

C O U N C I L 2 C O M M U N I T Y

C2C

September 2017

Hidden gem gets a polish

M A G A Z I N E O F T H E W A R R N A M B O O L C I T Y C O U N C I L

Mr Ootsuki from Miura City Hall and an exchange school group for Miura receive a ceremonial scroll from Warrnambool Mayor Kylie Gaston



Japanese garden now open daily

Did you know Warrnambool is home to its very own Japanese garden? Despite being constructed in mid-1990s, it remains one of Warrnambool's hidden gems.

The Warrnambool Japanese Garden, which celebrates the sister-city relationship between Miura, Japan and Warrnambool, recently re-opened following some renovations, maintenance work and the installation of new signage.

Tucked away in north-east Warrnambool, the garden is a tranquil site well suited to quiet contemplation.

It was designed using Japanese garden design principles and built using indigenous plants and locally sourced materials.

The garden elements represent the geographical connection between Australia and Japan, starting with the elevated *Allocasurina verticillatum* forest.

From the "mendicant's hut" you can view a representation of dry Australian hinterland bounded partially by the wave shaped correa planting representing the ocean between the two countries.

The "desert" transitions into a typical Western District bush landscape with its eucalypts, banksias and callistemons.

The two stones set in the bordered quartz are "Crane and Turtle" rocks representing fidelity and longevity respectively and are accompanied by a single *Banksia serrata*, the first plant placed in the garden.

This site was blessed on May 4 1998 by Kannushi Yoneda, a Shinto Priest from Miura.

Located in the north-east corner of Albert Park, the garden is best accessed by foot, though in dry weather cars can access the site via Grafton Road (opposite the main racecourse entrance).

Assemble your crew for the South West Regatta

Team entries for the 2018 South West Regatta are now open.

The event will take place on February 24 and 25 and will include the Australian Whale Boat Championships and the Victorian St Ayles Skiff Championships. Boats are available for team practice sessions from October 1.

Warrnambool City Council Events and Promotions Coordinator Bec Elmes encouraged anyone looking for an enjoyable team activity with a difference to get involved. "Organise your sporting mates, work colleagues and friends for a fun, challenging day on the beautiful Hopkins River in Warrnambool," she said.

"We are making the boats available for use five months out from the event, so teams can become more familiar with the vessels while building up their fitness.

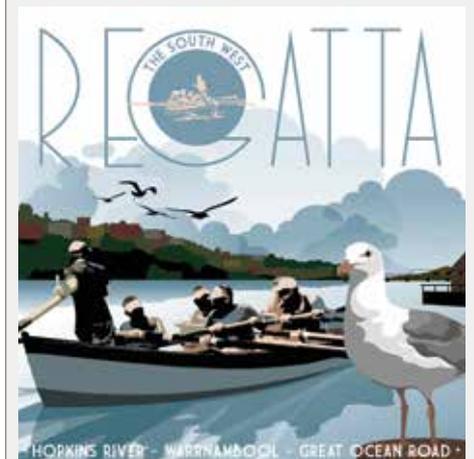
"The training can be as fun as the race itself. What's not to love about a regular rowing session with your friends?"

"No previous rowing experience is necessary, so round up your crew and give it a try." Team captains must attend one of two inductions held on September 25 and October 2 from 6-7pm. A come and try day will also be held on October 15.

Whale boat teams consist of six people – five rowers and a sweep.

Skiffs are smaller and lighter than whale boats and require four rowers and a coxswain.

For more information visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/south-west-regatta.



Business confidence grows

Business confidence in Warrnambool is on the rise, according to the results of the 2017 Warrnambool Business Trends Survey.

The findings were released as part of the at the Great South Coast Small Business Festival event, State of the City: An Economic Perspective.

71 per cent of respondents indicated they had medium to very high confidence in Warrnambool's business environment, compared to 60 per cent in 2015. This is the highest level of business confidence recorded since 2012.

Warrnambool City Council Director City Growth Andrew Paton said that the overall results were encouraging.

"It was very positive to see that business confidence in the city is increasing," he said.

