



Maribyrnong  
CITY COUNCIL

MARIBYRNONG

# MESSENGER

Autumn 2024

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

## GETTING TO THE POINT WITH JESSIE DEANE

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FOUR BIG  
COMMUNITY  
CONVERSATIONS  
ON THIS YEAR'S  
CALENDAR

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RETHINKING  
THE FUTURE OF  
OUR FACILITIES  
AND SERVICES

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

**W**elcome to the Autumn edition of **Maribyrnong Messenger**, our first for 2024.

I know many of you will be pleased to see on page 14 the intention to start work on the long-awaited infrastructure improvements for the 15-hectare Joseph Road Precinct. The first stage along Joseph Road itself will help address recent issues raised by residents.

In this issue you will also find an update on other works including the reopening of the Heritage Ponds at Footscray Park, next phase of the Distributor Roads upgrade, and creation of Lillardia Park.

This will be a year of listening for Council with four big conversations to be had as we review the Community Vision, Asset Plan and Financial Plan and develop a new four-year Council Plan. Your involvement in these four key strategic documents will be critical in informing the future strategic direction of Council and determining future service delivery. Read more on page 3.

On pages 8 and 9 you will also find updates on more projects we are working with the community on including the future of our community infrastructure and nature strip guidelines along with opportunities to provide comment on a new way of thinking about facility and service delivery, a review of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy, Children's Strategy, and new Draft Integrated Water Management Strategy.

We are also progressing the development of the Annual Budget 2024/25 following a conversation with the community late last year. Along with the opportunity to provide general feedback, as part of this initial engagement, visitors to Your City Your Voice were also able to allocate points to identify the five service areas most important to them.

Closely aligned with what we heard last year, open space, sustainability and the environment, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, city amenity and safety, and health, wellbeing and recreation were the most highly ranked.

Understanding your thinking and priorities this early in the process means we can better reflect your needs and achieve better outcomes for the community as a whole. We will be engaging on the Proposed Budget in April.

In this jam packed issue you will also see culture, colour and community coming to life on page 12 in the latest round of the StreetWORKS program, which is bringing eight new murals to the Footscray CBD.

**Councillor Cuc Lam**  
**Mayor of the City**  
**of Maribyrnong**



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## COUNCIL MEETING DATES

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

### MARCH

Tuesday 19, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 26, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### APRIL

Tuesday 23, 6.30pm: Council

Tuesday 30, 6.30pm: City Development Delegated Committee

### MAY

Tuesday 21, 6.30pm: Council

Monday 27, 6.30pm: Council (Hearing of Budget Submissions)

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](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/meetings) or phone **9688 0200** for more information.

# THERE ARE SOME BIG CONVERSATIONS COMING UP THIS YEAR

## **Council will be revisiting four key planning documents this year – the Community Plan, Council Plan, Asset Plan and Financial Plan.**

These documents inform the future strategic direction of Council and determine future service delivery.

*Maribyrnong 2040* is the first Community Plan for the City of Maribyrnong, in effect a blueprint outlining the community vision on the kind of future residents want.

Endorsed in 2018, it is underpinned by the four-year Council Plan and the ten-year Asset and Financial plans, which provide direction on how this vision can be achieved.

Because these four documents set out the strategic direction for Maribyrnong, it is important they reflect wide-ranging feedback from our community and stakeholders.

The *Local Government Act 2020* also requires feedback to be gathered using deliberative engagement processes. This approach to decision-making is premised on allowing participants to consider relevant information from multiple points of view, discuss issues and options and develop their thinking together, before coming to a view.

Importantly, it allows people to view opinion shifts both before and after deliberation, which is useful in understanding the difference between informed and raw public opinion – which we will also be wanting to collect.

The Community Vision, which is outlined in the Community Plan, should as its name suggests, reflect our community's expectations for the future. Currently the vision is for "a City where history and differences are embraced, forming the foundations from which vibrant, diverse and sustainable communities thrive."

Given the challenges of the pandemic, and increasing concerns around climate change and cost of living pressures, we want to know if you think this vision still holds, and what other changes you might like to see.

