

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2021



PROMENADE

..... COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY



A NEW INNINGS AT THE REID OVAL

PLUS

**GRANTS AND WAIVERS TO HELP BUSINESSES
TOILET BLOCK UPGRADE AT MCGENNANS
PET OWNERS: KNOW THE FOX BAIT ZONE**

CONNECT TO COUNCIL

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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
October 25 (annual meeting), 5.45pm
November 1, 5.45pm.
Livestream available at
[www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/
council-meeting](http://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/council-meeting)

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MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

Recent weeks have been a worrying time for many of us with the arrival of COVID-19 in Warrnambool.

But I'll not forget the reaction from the Warrnambool community.

When the challenge presented itself, we responded – in droves!

The call to get tested was heeded by thousands of residents. It was a magnificent effort and provided the health authorities with much needed information as to whether the virus was contained or whether it might be moving through the community.

South West HealthCare was so quick and so efficient at setting up additional testing sites.

And I really want to acknowledge too the work done by Council officers. There were many actions carried out quietly behind the scenes by WCC staff, from organizing parking spaces at testing sites to helping with the set-up of a pop-up testing site to ensuring that isolated families were provided with the essentials they needed.



Our immunization team continues to help with the effort at the vaccination centre.

Well done to all.

I'm also really proud of the recognition that has come to Council in recent times. The successes of Loungefest, Solstice Searching and the Maar Nation Gallery have all been recognized with significant industry awards.

It's incredible what can be achieved in the midst of a pandemic.

Cr. Vicki Jellie, Mayor

GRANT TO HELP BUSINESSES WITH NEW IDEAS

Twelve local businesses will share in \$29,963 in Council grant funding to implement new initiatives to help them grow.

The successful recipients of the second round of Council's Business Initiative Grants were announced earlier this month.

This follows on from \$99,000 in grant funding allocated in round one.

The grants provide matched funding up to \$3000 per business to implement new ideas, projects or programs that will help them to build resilience, diversify and grow.

Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said that the grants were one of several key components of the city's COVID-19 Business Support Plan.

"Council has announced the second round of its Business Initiative Grants, which were established to support businesses through COVID -19 restrictions," she said.

"The grants have been a great support

for more than 40 businesses and congratulations to the 12 successful applicants in this round.

"Overall the program has leveraged a benefit of \$300,000-plus and has helped deliver on initiatives that have come from the business owners and operators."

Round Two successful applicants

- Lady Jane Hair
- Meraki Hair Boutique
- Adrenalin Martial Arts
- Warrnambool Holiday Park and Motel
- Sea Mist Studio Apartments and Art Shack
- The Freckled Duck
- Retire Happy
- Dart and Marlin
- Rebalance Osteopathy
- Curly's Pizza
- Scott Carter Bricklaying
- Dreamtime Teepee

In further support for businesses, Council has waived outdoor dining permit fees for 2021/2022 and fees for the application and approval process for permits associated with the activation of outdoor dining and entertainment activities, saving over 350 businesses a combined \$130,000.

Council has also waived footpath trading fees for 2021/2022 saving businesses a combined \$64,000.



REID OVAL NEARLY READY FOR ACTION

It's set to be an especially Happy New Year for the Warrnambool cricket community, with Reid Oval to be ready for use by January 1.

On-ground work has been progressing throughout the year, with the January 1 start date confirmed last month.

The \$10.7 million redevelopment includes a completely new playing surface with a clay cricket wicket, a modern two-storey pavilion with facilities that cater equally for males and females, a lighting upgrade to allow for games to be played at night and better training facilities, including multi-purpose cricket nets and a training oval to the north-east of the main ground.

Reid Oval Project Group Chair Cr Debbie Arnott said that she was counting down the days to the first cricket match at the state-of-the-art facility.

"The reason we are carrying out this project is because Warrnambool's sporting community has been united for some time in calling for Reid Oval to become a showcase facility we can all be proud of," she said.

"And I'm happy that by January, Reid Oval will once again be the jewel in the city's sporting crown."

"While a firm date was never set, several months ago we had hoped to have the ground ready for the start of the cricket season.

"Unfortunately the centre of the oval has just been too wet for the clay wicket to be prepared.

