this summer. Give us your feedback on this innovative program by visiting our consultation platform yourcityyourvoice.com.au

Find a parklet near you by checking out the back page of this edition of Maribyrnong Messenger, or by visiting maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/dining

PIONEERING LOBBYIST

AT THE HEART OF YARRAVILLE TENNIS CLUB YOU'LL FIND DENISE CLARKE, FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT IN ITS 105 YEAR HISTORY. IT'S BEEN HER JOY TO KEEP THE CLUB COMMUNITY THRIVING SINCE SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION IN 2017.



Denise has a long relationship with tennis in the West. She grew up in Seddon and Yarraville and as a teen she first joined the Spotswood Tennis Club. This was where her parents played, along with her sister.

Yarraville was a different place back then but it had the same sense of community as it does today. She uses the example of how telephones were shared to show how times have changed but neighbourliness has stayed the same.

"Not every home had a telephone and neighbours with phones were prepared to take urgent messages for their neighbours – all other telephone calls were made at the public telephone box," she recalls. "Now you've got mobile phones, you'd never think of that then."

Her parents had an active role in the community. Her father worked for a bank in the city and on weekends he helped at the family store, Clarke's Haberdashery & Toy Store, which her mother ran through the week on Pentland Parade, Seddon. However, Denise picked a different career path, studying teaching.

She explains that when she was a high school student a fellow classmate struggled to read and that influenced her to become a teacher, to create a supported learning environment for all students especially those with special needs.

Denise left Yarraville, aged 19, to teach and took up a position at Lavers Hill – it was tennis that helped her settle in.

“

The tennis courts were across the road from the accommodation so after a friendly visit to the courts one Saturday, I was in a team for the next week onwards. Tennis is a good sport to engage in a community.”

She returned home to complete a Special Education qualification which was the first in a series of additional qualifications that she acquired over the years. This was also the time she joined the Yarraville Tennis Club in 1972.

Over the years her career blossomed, Denise taught at a number of Specialist and Primary schools including a year in Pennsylvania on an International Teaching Fellowship. She became principal of Baltara School in the late 1980s where she remained in the position for 16 years. She resigned to complete her PhD which focused on interventions for children with behavioural challenges and then began working at Jacana School for Autism where she was the Assistant Principal until recently.

Denise was also very active in the club during this time. She joined the club's committee in 1975 and later became Assistant Secretary for three years organising players into competitions at a local and district level. She reminisces that they had a strong Western Suburbs Tennis Association and a commitment to competitive tennis.

"When I joined the club we had about two courts that had lights, we eventually got all the courts under lights, we had



six courts and now we've got eight. Tennis has changed over time with night tennis competitions filling the courts four nights a week and only a few adult teams playing on weekends but with many junior teams."

She's had many roles with the club including newsletter editor, organising night tennis social competition, organising fundraisers and milestone celebrations. She was awarded a life membership in 2002.

The club has been her social hub. She recalls the sense of comradery on the tennis circuit, particularly over the Easter weekend.

"In the days pre internet and email communication, the month before Easter would see a lot of activity around the club notice board. Flyers for the various Easter grass tennis tournaments would be displayed, members would be anxiously conferring with each other to find out which tennis tournament they would be attending at Easter.

"The YTC preferred tournament was Shepparton. Some people used the camping grounds, while others piled as many people as they could into a motel room to cut down on expenses. We would all manage to end up at the same venues at night for dinner and a few refreshing drinks."

Yarraville Tennis Club is one of the largest local tennis clubs with about 400 members. One of the changes Denise has noticed is that club membership used to be family based with parents and children all playing tennis but there are more individual members today. She's also continually trying to boost the number of female players, as more than one third are male, by participating in activities like the Active Maribyrnong and Tennis Victoria "female only" Come and Try tennis events.

"I enjoy the challenge of being President and leading a great committee," Denise reflects. "My goal is to include all members through good communication so that we all feel ownership of the club and contribute to its smooth functioning at all levels".

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

The results for the 2020 Maribyrnong City Council election have been declared and during a Special Council Meeting on Tuesday 10 November, Cr Michael Clarke was elected Mayor, with Cr Anthony Tran elected Deputy Mayor.

The following Councillors will represent the City of Maribyrnong for the next four years.

YARRAVILLE WARD



COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CLARKE

Cr Clarke returns to the City of Maribyrnong after serving as a former Mayor and Councillor from 2006 – 2016 to become the first third term Mayor in our history. He is Secretary of Friends of Cruickshank Park and for over 20 years organised the Kingsville Christmas Carols event. Cr Clarke seeks to strengthen planning requirements, increase bicycle facilities and expand community facilities. He has committed to review opportunities to generate an income for the city to reduce the burden of household rates.



