

Frankston City News

March–April 2023

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Our golden opportunity



Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre Plan to guide our City's transformation

Frankston's emergence as a major business and lifestyle hub continues with the addition of the iconic TGI Fridays to the city's first class food and entertainment offerings.

The new restaurant complements Frankston's burgeoning hospitality sector and follows a range of newly opened, high profile establishments transforming nearby Playne Street,

including Hotel Lona, Betty's Burgers, General Public and the Hop Shop.

The continued growth of city's entertainment precinct mirrors the expansion of housing choices in the CBD, with 80 per cent of buyers of the nine-storey Horizon development in Plowman Place living within 8km of the city centre.

Mayor Nathan Conroy said: "As a designated Metropolitan Activity Centre, Frankston is emerging as one of Melbourne's most important commercial precincts, transforming itself into a vibrant new city and the capital of the south-east. Locals, visitors and investors are buying into the vision for Frankston's future."

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Frankston City's striking economic scorecard

40,000 businesses, providing **45,000** jobs with **\$3.5 billion** in wages and salaries, **\$3.4 billion** in regional exports and an economic output of over **\$14.5 billion**.

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Jubilee Park Stadium on track



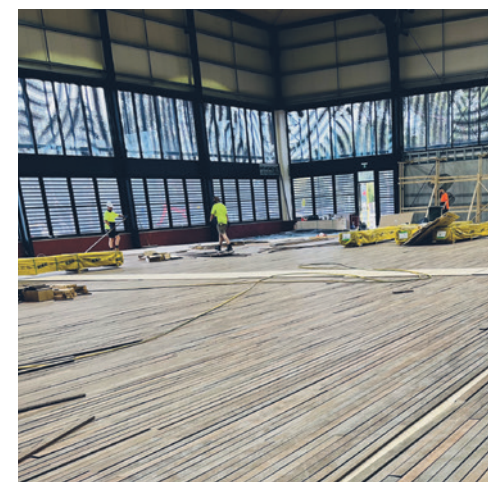
Jubilee Park, captured from above, is nearing completion

Local netballers and cricketers are counting down the days until they can start playing and training at Frankston's new premier sports stadium at Jubilee Park.

The project is on track for completion in April and includes:

- six multipurpose indoor sports courts, including a 1,000-seat show court
- elite cricket / multi-purpose training facilities to complement outdoor cricket turf training nets
- female-friendly change rooms
- a crèche for players and spectators
- modern café
- community meeting and function rooms
- more than 300 parking spaces
- landscaping

Once complete, the stadium will be home to the Frankston District Netball Association (FDNA) and support basketball, volleyball, cricket and AFL. But it's not only sports enthusiast who will benefit from the improvements. Council is also supporting local biodiversity by rehabilitating and enhancing existing areas of remnant native vegetation, undertaking additional planting, and introducing habitat structures with nesting boxes and logs. The stadium is jointly funded by Frankston City Council, the Victorian and Australian Governments, Cricket Victoria/Australia and Frankston District Netball Association.



Construction continues at Jubilee Park Stadium

New business awards

The Frankston Business Collective (FBC) Business Excellence Awards launch this month to cast the spotlight on all the innovation which the City has to offer.

FBC CEO Jeff Rogut had first announced the Awards in November. Since then, with the support of Frankston City Council, the FBC has gone from strength to strength with more than 120 members working together to improve enterprise in the region. "The goal is to showcase all

Frankston City businesses," Mr Rogut said. "We are keen to see and promote the variety and quality of businesses in our area." There are multiple categories for entry, illustrating the wide range of business in Frankston City. Entry for the awards is free, and open to FBC members and non-members.

For more information, including details and entry forms, visit the FBC website or scan the QR code.



Community spirit

Harmony Week celebrations take place on Tuesday, 21 March, with the theme being "Everyone belongs". This theme is close to my heart because I have felt this sense of belonging and welcome in Frankston City where I hope everybody can be embraced.

Regardless of background, socioeconomic status or religion, we embrace everyone in Frankston City. We welcome everyone's participation on Neighbour Day on Sunday, 26 March. Reach out to new and old Neighbours and take the opportunity to connect with one another by sharing stories and a meal. I look forward to hearing how you and your neighbourhood celebrated Neighbour Day.

Cr Nathan Conroy, Mayor

Mayor's message

Anzac Day

During World War One, Frankston sent 200 men to war. There were 200 brothers, sons, friends and colleagues. These men left their families, friends and loved ones behind not knowing when, or if, they would return.

Sadly, for 37 of these men, this fear was a reality. They didn't return home. They lost their lives in battle. They never saw their children, wives, girlfriends, parents or friends again.

On Anzac Day (25 April) we pay tribute to these servicemen and to all those who continue to serve and protect our country and freedoms today.

There are many stories of selflessness coming out of our City, stories of people who fought and whose dedication and bravery have allowed us to enjoy our freedoms.

I've been researching some of these stories, and particularly enjoy meeting with veterans and people who have a local story to tell.

In cases of conflict, people from Frankston have often been heroes. *(Read more on pages 8 and 15).*

From the bottom of my heart, and from the hearts of the whole community, we thank them and their families. They have our deepest respect, our thanks, and our heartfelt gratitude goes out to them.

Citizenship

The Anzacs were proud Australians, and they have been followed by many others who have chosen to make Frankston City their home.

As Mayor, I'm lucky to witness first-hand what it means to become part of a community during citizenship ceremonies. At such events, I get to see the growth of our area's rich multicultural tapestry.

The excitement and optimism is huge, as is the talent, diversity and vitality that each new citizen brings to our community.

Having moved from my country of birth, Ireland, to make a new life myself in Australia, I know how it feels to be welcomed and valued in a new community. *(Read more on page 17).*

Message from the CEO

An innovative budget approach

This year, we're trialling a new approach to build our budget for 2023-24. At the centre of our approach are community engagement and feedback. We're opening the floor up to you — our Frankston City residents — to help prioritise 12 key budget themes to guide spending across the City. *(More info on page 5).*

Wingham Park Older Adults Activity Zone

It's a real pleasure as CEO to hear about how we at Council build and get better value for the community through teams working together. Often these stories are untold and I'm sure there are many of them, but I thought I would take the opportunity to share this example of the great outcomes that are possible. Last month we celebrated the opening Wingham Park Older Adults Activity Zone. The inception of this project was the unexpected release from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) of a new funding stream — Active Seniors in 2021. The Recreation team reached out to their colleagues in Positive Ageing, Capital Works Delivery and Sustainable Assets to see what was possible. The idea of a senior's fitness park was quickly identified along with the site at Wingham Park being close to Karingal PLACE which houses Frankston's University of the Third Age, and an independent living centre.

Quick work was needed to get the grant in on time and so the teams formed a working group to complete the application, get designs completed (in house), costings and stakeholder engagement. Through the Positive Ageing team, the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI) were introduced to the project. This provided an opportunity to access through NARI an additional \$20,000 in funding for future activation, programming and research activities associated with the installation of this specific equipment. I am pleased to say that the funding application was successful, NARI came on board and we completed the project. It sounds easy but this project was being delivered during COVID, the equipment had to be brought in from overseas making it that bit extra difficult for the delivery team.

The outcome for the community that I witnessed in February was outstanding and it isn't just about installing something good in our park, although that's important. Through the collaboration on this project with NARI they have committed to:

- deliver a promotional campaign to raise awareness of the project to community members;
- deliver a series of training workshops for local allied health professionals, council staff, seniors/community groups and community champions to ensure sustainability



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Contact us

Phone: 1300 322 322
Email: fcn@frankston.vic.gov.au
Live Chat: frankston.vic.gov.au
Interpreter: 131 450

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
 Saturday 9am–12pm

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)

Printed on stock sourced from sustainably farmed forests. Frankston City News is published six times a year and distributed to approximately 62,000 homes. Visit: frankston.vic.gov.au/FCN

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In early 2022, Frankston City Council began consulting with the community on a new Structure Plan for the Frankston Metropolitan Activity Centre (FMAC), which aims to support development and growth in the city centre over the decades to come. Through a program of extensive engagement, including pop ups, online surveys, workshops, walking tours and

interviews, Council received almost 1,400 pieces of feedback about development within the city centre, the use of public spaces, and how economic and residential growth can be supported. "Through our engagement with the community, we can see there is an appetite for change," said Mayor Conroy. "We know that people are looking for choice about where to live,

work and play, which means we have a unique opportunity to revitalise our CBD." Development of the FMAC structure plan comes at a time of significant demographic and economic change, with Melbourne's population forecast to double by 2050, and Metropolitan Activity Centres like Frankston set to support this growth. "At present, there are limited planning

controls governing development in our City Centre, so it's vital we work with the community to build a structure plan that supports a vibrant, growing local economy while preserving Frankston's unique environmental character." A draft Structure Plan is anticipated to go to Council for review in June. For more information, please visit engage.frankston.vic.gov.au

Stage 2 of Chisholm Institute's Frankston Campus Redevelopment



Chisholm's Frankston Campus Redevelopment project is well underway

in July 2019, and provides students with access to the latest technology, industry-led design and equipment, and working environments. Stage 2 — located at the Fletcher Road and Quality Street juncture — aligns with the Stage 1 building and will provide contemporary learning spaces for students. This includes: model hospital wards, allied health rooms, model early childhood centres, a fully operational hair salon and day spa, construction sites for trade training.

