This year’s theme Heighten Your Senses is an invitation for you to surrender to and embrace the unknown.

Artists have created artworks exploring sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, and even our sixth sense – intuition, to inspire and engage us.

The City’s Arts and Culture team with funding from Creative Victoria, has engaged with Deakin University to produce three art installations allowing people to literally step into and immerse themselves in artworks.

Now in its fifth year, Geelong After Dark will once again transform the city with interactive art, street performances, installations, music, exhibitions and projections – you can even eat an oyster to help restore our bay.

Think of central Geelong as a blank canvas where artists will show you new ways to experience the existing spaces, buildings and laneways, reminding us that culture and creativity is the heartbeat of our community.

Last year’s event saw 20,000 people drawn into central Geelong, highlighting our community’s eagerness to embrace our clever and creative side.

Our city has been redefined as an arts and culture capital, and Geelong After Dark is one of the many hallmark events that clearly demonstrates why we are Australia’s only designated UNESCO City of Design.

Watch our city’s creative side light up when we meet you After Dark.
MAYOR’S MESSAGE

Waste. We all create it, and what we do with it is one of the biggest challenges facing communities around the world right now.

Recent events have shown that Geelong is certainly not immune to this issue. When SKM Recycling was forced to stop processing for three weeks, it left the City of Greater Geelong in a tough position.

Our resource recovery centres in Geelong and Drysdale continued to operate, accepting items such as computer equipment and whitegoods. But we were forced to send all material from our community’s yellow bins to landfill.

Our staff looked at every possible option to find a recycling alternative, including other providers in Victoria and sending recycling interstate, and none were feasible. Thankfully, SKM is now back up and running, but the episode showed just how precarious the whole situation is.

Make no mistake: your council is prioritising this problem and doing everything we can to take long-term pressure off our landfill site at Drysdale. Putting waste into the ground is the least palatable option, and we’re determined to minimise it. However, we also need urgent action from state and federal governments. Victoria needs serious investment into recycling sorting and processing facilities, plus research and development to drive demand for recycled products.

But by far the best way to reduce this problem is for businesses, households and us as a community to cut the amount of waste we produce in the first place.

Avoid plastic bags at the supermarket, drink out of the tap instead of from single use water bottles, look to sell or give away your unwanted goods rather than throwing them out. These are just a few of many small changes that could make a big cumulative difference if we all get on board.

Waste is everyone’s issue, and it will take action from us all to win the war.
Children’s services and community hubs were a key focus of council’s 2018–19 Budget, with $78 million allocated to a range of facilities. Supported by funding from the Victorian Government, more than $50 million is being spent to rebuild or upgrade centres in Armstrong Creek, Corio, Drysdale and Leopold.

There is also a new $5.5 million centre in Highton, which was officially opened on 15 March by Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews and Geelong Mayor Bruce Harwood.

The jointly-funded Highton Child and Family Centre in Belle Vue Avenue received $3.9 million from the City, with a $1.6 million contribution from the Victorian Government. The new five-star energy rated building includes:

- a double room kindergarten, catering for 66 children, with an adjoining play space
- two maternal child health consulting rooms, with a dedicated waiting room
- a multi-purpose room for children’s playgroup activities, with a separate play space, and
- an after-school care option.

The project helps meet strong local demand, with Highton having the largest number of children aged four years or under in a single suburb within Greater Geelong.

Those young families now have access to a wide range of services at the one-stop centre. Operating at the site are the relocated Highton Pre-School, Roslyn Playgroup and the City’s Maternal and Child Health service.

Bellaire Primary School will be offering an after-school care option from Term 2.

The construction of a new community hub to replace the outdated centre is progressing well. The facility is expected to be completed in mid-2019.

Shaping the future: The new $5.5 million Highton Child and Family Centre is now open.

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YOUNG START-UP AND CREATIVE BUSINESSES ARE RE-ENERGISING CENTRAL GEELONG THROUGH THE RENEW GEELONG PROJECT.