COUNCILLOR SIMON CRAWFORD

Cr Crawford returns to the City of Maribyrnong for his second term and seeks to make the area a safe, friendly and healthy place to live. He would like to improve Council's responsiveness and seek more ethical investment and procurement. Cr Crawford believes it is important to keep the environment and community wellbeing top of mind.



COUNCILLOR JORGE JORQUERA

Cr Jorquera is a first-time Councillor for the City of Maribyrnong. He calls Santiago Chile and Footscray both home, and has raised two boys with his partner here in the West. He is a socialist, unionist, anti-racist and advocate for migrant communities, working class families and young people. An educator and former School Council President at Footscray Primary, Cr Jorquera is passionate about reinvigorating the spirit of community solidarity that runs deep in the West.

STONY CREEK WARD



COUNCILLOR CUC LAM PSM

This is Cr Lam's third term as a Councillor at the City of Maribyrnong, including a year as Mayor. She has received the Refugee Recognition Record Award and Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Cr Lam was instrumental in the implementation of the pop up park in West Footscray, and she seeks to keep streets clean, plant more trees, and ensure safer cycling for children.



COUNCILLOR BERNADETTE THOMAS

Cr Thomas is a long-term resident and active volunteer for several groups dedicated to improving the local environment and the lives of people living in Maribyrnong. This is Cr Thomas' first term on Council. She would like to see action on the climate emergency, greater transparency in decision making and improved engagement practices with the community.

RIVER WARD



COUNCILLOR SARAH CARTER

Cr Carter returns to Council for her fourth term, having first been elected in 2008. She has served twice as Mayor, most recently in 2020 and in 2011.

Cr Carter has been a passionate advocate for the NeXT project and Festival City, initiatives that foster a thriving community.



COUNCILLOR ANTHONY TRAN

A local resident, Cr Tran is serving his first term on Council having grown up in the area. The son of Vietnamese refugees, Cr Tran credits his parents for instilling in him the importance of community. He hopes to improve local infrastructure, promote community safety and seeks to make mental health support accessible to all.

COUNCIL SERVICES DURING COVID-19

The health and safety of our community is our number one priority, and as restrictions start to ease, we are working to safely reopen some of our facilities in line with the State Government guidelines.

Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/covid to stay up to date about Council's response to COVID-19.



MARIBYRNONG AQUATIC CENTRE

Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre reopened on 9 November 2020. There are limits on the number of patrons that can attend the Centre at any one time.

As such, bookings are essential.

Strict physical distancing measures are also in place.

For more information and to make a booking, please visit

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mac

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH AND IMMUNISATIONS

The Maternal and Child Health Service has now returned to offering families routine face-to-face consultations, with telehealth still available to families who prefer this option.

Please phone **9688 0501** to make a booking or for more information. Immunisations are by appointment only. Please call the booking line on **9688 0501** to make an appointment for one of the below locations:

- > **Monday, Wednesday and Thursday:**
Footscray Town Hall, Cnr Napier and Hyde St, Footscray
- > **Tuesday: Braybrook Community Hub, 107-139 Churchill Ave, Braybrook (from January 2021)**

Meningococcal B vaccinations are now available to non-funded clients at a cost of \$130 per dose. For infants over six weeks and under two years, please let us know if you require this vaccination when booking.

We are asking that only one adult accompanies their child/children at both Immunisation and Maternal and Child Health appointments.

For more information, please visit the website maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/mch

LIBRARIES

Braybrook and Footscray Libraries have reopened!

Braybrook Library is open 10am to 2pm, Monday to Saturday. Footscray Library is open 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

There are limits on the number of patrons in the library at one time, and we ask that you keep your visits to 60 minutes once per day to ensure as much as possible anyone who wants to visit can. The library will look a little different for the time being, with study spaces, meeting rooms, and reading spaces unavailable.

Maribyrnong, West Footscray and Yarraville Libraries remain closed until further notice.

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

This information is correct at the time of printing.



ONLINE PROGRAMS

PHOENIX YOUTH CENTRE

To engage with young people throughout the municipality, Phoenix Youth Centre has launched Isolation Creations, a celebration of local young people and their amazing talents through a collection of videos featuring them performing, creating, skill sharing and moving.

The collection of videos include music performances to keep you entertained, dance tutorials to get you moving, a series of 'Self Love in Social Isolation' videos from local artists Sami and Natana, and embroidery and watercolour workshops.

Visit phoenixyouth.com.au to view the collection of videos.

If you are looking for specific information on services or would just like to chat about how you are going, the team is happy to contact you.

Head to phoenixyouth.com.au to leave your details and a youth worker will call or message for a chat at a time that suits you.

LIBRARY AT HOME

The Library at Home program continues on YouTube and Zoom – with story times, STEAM activities for kids, book groups, writers' groups, conversational English sessions, author talks, and more! The latest additions to the Library at Home program include Arabic Bilingual Story Time and Mandarin/Cantonese Story Time. See maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/events for more info.