Chisholm's Chief Executive Officer, Stephen Varty, said Stage 2 would further enhance the overall campus experience for students and staff. "Stage 2 of Chisholm's Frankston Campus Redevelopment builds on the work completed in Stage 1, with

on-site student support services including counselling, and equitable learning resources which provide educational support for our students with disabilities. There will also be dedicated wellbeing spaces, a Student Experience Centre, a student hub, informal learning areas, retail, workspaces and a showcase gallery," he said. Thanks to the expansion, access to education and employment will become even easier for locals in Frankston, as well as assisting in positive long-term growth for the region. To achieve state-of-the-art facilities that are future-focused, Chisholm and the Victorian Government have invested more than \$150m in the Frankston campus redevelopment program to date.

It's an exciting time for TAFE in Frankston! Through the \$67.6m Frankston Campus Redevelopment Project, Chisholm's Frankston campus is fast becoming one of the most advanced and innovative skills and training institutes in the region.

The Project is now well underway and will provide new state-of-the-art education and teaching facilities for students in the South East. The \$85m Stage 1 of the plan, known as the Frankston Learning and Innovation Precinct, was completed

Construction progressing on bigger, better Frankston Hospital

Construction of the Frankston Hospital redevelopment is well underway, with some exciting progress to be made in the coming months.

The redevelopment will soon start emerging from the ground, with the first of four tower cranes arriving on site in March, and excavation works are starting for the new multideck carpark. A two-year refurbishment of the emergency department is also commencing, including delivery of a new dedicated area for children and a new mental health, alcohol and other drugs hub. The emergency department will continue to operate as usual throughout the refurbishment. Significant progress has been made

since major construction started in June 2022, including:

- clearing of the site
- the diversion of inground services (including high-voltage power to the hospital)
- construction of temporary site amenities and hoarding
- construction of a temporary car park for staff, patients and visitors (this will remain open until the new multideck carpark is operational)
- the start of foundation works.

The Frankston Hospital redevelopment will deliver a new 12-storey clinical services tower and main entrance, 130 more beds, new spaces for mental health and oncology services, expanded women's and children's



Artist impression only

services and 15 new operating theatres. Once operational, the redeveloped hospital will have capacity to treat up to 35,000 more patient episodes each year – meaning more people will be able to access the care they need, closer to home.

Delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority, in partnership with Exemplar Health and Peninsula Health, construction of main works is expected to be completed in late 2025. For more information, visit vhba.vic.gov.au

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More fun times ahead

More play spaces upgrades are underway in Frankston City.

Families can look forward to many hours of outdoor fun when the upgraded play spaces at Yarralumla Reserve, Langwarrin and Rosemary Reserve and Frankston North Community Centre, in Frankston North, and are completed in July.

The \$660,000 Yarralumla Reserve project kicked off in early March and includes a number of features, such as a senior and junior play unit, triple swing and basket swing, flying saucer, a new multicourt — basketball/netball court, drainage improvements, water sensitive urban design features, landscaping, new accessible paths ways, upgraded seating and fencing, new picnic shelter and BBQ area, new parking bays, and drinking fountain.

The works are funded by Council.

The Rosemary Reserve project is also

underway now and includes: landscaping (new trees and garden beds), upgraded seating and paths, a three-bay swing, senior play unit, junior play unit with embankment slide, refurbished fire engine, half-egg spinner, drinking fountain, and picnic shelter.

This upgrade was made possible thanks to a \$210,000 grant from Sports and Recreation Victoria (Local Sports and Recreation Fund), with Council matching the funding.

Frankston North Community Centre's yard will also receive a facelift at the same time as part of Council's open space program. This \$110,000 upgrade includes: outdoor deck area with seating, basket swing, sandpit, new paths and garden beds.

This project is also jointly funded by Council (\$55,000) and the State Government (\$55,000) through the Living Local Fund.



Artist's impression of Rosemary Reserve

Help shape Council's Budget for 2023-24

This year, Frankston City Council are asking the community to help prioritise 12 key budget areas, to guide spending in 2023-24.

Key budget themes include:

- Community welfare
- Emergency preparedness
- Arts, culture and tourism
- Assisting our most vulnerable
- Getting back to nature
- Managing our waste
- Transport connectivity
- Open space management
- Business attraction
- Economic development
- Customer Experience
- Transparency in Council

If you've got your own passion project, you can also submit your own idea or aspiration for consideration in next year's budget.

Frankston City Council Mayor Nathan Conroy said: "We're excited to trial this new approach. By asking residents what's most important to them, we can ensure a fair, transparent budget that benefits the whole of Frankston City and aligns with the thoughts and values of our community."

Feedback gathered from the community will directly shape Frankston City Council's new budget and guide the future direction of Council's programs and services.

Council will share a Draft Budget for 2023-24 for further feedback from April 2023.

For more information and to have your say, visit Engage Frankston at engage.frankston.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code. Consultation closes on Tuesday, 21 March at 5pm.



Connecting our community

Connecting Communities, Council's new 20-year Integrated Transport Strategy focuses on the community's transport needs now and into the future, to create a Frankston that's safer, healthier, connected, sustainable and inclusive.

Informed by community engagement, the strategy outlines 53 actions that address the key transport concerns shared by residents.

That means we're looking at ways to provide the community with more transport options for their journeys, with a strong focus on sustainable and active transports options such as walking, bike riding, ride-share, and public transport through a range of strategies including:

- More accessible, safe, and connected pathways and streets across the City
- Advocating to the State Government for more trains,

more often and faster services and better-connected services (ie. buses with trains)

• Smarter car parking options
The strategy isn't a stand-alone plan. It will inform other projects and plans across the city such as land use planning, structure planning, Council and State Government road projects, level crossing removals, and how we address and target local issues.

Education is also a key part of the strategy, with a range of innovative approaches proposed, including a walk to school program.

Download a copy of Connecting Communities from engage.frankston.vic.gov.au/integrated-transport-strategy

For more info, scan the QR code.



Councillors support Women Leading Locally

Frankston City's three female councillors shared their experiences with two Council hopefuls from the Women Leading Locally (WLL) program.

Both Arlene Lucas and Maureen Rodgers took advantage of the WLL fellowship program to build the skillset required to campaign in the 2024 local government elections. Designed and delivered by the Local Government Gender Equality Advisory Committee, the WLL program is part of the Victorian Government's target to have at least 50 per cent women councillors and mayors in local government by 2025.

The Fellowship is offered to 32 Councils, including Frankston City Council, which falls short of the state target as only three out of nine councillors are women.

Cr Sue Baker calls it "a numbers game". "When I campaigned, there were nine women against a total of 33 candidates, so the odds are stacked against us," she said. "Women are put off, perhaps due to not having childcare support, or they are worried

about hostility they may encounter." Cr Claire Harvey said, "You can't be what you can't see, and we still tend to see a lot of blokes speaking, running, being the names, and we aren't encouraged enough to see us too." She hopes the program will be a nudge for women to consider running for Council. She, herself, only contemplated running for Council after being encouraged by a friend who saw her passion for local issues, such as environmental protection, waste management and social justice. For Cr Suzette Tayler, leadership is not for everyone. "Being a Councillor is about leadership," she said, adding that there are many hard decisions to make and coming to terms with the fact you can't please everyone. She entered politics when something "sparked" her interest and encourages everyone, regardless of gender, to take an interest in local affairs, to follow Council meetings and understand the issues. "I would like to see women become more aware of the opportunities that



Cr Sue Baker, Arlene Lucas, Cr Claire Harvey, Maureen Rodgers and Cr Suzette Tayler discussed opportunities for women in Council.

may be available for them in Council," she said. "The world is your oyster." Ms Lucas and Ms Rodgers took note of the Councillors' advice and appreciated the opportunity to meet with these three role models.

Ms Rodgers had toyed with the idea of becoming a Councillor in the past and, with the program, feels more empowered to take the next step. "It was exciting to meet the Councillors and hear about their experiences and see how supportive they are in having more women in politics. It gives me the confidence that, if I were lucky enough to represent people, I would have supportive people around me," she said.

Ms Lucas also found the meeting helpful. Up until now she has been active in volunteering and is keen to be a "voice for those who have no voice of their own". Through her candidacy as a Filipino woman, she hopes to bring more diversity to local government.

The Women Leading Locally Fellowships are free for women within the Frankston City region. Applications for the next round are open until 14 April. To apply, scan the QR code.



Gendered language

'Hey guys'. We hear it all the time and many of us use it too, but what are we really saying or not saying? The phrase is used to casually acknowledge everyone in a group or a room, yet we know the term 'guy' means 'a man'.

The phrase 'guys' for a collective group of people is exclusionary and dehumanising for people who identify as a woman, transgender or non-binary, making them invisible and giving dominance to one gender. Masculine-dominated language and the use of 'masculine' terms for collective purposes is deeply embedded in a patriarchal system, whereby it puts and keeps men in charge. If 'guys' is a form of acknowledgement of all people, why does it only address males? Why isn't it 'girls' instead of 'guys'? Can you imagine being in a work setting

and the manager says 'hey girls' to a collective group of adults? That could seem weird or it may even seem patronising. The fact that a 'masculine' phrase can represent all genders but a 'feminine' phrase can only speak for women and girls proves how deeply embedded the patriarchal system is in our speech and language and even in our unconscious thoughts. Language matters! Gendered language that is not inclusive can reinforce and perpetuate discrimination and gender inequality. If you are one of those who uses the phrase 'hey guys' perhaps next time, catch yourself before the words slip out of your mouth and rephrase it to 'hey everyone', 'hey team', 'hi all', or 'hello beautiful humans'. And, if you hear others use the phrase, spread the word and inform them of more inclusive phrases they could be using.

