Geelong Design Week is inviting organisations and community groups to host workshops, talks, tours and exhibitions to explore new ideas, challenge what is possible and showcase our achievements in design and innovation.

Geelong – UNESCO City of Design
Geelong is Australia’s first UNESCO City of Design, an evolving, dynamic city with a deep sense of place and a strong industrial past. We embrace change to build a clever and creative future.

Geelong’s Design-Driven Future will be Showcased at Geelong Design Week 2020.

We are calling for organisations, community groups and individuals to participate as hosts in the first ever Geelong Design Week to be held from 19 to 29 March 2020.

The week will focus on how design impacts our daily lives, and how thinking outside the square and doing it differently can make life better.

This is an opportunity to engage with a wide audience, celebrate our design history, learn from new experiences, and discover our vitality and character - the core of what we do differently.

Come along to our information sessions on 19 and 20 August to learn how you can get involved as an event host. Geelong Design Week will raise awareness of our global recognition as a UNESCO City of Design and our commitment to building a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive community.

The event will be a key milestone in our journey to achieving the community’s clever and creative vision for Geelong. geelongaustralia.com.au/clevercreative

Event Host Information Sessions
Monday 19 August
6.00pm–7.00pm
National Wool Museum
26 Moorabool Street, Geelong

Tuesday 20 August
9.30am–10.30am
Creative Geelong
132 Little Malop Street, Geelong

Register at: geelongdesignweek.eventbrite.com.au
MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Your council is continuing to push strongly for the state and federal governments to start building a fast rail connection between Melbourne and regional Victoria (including Geelong) straight away.

Recently we released a detailed report: Stronger Together. It makes the case for a program of French-style fast, high-capacity, high-frequency electrified commuter rail to Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton and the Latrobe Valley.

The case for this is simple: Melbourne now represents around 20 per cent of the national economy and 30 per cent of national growth, yet its liveability and access to opportunity is under challenge, especially in its far outer suburbs.

And while Melbourne has boomed, regional Victoria has retained the lowest-growth economy in the nation for over a decade.

Here in Geelong, we are getting further away from Melbourne in commuting terms due to rapid population growth in both cities, an increasingly overloaded passenger rail service, and a congested freeway.

Keeping our beautiful city and region liveable is a losing battle under these circumstances. Many other wonderful regional cities are facing similar challenges.

The Stronger Together report finds that fast rail could make regional Victoria an attractive and reliable living proposition for Melbourne workers, encouraging an extra one million people to choose regional life by 2050. This would save Melbourne around $800 million per year of congestion costs.

For someone living in Geelong or Ballarat, fast rail would save seven full working weeks every year in commuting time compared to travelling by car.

If this project is built in parallel with the Melbourne Airport Rail Link, it is both affordable and achievable.

Our continuing message to the state and federal governments is that we can’t afford to wait any longer. They must begin work now, and kickstart a transformation of both Melbourne and regional Victoria.


The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges the contribution of Professor Jane den Hollander AO, who retired from her position as Deakin University Vice Chancellor in June.

Through her extraordinary drive and vision, Prof. den Hollander has made a long-lasting impact on the university and on our city as a whole. Thank-you, Prof. den Hollander, and best wishes for the future.

Image: Professor Matthew Barnett, Professor Taha Kocaturk, Professor Jane den Hollander and Mr Brett Wisham at the Circular Economy Lecture.

This publication is part of the City’s ongoing commitment to improve our communication and engagement with our residents. We make every effort to ensure the information included is accurate at the time of publishing, but it may be subject to change. If you have any ideas to improve Community Update please email: communityupdate@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

[Contact information and meet with us details]

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Here are the City of Greater Geelong’s 11 councillors and their portfolios. Councillors can assist you with any queries in these areas.

