

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2021



PROMENADE

..... COUNCIL TO COMMUNITY



NEW CHAPTER IN THE WARRNAMBOOL LIBRARY STORY

PLUS

NEW CROSSING IN WARD STREET
\$980,000 FOR JETTY FLAT PAVILION
WARRNIBALD WINNER ANNOUNCED

CONNECT TO COUNCIL

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www.yoursaywarrnambool.com.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 4, 5.45pm
October 25 (annual meeting), 5.45pm
Livestream available at
www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/council-meeting

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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MINUTE WITH THE MAYOR

Well done Warrnambool.

Well done for responding to the call to get vaccinated.

We know that the best way to protect ourselves against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated and the best way to manoeuvre out of a lockdown is vaccination plus adhering to the advice on COVID-safe behaviour (mask wearing, QR code check-ins etc).

Our vaccination rates are extraordinary. At the time of writing 73.5 per cent of our eligible population of 28,859 had received a first vaccination and 49.1 per cent had received the double dose.

We have been quick to follow the expert medical advice and it really sets us on a path to avoiding or reducing the length of future lockdowns.

A huge thank you to the South West HealthCare team operating the Vaccination Centre and to the members of Council's immunisation team who are a part of that effort.

At the recent September meeting fellow Councillor Debbie Arnott made reference to four new businesses in the city centre.

Cr Arnott mentioned that they had all shown courage in backing themselves and their business idea and faith in Warrnambool and its future. I could not agree more and in terms of occupancy rates Liebig Street would be the envy of many other Australian cities. A great credit to the business operators and to our wider community for continuing to "get around Warrnambool".

Cr. Vicki Jellie, Mayor



ELIGIBLE FOR A COVID-19 VACCINATION?

SCAN HERE.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP?

Council has provisions in place to help property owners who are experiencing difficulty paying rates.

For the 2021-2022 year Council has introduced a \$35 rate rebate for home owner-occupiers experiencing genuine financial hardship.

This has been introduced in recognition that the rate increase (an average of \$32 per household in Warrnambool) may create a financial burden.

Council has developed online forms to make applying for the rebate easier, go to www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/hardship

Alternatively, people can also contact Council's Revenue Branch on 5559 4800.

An experienced staff member will be able to confidentially discuss and assist with arranging a personalised payment plan.



Samu and Benji Lesu use the Ward St crossing

MORE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECTS COMPLETED

Work on a new raised pedestrian crossing has been finished in Ward Street, the sixth pedestrian-friendly project completed in the city in recent months.

Funded by the Transport Accident Commission-Local Government Small Infrastructure grant, the new “wombat” crossing has been built to make it easier for families attending East Warrnambool Primary School, and the wider community, to cross the street.

The crossing gives pedestrians priority when crossing the road and the raised platform reduces car speed as well as making people walking more visible.

In addition to the new wombat crossing in Ward Street, one was also built in Garden Street in July, with pedestrian refuges on Aitkins Road near the playground, Selby Road near Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School and Zeigler Parade near the Allansford Kindergarten also completed along with multiple upgrades in Merrivale Drive.

The Merrivale Drive project was funded by Department of Transport- Safe Travel in Local Streets grant.

Warrnambool Mayor Vicki Jellie said that Council was committed to making the city safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

“Thousands of people helped to create our long-term vision - the W2040 Plan – with safer streets and footpaths as well as encouraging active transport key themes,” she said.

“We all know the psychical, mental and emotional benefits of walking or cycling regularly, and by working this into your everyday life – the benefits compound.

“Especially with children. Most of them want to walk to school. It’s great for their confidence and they like to talk with their friends, and they are developing healthy habits at the same time.

“Council has collaborated closely with schools to identify what can be done to make walking and cycling a more attractive option for their students, but there’s always more work to be done, and we will continue to improve our streets and footpaths each year.

