A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

GEELONG’S MULTI-AWARD WINNING EXTREME ARTS WALK, MOUNTAIN TO MOUTH (M~M) RETURNS FRIDAY 4 AND SATURDAY 5 MAY 2018.

This unique event gives participants a chance to explore our beautiful region on foot, while taking in the work of many talented local, national and international artists.

Covering 80 km, from the You Yangs to the mouth of the Barwon River at Barwon Heads, M~M brings together art, sport and community to connect people with the land.

In the tradition of the Wadawurrung, M~M creates a contemporary songline with artwork, music and stories. In Indigenous culture, songlines are cues in the landscape used by traditional landowners to pass on knowledge, cultural values and wisdom about the land.

Whether you’re an art lover, a keen walker or just looking for an interesting challenge, M~M will be an experience you won’t forget.

Participants can start or finish at any of the 12 songline stations along the walk. Each station features a site-specific artwork.

M~M starts at the You Yangs, crossing Geelong’s industrial heartland before arriving in Central Geelong for Geelong After Dark, Central Geelong’s annual night of arts, transforming the streets, laneways and venues of the CBD.

At dawn the next day, the walk follows the Barwon River through rolling farmland, along the beach at Point Lonsdale and Ocean Grove to the river mouth at Barwon Heads for a spectacular closing ceremony at sunset.

In partnership with Gen-U, half of all registration fees will fund Greening of the Songline, a planting program along the 80 km route.

Register now at www.mountaintomouth.com.au

Geelong After Dark sheds new light on the City on Friday 4 May, 6.00pm–10.00pm.

• See laneways, street corners, buildings, parks and public spaces transformed in an illuminating event filled with extraordinary and unique art experiences.

• Thousands of people are expected in Central Geelong to witness edgy art, interactive performances, spoken word, illuminations, live music and flash mobs.

• Children and families will love the Amazing Arts Adventure, an interactive journey of clues leading to amazing discoveries.

IN THIS EDITION

3 SPORT AND REC

4 PLAYGROUND UPGRADES

5 CENTRAL GEELONG

7 JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

8 EVENTS
The council team is well into business with budget briefings, deliberation on community priorities for the Council Plan and our busy schedule of meetings.

Our new format Community Focus committee meetings are underway and we’re really pleased with this opportunity to get out around the region and hear from the community during the 45 minute question and submission period. We’ll also be available 30 minutes before the start of each meeting for an informal meet and greet with the community.

Judging by attendances, this format is popular with residents as well. We hope the community is getting the sense that we’re listening to them and working hard to make decisions that achieve the best outcomes for as many people as possible.

There’s a lot of momentum in Geelong at the moment with many projects and announcements that will significantly boost our region on a national and global scale whilst improving facilities for our local communities, including City Deals, Avalon’s international expansion, design services for Northern ARC (health and wellbeing hub), the opening of stage one of the Drysdale sporting precinct, and Leisuretime’s new outdoor synthetic pitch.

Along with many councils across Australia, we’re facing recycling challenges following China’s announcement of new restrictions on certain types of materials. Whilst our current recycling collection services will continue, we’re lobbying state and federal government to invest in and create incentives for medium and long-term solutions.

Council Plan 2018–21 is the key document that will guide the City’s activities over the next three years. The plan is taking shape around our commitment to put the community first.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for the Council Plan. Councillors, the City and the community all want to make Greater Geelong the best it can be during the next three years, and our focus is to make sure the Council Plan is relevant, achievable and financially sound. The community will have an opportunity to have their say on the Council Plan later this month.

Fortunately, with a strong team of unified councillors who want stability, our work to deliver for the community is gaining traction and we’re looking forward to seeing more positive results throughout 2018 and beyond.

The community’s priorities are at the centre of the plan, including:

- Economic growth in local areas
- Improved road connections
- Sustainable and connected pedestrian and cycling networks
- Options to ease parking demands
- Accessible community infrastructure
- Environmentally sustainable urban development
- Leadership in environmental initiatives
- Responsible financial management
- Potential sale of community assets that are unsustainable and could benefit future community infrastructure needs.
**SPORTS SET TO LIGHT UP IN DRYSDALE**

The wait is over for sports players and supporters in Drysdale with the region’s new multi-sport precinct now officially open.

In a major boost for sport in Drysdale and the Bellarine, the $6.7 million first stage of the project includes an AFL and cricket oval and a multi-use field with two soccer pitches, cricket practice nets and practice wickets.

In a first for community sports ovals in our region, the precinct uses a state-of-the-art LED sports lighting system, to light both the AFL oval and multi-purpose field.

