

MARIBYRNONG

# MESSENGER

Spring 2023

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

## SUNNY NGUYEN STEPPING UP

CELEBRATING  
OUR CITY'S  
CULTURAL  
DIVERSITY

RECOVERY  
AND  
RESILIENCE



# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As my third term as your Mayor draws to a close, I reflect on the journey we've shared.

My tenure began just weeks after the Maribyrnong River flood event in October 2022. This was a challenging time, reminiscent of my second term as Mayor in 2020 amidst the pandemic's onset. Despite the challenges and hardships of the flood, our community spirit shone through. A year on, we've made significant strides in the recovery. You can read more about this on page six.

These adversities highlight the crucial role of our infrastructure, especially distributor roads, in keeping our City moving and connected even in the most challenging times. As part of the Distributor Road Upgrade Project, work has recently begun on significant improvement works on four key roads: Somerville Road, Rosamond Road, Mitchell Street, and Churchill Avenue. These upgrades, reflect Council's commitment to the safety and mobility of our community. A full reconstruction of Summerhill Road is also in the pipeline.

Our L2P Program has also been a great success in promoting safety on the road. It pairs learner drivers with experienced volunteers to nurture responsible road usage. Currently, there is a waitlist of student drivers and a shortfall of mentor drivers to coach them. If you meet the eligibility criteria, I encourage you to become a driving coach helping our young people develop skills that will also help them reach their potential. For more information, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/l2p](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/l2p).

I'm incredibly proud to be the first woman in Council's history to serve three Mayoral terms. It has been a privilege to contribute to the diversity and representation in our leadership. I hope my journey inspires more women and those from under represented backgrounds to step into leadership roles.

As I prepare to pass on the Mayoral baton, I am confident in Maribyrnong's continued resilience, unity, and spirit. Our challenges have only strengthened us, and I invite you all to continue to participate and play an active part in shaping our wonderful community.

**Councillor Sarah Carter**  
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.

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 12, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### OCTOBER

Tuesday 17, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 24, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8, 6.30pm: Council (Election of the Mayor)

Tuesday 21, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 28, 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](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings) or phone **9688 0200** for more information.





# GRANTS BREATHE LIFE INTO NEW EVENTS AND ACTIVATIONS

**L** launched in January this year, the inaugural 'Love Your West' Grants Program has brought a significant boost to city experiences in recent months, with a vast array of pop-up style events and new initiatives happening across the entire City.

With grants of up to \$10,000 available for each event, our municipality truly embraced its identity as a thriving Festival City, standing out as a unique destination for entertainment and hospitality. The program brought to life 24 experiences, fostering inclusivity and a strong sense of community spirit.

The diverse calendar of events supported by the program showcased the breadth of talent and creativity within our community.

The Inner West Record Fest, for instance, created an immersive experience for over 700 vinyl lovers to explore record collections while enjoying captivating performances by local DJs.

Event organisers from Footscray venue, The Line, expressed their gratitude for the support provided by the grants program, stating, "The Inner West Record Fest was a

resounding success – both vendors and vinyl enthusiasts were delighted with the event. The overwhelmingly positive turnout in the West (including many guests from the other side of Melbourne) has sparked a strong desire for another Record Fest event in the near future. West is best!"

Another event made possible by the program was the Red Door: Block Party held in central Footscray. This free block party brought together a variety of music genres, including R&B, Hip-Hop, and Reggae, showcasing the exceptional talents of local emerging artists.

Science in the City stood out as a shining example of the program's impact on engaging young minds. Delivered by local science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educators, this free event offered children hands-on and interactive science activities centred on the theme of city-building and urban design.

For more information about upcoming grants opportunities and to stay up-to-date with activities happening around the City, visit [festivalcity.com.au](http://festivalcity.com.au)

# SUNNNY'S LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

MARIBYRNONG YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER, SUNNY NGUYEN,  
HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

21 year old, Sunny, who initially signed up as a shy high school student, wanting to do something for his community, now chairs Council's Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee (affectionately referred to as MYAC).

