

Frankston City News

March-April 2024

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RIDING HIGH Overport Park's makeover magic!

One of Frankton's City's most popular reserves is looking better than ever on the back of several upgrades based on community need and feedback.

Visitors to Overport Park in Frankston South are now enjoying the City's newest BMX pump track — part of the park's new bike park, which also includes beginner, intermediate and advanced jump sections, making it a great bike and skate facility for all ages and experience levels.

The \$780,000 project is fully funded by Council and is one of the recommendations in the Overport Park Master Plan which was adopted by Council in 2021 following extensive community and stakeholder engagement. The park project was also championed by local riders and their families who have now come together to form the Overport Dirt Riders and are regular facility users.

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This edition



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Customer Service Centres Civic Centre

30 Davey Street, Frankston
Monday to Friday,
8.30am—5pm

Seaford Customer Service Centre

Seaford Community Centre,
corner of Station Street and
Broughton Street, Seaford
Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm
Saturday 9am—12pm

Langwarrin Customer Service Centre

Shop 6, The Gateway,
Cranbourne-Frankston Road,
Langwarrin
Monday to Friday, 9am—5pm

Carrum Downs Library and Customer Service Centre

203 Lyrebird Drive, Carrum
Downs, times vary

Visitor Information Centre

7N Pier Promenade,
Frankston Waterfront
Open 7 days, 10am—4pm
Phone: 1300 322 842

Hoon driving

1800 333 000
(Crime Stoppers)

Graffiti removal

1800 66 8247 (1800 NO TAGS)

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Message from the Mayor

Strong bonds of connection

Over the last few weeks, I have heard from thousands of Frankston City locals about what matters to you. You told me about the importance of well-maintained paths and roads, the need for more urban canopy, safer public spaces, a vibrant local economy, and of course, value for money from rates and taxes.

That listening experience reminded me of why of love this City. The fierce sense of pride we share for where we live, our strong sense of community and connection, and our collective desire for Frankton to fulfill its true potential.

It's why, as I return as Mayor, I'll continue to focus on implementing a strategic plan for Frankton that makes our city the best place to live, work and play in Victoria. That includes the ongoing revitalisation of our city centre, working towards greater housing

diversity, and positioning our city as a tier one business, and arts, culture and tourism destination.

But I'll also be focused on getting the basics right. Things like working with all levels of government and the private sector to tackle graffiti on our transport network, revitalising tired public spaces, modernising our play spaces and sports facilities and continuing to provide the critical community support services that so many rely on.

Being Mayor also means leading a team that can work together to create better outcomes for our many diverse communities. As we finalise our budget for 2024-2025, Councillors and I will work collaboratively to prioritise expenditure for the year ahead, acting on your input, while ensuring value for money across our community.

Finally, I'd like to thank Deputy Mayor Liam Hughes for stepping in to perform



Mayoral duties over the last few weeks, and representing both Council and the City of Frankston

It truly is an honour.

Nathan Conroy
Mayor

Message from the CEO

Vale Peter Ward

Council's greatest strength is our staff — their passion, dedication, talent and unflinching hard work.

It was with great sadness that I learnt of Peter Ward's passing. An exemplary staff member, Peter led Frankston City Council's Meals on Wheels team as Team Leader, which he worked with for an incredible 26 years. Peter was a devoted family man with a deep connection to his siblings, renowned for his vast knowledge spanning cars, houses, renovations, aged care, nutrition, and safety. Crucially, Peter's commitment to Meals on Wheels extended far beyond a job — it was a calling.

His leadership and dedication earned him the prestigious Outstanding Contribution Award from Meals on Wheels Australia, a testament to decades of unwavering service. Peter's impact went beyond accolades, as he fostered a unique and supportive

culture in Frankston City, valuing and inspiring volunteers.

The Frankston City community, his family, his friends, and the Meals on Wheels community nationwide, mourns the loss of a true legend and advocate for the service, whose influence will continue to resonate through the lives he touched.

Vale Peter.

Think Local campaign

Similar to our much-loved Meals on Wheels service, small business is of vital importance to the community.

From manufacturing, construction, retail and hospitality to home-based services, health care, beauty and real estate, Frankston City is bustling with 44,000 small and medium vibrant enterprises helping to strengthen our economy and make this city the best place to live, work, play, learn and invest.

That's why Frankton City Council's Think



local is such a fantastic initiative. The campaign aims to increase local spending to keep money in our community, strengthen employment, support local entrepreneurs, reduce carbon footprints and build local connections.

By buying local, consumers are helping to stimulate the local economy and support local small and medium enterprises.

In fact, for every \$100 spent on a local business, an estimated \$68 stays within the local economy, compared to \$43 for non-local businesses and for every \$100 spent online, less than five dollars remains in your local community.

Think Local Month will run from 1-26 March.

For more information, see the article on Page 6.

Phil Cantillon
Chief Executive Officer



#FrankstonCity



Wall on the wild side

The colourful mural on the back wall of the Downs Community Farm Shed at the Seaford Wetland, painted by internationally known street artist Jimmy Dvate, was completed in February.

The mural depicts some of the wetland's native wildlife and flora, as well as some migratory birds that travel thousands of kilometres across the world every year to settle in southern Victoria during the summer months. This mural project was a joint venture between Down's Community Farm, Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc, Jimmy Dvate and Frankston City Council. See page 7 for more information.



New play options at Ballam Park

We're making Ballam Park play space even better!

Just wait till you see what we have planned for the final stage of our play space upgrade.

You asked for an area where younger kids can explore, climb, hide, and slide and we're delivering just that.

The new play area — designed for children aged from three to 10 years, will feature:

- Sway bridge with overhead ropes
- Basket swing accommodating up to 8 children
- Balance beams
- Cubby house

- Climbing rocks
- Leaf-design bridge with stones inside as a tactile experience
- Junior slide

To make play time even more engaging, the play area features a range of materials, including recycled bridge timber, steel, and river rocks.

The upgrade complements the Ballam Bumps play area for older kids and the new play area completed in December 2022.

The project is funded by Council through the Victorian Government's Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme, and we can't wait to take it for a test run when it opens in May!

Overport Park's makeover magic!

Continued from page 1:

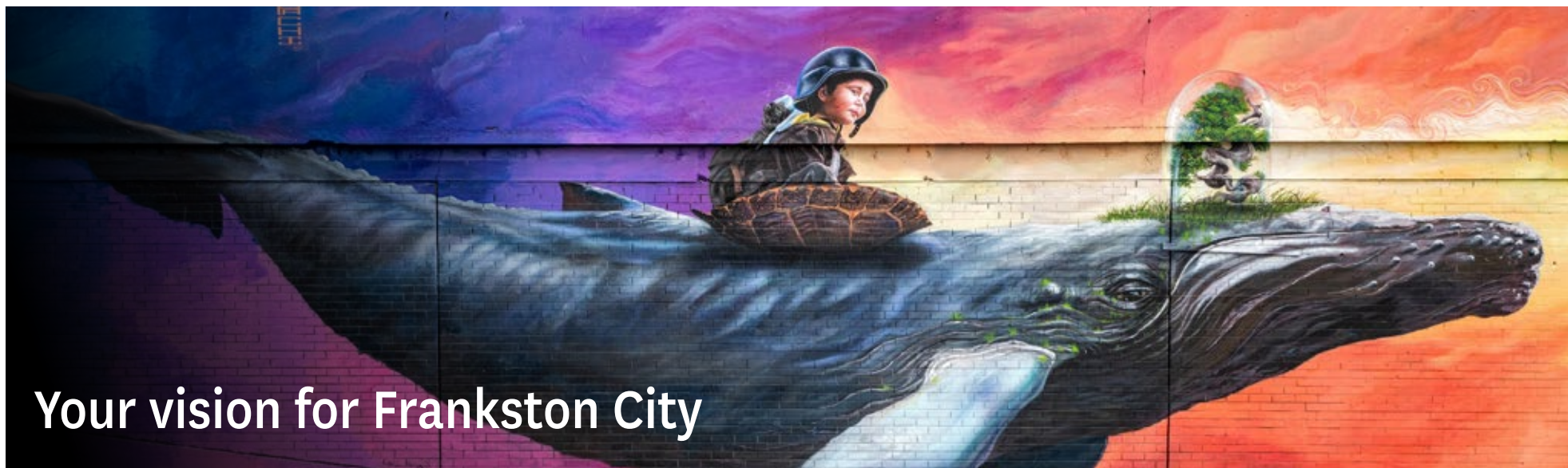
Not far from the bike park, members of the Frankston Dolphins Junior Football Club and the Frankston Dolphins Football Netball Club, will soon be reaping the benefits of an upgraded oval just in time for the start of this year's winter season, while the Baden Powell Cricket Club will be testing out new facilities next summer. The \$1.32 million upgrade includes a new automatic irrigation system, improved drainage, new perimeter oval and ball stop fencing, AFL goals, a synthetic cricket pitch, coaches' boxes, and new turf. While the oval may look complete, to give the turf time to settle in, it will be official ready for use by the end of March/early April.

To improve connectivity and access, Council has also improved drainage and created new footpath connections between the sporting pavilion, the second oval and the cricket nets.

All up, Council has invested \$2.1million in the upgrades, which reflect a continued commitment to supporting residents to enjoy active and healthy lifestyles, according to Deputy Mayor Cr Liam Hughes.

"Seeing kids using the new bike park and the football and cricket clubs excited for their upgraded facilities really highlights for me how lucky we are to have so many great reserves and open spaces across Frankton City," he said.

"We know how important both passive and active recreation are for physical and mental health and I'm proud to be part of a Council that recognises this and provides opportunities for people to walk, ride, run, skate and play a range of indoor and outdoor sports."



Your vision for Frankston City

In 2024, Frankston City Council is gearing up for an exceptional year of community engagement, focusing on critical strategic plans that will shape the future of our City.

