In January, 12 new youth councillors, aged 12 to 16 years old, have been elected to provide insight to council on a range of important issues affecting young people.

Our newly elected councillors are keen to tackle issues such as online bullying, equality, public transport, homelessness, the environment, and community safety.

It will be straight down to business for the councillors who will elect the City’s first junior mayor at the end of February.

As an official advisory group to council, they will play an important role in making recommendations to council about matters of interest to local young people.

Initial priorities for the youth council will include social and community connections, mental health, education and employment opportunities.

The youth council will meet at City Hall each month with its agenda shaped by the findings of the City’s annual youth survey, open to all young people in Greater Geelong. The group will also be responsible for organising an annual youth summit.

Congratulations to the successful youth councillors elected for each ward:

**Bellarine:**
- Elkin Wittenberg, 14
- Jaeger Fawcett, 13
- Josephine Horne, 15

**Brownbill:**
- Jesse Pappalardo, 16
- Lulu Joske, 12
- Matty Pisotsky, 13

**Kardinia:**
- Amelia Charleson, 13
- Georgia Delaney, 14
- Lainey Karih, 13

**Windermere:**
- Carmen Macleod, 15
- Erin Robertson, 12
- Logan Chandler, 16

Candidates were elected by youth advisory groups from across the region.

The introduction of a youth council was one of the recommendations of the Citizens’ Jury in January 2017, and was endorsed by the Victorian Government.
MAYOR’S MESSAGE

As a council, we know we won’t always please everyone. But one thing we are determined to do is listen to all points of view, and make decisions that we believe represent what our community wants.

Hard rubbish is a great example. Councillors heard a clear message that this was a service people really wanted, so we funded it in this year’s budget. We’re now looking forward to it starting in April. There’s more in this issue of Community Update about how the hard rubbish service will work, and I encourage you all to read up and make the most of it once it starts.

Continuing the theme of responding to our community’s requests, we’ve recently changed the rules at many reserves around the region to allow dogs to be off-leash, as long as they’re still under effective control by their owners. These changes were brought in as a result of a long community consultation process.

An important survey asking for your views about parking in central Geelong is now open. This is a topic that stirs up plenty of passionate discussion, and we want to make sure we take in as many viewpoints as possible before creating a long-term strategy.

Again, there’s more about how you can share your thoughts in the pages of this issue.

Autumn is a terrific time in Greater Geelong with lots to do – headlined by the Australian International Airshow at the start of March. Whatever your plans for the coming months, I hope you enjoy our beautiful region, and please get in touch with your councillors if there’s something you’d like to discuss. Our contact details are below and are also available on the City’s website.

Future leaders: The City’s new youth council with Mayor Bruce Harwood and Councillors Sarah Mansfield and Kylie Grzybek.

Provide feedback on the City’s performance

Each year the Victorian Government runs a survey on behalf of all local councils to measure the community’s perception of our performance over the past 12 months.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey involves 400 telephone interviews by an independent research agency, to randomly-selected residents.

You might receive a phone call during February and we encourage you to take this opportunity to provide your feedback on how we’re performing.

All responses and details remain confidential and are not shared with the City – we only see the overall results.

If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service team on 5272 5272.
**WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR**

The most stunning images of the natural world will be on display from March at the National Wool Museum.

The world-renowned Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition will showcase 100 award-winning images that capture a range of astonishing sights and fascinating animal behaviour.

The global exhibition, which draws on more than 50,000 entries from 90 countries, is on loan from the Natural History Museum in London.

It is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, highlighting the world’s incredible wildlife diversity since its inception in 1965.

Robert Irwin, the son of Crocodile Hunter Steve Irwin, is among the award-winning Australian photographers whose work is featured in the exhibition.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London. It will be shown at the National Wool Museum in Moorabool Street from 22 March to 14 July.

For more information and admission prices visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/nwm

Valter Bernadeschi – Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

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**TOURISTS CRUISE IN**

Geelong and the Bellarine continue to be popular tourism destinations with interstate and international visitors.

Whether it’s teeing off at one of our renowned golf courses, getting closer to nature at the You Yangs, feeling the sand between their toes, or savouring flavours from craft breweries, wineries and farm gate providores, people visit the region to enjoy our many attractions.

In 2017–18 we welcomed over five million visitors, who spent more than 4.1 million nights in the region. It’s safe to say that tourism is thriving and many businesses are directly benefitting from the impressive $936 million economic injection. With the recently opened international terminal at Avalon Airport, we’re expecting these figures to continue to grow.

Emerging tourism markets including international education, cruise ships and business travel are also on our radar. This summer, three cruise ships will berth in Geelong, bringing nearly 2500 passengers to our shores. Volunteers from Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine will meet and greet visitors and help them explore the best parts of our region to ensure their experience is one to remember.