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<tr>
<th>COUNCILLOR</th>
<th>PORTFOLIOS</th>
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<tr>
<td>CR BRUCE HARWOOD</td>
<td>Mayor, Economic Development (C), Strategy and Communications (DC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kardinia Ward</td>
<td>0434 307 042</td>
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<tr>
<td>CR ANTHONY AITKEN</td>
<td>Windermere Ward, Social and Infrastructure Planning (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0434 307 044</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aitken@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">aitken@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR STEPHANIE ASHER</td>
<td>Bellarine Ward, Planning (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0413 369 719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sasher@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">sasher@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR SARA MANSFIELD</td>
<td>Brownhill Ward, Tourism and Events (C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0436 343 642</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smansfield@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">smansfield@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR KYLIE GRYZBEK</td>
<td>Bellarine Ward, Community Health and Safety (DC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0434 307 043</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kgrzybek@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">kgrzybek@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR JIM MASON AM</td>
<td>Bellarine Ward, Arts, Culture and Heritage (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0434 307 048</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmason@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">jmason@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR PAT MURRINE</td>
<td>Kardinia Ward, Social and Infrastructure Planning (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0434 307 045</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pmurrihy@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">pmurrihy@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR RON NELSON</td>
<td>Kardinia Ward, Tourism and Events (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0429 531 875</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rnelson@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">rnelson@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>CR TRENT SULLIVAN</td>
<td>Bellarine Ward, Economic Development (DC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>0434 307 050</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tsullivan@geelongcity.vic.gov.au">tsullivan@geelongcity.vic.gov.au</a></td>
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COMMUNITY FOCUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesday 13 August 2019, 7.00pm
Bellarine Living And Learning Centre

Tuesday 10 September 2019, 7.00pm
Armstrong Creek Community Centre

Tuesday 8 October 2019, 7.00pm
Armstrong Creek Community Centre

Tuesday 24 September 2019, 7.00pm
City Hall

Tuesday 27 August 2019, 7.00pm
City Hall

Tuesday 13 August 2019, 7.00pm
Ocean Grove Surf Life Saving Club

An informal meet and greet with councillors and the community commences at 6.30pm with the council meeting starting at 7.00pm.

COUNCIL MEETINGS – LIVE STREAMED

For live streaming and a list of upcoming meetings, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/meetwithus.

Meet with us...
CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY

IN 2017, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES WORLDWIDE CAME AT A RECORD RATE OF 44,400 EVERY DAY.

Fuelled in large part by new crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Myanmar, as well as the ongoing conflict in Syria, this population swelled by a net 2.9 million last year, raising the cumulative total to 68.5 million at the year’s end.

During Refugee Week we interviewed several people from our community to find out why they fled their former homes, the challenges they have faced, and what they would like to say to our community— including other refugees.

One of those interviewed is Abi Ahmedin, who arrived in Australia at the age of 17 on a humanitarian visa. Abi left Eritrea in East Africa because of the risk and uncertainty of what lay ahead, and to avoid being pressed into unlimited military service in Eritrea’s long war with Ethiopia.

Abi has found it challenging to adjust to society norms, beliefs and rules in Australia, and the stress of learning a new language has also been tough. He has been helped by the acceptance of the Geelong community, as well as the numerous opportunities to work and study that he has enjoyed since arriving.

Abi is now a project engineer in the construction sector and says he is proud to give back to the country he now calls home through the development of important infrastructure.

Abi’s advice for new arrivals and refugees? ‘Work hard, never give up and don’t let anything or anyone stand in your way to success. Australia is one… if not the best country… to achieve your dreams and ambitions. The most multicultural society. If you are willing to work hard for it anything is possible.’

As a community we can all support the positive settlement of new arrivals and refugees by being ‘accepting of diverse backgrounds, non-judgmental, helpful and welcoming, provide opportunities for all’ he said.

WOMEN LEADING

Are you a local leader? Do you have an interest in local government?

In preparation for the 2020 council election, Geelong’s Women in Local Democracy (WILD) are hosting a ‘Target 50/50 Local Government 101’ session for women on Thursday, August 29 from 6:00pm–8:00pm at City Hall.

WILD supports women’s participation and leadership in community, civic and political life in Geelong, and offers free training opportunities for women interested in becoming candidates for the 2020 elections for the City of Greater Geelong Council.

With a prime focus on the promotion of gender equality in elected representation on the City of Greater Geelong Council, WILD support the Victorian Government’s gender equality target that aims for 50/50 Women in Local Leadership by 2025.