This month, Council launches our engagement to check in with the community about our Community Vision 2040. We are asking our community to share whether the Vision still reflects your aspirations and needs, and give feedback on how the Vision has been delivered so far.

Our Community Vision shapes Council's decision-making, and delivery of services and programs outlined in other key strategic documents, like the Council Plan, Asset Plan, and Financial Plan. We want to know if the current plans still reflect your needs, and how we adapt to our changing

community and circumstances through an updated Vision and new Council Plan.

"Our Community Vision is the guiding compass for all of Council's decisions. It's our flagship document, influencing decision-making and planning for the next 20 years," said Deputy Mayor Liam Hughes.

Until 31 May 2024, Council invites Frankston City residents to have their say on the future of life in Frankston City, sharing what's important for themselves, their families and the community. You're invited to participate in pop-ups, drop-in sessions, workshops, and online forums.

"The upcoming Community Vision engagement is an opportunity for everyone in Frankston City to join the conversation and shape our shared future. It captures the community's aspirations, ensuring our

people are at the centre of everything we do," said Deputy Mayor Hughes.

Council is also facilitating a representative Community Council from September to November, leading in-depth discussions about our City's future, ensuring diverse voices contribute to the decision-making process.

"I encourage every resident to participate in shaping our shared future," urged Deputy Mayor Hughes. "Your insights are invaluable in crafting a vibrant and inclusive community for the coming decades."

To learn more, have your say and express interest in joining our Community Panel, scan the QR code or visit engage.frankston.vic.gov.au



Have your say on Council services

Our Council Vision describes what our community wants for Frankston City's future, including its look, feel and liveability.

The Vision is supported by essential services spanning many areas, from playgroups and domestic assistance, to road maintenance and waste services.

How do Council's services support our vision?

Since 2021, Council has been working to achieve our Community Vision 2040 by delivering services under our Council Plan 2021-2025.

During this time, we've heard from our community that some services are more important than others, or that you'd like Council to improve delivery of some services.

These services fall into six key groups, including:

- Safety, ageing, children, library, kinder, sport.
- Support people in need, grants, emergency relief.
- Parks, playgrounds, waste, protect environment.
- Parking, roads, footpaths, bike paths.
- Festivals, events, businesses, planning permits.
- Rates, finances, rules, buildings, maintenance.

We'd like to learn more about the services you would like to see more of, or less of, within these categories. This will help us develop a new Council Plan 2025-2029.

Visit Engage Frankston to have your say and be a part of the future of Frankston City. By completing the full survey, you can go in a draw to win one of three \$100 Prezzy vouchers to spend on groceries, petrol, entertainment and more.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey.



Help shape Frankston North Community Centre!

We are thrilled that so many members of our community love Frankston North Community Centre and join us to learn, play, socialise and contribute their skills.

Over the last six months, we've been talking with those who use our Centre about their priorities and needs. We've gained valuable insights from those we've spoken to, but now we would like to check in with our wider community to share what we've learnt and ask if there is anything else we should be considering.

What is a community centre?

In Frankston City, our Community Centres create a welcoming, friendly space for all those seeking to build their skills, find information, join activities, meet friends, contribute their talents or just get out of the house. Our Community Centres are a safe space for learning, support, and celebration, where everyone, regardless of background, can feel welcome.



Importantly, Community Centres can assist us in achieving our health and wellbeing goals, through learning, physical activity, mindfulness, creativity, social connection and more.

Your input will play a pivotal role in crafting the next chapter of our Centre, ensuring that it continues to be a thriving space for locals.

Scan the QR code to join the conversation and contribute your ideas for the future of Frankston North Community Centre. For further information, visit the Centre or call 8773 9545.



Federal funding sought for transport initiatives

Frankston City Council is putting forward a package of over 50 transport initiatives including shared user paths, road surfacing, construction of new pathways, public transport improvements and precinct beautification for potential Federal funding.

This package was developed during the review into the Federal Government’s \$225 million commitment towards the Frankston to Baxter Rail project. Although funding for the rail project was withdrawn in November 2023, Council is still seeking a commitment from the Federal Government to invest some of the original funding towards a range of transport initiatives across the Frankston City municipality. Even a portion of the original commitment would help ensure that Frankston City residents have access to a variety of safe, reliable and accessible transport options.

What is proposed:

- Major projects such as the Nepean Boulevard Revitalisation, Playne Street Revitalisation and Kananook Promenade Revitalisation
- Public transport improvements such as Kananook Station accessibility and precinct beautification and Beach Street rail crossing safety upgrades
- Shared User Paths such as Robinsons Road, North/Centre Road, Frankston-Dandenong Road, Ballarto Road and more
- Implementation of Local Area Traffic Management Plans such as Seaford Precinct, Langwarrin Precinct, Hadley Precinct and more
- Upgrading approximately 67 unsealed roads across all suburbs within Frankston City
- Construction of approximately 150 sections of new and missing links of footpath across all suburbs within Frankston City
- Precinct beautification including Quinn Link overpass, Beach Street and McMahons Road underpass and more
- Bicycle lanes in Beach Street Frankston



News in Brief

Who manages the roads across Frankston City?

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for the thousands of kilometres of roads across our municipality?

Responsibility for road construction, inspection, maintenance and repair across Frankston City is split between Council, VicRoads and private operators in the case of Peninsula Link and EastLink.

- Council is responsible for local, or municipal roads. Across Victoria local roads comprise 87 per cent of the state's road network.
- VicRoads is responsible for Freeways and Arterial Roads such as Nepean Highway and the Frankston Freeway.
- Private operator ConnectEast Group manage EastLink and Service Stream manages Peninsula Link.

Becoming a more Welcoming City Council recently signed on as a committed member of the Welcoming Cities Network.

The Welcoming Cities Network is aimed at advancing cultural diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity. There are more than 80 local government Welcoming Cities across Australia, including 24 in Victoria. Frankston City is now starting the process to be accredited as an Established Welcoming City. Accreditation requires benchmarking our policies on social inclusion and cultural diversity against the Welcoming Cities Standard.

This includes building an understanding our strengths, weaknesses and how best to make our city welcoming for all. Keep an eye out for an update once this process has concluded later this year.

Reporting problems on our roads

Problems with roadside rubbish, overgrown vegetation, graffiti or general road maintenance? Still not sure if it's a Council managed municipal road or a VicRoads managed freeway or arterial road?

The best way to ensure things get through to the right people and fixed up quickly is to use the Snap Send Solve app. Simply take a photo of the problem, confirm the location and the issue is sent directly to the relevant authority for follow up. You can download the app via your phone's app store, or scan the QR code.



Dunkley By-election 2024: A new member for Dunkley

Council would like to welcome Jodie Belyea as the newly elected Federal Member for Dunkley following the by-election held on Saturday 2 March due to the sad passing of Peta Murphy in December of 2023.

Prior to launching her campaign Jodie worked as Manager of the MEGT Foundation, a not-for-profit helping disadvantaged women return to

study. Jodie also founded the Women’s Spirit Project in 2018, a volunteer-led group providing health and wellbeing programs for disadvantaged women in Frankston and surrounding council areas.

We look forward to working with Jodie and the Federal Government to continue to deliver for the people of Frankston City.



Think Local Month 2024

Think. Look. Shop. Love. Frankston City. The month-long campaign encouraging the Frankston City community, businesses and workers to **Think Local** has begun!

Frankston City's Think Local Month began at the start of March and has involved an event launch and networking night, shopping strip activations, more than 10 business workshops and a day of free mentoring for our local businesses. As part of the initiative, Council also offered 100 x \$1000 Think Local Grants for businesses to purchase products or services from another Frankston City business. The grants help to stimulate the local economy and strengthen local business connections. To find out more about Think Local including what workshops are on now until 27 March, such as Balancing Burnout, Business & Wellbeing or Video Marketing Made Easy, visit frankston.vic.gov.au/thinklocal



Business Mentor Program

Our amazing panel of Business Mentors are providing Frankston City businesses with FREE business coaching and support.

With backgrounds in various industries, including hospitality, construction, manufacturing, retail, marketing and more, our business mentors can offer advice and guidance on updating your business plan, accounting, finance, operations, general business growth solutions and much more. Available to all Frankston City registered businesses, our Business Mentor Program offers two FREE one-hour mentor sessions with one of our 12 mentors. Get in touch today to learn how you and your business can benefit from this fantastic free service. Email business@frankston.vic.gov.au if you would like to be set up with a business mentor.

Get your business involved in Frankston City events!

Frankston City Council hosts and supports a number of fantastic major and minor events, programs, activations and initiatives throughout the year.

With a strong focus on stimulating our local economy, Frankston City Council aims to continuously connect local businesses with local opportunities. There are many ways, you, as a local business owner or operator, can get involved in our awesome events, whether it be sponsoring, in-kind support, donations of products and services, displaying promotional collateral or marketing collaborations. If you would like to be a contributor for our city's events, whether via donation, sponsorship or other ways, head to www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Things-To-Do/Get-Involved/Join-our-Event-Collaborator-database

Small Business Expo

Frankston City Council will be hosting a Small Business Expo at the Frankston Arts Centre on 26 March, 2024 from 3pm-7pm as part of Think Local Month.

The expo will showcase a range of businesses from a number of different industries including retail, health, IT, business and more and is open to the public. All businesses exhibiting will be registered Frankston City businesses as the expo is designed to highlight the diversity and quality of businesses we have right here in Frankston. Whether you are a Frankston City business, worker or member of the community, Frankston City has everything you need. All members of the community are welcome and entry is free.



To find out more about the expo, visit frankston.vic.gov.au/thinklocal or email business@frankston.vic.gov.au

Hiring Outside the Box

A number of businesses attended the Hiring Outside the Box information session held on 21 February at Frankston City Council.