**WANT TO EXPLORE YOUR OWN BACKYARD A LITTLE FURTHER?**

Head to one of our visitor information centres or visit www.visitgeelongbellarine.com.au

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**AIRSHOW 2019 SET TO SOAR**

Big business flies into Avalon for the Australian International Airshow.

There’s a lot more to this popular event than meets the eye! In addition to three public days of spectacular air and land displays, Airshow 2019 is also a key aeronautical and defence trade show.

The last event in 2017 delivered an estimated $22 million to our local economy, attracting more than 40,000 visitors from government, defence, procurement, and industry to Geelong.

An impressive $50 million of business sales resulted from the airshow, which had an overall economic impact of more than $150 million.

As the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, Airshow 2019 promises to deliver more big business for our region.

More than 600 exhibitors will showcase their products, services and technology alongside some of the world’s leading aviation companies.

There are also more than 40 conferences or seminars, flying demonstrations as well as industry and government meetings.

The Geelong Defence Alliance, supported by the City, will again showcase local industry and demonstrate Geelong’s capabilities.

The ‘Geelong zone’ will see the Geelong Defence Alliance and Deakin University join forces to show our defence industry readiness, from manufacturing to infrastructure and cutting-edge research.

The collaboration aims to highlight Geelong as a region that is a capable and logical home for large defence projects in areas such as engineering, advanced manufacturing, new materials, and information and communication technologies.

The Australian International Airshow runs from 26 February to 3 March. Tickets available at www.airshow.com.au

Valter Bernadeschi – Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

Sky’s the limit: As the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, Airshow 2019 promises to deliver more big business for our region.
GREATER GEELONG IS CURRENTLY FACING RECORD POPULATION GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The City’s Settlement Strategy predicts the Greater Geelong population will grow from 238,603 in 2018 to 387,900 in 2036. This is an exciting indication of a thriving future for Geelong, and the City’s role is to keep this momentum up by supporting sustainable growth efficiently and effectively.

The Better Approvals Project will cut red tape for business owners through a range of reforms, saving them time and money, and making it simpler to get small business approvals from the City. Some of the changes implemented so far include:

- A new business concierge to support businesses through the approvals process.
- A single application form that will save businesses time and can be completed online.
- Dedicated online support for businesses just starting or looking to grow.

Using feedback from business owners about barriers they’ve faced getting set-up and approved, Better Approvals will help business owners get back to what they do best – running their business. As one of the first councils to work with Small Business Victoria to implement the changes, we’re keen to see this initiative drive economic growth and encourage an even more vibrant mix of businesses to our region.

For more information, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/startingabusiness

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Last year we reviewed our planning, engineering and social infrastructure services. Feedback from residents showed that our current resourcing was inadequate to meet the growing needs of our community. That’s why this year we’ll be expanding our team of planners and engineers, to ensure we have enough skilled workers to deliver more customer-focus and greater efficiencies in planning for a prosperous future for our community.

Melbourne Design Week is Australia’s leading annual international design event. For the first time, as Australia’s first and only UNESCO designated City of Design, Geelong will host play host to a satellite program. The program will feature more than 20 events and includes keynote speakers, tours and exhibitions covering a broad range of topics including sustainability, urban design, innovation, access and inclusion.

Linking creativity with business and community, Design Week provides a platform for the Australian design industry to express, question, propose and will feature more than 20 events and topics including sustainability, urban exhibitions covering a broad range of topics. For the first time, as Australia’s leading annual international design event, Melbourne Design Week is Australia’s first and only UNESCO designated City of Design.

Geelong’s innovation potential in education, arts and culture, social inclusion and urban development. Places are limited and tickets will be allocated via expressions of interest. Thursday 14 March 2019 Geelong Library and Heritage Centre For more information, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/cityofdesign

DID YOU KNOW?

Last year there were 36,276 dogs and 11,598 cats registered in Greater Geelong.
**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**

**GEELONG NATURE FORUM – 16 MARCH 2019 AT THE GEELONG LIBRARY & HERITAGE CENTRE.**

Geelong’s natural places are world class. Did you know our region supports internationally-significant wetlands, fragile coastal landscapes, rare woodland and grassland vegetation, and precious threatened species? Not to mention a myriad of birds, animals, plants, insects, fungi and other lifeforms that inhabit our wild, and not so wild, spaces.

Discover more about our unique and magnificent wildlife at the inaugural Geelong Nature Forum.

The event is free but you must register to attend a session. For more information, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/events

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**BOOK-IN HARD WASTE COLLECTION TRIAL WILL SOON BEGAIN ACROSS GREATER GEELONG.**

From April, residents will be able to have their bulky household items picked up from their property. It’s free to book in, with the cost included in your waste collection charge. Bookings are compulsory and can be made from early March 2019.