The event is hosted in partnership with Women’s Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West, Committee for Geelong, and Victorian Local Governance Association.

To register your attendance visit http://bit.ly/lg101-geelong

CIVIC PRECINCT TAKES SHAPE

COMMUNITY COMES THROUGH WITH BIG IDEAS FOR CITY’S NEW CIVIC PRECINCT

Between March and June, the City ran an open engagement calling for big ideas to help shape the future of our new Civic Precinct and central administrative office at 137 Mercer Street.

Through an interactive online map, site walking tours and workshops with key stakeholders, we received hundreds of ideas, suggestions and aspirations for the precinct and its surrounding area.

Among the suggestions are calls for an active public space; meaningful representation of our local Aboriginal culture and heritage; strong connections to City Hall, Johnstone Park and the Geelong Railway Station; a focus on sustainability in design and access for people of all abilities.

We heard that our community wants a precinct that is a place of welcome to the city, with a design that celebrates and validates our UNESCO City of Design designation, and embraces our Clever and Creative 30 year vision.

The results from this engagement will help us pick a preferred partner to deliver the precinct and will inform the design as our preferred partner engages further with our community.

The full engagement report is available online, www.geelongaustralia.com.au/civicprecinct

DID YOU KNOW?

The City held over 140 stakeholder and community engagement activities last financial year.
COMMUNITY PLACES AND SPACES

CREATIVE SPACES IN THE NORTH

Community hubs are places for our residents to come together to exchange ideas, learn, participate and celebrate in a range of flexible community spaces. The development of community hubs within our region supports the clever and creative aspiration to provide an inclusive, diverse, healthy and socially connected community.

ROSEWALL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Construction has recently been completed at Rosewall Community Hub in North Corio, which has replaced the Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre as a meeting place for community groups, adult education classes and social gatherings.

The new building boasts state of the art facilities and multi-purpose spaces including offices, small and large activity rooms, a pottery room and kiln, hospitality training kitchen and cafe, changing places facilities, outdoor decking areas and a large break-out space for informal and formal gatherings.

The hub is located at the original site of the Rosewall Community Neighbourhood House at Sharland Road and existing services have moved across to the new building.

The construction of the $3.76 million facility was fully funded by the City.

CLOVERDALE COMMUNITY HUB

The Cloverdale Community Centre, also in Corio, has recently undergone a major refurbishment and extension resulting in over 263 square-metres of additional space for community services.

Concept designs were endorsed by stakeholders in 2018 to improve the previous facility which was in poor condition. The aim of the refurbishment was to increase capacity of activity spaces to support flexible program delivery for a diverse community.

Following its opening in April, the hub now boasts four multi-purpose rooms, computer spaces, maternal and child health consulting suites, administration and office spaces, kitchen facilities for community class use, changing place facilities, and newly landscaped areas around the centre.

The refurbishment of the $2.2 million facility was fully funded by the City.

WESTERN BEACH PARK

A PRIME PIECE OF GEELONG’S WATERFRONT IS BEING TRANSFORMED INTO A PUBLIC PARK THAT CELEBRATES THE AREA’S HISTORY.

The former Western Beach boat yard site has been fenced off since boat builder Lew Marine shut its operations more than a decade ago.

However, innovative work led by the City is converting the 3000 square-metre area into a park, that will connect to the waterfront.

There will be new pathways, plantings and ponds for visitors to enjoy.

The site’s extensive links to the maritime industry will also be showcased, with some historic boats and associated infrastructure to be a key feature of the area. Interpretive signage and online material will help to tell the story of the area.

A future high-tech project is also being planned. Our Smart Cities team, in conjunction with Deakin University’s MInD Lab, is looking at how to use augmented and virtual reality technology to bring the history of the site to life.

The new park at Western Beach will incorporate elements of its historical past.

IN BRIEF

COBBIN CHAPEL AND HOMESTEAD

This September we’ll be making improvements to the car-park and walking track at Cobbin Chapel and Homestead at 321 Grove Road, Grovedale.