PARENTING SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH FOR NEW PARENTS

This online session will explore the ups and downs of the readjustment period associated with becoming a new parent, touching on Post Natal Depression and anxiety, and providing a range of practical hints to keep parents feeling good.

Wednesday 20 January, 11am-12pm
or 6.30-7.30pm

Bookings: mentalhealthfornewparents.eventbrite.com.au

ONGOING COVID-19 SUPPORT COMMUNITY CONNECTORS

Our relief and recovery response teams remain available to support our community through the pandemic.

These teams can provide information and advice about services that are available if you are impacted by COVID-19, including financial resources, food resources, and health resources.

They can also coordinate service responses for individuals and families including emergency food hampers, and can assist with general and specialised service referrals.

If you, your family or someone you know has been impacted by COVID-19 and is in need of support, please call our dedicated number on **9688 0434** from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday.



RATES SUPPORT

If you have been impacted by COVID-19 and are struggling to make ends meet, or require extra time to make a payment, the following options are available upon application:

- > deferral of rates without penalty interest up until 31 March 2021, for residents and businesses
- > interest free payment plan for residents

Please contact us on **9688 0200** or via rates@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au to discuss this further and to apply, or visit our website to download the financial hardship application form. Visit maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/rates for further information.

LET'S TALK

We know our community wants to be involved in things that affect them – and rightly so.

We've recognised this in the update of our Engagement Policy which we'll be sharing, as a draft, with you early in December for your feedback.

We've laid out some key principles and commitments we intend to deliver on to ensure residents, ratepayers, businesses, schools, interest groups – anyone in fact who might be impacted by, or just interested in our planning, can be involved.

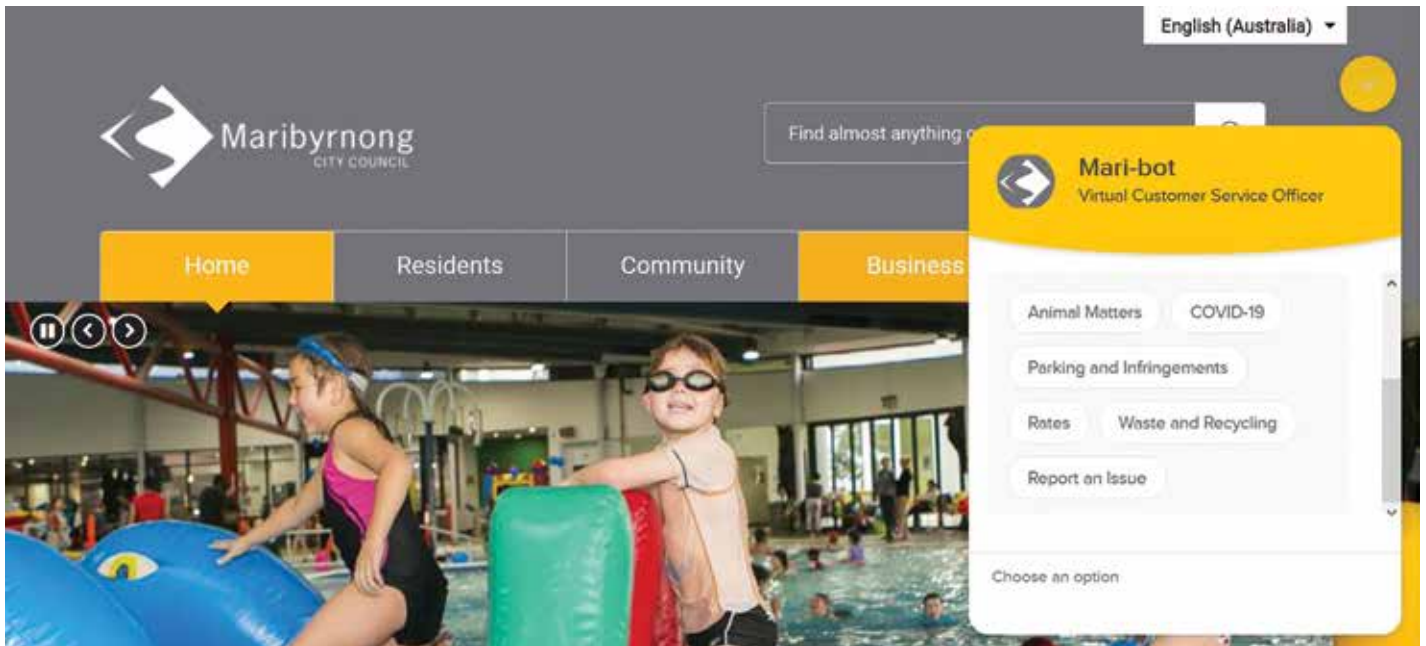
It's important to us to know if we've got it right.