From film, jewellery and furniture makers to graphic designers and pet retailers, Renew Geelong is bringing creativity to central Geelong and kick-starting the careers of entrepreneurial creatives.

The project, funded by the City and Creative Victoria, connects owners of vacant properties with creative new businesses, with the aim to activate otherwise empty spaces in the city.

Creatives are given free access to these spaces to showcase and develop their work, sell their products and build their businesses. The activation of the spaces also benefits surrounding businesses, bringing vibrancy and more foot traffic to the area.

The Renew Geelong Concept Space at 105 Moorabool Street plays host to several creative businesses, including a monthly rotating exhibition.

Sustainable jewellery maker Karina Leddin, from Mangata Jewellery, is currently in store selling her unique pieces.

Karina says the Renew Geelong space was very helpful for her business, giving her the opportunity to showcase her sustainable jewellery and connect with other creative people.

Another Renew Geelong space is located at the Belcher Arcade, 171 Moorabool Street, provided free of charge by Up Property.

Several creative businesses are currently in residence at this site, including art installation company the Indirect Object, filmmakers Legio-Centurion Films, graphic designer Christopher de Hoog, from Hoog Design, dog bandana company, Byron & Co; and tailor, SuitsWell.

To find out more about Renew Geelong, visit www.renewgeelong.org or contact local project manager Andrea Bruce on 0466 389 577.

THERE’S BEEN A LOT OF COMMUNITY CONCERN RECENTLY ABOUT HOMELESSNESS AND PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH IN OUR REGION, PARTICULARLY IN CENTRAL GEELONG.

Homelessness and sleeping rough can be caused by many factors, not always limited to unemployment, addiction or mental health issues.

It’s something that can happen to anyone and can be a result of bad luck, bad timing, or one-off events such as a house fire, family breakdown or the end of a tenancy.

Unfortunately, there’s no easy fix to homelessness. It’s a complex nation-wide issue that needs to be addressed by community service providers in partnership with all levels of government.

The City will continue working together with other agencies to find a long-term meaningful solution for those who are struggling to find housing or are sleeping rough in Geelong.

Our region’s population growth and rising housing prices – both generally signs of a positive economy – have exacerbated the problem and created a greater demand for social housing.

That’s why this year we’re developing a social housing plan, thanks to funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. The plan will identify social housing needs and suitable land, as well as propose some options to increase the amount of appropriate and accessible housing available in our region.

We will be hosting a community forum in mid-June to discuss the current and future needs of social housing in our region. Keep an eye out at www.geelongaustralia.com.au for more information.

CRISIS ACCOMMODATION:
- Salvo Connect – Adult and Family Accommodation Services, phone: 1800 825 955
- Barwon Child Youth Family – Youth Accommodation Services (15 – 25yrs), phone: 1800 825 955
- Samaritan House – Men overnight, phone: 5248 3227 / 0407 341 025
- Haven Home Safe, phone: 5246 8900 (BH)

LONG-TERM COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL HOUSING:
- Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Housing, phone: 5226 4540
- NEAMI – home plus Geelong project, mental health assistance, phone: 1300 275 811

For any illegal or antisocial behaviour contact Victoria Police, phone: 000
DID YOU KNOW?

The City’s garden organics facility will handle about 35,000 tonnes of green organics collected from residents each year.

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE

GEELONG’S WAR ON WASTE

Major challenges facing the waste and recycling industry will be tackled head-on through a new long-term strategy.

The strategy will set the City’s long-term goals to reduce waste and increase the rate of recoverable material being diverted from landfill.

To help fight Geelong’s War on Waste, the strategy will aim to limit the amount of food waste that is sent to landfill.

A household audit in 2018 found that food organics made up a third of the material in residential red lid bins.

The potential creation of a food organics collection service and a greater opportunity for social welfare agencies to access discarded food are among the options to be explored.

Public consultation, carried out over February and March, showed that the community supports a food organics collection.

Respondents were also keen to see the City’s plan for the infrastructure needed to meet future demand for our waste services.