“In some instances where the Victorian Government controls a road instead of Council, we will keep working with schools and communities to encourage the relevant authorities to make the necessary upgrades to improve conditions for pedestrians.

“Infrastructure is one thing, but it’s important to remember that we all have a part to play to keep each other safe on our streets. Whether you’re walking, cycling or driving please slow down and make eye contact at intersections and crossings.”

TENDER AWARDED FOR EDWARDS BRIDGE

A new Edwards Bridge on Stanley Street is one step closer with Council awarding the tender for its design and construction.

At its September meeting, Council accepted the \$4.6 million submission from MACA Civil Pty Ltd to replace the 125 year old Edwards Bridge.

Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said that while it was disappointing that the project would cost more than the \$3 million Council had available, the bridge needed to be replaced.

“I’d like to thank the Federal Government for the \$1.5 million they have already committed to this project via their Bridge Renewal Program and we are hopeful that our application for a further \$500,000 will be successful,” she said.

“After more than a century of service, the Edwards Bridge has reached the end of its useable life.

“Last year we went to the community to talk about the viable options, and the most popular response was to replace the existing bridge while retaining the heritage character of the original, and that’s what we’re doing.

“A reliable Edwards Bridge is important for emergency services, buses and heavy vehicles to be able to reach the foreshore. In recent years, Council has had to spend money on maintenance just to retain the 15 tonne load limit.

“The new bridge will also be much more pedestrian and cyclist friendly with bike lanes and walkways on both sides of the road.

“I’m looking forward to seeing work begin on this bridge that will serve our city well into the 22nd century.”

Once the detailed project schedule has been finalised and submitted by MACA, Council will be in contact with nearby residents, emergency services, other relevant organisations and the wider community to advise key dates.

ANTI-SLIP DECKING TRIALLED ON PROMENADE

A small section of wooden decking near the Pavilion is being replaced as part of a trial to make the area less slippery.

The new decking utilises recycled plastic and is designed to offer more grip than exposed wood when wet.

Should the trial prove successful, the treatment has the potential to be used at other areas along the Promenade.





\$980,000 UPGRADE FOR JETTY FLAT PAVILION

The sports pavilion at Jetty Flat Reserve will receive a \$980,000 upgrade that includes female-friendly changerooms.

Council was successful in its application to the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund seeking \$500,000 for the project.

"We wish to thank and acknowledge the Victorian Government for investing \$500,000 towards the Jetty Flat project," Warrnambool Mayor Cr Vicki Jellie said.

"Council has committed \$395,000 towards the project, we have a further \$30,000 from Cricket Victoria and \$55,000 from the Warrnambool BMX Club and Russells Creek Cricket Club.

"Council believes that creating facilities which encourage female participation is a high priority.

"The upgrade will create two new change areas and amenities that are not gender specific and which will provide clear separation between club amenities and the general public.

"From the pavilion, there will be a clear line of sight to the BMX track to the south and the cricket oval to the north.

"Designated umpires amenities include a separate shower, toilet and changing space while the shared community and social spaces will be able to transform from one space to two."

Jetty Flat Reserve was among 73 projects to score a share in \$22 million from the Victorian Government's 2021 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

TIME WITH NATURE IS ALWAYS TIME WELL SPENT

When was the last time you stopped to smell the flowers... literally?

Council is partnering with the Parks and People Foundation and encouraging everyone to make a Nature Pact - to spend intentional time with nature on your own or with someone.

This could be a friend, family member or colleague. It could be on your exercise route or even in the garden.

Prizes are available too so share your #NaturePact experience on Facebook and Instagram. Prizes will be drawn at random from posts that use the #NaturePact hashtag and announced weekly.

To make your pact & enter the prize draw head to www.peopleandparks.org/nature-pact



WHAT GOES IN WHICH BIN?

All households should now have their four bins, each collected fortnightly.

By using the bins correctly, we can all help reduce contamination, ensuring that as much material as possible is recycled while keeping costs down.