The venue is home to U3A Geelong during the week and facilitates community activities such as yoga, meditation, birthdays, weddings, and meetings on evenings, weekends and school holidays.

The existing gravel car-park at the reserve has been long outgrown and cars were overflowing to other parts of the reserve. This created a much larger than originally planned car parking space and cars frequently drove across or along the walking track to find a park. This presented a risk for pedestrians and cyclists using the track.

The new, formal 54 space car-park will condense the parking footprint on the reserve and also see the very busy walking track rerouted to go around the car-park instead of straight through the middle.

There will be bollard protection for pedestrians as well as the damaged lawn areas.

The project is anticipated to cost around $120,000 and will be completed by early October.

DRYSDALE

The $13.3 million Drysdale Integrated Children’s Centre at 17-21 Palmerston Street will be completed in time for the beginning of term one, 2020.

Framing and window installation were completed in June, with a number of works scheduled for the coming months; these include roofing, drainage, and security installation.

The centre will cater to the needs of the growing community in that area, offering essential services for children and families.

The City’s major investment in this centre shows we’re committed to providing the community infrastructure needed to maintain this region as a great place to live.
DID YOU KNOW?

COCONNECTING WITH NATURE

September is Biodiversity Month and we’re hosting a number of activities to highlight the importance of protecting and improving our valuable local environment and habitats.

Our region is home to world-class natural assets and an abundance of significant vegetation and native animals. Our local nature reserves, parkland and waterways provide an important habitat for native species and help to cool our suburbs, absorb carbon dioxide, supply oxygen, and give us beautiful places to explore.

Taking time to connect with nature and walking through our many wonderful green spaces provides great health and wellbeing benefits, so why not use Biodiversity Month as a reminder to get outdoors!

Activities scheduled include forest bathing, guided walks, tree planting, a special lecture, and the launch of a beautiful new brochure: Nature neighbours: being a good neighbour to our nature reserves.

For further details of these and other events during Biodiversity Month, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/environment

PLANET ARK NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

The Urban Forest Strategy expands on the concept of ‘City in a Park’, which is focused on Geelong’s CBD, to enhance the public and private tree population in all of the suburbs and townships across Greater Geelong. The sum of all these trees and other vegetation is called the urban forest.

We’ve set ourselves an ambitious target to improve Geelong’s tree canopy cover from 14 per cent to 25 percent over a 30 year period.

In addition to our tree planting program, we’re creating greener suburbs through participation in activities such as the Planet Ark National Tree Planting Day.

Last month our staff organised three tree planting days where 3500 trees were planted along the Ted Wilson Trail, Goldsworthy, Corio. The planting days included a schools’ day and a community planting day where members of the public were able to participate.

Planet Ark National Tree Planting Day is an opportunity to come together to growing Geelong’s tree canopy.

The plan is to plant 1500 trees this year and 850 next year. This will be achieved by diverting funds from our street trees program. The balance of trees (850) will then be planted during May and June 2020.

The reason we plan to plant 1500 trees in residential areas is that the conditions are more favourable for planting.

We’re aiming high this year with plans to plant 2350 trees in residential areas around Greater Geelong. This will be achieved by planting 1500 trees by the end of September, before commencing watering in October.

Last financial year (2018–19) we planted 1489 new street trees and 365 new park trees. The City’s street tree planting program is very popular with our residents and as such, spots often fill quickly. If you’d like to request a tree for the 2020 planting season you can visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/trees or phone customer service on 5272 5272.

A member of our team will come out to look at the site and work with you to determine the best species and fit for your nature strip.

DID YOU KNOW?

Geelong has 75,268 street trees and over 45,000 urban park trees.
We’ve increased the value and variety of grants available through our Community Investment Support Fund. The fund will offer grants of more than $8.3 million – a rise of 30.1 per cent from 2018–19.

This gives more grassroots clubs and organisations, including those on non-City-managed land, a chance to develop their individual projects.

A strategic capital works program of $117 million will help complete a raft of major works and progress the next wave of new and upgraded facilities.

The budget has a strong focus on community hubs that offer a range of vital centralised services, including kindergarten and childcare.