Frankston City Council together with MAS National and Workforce Australia hosted the event to help businesses discover what The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations program had to offer such as alternative recruitment practices to develop the workforce. The program enables businesses to build a recruitment toolkit and discover new ways of recruiting and diversifying the workforce. For more information, or to download your free toolkit visit dewr.gov.au/employment/hiring-staff/hiring-outside-box

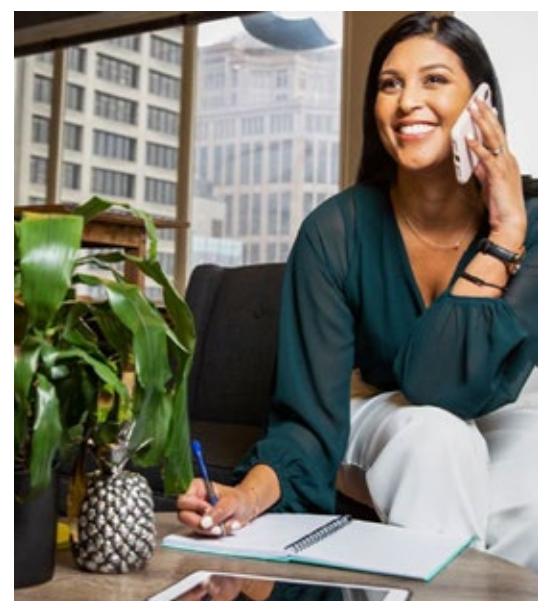
Business Concierge

A reminder that our Business Concierge is a free service to help guide you as you start or grow your business.

We know that navigating through Council can be difficult and businesses may need one or more permits to start operating or to expand. The Business Concierge can help with the following:

- Providing information to help open or expand your business
- Understanding which permits you will need
- Completing and submitting these applications
- Offering advice on other aspects of running your business
- Connecting you with our FREE business mentor program

Get in touch with our experienced concierge today.



Eric Bell Reserve Pavilion

This amazing \$8.82 million redevelopment will provide a first-class facility to the Pines Football and Netball Club and Pines Cricket Club.

The upgrades include four new change rooms, a community multi-purpose room, public toilets, upgraded car parking, umpire rooms, a commercial kitchen, landscaping, first aid rooms and a spectator terrace area. The project means every community sporting facility except the Pines Pool, has now been modernised in Frankston North. I will provide a future update on plans for the Pines Pool in a future column.

Thank you to Jeff Svigos (Pines Football Netball Club), Kim Jackson (Pines Football Netball Club) and Brad Saunders (Pines Cricket Club) for working so hard to make this project a reality.

Frankston North beautification

It's always a pleasure to visit Frankston North. The amazing community spirit is always evident when I chat to locals and visit facilities and businesses. It is great to see the area undergoing this urban renewal. I want to make sure people continue to feel welcome in the area and we maintain this growing sense of pride, so I have secured funding to have all three entrances to Frankston North landscaped and beautified. From April to June, native species will be planted on either side of the entrances at Excelsior Drive, Monterey Boulevard and Forest Drive.

Funding has also been earmarked to begin planning for an upgrade to the Mahogany Avenue local shopping area. This is a busy little strip that punches well above its weight. Community consultation will begin shortly on what improvements you would like to see here. This will be the second shopping strip to be revitalised in Frankston North after I led the upgrade of the shopping area/strip on Excelsior Drive in 2021.

Residents have also asked that the beautiful mosaic art piece on the bakery wall at Mahogany Avenue Shopping Strip be remediated. I've obliged and the mural has not only been restored, but also improved.

New Trees

Last year, I wrote about the number of trees I successfully planted in various parts of Karingal, Frankston North, Seaford and Frankston. I am pleased to advise that more than 1383 new trees were planted in areas that you told me needed greater tree canopy/coverage. Some of these locations included Gairloch Reserve, Riviera Reserve, Dunsterville Reserve, Seaford Road, McMahons Road, Karingal Drive, Lucerne Reserve and Telopea Reserve. This year I am focused on getting more trees planted, with community feedback flagging locations at Belvedere Reserve, Eric Bell Reserve, Lee Street Reserve, Kashmir Reserve, Havana Reserve, Alicia Court Reserve, Ferndale Reserve and Ellis Reserve. If you feel there is public land in need of more trees, let me know.



Cr Kris Bolam JP

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Bridge milestone at Seaford Wetlands

It was such a pleasure to visit Seaford Wetlands recently and check out progress on the new pedestrian and cycling bridge across Kananook Creek. The bridge, which has beautiful timber cladding to enhance and blend in with the natural environment, is the first stage of the \$5 million Seaford Wetlands Rejuvenation Project that Council is delivering on behalf of the State Government's \$315 million Suburban Parks Program.

As many of you would be aware, our wetlands are internationally recognised, and while they support numerous plant and animal species, they are also a wonderful community asset enjoyed by everyone from bird watchers to bike riders.

It's a careful balancing act we face – protecting and preserving while also enhancing the wetlands so that they can be appropriately enjoyed by locals and visitors. This project aims to do just that. The bridge, which will connect to a shared user path to be built by our neighbours the City of Kingston on the northern side of the creek, will 'close the loop' around the wetlands and provide a pedestrian and bike riding circuit around the wetlands. I know many residents are looking forward to testing out the new circuit later this year.

As part of the project, we'll also build a new viewing platform at the Austin Road access to the wetlands, which will also be fully accessible and provide wonderful views across the wetlands.

Habitat and ecological improvements, way-finding, interpretative signage and a self-guided biocultural trail are some of the other ways in which we are enhancing and preserving the wetlands for future generations to continue to enjoy.

Downs Community Farm Eco Mural

Staying with Seaford Wetlands, I also recently attended the unveiling of a brand-new eco-mural on the back wall of the Downs Community Farm Shed adjacent to the wetlands.

Painted by internationally known street artist Jimmy Dvate, this 19-meter-long mural beautifully depicts some of the flora and fauna native to Frankston and the Seaford Wetlands.

As well as native animals, the mural also features two migratory birds, Latham's Snipe which travels over 9,000km from Japan and the Sharp Tailed Sandpiper that can travel up to 17,000km from Siberia.

This mural, pictured on page 3, is an excellent example of collaborative working between Down's Community Farm, Friends of Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands Inc, Jimmy Dvate and Frankston City Council and I recommend you head to the farm to check it out!



Cr Sue Baker JP

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Precious environment defines our identity

Following my re-election to Council earlier this year, the current Councillors have genuinely welcomed me back along with the CEO and staff of our city, with many residents also expressing their congratulations. I appreciated this greatly.

I have accumulated 25 years as a Councillor combining representing community in both rural Victoria and Frankston City, altogether being elected on nine separate occasions.

Being away from Council for nearly three and a half years has been somewhat refreshing and, certainly educational.

During that period, we saw unprecedented events with Covid. While there were some positives such as local communities coming together to support one another, there was also a damaging, more insidious side to what we went through.

Businesses fell apart, vast numbers lost their jobs, and the curfews, while easier for those who had a large garden or space, were terribly damaging for people in small units or townhouses.

Our community is still recovering today, and it will be years before many stabilise. Times are now hard to predict. Increasingly, prospect of war is emerging, and there is uncertainty about how the months ahead will unfold.

All these factors are inextricably linked to the operation of local government. The increasing need to help the vulnerable, the shortages in labour and materials, rapidly rising costs and the collapse of building companies.

Yet Council is but a mirror of its own community. Individuals and families are under previously unknown financial strain. Mortgage rates have risen sharply, utility costs rocketing. Cost of food has escalated. It's common to see people having to remove items from their weekly shop at the checkout. The increase in homelessness is a matter of outright criminal shame to this country.

So, I have returned to Council after a comparatively short time away, into a very changed world.

In particular, our coastal environment certainly captures my immediate attention along with helping the city to better manage developments. The environment around us belongs to all of us. It defines our identity and shapes how we relate and feel to the surroundings we live in and advertises itself to everyone who either visits or chooses to live in Frankston City.

There are numerous other matters I would wish to speak about; however, I will do so in future issues of this paper. I look forward to bringing a long history in local government to our Council meetings and assisting in far-sighted and best value decisions without bias or politics to deliver fair and just outcomes.



Cr Glenn Aitken

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Car parking, traffic, and road safety improvements for Carrum Downs

Traffic and parking are always hot topics, and I'm pleased to report that several projects are under way in Carrum Downs to improve driver and pedestrian safety and access to car parking.

You may have read about the works under way at the Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve car park in Cr Tayler's column a few months ago. I'm pleased to report that the 140-space car park is progressing well and is on track for completion by April. As well as making parking easier for visitors to the reserve, we'll be adding new pathway connections and public lighting at the car park to improve safety.

Council will then start work on the traffic improvements along Wedge Road which will include a new roundabout at the intersection with Herbert Road and raised pedestrian crossings along Wedge Road.

New public toilets are also being constructed near the upgraded reserve play space, which will be welcomed by many parents.

The parking and traffic improvements at Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve have been made possible thanks to support from the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.

Not too far from here, Council has also started rolling out more safety improvements as part of the McCormicks precinct local area traffic management plan (LATM). These were determined based on community feedback and traffic and road surveys and include construction of new pedestrian refuges along McCormicks Road and minor parking improvements along William Road.

Street Art success

Frankston may have a colourful past, but our street art and our continued national recognition in the Australian Street Art Awards speaks to our optimistic and bright future.

What an achievement to see our Street Art Awards take out gold in the Australian Street Art Awards for the third year running, making us the first city to enter the Hall of Fame.

The Big Picture Fest that occurs each year commissioning more street art to our city and culminating in a laneway party that wouldn't be out of place in New York City was also recognised for the first time this year. It really puts us on the map as a vibrant city with a thriving arts scene. If you haven't been, mark these dates in your diary and I might see you in a street or laneway this year.