But before we get into that detail, we are keen to firstly understand how you might like to be involved in the

conversation – what tools and methods you would like us to use to encourage residents to participate – recognising the Community Vision in particular is 'your vision' and we believe it is important everyone, who wants to, should have a hand in reviewing it.

There were over 500 contributions to help inform the initial document, which was further developed by a community panel of 30 participants. To be truly 'written by the community, for the community', we are keen to see many residents involved this time around.

Along with our digital community engagement platform, Your City Your Voice, we will also be drawing on the Maribyrnong Matters Panel, which is a group of more than 200 residents who have expressed an interest in being part of Council's decision-making. New members are welcome and you can sign up at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au)

We will also be introducing a new engagement tool in March for the first time to help kick things off. Hello Lamp Post is a two-way communication platform that uses Artificial Intelligence to support live interactions. Anyone who has a mobile phone can take part by scanning a QR code on marked Hello Lamp Post signs. There are no apps to download, no account fees, or registration required and you can participate at any time.

This new feedback loop will enable us to share content, collect sentiment and opinion, answer questions or point to further information and resources housed on our website.

Because we want you to do the talking, we will be looking to provide multiple and varied opportunities – both in-person and online to maximise the opportunities for our community to be involved.

Because this is the most significant opportunity to influence Council's decision-making for the next four years, we wanted to foreshadow it early.

If you are keen to become involved, follow our project page and keep an eye out for the engagement launch on a lamp post near you.

[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/communityplan](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/communityplan)

# GETTING TO THE POINT WITH JESSIE DEANE

A VISUAL ARTIST, JESSIE HAS SPENT MORE THAN A DECADE IN MELBOURNE'S WESTERN SUBURBS CAPTURING THE EVER-CHANGING SIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES IN A UNIQUE ART MEDIUM.



## UK born Jessie Deane has a talent for threading the needle in the literal and metaphoric sense.

As an art form, needlepoint is traditionally considered a finer, delicate task – usually capturing interpretations of animals, flowers and natural landscapes. This is not the case for this Yarraville-based needlepoint artist, who has instead opted to apply her craft to the landscape she calls home.

“I find the malleability of thread, the softness of thread, compared to the rigidness of that industrial landscape and suburban landscape, especially in the west, it’s really profound – I think it has something to do with the light.”

Having studied woven textiles, and a weaver by trade, Jessie became drawn to needlepoint as an art form. And, since moving to Yarraville around 18 years ago, has become so enamoured with the unique beauty of the landscape of the western suburbs, she felt compelled to capture it.

“For me, beauty is something that really, deeply, comes from within. I see beauty in things that other people may not see beauty in.

“I see things that are really interesting here that aren’t necessarily the same in other parts of the City,” she explains. Jessie’s interest extends to capturing “moments in time” in an always-evolving environment creating a connection to her surroundings and her community as it was at that exact point. “It’s like injecting love into spaces that other people may not necessarily see, which is really important to me.”

Jessie firmly believes the western suburbs are worth celebrating and enjoys putting a spotlight on where she lives helping subvert any stereotypes that persist about the area.

“I think the sense of community is really powerful, especially in Yarraville, which for me is kind of like a village. You go to the same cafes, you know who runs them, and you get to know so many people.

**“ While there is some transiency, because people come and go, generally it’s quite connected and people are solid here and have been here a long time. I think the mix – the diversity – of the community is important too. ”**

Jessie has previously held needlepoint workshops in an effort to help foster creativity and community cohesion. For anyone who enjoys her art or likes craft and may be interested in taking up or trying out needlepoint, she points out the essential quality needed – is patience.

“You need the capacity to understand this is a long-term project, it’s not something you can do in a day. You have to sit with it and pursue and be with it for the next month,” she said.

It’s also not realistic to expect to be perfect at needlepoint from the start. Jessie has noted the improvement in her own work over the years, including her evolving use of colour and experimentation.