"I think we can all agree that the extra weeks we give the wicket to settle in will be absolutely worth it, leading to a surface that's cherry ripe for a big second half of the cricket season.

"What better way to celebrate the New Year than a cricket match on what will be an exquisite playing surface, with modern facilities to match."

The Reid Oval Redevelopment is funded by the Victorian Government (via Sport and Recreation Victoria and Regional Development Victoria), the Warrnambool City Council (via the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme), the AFL (via the Australian Football Facilities Fund) and Cricket Victoria (via the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund).

NEW TOILET BLOCK FOR MCGENNANS

Council has endorsed a plan for new public amenities at McGennans Car Park to the south of Pertobe Road.

The new amenities building replaces an existing older building that does not meet current expectations and is not very accessible.

NEW CAMERA FOR BOAT RAMP AND CAR PARK

Have you ever wanted to know the conditions at the Lady Bay boat ramp before you left home?

Thanks to a new camera from Better Boating Victoria, you can now check the conditions at the boat ramp and see how busy the car park is.

The camera takes a photo of the boat ramp and the car park every five minutes and uploads the image to the Boating Victoria website.

There you will also find detailed weather information to help you decide if it's a good day for boating or not.

Visit www.boating.vic.gov.au/ramps

The boat ramp is set for a full renovation thanks to a \$3.5 million investment from the Victorian Government announced in May, and Council is continuing to work with them on a solution for the Breakwater and addressing the impact at the boat ramp of long waves.



The new building will have showers, family change rooms and will better suit the needs of the community and the groups who visit beautiful Lady Bay.

"Putting the building on the current site makes less of an impact on the area and helps us progress the project through the DELWP planning process," Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said.

"It will have paths directly to the Promenade making it safer and more accessible."



KEEP PETS AWAY FROM FOX BAIT ZONES

Fox activity along Warrnambool’s foreshore was more than halved following a baiting program earlier this year, with a second phase focussing on remaining hotspots.

In an attempt to protect native bird and animal species, Council is carrying out a fox baiting program from October 4 to November 15.

Bait will be buried in the coastal reserve around Pickering Point, Thunder Point and Shelly Beach.

Following the April to June baiting program, specially-trained border collies scouted the baiting areas to look for signs of fox activity, with the results of the pre and post-program survey showing a 58 per cent reduction in fox scats.

Warrnambool City Council Director Infrastructure Services David Leahy said that while the results are encouraging, realistically, foxes will be a constant threat to native wildlife.

“Overall scat numbers were low around Lake Pertobe and the Viaduct Road precinct following the program, which is good news for the native fauna in the area,” he said.

“Surveying showed that although there was a reduction in scat numbers between Thunder Point and the golf course, there were still active foxes in the area, so we will be concentrating our efforts along the coastal reserves in spring as foxes begin to be more active.”

Multiple warning signs have been installed at each location.

Bait will be buried away from paths and trails, and each piece will be mapped using GPS to make sure that it is all collected at the end of the program.

Pets are prohibited from the baiting areas during the program and for four weeks after its completion.

“If you believe your pet may have been in a baited area and it is showing signs of lethargy or a lack of coordination, you need to take it straight to a vet that carries the antidote,” Mr Leahy said.

Vet clinics in Warrnambool that hold the antidote include:

- **The Vet Group**, 59 Mortlake Road Warrnambool – Phone 5561 6911
- **The Warrnambool Veterinary Clinic**, 514 Raglan Parade – Phone 5559 0222

Anyone who encounters a fox carcass in or near the baiting area is asked to contact Council on **5559 4800**.

A map of the baited area is available on Council’s website.

FOGO LINERS ON THE WAY

If you live in the Stingray kerbside collection area, your annual supply of FOGO kitchen caddy liners will be arriving at your home over the couple of weeks, if they haven’t already arrived.

The Stingray zone includes parts of South Warrnambool, Merrivale and Dennington.

The Eel, Platypus and Little Penguin zones will receive their roll of liners between October and December while the Seal, Koala, Swamp Wallaby, Echidna, Whale and Rakali zones are scheduled to get theirs in February or March next year.

If you’re unsure which zone you are in, visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/collection-schedules or call **5559 4800**.

The FOGO liners being delivered are proudly made in Australia.