We're also about to start the conversation on one of Council's key strategic documents – the Council Plan. This is the document that will guide the planning, development, allocation of resources and provision of services to the Maribyrnong community for the next four years.

Keep an eye on your letterbox for a postcard feedback form in the coming days where you can provide early thinking to support the development of the document so that it will truly reflect community aspirations. You can send it back to us 'postage paid' or log onto Your City Your Voice to leave your comments there.

We're also resurrecting our Community Panel which will be open to absolutely everyone. Panel members will be able to share their views and participate in activities like surveys, polls or focus groups – or not. It will be completely up to you when, how, or even if, you participate and what you share thoughts and opinions about. Register via Your City Your Voice.

Visit Your City Your Voice at yourcityyourvoice.com.au



INTRODUCING MARI-BOT

YOUR NEW WAY TO CONTACT COUNCIL

Meet Mari-Bot, a new tool to help our community connect with us online. Mari-Bot will be able to help residents quickly access answers to common enquiries such as animal matters and waste collection.

Hosted on Council's website, Mari-Bot will guide enquirers through a series of prompted online questions to locate information about a chosen topic.

Mari-Bot will be supported by Customer Service Officers who will Live Chat during business hours. Users will also be able to select the language of their choice to engage Mari-Bot using a translator tool.

Council responds to over 60,000 emails and nearly 150,000 phone enquiries a year via its Customer Service team.

Mari-Bot and the live chat functionality provide another way to talk with us.

Mari-Bot is now live so get chatting today!

maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

FACE-TO-FACE CUSTOMER SERVICE ENQUIRIES

A reminder that Footscray Town Hall is closed to the public until 31 January 2021 in the interest of our community and staff safety.

We're still available by phone on **9688 0200**, via email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or log in and engage with Mari-Bot.

Residents can also create an account to log requests like reporting graffiti, requesting a bin or alerting Council to fallen branches on our website. The Customer Request Management System allows users to track their request online from start to finish.

For more information and to create an account head to maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/request

ENVIRONMENT



HOW TO HANDLE AND DISPOSE OF BATTERIES

Did you know that batteries can't be disposed of in your kerbside collection? They can cause fires in trucks and recycling centres, creating a safety risk and damaging the recycling load which results in it being sent to landfill.

All types of batteries, including household batteries, batteries in toys and appliances, and car batteries, must be kept out of waste and recycling bins. Please be mindful that used batteries are potentially hazardous. If you are storing used batteries at home, remember to:

- > keep batteries in a cool, dry place at room temperature and away from sunlight

- > keep batteries out of reach of children
- > be cautious when changing batteries and check for damages or leaks
- > place batteries in individual plastic bags or sleeves to reduce fire risk or tape over the terminals of any lithium-based batteries

To correctly dispose of batteries and products containing batteries, please drop them off at a waste transfer station, or at your local Aldi store. Aldi accepts household batteries such as AAA, AA, C, D and 9V of any chemistry type (Alkaline, Super Heavy Duty, Lithium Ion or Rechargeable).

WARM WEATHER INVITING SNAKES OUT OF HIBERNATION

Summer sunshine means many community members will be outside exploring local neighbourhoods, walking and enjoying parks and gardens.

Snakes have an important role to play in our ecosystem, particularly in controlling rats and mice. As the weather warms up, snakes begin to wake up and come out of hibernation to seek sunshine, food and water as they may not have eaten for months during winter.

The most common snakes in the City of Maribyrnong are eastern brown and tiger snakes, and although it is rare for these snakes to bite people, be cautious and do not approach, touch or attempt to capture them.

If you see a snake, leave it alone and walk away slowly. Do not attempt to remove the snake yourself and don't hurt the snake, they are venomous and protected wildlife.

If you see a snake at your home, please contact a snake catcher. If you see a snake on public land, such as a park or reserve, please contact Council's Customer Service team.

If you are bitten by a snake, call 000 immediately and stay calm.

If you think your pet might have been bitten by a snake, take it to a vet immediately.

If you see injured wildlife, call Wildlife Victoria on 1300 094 535.



CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE

In September, Council endorsed its first Climate Emergency Strategy, which was drafted by the Climate Emergency Community Advisory Group – members of our community – and identifies strong, overarching goals to address to the climate emergency. Following its adoption, Council has begun work developing the Climate Emergency Action Plan, a document that will outline detailed programs, projects and actions to meet the goals and visions set out in the Strategy. For more information and to read the Strategy, please visit the website maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/ClimateEmergency

ROAD OPEN TO



LOVE YOUR LOCAL CAMPAIGN

WE'LL BE LAUNCHING A NEW WEB PORTAL THIS MONTH TO PROMOTE BUSINESSES OPERATING IN OUR CITY.