The service aims to collect bulky items that are not accepted or don’t fit into the three-bin residential kerbside collection.

Items that will be accepted include couches and other furniture; white goods; computers; carpets and rugs. Small amounts of timber, scrap metal, roofing and guttering – all less than 1.5 metres in length – are also allowed.

Items that will not be accepted include mattresses, building materials, liquids, chemicals, asbestos, garden waste, commercial/industrial waste, bags of rubbish and car tyres.

The amount of hard waste collected must be less than three cubic metres in volume – equal to a pile three metres long, one metre high and one metre wide.

Residents are allowed one book-in collection each financial year through the trial, which runs until June 2020. See the full list of acceptable items and other details at geelongaustralia.com.au/hardwaste

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**WATERWAY RESTORED ON THE BELLARINE**

The City has nearly finished more than two years of restoration work at Griggs Creek – Clifton Springs and Drysdale’s largest natural creek and main stormwater catchment.

The creek, which winds 1.6 km alongside Jetty Road to the bay, was full of weeds and suffering from drainage and erosion problems before the rehabilitation started. As well as engineering works to stop erosion, we’ve planted more than 22,000 indigenous plants and removed obstructive weeds and trees from alongside the creek, which will allow native plants and trees to flourish.

This important creek is fed by springs from Lake Lorne and other small waterways and plays a critical role capturing stormwater for 853 hectares of Drysdale and Clifton Springs. Developed as part of the Jetty Road Urban Growth Plan, the rehabilitation has carefully considered new residential growth areas to the west of Jetty Road. This has included building 1.5 km of new pathways, a road bridge linking new developments to Drysdale and two pedestrian bridges so residents and visitors can enjoy the area without impacting the natural surrounds.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

Rejuvenated: Thousands of new indigenous plants along Griggs Creek in Clifton Springs will help restore this important area.

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**HAVE YOUR SAY**

**GEELONG’S WAR ON WASTE**

Across the nation we’re facing serious challenges in waste and recycling. We need to address these head on.

To help wage Geelong’s War on Waste, the City is developing a new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy this year.

The strategy will set our long-term waste management direction, and list actions to reduce waste in landfill and improve waste recovery efforts.

Before we begin designing the strategy, we’d like to hear your thoughts during February and March on four discussion topics which will inform the strategy in mid-2019.

For more information and to have your say, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/yoursay.

Your feedback will help shape our region’s draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know: More than 30,000 people work in central Geelong.

REVITALISING CENTRAL GEELONG

POTHOLE REPAIR TIMES CUT

POTHOLE REPAIR TIMES WILL BE CUT BY MORE THAN HALF ACROSS GREATER GEELONG.

Road repairs have been sped up thanks to new mobile technology and processes being rolled out across the region this year.

Following a successful trial in Geelong’s northern suburbs, initiatives from the City’s Roads to Success project will be used on all of the more than 1700 km sealed roads managed by the City. These improvements came about thanks to a customer-focused approach aimed at reducing the number of steps involved from when a pothole is reported, to when it’s repaired.

As the largest regional council in Victoria, the City completes about 5000 sealed road repairs and responds to around 700 requests for service from the public each year.

The City shares responsibility for maintaining our region’s roads with VicRoads. VicRoads maintains our main connector roads and highways, while the City looks after most residential streets and roads.

You can report all road issues through the Geelong City app, available from the App Store or Google Play; at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/roads or by phoning 5272 5272.

GHERINGHAP STREET STORMWATER DRAIN

The chance of flooding in central Geelong will soon be minimised with the Gheringhap Street stormwater drain upgrade set to start in early February.

A new 450 metre-long drain, to be built under Gheringhap Street to a new outfall into Corio Bay, will greatly reduce the impact of heavy rain in the CBD.

The drain will connect to the existing drainage network near Johnstone Park, and will include a stormwater litter trap system to reduce the amount of rubbish that ends up in the bay.

The major drain will be constructed using high-tech ‘micro-tunnelling’. Specialised machinery will bore an underground tunnel and push through each section of pipe to create the 1.8 metre-wide drain. This method is the most efficient, fastest, and least disruptive way to do these works.

If you’re coming into central Geelong during construction, be aware that traffic management will be in place to minimise the impact on drivers, cyclists and pedestrians in the area. All businesses will remain accessible throughout the project.

The Gheringhap Street drain upgrade project supports the rapid growth of central Geelong and is a key project of Revitalising Central Geelong, a partnership between the Victorian Government and the City. The project is expected to be finished by the end of 2019.

To find out more, visit www.revitalisingcentralgeelong.com.au

ACCESS FOR ALL IN CENTRAL GEELONG

This year we’re undertaking $1 million worth of works to make our city more accessible for all.

The Central Geelong Accessibility Improvements Project is happening this year as part of the Revitalising Central Geelong partnership program.