One of the pieces she is most proud of, *The Big Build*, won the 2023 Footscray Art Prize’s Local Acquisition Prize. The piece, which captures one of the cranes being used to help deliver the West Gate Tunnel Project, has been added to Council’s art collection.

The artwork is a strong, iconic visual work for this part of Melbourne right now, signifying what is going on in that space, at this point in time.

“I really enjoyed making the piece because while it may look quite monotone, there’s so many colours. I used so many colours in that piece. I was able to use thread to even create a sense of fluorescence, which I’ve never done previously, and I was able to play so much with colour. It’s one of the most creative things I’ve done.”

It’s also slightly different to what she has done in the past.

“All my work is figurative, but this is figurative in a very particular way because it is just one thing, rather than the scenic images I tend to capture. Having just that green crane, it creates a type of magnificence about that structure, but it’s also a very classic moment in time.”

Looking forward, Jessie will be focusing on expanding on her needlepoint skillset, by playing and learning with new techniques.



# GRANTING COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**Council has a number of grants designed to support a thriving community and the growth and development of businesses, artists and community groups.**

These grants provide a valuable opportunity for our diverse community to thrive by fostering connections, building skills, and enhancing connection.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council's Community Grants program is designed to empower groups and organisations to make a positive impact in their neighbourhoods. Funding enables eligible community groups to implement projects that enhance the quality of life for residents and contribute to the overall wellbeing of Maribyrnong.

There are three categories:

- small (up to \$1,000)
- medium (to up \$15,000)
- large (up to \$25,000)

Applications for Community Grants open in July with recipients announced in November each year.

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) GRANT PROGRAM

The Business Improvement District (BID) Grant Program provides financial assistance to local businesses across the City to implement projects that enhance their operations, attract customers, and contribute to the overall economic vitality of the area. The BID Grant Program is delivered through two streams:

- Business Elevate Program Funding – a voucher-based program with a total value of \$100,000 providing opportunities for small business

collaborations between registered preferred suppliers. Expressions of Interest to join the program normally open in August, with applications for vouchers opening in September/October.

- Trader Association BID Grant Funding – \$100,000 in funding to support local trader associations deliver various project, programs, events and initiatives.

## FESTIVAL AND ACTIVATION GRANTS

The Festival and Activation Grants offered by Council provide financial support to groups and organisations to organise events that celebrate the cultural richness and creativity of the community. These grants aim to deliver memorable experiences for residents and visitors alike, fostering a sense of pride and unity within the community, while also driving economic activity.

### SIGNATURE FESTIVALS

Grants of up to \$40,000 per annum are available for larger scale not-for-profit festivals that showcase the best of the City of Maribyrnong, its geography, local cultures or creative talents, and attract audiences from across Melbourne and Victoria.

### PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES (ANNUAL)

Annual grants of up to \$20,000 are available for small-medium not-for-profit place-based activities that creatively activate public spaces, business precincts and local neighbourhoods.

### PLACE-BASED INITIATIVES (QUICK RESPONSE)

Quick response grants of up to \$10,000 are available for small-to-medium scale place-based activities

that cannot meet fixed annual timeframes. Not-for-profits as well as businesses registered within City of Maribyrnong are eligible to apply.

### NIGHT-TIME DIVERSIFICATION

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for activities that enhance or widen the reach of our City's night-time attractions. Not-for-profits as well as businesses registered within City of Maribyrnong are eligible to apply.

## TRIENNIAL ARTS PARTNER FUNDING (2023-2026)

To support the local arts and cultural sector, Council provides financial and in-kind support through the Triennial Arts Partner Funding. By investing in the arts, Council aims to create a vibrant cultural landscape that enhances the quality of life for residents and attracts visitors from near and far.

In 2023, Council allocated \$620,000 in Triennial Arts Partner Funding to support local arts, cultural or heritage organisations in the City of Maribyrnong. The funding is designed to assist with the day-to-day running costs and delivery of programmes that support local artists, builds new audiences and increases participation in the arts by the community.