The portal will host information about our new outdoor dining opportunities. You'll be able to find a list of our parklets, extended footpath dining and the locations where streets have been opened to pedestrians and closed to traffic to facilitate street dining; and get to know our local business owners and operators through a number of profiles.

You will find an interactive map highlighting all the business operating in your neighbourhood so you can connect and give them your support,

helping to boost businesses – we've said it before, local businesses are the life blood of our community.

A diary of events will let you know what's happening near you, it might be a festival, a special sale or another event to inspire you to take a quick trip to your local!

Over the next few months we'll be spreading the word about the new portal and we encourage you to get your friends and neighbours to visit the site.

There's three simple steps to Love Your Local

- 1: Jump online at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/loveyourlocal
- 2: Explore our new interactive map that lists the boutique and bustling businesses in your neighbourhood
- 3: Show some love by visiting a local retailer or make a booking to dine in or take advantage of the new outdoor dining opportunities

Instagram @cityofmaribyrnong
#loveyourlocalmari

2020 SPRING INTO SUMMER SERIES

THE SPRING INTO SUMMER SERIES IS BACK!

Spring into Summer is a free four-week health and wellbeing initiative running from 23 November – 20 December which offers a range of physical activity and wellness programs.

For the safety of the community and due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the programs will be delivered

online in line with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) guidelines.

Programs run weekly and there are options for all ages and abilities, including Zumba, Yoga and Pilates, pre and post-natal programs, older adults exercise programs and much more!

You can register for as many programs as you'd like by visiting maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/SpringintoSummer

For more information, contact us at active@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Online programs are held on software application Zoom which you can download for **FREE** on any mobile, tablet or laptop.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
DAY-TIME	Outdoor Stretch Class 10.30-11.30am	Meditation & Relaxation 10-11am	Post-natal Yoga 9-10am	Cardio Boxing in the Park 8-8.45am	Music for Hip Toddlers 10-10.45am	Group Fitness Outdoors 8-8.45am	Women's Self Defence 9-9.45am
	Walking Group 11-11.45am	Hatha Yoga in the Park 11.30am-12.30pm		Women's Only Yoga 10-11am	Pre-school Dance 11.15-11.45am	Pre-natal Yoga 9-10am	Family Taekwondo 10-10.45am
	Laughter Yoga with Jacci 12.30-1.30pm	Bollywood Fitness 12.30-1.30pm	Zumba 11.30am-12.15pm	Mat Pilates 12.30-1.10pm	Group Fitness 12.30-1.10pm	Art and Music Therapy 11.30am-12.15pm	Body Pump 10.30-11.20am
AFTERNOON / EVENING	Yoga 6-7pm	Teen Fitness in the Park 4.45-5.30pm	OUTDOOR Zumba: Jiggle, Wiggle & Giggle 5.30-6.20pm	Beginner Dance Class for Adults 5.30-6.15pm			Yoga in the Park 4-5pm
	Yoga in the Park 6-7pm	Bollywood Fitness in the Park 6-7pm	Pilates 6-7pm	High Intensity Interval Training in the Park 6-6.50pm			Pilates in the Park 5-6pm
			Pilates in the Park 6.30-7.30pm				

 ONLINE

 MARIBYRNONG

 BRAYBROOK

 WEST FOOTSCRAY

 MAIDSTONE

 YARRAVILLE

COMMITMENT TO GENDER EQUITY

COUNCIL HAS BEEN ACTIVELY AND CONSISTENTLY WORKING FOR MORE THAN A DECADE TO CREATE A COMMUNITY IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE IN MARIBYRNONG CAN FEEL SAFE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR GENDER.

Last year our Towards Gender Equity 2030 Strategy was endorsed by Council, confirming our vision “that all people in Maribyrnong flourish and live free from violence and discrimination and have equal status, rights, opportunities, representation and respect, regardless of their gender.”

The Strategy also outlines the steps we propose to take to help reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims, through service provision and community strengthening, local leadership, policy and planning, and creating safe facilities and public environments.

Some recent examples of some of things we’re doing include:

- > Actively contributing to the Preventing Violence Together (PVT) partnership led by Women’s Health West.
- > Training staff from across the organisation to recognise and take action on violence against women and family violence.
- > Supporting and encouraging local women from diverse backgrounds to take on leadership roles in the community through our leadership programs.
- > Celebrating the achievements of women in the community and organisation through activities and events for International Women’s Day and 16 Days of Activism.
- > Providing parents and carers with resources, such as our Beyond Pirates and Princesses picture book guide and colouring in sheets, which target children in the early years to challenge gender stereotypes.
- > Supporting the delivery of the Respectful Relationships program in schools and early childhood settings.
- > Delivery of Baby Makes 3 program, an evidence-based program that promotes healthy relationships among new parents.
- > Applying a gender-lens when planning and upgrading community facilities and infrastructure.
- > Taking steps to address imbalances in access to sport and recreation facilities and programs so that more women and girls can participate and be physically active.