What is Council doing to crack the code?

On International Women's Day (8 March), Council held a number of activities to draw attention to gender equality. For us, however, gender equality is a genuine concern the whole year round. Here are some Council initiatives:

- Gender Equality Action Plan and a new Family Violence Action Plan in development to promote respectful relationships and prevent gender-based violence in our community.
- Grants to programs supporting women, such as the Women's Spirit Project.
- Endorsement of the Respect @Work plan which imposes a positive duty on employers to "take reasonable and

- proportionate measures" to eliminate, as far as possible, certain discriminatory conduct including workplace sex discrimination and harassment.
- Over the last year, we have created more gender friendly change rooms at sports clubs
- Women and girls' sports participation is on the rise in Frankston City thanks to investment in sporting facilities. Since 2018, \$65.3 million has been invested in pavilion upgrades.
- We are working to change sports culture via the gender inclusive sporting club toolkit to assist clubs to encourage more women in sport.

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Public art

With the upcoming Big Picture Fest, I have been reflecting on our city's street art that brings our buildings and laneways to life. I am passionate about expanding this work beyond our town centre through grants like the Seaford Activation Grant, which saw local artist Melanie Cagle recently completing a spectacular mural adding vibrancy to the Nepean Highway shopping strip (see page 3). This is the last mural in a three-part series. Melanie's other works are on the toilet block wall on Broughton Street and on the Seaford Community Centre wall.

Rapid Response over summer

Council's new Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a proactive community safety initiative that works year-round to deter anti-social behaviour and reduce crime rates. The team recently completed a spray can audit resulting in a noticeable decrease in graffiti, and their regular patrols and education programs have led to a decrease in smoking around the CBD. The RRT also investigates illegal motorcycles to ensure road safety by liaising with shop owners. To report issues, contact info@Frankston.vic.gov.au or call 1300 322 322.

New signage for Frankston City

New signage is coming to Frankston City to improve the way people explore the area, including entranceways, suburbs, open spaces, and shared-user paths. This will benefit residents, business owners, and visitors, creating a sense of community and pride. The first sign will appear in Seaford soon, with additional signage in Frankston North, Karingal, and Frankston rolling out in the first half of the year.

The Healthy Futures Hub

The Healthy Futures Hub, opening soon in Frankston City, is a world-class healthcare facility with 12 integrated health providers promoting health and fostering a healthier community. It includes physios, dentists, occupational therapists, personal trainers, and more. The hub will provide quality healthcare services, stimulate local businesses, and contribute to a stronger community. Council also approved the co-location of the National Centre for Healthy Ageing, a research facility with Monash University and Peninsula Health developing new care models for the elderly.

Transparency Hub

Those of you who watch Council meetings can tell that I place emphasis on the importance of being open and authentic. I want ratepayers to be informed because I think the best way forward is for Council to work with the Community for the best possible outcome. Our Transparency Hub, launched last year, helps us to achieve that. It is a user-friendly portal that allows the community to easily access and understand Council's data.

A useful resource, the new portal has met with great success in the community with praise in the national media.

Our Transparency Hub is part of a larger policy to increase engagement and trust in the decisions Council makes. It promotes good governance and encourages the ethical and legal behaviour of Councillors, like myself, and local government employees.

Support at home

Residents of Frankston City who are aged under 65 or Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders aged under 50, and who are not receiving support through NDIS, can contact Council's Community Care Team to request a Living at Home Assessment. One of the team's Assessment Officers will arrange to meet with you at your home to discuss the supports available. These may include personal care (showering, dressing and getting ready for the day), receiving food, home cleaning assistance, home maintenance, shopping assistance, in-home respite, social support and community transport with regular bus trips to the local shops, library and community groups.

For more info, contact the Community Care Intake team on 9784 1933 or scan the QR code.



The Men's shed

The Pines Community Men's Shed in Frankston North is a vital pillar of the community for work focusing on mental health. Open six days a week, it is an Alladin's cave of tools or equipment.

Men can drop in whenever they want to enjoy a friendly environment. They work with schools and hold classes for different groups. You may have already used their work with benches from Seaford to Portsea.

The Men's Shed includes a fully functional kitchen for men to relax and talk, it includes a fully functional kitchen for men to relax and talk, a computer room, machine shop and greenhouse for the cultivation of seeds.

Cr Kris Bolam

Mobile: 0417 921 644
Email: crbolam@frankston.vic.gov.au



Cr Steven Hughes

Mobile: 0413 175 911
Email: crshughes@frankston.vic.gov.au



Cr Sue Baker with Naomi Lavell and Margaret McGrath.

An ode to the noticeboard

Call me old school, but I do enjoy taking time to look at the offerings posted on noticeboards in our City. Walking Meg recently in Frankston North, I stopped at the Mahogany Avenue noticeboard to read the flyers and posters promoting community activities. It got me thinking: Who looks after noticeboards?

Volunteer Margaret McGrath established the Frankston North noticeboards on Mahogany Avenue and Excelsior Drive in 2005. Using State Government funding for 'Community Renewal' and artistic talent from Monterey Secondary College, the noticeboards have been a source of communication to locals for almost 20 years. Over that time, Margaret has always kept information up to date. At the end of 2022 Margaret decided it was time to hand the baton to someone else. We are very grateful that another local resident, Norma Lavell, stepped up. One of her first actions was to send an email to Frankston City Council requesting several repairs. The Mahogany Avenue noticeboard needed new corflute sheeting, the backing material, as with sunlight and the passing of time it had become brittle and difficult to put pins into. Furthermore, the cover and its hinges also needed repairs. Norma was delighted with the prompt and quality response from the team responsible.

Norma will be taking care of the content for both noticeboards and intends to contact local groups like the Men's Shed, to ensure they know there is a local place to post information, advertise services and events and promote what help is available for long term residents and those new to the area.

With the rise of social media it would be easy to take Noticeboards for granted and overlook their importance. To locals though, they are a valuable resource to connect residents and they shine a light on volunteers like Margaret and Norma, local heroes making sure they are kept up to date. Thank you to you both!

To post information on a noticeboard, look for details on each noticeboard telling you how to.

Cr Sue Baker

Mobile: 0438 145 842
Email: crbaker@frankston.vic.gov.au



Our parks are a hit!

News about our wonderful newly-upgraded play spaces continues to spread far and wide!

The play spaces at Ballam Park and Carrum Downs Recreation Reserve have been featured in several online media outlets in recent months, and were named among the top 10 in Melbourne.

This is great news for our positioning as a family-friendly City. Our play spaces are an incredible investment for our future, offering young people a great outlet to explore nature and the world around them, and families a place to gather.

The water play feature has been extremely popular at Ballam Park, while at Carrum Downs youngsters can take their pick of sand, sculptural and nature water play. There's more to come, with more play space upgrades now under way at Yarralumla and Rosemary Reserves, and a play space and yard upgrade at the North Frankston Community Centre.

I wholeheartedly believe that vibrant and inclusive play spaces improve community connections, and our Play Strategy Action Plan allows us to prioritise projects to ensure our community has equitable access to a range of high-quality play options. No two of our play spaces are the same, and that is also something to celebrate.

Melbourne's best-kept secret

For those of us who live here, the COVID lockdowns provided an opportunity to appreciate our City, essentially a city within a city, with its impeccable coastline, nature reserves, infrastructure and passionate people.

However, despite the constantly rising liveability of our area, Frankston City is still a well-kept secret when it comes to property investment. Those who have foresight are buying into it now, seeing the benefits of living surrounded by beauty and taking advantage of all the city has to offer for young and old.

With so many plans underway to upgrade the City, the window of opportunity is now. In 10-20 years from now people will look back and celebrate choosing to buy into the area's real estate market. In a report which appeared in the Herald Sun, in collaboration with realestate.com, Frankston rated as the second most affordable beach suburb and Seaford ranked seventh. This beautiful part of Melbourne will only get better and better as decisions we make today will upgrade our City in the future.

Frankston's heroes

Frankston City has no shortage of heroes, and we are reminded of them each Anzac Day. Their names reverberate across the world. Recently, I heard of a campaign for a commemorative plaque in Northern Greece to honour people like Frankston's Lance Corporal Dudley Welsh of the 2/6th Australian Infantry Battalion.

While many of us may not know Dudley, he is well known in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki for his bravery. His story is documented in historian Jim Claven's book, Grecian Adventure.

Known as "Skip" to his mates, this young digger from Frankston worked as a poultry farmer before he enlisted in 1939. He sailed from Port Melbourne for the Middle East on 4 April, 1940.

Sailing into Piraeus Harbour, Skip and his comrades later suffered a long retreat through central Greece and on through Corinth. Along the way, they were attacked by enemy aircraft, artillery and mortar shelling.

Skip was finally captured on the island of Crete, along with more than 350 Battalion members. In his first escape, he attempted to sail to Cyprus before returning to the camp unnoticed after being attacked by German aircraft.