Public input will help shape the draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, which will be released later this year.

For more information visit oursay.org/geelongwaronwaste

REDUCE, REUSE, RETHINK!

HELP US REDUCE THE BURDEN OF WASTE ON OUR ENVIRONMENT. HERE ARE SOME TIPS:

- Say no to straws, disposable coffee cups and plastic takeaway containers
- Buy bulk food and refills to reduce your packaging
- Unwanted items still in good condition? Donate or sell them online.
- If you do get a takeaway container, wash and keep it as stackable storage for frozen food
- Wash glass jars and use them again for storage. Or give them to someone who makes jam!

GREEN GREATER GEELONG:

GARDEN ORGANICS PROCESSING FACILITY UP AND RUNNING

Our new $3.5 million Garden Organics Processing Facility in Anakie is now up and running.

The new facility processes all of the Greater Geelong’s garden organics, collected through our residential green bins.

As a certified One Planet Living Council we’re committed to leading the way in creating a more sustainable future and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

It’s important to remember what goes in your green bin because each year we spend about $700,000 removing plastic and other rubbish from garden organics bins.

HARD WASTE MADE EASY

A BOOK-IN HARD WASTE COLLECTION TRIAL HAS BEGUN ACROSS GREATER GEELONG.

Bookings for the service are compulsory and can be made online at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/hardwaste or by calling 5272 5444 during business hours.

The 15-month trial, which began 1 April, has proven very popular since bookings opened in March.

The service is collecting bulky items from residential properties that are not accepted or don’t fit into the three-bin residential kerbside collection.

Residents are encouraged to place their hard waste within their property line.

This deters others from adding to your pile, which could see it exceed the allowable amount of three cubic metres or introducing items that are not accepted.

It also discourages scavenging and helps maintain a tidy street.

You can find more details about the service at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/hardwaste

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WHAT YOU CAN PUT IN YOUR GREEN BIN:

- Grass clippings
- Tree branches
- Leaves and weeds

WHAT WE CAN’T PROCESS FROM YOUR GREEN BIN:

- Timber
- Plastic bags and pots
- Food waste
- Garden equipment

WHERE YOUR GREEN WASTE GOES:

- City parks
- Sports grounds
- Farms and agricultural areas

GREEN GREATER GEELONG:

GEELONG’S WAR ON WASTE

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MORE POWERFUL TOGETHER

On International Women’s Day this year we proudly launched Ba-Gurrk: A Gender Equity Framework for the Greater Geelong region.

The word ‘Ba-Gurrk’ is Wadawurrung for woman, and pays homage to Wadawurrung traditional owners. The framework aims to eliminate barriers faced by women, and acknowledges the crucial role that more than 120,000 women and girls have in our region’s economy and community.

Ba-Gurrk also acknowledges many people across our region who work to enhance women’s safety and wellbeing, increase female leadership and participation opportunities, and improve women’s economic status. You can read the framework at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/bagurrk

RECOGNISING WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

The City’s annual Women in Community Life Awards have celebrated the stunning triumphs and far-reaching influence of Geelong women.

Held on International Women’s Day in March, the annual awards recognise the wide-ranging achievements of women across Greater Geelong.

Among the six award winners was teenager Mietta Scarlett, who received the First Nations Woman in Community Life Award. The 18-year-old, who completed Year 12 last year, was recognised for her guidance, advocacy and mentoring of young Aboriginal girls.

Mietta has a leadership role with the Deadly Dancers dance troupe and is an influential figure in the Strong Brother Strong Sister program.

She encourages and teaches younger girls to develop pride of culture and a strong sense of identity.

Other winners were Jacqui Pierce, Karen Anderson, Justine Martin, Courtney Hart and Bec Picone.

The annual awards were hosted by the City’s Women in Community Life Advisory Committee, which is on the lookout for new members.

For more information about the committee and this year’s award winners, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/womenincommunitylife

GEELONG PUTS ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD

Last October, almost 9000 students from 38 local primary schools chose to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school for VicHealth’s Walk to School day.