The LED lighting system improves efficiency by distributing light exactly where it needs to go. It’s also better controlled, lowers glare and spills less light into surrounding areas. The system is cheaper to run and better for the environment, reducing greenhouse gases and using about 60 per cent less energy than traditional sports lighting.

Construction of the first stage of the precinct was funded thanks to the City ($3.2 million) and the Victorian Government ($3.5 million).

**KICKING GOALS AT LEISURETIME**

The City’s new $2 million multi-purpose synthetic pitch at Norlane’s Leisuredime Centre officially opens to the public from Tuesday 10 April.

The pitch will help soccer clubs train and play matches. It will also support regional programs and pathways as well as increase local opportunities for participation across a number of sports and activities.

One of just a few of its kind in Victoria, sports clubs and groups will benefit from the new facility, which features a full-size FIFA-standard outdoor synthetic pitch with LED flood-lighting.

Designed to complement the surrounding parkland, the pitch features nearly 7000 square metres of playing surface and has removable goals allowing multiple groups to use the space at the same time. It also features players’ and officials’ shelters and storage areas.

The pitch has been designed mainly for soccer but has the versatility to be used for other sports, such as touch football, ultimate frisbee and AFL 9s.


The project was jointly funded by the City ($1.4 million) and the Victorian Government ($600,000).
IT’S PLAYTIME!

WE’RE UPGRADING 12 PARK PLAYGROUNDS THROUGHOUT GREATER GEELONG THIS YEAR.

Be on the lookout for fresh and vibrant colours as new equipment is installed at playgrounds right across our municipality, from Lara and Norlane in the north to Drysdale and Ocean Grove on the Bellarine.

More than $500,000 will be spent on new slides, swings, monkey bars and other upgrades at these parks:

- Frank Mann Reserve, Ceres
- Ottoman Reserve, St Albans Park
- Kenwith Park, Newtown
- Richard Reserve, Lara
- Cuthbertson Reserve, Ocean Grove
- Goldfinch Reserve, Lara
- Barwon Valley Activity Centre, Belmont
- Hibiscus Reserve, Newcomb
- Bennett Reserve, Belmont
- Rosella Reserve, Norlane
- Drysdale Reserve, Drysdale and Moorak Park, Newtown.

Neighbourhood play spaces provide essential developmental opportunities for young people and valuable social connections for parents and families in our community.

Upgrades will start in April and are expected to be finished by the end of June 2018.

BIKE SURVEY ROLLED OUT

A survey on the Building Better Bike Connections project highlights community support for the development of two major bike connections linking central Geelong and our southern and western suburbs.

A total of 565 people completed the survey, which was open from 9 January 2018 to 16 February 2018.

Key findings of the survey relating to the southern link (which will connect central Geelong, Belmont and Waurn Ponds), include:

- 70.7 per cent supported the southern link project.
- More than 70 per cent rated the importance of the proposed changes to make it safer and easier for cyclists to travel in and out of central Geelong as seven out of 10, or higher.
- Of the respondents who said it would change the way they used the corridor, 63.7 per cent said the proposed plans would encourage them to ride their bike more.

All feedback is being considered as part of the detailed design process. The design for certain locations, in particular the High Street, Belmont section of the route (between Mount Pleasant Road and Roslyn Road) has not yet been determined and is being developed in consultation with the community, traders and key stakeholders. For the full survey results, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/betterbikeconnection

Key findings of the survey relating to the western link (which will connect central Geelong, Geelong West and Herne Hill)

- 81.1 per cent supported the western link project.
- 78 per cent rated the importance of the proposed changes to make it safer and easier for cyclists to travel in and out of central Geelong as seven out of 10, or higher.
- Of the respondents who said it would change the way they used the corridor, 85 per cent said the proposed plans would encourage them to ride their bike more.

1. Barwon Heads by Adam Stan Photography, with sand art from Breathe a Blue Ocean,

GET SNAPPING!

2019 GEELONG CALENDAR COMPEITITION NOW OPEN

We’re looking for stunning images that capture the beauty and diversity of our region for the 2019 Geelong Calendar.

It doesn’t matter if you’re a professional photographer or just handy with a camera or an iPhone, we’d love to see Greater Geelong through your lens. We’ll be shortlisting entries then asking the public to decide which photos will feature in the 2019 Geelong Calendar.

Your winning photo could be displayed on the walls of more than 100,000 homes – so it’s time to get snapping!

Enter now at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/calendar

STEP BACK IN TIME

Explore the City’s most iconic and historic buildings as part of the Australian Heritage Festival.