"Warrnambool is home to a strong and diverse business sector. Many businesses owners have suggested that they intend to expand their operations, with one third suggesting that they are likely or very likely to invest in their business over the next year, the highest proportion the survey has ever recorded.

"I would like to thank all business owners and operators who took the time to complete the survey."

The survey had 269 respondents from industry sectors including retail, hospitality, professional, manufacturing, education, government and trade services.

The survey has been held annually since 2011, except for a hiatus in 2016.

The Warrnambool Business Trends Survey is supported by the Warrnambool City Council, South West Credit, The Standard, 3YB/COAST FM and Deakin University Warrnambool.

Full survey findings are available at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au.



Moving in a positive direction

Warrnambool City Council has shown marked improvement in overall performance, customer service, lobbying, overall direction and consultation and engagement, according to the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The results of the survey were presented at Monday night's Council Meeting.

Areas in which Council recorded significantly higher results in 2017 compared to 2016 included: overall performance, Council direction, customer service, consultation and engagement, lobbying, emergency and disaster management, business and community development, traffic management and informing the community.

Council's top performing service areas were appearance of public areas (74), emergency

and disaster management (73) and art centres and libraries (72).

Council scored above the regional centre average in five of the seven core measures: overall performance, community consultation, advocacy, customer service and overall council direction.

Warrnambool Mayor Cr Kylie Gaston said that she was pleased to see Council's performance in most core measures significantly improve.

"It is great that the community feels we are moving in the right direction," she said.

"It is very positive to see that Warrnambool has been rated at or above average in most areas, however we still have work to do.

"We are looking forward to working with the community to improve even more."

The survey also asked residents which roads within the municipality they were most concerned about.

The roads Warrnambool residents were most concerned about were Raglan Parade (24 per cent of respondents) and Mortlake Road (17 per cent). These are roads controlled and managed by VicRoads.

Better access and inclusion for all at AquaZone

AquaZone is now more accessible for everyone thanks to recent upgrades.

The accessible showers in the men's and women's change rooms now have more handrails, a fold-down seat, a handheld shower and a shower chair.

Other recent improvements include portable pool steps, a height adjustable adult change table and an automatic door between the foyer and the pools. AquaZone Manager Ray Smith said that AquaZone is a place for the whole community.

"We aim to provide a welcoming, accessible and inclusive environment for everyone," he said.



"These aren't necessary major works, but they have the potential to make things a lot easier for many of our visitors.

"Regardless of your age or your level of ability, getting active in the water is one of the best things you can do to stay fit and healthy while having a great time."

The upgrades complement AquaZone's existing pool wheelchairs and hoists, accessible gymnasium equipment, inclusive group exercise classes and disabled parking.

The results

W2040

Over the past few months Council has been gathering community feedback on the aspirations and expectations for Warrnambool as a place to live, work and play over the next twenty years.

This is the first step in creating the W2040 plan, which will help guide Council's direction over the next two decades. Here's a summary of the main themes we've heard so far.

What aspects of life in Warrnambool were mentioned most?

Place: 4189

Environment: 1761

Economy: 1515

People and community: 1121

Who did we hear from?

Warrnambool residents: 1234

Regional residents: 206

Further afield: 56

What do you love and want to keep, and what would you like to change?

A place to live



Love and want to keep:

- #1 Recreational activities and community spaces
- #2 Art, culture and history

Would like to change:

- #1 New and improved sporting facilities
- #2 Improved transport infrastructure

Environment



Love and want to keep:

- #1 Beach and beachside living
- #2 Natural landscapes and waterways

Would like to change:

- #1 More native trees
- #2 Beach maintenance, safety and shared usage

Economy



Love and want to keep:

- #1 Range of educational opportunities
- #2 Vibrant CBD, employment and tourism

Would like to change:

- #1 Planning for growth
- #2 More variety in education options

People and community



Love and want to keep:

- #1 Sense of community
- #2 Community involvement, connections and diversity

Would like to change:

- #1 Better health services
- #2 More welcoming and inclusive

Doctor's orders - Eat healthy as you age

Maintaining a healthy diet is important for everyone, especially as we get older.