For details go to www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/kerbside-collection



NEW CHAPTER IN THE WARRNAMBOOL LIBRARY STORY

Construction has begun under 25 per cent workforce restrictions on a new Learning and Library Hub in Warrnambool, funded by the Victorian Government and built with the assistance of Warrnambool TAFE students.

The first sod has been turned on the \$20.25 million facility, which will expand capacity for more people to study, learn and socialise – with the new library to be four times larger than the existing SW TAFE and Warrnambool libraries, featuring study and meeting rooms, exhibition areas, a digital media zone, computer areas and a café.

Victorian company A.W. Nicholson was appointed to build the facility, which has been supported by \$16.3 million from the Victorian Government, \$3.12 million from Warrnambool City Council and \$830,000 from SW TAFE – with the project expected to be completed in 2022.

The project will make sure young locals have a chance to gain vital real-life industry experience – with apprentices and trainees from SW TAFE to make up 10 per cent of the construction workforce, working alongside local builders, plumbers and electricians.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney said it was exciting to see construction start on the Learning and Library Hub – “which will be a great facility for students and the community and provide important, on-the-job experience for the next generation of construction workers”. Warrnambool Mayor Vicki Jellie said it was fabulous to see the project start.



“It’s a great partnership between Council, TAFE and the Victorian Government and really exciting to know that TAFE students will be actively involved in creating what will be a wonderful outcome for the whole community,” Cr Jellie said.

Council CEO said the construction phase of the library project was always going to be a great boost for the city’s economy.

“And even more so as we look to recover from the impact of COVID,” Mr Schneider said.

“There’ll be lots of trades involved and money invested locally as the library – which will become an iconic building - takes shape.”

The Learning and Library Hub is part of the Government’s \$33 million Big Build Apprenticeships program, which will provide 1,500 opportunities to Victorian apprentices and trainees each year for four years to

kickstart their careers on some of the state’s largest projects, including the new Footscray Hospital and the North East Link.

The program gives students a direct pathway from the classroom to the workforce, and supports employers by enhancing the state’s pool of highly skilled workers.

School leavers and young people are encouraged to apply, with priority given to workers who were affected by the coronavirus pandemic, disadvantaged Victorians and those under-represented in the construction industry.

TAFE CEO Mark Fidge said the library was a huge investment in the future of Warrnambool and strengthened the link between South West TAFE and the community by providing state-of-the-art facilities and exciting learning opportunities for local people.



THE PROOF IS IN THE ROOF AT THE SALEYARDS

Almost a year on from the installation of a 3500sqm roof at the South-West Victorian Livestock Exchange (SWVLX), the benefits for cattle and humans alike are plain to see.

The roof covers 40 large pens used to hold cattle before and after being sold at the Warrnambool-based facility, with SWVLX Manager Paul White saying this marked a new and exciting chapter for the saleyards.

“We’ve had one of the wettest winters in south-west Victoria for some time, so the roof has played a big part in sheltering tens of thousands of cattle during their stay at the yards, which can

be over 24 hours by the time they are dropped off, sold and transported away,” he said.

“As well as the roof, there’s soft stand material and ready access to drinking water that we top up with electrolytes.

“We installed a 15,000 litre water tank as part of this project to harvest rainwater from the roof, and that has been used to fill all of our troughs.

“In addition to the improved animal welfare, the extra protection means that the cattle present better for sale, and we’ve had lots of good feedback from the agents, buyers and vendors.

“We’ve also been undertaking live auctions from under the roof and that’s been really popular with everyone involved, so we’re in the design phase of getting some auctioneers walkways installed.”

The Warrnambool City Council and the Victorian Government invested a combined \$969,000 in the roof project, which Mr White said was a big vote of confidence.

“The work isn’t over, with the Warrnambool City Council setting aside funding in this year’s budget to make even more improvements,” Mr White said.

“With a combination of the best location, the best prices and the backing of the Warrnambool City Council, the South-West Victorian Livestock Exchange has a very bright future ahead.”

HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE STAFF SUPPORT 1200 PEOPLE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council staff have provided more than 42,000 hours of home and community care to some of the city's most vulnerable residents.

Lockdowns are tough on everybody, and that's especially the case for older residents who rely on Council services to be able to live at home.

Council provides services such as domestic assistance (cleaning and housework), personal care (showering, grooming, shopping), property maintenance, respite and Meals on Wheels to about 1200 clients.

"As mayor of the city, I'm immensely proud of the work our home and community care staff have carried out over the course of the pandemic," Cr Vicki Jellie said.

"They're adapting to a rapidly changing environment, and have managed to carry out their important work while keeping themselves and their clients safe.

"I'd also like to extend my sincere gratitude to our Meals on Wheels drivers who have delivered more than 22,000 meals since March last year, providing not only something to eat, but a friendly face and a welfare check too.

"Even outside of a pandemic, these are vital services. But when you factor in that many of our clients are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and that they may not have seen family and friends in person for months, they really are life saving."

Warrnambool City Council Service Manager Home Support Jon Sedgley said that as well as providing essential care in a COVID-safe way, Council's staff had become an increasingly important support person for many clients.



Community Support Worker Rodney Kearney with Kathleen Wilkinson

"With the constant changing of regulations our staff have been something consistent in their lives," he said.

"Many clients are lonely and frustrated about not being able to see family, but these feelings are eased somewhat when our staff visit.

"Clients are really valuing the social interactions with staff. They are having deeper conversations and building up friendships.

"Just being able to talk about COVID and their anxieties around it – our staff are able to reassure them and help to relay important, credible government advice."

For more information on Council's Home and Community Services visit www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/home-and-community-services or call 5559 4800.

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

In 1975, 120 years after the sailing ship Schomberg was wrecked, Flagstaff Hill divers (Peter Ronald, Colin Goodall and Gary Hayden) found an ornate communion set amongst the wreckage.

The set comprised a jug, ciborium, lid, chalice and plate. The items, apart from the lid, were then displayed at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village.

The lid had etchings that did not match the chalice and sat in storage for several years. Then in 1978, while the marine concretion inside the lid was being examined, a surface layer came loose and revealed a glint of gold that was assumed to be a piece of brass.

The layers of concretion were carefully removed and a ring-like band emerged. Further treatment exposed a large faceted

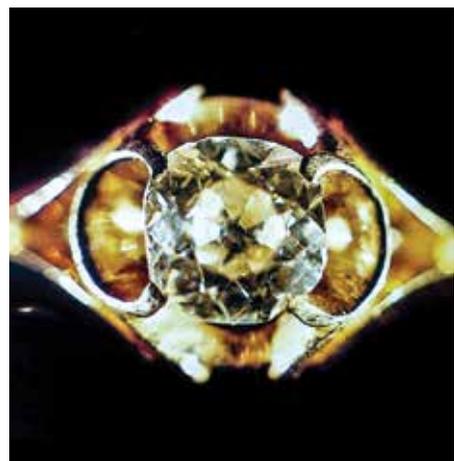
stone in an intricate gold setting.

Weeks later a detailed examination estimated the value of the ring, known as the Schomberg Diamond, to be \$7000 (the equivalent of more than \$37,000 today).

Why the ring was inside the lid remains a mystery.

The ring is currently on display in Flagstaff Hill's Great Circle Gallery.

For more information about Flagstaff Hill, visit www.flagstaffhill.com.



WARRNIBALD WINNER ANNOUNCED

Georgina Sambell is the winner of the 2021 Warrnibald Prize with her portrait of accordion player Lex Paton.

Known across the region for his love of Irish music, Lex founded Lex's Shed about 18 years ago as a way of bringing musicians together while raising money for charity.

Like many in the community who quietly go about their business of helping others, Ms Sambell said that the renowned accordion player was humble about his achievements.