Big Picture Fest: Monday 18—Sunday 24 March 2024, Frankston City Laneways.

Cr David Asker

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Think Local Month



Have you seen our Think Local decals popping up around our City? It's all part of Think Local Month, where local businesses, residents and workers are encouraged to shop and support local businesses. By shopping local, you can help

strengthen our economy, create jobs and further develop a sense of community in Frankston City.

This innovative Council-led campaign includes workshops and training, events, 100 x \$1000 grants, business highlights, a small business expo and a \$500 local business voucher for one lucky resident.

Having worked throughout Frankston City as a Senior Property Manager and in business development for more than 20 years, I am personally thrilled to see this campaign come to life. As a previous small business owner, I intimately understand the challenges and triumphs our small enterprises encounter. I've had the privilege of witnessing the ebb and flow of our local economy, and know just how impactful campaigns like Think Local Month can be.

From supporting your local greengrocer to calling in to your butcher, small changes can make a big impact on our local economy. Incredibly, when you spend \$100 at a small business, it is estimated \$68 stays in the local economy (as opposed to \$43 for non-local businesses).

And there's an incredible variety of businesses to support across the municipality. With Frankston City's retail sector making up 780 businesses, you're guaranteed to find what you need right in your own backyard.

From manufacturing, construction, retail and hospitality to home-based services, health care, beauty and real estate, our City is bustling with 44,000 small and medium enterprises. With your support, these businesses help to boost our economy and make this city the best place to live, work, play, learn and invest.

For budding business owners, students, and those interested in social enterprise, I highly recommend checking out the free business growth workshops available.

These span a variety of topics, including builders and trades, advice for start-ups, Google advertising, business planning, video marketing, social enterprising and wellbeing, and so much more.

I am so excited about Think Local Month and invite each of you to join the movement if you haven't already. Together, let's celebrate the spirit of community and support our local businesses.

To learn more about Think Local Month, scan the QR code.



Cr Suzette Tayler

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Art by local young people inspires new youth space design

It's no secret that I love seeing all the wonderful things happening to make Carrum Downs an even better place to live work and play. And when it comes to playing, we have everyone covered as part of the Sandfield Reserve precinct revitalisation project!

Stage one — the youth space upgrade — is now underway and we've received help from local young people to choose the art theme for the rebound wall and multi-court surfaces.

At a special engagement day at the reserve recently, visitors were given the opportunity to choose their favourite of the six themes — squiggles, directions, flow, the wild, street and the island — all inspired by designs suggested by local young people during the project consultation last year.

The art theme will be unveiled soon, as the youth space nears completion. Once it's opened, local young people will be able to enjoy new multi-sports court for basketball and netball; new rebound and climbing walls; new parkour equipment; upgraded and new sections of the skate park; seating, tables, and shelters; new paving and landscaping; and integrated public art.

Thanks to everyone who had their say on the youth space last year and as part of the Sandfield Master Plan engagement in 2021.

The \$800,000 youth space is funded by Council and the Victorian Government and it's such a pleasure to see it all taking shape.

We'll be sharing more about the next stages of the revitalisation project — including an upgraded play space, new public toilets, and safety improvements — which have been made possible thanks to Council and the Victorian and Australian Governments — in the coming months.

For those who aren't aware, this project was one of Council's advocacy priorities for 2021-22 and the works are designed to meet community needs, while balancing and enhancing existing uses and creating new recreation opportunities for the Carrum Downs community.

More families are coming to Carrum Downs, and I have no doubt that the revitalisation of the reserve precinct will only serve to attract more people to the area to enjoy the recreational facilities close to home.

For more information, scan the QR code.



Cr Nathan Conroy, Mayor

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#FrankstonCity

A Year of Community Engagement in Frankston City

In 2024, Frankston City Council is asking the community what they want to see in the future, with a series of engagement activities aimed at checking in on the collective dreams and aspirations of our residents.

As a Councillor, one of my key focus areas for my term centred on increasing communication between Council and the community. For that reason, I truly see the Community Vision 2040 as Council's guiding compass, shaping the next two decades of development. Our Community Vision will shape Council's decision-making and other key strategic documents, like the Council Plan, Asset Plan, and Financial Plan.

When I started at Council, I made a commitment to listen to the people who live and work here and to be responsive to issues raised. While I have certainly lived up to this promise, this engagement is the perfect opportunity for the community to speak to all of Council and ensure their voices are heard.

We have already begun speaking with the community on what's most important to them during the Budget 2024-25 engagement earlier this month. As part of this engagement, we reported back on what we've delivered in our 2021-2025 Council Plan so far, and asked our community what they wanted to see in 2024-2025. Our Budget engagement was just the beginning of our community consultation in 2024, with responses directly influencing the development of our new Council Plan, and updated Community Vision 2040. Consultation on the Community Vision is currently open and will continue until May 31, 2024. I strongly encourage you to participate via Engage Frankston, and at community pop-ups, drop-in sessions, workshops, and online forums. As someone dedicated to listening to and engaging with the community, I see this as an exciting opportunity for residents to join the conversation and shape our shared future.

Excitingly, Council is also facilitating a representative Community Council from September to November as part of our Community Vision to have in-depth discussions about the future of Frankston and your aspirations. This panel will be representative of our community and will ensure a diverse range of voices are heard from across Frankston City. If you're interested in expressing interest in joining our Community Panel, please scan the QR code today to be part of this transformative journey. I'm looking forward to learning more about your aspirations and dreams for Frankston's future!



Cr Liam Hughes, Deputy Mayor

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Our world class Arts Centre and amazing events!

We're incredibly lucky to have a world-class Arts Centre in Frankston and local events throughout the year to complement their high-calibre program featuring theatre, exhibitions, performances and much more.

On March 19, I will be heading to the Cube 37 venue for the Big Picture Festival Gallery Takeover launch event — a sneak peek at works from artists who will be creating murals all over our city during the festival. It's fascinating to see the different styles in a gallery context and then larger-than-life in a medium (street art). I'm amazed at the talent this festival brings to our streets each year.



On April 18, I'm lucky enough to be seeing Circa Humans 2.0 (see picture above). This visionary circus was created by Yaron Lifschitz and has been described as a symphony of acrobatics, sound and light exploring the intimate and primal challenge of being human.

In May, I'm looking forward to a performance by ARIA-nominated, award-winning Indigenous singer and songwriter Emma Donovan and her band — as well as the Comedy Festival Roadshow. I attend this roadshow each year as it has some of the best acts from the main festival in one place and close to home. What's not to love?

South Side Festival takes over Frankston again in May and this year it features a celebratory cold water immersion, a magical neon installation at Beauty Park, an exciting array of theatre, live music, visual arts exhibitions and even a mini season of fabulous drag shows at FAC.

Most of the events and activations during South Side Festival are free or low cost making this a very accessible arts festival for the entire community.

For more information about Frankston's amazing arts scene, please scan the QR code.



Cr Brad Hill JP

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Fixing missing links to get residents safely around town

A few years ago, I completed a Circular Economy with the United Nations Staff College. When learning about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals they presented a clever analogy that has stuck with me, ever since. The Rubik's cube was used to illustrate what can happen when our work toward one good goal thwarts our attainment of something equally important. This can happen all too easily in the world of local government, especially when seeking to meet a diverse and growing range of community needs and expectations.

I'm particularly passionate about helping people choose more active forms of transport such as walking and riding. It's better for our health and our natural environment, and it also reduces demand for car parking and the congestion on our local roads. But people need to feel safe, while they're out and about, which is why I'm

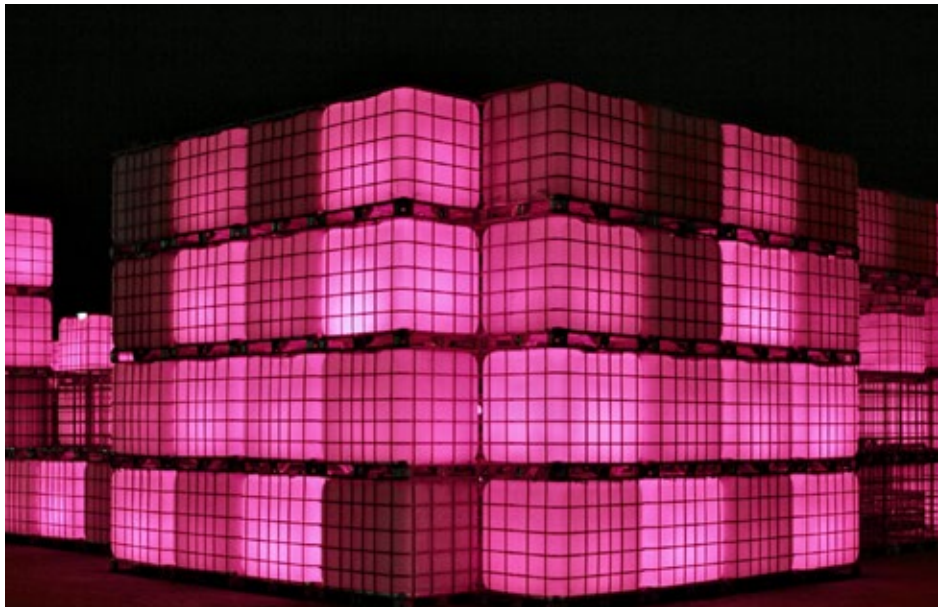
particularly keen to fix the missing links in our city's shared user paths to get people moving with greater freedom and confidence. We have a great new path (pictured) running along the railway line, which I've used to cycle to places like Seaford and Carrum, but until recently, it stopped half a kilometre short of Frankston station, along Dandenong Road East. One of the complicating factors, delaying its completion, was the need to remove either trees or car parks to facilitate its construction, with no easy alternative available to council.