The City is hosting a free guided walk on Sunday 22 April at 2.00pm – starting at the Old Geelong Post Office. Numbers are limited.

For more information and to register your interest, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/yoursay or phone 5272 5272.
CREATING A VIBRANT GREEN SPINE

As one of Australia’s fastest growing regional cities, Geelong needs quality infrastructure and a modern, vibrant city centre.

Revitalising Central Geelong’s Green Spine project is transforming Malop Street, creating a shopping, recreation and dining destination in the heart of our city.

The project will also provide a much-needed upgrade to one of Geelong’s oldest streets.

Developed from community feedback received from the Vision 2 project in 2013, the Green Spine project will deliver a lively and inviting street and a linear botanic park, connecting Johnstone Park to Eastern Park.

The south side of the Green Spine, between Moorabool Street and Yarra Street, was completed late last year, and work has now started on the project’s north side.

A significant works program will be rolled out, including the addition of trees, garden beds and seating. The works also involve the complete reconstruction of Malop Street, which is more than 100 years old.

We expect Malop Street to be closed to through-traffic for about three months while the works are carried out, however all businesses will remain open and pedestrian access will be maintained, including the main crossing between Westfield and Market Square.

The north-side works follow the successful delivery of the Green Spine’s south side, with its spectacular eight metre-wide botanic walk and a separated bike path.

SHARING OUR LANEWAYS

FOLLOWING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WEST END LANEWAYS PRECINCT, A SECTION OF LITTLE MALOP STREET, FROM GHERINGHAP STREET TO MOORABOOL STREET, IS NOW A SHARED ZONE WITH A REDUCED SPEED LIMIT OF 10KM/H.

A shared zone is a road area that is shared by pedestrians, motorised traffic and bikes.

In a shared zone pedestrians have priority – motorists and cyclists must give way to pedestrians at all times.

Shared zones are a successful part of urban revitalisation in many cities around the world, increasing pedestrian activity and offering more usable space and efficiency for the businesses in smaller dining, shopping and entertainment precincts.

The signed shared zone extends along Little Malop Street, between Gheringhap and Moorabool streets, and includes James Street, Shorts Place and McLarty Place.

The Laneways Project has enhanced this popular eating and shopping area, transforming it into a thriving, bustling and busy precinct frequented by cars, cyclists and pedestrians during the day and into the evening.

To ensure everyone shares this space in a safe way, we ask that motorists and cyclists:

- Remain alert and give way to pedestrians at all times
- Stick to the 10km/h speed limit, displayed on signs throughout the shared zone
- Be aware of ‘no standing’ zones and remain clear of street furniture.

Pedestrians using the precinct should be aware that motorised traffic and cyclists share the laneways road space.

ENTERTAINING KIDS THESE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Kids’ construction tours and archaeological hunt.

Looking to keep your children amused these school holidays? Book a guided tour of Malop Street’s Green Spine and your children will see construction take place right before their eyes!

The tours, guided by the site’s foreman, include a chance to watch construction workers and get up close to diggers and trucks. After the tour, children can hunt for dinosaur bones to win some great prizes.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/RevitalisingCentralGeelong
IN BUSINESS, SAVING ENERGY = SAVING MONEY

ARE YOU A BUSINESS OWNER OR OPERATOR IN GEELONG?

Reducing energy consumption in your business will not only save you money, it’ll also help you create a more sustainable future and contribute to our low-carbon growth plan.

The City’s Future Proofing Geelong team is providing energy assessment grants for commercial buildings (owners and tenants) and manufacturing businesses in Geelong.

What do energy assessments include?

- How much energy your business uses
- How to lower running costs by reducing energy consumption (through LED lighting upgrades and heating/cooling changes)
- Free guidance from Future Proofing Geelong on how to implement changes
- Information on future grants.

The application process is simple, and those eligible will find out quickly if they’re successful.

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT

For more information and to apply for a grant, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/fpg or email Tina Perfrement tperfrement@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or phone 5272 5272.

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

Emergencies can happen to anyone, anywhere, and at any time of the year. So it’s important you know how to respond and who to contact in an emergency.

In a life-threatening emergency call triple zero (000) for police, fire or ambulance.

For storm damage call VicSES on 132 500. For damaged trees on nature strips contact the City on 5272 5272. If the tree is on your property and requires removal, contact a local arborist or a tree removal company.

In the unfortunate event of an emergency in Greater Geelong, we want to make sure you’re safe and know what to do before, during and after the emergency.

The City’s emergency management team plans and works with emergency services to minimise the consequences of any major emergency in our region, as well as providing support to residents during and after emergencies.

There are things you can do to prepare for an emergency, and which will assist you during and after emergencies.