General FOGO tips

- All food scraps go in your FOGO bin
- Lawn clippings, leaves and small sticks and prunings go in too
- Large sticks, logs, rocks or excessive soil can’t go in your FOGO bin.
- Each year you will receive a roll of 150 liners. If you need more, only use compostable liners with the seedling logo. Newspaper also makes for a great substitute.



WARRNAMBOOL EVENTS SCOOP TWO MAJOR AWARDS

In perhaps the most challenging year ever for public events, the Warrnambool City Council has won two awards at a national awards ceremony, the only municipality in Australia to do so.

Online music festival “Get Around Warrnambool presents LoungeFest” won the 2020 Victorian Government Event of the Year award while neon-themed scavenger hunt “Solstice Searching” was deemed the 2020 Victorian Regional Event of the Year.

The awards were presented by Meetings and Events Australia, the largest professional events organisation in the country.

Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said the awards recognise the goodwill in the events space between Council, event partners and the broader community.

“Warrnambool is an events city. When there aren’t restrictions on tourism, events play a key role in our visitor economy, but they are just as important for local residents and they add a lot to the liveability of the city,” she said.

“While virtual concerts will forever be synonymous with the COVID-19 pandemic, LoungeFest was one of the first events of its kind in Australia.

“The reason we could put the event together so quickly was due to the willingness of the local musicians and all of our event partners to get involved. Everyone saw what we were trying to create, and people watched in their thousands.



“With Solstice Searching, it was such a great concept, it could have worked at any time.

“With winter setting in on the darkest year for many people in living memory, it did so much to lift everyone’s spirits and put smiles back on faces.

“All-new neon artworks will be back in 2022 with Solstice Searching and the new Solstice Search Party to be annual events going forward, adding a bit of colour to our winter.

“So congratulations to everyone who helped to make these events possible. Thank you to the council staff, LoungeFest partners COAST FM/3YB, Fitz Media and Karen Thomson, all of the musicians and neon creative artist Carla O’Brien.”



MAAR NATION GALLERY WINS AWARD

The Warrnambool Art Gallery (WAG) has been recognised at the 2021 Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards.

The WAG’s Maar Nation Gallery won the award from small museums and galleries at the annual awards ceremony, hosted by the peak body for more than 1000 galleries and collecting organisations.

Opening in 2020, the The WAG Maar Nation Gallery and Aboriginal-led Legacy Initiative provides the First Nations people of South West Victoria with a central place for the interpretation of history and culture through exhibition.

It also provides a meeting place for education, passing on knowledge, sharing stories and showing contemporary culture to many young people and the greater community.

“Despite multiple disruptions due to COVID-19, the team has hosted some outstanding exhibitions that celebrate Indigenous artists and Indigenous culture,” Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said.

“I’d like to thank the WAG staff, the Maar

Nation Steering Committee and the artists for creating such a special place for everyone to experience.”

Local Keeray Woorroong early years educator and artist Sherry Johnstone has been employed as Curator of Cultural Engagement, developing a program of Aboriginal-led activities, exhibitions and outreach programs to help understand, preserve and share the Maar Nation culture, and strengthen identity, cultural tourism and employment for local Aboriginal youth.

“What has struck me the most about this role is the opportunity to help so many talented people in the Aboriginal community. Many have amazing creations behind closed doors but they can be shy and don’t really put themselves out there much,” she said.

“Our culture is bold and has sophisticated techniques, storylines and graphics that are unique to this area. Ancient traditions are also reflected in modern culture and there is a vast array of contemporary art, from painting to multimedia.”

“Artists are still passing on their stories, and we are looking for ways they can express themselves and their ideas through the Maar Nation space – it opens people’s minds.”

Entry to the WAG is free.



OUTDOOR POOL OPENS EARLY AT AQUAZONE

To help more people get some aquatic exercise, the 50m pool at AquaZone reopened on October 2.

The outdoor pool, which usually opens in November, has now opened for club swimmers and members of the public.

At the time of writing, COVID-19 restrictions meant that indoor pools were capped at a maximum of 20 people at a time, while outdoors pools can accommodate up to 50 people.

Toilets are open, but changing rooms are still closed, so please arrive ready to swim.

Bookings are essential, and can be made by calling **5559 4500**.