The next Triennial Arts Partner funding round will open in 2026. Other ways Council supports artists include the First Nations Creators Program and the Western Artists Mentorship Program. For more information on eligibility criteria and application details, please visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/grants](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/grants)



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

# THINKING OUTSIDE THE SQUARE

**As our population grows and demand for services and facilities increase, we have to start thinking about new ways of doing things to meet the diverse needs of an ageing, and socially, culturally diverse community.**

This includes potentially moving away from stand-alone premises to multi-purpose hubs that can accommodate multiple uses servicing multiple needs in one location.

This thinking is encapsulated in a draft Community Infrastructure Strategy 2051, which looks at facilities and spaces that support community-based activities, including arts and culture, libraries, kindergartens, health services, facilities for young people, and including indoor and outdoor public spaces.

The document recognises population growth, limited Council-owned land, affordable private land to provide additional facilities, the need to limit rate increases, climate emergency, diverse needs, and changes to building and health and safety standards as the key challenges and opportunities we are currently facing.

It considers how best to provide facilities and spaces that deliver services and community networking to support quality of life and well-being given that back-drop. In simple terms this includes opportunities to consider:

- A smaller number of higher quality facilities that will be easier to maintain, helping reduce the burden on ratepayers.
- Multi-purpose facilities for multi-users to support increasing demand for community space, arts, and culture, and sporting facilities.
- Partnerships and collaborations to maximise investment opportunities and funding from other sources, reducing costs to ratepayers.

The draft Strategy suggests applying this thinking would reduce the costs of building renewals and maintenance, enhance accessibility, provide an efficient and effective response to ageing infrastructure, and deliver a sustainable and flexible approach to changing community needs over time, from which both Council and community could benefit. We are currently looking at how this approach could

potentially be applied to the suburb of Maribyrnong where existing facilities are nearing the end of life and service demands are growing.

We talked with residents in 2022 to understand how they felt about existing facilities and services.

Their feedback, along with discussions with facility users, key stakeholders, specialist and technical advice, and consideration of demographic changes was part of a broader study into how well the suburb is being served by the existing infrastructure and identify any gaps that would need to be addressed in the future.

The key finding from this work was that a consolidation of assets and development of multi-use hubs, incorporating existing and additional services, would be the most effective use of funding to deliver best outcomes for the local community now and into the future.

We are keen to know how our community feels about the multi-purpose hub approach generally as a way forward, but also specifically in relation to opportunities to apply it to the suburb of Maribyrnong. Share your thoughts by midnight 24 March 2024 at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/maribyrnong](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/maribyrnong)

Given the focus on facilities and services in the suburb of Maribyrnong, we're also starting an early conversation to inform a master plan for Maribyrnong Reserve, in Raleigh Road.

Primarily a sporting oval, there is some open space around the periphery of the Reserve, which also houses a community garden, a public hall built by local residents in 1927 and is now used as the Raleigh Street Activity Centre, and the Maribyrnong War Memorial dating back to World War I.

This is an asset that has served our community well for almost 100 years and we are keen to understand what you like about the Reserve and any changes you would like to see to ensure it remains a valued and treasured asset for one hundred more.

For more information, visit:

[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/maribyrnongreserve](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/maribyrnongreserve)

During 2024, Council will also be undertaking a master planning review at Robert Barrett Reserve, which will consider opportunities for enhancements and improvements to existing facilities.



## INSIGHTS SOUGHT TO HELP REDUCE HARM FROM ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

With the impact of alcohol and other drugs recognised as a major health issue nationwide, Council remains committed to helping address and reduce the impacts across our community, in partnership with others working in the field.

Over the last decade in the City of Maribyrnong, we have seen a steady increase in alcohol-related hospitalisations, particularly in those aged over 65, coupled with a steady decline in people seeking treatment.

Recognising Council can play a role in reducing the harm from alcohol and other drugs in a number of ways, beyond direct service delivery, we are looking to our community for insights on what this could look as we update our Reducing Harm from Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy.

Shifting demographics, a sense of increasing community polarisation, and socio-economic factors are key challenges we need to consider, alongside COVID-19, which have led to changes in the way some community members interact with alcohol and drugs.