As people age, their ability to buy and cook their own healthy meals can be reduced.

This is where Meals on Wheels can help. Meals on Wheels is a convenient service used by hundreds of south-west residents to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Warrnambool City Council Chief Medical Officer Dr Philip Hall said that a crucial part of health is diet, with many older people in the region deficient in essential nutrients such as Vitamin B12 and Iron.

"The food from Meals on Wheel is good, reliable and nutritious," he said.

"We all like the convenience of a quick meal, so having healthy food that is easy to prepare is very important.

"The services are well received. The feedback I receive from people I have referred to the service has been very positive."

Unlike many of the frozen meals available at supermarkets, all Meals on Wheels dishes meet strict dietary requirements. Freshly cooked, chilled meals are delivered by registered volunteers.

You can choose to receive a meal one day a week right through to one meal every day, it's up to you.

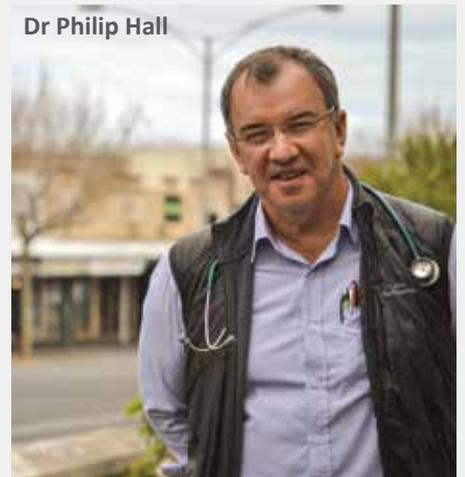
Your individual dietary needs and taste preferences will be discussed prior to the commencement of the service, and can be changed at any time.

The social chat and friendly welfare check the volunteers provide can be as important as

the meals themselves, with family members living away often appreciating the fact that someone is regularly checking in with their older relative.

If you would like to find out more about Meals on Wheels either for yourself or for a family member, call 5559 4800 or email wbool_city@warrnambool.vic.gov.au.

Dr Philip Hall



Dog ownership a serious responsibility

When confronted by three aggressive dogs recently, Warrnambool City Council Local Laws Officer Peter McVeigh's training kicked in.

"I knew that it was important to hold an object between the dogs and me to give them something to latch on to," Mr McVeigh said.

"I used a large diary I was holding to fend off the lead dog before the owner heard the commotion and called them off.

"We had recently completed a training course, so I stayed pretty calm, but most people in the community would not have that level of situational understanding."

While Mr McVeigh was able to call on his experience and training to defuse the situation, it could have been a different outcome had the dogs had turned their attentions to a more vulnerable subject, such as a child.

"If instead of a Local Laws Officer it had been a couple of kids selling raffle tickets door-to-door, I'd hate to think about what might have happened," Mr McVeigh said.

It was the fifth reported dog attack either on a human or on another animal in the past month and the 27th of the past year of which 11 were attacks on people.

Local Laws Coordinator Peter McArdle said there would have been many more attacks that simply weren't reported.

"Owning a dog is a serious commitment, not just to the dog itself, but to the wider community," he said.

"You need to make sure that your dog is kept secure on your property and if using a designated off-leash area, you must be able to maintain voice control at all times.

"You also need to provide your dog with appropriate training and get to know its body language. "If a dog begins acting aggressively towards you, back away without making eye contact or making any loud noises. If you can, hold an object between you and the dog such as a jacket or a handbag."

Anyone who encounters a stray dog can call Council on 5559 4800.



A clear path going forward

Imagine a footpath between Warrnambool and Shepparton. This is the total length of pathways maintained by the Warrnambool City Council.

To help guide the management of its 326km of paths, Council has developed a Draft Pathway Asset Management Plan, which is out for public comment.

Warrnambool City Council Coordinator Asset Management John Finnerty said that while the city's paths and trails are popular with residents and visitors, maintaining them is an ongoing challenge.

"While Warrnambool is one of the smaller municipalities in regional Victoria, it is one of the best connected in terms of pathways," he said.