"Back in 2018, I was really nervous and quiet just trying to absorb things and trying to find my way," Sunny reveals. It wasn't until he took a short break from the committee, returning two years later armed with more life experience after finishing high school and starting a biomedical science degree at Monash University, that Sunny "came back a new person."

While crediting Council's supportive youth participation team for his self-progression, Sunny said "being heard and actually feeling like my ideas were going somewhere was really empowering."

He particularly acknowledges the way MYAC is supported to actually do what it wants, "rather than just being a voice on the board, we are empowered to advocate for the needs of young people," Sunny said.

As part of the forum the committee ran on climate change, Sunny was in charge of leading the panel discussion – his first time doing this – but also where his public speaking journey began.

**“At first, I thought this is scary but at the same time quite fun. Now I do a lot of presentations especially in my roles in research presenting my work.”**

Confidence in public speaking isn't the only thing Sunny has gained from his time on the youth committee. MYAC has also opened doors for him professionally. "I met a research fellow from the University of Melbourne through a MYAC event and she took me on board as a research assistant and my career has really taken off from there" he said. Sunny is now an Associate Research Fellow at Deakin University.

Research with a focus on public health and tailoring services for young people is something Sunny is passionate about and is pleased to have found a way to use his learnings from being a part of various university and government-funded community research projects, in his chairman's role.

Each year MYAC runs a forum for local high school students on topics that matter most to them – with the most recent focused on 'wellbeing and self-care'.

"This linked really closely with the work I did with the University of Melbourne last year around a research project

to really understand what challenges young people faced in the pandemic and how to manage them," said Sunny. "A lot of young people weren't aware of youth specific programs available to support them, so this forum was really about addressing that at a grassroots level."

The forum, which ran in July and invited local year 9 and 10 students along, featured practical self-care management strategies including pet therapy and affirmations, and keynote presentations. Following this Sunny, along with the team he worked with at the University of Melbourne, delivered further engagement to understand more about what young people want in the wellbeing space and their needs in the community.

The key takeaway Sunny wants students who attended to remember is "young people's voices are really important" and to feel a "sense of empowerment being a part of it, not just a token."

It goes without saying that Sunny is passionate about young people's voices being heard and wants to encourage them to speak up. "Get involved as much as you can. If you have something to say there is always someone out there that will hear you. You never know what one sentence could lead to."



## What is MYAC?

MYAC, or Maribyrnong Youth Advisory Committee has been in operation since 2002.

Members meet regularly with Council staff and Councillors to discuss various challenges and opportunities they have identified or are experiencing in our community. The youth committee's primary role is to engage with other young people on topics important to them and help advocate to decision-makers and communities to ensure the voices of young people are able to be heard around improvements that can be made in these areas through better policies, services and campaigns.

## Who can be part of MYAC?

At the beginning of each year, Council calls for new members: all young people aged 12 to 25 who are either living, studying, working or accessing services within the City of Maribyrnong, and who are interested and available to dedicate their time to represent the voice of other young people, to submit an application. Keep an eye out on the website for future Expressions of Interest at [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/phoenix](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/phoenix)





# GRAND OPENINGS

HENRY TURNER SOUTH RESERVE  
PAVILION AND BIRMINGHAM  
STREET POCKET PARK

Resident clubs have been enjoying the new state-of-the-art Henry Turner South Reserve Pavilion in Footscray since it opened in July.

Jointly funded by the State Government, the Pavilion is a multipurpose facility developed to serve the diverse needs of our community and local sporting clubs, promoting inclusivity and enhancing player retention and participation.

It offers modern, universally designed facilities accessible to



people of all abilities. This highly anticipated redevelopment is a significant achievement and a tangible demonstration of Council's commitment to creating functional spaces for residents now and in the future.

The resident clubs, will benefit from expansion opportunities the new Pavilion brings for current club offerings and in attracting new players.

The new Birmingham Street Pocket Park in Yarraville is also now open providing this neighbourhood with a vibrant new recreational space to enjoy.

The new park includes a feature garden bed and tree planting to effectively separate the bicycle lane and pedestrian path, improving functionality and visual appeal of the space. Additionally, a generously sized central lawn area provides a welcoming space for relaxation, seating, and participation in a range of activities.