We are also gearing up for 2021 when the Victorian Gender Equality Act will come into effect. It will require all Councils to have Gender Equality Action Plans, to publicly report on our progress and consider and promote gender equality across policies, programs and services.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

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 and encourage people to take action against gender-based violence.

16 Days of Activism started 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.

During 16 Days of Activism, we held a gender equity themed storytime with Maribyrnong Libraries featuring a story and activity based on girls in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

We also held a series of three active bystander training sessions; for young community members, local youth service providers, and Council staff. The sessions were designed to help participants to promote respect for women

and gender-diverse people in our community and learn practical skills to challenge behaviour that reinforces sexist beliefs and stereotypes, safely intervene when they witness disrespect and have conversations with friends, family and colleagues about sexism and gender inequality. Also shared during 16 Days of Activism was a virtual performance by local women’s choir Pitchface, who sung Boys Don’t Cry by The Cure. Written in 1979 by Robert Smith, ‘Boys Don’t Cry’ highlights the way that men and boys have traditionally been brought up to hide their emotions. There is now strong evidence that suggests these stereotyped constructions of masculinity do great harm to men and boys, and are drivers of violence against women.

Pitchface’s performance was supported by Council and Respect Victoria’s Respect Women: Call it Out campaign.

To view the performance, head to our Facebook page:

[facebook.com/cityofmaribyrnong](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmaribyrnong)

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you are experiencing family violence, or are worried about someone you know, support is available.

If you need an interpreter, call the Telephone Interpreter Service (24 hours) on **131 450**. They will connect you with the service you want.

If you are in immediate danger always call **000**.

For sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling services call **1800 RESPECT** on **1800 737 732**.

Their operators are available 24/7.

24/7 crisis support is also available from safe steps on

1800 015 188. If you cannot safely call, email **safesteps**

@safesteps.org.au and a support worker will reply ASAP.

For a specialist LGBTIQ family violence service, call WI Respect on **1800 542 847**.

For support for women who live in the Western suburbs, call Women’s Health West on **9689 9588**. Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Advice for men about family violence is available through the Men’s Referral Service: **1300 766 491** and Mensline:

1300 78 99 78.

2019/2020 CAPITAL WORKS HIGHLIGHTS

NEW OUTDOOR FACILITIES

A number of public playgrounds throughout the community have recently received upgrades and now include brand new safe and modern facilities. Some of the playground upgrades include:

- > Village Green, Maribyrnong has received a playground expansion and upgrade, including a new basket swing and see-saw, and the installation of new public fitness equipment.



- > Fels Reserve, Yarraville has been upgraded, with the installation of a range of play activities including a new combination unit, sandpit and swings. Children and young families using this space will also have improved sun protection with replacement of shade sails over the equipment.
- > Harris Reserve, Seddon has welcomed new play equipment, including a new carousel, hammock and spring rocker. New fencing, paths, irrigation and bins have also been installed to improve accessibility and safety for all park users.



- > Pritchard Reserve, Braybrook has been upgraded and expanded, with a new basket swing, sound play elements and combination unit. Nature play elements have also been added here, including a series of logs, boulders and timber steppers.



- > Ulmara Reserve, Maidstone has received a playground expansion and upgrade with a new cubby house, climbing nets and swings.

Further playground upgrades include the outdoor play space facilities at Kingsville Kindergarten and Maribyrnong Kindergarten, both enhancing the learning and development of local children and families in the west.

- > The outdoor playground at Kingsville Kindergarten has been redesigned to allow for increased accessibility and inclusion to all areas of the yard for young children of all abilities. It provides a rich, natural environment with a range of small and large spaces, level changes, sensory elements and creative zones. Key features include a pergola, an accessible sandpit and swings, arbours, veggie gardens, native plantings, a spiral maze, a digging patch, play panels and build your own cubby frame.
- > Maribyrnong Kindergarten has welcomed upgrades to their outdoor play area, with a new sandpit, pergola and deck for open ended play experiences and social interactions for children of all abilities.

Both Kindergarten playground upgrades were supported by the Victorian Government.

Kingsville Tennis Club has recently received upgrades, with the reconstruction of two courts. With restrictions easing and warmer weather approaching, the upgraded courts will serve





the local tennis community, including local competitions and tournaments, social activities and community programs.

Prior to reconstruction, the two courts were unsafe and near unplayable. They have now been completely reconstructed and resurfaced with brand new synthetic grass, new boundary fencing and pedestrian path.

These court upgrades follow the construction of the new Kingsville Tennis Pavilion last year, which included updated player and member amenities, a large social space for functions and club activities and a large undercover outdoor viewing area for spectators.