The updated draft Policy, now available for feedback, has been informed by contemporary, best practice frameworks, and areas for Council involvement including advocacy, partnerships and research.

You can join the conversation at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/aod](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/aod)

## CHARTING THE GROWTH OF OUR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY STRATEGY

Since it was adopted by Council in 2020, the Strategy for Children, Young People and Their Families has stood as a whole-of-Council approach to supporting our community's youngest residents.

The Strategy lays out a series of objectives to uphold and advocate for the rights of children and young people, and guide Council decision-making and actions until 2030.

Since the Strategy was adopted, we have had a Census, a pandemic, technology has changed, and people have moved from and into our community, and it is important we now check back with our community to ensure it remains relevant to current community needs.

We want to know for example, if the actions outlined are still appropriate or are there things we are not doing that



you think we should. And have we got the balance right in our support of the different age cohorts.

We're specifically looking to understand from our community if priorities have changed and the actions outlined should still apply, or whether there are any alterations or additions that need to be made.

Your suggestions and comments will be critical to help inform any updates to the Strategy before it goes to Council for endorsement in the middle of this year.

Find more information and share additional comments by midnight Sunday 7 April 2024 at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/childrenstrategy](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/childrenstrategy)

## WATER: WAYS WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE

Water is essential for life – and every one of us has a part to play in protecting and enhancing our waterways – specifically the Maribyrnong River and Stony Creek.

This is why Council is creating a plan looking at how the organisation and the community can work together to improve our municipality's water resilience and health of our waterways and environment.

The draft Integrated Water Management Plan (IWM), Council's first, considers key challenges surrounding water management, such as population growth, increased demand, climate change and waterway health.

It identifies 50 proposed actions to help protect our waterways and local habitat, improve stormwater quality, increase community liveability, recreation and amenity, support tree growth and greener neighbourhoods, improve community and environmental resilience, and minimise the urban heat island effect over the short, medium and longer-term. This includes things like:

- requiring integrated water management planning in larger private redevelopments
- developing targets for tree density for new developments
- encouraging the protection of existing significant or larger trees on private property
- advocating for desilting, rectification and enhancement of Newell's Paddock

Provide any thoughts on the draft Plan and proposed actions by midnight Monday 11 March 2024 at [yourcityyourvoice.com.au/water](https://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/water)

*The draft IWM Strategy does not directly address flooding because, as a general rule, IWM Plans focus on opportunities to treat smaller/more frequent rainfall events, as opposed to major rainfall events, which are managed under a Flood Management Plan.*

# PLUGGING INTO GROWING DEMAND FOR **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS**

## FAST CHARGERS ARRIVE IN THE HEART OF FOOTSCRAY

**Two cutting-edge electric vehicle (EV) chargers - each boasting a robust 150kW capacity - have been installed in the Raleigh Street Carpark, Footscray.**

What sets these chargers apart is their ability to accommodate up to four EVs simultaneously, addressing the growing demand for efficient charging infrastructure in the west. They are also powered by 100 per cent renewable energy.

The installation in Footscray not only reflects Council's commitment to sustainability but also supports a shift towards a cleaner, greener future in transportation as drivers continue to embrace the era of fast and sustainable electric vehicle charging locally.

This initiative has been funded through the Federal Government's Future Fuels Fund, which is administered by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.



### CULTIVATING CHANGE IN 2024

The triumph of My Smart Garden, recipient of a prestigious award at the Premier's Sustainability Awards in late 2023, underscores our community's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

To further support this, a line-up of Council-supported workshops and events have been scheduled for 2024.

Moving from the garden into the home, this includes our next Renew webinar, *All-electric homes*, which is just around the corner. This session promises insights into making your home as sustainable and energy efficient as possible. To register, and to stay up to date on sustainability workshops and events, visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](https://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

# RENOVATING YOUR HOME

## NAVIGATING THE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS

**When planning a renovation the first consideration should be identifying whether a planning permit or building permit is needed, recognising that both may be needed depending on the nature of your project.**

Where a Planning Permit is required, it is advisable to seek professional assistance to help prepare and submit the necessary documentation. Professional consultants can guide you through the process, increasing the likelihood of a successful application. Understanding the level of detail required is crucial. Refer to the application checklist provided by Council to ensure all the relevant documents are included noting the complexity of your project and applicable planning controls will influence the extent of information needed.