For information on what to do before, during and after an emergency, visit:

- www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
- www.ses.vic.gov.au
- www.redcross.org.au

During emergencies, you should tune in to Victoria’s emergency broadcasters for information, updates and alerts:

- ABC Local Radio: 774
- SkyNews TV.

The City’s Parks and Gardens’ team developed the program to teach students about the benefits of increased tree canopies in our suburban areas – known as urban forests – and to give them a tree to plant in their own neighbourhood so we can all enjoy the benefits of having more trees.

Parks and Gardens manager Grant Baverstock said trees had a positive impact on our community.

“Trees improve the look, feel and liveability of our region and provide significant health benefits for our community,” he said.

Mr Baverstock said the program would result in hundreds more trees in our region, including on privately-owned land.

“About half the trees in Greater Geelong are on privately-owned land, and giving free seedlings to the students to plant will result in many more trees in our neighbourhoods and backyards.”

Mr Baverstock said the program had already proved successful, with more than 500 students booked to participate this year.

“We’re thrilled to see this program grow because more trees means more shade, better air quality and cooler temperatures in our neighbourhoods.”

The program is part of the City’s Urban Forest Strategy, which aims to increase tree canopy across Greater Geelong with a focus on planting more trees in suburbs that currently have low canopy cover, such as Whittington, Corio and Norlane.

To get involved in the Urban Forests Program, email Jenny Possingham at jpossingham@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or phone 5272 5272.

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YOUNG PEOPLE RISE TO NEW HEIGHTS

A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP JOB-READY YOUNG PEOPLE FOR GEELONG’S GROWTH INDUSTRIES WILL CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHANGE LIVES.

The City is working with local job services provider Gforce, local businesses and training and education organisations to deliver the Regional Focused Industry Sector Employment Program (RISE).

RISE is funded by Gforce Community Fund and brings together project partners Northern Futures, Whittington Works, The Gordon, Master Builders Association, Local Employment Learning Network, Hamlan and Porter Davis.

Northern Futures Executive Officer, Lyn Morgan, said Northern Futures supported education and job opportunities for disadvantaged residents in Geelong’s northern suburbs.

“Northern Futures works with government, industry and education providers to get local residents into education and employment that leads to sustainable long-term opportunities. We offer programs in warehousing, business administration, health services and engineering,” she said.

The RISE program will benefit people like Mohammed Maalim, 21, who recently started an apprenticeship with Newton bricklaying, a subcontractor for local builder Hamlan – a long-term partner of Northern Futures.

Mohammed finished school at North Geelong Secondary College, where he studied VET building and construction, before completing Northern Futures’ four-week trade taster program.

The trade taster program, held at The Gordon, gives participants a chance to try building and engineering trades, civil construction and warehousing, whilst also providing an opportunity for young people to hear first-hand from people working in the industry.

After completing the program, Mohammed decided bricklaying was the right career choice for him.

“It’s the thing I most want to do and I’m looking forward to completing my apprenticeship,” he said.

While the building industry is booming with an increase in housing demand across Geelong, there is a current shortfall of construction workers.

Geelong Master Builder’s committee member and general manager of Hamlan, Andrew Carroll, said there was great demand for trades but not enough young people undertaking apprenticeships.

“Together we have a great ability to train a sustainable workforce in Geelong – which is important for Geelong – and its success will be life-changing for these young people.”

Gforce CEO Rob Birch agreed, saying collaboration was the key to getting more young people into jobs.

“We have terrific education, training and support programs in Geelong, as well as local businesses willing to take on young workers; but the RISE program brings us all together to develop more targeted job pathways for young people.”

Solid foundations: Apprentice bricklayer Mohammed Maalim tried his hand at a number of trades before choosing bricklaying.

A PROSPEROUS ECONOMY THAT SUPPORTS JOBS AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

HELP US RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

The awards acknowledge young people who have made, or are making, a big contribution in our community across the areas of leadership, community work, personal care for others, social justice, sport and the arts.

Nominations are NOW OPEN for young people aged 12–25 who live in Greater Geelong.

If you know a young person who is doing great things, nominate them in one of the following categories:

- Arts and music
- Community citizenship
- Leadership/positive role model
- Social justice (advocacy)
- Sport
- Young carer award.

Young people under 16 need a parent or guardian’s permission before being nominated.

Nominations are open until Sunday 29 April.

Visit www.youthcan.vic.gov.au

MANAGING YOUR Pets ONLINE

REGISTER WITH YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE AT WWW.GEELONGAUSTRALIA.COM.AU/PETS

Update your pet’s details, get renewals electronically and pay via direct debit.