"This network of paths provides important recreation and sustainable transport opportunities and is highly valued by the community.

"In order to maintain the paths we have, we need to spend an average \$770,000 a year over the next decade.

"Council is currently funding close to 50 per cent of this figure while the Pathway Asset Management Plan investigates innovative treatments, alternative funding arrangements and service level requirements to help make up the shortfall."

The plan can be viewed at www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au or at 25 Liebig St, Warrnambool. Submissions close on September 23.



Peter McVeigh receives dangerous dog training



Work with livestock?

If you're a dairy worker, animal-farm worker, livestock transporter or work in an abattoir, the Victorian Government recommends vaccination against Q fever.

And before you are vaccinated, you should be screened to ensure you haven't already been exposed to Q fever. While the mortality rate for Q fever is low, it can make you very sick for a very long time. **For more information visit www.health.vic.gov.au or contact your GP.**

Fox kills 140 penguins on Middle Island

A final assessment of the Middle Island penguins killed in fox attacks over recent weeks has seen the toll rise to about 140.



The initial count by Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network volunteers made from the island's boardwalk on August 9 recorded 70 dead penguins.

A follow-up visit was made the following day and after a thorough search a further 70 dead penguins were collected.

"This has been a disheartening experience for the many volunteers and the community as a whole," Chair of the Middle Island Project Working Group Dr Anne Wallis said.

"However, for those who have given so much of their time to saving the Middle Island Little Penguin colony, it is reassuring to know that our penguins have come back from worse odds before.

"Estimates from the last breeding season indicated approximately 182 breeding individuals were on the island, which equates to between 200 and 250 individuals in the colony."

The guardian dogs were placed on the island on August 10 and since then no further penguin deaths have been recorded.

This year, penguins arrived in larger numbers at an earlier time than previous years. Foxes were able to swim across and strike in the absence of the maremma guardian dogs.

"It is reassuring to know that our penguins have come back from worse odds before"

During the winter months penguin monitoring and accessing the island to care for the dogs can be dangerous due to the weather, the tide and shifting sand levels.

Along with installing the maremma guardian dogs on

Middle Island, each year an authorised Council officer shoots a number of foxes in the Middle Island precinct.

As a result of the recent penguin kill, other fox control methods will be investigated.

Options to improve the Port experience

The community is being invited to have a say on options to improve boat launching facilities, parking, pedestrian amenity and fishing facilities at the Port of Warrnambool.

The proposals cover the "land-side" elements of the Port of Warrnambool and complement an existing plan to improve boat launching conditions.

"We already have a detailed plan for an improved boat ramp, these new proposals in the Draft Warrnambool Harbour Master Plan look at the overall experience for people visiting the port area," Director City Infrastructure Scott Cavanagh said.

"So we're looking at the detail of how we configure on-land elements including parking for cars, for vehicles with boat trailers, pathways for pedestrians, signage and facilities such as fish-cleaning areas.

"There is scope to add dozens of additional car and boat trailer parking spaces in the

precinct, and at the same time separate boat launching and car parking traffic.

"We are keen for residents to have a look at the possibilities and provide Council with advice on what they believe the harbour area needs to improve the experience.

"So we'd like to hear from people who walk or ride along the promenade, those who use the boat ramp to launch water craft, people who like to fish off the breakwater, those who enjoy a coffee at the pavilion, yacht club members and really anyone who enjoys spending time in this special part of Warrnambool.

The master plan also looks at providing a user pays system for upgraded safer launching

facilities which over time will offset the larger capital cost for the upgrades and maintenance.

"Once we have heard from the community Council will finalise a master plan which will go to an open Council meeting for a final decision," Mr Cavanagh said.

"This detailed master plan will strengthen our funding case and boost our chances for getting a result that many in the community have waited some time for."

To have your say on the options at the Port of Warrnambool you can fill out a survey at www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au Submissions close on Friday, September 15.

A minute with the Mayor

Having confidence in your future helps you to make plans.

This applies equally to our community and its effect on future aspirations for our city.