Major projects, such as the Drysdale Integrated Children’s Centre ($7.5 million) and the Purnell Road Child and Family Centre in Corio ($6 million), will be completed.

Land will be acquired and plans advanced for new early learning centres in Bell Park–Bell Post Hill ($2 million) and St Leonards ($1 million).

Key service delivery is also a high priority. The introduction of a flexible parking trial from December will allow motorists to park for 30 minutes free of charge in the CBD’s on-street two-hour parking zones.

Our hard waste service trial will also continue providing residents one book-in residential collection in 2019–20.

The budget was developed in line with the 11 strategic priorities contained in the Council Plan 2018–22.

It balances the delivery of infrastructure and services with an average residential rate rise of 2.5 per cent, which meets the Victorian Government’s rate cap.

If you’d like to view the Budget 2019–20 visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/budget, request a copy by contacting the City on 5272 5272 or view a copy at any of our customer service centres.

**BUDGET FAST FIVE**

- Average residential property value: $546,151
- Average residential valuation increase: 13.1 per cent
- Average residential rates and charges bill: $1617.95
- Average residential rate rise: 2.5 per cent (in line with Victorian Government rate cap).
- Average residential rates notice increase: $47.15

**OUR CHALLENGES**

In delivering the adopted Budget and Council Plan, we face a number of challenges. The worldwide recycling crisis has driven up the costs of waste services; rate capping imposes an income constraint of 2.5 per cent on rates charges; our population is growing exponentially; and we have extra costs associated with building new infrastructure and upgrading ageing infrastructure.
DID YOU KNOW?

COMMUNITY SATISFACTION ON THE RISE

Residents are more satisfied with the City of Greater Geelong than they were last year, a new independent survey has found.

Sealed local roads (up 10.2 per cent) and community consultation (up 10 per cent) recorded the biggest increases, with positive sentiment rising in all core performance measures.

Respondents were happier with the City’s overall performance, with the index score up from 54 in 2018 to 58 this year.

The survey found the City was above or equal to the statewide average for overall council direction, advocacy, making community decisions, and customer service.

The 2019 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey was co-ordinated by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on behalf of Victorian councils.

To read the full results visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au and search local government satisfaction survey.

HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE VALUE OF MY PROPERTY?

Depending on real estate market trends, properties in some parts of the City increase in value at a greater rate than others.

General property valuations are now carried out annually by the Valuer-General Victoria; not by the City.

WHAT DOES THE VALUATION CHANGE DO TO MY RATES BILL?

An increase in the value of your property does not automatically result in an increase in your rates.

Individual rates notices are affected by fluctuations in the value of all properties across the municipality.

If your residential property rose in value by more than the average (13.1 per cent), your rate increase may be higher than the 2.5 per cent rates cap.

On the other hand, land owners with lower than average increases could expect to see a decrease in their rates.

I’M STRUGGLING TO PAY MY RATES. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

There are a number of different options available, depending on your circumstances.

The City will directly contact ratepayers who are eligible for a rates assistance waiver.

This is offered to eligible residential and farm owners whose property increased in value by more than 50 per cent and who meet the criteria.

Other affordable payment arrangements, including the deferral of rates, are considered on an individual basis for people experiencing financial difficulty.

For more information visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/rates

FREE CAR-PARKING TRIAL FOR GEELONG CBD

IN APRIL, COUNCIL VOTED TO ADOPT A 12-MONTH CAR-PARKING TRIAL FOR GEELONG’S CBD THAT WILL SEE DRIVERS RECEIVE THE FIRST 30 MINUTES FREE IN ALL 2-HOUR ON-STREET PARKING ZONES.

An important aspect of the trial is the introduction of pay-by-plate parking, which will make transactions simpler and easier for customers, and ultimately reduce paper waste.

The staged approach for rollout currently requires drivers to enter their vehicle registration details at the parking meter at time of purchase. Paper tickets are still being issued and you will need to display them in your vehicle.

This period will help us prepare for the introduction of 30 minutes free parking in 2-hour parking zones in central Geelong from 1 December.

From this time, paper tickets will no longer be issued and you’ll only need to enter your registration details at the meter or through the parking app.