Animal registrations are due on 10 April.

“Paying online is so easy – it’s simple, fast and convenient.”

Sara, Highton.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have 34,719 dogs and 10,998 cats registered in the City of Greater Geelong.
PAW Patrol Live! ‘The Great Pirate Adventure’
All paws on deck to WIN with PAW Patrol Live! ‘The Great Pirate Adventure’ – coming to Geelong in June! Join the heroic pups on an all-new pirate-themed mission when they take the stage at the Geelong Arena for three PAWsome shows on Thursday 7 June.

This is an action-packed, music-filled production based on the top-rated animated preschool series PAW Patrol, which follows the pups as they embark on an adventure to uncover hidden treasure.

The performance is interactive, engaging audiences to learn pirate catchphrases, dance the pirate boogie and help the pups follow the treasure map and solve picture puzzles during their mission. Shows include two acts and an intermission.

TICKET GIVEAWAY
To celebrate PAW Patrol’s visit to Geelong, we have two family passes to each show up for grabs! That’s six chances to WIN! Enter at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/comp/comp.aspx

Entries close at midday on Monday 7 May, winners announced and competition drawn same day. Terms and conditions apply.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

30 March–6 April at Geelong Baseball Centre, Waurn Ponds

See Victoria defend its title when the annual tournament kicks off at the Geelong Baseball Centre. This is a FREE event and includes a women’s elite and a youth competition.

STORYFEST

3–15 April in Central Geelong

Experience a 13-day festival celebrating the magic of storytelling in all its forms. Activities include author readings, storytelling, Geelong’s Best Kid Busker competition, the Central Geelong Wall Art Trail, a book swap, arts and crafts, coding and gaming, exhibitions. For more information, visit www.centralgeelong.com.au/storyfest

GEELONG AFTER DARK

4 May in Central Geelong

Prepare to be surprised on this spectacular night of arts, where streets, laneways and venues in central Geelong are transformed by edgy art, exciting pop-up performances, installations and live music.

Geelong After Dark joins the award-winning Mountain To Mouth when it arrives in central Geelong. See cover page for more details.

NATIONAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

8–11 June in Portarlington

Experience a diverse arts festival that captures and unleashes the spirit and passion of Celtic culture. Regarded by many as Australia’s premier Celtic festival, it attracts thousands of people to Portarlington over the June long weekend.

APRIL

On now–15 April
The Little L Project (Leaellynasaura: Australia’s Little Polar Dinosaur), National Wool Museum

On now–13 May
53rd Wildlife Photographer of the Year, National Wool Museum

3, 7, 10, 14
Geelong’s Best Kid Busker, Little Malop Central

5
The Nutcracker (Moscow Ballet), GPAC

6
Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Central

6
The Umbilical Brothers – Speedmouse, GPAC

7
Glorious, Potato Shed, Drysdale

8
Geelong Half Marathon, Barwon River

10–13
Cinderella, Potato Shed, Drysdale

15
Ride the Bellarine, Eastern Park

15
Geelong Cats v St Kilda, GMHBA Stadium

17
Beatles tribute show, Potato Shed, Drysdale

18
April–20 May National Trust Heritage Festival, various locations

20
Rouge Romantic, Potato Shed, Drysdale

21
Jimeoin – The Ridiculous, GPAC

21–28
Under 18 National Junior Championships (basketball), The Geelong Arena

25
ANZAC Day commemorative services and marches, various locations

26
Geelong Cats v Sydney Swans, GMHBA Stadium

28
Basils Farm Autumn Gardening Workshop, Basils Farm

29
State Kyokushin Karate Championships, The Geelong Arena

MAY

1–31
May Magic, Central Geelong

1
Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Central

2
Barry Humphries – The Man Behind the Mask, GPAC

3
Julia Morris – Lift & Separate Golden Jubilee Tour, GPAC

15
Alfred Deakin’s Women, Potato Shed, Drysdale

20
RSPCA Million Paws Walk, Eastern Park

26
Geelong Cats v Carlton, GMHBA Stadium

27
Reconciliation in the Park, Johnstone Park, Geelong

29
Hungry Ghost, Potato Shed, Drysdale

JUNE

1
Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Central

2
Barry Humphries – The Man Behind the Mask, GPAC

3
Julia Morris – Lift & Separate Golden Jubilee Tour, GPAC

8 June–25 August
Scarf Festival – Living on the Land, National Wool Museum

8–11 National Celtic Festival, Portarlington

BE THE PERSON WHO HEARS IT FIRST!

Sign up to receive our newsletter today at www.eventsgeelong.com.au