NEW FLOATING PONTOON

The Maribyrnong River has recently welcomed a new 30 metre floating pontoon on the river's edge at Footscray Park, providing even more facilities for local recreational boaters.

The floating pontoon will encourage recreational fishing and boating, and features a lower level platform suited for use by paddle craft.

The project also includes two new sheltered picnic and barbecue spaces along the river edge in Footscray Park, and improved path connections to the Maribyrnong River Trail.

HANSEN RESERVE

Hansen Reserve, a much loved public reserve in the west, has welcomed a new Junior Bike Skills Track. This dedicated outdoor space invites riders of all abilities from across the community to learn and improve their bicycle skills in a fun and safe off-road environment.

Further improvements in the area include a new outdoor cricket pitch, new picnic and BBQ facilities, and new lighting along the main shared path to ensure safe passage for all users. Upcoming works in the area will also include new tennis courts, more trees and shrubs, and a brand new regional playground.

The Hansen Reserve Junior Bike Skills Track has been built in collaboration with Bike West, and partly funded through the Victorian Government Pick my Project scheme.



REVITALISATION OF FOOTSCRAY WHARF

The Footscray waterfront is set to come alive with further improvement works including the installation of a 230 metre long timber boardwalk on the river edge, extending the Henderson House Landing in Footscray towards Shepherd's Bridge.

A stroll along the Maribyrnong River is already a favourite past-time for residents and visitors but enhancements following the \$12 million refurbishment of the riverside

promise to make it the jewel of the inner west. The upgrades will include lower landings and a pontoon for small vessels and mooring for recreational boat, along with a wide promenade and shared path along the river bank. Construction is scheduled for completion mid-2022. Some pedestrian and cycle detours will be in place during this time running parallel to the river. Council will work to minimise disruption to nearby residents and businesses.

FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE RETURNS FOR 2021

THE BIENNIAL FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE IS RETURNING IN 2021
WITH ENTRIES NOW OPEN



Established in 2016, the Footscray Art Prize has received over 800 entries for two consecutive years, firmly placing the Prize on the Australian art prize calendar. In 2021, it will provide a welcome injection of funds into the creative sector and reinvigorate the thriving cultural hub of Footscray in Melbourne's west in what is hoped will be a post-COVID world.

The coveted main prize is valued at \$10,000, while the Street Art Prize is valued at \$5,000 and pays tribute to Footscray's thriving street art scene. Two new sub-categories have also been added: a \$10,000 acquisition prize for local artists, and an artistic residency at Footscray Community Arts Centre for emerging practitioners. The popular Young Artists Prize continues, featuring two categories each valued at \$500, encouraging students in Melbourne's west to explore their creativity.

The acquisition prize will see the winning work added to Maribyrnong City Council's Art and Heritage Collection, which Council holds on behalf of the community. The Collection dates from the late 19th century and incorporates items from the City of

Maribyrnong's predecessors – the City of Footscray and part of the City of Sunshine. The Collection comprises approximately 750 works including paintings, photographs, works on paper, ceramics, glass, textiles, public art sculpture, furniture, monuments, memorials, murals, honour boards, books, historical documents and other ephemera.

The shortlisted artworks will be on display in an exhibition held at Footscray Community Arts Centre (Main and Street Art Prize), and VU at MetroWest (Young Artists) in May and June 2021 with winners announced at the exhibition opening.

The biennial prize is a unique collaboration between Council, Victoria University, Footscray Community Arts Centre and the Rotary Club of Footscray, who share a commitment to demonstrating and promoting creativity, cultural achievements and the arts.

Entries are open to all Australian residents and can be submitted online, with no restrictions on visual art media. Entries will close at midday on Monday 8 February 2021. Visit footscrayartprize.com for more information.

AMPLIFY YOUR MONDAY NIGHTS WITH A NEW MONTHLY SPOKEN WORD AND LIVE MUSIC PROGRAM, KICKING OFF IN 2021

To be held on the first Monday of each month, Amplify is a new program that will see a sure fire line-up of live music and literary performances by local artists from the Western suburbs. Settle in at the Bluestone Church Arts Space to hear songs and stories from artists you love. You may also discover some new favourites.

Featuring special events to celebrate the annual NAIDOC Week and International Women's Day, as well as partnerships with local arts collectives, record labels and guest curated sessions, Amplify will raise the roof and your spirits.

1 Feb, 8 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 Aug, 6 Sept, 4 Oct, 1 Nov.

Bluestone Church Arts Space,
8 Hyde St Footscray.

Doors open at 6pm for 6:30pm gig.
Further information and ticket purchases at maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/amplify



FESTIVAL CITY

CELEBRATE ACTIVITIES AND DECORATIONS

We started our Christmas celebrations early this year by inviting everyone to take part in two festive activities – the singing and recording of our very own Christmas e-Carol and festive spirit photo competition.