The conversion of a closed section of Birmingham Street in between Avoca Street and Pentland Parade from roadway to green space supports Council's Open Space Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy and the Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy, which all aim to create and enhance the City's open spaces and connectivity. Construction was supported by a grant from the State Government's Local Parks Program. Be sure to check out this new oasis next time you're passing through Yarraville.

# A YEAR OF RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

## EMERGING STRONGER FROM THE 2022 FLOOD EVENT

Ten months after the October 2022 flood event which caused the Maribyrnong River to breach its banks impacting 525 local properties, our community is continuing to rebuild with the ongoing social and economic effects still being felt.

In the aftermath of the flood, Council established a Community Recovery Committee (CRC), comprised of representatives from the impacted area, to guide a community-led recovery response, focused on immediate relief, long-term strategies, and initiating health, wellbeing, and infrastructure repairs.

Council has also provided financial relief to flood-affected residents through rebates on rates and municipal charges, waived waste charges, suspended debt collection actions, and facilitated interest-free minimum payments. Council's 2023/24 Budget provides for relief measures to continue to assist residents whose primary residence remains impacted, upon application.

The State Government's 2023/24 Budget has also considered the flood event, with funding allocated to bolster emergency response, planning, and community recovery, aiding our rebuilding journey.

In April, Council delivered its submission to the Parliamentary Flood Inquiry advocating for enhanced flood preparedness and inter-agency coordination. The submission also calls for evaluating current flood management and land-use planning and developing a funded mitigation plan to minimise future flood impacts in Maribyrnong.

Council has also made a submission, and presented to the Melbourne Flood Review – with findings expected to be made public in November.

The past year's journey has been difficult for many in our community – with ongoing challenges still to overcome. However, it has also demonstrated true community spirit, with residents, local businesses, emergency responders, social support organisations, and Council banding together to support residents in the immediate after-math of the flood event, and support recovery. Stories of neighbours helping neighbours and fundraisers organised by local schools and places of worship are a testament to our community's unity. Council remains committed to maintaining this positive trajectory, striving towards a stronger, more connected, and resilient Maribyrnong in the face of adversity.



## POWERFUL, MULTILAYERED VIDEO INSTALLATION CAPTURES FOOTSCRAY ART PRIZE 2023

The main prize in the Footscray Art Prize has been awarded to multi-disciplinary artist Roberta Joy Rich for her powerful and multi-layered video installation entitled *Though Buried, They Echo*.

A diaspora Southern African raised on Wathaurong Country, Roberta often references histories relating to her cultural identity and experiences, with a focus on oral connections through communal knowledge systems.

Her award-winning work features a gallery of policy makers - whose legacies she believes still define Australian and South African colonial law - embedded beneath the gallery floor.

It captivated the judges who felt its success "is not only the power of its subject and elements, but how she has impacted viewers of the work" who literally walk over it and are then encouraged to look at what is under their feet.

Roberta's work was selected from 43 finalists and more than 500 original submissions from artists across Australia as well as internationally based Australian creatives.

In addition to the \$20,000 main prize, three other category prizes were awarded.

Council awarded the \$10,000 Local Acquisition Prize to subversive needlepoint artist Jessie Deane, whose cotton thread on canvas, *The Big Build*, documents the West Gate Tunnel build - exploring contradictions and dichotomies of hand-made and heavy duty, masculine industry and what is perceived as "feminine" craft, with the rigid materials compared with malleable thread.

Council was also impressed with the bold work *Salon Gâr*, awarding a runner-up Local Acquisition Prize of \$5,000 to artist Ammar Yonis.

Abbra Kotlarczyk received the \$2,000 Residency Artist Prize for her artwork *Bridgehead (de)composition/Sweating the impurities*, which honours her grandfather's enforced labours as a stone mason during WWII.

Young Artists Prizes of \$500 were awarded to primary school student Grace Nguyen of Maribyrnong, and secondary school student Jadyr Gregorio of Wyndham.

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



Winners were selected by a judging panel comprising University of Melbourne Art Museum Associate Director Charlotte Day, Artist and Curator Phuong Ngo, and National Gallery of Victoria's First Nations Art Curator, Shonae Hobson.