To find out more about the central Geelong parking trial visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/parking


Receive your notice digitally

View your rates notice instantly and choose your payment option.


Did you know?

The 2017 Our Future engagement consulted with over 16,000 community members to develop our 30-year vision.
Creative gallery transforms Centrepoint Arcade

A new gallery space has been welcomed into central Geelong, with Creative Geelong and Revitalising Central Geelong launching Third Space Gallery on 13 June. The seven-month exhibition supports local and emerging artists and start-ups.

The gallery, located at Creative Geelong’s Makers Hub in Little Malop Street, Centrepoint Arcade, offers a range of display cabinets and street-facing windows for all kinds of works and ideas for a growing population of artists, designers and creative thinkers. The partnership gives creatives the opportunity to exhibit their works in the space for free.

Creative Geelong President Dr Fiona Gray said she looked forward to Third Space Gallery bringing in new artists and tourists, and for the local creative community to continue thriving.

“This partnership between Creative Geelong and Revitalising Central Geelong provides a great collaborative forum to showcase the tremendous creative talent that exists in our region,” Dr Gray said.

There will be ongoing Revitalising Central Geelong displays within the exhibition, with one month of the program’s work dedicated entirely to artists’ interpretations of the Revitalising Central Geelong project.

Visit Third Space Gallery in Centrepoint Arcade off Little Malop Street during business hours to explore the current exhibition.

TRULY TREE-MENDOUS

The Malop Street Green Spine has been winning over city workers and visitors for months – and now it’s received distinction at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects’ 2019 Victorian Awards.

According to judges, the Malop Street Green Spine, by Outlines Architecture, is a prime example of public infrastructure that balances social, economic and environmental interests.

The Green Spine is one of the key projects for the 10-year Revitalising Central Geelong Action Plan, which was launched in 2016 and sets out the City of Greater Geelong and the Victorian Government’s plan to drive change in central Geelong.

Stage one – between Moorabool Street and Yarra Street – features a spectacular botanic walk, providing a canopy of trees, alfresco seating and gathering spaces. Once complete from Johnstone Park to Eastern Park, the community’s vision of greening central Geelong will be well underway – a distinctive and enduring network of grand boulevards, green spines and green spaces.

The Green Spine is part of future-proofing Geelong to address urban heat, contributing to a clean and healthy Corio Bay, and acts as the ecological link between our two parks. These elements contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Never miss a beat...

Download the Central Geelong App

Download the Central Geelong app from the Apple store or Play store and get free wifi every time you’re in Central Geelong. Discover what’s on, what’s open, what’s on special or be your own guide on a mapped walking tour.

An initiative of Central Geelong Marketing
DID YOU KNOW?

SHARED TRAILS ON TRACK

AS PART OF THE 30-YEAR CLEVER AND CREATIVE VISION, WE IDENTIFIED THAT THE COMMUNITY WANTS TO MAKE TRAVEL BETWEEN SUBURBS EASIER THROUGH A NETWORK OF PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING PATHS.

Whether you’re going for a leisurely stroll, walking the dog, or riding your bicycle to work, we have a vast network of tracks and trails in various locations that are used by many of our community members on a daily basis.

We’re seeking your feedback as to what gaps or missing links are important to you, and would enable you to move more freely and safely throughout the region. We’ll be using this feedback to develop a Shared Trails Masterplan that will ultimately help develop a list of short and longer-term upgrades and initiatives which the City can progressively implement over the coming years.

The network will connect to key destinations, such as employment, education, sport and recreation areas. We also want it to be accessible and respectful of all users, from pedestrians to cyclists and those on horses.

Throughout August you’ll have a chance to have your say online via an interactive map. You can also meet and talk to us in person, with some remaining pop-up sessions being held during August.

Scan the QR code (right) using your smart phone or search ‘shared trails’ at www.geelongaustralia.com.au

POP-UP SESSIONS
Thursday 15 August, 9.00am–1.00pm Lara Hall, 1B Flinders Avenue, Lara
Thursday 22 August 9.00am–1.00pm The iQrt Youth Centre, Corner Melbourne Road and St George Road, Corio

WE’RE HERE TO WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND ACHIEVE A MUTUAL VISION OF BEING A CLEVER AND CREATIVE CITY.