Later he was sent to Thessaloniki by sea, and may have felt solace by comparing the seaside to that of beautiful Frankston. Not losing his spirit, he made his second escape attempt via the main sewer but was caught after a Cypriot soldier died while in the drain, making passage impossible.

In his third attempt he traded food and boots for Greek civilian clothing and walked out the camp gates with other civilians. He found refuge, stained his face with berries and grew a moustache to avoid attention when recording shipping movements of nearby German coastal defences.

He later visited Lone Pine where his father had been wounded in 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign. He is just one of the many heroes we honour each Anzac Day.

Using Census data

Do you want to learn about the latest population trends in Frankston City? Council is inviting community members to a free training session on how best to use the latest Frankston City Census data. Learn how to enhance your grant applications, provide insight into service and program planning, or better understand who lives in our community. You can attend online (Tuesday, 4 April, from 2-3.30pm) or in person (Thursday, 30 March, from 10-11.30 at the Frankston North Community Centre) to learn more about your community. Scan the QR code to learn more.

Cr David Asker

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Frankston Business Collective

The Frankston Business Collective was an initiative of Council to engage our business community, particularly after COVID. It is a peak business organisation to support local businesses to network and educate. It will also play a key role in policy representation to all tiers of government with a strong voice.

Jeff Rogut, the CEO of the Collective, has been a key driver along with the Board of the Collective and to date has done an amazing job with more than 120 members. The Collective also has a very active board who are all volunteers. The board is made up of a professional team with strong business acumen. Thank you Jeff for your work. I know that the Collective will go from strength to strength and we are looking forward to the first Frankston Business Collective Business Excellence awards which launch in March.

These awards will recognise excellence among businesses and also showcase businesses and operators who offer their customers and communities excellence in all that they do.

Find out more on page 3.

Our 'lifesaving' offerings

I always receive lovely feedback from our residents about our bus outings. One recent writer to Council sent us a lovely email about how these bus outings "saved" her life.

The resident, whose husband recently passed away, said that the outings program is a lifesaver. "I have never been on my own until recently. My family is supportive, and the outings are also lovely," she wrote.

These messages just go to show how important these initiatives are. Apart from bus outings, we have our Meals on Wheels program and amazing Wingham Reserve Champs. These programs and more are very useful to the community and wouldn't be possible without help from our volunteers.

And it's not just older people benefitting, but younger people as well. We're also on the lookout for mentors to help others in the community get the required driving experience needed to pass their driving exams. We recently had a celebration for our mentors who told us that they also found it rewarding to be able to help young people achieve independence by learning to drive.

I'd like to thank these amazing volunteers for their time, effort and the good they do in our community. For more info, scan the QR code.



Cr Suzette Tayler

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#FrankstonCity

Justice Department building

Victoria's Justice Department have committed to a 15-year-lease on property on the Nepean Highway, on a gateway to Frankston City.

It will be one of the first buildings you see upon entering our City. And if it is anything like the state-of-the-art design and concept plans, it will give an amazing first impression of our City — a modern, developed metropolis.

The building itself makes sense because it is conveniently located near Victoria Police and Frankston Court House, creating a convenient judicial centre within our City.

It takes the place of an old building which attracted vandals, and there were many people illegally entering the site.

We hope the new construction will put an end to anti-social behaviour in the area. Instead, it will be an area of healing with many social benefits, such as the facilitation of custody visits between parents coming out of domestic violence situations amongst other things.

The economic benefits are also numerous as the new facility will bring jobs to the area with at least 80 government jobs and 100 positions in the construction stage.

Local people have been saying for years Frankston has so much potential and is going to take off — we are now seeing the start of it. In addition to the new justice building, we are seeing new hospitality businesses opening, we are seeing interest from developers in apartments, we are seeing more office space. It all adds up to more foot traffic in central Frankston, and a more lively and safer city centre. The momentum can only grow and finally start to see a more revitalised city.

CALD Network

I am extremely appreciative of the many people who have made our City their home. We are working to strengthen Council's communication and relationships with local Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities while promoting a safe, welcoming and inclusive City.

Our 12-membered CALD network comes from an array of cultures and cultural organisations: Indian, Tamil, Fijian, Samoan, Sri Lankan, Sikh Volunteers Australia, Malayalee Inc, St Basil of Ostrog Serbian Orthodox Church in Langwarrin, the Russian Senior Citizen Club and Maple Plan that supports CALD community members who are living with a disability.

Cr Brad Hill

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Parkrun offers an opportunity to exercise with the community

Getting Active Outdoors

Early in January this year Frankston's new parkrun celebrated its one-year anniversary. A record 211 people participated, and I went along to join in the celebration and to get some exercise outdoors. One of my school friends, an avid park-runner, came all the way from the city to join me!

Parkrun occurs every Saturday morning at 8am at Frankston Nature Conservation Reserve. It is supported by a huge team of volunteers, which keeps it free and accessible for participants. Their first-year birthday theme was animals, given the lovely location. While there, I saw people dressed as butterflies, koalas, rabbits, leopards, cheetahs, a skunk, an owl, a penguin, a unicorn and even a flamingo to name a few!

In its first year, the Frankston parkrun has attracted 1,681 participants who have together completed 4,850 parkruns. This equates to a total distance of 24,250. As much as it's not a race, many people choose to compete against their own 'best time'. Not everyone runs: some jog, others walk, some mix it up and do a bit of everything. One huge highlight for me was to see the diverse mix of ages - including entire families - enjoying this special outing together.

Getting active outdoors with others provides so many benefits, including for our physical and mental health. And an improved sense of physical fitness, whether through parkrun or other structured exercise, might also build our capacity and confidence to engage in more regular physical activities throughout the week! In preparing our Integrated Transport Strategy Plan 2023-2042, we noted that a significant proportion of car trips are under 3km. Our growing city will accommodate more people over the coming decades, but our infrastructure will struggle to keep up if that also means more and more cars on our roads or looking for car parks. Just today I chose to walk to the corner store (instead of driving): because I walked, I ended up spontaneously chatting with two neighbours along the way. There are so many wins when we choose to get active outdoors!

For more information, scan the QR code.



Cr Claire Harvey

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Efficiency and the environment

Growing up, my twin and I would pick up litter as we walked the streets. Our goal was to contribute towards keeping our City clean.

In Council, I can now focus on waste even more and support investment made in this direction. Our new fleet consists of 19 trucks, which are IVECO ACCO EuroVI Dual control vehicles. Euro6's are more efficient with less emissions than the Euro4 predecessors.

This means we are creating less pollution while keeping our City clean. There will also be less trips to the drop-off facilities, reducing emissions for distance travelled and also saving time.

Stay safe!

We have an amazing beach lifestyle in Frankston City thanks to more than 11 kilometres of pristine coastline. As someone who loves water sports, I'm so happy to see so many visitors flock to our beaches to enjoy activities like sailing, kite surfing, motor boating, open water swimming and so much more.

Sadly, however, 53 people lost their lives in Victorian waters last year and the number of fatal incidents involving people over 65 doubled. According to Life Saving Victoria, 40 per cent of drownings occur at the beach closest to your home.

Both PARC and Pines Forest Aquatic Centres offer swim programs and there are lots of swim schools throughout the City. Living so close to the water, it's important to stay safe. Wear a lifejacket when going out on a boat, don't drink alcohol, always supervise children. Stay safe!

Let's work together

As a representative of residents and ratepayers in Frankston City, I value the ideas and opinions of residents, ratepayers and businesses.

Nothing is black and white in Council, and there are so many different viewpoints. I know, however that it is important for the community to provide input, to express expectations and share their opinions.

One of the most rewarding things for me as Councillor is meeting with people who consult with us. I believe in democracy and encourage people to always engage, to participate in consultation, to share the views of what they believe. We may not always agree with each other, but through dialogue we can achieve the best possible outcomes. For more engagement opportunities, scan the QR code.



Cr Liam Hughes Deputy Mayor

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Our Street Art Tours enjoy another big win

Frankston City shone bright in this year's Australian Street Art Awards being awarded Gold for the Best Street Art Tour for the second year running.

The City's back-to-back glory was acknowledged in the awards ceremony in February on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, and is now listed as one of the 29 best public art experiences in the country.

In the Best Street Art Tour category Frankston nudged out Oh Hey WA's tours of the 'No More Blank Walls Street Art Festival' murals in Mount Lawley, Perth. During the Ceremony presented by Megan Woodward from the Sunshine Coast, Frankston City was praised for its "fearless originality" and "epic display of colour, creativity and movement".

Awards Director Kim Morgan said the experience is "bound to leave you in awe".

The Gold win solidifies the City's reputation as a creative arts hub and the continuous evolution of the tours to include more art, experiences, availability and accessibility in order to elevate the city's street art offering. More recently the tours opened to new audiences by being offered in Auslan. Fuelled by the annual Big Picture Fest, Frankston is home to 60+ amazing murals, each a display of colour, creativity and movement.

Awards Director Liz Rivers said, "This unique tour contributes significantly to making Australia a more vibrant, creative and interesting country - somewhere visitors want to explore more keenly."

The judges said: "And we also love the notion of a more personalised 90-minute guided tour that includes a coffee shop stop for street art aficionados."

Frankston City Mayor Nathan Conroy welcomed the win, stating it is the "result of an innovative public arts and tourism plan".