The day was a huge success, spreading the message of the long-term health benefits of getting active.

The day also highlights how more people walking to school can significantly reduce traffic congestion at pick-up and drop-off times.

With the support of the City, Walk to School participation rates have grown from 193 students in 2012, to 8807 students in 2018.

On Friday 17 May it’s Walk Safely to School Day and we encourage everyone to get involved! Register at www.walktoschool.vic.gov.au to be part of the state-wide movement.

SHAPING GEELONG’S NEW CIVIC PRECINCT

WE’RE BUILDING A NEW CIVIC PRECINCT AND MEETING PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE OF GEELONG AT 137 MERCER STREET IN GEELONG.

Its close proximity to Geelong Railway Station, Deakin University and the new Convention Centre will make it an ideal ‘welcome corridor’ and meeting place for residents and visitors to our great city.

The precinct is expected to include:

- consolidated offices for 800 staff
- public spaces to be enjoyed by the community

WE’RE CURRENTLY SEEKING COMMUNITY VIEWS ON HOW TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE CIVIC PRECINCT THAT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY CAN USE AND ENJOY.

To have your say, please visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/civicprecinct

HAVE YOUR SAY

Celebrating women in our community: Mietta Scarlett won the City’s First Nations Woman in Community Life award.
CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDER WAY ON THE GHERINGHAP STREET DRAIN UPGRADE PROJECT.

Work sites have been established at the Mercer Street end of Gheringhap Street as well as at the waterfront carpark. Key traffic changes along Gheringhap Street are in place and will run for the duration of the project.

The major drain, to be built along Gheringhap Street to a new outfall into Corio Bay, will greatly reduce the frequency of flooding and the length of time surface flood waters impact the CBD, benefitting local businesses, residents, visitors and developers.

The new 450m long drain will be constructed using a high-tech ‘micro-tunnelling’ machine that is now on site and has begun tunnelling. This method provides the least disruption to the area and allows the waterfront carpark, the skate park and all businesses along Gheringhap Street to be accessible. Make sure you continue to visit your favourite businesses in the area while the project progresses.

The Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership, comprised of officers from the City of Greater Geelong and Victorian Government, is delivering the Gheringhap Street Drain Project.

The project supports the rapid growth of Geelong and forms part of the Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan. It’s expected to be finished by the end of 2019.

For more information visit www.revitalisingcentralgeelong.com.au or register for project updates by emailing rcg@geelongcity.vic.gov.au or calling on 5272 6161.

WORKS TIMELINE
- **SITE ESTABLISHMENT** - February 2019
- **TUNNELLING AND PIT CONSTRUCTION BEGINS** - April 2019
- **TUNNELLING FINISHES** - July 2019
- **PIT AND OUTFALL WORKS COMPLETE** - November 2019
- **LANDSCAPING** - December 2019

COLLABORATION TAKES OFF

WITH INPUT FROM MORE THAN 16,000 COMMUNITY MEMBERS, OUR 30-YEAR CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION IS THE BLUEPRINT FOR OUR REGION’S FUTURE.

Taking off: Air Asia’s international flights mean Avalon Airport is expecting more than 500,000 passengers this year.

A little more than a year since it was developed, we’re already seeing it put into action. A great example is the commencement of international flights from Avalon Airport.

AirAsia and Avalon Airport have partnered to offer international flights in 2018, with the first international flight touching down at Avalon in early December.

AirAsia is the first airline to operate international flights at Avalon Airport, connecting our region to more than 130 destinations throughout Asia. At least 500,000 international passengers are expected to move through Avalon Airport this year.

Thanks to this partnership, international passengers will have easier access to our region, providing a huge opportunity for our tourism industry. It also provides easier and affordable access to international travel for people living in Geelong.

A fast, reliable and connected transport network is one of the top priorities in our 30-year community-led vision for Greater Geelong.

To read more about what the community is doing to achieve our vision of being a clever and creative city-region visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/clevercreative

Never miss a beat...