Through two rounds of community consultation, an overwhelming majority of residents advocated for the protection of the mature trees in that area. Accordingly, we have now extended the shared user path from the existing paths at Cricklewood Avenue and Fletcher Road to the Frankston Railway Station, which will soon also have a brand-new commuter car park. This 615-metre concrete path connects to a larger cycle network, connecting the rest of Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula through Frankston. The concrete used to make the path included recycled materials, diverting soft plastic waste from landfill sites. This is a real win for both the community and nature. The area along the path will be landscaped with about 30 small trees and number of small shrubs.



Cr Claire Harvey JP

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Kubik Frankston

Music, Lights, Bar, Food

Fri April 5th to Sat April 20th
Frankston Waterfront

Frankston City

mtn

kubik.live



SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024
10AM - 2PM

FREE ENTRY

Mayor's **PARTY IN THE PARK**

FREE ACTIVITIES FACE PAINTING LIVE PERFORMANCES

Cruden Farm, Langwarrin
Entry via Cranhaven Road and McClelland Drive
discoverfrankston.com | 1300 322 322

@discoverfrankston #discoverfrankston

Frankston City Cruden Farm



BLOCK PARTY

WHERE
Park Lane
Fri 22
March
4:30-10:30pm

GUT HEALTH
Bananagun
Milku
Tamara and the Dreams
DJ Obliveus

STREET PERFORMERS

BORN IN A TAXI

LIGHT PROJECTION

DEMSKY (SPAIN)
CUBE37 GALLERY
FRAZ THE WIZARD
PARK LANE

Frankston City EastLink Bayside PIRATE LIFE Dulux mtn Montana Colors NIGHTQUILL THAT SPIRITED LOT H TEN SIXTY ONE



STREET ART FESTIVAL
18-24 March 2024

FEATURING

JEKS NC (USA) VEXTA (AUS) GOMAD (NL)
BRONIK (PERU) KITT BENNETT (AUS) TINKY (AUS)
CALUM (AUS) URSH (GER) DANNY LEGS (AUS)

Frankston City EastLink Bayside PIRATE LIFE Dulux mtn Montana Colors NIGHTQUILL THAT SPIRITED LOT H TEN SIXTY ONE

See Frankston in a new light at South Side Festival

Discover the magic of South Side Festival, as it takes over Frankston from May 10 to 19 this year, offering surprises at every turn.

This marks the third year of the festival, a celebration of arts and culture that brings together local talent, venues, and locations, blending them with the best of the contemporary art scene. From workshops on recycled fashion to performances by drag queen divas and cheeky burlesque shows, Frankston will be buzzing with events and art that will make you go, "wow!"

For those eager to explore our beautiful bayside city in a new light, there are plenty of free activities. Take part in South Side Sea Soak on Saturday, May 11, for a chilly dip in the bay, celebrating the centenary of the Frankston Life Saving Club. Stroll through Neon Fields at Beauty Park, adorned with neon sculptures and sounds. Walk through George Pentland Gardens to experience Bird Child Spirit, an auditory delight featuring the voices of students from Seaford Primary School imitating the sounds of birds.

Anticipate the unexpected at South Side. With over 40 events, it's time to embark on this adventure. Tickets are available now! Visit southsidefestival.com.au or scan the QR code for more information.



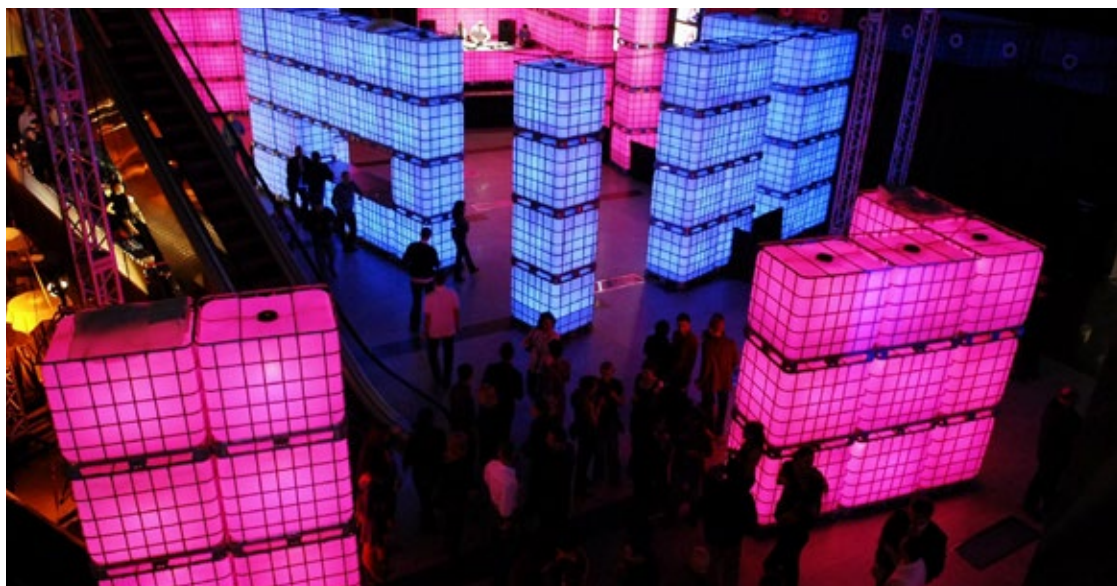
SOUTH SIDE FESTIVAL

FRANKSTON

10 - 19 MAY 2024

www.southsidefestival.com.au





Stunning light show

Frankston is abuzz with anticipation as it prepares to host the groundbreaking KUBIK light room installation for the very first time.

This avant-garde display which connects light, space and sound promises to illuminate the town in a captivating dance of colour, bringing a touch of contemporary artistry to the heart of Frankston.

Created by German designers Balestra, the installation known for its innovative use of

geometric shapes and dynamic lighting effects, is set to transform the Frankston Waterfront across multiple weeks in April.

This creative milestone marks a new era for Frankston, offering residents and visitors alike a unique and unforgettable sensory experience.

For more information, see Page 10.

KUBIK Frankston
Friday 5—Saturday 20 April 2024
McCombs Reserve, Frankston Waterfront

Frankston Enters the Street Art Hall of Fame



Back-to-back (to back again) GOLD!

The Australian Street Art Awards recognise organisations and LGAs that are boosting destination appeal through public art. Frankston's famous Street Art Tours took out the gold medal in their category in 2022 and 2023 and this year they took out the gold medal again.

As the national gold award winner Frankston's Street Art Tours have now been inducted into the Street Art Awards Hall of Fame. But that's not all: our annual festival The Big Picture Fest was shortlisted for the 2023 Australian Street Art Awards Best Street Art Festival or Event award, taking out silver!

See what all the fuss is about at this year's Big Picture Fest which features street art tours and Block Party and opportunities to see the artists in action.

Big Picture Fest
 Monday 18 - Sunday 24 March 2024
 Frankston City Laneways

FRANKSTON ARTS CENTRE

The Umbilical Brothers: The Distraction

Saturday 6 April 8pm
 Tickets: \$49.90 - \$54.90

The world's favourite Australian comedy duo tour to Frankston with their unique mix of mind-bending comedy and back-breaking physicality. Winner of Best Comedy Award at the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



COMEDY



FAMILY

Polite Mammals

Sunday 7 April 11am & 3pm
 Tickets: \$22 - \$25,
 Family (4 tickets) \$70



MUSIC

Michael Jackson History Show

Sunday 7 April 7pm
 Tickets: \$45.10 - \$74.85

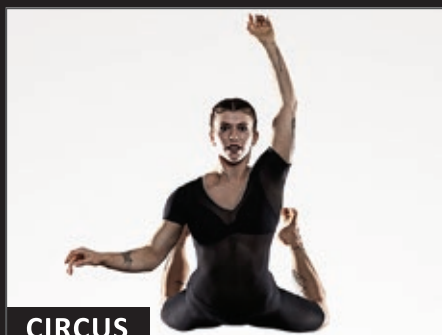
The History of British Rock of the 60'S & 70'S

Saturday 13 April 7.30pm
 Tickets: \$49.90 - \$79.90

From The Beatles to Queen, and The Rolling Stones to T-Rex, this 2-hour showcase celebrates the iconic music that shaped a generation. A must-see tribute to the pivotal moments of British Rock's evolution!



MUSIC



CIRCUS

Humans 2.0 by Circa

Thursday 18 April 7.30pm
 Tickets: \$28 - \$62



COMEDY

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

Sunday 28 April 7.30pm
 Tickets: \$28 - \$64

Book at thefac.com.au or 03 9784 1060



Humans and machines in the Frankston library refurbishment

Frankston Library has reopened after completion of the Stage 2 refurbishment, offering a vibrant and inviting space for our community to enjoy.

Highlights include:

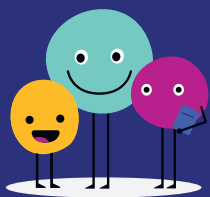
- one central desk for all enquiries
- study hubs for those seeking a quiet space
- a local history room containing artefacts of significance, previously kept in storage
- an innovative scan and drop chute and sort machine that marks your items returned and

sends them to right place for restocking on the shelves

Take a seat at the café and watch the sorting machine expertly handle the laborious task of manual book sorting, giving staff more time to chat with their favourite people — you!

This second phase builds upon the successful improvements made last year, which brought new carpeting, enhanced shelving for the cherished library collection, and a refreshed layout.

An exciting addition and part of the 2024 South Side Festival, the Frankston Library will also host its very own Human Library on Saturday 11 May. The Human Library is a safe space to sit down and discuss often misjudged topics such as unique lifestyles, disability, sexuality, neurodiversity, mental health, gender, just to name a few. Contact the Frankston Library to book a 30 minutes 'reading' or more specifically, a personal conversation, that will open your heart and mind and increase your understanding and compassion.