Before submitting your application, consider also scheduling a pre-application consultation with a Council Planning Officer where you can discuss your proposal, gain valuable insights and address potential concerns before formally lodging your submission, ultimately streamlining the approval process.

By following these tips, your chances of a smooth planning permit application process are enhanced. For more information about Building and Planning visit [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

## PLANNING PERMIT APPLICATIONS IN 2023

### LAST YEAR, COUNCIL:

- ✓ Received and determined 597 planning permit applications
- ✓ Processed 66 requests for historical plans/permits

- ✓ Processed 244 demolition consent (s29a) requests
- ✓ Received and provided advice on 94 pre-applications requests
- ✓ Received and provided advice on 97 property information requests



# COLOUR US EXCITED FOR THE StreetWORKS MURAL INSTALLATIONS

CULTURE, COLOUR AND COMMUNITY COME TO LIFE IN THE LATEST ROUND OF THE STREETWORKS PROGRAM WHICH IS BRINGING EIGHT NEW MURALS TO THE FOOTSCRAY CBD.

**C**ouncil and the State Government have partnered to invest \$355,000 in street art and other public art in Footscray to enliven community spaces, foster creativity, and deter vandalism.

With over 50 expressions of interest received from artists to participate in the program, Council was spoilt for choice curating this year's program. The mural by award-winning Melbourne-based Colombian artist Katherine Gailer – or Katira – can be viewed on Donald Street, Footscray, near Barkly Street.

It features two young women entwined through a braid in their hair and along

with imagery of local flora and fauna in homage to the Wadawurrung people. It reflects ideas of unity, cultural diversity and collective action and draws inspiration from the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy through the symbolism of our shared connections and collaborative efforts towards a common future.

"Vibrant colours and a magical realism aesthetic serve as an invitation to the public to contemplate the future of the new generation and recognise our integral role within the ecosystem," Katherine said.

"Turning to the left side of the mural, I particularly focus on the impact of

small actions like cycling. This segment visually communicates the ripple effect of individual choices, aligning with the Council's goal of promoting active transport modes fuelled by human power."

Other artists selected to install a street art commission this year include; Tom Civil, Madeleine Mercer, Abbey Rich and Olana Janfa, Eric Sesto, Justine McAllister, Olivia McCarten and Daniel van de Weil.

Installation will take place throughout summer. Keep an eye out on Council's website as we profile the work of these amazing artists.

# COUNT HER IN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD) IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY AROUND THE WORLD ON MARCH 8 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN – WHILE ALSO MARKING A CALL TO ACTION FOR ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY.

## **I**t's also a day to raise awareness and take action against gender-based discrimination and violence.

With a rich history dating back over a century, International Women's Day has become a global movement empowering women and highlighting their contributions to society. This year's theme is "Count Her In: Accelerating gender equality through economic empowerment."

While important progress has been made, Council recognises some women still face significant obstacles to achieving equal participation in the economy. To help ensure women and girls are given equal opportunity to build their capabilities and strengthen their capacity to learn, earn and lead, Council will be holding and supporting a number of events to celebrate this day.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

Thursday 7 March

12–2.30pm

Seaview Williamstown

Tickets: \$40

Maribyrnong City Council, together with Hobsons Bay City Council, are hosting the 2024 International Women's Day Dinner for the local business community at Seaview Williamstown. Attendees will have the opportunity to come together and network with other businesses in the west.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024 PANEL

Monday 4 March

10am–12pm

Footscray Community Arts

Free

Council will again be partnering with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and Victoria University, to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event will involve a panel discussion with strong female leaders within our community; speaking on the importance of economic empowerment, providing real life experiences and learnings.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TRIVIA

Thursday 7 March

6.15–7.30pm

West Footscray Library

Free

This event celebrates International Women's Day by testing your knowledge of feminist icons. While you're there, check out our curated collection of books by women, for women and about women for you to borrow.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA

Friday 8 March

1–2pm

Braybrook Community Centre

Free

Join us for afternoon tea and hear from our guest speaker as we celebrate international Women's Day

To see more International Women's Day events visit:

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

Snapshots from last year's event with Western Bulldogs Community Foundation and Victoria University.



## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

### JOSEPH ROAD PRECINCT IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BEGIN

**Tenders have been called for road reconstruction and streetscape improvements to deliver the first stage of infrastructure improvements to the Joseph Road Precinct in Footscray, in the coming months.**

Funding of \$6 million has been set aside in this year's Budget to support works along Joseph Road between Hopkins Street and the Heavenly Queen Temple.

This first stage, which will take around 12 months to complete, will see separated bike lanes leading to the Maribyrnong River installed along Joseph Road South, a raised pedestrian crossing creating a direct link to the pedestrian mall, creation of 20 parallel parking bays, new street lighting and tree plantings.

Joseph Road North will also be reconstructed to include on road bicycle lanes and tree plantings.

Once completed, there will be no on-site parking along the northern section of Joseph Road. This will mean the area of gravel that has been used as temporary car parking during the ongoing development of the area will no longer be available. In line with the intent of the

Public Realm Plan 2017, it will instead be transformed into pedestrian, cycling and green areas.

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

A range of additional works including road upgrades, pedestrian footpaths, traffic signals, street trees, landscaping, street furniture and drainage are also planned within the 15 hectare precinct, which is bounded by existing railway infrastructure to the north and west, Maribyrnong River to the east, and Hopkins Street to the south.

These improvement works, which are identified in the Joseph Road Public Realm Plan, are designed to provide a high amenity, upgraded street and pathway network with improved pedestrian and cycling connections that maximises opportunities for street planting and greening of the local environment.

Infrastructure improvements are largely funded by developer contributions in line with a Developer Contributions Plan prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority, recognising planned developments at a number of sites that will ultimately deliver around 4,000 new dwellings across a number of stages.

Delays caused by the pandemic and ensuing supply chain issues and cost increases are impacting developer timeframes, but to date, around 2,000 new apartments have been delivered.

### LILARDIA PARK

A new public park is also being developed in the Joseph Road Precinct near the corner of Warde and Whitehall streets.

Named after Margaret (Lilardia) Tucker – one of Australia's earliest and most notable female Aboriginal activists – it will provide an area of open space to support informal play and recreation in addition to the nearby Maribyrnong River and Maribyrnong River Trail.

Works are due to be completed in the second quarter of 2024.

## WESTERN LAWN

**The Western Lawn upgrades at Footscray Park are close to completion, with the installation of turf currently underway**

Excitement is building as new turf is being laid at Footscray Park to provide a quality open space for a range of sport and community uses.

Ground water and soil conditions meant additional work had to be undertaken as part of the improvement works to ensure the new turf could flourish, slightly delaying delivery.

The turf will take a few months to establish to ensure it remains a high quality surface well into the future and is expected to be available for community use in mid-2024.

## MORE GREENERY, SPACES TO RELAX AND IMPROVED SAFETY FOR BARKLY VILLAGE

**New plans to improve the streetscape of Barkly Street in West Footscray, and to create a permanent park at Clarke Street, reflect community asks.**



The Barkly Village Streetscape Improvement Plan reflects a number of features the almost 500 residents who engaged with us said were important to them.

This specifically includes more greenery and trees, safer walking and cycling pathways, and places to sit, meet and relax. Additional pedestrian crossings, new and improved accessible parking bays, and kerb extensions at bus stops, are also included.

The endorsed streetscape plan also identifies Barkly Street as a potential second 30km/h speed limit road in the municipality.

Requests from residents for more shade, plants and trees and seating from two rounds of community engagement are also reflected in plans to convert the temporary Clarke Street pop-up park into a permanent gathering place.

A detailed design process will be undertaken in 2024 to help ready both projects for construction the following financial year.