The recently published Warrnambool Business Trends Report 2011-2017 showed that most of our city's businesses are feeling more confident now than they were in 2015. It's a really positive sign with CBD businesses feeling particularly buoyant about the future.

The renewed section of Liebig Street is certainly prompting a lot of positive feedback from residents. Along with the bluestone and granite paving we are starting to see some of the other elements appear including the sandstone feature walls, bike hoops and it won't be long before the pear trees start to blossom.

Looking ahead, Warrnambool hosts a wonderful event that has great potential to grow: the South West Regatta. If you think you'd like to get involved there are information sessions and a come and try day approaching (see the article in this newsletter) and I encourage anyone who thinks this sounds interesting to come along.

After last year's attempt there's no doubt that the Councillors need to improve on our rowing skills.

Perhaps our neighbouring Councils are up for a challenge?



We're thrilled that, as of today, the library will be open from an extra two hours every Saturday.

Extending the opening hours of this important service was a decision made by Council earlier this year.

The process began with a petition and a compelling case put to Council by Warrnambool Primary School student Milla Darmanin, supported by nine school mates and a host of signatories. Well done Milla!

Cr Kylie Gaston, Mayor

p. 0437 623 715
e. kgaston@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

A Minute with the Youth Mayor

The past few weeks have been extremely busy for the Warrnambool City Youth Council.

Among the pressures and the academic demands of schooling that the majority of the Youth Councillors are facing, the organising of the drug and alcohol first aid workshops to be held in late October are in the final processes of being finalised.

We have just confirmed that the 'Save A Mate' or 'SAM' program will provide the workshops, giving Year 10 students from schools in Warrnambool the chance to experience and learn risks associated with drugs and alcohol, and how to administer first aid when required.

In the coming months, the Warrnambool City and Moyne Shire Youth Achiever

Award nomination letters will be sent to schools, sporting clubs and various community organisations involving young people from our region.

This is the perfect opportunity to nominate a young member of one of our communities to highlight any achievements in the areas of academia, sport, leadership, arts and culture and many more. Keep an eye out for nominations opening in the next few months.

Luke Atkinson



Visiting us in person

Civic Centre
25 Liebig Street
Warrnambool Vic 3280
Open from 8.30am - 5pm, Mon-Fri.

Postal address

Warrnambool City Council
P.O Box 198
Warrnambool 3280

Telephone

03 5559 4800

Live Chat

Top right corner of
www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Website

www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Connect Warrnambool

Get more from where you live
www.connectwarrnambool.com.au

Have your say

Find out how to have your say by visiting
www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au



Council meetings

Monday September 4
Monday October 2

5.45pm
Warrnambool Civic Centre, 25 Liebig St

Cr. Robert Anderson

8 Casino Court, Warrnambool
p. 0428 115 397
e. randerson@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Cr. Sue Cassidy

23 Nelson Street, Warrnambool
p. 0417 438 470
e. scassidy@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Cr. Tony Herbert

20 Spence Street, Warrnambool
p. 0427 669 760
e. therbert@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Cr. Peter Hulin

1-3 Ponting Drive, Warrnambool
p. 0428 411 169
e. phulin@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Cr Michael Neoh

PO Box 511, Warrnambool
p. 0408 543 638
e. mneoh@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Cr. David Owen

5 Kelp Street, Warrnambool
p. 0419 615 887
e. downen@warrnambool.vic.gov.au



Warrnambool Organ Festival

Friday September 1 – Sunday September 3

Various locations

A series of concerts and workshops for lovers of organ music. For more information contact Laurel on 0411 136 850 or visit www.facebook.com/warrnamboolorganfestival.

Chess competition

Every Saturday, 1pm – 4pm

SEAL, 91 Hyland St

Join the Warrnambool Chess Club for a friendly game. All experience levels welcome.

Contact Grant Brissett on 5562 1944 or grantbrissett@yahoo.com

Storytime

Every Wednesday and Thursday at 11am – 11:45am

Warrnambool Library, 25 Liebig Street

Storytime is a short program with books and stories specially selected for 3-5 year olds and their parents or carers. Stories are read by experienced and enthusiastic staff. Storytime is followed by a craft activity.