Funded by the Victorian Government, the project includes improved footpaths and new facilities in central Geelong and the Waterfront for people with disabilities.

These works will significantly improve movement and provide universal access throughout the city. Works will include replacing gravel footpaths in key locations with sealed pathways, installing changing place amenities in Westfield Geelong shopping centre and upgrading shopping centre entrances. The project is expected to be completed by 30 June 2019.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CAR PARKING

Reducing our reliance on cars to travel in and around the city is one of several ideas being explored in a new look at car parking and transport options in central Geelong.

With nearly 90 per cent of workers commuting to the city by car, demand for car parking continues to increase, bringing more traffic, congestion and noise pollution into the precinct.

A bustling, vibrant city needs to be supported by a strong parking and transport network – but what should that look like in the future? How can we make it easy to get in and out of the city for work, and shopping?

Your input will help shape a new central Geelong car parking strategy.

To have your say, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/your say before 29 March.
UPCOMING EVENTS

SAND IN THE CITY

Until 19 May at National Wool Museum
Looking to entertain the kids? There’s a beach at the National Wool Museum with Sand in the City – a playful, sand-filled, interactive installation that includes a whopping 1.8 tonnes of kinetic sand and 300,000 LEGO® bricks! Kids will love it. $30 Family (two adults, up to four kids).

IRONMAN 70.3 GEELONG

16–17 February at Waterfront Geelong
Watch or take part in IRONMAN 70.3 Geelong, a fast course triathlon designed to test those looking for a challenging event experience. For kids aspiring to be triathletes, the whole family can get involved in IRONKIDS – with an emphasis on safety, fitness and fun. It promises to be a great day out for everyone.

WIN AIRSHOW TICKETS!

1–3 March at Avalon
Want to be amazed as pilots take their aircrafts to the extreme at the Australian International Airshow 2019? We have five family passes (two adults and four kids). Enter at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/comp. Competition closes 12pm, Monday 18 February. Terms and conditions apply.

PAKO FESTA

23 February at Pakington Street, Geelong West
Don’t miss Australia’s largest free celebration of cultural diversity, including the Pako Parade. Featuring a massive program of non-stop free entertainment, international food, traditional dancing, live music, workshops, art exhibitions, children’s activities and loads more.

SIDNEY NOLAN’S ‘NED KELLY’ SERIES

2 March to 26 May at Geelong Gallery
Experience iconic art when Sidney Nolan’s Ned Kelly series comes to Geelong. For the first time in 15 years, the National Gallery of Australia’s Ned Kelly collection is touring the country and Geelong Gallery is the exclusive Victorian venue. This is a rare opportunity to experience Nolan’s famous image of Ned Kelly, developed in 1946-47.

GEELONG’S BIG PLAY DAY

18 March at GMHBA Stadium
A fun-filled day for those with preschool children. This family friendly event offers free, exciting, and interactive activities and entertainment for children. See the Maks, Krazy Koala Puppet Show, Nicholas Ridiculous Show and Dazzling Dan the Magic Man. Take part in story time, nature play, recycled play, music sessions and baby play.

HEAD OF THE SCHOOLGIRLS REGATTA

15–17 March at Barwon River, Geelong
Watch as more than 2000 competitors and thousands of spectators line the banks of the Barwon River for the prestigious Head of the Schoolgirls’ Regatta – the pinnacle event on the girls’ rowing calendar. It’s confirmed that the iconic event, hosted in Geelong since 1987, will stay in Geelong for another five years, until

FEBRUARY

15 and 22 Nightjar Festival Geelong, Johnstone Park
16 Great Australian Beer Festival, Geelong Racecourse
17 All Ford Day, Sutcliffe Reserve, Corio
23 Geelong Athletics Gift, Steampacket Gardens

MARCH

1 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong
1–3 Australian International Airshow, Avalon
2 Hyundai A-League Melbourne Victory V Newcastle Jets, GMHBA Stadium
3 Splashdown Family Fun Day, Newcomb
3 Barwon Heads Triathlon, Barwon Heads
3 Mardi Gras Street Festival, Little Malop Street West, Geelong
3 Strawberry Fair, Wallington Primary School
10 Bellarine Agricultural Show, Portarlington
10 MG Car Club display, Waterfront Geelong
14 March – 14 July Wildlife Photographer of the Year, National Wool Museum
17 Geelong Highland Gathering, Goldsworthy Reserve, Corio
24 Lara Food and Wine Festival, Pirra Homestead, Lara
30–31 Autumn plant sale, Geelong Botanic Gardens

APRIL

4 The Fall of the Roman Empire, Potato Shed, Drysdale
5 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong
6–18 Storyfest, various locations, central Geelong

For more information on any of these events, plus many more, visit www.eventsgeelong.com.au.
Tickets are subject to availability.

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Geelong’s best destination for events information!