Further traffic studies will be undertaken to understand the impacts of a proposed 30km/h speed limit on the wider area, prior to seeking approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.

## FOOTSCRAY PARK HERITAGE GARDENS TO REOPEN

**The heritage Thomson Water Gardens at Footscray Park will reopen to the community in 2024**

The ornamental ponds, which were constructed by Depression labour in the 1930s, were fenced off and emptied of water following two separate drownings in 2021.

Following an extensive investigation and review process, works will soon commence to restore the ponds to ensure they can be safely enjoyed by our community. Given their high heritage value any works require Heritage approval.

The Footscray Park Playspace, which has been closed since

it was inundated by flood waters during the October 2022 flood, will not reopen.

While Council understands the playground is much loved by the community, there is concern the physical proximity to the ponds poses an unacceptable risk to public safety, no matter what risk mitigations are put in place.

Council will be exploring alternative sites for the Playspace with the future location to be considered as part of a review of the Footscray Park Master Plan, in 2024, which will involve input from the community.

## ROSAMOND ROAD WORKS

Re-sheeting of Rosamond Road in the suburb of Maribyrnong, which is part of Council's Distributor Road Improvement Project, will soon be underway

The like for like re-sheeting, between Ballarat Road and Raleigh Street, will improve and restore the condition of the road pavement, extending the life expectancy of this high traffic road while making it safer for road users. These works follow the successful completion of the Mitchell Street and Somerville Road upgrades.

Council is also reviewing and updating the Integrated Transport Strategy to support future engagement with the community on a practical north-south cycling corridor.

Information about the Rosamond Road works and potential detours will be shared with local residents in advance of the works starting.

# CO-CO BANANAS

A VIBRANT VINYL HAVEN FOR MUSIC LOVERS



## Meet the dynamic duo behind CO-CO BANANAS – Jason Richmond and Kynan O'Meara.

Co-owners and long-time friends, their shared passion for vinyl dates back to their youth. Their destinies became intertwined when Kynan answered a handwritten ad, which Jason stuck to the wall at AU GO GO Records, a popular record store in the 90s.

When CO-CO BANANAS opened its doors in November 2023, it became an instant go-to spot for music enthusiasts seeking more than just a record store. The name itself reflects the owners' ethos – a belief that record stores should be as lively and whimsical as the music they house.

The inspiration to create CO-CO BANANAS arose from a desire to rekindle

the joy of record buying, transforming it from a mere transaction into a memorable journey. Rejecting the notion of vinyl hunting as a sport or quest, they envisioned a space where every visit could be a source of cherished memories.

When it comes to musical preferences, CO-CO BANANAS proudly champions Australian and New Zealand artists, aligning with a mission to support and celebrate the home-grown music scene.

For Jason and Kynan, CO-CO BANANAS isn't just a record store; it's a testament to their enduring friendship, a love of vinyl, and a dedication to making music exploration a joyful experience for all who enter their doors.

**CO-CO BANANAS**  
**32 Chambers Street,**  
**Footscray**  
**cocobananas.com.au**

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR



### STONY CREEK WARD

CR CUC LAM  
**MAYOR**

E: [cr.lam@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.lam@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0429 383 099



### CR BERNADETTE THOMAS

E: [cr.thomas@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.thomas@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0407 599 698



### RIVER WARD

CR SARAH CARTER

E: [cr.carter@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.carter@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0432 139 612



### CR ANTHONY TRAN

E: [cr.tran@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.tran@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0400 359 984



### YARRAVILLE WARD

CR MICHAEL CLARKE  
**DEPUTY MAYOR**

E: [cr.clarke@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.clarke@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0435 340 699



### CR SIMON CRAWFORD

E: [cr.crawford@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.crawford@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0429 388 196



### CR JORGE JORQUERA

E: [cr.jorquera@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.jorquera@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)  
 Ph: 0416 200 922

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

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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TIS: 131 450

NRS: 133 677 OR 1300 555 727  
[www.relayservice.com.au](http://www.relayservice.com.au)