All the works will be exhibited at Footscray Community Arts until 17 September in a sitewide takeover of the venue.



## ENVIRONMENT

### HOME EFFICIENCY AUDIT KITS

Are you looking to better understand your home's energy and water usage? Home Efficiency Audit Kits are now available to be borrowed to help you monitor and adjust your home's energy consumption effectively.

The user-friendly kit helps pinpoint excessive energy consumption zones in your home, enabling simple yet impactful changes to reduce usage and save on your energy bill while creating a more sustainable environment.

The kits include:

1. Thermal imaging camera: Helps visualise heat escaping from windows and doors or cold air seeping in.
2. Power monitor: Assesses the energy usage of household appliances.
3. Infrared thermometer: Measures the surface temperatures in your home, indicating insulation effectiveness.
4. Flow rate cup: Evaluates water usage to help you conserve water.
5. Instruction booklet: Includes money-saving tips to guide you on how to use the tools and understand your energy use.

You can reserve a kit today through Maribyrnong Libraries. To learn more, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Home-Efficiency-Audit-Kits](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Home-Efficiency-Audit-Kits)

### MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS GREEN WASTE TRIAL

Following the successful roll-out of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) to standalone houses in 2021, Council is partnering with nine other councils to trial the delivery of a FOGO service to multi-unit dwellings.

The Best Waste Management Practices in Multi-Unit Dwellings project – led by circular economy experts Reground – will involve collaborating with residents from six local multi-unit dwellings to trial the most efficient, impactful and cost-effective solutions to divert waste from landfills through increasing recycling rates and reducing contamination.

This project aims to establish sound foundations for ongoing best waste practices to roll out to other multi-unit dwellings in the future. The six selected Maribyrnong dwellings will receive educational signage installations to encourage correct recycling practices, and five will also receive Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bins for the duration of the trial.

The trial supports the actions in Council's Towards Zero Waste Strategy, a document outlining our target for diverting all waste to landfills by 2040. Sustainability Victoria funds this project on behalf of the State Government.



### RECORD NATIONAL TREE DAY

National Tree Day is an event hosted annually in July by Planet Ark and is Australia's largest community tree planting and nature protection event, with over one million new trees, shrubs and grasses planted across the country each year.

Maribyrnong's 2023 National Tree Day event was held on Sunday 30 July where the community helped us to plant 4,000 trees and shrubs – a sixty per cent increase on last year's tally of 2,500 plantings. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to join us on the day. The event supports Council's Urban Forest Strategy and our goal to increase Maribyrnong's canopy cover by twenty per cent by 2040.

Approximately half of the planting stock has been funded by the More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West program – an initiative by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action to support urban cooling and greening in the west.

### NESTING BOX PROGRAM A SUCCESS FOR URBAN WILDLIFE

Over 200 purpose-built nesting boxes – small homes providing shelter for Maribyrnong wildlife – have been created and installed in trees across our City, with 150 in parks and 50 in the backyards of local residents. A combination of old logs with natural hollows, specialised holes in live trees, and handmade nesting boxes built by the Braybrook Men's Shed have all been used as part of this initiative.

We look forward to expanding this program to enhance our thriving urban ecosystem and support habitat for native wildlife across our municipality.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

### CELEBRATING OUR CITY'S CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The City of Maribyrnong is a thriving multicultural community – one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse in Victoria with our residents coming from more than 135 countries and speaking over 80 different languages. In 2021, over a third of residents were born overseas with our community set to continue growing and diversifying.

Council plays an important role in adopting strategies that facilitate and strengthen interaction between cultures, beliefs, and faiths, and is currently focusing on ways we can support a stronger and more connected city.

We know that the way we interact, learn, and share with one another changes and shapes our community as we continue to grow. This is why Council is building on its multiculturalism to expand our intercultural capacity.

Where in the past our different ethnic groups have been encouraged to co-exist – this change in emphasis reflects a desire for our communities to also empathise and interact with each other. Achieving this requires a clear strategy that is built on community aspiration, which is what we are currently looking to deliver.

This journey towards a new Intercultural Strategy began with our membership of the Intercultural Cities Programme – run by the Council of Europe – which encourages cities all over the globe to review their policies through an intercultural lens.