"He was reluctant because he didn't think he'd be a worthy enough subject," she said.

"I think for everything he has done, with running Lex's Shed, he has done a wonderful job... bringing people together."

Warrnambool Art Gallery (WAG) Director Vanessa Gerrans congratulated all 42 artists on their entries.

"The Warrnibald Prize was established as a way of recognising both the skill of our many local artists, and to provide a platform to recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution in a range of industries," she said.

"This show is all about personality, and it has been a joy to discover the personalities

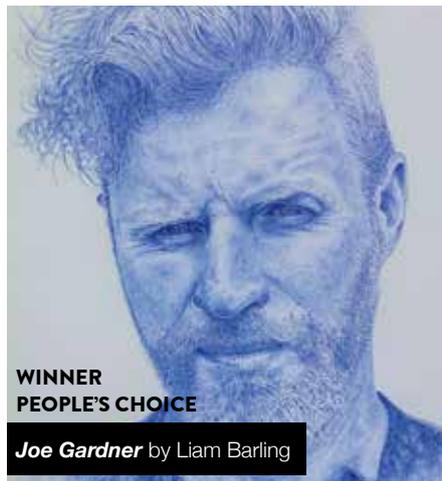
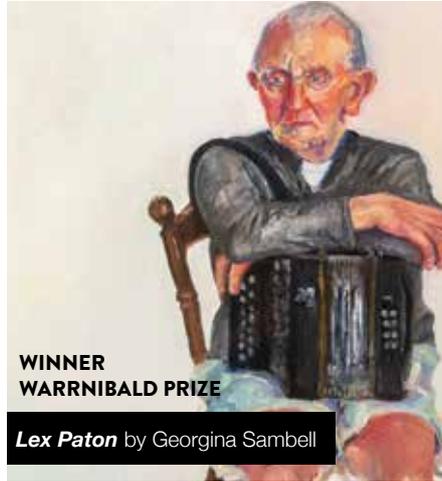
working hard in our community for the benefit of our community and to reflect on how artists have honoured and paid respect to these people through their portraits."

The Warrnibald Prize helps raise funds to support WDEA Work's Social Enterprise ArtLink Program: an initiative that assists people with a range of abilities identify to achieve their creative goals; and promote

the inclusivity of everyone in community life.

Liam Barling won the "Archibool" People's Choice Award, with thousands of votes cast in-person for the brief period that the exhibition was open in the Warrnambool Art Gallery, as well as online.

For more information about what's on at the WAG visit www.thewag.com.au.



WHAT'S ON AT THE WARRNAMBOOL LIBRARY

School Holiday Fun

- Diorama Discovery Tuesday 21st September 10-11am
- Cultural stories & craft Thursday 23rd September 10-11am
- Story games & activities Tuesday 28th September 10-11am

Bookings required for all events

One Day Studio Workshops

The talented folk from One Day studio will be running workshops during the school holidays

- Hobbit Day craft (for young adults & adults) Wednesday 22nd September 2-3pm
- Cartooning workshop (for kids) Thursday 30th September 10-11am
- Graphic Fiction (for young adults) Thursday 30th September 2-3pm

Bookings required for all events

Australian Poetry Slam events

Online Poetry Slam workshop with 2020 APS Champion Ren Alessandra

Monday 27th September, open to young adults (aged 13-18)

Numbers are limited, bookings essential.

Online APS Victorian Heat

Thursday 30 September, 7pm.

Performers must perform original piece, time limit of 2 minutes. Winner gets the opportunity to represent at the Victorian State finals, hosted by the State Library of Victoria and a \$100 gift voucher from Collins Booksellers.

Registrations are now open for both performers and audience members. Before entering, please read the competition rules at www.australianpoetryslam.com/rules

Registrations essential for all events.
Book via email: library@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
or Tel: **5559 4990**

COME ON WARRNAMBOOL, WE'RE NEARLY THERE!

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