Frankston City Libraries What's on

Scan the QR code to check the full list of upcoming events



Culture
Harmony Week Celebrations
20th–26th March
Various Locations — FREE.
Bookings via website.

Join us this Harmony Week to celebrate our cultural diversity with a week of events across our library locations. There will be something for all ages and will culminate in a special presentation at Frankston Library by award-winning author, journalist & lawyer, Alice Pung OAM.



FrankTALK
Jane Eckett, On Bunurong Country
Sunday 14 April 11:00am
Frankston Library — FREE.
Bookings via website.

'On Bunurong Country' is a major publication commissioned by McClelland Gallery and Sculpture Park, that brings to light the role that art, design, and architecture have played in shaping Frankston's socio-cultural identity.



Workshop
Winter Woollies Revival
Friday 19 April 11:30am
Frankston Library — FREE.
Bookings via website.

As we head to the cooler months, save your dollars and learn how to breathe new life into your old woollen garments. At this workshop you will learn how to repair holes, thread pulls and frayed edges, as well as hints and tips on how to keep your woollen items looking their best.

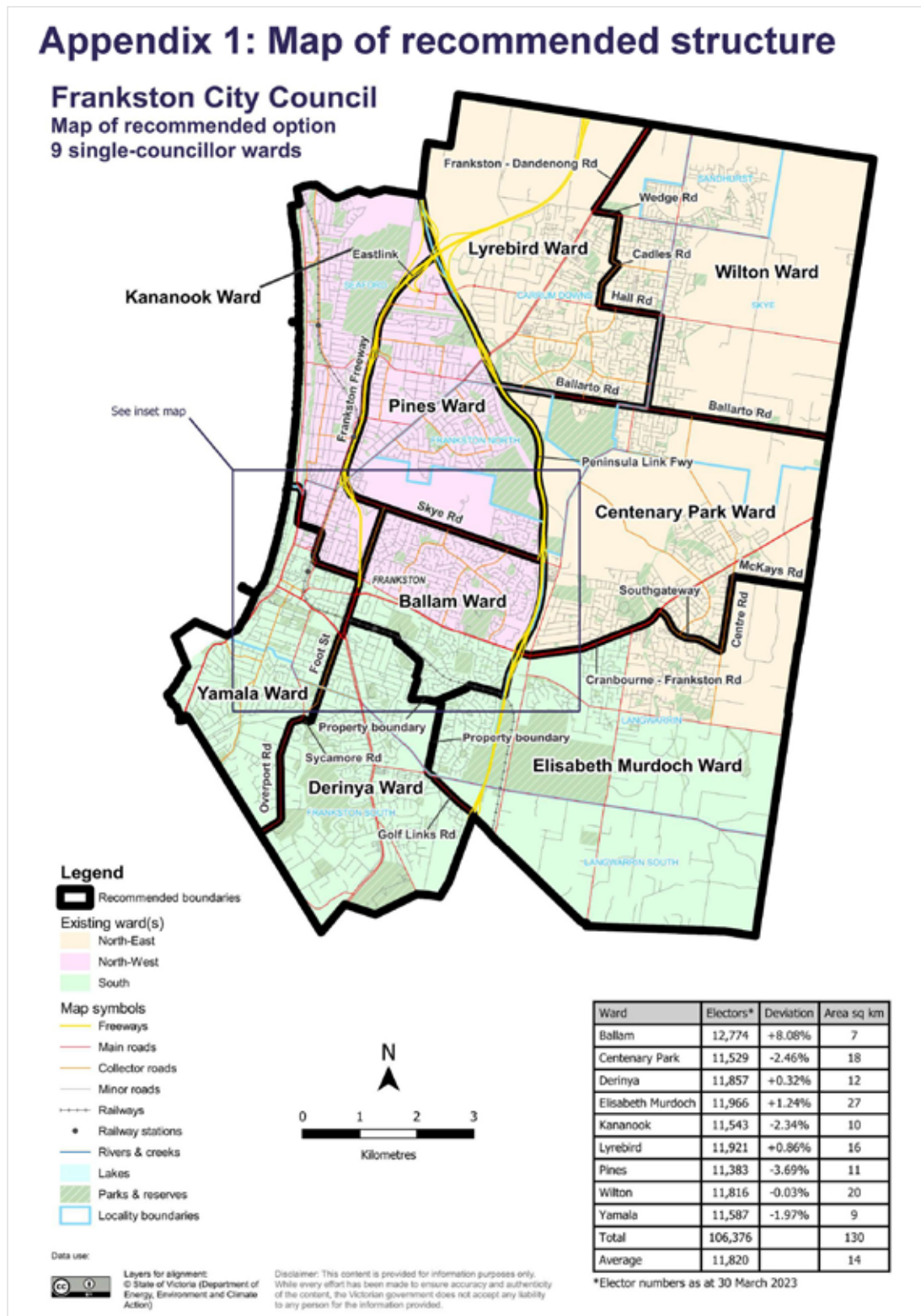


Workshop
Late Night Libraries and JP Service
Every Thursday Night until 10pm
Carrum Downs Library — FREE

Join us every Thursday night at Carrum Downs Library for Late Night Libraries. Along with all regular library services, you will find games, great study spaces and the odd workshop. NEW in 2024, Late Night Libraries is also hosting a FREE Justice of the Peace Service between 6:30pm–8:30pm.

To book: library.frankston.vic.gov.au/whats_on or phone: 9784 1020

New electoral boundaries for Frankston City



Frankston City Council is one of 39 Victorian local councils undergoing electoral structure reviews in 2024 as mandated by the Local Government Act 2020.

From the next Frankston City Council general election — scheduled for October 2024 — Frankston City will transition to a single-councillor ward electoral structure, with nine wards replacing the current three wards.

While the number of Councillors (nine in total) remains the same, each of the nine new wards in Frankston will have its own Councillor, instead of having three councillors representing one of three wards. This decision was made by the Minister for Local Government when the Local Government Act 2020 was introduced in 2020 and to provide fair and equitable representation and facilitate good governance.

An independent electoral structure review panel, appointed by the Minister for Local Government, assessed the appropriate number of Councillors, ward boundaries, and ward names.

The panel considered a range of factors when deciding on its final recommendation including research and analysis, voter growth or decline over time and public submissions,

The names for the nine wards in this new electoral structure are Ballam, Centenary Park, Derinya, Elisabeth Murdoch, Kananook, Lyrebird, Pines, Wilton and Yamala.

These were made by an Order of Council in the Victoria Government Gazette on 15 February 2024 by the Honourable Minister Horne. For more information, scan the QR code.



News briefs

Smoke alarms save lives!

Did you know that while you are sleeping, you will not hear a fire or smell the smoke till it's too late.

The CFA is offering to install **free** smoke alarms powered with a 10-year lithium battery in the homes of people who are **unable to purchase, install or maintain their alarms themselves.**

If you would like to have smoke alarms installed in your home or some general home fire safety advice, please get in touch today.

To book a free visit please call 0429 487 448 during business hours or email firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au

For more information, scan the QR code.



Pet registration renewals

Frankston cat and dog owners, look out for pet registration renewal notices which will be arriving in mailboxes in March.

Your pet registration fee supports making our community pet-friendly for all residents and the 27,000 cats and dogs that call Frankston Home.

It helps fund 35 dog free roam areas, dog water fountains and litter bins in parks, programs to support responsible pet ownership, Council staff to respond to animal related issues including: dog attacks and nuisance parking and perform proactive patrols in our parks and on the foreshore.

A portion of the fee also goes towards the Victorian State Government to provide responsible pet ownership programs for schools and the community.

All cats and dogs over the aged of three months that reside within the Frankston City municipality, must be desexed, microchipped and registered with Frankston City Council.

Remember, your pet must wear their green registration tag when outside of your property. If you have misplaced your pet's registration tag, you can contact Council for a free replacement.

For more information, scan the QR code.



Beyond 50 study

Are you aged between 50 to 70-years-old, living on the Mornington Peninsula?

You may be interested in joining the Beyond 50 study, which will follow the lives of 1,000 people to explore the impact of factors like social connections and mental health on later wellbeing.

This groundbreaking research is a collaboration with Monash University, the National Centre for Healthy Ageing, the Burnet Institute, Turning Point, Edith Cowan University, and Peninsula Health.

Participants are reimbursed \$40 for a 40—60 minute interview (online, or via telephone).

Scan the QR code to complete the survey, email beyond50@monash.edu or phone 0421 892 135 for more information.





Citizen of the Year Award winner, Alistair Leaver, with Rotary Club of Frankston members David Cross, Bill Redfern and Suzanne Caldwell (Community Group of the Year Award) and Young Citizen of the Year Award winner, Kelly Gilbert.



Councillors Suzette Tayler, Kris Bolam and Glenn Aitken get into the spirit.



Councillors Sue Baker, Brad Hill and Claire Harvey.

New citizens welcomed and humble heroes honoured

Frankston City's newest citizens and our humble heroes have been honoured at a packed event on Australia Day.

Family and friends attended Frankston Arts Centre for the Citizenship and Citizen of the Year Ceremonies.

Our 2024 Citizens of the Year Award winners were celebrated and the morning was also memorable for Frankston City's newest citizens with just under 100 warmly welcomed.



Frankston Ladies Choir performed at the event, which was also attended by Councillors Suzette Tayler, Kris Bolam, Glenn Aitken, Sue Baker, Brad Hill and Claire Harvey, along with Council CEO Phil Cantillon.

The 2024 **Frankston Citizen of the Year** is Alastair Leaver, who was nominated for his stellar contribution to the community, particularly through his work with the Mums Supporting Families in Need (MSFIN) charity.