We want to hear from you to help us make decisions about issues that are important to you.

Community engagement is a two-way relationship. Here at the City, we make sure we provide regular opportunities for our community to participate in the decisions and projects that help shape Geelong.

HOW DO YOU GET INVOLVED?
We often advertise our projects and want to reach as many residents as possible, so there are multiple ways to get involved in surveys, public meetings, submissions and forums. You can find out more via:

- one of our customer service centres
- Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Your opinion is important

HAVE YOUR SAY

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AT THE 2017 OUR FUTURE ENGAGEMENT.

WE’RE HERE TO WORK WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND ACHIEVE A MUTUAL VISION OF BEING A CLEVER AND CREATIVE CITY.

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PLACE AND SPACES FOR EVERYONE

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO A HEALTHY AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY.

In late 2018, the City consulted with our community about developing a new policy and plan that would guide the way we invest in community infrastructure over coming years.

In July this year, we released the Draft Social Infrastructure Policy for community feedback, which is designed to ensure the community can get the support and infrastructure it needs in a way that’s fair for everyone, while also being affordable for the City and community, in order to remain prosperous into the future.

The Social Infrastructure Policy will help guide decisions regarding investments in a variety of social infrastructure, including children’s centres, sporting reserves, and aquatic facilities.

To have your say on the draft policy visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/yoursay

The City is responsible for 110 kilometres of shared trails.
L2P GEELONG PROGRAM EXTENDED

With thanks to the City’s successful grant application to VicRoads, Geelong’s L2P Learner driver program will be extended from 75 to 110 learner drivers this year.

The extra 35 places means the program is seeking experienced drivers who can volunteer to help learners driven by providing at least one hour of driving lessons per week, as well as advice and support. The L2P program, which is funded by TAC and managed by VicRoads, provides access to a sponsored vehicle for driving lessons.

The Geelong L2P program is proudly supported by Gforce Employment Solutions and Bellarine Peninsula Community Bank, and supports learner drivers from across the City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire and Surf Coast Shire.

For more information, or to sign up to be a mentor, search L2P at www.geelongaustralia.com.au

HALLS FOR HIRE

THERE ARE MANY LOCAL VENUES ACROSS GREATER GEELONG THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR HIRE.

Our spacious and versatile halls can be used for numerous occasions: sporting events, celebrations, fundraising events, or meetings.

Exciting projects are taking place at these venues, and recently the Geelong West Town Hall opened its doors for the filming of a feature film. ‘Paper Champions’ was shot in many well-known locations around Geelong including the Geelong West Town Hall, which had a wrestling ring installed for the shoot.

As more creatives are bringing their talents into our City, our halls allow local organisations to have an affordable place to meet, celebrate, and showcase their work.

To book a community hall, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/halls

LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

The City of Greater Geelong is partnering with Variety – the Children’s Charity – to build a world class inclusive playspace at Rippleside Park.

Through clever and creative design, this exciting project will give children of all abilities a fun and challenging place to play side-by-side.

The current playground at Rippleside, which opened in 2001, was made possible through the generous donation of time and money by more than 1500 locals.

It’s hoped this redevelopment will generate the same sense of community spirit and togetherness.

Community members will have a chance to provide input into the design of the space, with public consultation to begin once a designer has been engaged.

There will also be a fundraising campaign to help with the cost of construction, so keep an eye out for opportunities to get involved.

Work at the site is expected to begin in the 2020–21 financial year.

Photo: Jess, Tom, Sarah and Eva are looking forward to exploring the new park.

HALLS AVAILABLE FOR HIRE:

• Centenary Hall, Norlane
• Cobbin Homestead and Chapel, Grovedale
• Cobradah Homestead, Bell Post Hill
• Geelong West Town Hall
• Lara Hall
• Mount Duneed Hall
• Newcomb Hall
• Portarlington Parks Hall
• St Leonards Reserve Hall
• Virginia Todd Centre, Geelong West

Paper Champions was filmed entirely in Geelong, using a range of locations including the Geelong West Town Hall.
GEEMANJI - JOIN THE ADVENTURE

Tikis have taken over Geelong & the Bellarine and have let animals run wild! Solve the hidden clues and collect tools, points and coins to defeat them before our home becomes a Tiki Jungle!