Our involvement in this Program, followed by conversations with stakeholders has informed the foundation of a draft document and action plan we are now sharing with our community for their feedback.

We each have a story that shapes Maribyrnong, and we want to ensure that community voice is reflected in the endorsed Strategy. You are invited to think about the ways you share, learn, and tell stories with others, to help create a roadmap for Maribyrnong's culturally rich future.

You'll find a postcard included in this edition where you can provide some initial thoughts. Pop it in the post back to us, it's free to send back.

Provide your comments by midnight Sunday 8 October 2023.

Visit, [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/intercultural-maribyrnong](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/intercultural-maribyrnong)





# DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF AQUATIC FACILITIES

Aquatic and leisure centres are important community spaces that contribute to the health and wellbeing of users and to the overall economy.



Across our City and adjacent municipalities there are a range of aquatic facilities servicing a host of community needs from learn to swim to wellness which are owned and operated by both private and public entities.

Council's aquatic facility – Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (the MAC) was built in 2006. Since then aquatic facilities have changed significantly. Today they act as a destination point for a range of physical and social activities providing more reasons for people to visit and stay longer. By offering fully integrated community health and wellbeing spaces they also contribute to the development of a healthy and strong community.

Council's draft Aquatic Strategy, now available for community comment, seeks to confirm the role that Council plays in the commercial and public aquatic environment.

This includes cementing the MAC as Council's only aquatic facility along with a series of recommendations for improvements to the facility placing a greater focus on education, leisure, therapy and wellness, to meet modern day aspirations.

“ Over time these facilities have evolved from humble outdoor swimming pools to fully integrated community health and wellbeing spaces. ”

This would see proposed infrastructure upgrades to support the inclusion of:

- Wellness and meeting rooms
- Warm water pool (20 x 10m)
- Roman spa
- Learn to swim pool (20 x 10m)
- Indoor water play
- Outdoor water play
- Outdoor gym

You can provide feedback on both the draft Aquatic Strategy and draft MAC Master Plan at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/aquatic-strategy](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/aquatic-strategy)

# PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR

Get moving this spring while taking in some of Maribyrnong's finest public artworks.

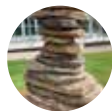
From interactive sculptures, those of grand scale or loud displays of colour, Council's public art collection is curated to tell different stories that paint a picture of our community's vibrant past and present.

With many new additions in the last year, we are proud to show off our collection featuring a diverse range of artists and works.

For more information please visit: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/publicart](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/publicart)



**1 Braybrook Sculptural Seat**  
Jennifer Tran in collaboration with mentor BiGFish (Alfons van Maanen)  
Braybrook Cultural Hub, Churchill Ave, Braybrook



**2 People**  
Jonathan Leahey & David Burrows (Truc)  
Braybrook Cultural Hub, Churchill Ave, Braybrook



**3 Pollyanna's Egg**  
Janette Le and Sarah Stolz  
Braybrook Cultural Hub, Churchill Ave, Braybrook



**4 Saigon Welcome Arch**  
McBride Charles Ryan  
Cnr Leeds and Barkley Streets



**5 Billy Button Band**  
Skunk Control  
Billy Button Childcare Centre, Hyde St, Footscray



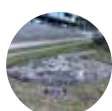
**6 Dream Home**  
Frank Veldze  
Parker Reserve, cnr Moreland and Parker St



**7 Maribyrnong**  
Geoffrey Bartlett  
Dynon Bridge/Joseph Rd



**8 Flathead**  
Les 'Lally' Saunders (Yorta Yorta)  
Maribyrnong River trail at corner of Hopkins St/Joseph Rd



**9 Wominjeka Tarnuk Yooroom (Welcome Bowl)**  
Vicki Couzens, Maree Clarke and Jeph Neale  
Nicholson Street Mall/Paisley St, Footscray



**10 With and Each Other**  
Tom Bills  
Cornwall Reserve, Ballarat Road



**11 Architecture of the Sole**  
Tracey Lamb  
Henry Turner South Pavilion, Farnsworth Avenue, Footscray



**12 Pipedreams**  
Matthew Harding  
entry to Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong\*



**13 Material Fix**  
Julie Shiels  
Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong\*



**14 The Pipestacks**  
Kerrie Poliness  
Pipemakers Park, Maribyrnong\*



\*Pipemakers Park has numerous other public artworks including History of the Land Gardens Discovery Trail, Pipe Stacks (Kerrie Poliness), mosaic Fire Myths (Elizabeth McKinnon) and the Pioneer Irish Women's Shelter.