The tours were developed by Council in 2018 to create a tangible experience around the City's street art and to encourage both residents and visitors to explore and discover unexpected delights. Around 2,500 people have enjoyed the experience and in 2022 alone 106 street art tours took place. Those who take the tours, usually stay longer to enjoy the other offerings the City has to offer.

Apart from its exquisite world class street art, Frankston City is also host to a number of popular venues, events and attractions such as the Frankston Arts Centre, McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, The Waterfront Festival and Big Picture Festival.

The Big Picture will again be happening between 20-26 March where a new wave of internationally renowned street artists will hit the streets of Frankston, adding nine new artworks to Frankston's collection.

Tours run weekly and are \$15 per person, but free during the Big Picture Fest, with limited availability. Visit discoverfrankston.com

Scan the QR code to book in a tour today.




#FrankstonCity

South Side Festival 2023 takes over Frankston

After an amazing debut with sell out shows in 2022, South Side Festival is ready to deliver its new nine-day program of exciting events and shows this May.

Whether you are in the mood for thought-provoking performances, raucous comedy, dazzling installations, striking visual arts or fun for the whole family, South Side is bringing it.

Playing on our love for the immersive and visually spectacular, South Side's LuminoCity features three immersive experiences that will take you on a journey from an interactive sea, to a dazzling installation and finally, an underground digital playground.

Academy award winner, Shaun Tan, will be exhibiting his rarely seen visual arts series, Rules of Summer and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Road Show will hit the

Frankston Arts Centre stage. There will be dance parties in shipping containers, augmented reality art galleries, torchlight street art tours and even an all age's metal and hard core gig.

You will be surprised what you find South Side, so join us on the adventure from 5-14 May.

Tickets are on sale now! Head to southsidefestival.com.au or scan the QR code.



A Persistent Presumption, courtesy of Skunk Control.

IF Business Grants

APPLY TODAY



INVEST FRANKSTON



Invest Frankston Business Grants recipients will soon be announced

Business Grants closed!

Our exciting Invest Frankston Business Grants have now closed for 2023 with more than 40 applications received this year from a wide range of industries. An extensive assessment process is underway.

Now in its 11th year, more than \$1.3 million in grants have already been delivered. The program has helped almost 70 innovative and

sustainable business ideas come to life since 2012. This year we had \$180,000 available, with grants between \$5,000-\$20,000 on offer to help businesses expand to a larger space, move from a home based business to a vacant commercial property, invest in capital, ignite an innovative idea or relocate to Frankston City. Stay tuned to find out which applicants were successful.



December Economic Scorecard

The December Economic Scorecard is out now! Get the latest snap shot of the Frankston City economy from the latest expenditure statistics to the most popular industries operating in our city.

You can also find out how many new businesses have registered here this

quarter! Can you guess how many transactions we made here? Key highlights include a jump in regional exports of education and training jumping from 13th spot to becoming the 6th highest industry in Frankston City of regional exports. Check out the scorecard now to see what the latest trends are at investfrankston.com/resources



The Digital Marketing Masterclass offers hands-on experience with expert industry advice

Digital Marketing Masterclass

Designed to help business owners understand the key aspects of digital marketing, this in-person short course allows you to access expert industry advice at a subsidised cost.

With hands-on learning, you can find out how your business fits into a wider marketing strategy, learn tips, tricks

and trends on social media and discover fundamental online strategies. Presented by a reputable digital marketing agency, the Digital Marketing Masterclass will be delivered over three weeks, one full day a week starting in April at the Frankston Library Community Room. For more information email business@frankston.vic.gov.au

Business Concierge is back

Frankston City Council's free Business Concierge service is back! Since it returned in December last year, the Business Concierge has received more than 60 enquiries from new businesses or businesses interested in expanding.

Most were new enquiries wanting to establish business within Frankston City with a majority being from the manufacturing industry. If you are starting a new businesses or you are

keen to expand your business, or would like help navigating through the Council permit process, contact our dedicated and knowledgeable Business Concierge today.

Business Survey coming soon!

Are you a new business or a long-standing Frankston City business owner and would like to give us feedback on how we can help you?

Filling out our 2023 Annual Business Survey will provide us with valuable feedback on how we can improve or extend our service offerings here at Frankston City Council. You can tell us what your business needs are, what industry you are in, what workshops and training you would benefit from and what resources and information you would like to receive from us

"Help shape our economic strategy"

and more. Email us now if you would like to take part in the upcoming survey or stay tuned to our eNewsletter at investfrankston.com for more details. The survey will also help the next Economic Strategy.

#FrankstonCity

Fixing our homes

Council's Home Maintenance Service has helped 10,000 people

Skye resident David Poole, aged 67, experienced a severe stroke two and a half years ago which has impacted his ability to maintain his home.

He says he would not have been able to get by without help from Frankston Council's Home Maintenance service.

"I've had nothing but compliments on the refitted gate," Mr Poole said. "Andrew from Council has also fitted ducts in the roof for me, repaired the automatic closing hinge on the back garage door, replaced tap washers and repaired fly screens. Nothing is too much trouble and the quality of the work has been excellent."

Mr Poole also stated that the administration staff are lovely and

he will continue to use the service, which from his perspective is cost effective. The service provided by Frankston City Council's Home Maintenance program has helped Mr Poole remain independent and comfortable in his home. "I highly recommend this very useful service."

Frankston Council Home Maintenance Officer Andrew Moody says, "I really enjoy working with people like David to ensure their homes are safe. It's great meeting them, and very rewarding being able to help out."

Frankston Council's Home Maintenance Team have assisted more than 10,000 Commonwealth Home Support Program clients since the beginning of 2016. Thanks to the program, older people have enjoyed improved safety and independence.

The Council's team can assist residents with 'handy' tasks such as smoke alarm batteries, light



A thumbs up from David Poole and Andrew Moody for Council's Home Maintenance program

globes, door handles, tap washers and installing handrails and ramps.

Customers pay a discounted rate, which is subsidised by the Federal Government. Older residents in need of support can call My Aged Care on 1800 200 422, and

nominate Frankston City Council as their preferred provider. For those who may currently be clients of the Council's Family Health Support Services, call our Intake team to help determine eligibility on 9784 1933.

National Playgroup Week

National Playgroup Week is from 20-26 March and an opportunity to celebrate and promote the benefits of playgroups for children, families and communities.

Council is inviting everyone to join our Pop-Up Playgroup sessions at Lady Emily Reserve Playground (12R Lady Emily Way, Skye) from 9.30am to 11.30am on 23 March.

It's an opportunity for children aged from newborn to five years to enjoy creative play and for their parents, grandparents and carers to socialise.

Apart from this session, there are playgroups held across changing locations in parks and venues across the Frankston Municipality. These are free for anyone to attend and facilitated by Council's playgroup team.

To speak with a member of the Playgroup Team call 1300 322 322 or email playgroups@frankston.vic.gov.au

For more info, scan the QR code.



Pathways for Carers

Carers of people with disability, mental illness or elderly people can join Council's free walking events in Victoria.

On these tours they get to unwind but also learn more about the services and support available to them.

The meetings include a free morning tea and guest speaker followed by a monthly walk.

They take place on the first Thursday of every month. Tours for the rest of the year take place on 6 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December.

For questions about this program, contact Karen at Orwil House on 9783 5073 or email manager@orwilst.org.au

Jobs Victoria Engineering Project

Are you a jobseeker interested in entering the manufacturing sector or are you an employer in the industry and looking for skilled staff or an apprentice?

The Jobs Victoria Engineering Project is tackling the skills shortage by supporting manufacturing businesses in south-east Melbourne by matching them with suitable jobseekers in fabrication and mechanical engineering. The new model program enables interested jobseekers to gain practical skills while working in

business, solving staffing needs and contributing valuable skills to workplaces.

There will be 100 entry-level jobs in southeast Melbourne created with Chisholm leading the program.

This program is funded for 12 months from the start date. Participants must be placed in employment by 30 June 2023. Limited places are available.

Scan the QR code for more information.



Job advocates

Have you seen our Frankston Job Advocates out and about helping jobseekers throughout Frankston City?

Council has been working with the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to deliver the State Government's \$41.4 million Jobs Victoria Advocates program in Frankston City.

Our Jobs Victoria Advocates have been providing proactive outreach to the Frankston community, offering practical, face to face support to job seekers, people seeking a career change, or advice for training pathways.

Contact job.advocates@frankston.gov.au for more info.

For all the latest news, updates and supports for local business follow [@InvestFrankston.gov.au/Subscribe](https://twitter.com/InvestFrankston)

Heritage buildings and the stories they tell

Homes built when Frankston City was the playground for the rich and famous

Frankston City has changed a lot over the years, and its story is told through some of its decades-old buildings which have stood the test of time.

Taking a stroll through history, we visited two heritage homes and met with their owners, who feel an emotional connection to these buildings. Thanks to the Local Heritage Preservation Grant (LHPG), some of the undeniable charms of these two homes has been recaptured.



Bruce Manor is a regal building on Pinehill Drive



Bruce Manor

34 Pinehill Drive, Frankston

Current owner: John Manenti

Original owner: Lord Stanley Bruce, Australia's prime minister

Built: 1926

Architect: Robert Bell Hamilton in association with Prevost, Synnot and Rewald

Heritage grant offered for: Reconstruction of roof tiling

A century ago, Lord Stanley Bruce became Australia's prime minister and set to work creating a superb lodge, which was to be located in Frankston. Criticised for being "too like an Englishman", he specifically asked for the design to have a Mediterranean Spanish feel.