Rhyme Time

Every Wednesday 2.30pm – 3pm and every Friday, 10.30am – 11am

Warrnambool Library, 25 Liebig Street

Come along to Rhyme Time ready to wiggle your fingers, clap your hands and have fun. Ideal for those aged 0-3 and their parents, grandparents or carers.

Fruit tree grafting workshop

Sunday September 10, 10am – 12pm

Warrnambool Community Garden, cnr Grieve St and Grafton Rd

Learn how to graft your own fruit trees as well as alternative methods to grafting including duo and trio planting.

Cost: \$5, registrations essential.

Contact Hannah on 0408 320 795 or email WCGworkshopsevents@yahoo.com

Home and community energy forum

Thursday September 21, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Archie Graham Community Centre

The Warrnambool Unfrackabool Group is hosting a Q&A forum on home and community energy. Be motivated by leaders in our community to adopt environmentally friendly lifestyles.

www.facebook.com/Unfrackabools/

Herb workshop

Sunday September 24, 2pm – 4pm

Warrnambool Community Garden, cnr Grieve St and Grafton Rd

If you are interested in starting a herb garden or looking to maximize an existing herb garden, this is the workshop for you. Topics will include types of herbs, ideal growing conditions and uses.

Cost: \$5, registrations essential.

Contact Hannah on 0408 320 795 or email WCGworkshopsevents@yahoo.com

Reusable shopping bag making workshop

Wednesday September 27, 10.30am – 3pm

Dennington Hall

Join the Boomerang Bag revolution and sew your own reusable shopping bags. Boomerang Bags provide a free, fun, sustainable alternative to plastic bags. By getting involved, you are participating in a national movement that celebrates a local grassroots initiative, community building and sustainability. All ages and skill levels welcome.

BYO lunch, coffee mug and \$3 donation for morning tea. If you have them, bring along your sewing machine, sewing gear and material.

Contact Janet on 0429 924 542

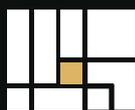
Backyard Chook workshop

Friday September 29, 10am-12pm

Warrnambool Community Garden, cnr Grieve St and Grafton Rd

Ever think about keeping chooks in your backyard but not sure how to get started? Do you currently have chooks and are interested in learning more about how to care for them? This workshop on caring for these egg-xtraordinary animals is back by popular demand.

Coming soon to

**LIGHTHOUSE
THEATRE** 

Arj Barker - Organic

Saturday September 2, 8pm

Arj Barkers stand-up is both insightful and pointed, like a mind-reading thumb tack, if there was one of those.

The Exotic Lives of Lola Montez

Tuesday September 5, 8pm

Steeped in history, this rollicking performance travels the extraordinary life and legend of the remarkably adventurous Lola Montez.

Charmaine Wilson

The Australian Medium Tour

Thursday September 7, 7.30pm

Winner of Channel Seven's 'The One', and named as Queensland Psychic of the Year 2008 and Australian Psychic of the Year 2005.

Isla Grant in Concert

Saturday September 9, 2017 - 7:30pm

Isla's beautiful voice encompasses everything from country folk songs to easy listening, in an unforgettable evening of old favourites and sparkling new compositions.

Primary Performers - Oliver

Friday 15 September, 6.30pm and Saturday

16 September, 2pm

Join young orphan Oliver Twist as he navigates London's underworld searching for a home, a family, and most importantly love.

Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase

Wednesday September 20, 7.30pm

The Sydney Comedy Festival will be tearing up the freeways of Australia to bring the crème de la crème of the 2017 Festival right to your doorstep.

The Glenn Miller Orchestra

Thursday September 21, 7.30pm

The Glenn Miller musical arrangements are unique; even after 80 years, they are still loved around the world.

Frankie J Holden and Michelle

Pettigrove

3YB & Tim Rayner Audiology Morning Music

Tuesday September 26, 11am

Join this husband and wife pair as they perform some of the greatest songs about love, marriage, children and all other facets of being a couple.