A committed volunteer, Alastair has been instrumental in reinvigorating MSFIN's volunteer network — increasing numbers by an impressive 60 per cent. He has coordinated the reconfiguration of MSFIN's warehouse and operations to improve

efficiency, as well as enhancing volunteer capacity and numbers due to his leadership style combining respect with humour.

Alastair's inclusive management style has also reduced the impact of social isolation for aged volunteers and those with a disability.

Alastair said: "I am very humbled. I really enjoy helping out and I get a lot out of helping others."

The 2024 **Young Citizen of the Year** is Kelly Gilbert, who is passionate about driving change initiatives that will make a better world for the youth of today.

A 2023 Frankston High School Captain, Kelly was part of the Student Leadership Council which was recognised as the Student Voice School of the Year. In 2023, Kelly was invited to sing the Australian and New Zealand National Anthems during Anzac Day services at the Frankston War Memorial.

She has also been guest speaker for the International Women's Day breakfast at Frankston High School - sharing how influential female role models have motivated her to be resilient.

Other achievements include leading Anti-Bully Week at Frankston High School; completing 3,144 push-ups in 23 days as part of the push-up challenge to promote mental health and support the Push for Better Foundation; and being an executive member of the 'Chill Out and Look About!' road safety campaign, established in honour of her classmate Dylan Briggs, who tragically lost his life in a road accident.

Kelly said: "I am so grateful to be in such an amazing award alongside so many accomplished citizens."

The 2024 **Community Group of the Year Award** was presented to the Rotary Club of Frankston for its strong commitment to the Frankston community.

For 74 years, the hardworking members have raised funds and supported local, national and international projects with significant work including helping to set up the Joy of the Earth Community Garden, Frankston. The club has also raised funds to assist Community Support Frankston, Frankston Winter Shelter and the Frankston SES, to name a few.

For over 15 years, the club ran the Seaford Farmer's Market — revitalising the local community. It has also provided huge support for youth programs and health organisations, as well as running a fundraising Easter Art Show and the Rotary Wranglers Charity Golf Day. Recent recipients include Frankston SES (\$15,000) thanks to the Easter Art Show and Community Support Frankston (\$20,000) thanks to the Charity Golf Day.

Rotary Club of Frankston President David Cross said: "Our club is proud to be involved in the local community. It's a great honour to be recognised for our contribution to Frankston City."

Council CEO Phil Cantillon lauded the Award recipients for their dedication to Frankston City, adding: "Congratulations to all our winners and thanks for your inspiring contributions to Frankston City. We're incredibly proud of you and your achievements — Frankston City is a better place because of your efforts and contribution," he said.

Improving Cricklewood Estate

Orwil Street and its surrounds, also known as the Cricklewood Estate, is one of the oldest parts of Frankston and features a substantial mix of young and old.

North-West Ward Cr Kris Bolam has worked hard to deliver improvements to this area, including:

- The \$430,000 Orwil Street Reserve and Playground upgrade with new barbecue and picnic facilities, shelters, lighting, and nature play completed December 2022.
- The \$450,000 Fairway Street Shopping Strip Revitalisation, due to begin in April 2024, with resurfacing of footpaths, improved car parking conditions, tree and garden planting, new seating and improved street lighting.
- \$510,000 in traffic safety improvement works, completed in 2021, including the installation of traffic islands with pedestrian refuges, raised intersections and flat top speed humps.
- The \$74,000 Frankston Dandenong Road re-sealing was completed in 2019/20. Work included an asphalt overlay along Dandenong Road East between Skye Road and Cricklewood Avenue to improve the condition of Dandenong Road East after the level crossing removal project at Overton Road. The total project cost was funded by Victorian Government.
- The extension of the walking/cycling pathway from Cricklewood Avenue to Beach Street, which was recently completed.



The upgraded Orwil Street playground offers heaps of fun.

Introducing our Social Inclusion Action Group

In late 2023, you may have seen our call for community members and leaders to form the first Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG).

The Frankston SIAG has now been formed, with 19 diverse members now meeting regularly to help make Frankston a welcoming community, where everyone is included and valued. Throughout 2024, the group will look at the needs and gaps in our community, and then develop initiatives that focus on inclusion, connection and wellbeing.

Frankston is one of the first councils in Victoria to establish this flagship program, which is a direct recommendation from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and funded by the Victorian Government.

Meet some of our SIAG members:

Elaine Having relocated from Singapore 13 years ago, Elaine seamlessly integrated herself into her community, building strong connections and relationships with local residents. Elaine's professional journey has been diverse, starting as an accountant, transitioning into event management, working with youth, and ultimately uncovering her natural flair for hospitality. In 2022, Elaine launched a mobile coffee van, bringing joy to the community with her delightful beverages and welcoming demeanour. Elaine believes in a "people first" philosophy.



Jason A resident of Frankston since 2010, Jason works as a graphic designer and printer by day and musician by night. Jason is an Indigenous Canadian having moved to Australia in the early 80s (despite the threat of spiders,

snakes, and drop bears he was warned about). Married with two beautiful children, Jason and his family love to visit the Frankston foreshore for a bite or a stroll on the boardwalk. Jason is a strong advocate for mental health reform, especially after having had his own struggles along the way and wants to remove the stigma that often still surrounds it. He looks forward to giving back to the Frankston community.



Kate Kate is a proud Arrernte woman who was raised on the land of the Bunurong people, known as Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula. She is the mother of two adult sons and is an active member of the local Aboriginal community. Kate has been involved in local sports, including coaching basketball and girls' football in Frankston. Kate also works locally, and has a wide background in nursing, in State Government and as an Aboriginal Health worker. Her passion is to make our

community a better place where we can connect, be safe and enjoy this beautiful area that we live in together.

To learn more about the SIAG, scan the QR code or email communitystrengthening@frankston.vic.gov.au





Tiffany passionate about making a difference

Tiffany Brockhus joined Frankston City Council six months ago as Team Leader of the Rapid Response Team and has hit the ground running.

The team is a critical part of Council's day-to-day operations, undertaking a range of services – from power washing key areas and facilities in the city centre every morning, to graffiti removal and bin and bench sanitising – often while most of the city sleeps.

Tiffany worked in the civil construction industry before starting a career in local government in 2019. At that time, her work focused on drainage, and she quickly realised she had a passion for city beautification, particularly graffiti removal. Removing graffiti makes a more welcoming environment for residents, which is something that motivates Tiffany.

"It's the visual impact of graffiti removal I love," Tiffany explained, "walking away from a job where the difference your work has made is clear to see."

As a Frankston City resident for 16 years, the idea of working and serving the community that she is a part of is what attracted her to her current role at Council. Tiffany manages a team of nine who start their workday at 5am and 6am, heading

out to the streets to prepare our city's open spaces for the busy day ahead.

The team plans its day based on need, prioritising areas and facilities that need urgent attention, including removing hazards and all types of waste.

After that, the team completes routine tasks, which include pressure washing, picking up litter, small graffiti removal jobs and disinfecting bins, public seats, and other council assets — activities that many may not be aware are happening every day.

The team works primarily in the city centre but also services 24 local shopping strips throughout the municipality.

Tiffany loves working with a team of likeminded individuals who are passionate about making a difference for our City and take considerable pride in their work.

"Heading back to the depot after a long day out – it is rewarding to see the impact our team has on our City," she said.

For more information on Council's graffiti removal program, scan the QR code.



Council targets spray paint retailers in graffiti crackdown

A recent investigation conducted by Frankston City Council in January 2024 found that one in three aerosol spray paint retailers are selling spray paint to people under the age of 18.

There are over 20 aerosol spray paint retailers within the municipality that have been investigated, ranging from small privately owned businesses to large commercial corporations.

These routine investigations, carried out by Council's Rapid Response Team, enable Authorised Community Laws Officers to proactively visit aerosol spray paint retailers to educate them on their obligations when selling spray paint in Victoria and ensuring they comply with the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.

The program involved undertaking test purchases with a person under the age of 18-years at selected premises to ensure compliance with the act, with 46 investigations taking place over the last year.

This test purchase program has been introduced following the increase in graffiti related complaints and growing concern about graffiti levels.

Since the commencement of this program, council has conducted over 46 investigations.

North-West Ward Cr Kris Bolam said: "Retailers must understand that any sale of an aerosol spray paint to a minor is unacceptable."

"Graffiti can have a negative impact on community perceptions of safety and public amenity, not to mention aerosol spray paints are also classified as dangerous goods and pose a safety and health risk when not used correctly," he said.

Aerosol spray paint retailers are encouraged to review the Graffiti Prevention Act to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities, and for proof of age before selling to someone who may be underage.

Any retailer found to be breaking the law, risks receiving a \$384.62 infringement notice or be prosecuted in the Magistrates Court and risk a fine of up to \$3846.20.

Cr Bolam said that with more people choosing Frankston to live, work and play, Council was ramping up its response to the graffiti and vandalism challenge.

"In addition to the test purchase program, we've doubled the number of staff in our graffiti removal team, and we're working closely with the State government and other infrastructure owners to boost the presentation at key locations around Frankston City."

People concerned about retailers selling spray paint to a person under the age of 18 should call council's Rapid Response Team from the Safer Communities department on 9784 1917 or contact the Frankston City Council on 1300 322 322.

For more information about the laws, scan the QR code.



Frankston Indigenous Nursery Open Day 2024



Cr Claire Harvey and nursery volunteers Barb and Lyn at Council's Indigenous Nursery.

Come join the celebrations at the Frankston City Indigenous Nursery on its annual open day, on April 6.

Just in time for the 2024 planting season, the nursery will be fully stocked with indigenous and native plants, ready to find new homes and go into the ground!