Sitting at an antique desk, similar to the one used in the day, current owner John Manenti points to the cladding and other fixtures in the prime minister's old office, surrounded by collectible miniature cars. He wonders what documents may have been signed in this room.

The lodge was built in the same year as the opening of the permanent shire office at Frankston on 4 June 1926, when C. Calder, the Chairman of the Country Roads Board declared: "This place will be a city someday." Everybody cheered!

"Frankston was 'hot' for tourism

back then," Mr Manenti, the current owner, said. "Important guests and heads of state would come to this lodge for visits with the prime minister."

There's a grandness about the house with its chandelier, fireplaces, grand staircase, servants quarters, cool rooms, fountains and faded signs of affluence layered between quality fixtures.

Lord Bruce left for England in 1932 and only returned to the house for brief periods. The house remained empty, abandoned, until it became a nursing home.

When Mr Manenti took over in 2012, the land had already covered parts of the grand entrance stairway. "I looked at the old photos and then just began to dig until I found it," he said. "The entire house wasn't just abandoned, it was unliveable. It took me two years before I could actually move in."

Since buying the house in 2012, Mr Manenti has slowly been working through restoration repairs to help the house regain some of its charm.

"The grant came in handy with the roof tiling. Moss had taken over and we had a lot of water problems, but we needed Cordova tiles that needed to be imported from America and Spain," Mr Manenti said. "I wish I'd known about the grants sooner!"



Jessica Ivory and her baby enjoy the new bluestone porch

St Ives

Current owner: Jessica Ivory and Igor Kristan, with their two children

Original owner: James Petrie

Built: 1887

Architect: unknown

Heritage grant offered for: Bluestone porch

The home on 6 Petrie Street exudes a sense of timelessness. It carries an old world charm whilst being a fully functional modern family home.

The secret is that it has been "loved" by its handful of former owners, says architect Jessica Ivory, the current owner.

"It was really well looked after when we got it. It had been restumped and the roof had been fixed and all the electrics had been rewired — and they'd done it properly. It seems to have been a family home throughout," she said.

She can rattle off the history and the stories of the previous families who went about their lives in the same rooms her family now use.

The story starts with metal worker James Petrie — the developer from seaside St Ives, which the house is named after. He subdivided the land and sold off homes in the area which became a holiday, seaside destination after the train line was built in the late 1800s and Frankston became a

suddenly accessible weekend destination. St Ives was a show house with stables (unfortunately nothing remains of the stables) — on display for all to admire in the hopes that they'd buy a lot and build their own holiday home in the estate.

James was the first to inhabit the home, before handing it down to his descendants who sold it off in the early 1900s. According to rate books the home noted as Lot 34, Petrie's Estate section C, was owned by Josiah Bray in 1910 until at least 1972 when a Mrs M Keast came to occupy the home.

Today, the legacy lives on with a new family living there and loving the home with its fountain, intricate heritage plasterwork in the form of ceiling roses, interior arches, high ceilings and even a little cowbell to ring for the servants to come from their quarters. There is even a large station clock in the kitchen bearing the home's name.

The latest addition to this traditional Victorian home has been an upgrade to the front porch which has been replaced by solid bluestone in keeping with the style of the house thanks to a Council heritage grant. It replaced the 1990s era little orange and red ceramic tiles which had aged over time and were breaking apart. It's made a huge difference to the look of the place and can be appreciated by not only the owners but by local passersby.

#FrankstonCity

From Serviceman to local hero

Michael Butler's life has been one of service. From 1959-1984, he served in the Royal Australian Navy and lived through many heroic moments.

Following his retirement, he has continued to help others by volunteering for Meals on Wheels. "If you're physically fit you should help," he said. "I'm 82 this year and still feel a need to serve others rather than staying at home and gradually fading away."

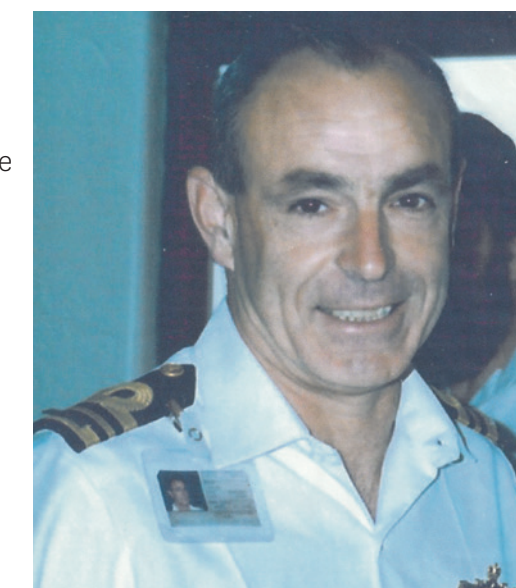
As a young boy, he was a sea cadet at Albert Park Lake. "I was always keen and when I graduated from the system I went to the Navy. I joined as a recruit, and then became a chief petty officer, chief officer and then commissioned officer," he said.

He remembered one occasion when one of the ships broke loose when anchored in Malaysian waters during the Malaysian confrontation. "I dove into the shark-infested waters to bring back the boat. At such moments, your life passes through your eyes."

Serving with Meals on Wheels he enjoys having a chat with the people he helps.

He looks forward to Anzac Day. "It's important to honour those who served before us."

To register your interest to volunteer for Meal on Wheels, please contact Amanda Smith (Amanda.smith@frankston.vic.gov.au) or call 0439 427 500. Scan the QR code for more info.



Michael Butler

Bonding together during Harmony Week

Harmony Week is observed from 20-26 March, and is a celebration of our diversity.

Frankston City Council acknowledges the importance of diversity, not just for one week but all year round. Social cohesion, social inclusion, cultural safety, mutual respect and awareness for all community members creates an inclusive and safe environment for all.

Some of the things Council is doing to encourage diversity include:

- The creation of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) network which is made up of

12 community members who represent Frankston City Council's rich cultural diversity.

- Cuppa in English is an English conversation class open to anyone over 18 years who is looking to improve their English-speaking skills in an informal setting over a cup of coffee or tea. The class takes place at Frankston South Community and Recreation Centre (55 Towerhill Road, Frankston), and is open to the CALD community every Friday from 9.30am to 11am and caters to the individual needs of its members.

- The Diversity and Inclusion Group meets internally to audit Council's activities to ensure we are doing all we can to be an inclusive City.

- The Emergency Planning Advice Service (EPAS) is a conversation-based program which supports people who live with a disability, are older, have a chronic or acute medical condition to create a tailored emergency plan. The Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Red Cross deliver this free service, which involves CFA facilitators giving you basic emergency safety advice, answering your questions

and helping you. For more info, call 1300 322 322 or email veronica.foster@frankston.vic.gov.au

Frankston City Council has an interpreter service. If you need the assistance of an interpreter, call 131 450.

Did you know that Council's Engage Frankston website is available in 11 different languages?

Neighbour Day, hanging out with those next door

Coffee on Kareela is a not-for-profit community café affiliated with St Luke's Anglican Church.

Operating for 15 years, the café's birthday happens to be on Sunday, 26 March, the same day as this year's Neighbour Day.

Café manager Liz Wilson said, "We'll be celebrating the day at Kareela, inviting neighbours to come down to enjoy a coffee as well as our sausage sizzle."

In the past, the coffee's Neighbour Day festivities have been a huge success with activities for young and old, including community games and music.

"We try to be a positive influence in the neighbourhood," she said. "A lot has happened over the last 15 years, relationships have been forged, and Neighbour Day is an opportunity for new relationships and connections."

Coffee on Kareela's celebrations take place at 2pm on Sunday, 26 March, however numerous other neighbours will celebrate together at events around Frankston City.

Neighbour Day celebrations are a practical and effective way to help address loneliness across communities.



Liz Wilson is looking forward to celebrating Neighbour Day with locals at Coffee on Kareela



Music

Greg Shaw Management
The Best of the Bee Gees with Colin 'Smiley' Petersen
 Friday, 24 March 2023 | 8-11pm
 FAC Theatre
 Tickets: \$69-\$74 (Families \$158)



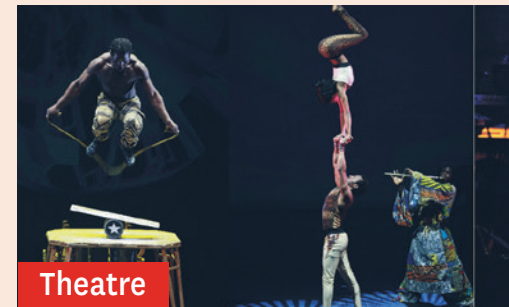
Art

Frankston Arts Centre
Portrait painting workshop with artist Maria Pena
 Saturday, 1 April | 1-5pm
 Cube 37
 Tickets: \$60



Theatre

Frankston Art Centre and Promac Productions
The Spirit of the Anzacs
 Friday 14 April | 10.30am-12pm, 1.30-3pm
 FAC Theatre
 Tickets: \$20-\$22



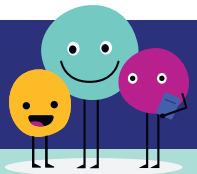
Theatre

Rokitz Entertainment
Cirque Mother Africa
 FAC Theatre
 Monday, 1 May | 7.30-9.20pm
 Tickets: \$59-\$79.90 (Families: \$279.60)



Dance

Frankston Arts Centre and Karul Projects
Silence
 FAC Theatre
 Friday, 5 May | 7.30-8.30pm
 Tickets: \$37-\$52



Frankston City Libraries

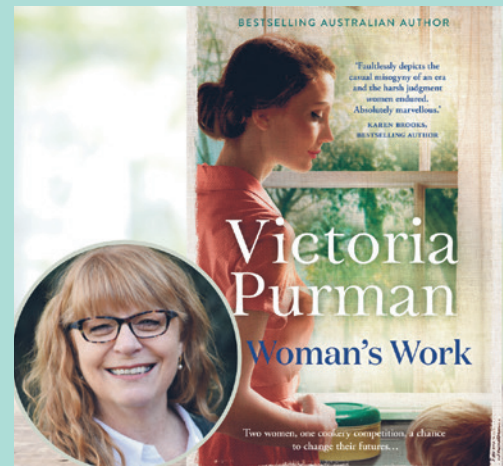
What's on



Downloading Library eBooks, eAudiobooks, Magazines and More

Thursday 23 March at Frankston Library

Open up the world of free library eResources, thousands of items available to browse, read, listen and watch. This session will help you to download library eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, Newspapers, Music, Movies and more on to your device.