## RELAX, PLAY, TAKE PART DURING CHILDREN'S WEEK 2023

Get ready to celebrate Children's Week, the annual nationwide event dedicated to recognising and honouring the talents, skills, achievements, and rights of children across Australia.

Inspired by Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Children's Week this year, which takes place from 21-29 October, embraces the theme "Children have the right to relax, play, and take part in activities they enjoy."

In the spirit of Children's Week, we are offering a diverse range of activities designed to bring joy and enrichment to every child. From engaging Loose Part Play sessions that inspire creativity, to immersive nature walks that foster a deep connection with the environment – there's something for everyone.

Other activities include intergenerational play, which brings different generations together to enjoy a petting zoo, and a Vietnamese bilingual story-time, celebrating diversity through captivating songs, stories and rhymes. There will also be classic games in a retro play session for a nostalgic experience.

Maribyrnong City Council Children's Week activities are supported by the State Government.

Stay tuned for more exciting events coming soon to Community Centres and Maribyrnong Libraries.

For more information about the wide range of events taking place throughout the City of Maribyrnong, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/childrensweek](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/childrensweek)



## CALLING VOLUNTEER MENTORS TO EMPOWER YOUNG DRIVERS WITH L2P

Council is seeking mentor drivers to help learners gain the experience required to become a licenced driver.

Now in its 13th year, the L2P Program – funded by the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Department of Transport and Planning, and delivered by Council – matches learner drivers aged 16 to 21 with a fully-licensed volunteer driver and practice vehicle to help them gain the 120 hours behind the wheel needed to apply for a probationary licence.

The L2P Program focuses on helping young people become safe, confident drivers. It also provides a unique opportunity for young people to interact with positive adult role models, gain confidence, and move towards social independence.

There is currently a waitlist of student drivers, and a shortfall of mentor drivers to coach them.

If you are over 21 years of age, are able to commit around 1.5 hours per week, hold a current full Victorian driver's licence, and are willing to undertake VicRoads training, you could become a driving coach with the program. Mentors are covered for liability through their volunteer status.

To be eligible to be mentored, learner drivers must be aged between 16 and 21 years, hold a current learner permit, have no access to a vehicle or a supervising driver and live in the City of Maribyrnong. Learners who participate in the Program have access to up to seven free driving lessons with a professional instructor to build their skills before getting on the road with a volunteer mentor.

For more information about becoming an L2P volunteer mentor or a learner driver visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/L2P](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/L2P)

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE



### NEW KINDERGARTEN COMING TO MARIBYRNONG COMMUNITY CENTRE

Maribyrnong Community Centre will soon be home to a co-located Randall Street Kindergarten, which, once complete, will provide an additional 66 new 3 and 4-year-old kinder places.



Works are well underway on the \$2 million project, jointly funded by the State Government, which will see two new playrooms, children's amenities, office space and an outdoor play area. The much-loved community centre will also receive refurbishments to the existing multi-purpose room and amenities; while staying open throughout the works.

Enrolments for this kinder for 2024 are now open via Council's central registration system.

### DISTRIBUTOR ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Over the past few months, contractors have been undertaking major patching and resurfacing works along Somerville Road as part of our Distributor Road Improvement Project.

Three other roads – Rosamond Road, Mitchell Street and Churchill Avenue – will also undergo repairs, with a full reconstruction of Summerhill Road to follow.

These upgrades reflect feedback in our most recent Annual Community Survey where road maintenance was one of the top three issues respondents asked Council to immediately address.

Stay up-to-date on this project, [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/distributor-roads-upgrade](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/distributor-roads-upgrade)



## NEW OPEN SPACE IN THE JOSEPH ROAD PRECINCT



Work on a new open space in the Joseph Road Precinct on the corner of Whitehall and Warde streets is progressing.