Download the Central Geelong app

Get FREE WIFI every time you’re in Central Geelong

An initiative of Central Geelong Marketing

DID YOU KNOW?

5.8 million people visited Greater Geelong and the Bellarine last year.
UPCOMING EVENTS

WIN TICKETS TO SIDNEY NOLAN’S ‘NED KELLY’ SERIES

Until 26 May at Geelong Gallery

To celebrate the National Gallery of Australia’s collection of Sidney Nolan’s ‘Ned Kelly series’ now on display at the Geelong Gallery, we’re giving away six double passes! Enter at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/comp/comp.aspx Competition closes 12pm, Thursday 2 May. Terms and conditions apply.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Until 14 July at National Wool Museum

This world-renowned exhibition is now open! On loan from London’s Natural History Museum, the exhibition features fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breathtaking diversity of the natural world. Wildlife Photographer of the Year is the most prestigious photography event of its kind.

3X3 PRO HUSTLE TOUR 2 – GEELONG

12-14 April at Steampacket Gardens, Geelong

The nation’s best 3x3 ballers featuring NBL, WNBL, and State League players will be showcased in a purpose-built outdoor stadium transforming Steampacket Gardens. Free to watch. Features live music, street artists, kids zone, food trucks, skills challenges, and celebrity appearances.

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATIONS

25 April, various location

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.” 101 years since the end of WW1 and 74 years since the cessation of WW2, the Geelong ANZAC Day March travels along Malop Street from 11am, concluding in Johnstone Park with a commemorative service at 11.45am. City Hall projections begin from 6pm.

MOTHER’S DAY CLASSIC

12 May at Waterfront Geelong

Register now to participate. Help make Mother’s Day memorable and meaningful alongside your family and friends – while supporting the National Breast Cancer Foundation. This event is designed for fun! Don’t expect to be breaking speed records. It is all about participation and encouraging people to walk, run or volunteer.

NATIONAL CELTIC FESTIVAL

7–10 June at Portarlington

Tune in to Gaelic songs and stories, bagpipes and bodhráns. Check out over 65 acts across 12 venues showcasing music, song, dance, theatre, comedy, pipes and drums. Participate in workshops, master classes, forums and music sessions. Explore the market area with emerging designers, Celtic goods, and local produce.

APRIL

On now (until 19 May)

1 Sand in the City, National Wool Museum
2-3 Street Eatz, Eastern Park
5 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong
6–18 Storyfest, various locations, Central Geelong
8 Melbourne Transformers Show and Meet and Greet, Courthouse Youth Arts Centre
11 Easter Egg Hunt, Potato Shed, Drysdale
13 Geelong Cats v GWS Giants, GMHBA Stadium
13–14 A Day Out with Thomas, Bellarine Railway, Drysdale
14 Geelong Half Marathon, Barwon River, Geelong
20 Sheepwash Classic Fun Run, Barwon Heads
20-21 Easter Bunny Train, Bellarine Railway
25–28 ANZAC Projections, City Hall
28 Geelong Cats v West Coast Eagles, GMHBA Stadium

MAY

1-31 May Magic, Central Geelong
3 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong
18 Geelong Cats v Western Bulldogs, GMHBA Stadium
19 RSPCA Million Paws Walk, Eastern Park
26 Geelong Botanic Gardens Open Day
27 (until 3 June) Reconciliation Week
31 Alice in Wonderland, Potato Shed, Drysdale

JUNE

1 Geelong Cats v Sydney Swans, GMHBA Stadium
2 Reconciliation in the Park, Johnstone Park, Geelong
7 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong
7–10 National Celtic Festival, Portarlington

*Dates and ticketing info researched and presented with due care and attention.

GEELONG VOTED NUMBER ONE!

Geelong’s IRONMAN 70.3 event has been voted number one in the world.

Our event outranked all 105 IRONMAN 70.3 series events in 2018. Geelong’s event took top honours following feedback received from 55,000 participants.

BE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS IT FIRST!

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