FrankTALK with Victoria Purman

Monday 17 April at Frankston Library

Victoria Purman will join us once again with her newest book 'A Woman's Work'. Off the back of her hugely successful 'The Nurses War', 'Land Girls' and 'The Last of the Bonegilla Girls' we are thrilled to hear all about the extraordinary lives of ordinary women in a beautifully realised post-war Australia.



FrankTALK with Marion Hughes

Thursday 4 May at Carrum Downs Library

Local author Marion Hughes will join us at Library After Dark to talk about all things psychological thrillers, including her new novel 'I'm back'. Marion writes fast-moving, action-based thrillers with many twists and turns. Come along to ask questions and find out more about the writing process.

All events at Frankston City Libraries are free to attend, head to our website, via the QR code or call 9784 1200, to book your place.



Jack Lyons (Young Citizen of the Year), Mayor Nathan Conroy, Warwick Exton (Citizen of the Year) and Jodyea Belea, founder of the Women's Spirit Project (Community Group of the Year)

Frankston City honours its local heroes

Citizens of the Year share their views, hopes and aspirations

Citizen of the Year: Warwick Exton

Aged 100, he received a standing ovation when the Mayor announced Warwick as the winner at the Citizens of the Year Ceremony in January. He was awarded for his many years work in the restoration of the Sweetwater Creek Reserve and for having published a book about it at the age of 99. Warwick graciously moved to the stage and gave his acceptance speech with great pride.

"I must recognise our local people working at Sweetwater Creek which is part of Bunurong territory tied to the Kulin Nation and I respect these people and the work they've done for thousands of years."

I am a very proud of citizen of this country. We are an egalitarian society. We are equal people. Being egalitarian is that you treat other people the same way you want to be treated yourself. This is an important lesson, not just to talk about but do something about."

What can the rest of the world learn from Frankston City?

"That's a big question. Something we've managed to do is have community groups come together to look after the beach and the greenery. People come together to protect Frankston City."

Each year, we celebrate Frankston City's finest citizens. They are our local heroes who give back to the community in multiple ways across multiple sectors. We reached out to this year's winners, who told us – in their own words – what being a Citizen of the Year means to them.

Young Citizen of the Year: Jack Lyons

Aged 22, Jack is a trainee plumber, who runs marathons to raise money to support the charity Blessing Bags, providing essentials to the homeless in the Mornington Peninsula Region.

"As Young Citizen of the year, here are my aspirations for the year ahead. This year, I hope to continue to inspire and encourage people to be the best version of themselves. Currently I am running 50 marathons for 50 days, and in this, I am promoting people to do what makes them happy."

Challenges like this make me happy because I am able to push myself as well as encourage people to get up and get active which I believe makes people better. It doesn't necessarily have to be anything crazy like the marathons but if you can become the best version of yourself, the people around you will also become the same."

What can the rest of the world learn from Frankston City?

"I believe the rest of the world can learn from Frankston City that helping people in the community especially those less fortunate than ourselves is extremely fulfilling."

Community Award of the Year: Women's Spirit Project

Founded by local resident Jodie Belyea to inspire, empower and support vulnerable women who typically don't have access to affordable fitness, health and wellbeing activities.

"Since 2018, 79 women with a vision on a mission have volunteered their time to bring to life the Women's Spirit Project, a home-grown Frankston initiative, helping women doing it tough to transform their lives."

Our volunteers have contributed 15,000 hours and raised \$570,000 to support hundreds of women."

2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, and we will be taking a giant leap of faith and burrowing deep to ensure we have a future. Despite our collective effort, energy and passion our existence beyond 30 June is not guaranteed."

What can the rest of the world learn from Frankston City?

"From little seeds grow mighty trees! Frankston is a strong and vibrant community made up of people from all walks of life who are coming together to create a brighter future."



A tough choice

Liz Peddie and Jamie Pantling, who had been on the selection panel to choose this year's crop of Citizen of the Year, attended the Citizen of the Year Awards ceremony on Australia Day.

Jamie had seen a social media post, directly followed by a newsletter inviting people to sit on the panel: "That was a double whammy," she said.

"I just wanted to be involved in an awesome opportunity to learn more about what's going on in Frankston and help celebrate the people who are investing in our community."

Liz had just moved to the area and the pandemic hadn't really helped her to get out and about. She wanted to volunteer but, due to work, could only commit to one-off opportunities. Upon hearing of the Selection Panel she raised her hand to participate. "I work in local government elsewhere and found the way which Council selected its Citizen of the Year with a panel to be interesting," she said. "We ranked what we thought against the established criteria, and then discussed what we thought. We did come to a fairly unanimous agreement but there was debate along the way."

If you're interested in sitting on next year's panel, watch for the announcement in September-October issue of Frankston City News.



Ranger Tamara loves her job, but doesn't enjoy cleaning up after people's dogs

Ranger role suits Tamara to a T

Growing up in Papua New Guinea highlands, Tamara Keyte spent her days exploring the natural environment.

"I was that kid who'd be playing with rhino beetles, tarantulas or following a creek line seeking tadpoles for several villages," she said.

"My whole life, I've loved being outside and have had a passion for conserving the environment."

So it's really no surprise that Tamara is now one of the busy Frankston City rangers playing a key role in looking after our natural resources across the city.

Council employs 16 rangers to undertake coastal and bushland management activities that can range from hand weeding to creating fire breaks to working closely with local environmental groups.

Tamara says no two days are ever the same, which is one of the many reasons she loves her job. But she didn't jump into this career path immediately after completing her schooling.

"During my 20s I worked in wholesale management for a ceramic designer, and I remember staring out of the window of my Docklands office, wishing I was working outside," she said.

"When I was in my late 20s I travelled around South America. When I came back, I decided I needed to find a job that aligned with my values, so I spent 12 months exploring options and volunteering before I decided that this was the right path for me."

And she hasn't looked back in the ten years since saying goodbye to her office job.

Prior to joining Council in August 2021, Tamara was a contractor with many across

a few councils (including Frankston) and State Government agencies including Parks Victoria. She feels grateful to be part of the local team now and loves being part of long-term and short-term improvements across the city.

Tamara is also passionate about give back by supporting other women considering conservation roles.

"Ranger roles have been traditionally male dominated, but that is changing. At Council we have about a 50/50 split of male and female rangers, which is fantastic," she said.

"I've been involved in Women in Conservation mentoring programs to encourage more women to consider this as a career path.

"But what I always recommend to anyone interested is that they first try it out and see if it's right for them - there are lots of volunteer opportunities through local environmental groups - you can find out more by contacting Council's environment team."

And while she loves her job most days, there is one thing that Tamara doesn't love about it - the impact of people not cleaning up after their dogs in reserves.

"We often use brush cutters in reserves and if people don't clean up after their dogs, we end up covered in dog droppings, which isn't very pleasant, as you can imagine," she said.

"It's important for not only the natural environment but also the people who work in it, that people pick up after their pets. These reserves are our outdoor office."

For more info scan the QR code.



Benefits of Barretts Road upgrades

Lawton Reserve users and residents of Barretts Road and Clemac Close in Langwarrin South will soon benefit from improved road safety conditions, especially during the wet winter months.

Work began on the \$2.1million Barretts Road upgrade in late January and is due for completion in June. The project includes construction of new asphalt pavement for 1.2 kms from Robinsons Road, as well as:

- Upgrading indented parking at Lawton Reserve entrance
- Kerb and channel construction
- Upgrading stormwater drainage (655 meters of pipeline is made from 100% per cent recycled materials)
- New lighting
- Traffic calming devices (slow points)
- Some tree and vegetation removal (where necessary)
- New signage and linemarking

During the works, Lawton Reserve will be accessible for all sporting events during construction. However, some of the indented parking spaces along Barretts Road may not be available at times. Council received \$1.488 million through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) to deliver this much-needed road upgrade.

Coastal and Marine Management Plan

Frankston City Council is currently developing a Coastal and Marine Management Plan which will set out our vision, objectives and actions for the management of the Frankston and Seaford coastal and marine areas.