Named after Margaret (Lillardia) Tucker, one of Australia's earliest and most notable female Aboriginal activists, Lillardia Park will cover approximately 1,444 square metres to support informal play and recreation.

The Lillardia Park design, informed through engagement with the community, includes passive open space, extensive garden beds, tree planting, seating, sheltered picnic space and a fenced edge along the rail line.

The development is supported by funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Local Parks Program: New Pocket Parks.

The new Park will take approximately six months to complete. Learn more, [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Lillardia-Park](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Lillardia-Park)



## CLARKE STREET POP-UP PARK HERE TO STAY

Based on your feedback, we're moving to make the Pop-Up Park at the corner of Clarke and Barkly streets in West Footscray - a permanent fixture.

The area was initially transformed from a space for cars into a much loved community gathering space in 2021, on a two year trial basis.

A welcome addition during lockdowns, it offered a safe and inviting outdoor space to connect, and has since become a popular place for residents to meet, play and relax long after restrictions were lifted.

In late 2022, we asked the West Footscray community if they wanted the Clarke Street Pop-Up Park to become a permanent space to hang out in the heart of Barkly Village. Of the more than 600 participants, 99 per cent said a resounding 'yes'!

We've taken on board community requests for more shade, plants and trees, and places to sit, in the development of the draft Concept Plan which you can view at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/ClarkeStreet](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/ClarkeStreet)

## BARKLY VILLAGE STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Barkly Street serves as a key thoroughfare between Ashley Street in Braybrook and central Footscray. It is also home to Barkly Village which stretches nearly one kilometre from the Summerhill Road intersection in the east to the Argyle Street intersection in the west.

The Village includes a wide range of shops and eateries and an active and engaged community supporting the thriving, dining, shopping, and entertainment hub.

Delivering physical improvements to Barkly Village, via the development of the Barkly Street Project, was identified as a key action in the West Footscray Neighbourhood Plan (2018).

This Plan informed a four-week community conversation on proposed streetscape improvements in July 2022 as part of the Barkly Streetscape Project, building on meetings with business owners and traders in December 2021.

During this engagement we heard broad support for the proposed streetscape improvements generally, but also specifically in relation to the inclusion of greenery and trees, safer walking and cycling, and places to sit, meet and relax to enhance the visitor experience.

To share your comments on the updated streetscape plan visit, [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/BarklyStreet](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/BarklyStreet)

## ELEVATING LOCAL BUSINESSES

**C**ouncil's Business Elevate Program has proven to be popular with the local business community, offering vouchers to the value of \$2,000 from preferred local suppliers to enhance their operations. The program aims to foster business to business (B2B) connections and support the growth of local enterprises.

Martin McGauran, founder of Yarraville-based Inform & Empower, was thrilled to be partnered with local printing business, Minuteman Footscray, to have custom printed corflute fence signage. These corflute signs were posted around Australia to more than 100 primary schools, including many in the City of Maribyrnong, who partner with Inform & Empower. "The signs double as marketing for us as well as a way for schools to highlight to their own community that they value and invest in digital safety and wellbeing," he said.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the program for Martin was being encouraged to look at the businesses in the local area to see where there was synergy. He says that without the program, they would have likely looked online and not considered



geography in the decision making. He was excited to share, "we saved on postage and the turnaround time for our work was exceptional. We literally drove three minutes up the road to collect the merchandise when it was ready."

Durga Murjani, Director Operations at Minuteman Footscray, was pleasantly surprised when she found out about the program, "When I first heard about these grants I was excited as I was not aware that Council was supporting local businesses in this way. Whenever I mention this program to my colleagues, we all agree that it is a brilliant idea to allow businesses to support each other directly and help other small businesses to grow. With the help of the Council, it becomes a community effort with everyone co-operating and working together."

Heading into its third year, the Business Elevate program will again have \$100,000 worth of vouchers from preferred suppliers on offer. Applications for \$2,000 vouchers open 25 September and close 9 October.

For more information [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business-elevate](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/business-elevate)

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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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