Opening hours

Weekdays: 6.15am-10.15am and 3.15pm-7.15pm

Weekends: 7.15am-4.15pm

SOCIAL SUPPORT DURING COVID

A knitting frenzy, autobiography activity and group phone calls are among the “restriction-proof” projects devised by Council’s Social Support staff to help older residents stay connected during COVID.

Warrnambool City Council Social Support Coordinator Kim Fort said that isolation was an issue for everyone over the past 18 months, but for older people who may not have ready access to technology or extensive social circles, things were especially tough.

“Even at the best of times, the reason we run these services is because we know how important it is to stay active and stay social as you get older” she said.

“Now we’re in a situation where it’s even harder for people who may be feeling isolated, and it’s been going on for quite some time now.

“We’ve been doing projects in one way or another throughout the

whole pandemic – we’ve just had to be inventive.

“Rather than thinking of ‘what can’t we do’ our attitude as been ‘what can we do with the restrictions we have in place.’”

The Winter Woolies program was popular throughout winter, with dozens of knitted good created by group members and donated to those in need.

There was also the opportunity to be sent a pen, notepad and some information about writing a memoir. While these can be shared with the group in future, even if kept private, having a project to work on and sharpening ones memory are important enough in themselves.

Ms Fort said that her team hosted a young parents group each week – another cohort at risk of isolation during COVID.

“When you have a baby, being able to meet and connect with other parents in really important, and unfortunately there have been times this year where that hasn’t been possible,” she said.

“So we put together hampers with lots of things to keep the tots entertained during lockdown.”

To learn more about Council’s Social Support Services call **5559 4800** or visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/home-and-community-services

QUEENS ROAD JETTY REINSTATED

We’re thrilled to have the Queens Road jetty back in action.

The jetty is the perfect place from which to fish, to contemplate the serenity of the Merri River or even launch a kayak.

It’s easy to get to, is connected to footpaths on the river bank and there’s a car park nearby.

For those who haven’t seen the jetty before, it was washed away in the October 2020 flood.

Most of the jetty components were salvaged but after scouring the river bed for other missing pieces we needed

to order a few new parts. Then winter intervened and finally, a year later, we’re pleased to have it back again.



CELEBRAGE – WARRNAMBOOL'S SENIORS' FESTIVAL

October is usually a big month for activities for seniors, but things are looking slightly different this year.

The majority of Celebrate and Victorian Seniors' Festival events have been moved to December, but a select number of outdoor events are still taking place in Warrnambool in October.



Making a Tussie Mussie

Tuesday October 19

10am – 11.30am

A tussie mussie is a posy of flowers and herbs arranged to look and smell delightful but traditionally varieties were selected to send a specific message to someone.

Art Demo – with Ricky Schembri

Wednesday October 20

10.30am - 12pm

Join Ricky Schembri as he creates an artwork using pastels from start to finish. Suitable for experienced artists and beginners.

Street Art Walk

Friday October 22

10am - 11.30am

Warrnambool's CBD streets and laneways have many hidden treasures which artists have created for all to discover.

Tour of the Community Garden and Japanese Garden

Wednesday October 27

1.30pm – 3pm

Join us at the Community Garden for a tour of the garden plots and structures as well as the Japanese Garden.

For more information about the above events and to reserve your place, call the Archie Graham Centre on **5559 4920**.

REGARDLESS OF AGE, WE ALL COUNT

While ageism can affect anyone of any age, the EveryAGE Counts campaign is focusing on addressing ageism relating to older people.

The EveryAGE Counts campaign, organised by the Benevolent Society, has a vision for “a society where every person is valued, connected and

respected regardless of age and functional health”.

“Ageism can have a terrible impact on people,” Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said.

“It can restrict people's opportunities and diminish confidence and health.

“The reality is that people are able to make a contribution to the workplace and community well into senior years and this is something we should celebrate.”

Everyone is encouraged to take the EveryAge Counts pledge in October, which

states: I stand for a world without ageism where all people of all ages are valued and respected and their contributions are acknowledged. I commit to speak out and take action to ensure older people can participate on equal terms with others in all aspects of life.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions and advice at the time you are reading this, you may like to sign the physical poster in front of the Lighthouse Theatre.

You can also take the pledge online at www.everyagecounts.org.au/take_the_pledge



COME ON WARRNAMBOOL, WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

If you are eligible for a vaccination,
scan the QR code to make a booking.