Stretching from Kackeraboite Creek in the South to Keast Park in the north our coastline is renowned as the most pristine and accessible stretch of foreshore on Port Phillip Bay. A fourth round of consultation begins later this year.

Scan the QR code for more info.



#FrankstonCity



Frankston's dolphin population is thriving



Jeff Weir OAM, monitors the dolphins in the area

Celebrating Dolphin Day on 14 April

Before Frankston City was nicknamed Franga or Funky Town, it was playfully called Dolphin City.

Birth of our logo

Home to the Dolphins Football Club since 1887, the area ditched its crest with Queen Victoria soon after officially becoming a City on 24 August, 1966.

Glenda Viner, President of the Frankston Historical Society, states the original Queen Victoria crest is at Ballam Park Homestead after being put to the wayside when Frankston adopted the dolphin logo we know so well.

"I'm not sure when the Council logo with the dolphin was adopted and who designed it, possibly Councillors in the 1970s. Back then, newspapers referred to Frankston as Dolphin City because of the excitement of the dolphins in the bay. There were boat tours to the dolphins, though these later slipped off a little."

Ms Viner said that the dolphin emblem became more prominent when Bayside Shopping Centre

opened and there was plenty of memorabilia created to celebrate the intelligent mammals our City is associated with.

Thriving sea mammals

Jeff Weir OAM, Executive Director of the Dolphin Research Institute (DRI), said that the Institute first got to work in the area in 1991. "We knew that Port Phillip had some resident bottlenose dolphins. There have always been around 100 to 120 of those and that hasn't changed at all for well over three decades," Mr Weir said.

"In 2005, our researchers picked up some common dolphins near Mornington. Now, what's unusual about that is that everywhere in the world they live in the open ocean, except Port Phillip. Here, about 10 took up home in Frankston, Mount Eliza, Mornington and the Mount Martha Area.

"And we've watched in amazement as many of those have had calves and have reproduced, and we've — just in this last bit — have recorded evidence of grand-calves being born. Mr Weir said that in order to thrive,

dolphins need food, a healthy habitat and protection from predators.

"What they've got here is basically all the things that they need, and there's not a great deal of predation that we know about."

The eastern side of Port Phillip becomes "an incredibly productive ecosystem" in the cooler months, however Frankston gets the warm months of summer. "The water is nice and warm," Mr Weir said. "We get some rain and nutrients coming into the bay."

Building a legacy

The DRI has a three-pronged focus, monitoring the dolphins and the whales, the marine environment and the community. The documentation of marine life in the area is fed into the Port Phillip Environmental Management Plan which has a lot of indicators "and the health of various species populations in the bay is an important part of that in terms of measuring what's going on".

"Awareness has little impact, what is needed is behaviour change and a higher level of understanding of

neuropsychology," Mr Weir said, pointing to the DRI's ambassadors program and the necessity of long-term projects as opposed to six-month campaigns. "So we've developed our dolphin distancing campaign. We're working with clubs and getting the community to commit to doing the right thing so we can change social norms."

Though there is concern about development in the area, Mr Weir believes that a large city doesn't necessarily exclude thriving marine life. "Frankston is growing, but we can have development and still preserve marine life," Mr Weir said, pointing to the need for a water sensitive urban design.

"The work we have done in the last two decades, especially with Melbourne Water, is probably the reason dolphins are there now."

Looking at the Frankston City logo and seeing a dolphin on it gives Mr Weir "the tingles".

"I think it symbolises that coastal connection for Frankston," he says.

Controlling rodents in our City

Did you know? Mice are prolific breeders — they can give birth to a litter of up to 10 offspring every 20 days.

To prevent plague numbers, a whole of community response is required.

You can help by:

- Inspecting your property to look for signs of infestation eg gnawing damage.
- Removing clutter, excess foliage in the garden, plumbing leaks, food

scraps, nesting sites or shelters.

- Sealing any holes or gaps around your home.
- Ensuring that rainwater tank inlets and overflows have screens installed.

If an infestation is found, Council recommends engaging a licenced pest controller. If you decide to undertake control methods yourself, always follow the manufacturer's directions.

Keeping our parks and sporting facilities green

The Monterey Recycled Water Scheme will deliver water to three public sites

North Frankston sports clubs and residents will benefit from a new pipeline delivering high quality recycled water to green spaces including sports grounds and reserves.

The Victorian Government announced \$1.3 million in funding towards the Monterey Recycled Water Scheme in

Frankston North, in partnership with Frankston City Council, South East Water and the National Golf Club.

The 2.3 km pipeline will deliver 73 megalitres — equivalent to 29 Olympic swimming pools — of water each year to three public sites, including the Monterey Reserve, the Pat Rollo Reserve and the Eric Bell Reserve.

Mayor Nathan Conroy said the Scheme “demonstrates Council’s

commitment towards delivering more efficient and sustainable water sources to recreation reserves and open spaces.”

“We are thrilled to be working with the Victorian Government and key stakeholders towards the irrigation of local parklands, reserves and sports grounds in Frankston City through this joint investment,” he said.

“Saving our precious drinking water

is essential to building community resilience and will ensure our community has ongoing access to green open spaces and outdoor recreational opportunities all year round.”

This development follows the completion of the Pat Rollo Pavilion and Monterey Reserve Soccer Pavilion last year, while construction of the new Eric Bell Pavilion is also underway.

Pool regulations to prevent drowning deaths

Victoria’s government introduced new laws for swimming pool and spa registrations on 1 December 2019.

These laws are aimed at keeping pools safer after alarming statistics showed drowning to be the leading cause of death for Australian Children in Australia’s National Drowning Report. Since safety

standards were implemented, cases have dropped.

Property owners are required to register swimming pools and spas within 14 days of completing the construction of a pool or installing a spa, this registration is accompanied by a ‘Certificate of Compliance’ followed by

four-yearly Compliance Certificate lodgement for the Swimming Pool and/or Spa.

Frankston City Council have commenced issuing of infringements to all property owners who have failed to register their pools which will be followed by substantially greater fines.

Good news for netballers

The netball pavilion at Lloyd Park, Langwarrin, is receiving a facelift in 2023, thanks to a State Government Grant from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV).

The project includes refurbishment of the existing pavilion as well as construction of an additional building next to the pavilion which will provide:

- a female friendly change room
- amenities
- first aid room
- and umpire’s room

The pavilion is home to the Langwarrin Netball Club and Langwarrin Football Netball Club and once complete, the upgrade will support the redeveloped netball courts and lighting by providing an appropriate standard of player amenities and support future growth in participation. The designs for this project have been developed in close consultation with the clubs as well as Netball Victoria. This is one of several improvement projects at Lloyd Park:

- The new two-storey \$6.5 million Lloyd Park Pavilion is currently under construction and will host a number of clubs on site. It is jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government.
- A new the senior football pavilion is currently in the detailed design phase and will be partially funded by the Australian Government.

Major upgrade for Ballam Park Athletics Track

Frankston City’s athletics stars have a spring in their step thanks to major upgrade funded by Council of the Ballam Park Athletics Track.

The \$1.22 million track surface renewal was necessary in order to comply with current World Athletics Standards and for athletics competitions to be able to continue at the Ballam Park track.

Ballam Park Athletic Committee President Iain Finlayson said the three user groups – Frankston Little Athletics Club (six to 16 years), Frankston Athletics Club (14 years to open age) and Peninsula Masters (30 years and over) — were rapt with the upgrade.

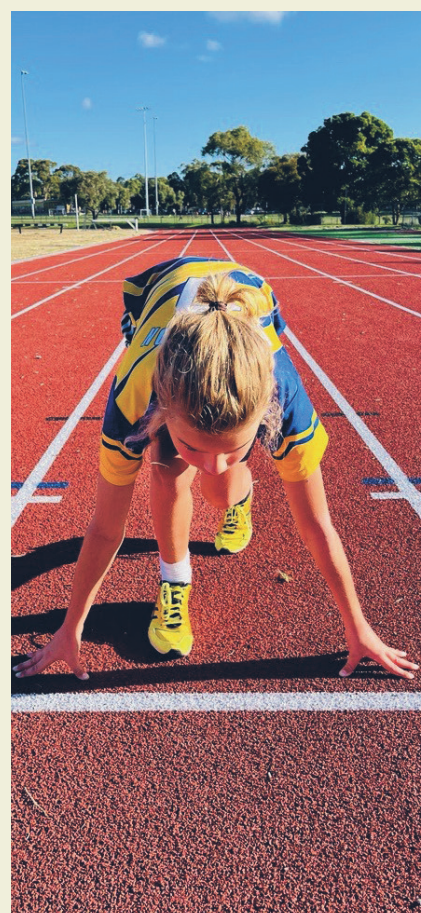
“It’s great to see the club members and general public being able to utilise what is now a pretty amazing facility.

“This means we can offer a far better user experience on the new track surface. We are already getting feedback from athletes of personal bests and expect many more as competition returns to the venue.”

Mr Finlayson added: “The feedback from the user groups is overwhelmingly positive and we also are seeing increased public and community interest.

“The training groups have returned in full force and the user groups have competition starting, too. The addition of the artificial turf area has been greatly received and is being well used by training groups and has become a social hub.”

The athletics track was upgraded after the previous track became worn and was declared unsuitable for competition.



To keep up to date with local sports project milestones, follow @FrankstonCityCouncil or visit: frankston.vic.gov.au