Enjoy a range of activities at the nursery's open day 9am-1pm including indigenous and native plant sales and giveaways, nursery and propagation tours, coffee and the Australian classic, the sausage sizzle.

Special guest presenter ecologist and conservationist Kelly Smith will be there shedding light on the critical issue of koala conservation. Kelly is heavily involved in the Western Port Biosphere Koala Habitat Restoration Project and is the identifier of the unique Strzelecki koala genotype!

Local environmental groups, wildlife careers and wildlife educators will also be present, providing information on Frankston's Natural Reserves, educational activities and recruiting for new volunteers. Come along to pick up some well-priced indigenous plants for your garden, guided in your selections by friendly and knowledgeable nursery staff, Natural Reserve Rangers and volunteers.

Indigenous nursery open day: Saturday 6 April, 9am-1pm Frankston Indigenous Nursery 7 McMannis Way (off McCulloch Avenue) Seaford.

For further information, scan the QR code or contact the Environmental Policy and Planning team on 1300 322 322.



FREE native plant

Present this voucher at the Frankston Indigenous Nursery to collect your FREE indigenous tree*

Offer available until Saturday 4 September

Frankston Indigenous Nursery
7 McMannis Way, Seaford (off McCulloch Avenue)

For more information, phone: **9768 1513** or visit: frankston.vic.gov.au/FrankstonIndigenousNursery

**One tubestock plant per household, while stocks last*



School Holiday Ranger Program

Come join us during the school holidays at one of Frankston City's natural reserves.

Learn more about our native flora and fauna and the value of biodiversity conservation. In January the Gould League ran 'Caring for our Coast this Summer' at Frankston foreshore and even though it was a warm 31 degree day the event was well attended. Earth Flower Wilding are running our autumn program 'Seaford Wetland Wonders' on Wednesday the 3rd of April. There are three sessions run in a day for up to 7-year-olds (with an adult) at 10am, 8-12-year-olds at 11:30 am (with an adult) and 13-18-year-olds at 1pm. All sessions are 1 hour. Spaces are limited to 15 participants per session and must be booked in advance.

Book online via the QR code.



Are you an environmental ambassador?

Last year students at Kingsley Park Primary School and Woodleigh School (Minimbah Campus) got their hands dirty planting 600 indigenous plants on Schools Tree Day.

Indigenous plants provide food, habitat and shade for local wildlife. Frankston City supports kindergartens, pre-schools, primary and secondary schools in our municipality to improve their natural environment by providing free indigenous plants on Schools Tree Day.

Join us this year on Friday 26th of July with a planting day to enhance your natural environment for increased biodiversity and better outdoor learning opportunities, including more nature play. Kindergartens and pre-schools are eligible for a total of 25 free plants and primary and secondary schools are eligible for a total of 50 free plants. When you register for FREE plants there is an additional option to apply to become one of two Environmental Ambassador Schools.



The two Environmental Ambassador Schools for 2024 will receive 300 plants each, onsite education and assistance with planting on the day.

Registrations are now open and close at 5pm on the 31 May 2024.

Register online via the QR code.



Planning for climate change and enhancing coastal resilience



Frankston City Council has been actively planning for climate change impacts, starting with the vulnerability assessment that informed Council's Climate Change Strategy (2023) and the recent development of the draft Coastal and Marine Management Plan.

However, a better understanding of the future impacts of climate change around Port Phillip Bay is needed to inform the delivery of our climate action ambitions over the next decade, and Council has been eagerly awaiting the release of the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment to further inform and refine future planning for our residents.

The data and reports, which were five years in the making, build on a range of existing models and studies, and combine the latest science, modelling and technical assessments to better understand current and future coastal hazards around the bay.

The work we have already done to improve our climate resilience along the foreshore includes both nature-based and built infrastructure treatments. Our ongoing reinforcement of the sand dune barrier through effective native vegetation management is among the most important nature-based adaptation solutions. This is further supported through renewal and extension of erosion control fencing with the most recent works completed in 2023 at the Seaford North precinct.

The historical use of coastal protection structures such as the rock wall in front of the Seaford Lifesaving Club or the seawall at Olivers Hill are complemented by smaller-scale projects that focus on immediate improvements to accessibility. Solutions such as the installation of additional steps and ramp length to accommodate seasonal erosion respect the natural coastal processes, focusing on sustainable use of the coastal reserve.

Frankston City is well placed to start incorporating and expanding on the Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment findings as we commence the work on the Frankston City's Coastal Resilience 2100 Project and undertake a local Coastal Hazard exposure, risk and vulnerability assessment. This project will inform Council's long-term adaptation pathway as it follows Stages 1-4 of the Victoria's Resilient Coast framework.

The Coastal Resilience 2100 project will build on the regional data and information from other studies by providing local and site-specific, long-term coastal hazard risk management solutions. It will provide a far better understanding of the localised climate change implications for our neighbourhoods and enable community discussions on actions and next steps to progress adaptation.

Virtual fencing to protect wildlife

Earlier this year Frankston City Council installed a virtual fencing system along Robinsons Road and McClelland Drive to reduce collisions with wildlife.

The project involves innovative technology that is activated by approaching headlights, which emits sound and lights to create a virtual fence to alert animals.

The trial aims to enhance road safety and protect black wallabies crossing to and from the nearby flora and fauna reserve and improve safety for road users.

The proven success of this technology in reducing wildlife collisions, locally and across Australia, brings a positive change for both residents and our unique wildlife. It's a win-win for wildlife and motorists!

To learn more about the technology, visit wildlifesafetysolutions.com.au or phone 1300 322 322 and ask for the Environmental Policy and Planning team.

If you find a sick or injured animal, you can call Wildlife Victoria emergency response line on 8400 7300 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or use this link to report online.

You can also help monitor and conserve Frankston's biodiversity by downloading the iNaturalist App and joining Frankston City Council's Biodiversity Project.





Athletics coach Chloe Stevens and local triple jump star Aiden Hinson

Coach Chloe moves in leaps and bounds

There's an old saying that from pain comes passion and purpose — and that has certainly been true for athletics coach, teacher, and mum, Chloe Stevens.

Growing up in Langwarrin, Chloe loved athletics and started training at the Ballam Park Athletics Track when she was eight years old. After starting work with a coach, she quickly moved up the ranks in long jump, which included winning three Australia championships by the time she was 15 years old. She was on track to head to the World Juniors Championships at 15 when she injured her back and was forced to retire.

As difficult as it was at the time, rather than hiding away and giving up on sport, Chloe channeled her energy into coaching when she was given a great opportunity to assist her own former teacher working with students at Toorak College in Mt Eliza. "I loved it! I was sometimes coaching students who were older than me, but they were great," she said. From here, Chloe progressed to become coaching coordinator close to home and at the place where it all started for her — Frankston Little Athletics Centre based at Ballam Park. After a year in this role, she started building her own coaching squad almost by accident when parents kept approaching her to coach their children.

"I started with one and now work with 50 children and young adults," Chloe said.

"They are like my second family."

While this might seem like a full-time job, it's more like an almost-full-time side hustle for Chloe who managed the PE program at Frankston High School for 10 years, before moving into the role of director of sport at Cornish College this year. On top of that, she's also a busy mum of two young children aged one and three, and enjoys walking, running and Pilates in her spare time.

She admits that it's a lot to fit in, but she loves her many roles and finds ways to make it work for everyone.

"I'm at Ballam Park track three nights a week and on weekends, and my kids often come with me," she said.



"My eldest, Charlie, is really getting into it and copies all the drills.

"I also have great support from my family - I couldn't do it without them."

Any type of sports coaching requires significant skills and knowledge but also the right personality and a high level of emotional intelligence and commitment to building relationships.

"It's about building trust and being patient, and working with kids really requires a different mindset," she said.

"You need to take the time to get to know them as people not just athletes.

"I always tell the kids I coach that the most important thing is that they focus on being a good person first, then a good athlete."

And with these strong values and integrity, it's not surprising that Chloe is in such high demand and has coached some children for more than a decade — including local triple jump star, 20-year-old Aiden Hinson.

"He started with me when he was eight years old and I was taller than him," Chloe laughs.

These days Aiden - who has multiple national titles to his name, was Oceania Champion and qualified for World Juniors and the World Championships - is on the fast track to the Paris Olympics, thanks to his unwavering drive, work ethic and ability - and of course the support of his coach!

Chloe says having great athletics facilities close to home at Ballam Park makes all the difference for Aiden and her many other students.

"It saves travelling which means we can maximize the time we have for training," she said.

"During the recent track upgrade, we also had the runways extended which now mean Aiden and other senior athletes can fit in their full run up which makes training and preparing for competitions seamless."

And the facilities are about to get even better! Last year's track upgrade brought the track back up to comply with current World Athletics Standards, making it a suitable competition venue for senior athletes by Athletics Victoria. It is also well used every week by Frankston Little Athletics Centre (6 to 16 years), Frankston Athletics Centre (14 years to open age) and Frankston and Peninsula Masters (30 years and over).

Stage two of this \$2.95 million facility upgrade — the pavilion redevelopment — kicks off this month (March) and will include:

- Two fit-for-purpose change rooms and amenities
- Accessible public toilets
- Storage, first aid and cleaner's rooms
- Refreshed social area
- Increased gym area
- New kitchen flooring
- Increased office space/meeting room

The redevelopment of the pavilion to a fit-for-purpose facility ensures that the venue can continue to be used to host events such as school carnivals, senior regional athletic competitions compliant with the World Athletics standards, and cements Frankston City's place as a regional hub for athletics, welcoming thousands of users annually.

"We're very excited about the new pavilion and especially the gym. Some nights we have upwards of 10 athletes in the gym trying to complete sessions in a tiny space, so we are really looking forward to the improvements as they will strongly support all athletes and coaches moving forward," Chloe said.

The facility upgrades are funded by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government.