We will also be decking the streets with Christmas decorations, setting Footscray Town Hall a-twinkle with more lights and filling Nicholson Street Mall, Footscray. Keep an eye out for our 3D Christmas art works around the city and snap a selfie. Head to festivalcity.com.au to view the list of locations.

Find out more about our activities below.



SANTA AND SIRENS – TO WIN A VISIT FROM SANTA!

'Tis the season to be jolly and we invite you to share your most festive spirit selfie to win a visit from Santa.

There'll be nine winners drawn, one from each of our suburbs, and Santa will arrive at their homes on a vintage fire truck – bringing good cheer as he travels through the neighbourhood streets with bells ringing.

The competition was made possible with the help of the Fire Services Museum with entries closing early December.

JINGLE AND JAM TO MARIBYRNONG 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS E-CAROL

We've launched our very own e-carol this Christmas! Popular, local singer and song writer Rebecca Barnard and friends wrote the first Maribyrnong 12 days of Christmas e-Carol and we invited choirs, schools, traders, families (and everyone in between) to record themselves singing our jingle and send it in for us to edit together to make the best music video Santa's ever seen.

But what's a jingle without a jam? We've also shared some dance moves to accompany the Maribyrnong 12 days of Christmas e-Carol so choristers can bop to the moves which form part of the music video.

Our version of the 12 days of Christmas also aims to turn the spotlight on our local traders and business centres providing another opportunity to share the festive spirit with them.

When watching the music video, you can sing along with the words we've listed here!

LYRICS TO MARIBYRNONG 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS E-CAROL

On the 12th of day of Christmas my neighbour gave to me:

Souva in Kingsville

Vegan in Maidstone

Dosa in WeFo

Pavlova in Maribyrnong

Dumplings at Highpoint

Pol Sambol in Braybrook

Pizza in Tottenham

Meat Pie at the Whitten

Injera in Footscray

Parma in Yarraville

Fish and chips in Seddon

And a Banh Mi in Barkly Street.

Maribyrnong 12 Days of Christmas credits:

Written by Rebecca Barnard and Shelley Scown

Vocals: Rebecca Barnard and Billy Miller

Guitars: Shane O'mara

Drums: Harry O'mara

Bass: Stu Thomas

Handclaps and shaker: Leroy Cope

Production and Engineering: Shane O'mara

Recorded and Mixed at Yikesville Studio, Yarraville

FIND A PARKLET NEAR YOU

Enjoy outdoor dining this summer at one of the following parklets.

Business	Street Address	Suburb
Advieh	71b Gamon Street	Seddon
Bar Josephine Pie Thief Trouble in Dreams	295-297 Barkly Street	Footscray
Barkley Johnson Deli & Wine	11 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Bar Romanee	25 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Bawarchi	551 Barkly Street	West Footscray
Blue Bamboo Restaurant and Café	98A Churchill Avenue	Braybrook
Bradford and Barnett Kitchen Coffee	Cotton Mills, 91 Moreland Street Docklands	Footscray
Chibog	Shop 1, 553 Barkly Street	West Footscray
Copper Pot	105 Victoria Street	Seddon
Dumbo	11 Argyle Street	West Footscray
Frank & Kenny's (formerly Cup&Bean)	20 Wembley Avenue	Yarraville
Goje	38 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Issan Thai	16 Paisley Street	Footscray
Jack B.Nimble Souv Baby	132 Mitchell Street	Maidstone
Jambo Bar and Cafe Roti Road	195 Barkly Street	Footscray
Japan's Kitchen	34 Ballarat Street	Yarraville
Mabu Mabu	13 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Miss An'am	86a Charles Street	Seddon
Moda Kitchen and Bar	1/140 Victoria Street	Seddon
Mozzarella Bar	103 Victoria Street	Seddon
Occident	21 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Roccos Deli	122 Roberts Street	Yarraville
Sankranti Australia	Shop 2 & 3, 250 Barkly Street	Footscray
Seddon Deadly Sins	148 Victoria Street	Seddon
Small French Bar	3/154 Barkly Street	Footscray
Tandoori Times Yarraville	45 Anderson Street	Yarraville
Thai Angels	549 Barkly Street	West Footscray
The Naked Egg	32A Ballarat Street	Yarraville
Village Cantina	30 Ballarat Street	Yarraville
Yim Yam Thai Laos Restaurant	40A Ballarat Street	Yarraville

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR



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You can also write to your Ward Councillor:
c/- Maribyrnong City Council, PO Box 58, Footscray 3011.
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 www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or call Customer Service on 9688 0200.

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<http://twitter.com/MaribyrnongCC> / www.facebook.com/Maribyrnong

MARIBYRNONG CITY COUNCIL

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