The GeemANJI Adventure, an initiative of Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine, will help participants discover new venues, sites and activities across our region while completing online activities to score points, compete in games and win prizes.

It’s a free activity; families can download the App from Google Play or the App Store (just search for Geemanji) and you’re ready to roll, literally! Roll the dice to make your way around the game board, playing mini games to earn extra points. Complete clues at physical locations to progress, unlock levels, and work towards prizes.

The more places you visit, the more clues you solve, the more chances you have of winning. For more information visit www.geemanji.com.au

GET MORE THIS WINTER

Our leisure network is kicking off the new financial year with some exciting initiatives to better service our community, making it even more accessible and affordable for everyone to enjoy the four indoor centres and two outdoor pools.

Leisurelink is now operating from 5.30am giving those early risers a chance to sneak in a workout prior to starting their day. The centre will be open from 5.30am from Monday to Friday, from 6.00am on Saturday and from 8.00am on Sundays.

We want to make it as simple as possible to help our community reach their goals, and now it’s even easier to sign up as a member with the same access for less – all year round. Our joining fee has been dropped to just $49, offering Geelong families a saving of up to $100.*

Along with these changes we’re also introducing the new Active Adult Gold membership option, giving adults 55 years and over the chance to get it all, all the time! The membership includes full access to the gyms, pools and group exercise classes at all four centres, with no time limits – meaning members can visit anytime during the centres’ opening hours.

For more information on these new initiatives, visit www.ssl.geelongaustralia.com.au

*Terms and conditions apply.

Our leisure centres have over 12,500 active members. In the 2018–19 financial year our six facilities hosted over 2 million visits!
WIN TICKETS TO WAIST WATCHERS THE MUSICAL!

7 September at Potato Shed, Drysdale

WIN! To celebrate the hilarious and inspirational musical comedy, Waist Watchers The Musical coming to Geelong, we are giving away a double pass! Be prepared to laugh so hard, you’ll burn more calories than you have all week. Come and dance in your seat or jump right in.


Competition closes 12.00pm, Friday 23 August 2019.

Terms and conditions apply.

DIGITAL INNOVATION FESTIVAL

23 August – 6 September at various locations, Geelong

Be inspired by new technology and future jobs at the Digital Innovation Festival. Find out how digital technology drives industry, business and the community to make a difference. Hear from an impressive line-up of speakers in Geelong, including Oscar award-winning animator, Adam Elliot.

CALENDAR

On now (until 31 August)

Geelong Small Business Festival

On now (until 1 September)

The Moon, Geelong Gallery

AUGUST

16 The Hunter. The Hunted, Potato Shed, Drysdale

17 Geelong Baby & Children’s Market, Barwon Valley Activity Centre

18 Bellarine Rail Trail Run, Drysdale

24 AFL: Geelong Cats V Carlton, GMHBA Stadium

27 Little Blobs of Clay - An Evening with Oscar Award-Winning Animator Adam Elliot, National Wool Museum

SEPTEMBER

5 (until 13 Oct) Art Quilt Australia, National Wool Museum

6 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong

7 Waist Watchers The Musical, Potato Shed, Drysdale

8 Two Feet and a Heartbeat (charity walk), Fyansford Common

22–25 Victorian Teachers’ Games, various locations

24 Dr Seuss’s Cat In The Hat, GPAC

OCTOBER

1–31 Senior’s Festival, various locations

4 Food Truck Friday, Little Malop Street Central, Geelong

5–6 A Day Out With Thomas, Bellarine Railway

6 Festival of Sport, Kardinia Park

6 Humans In Geelong, Deakin University Waterfront

6 Lux Radio Theatre, Potato Shed, Drysdale

12 Grapest 5km Run, Leura Park Estate

 Register as a volunteer for the ICC T20 World Cup in Geelong!

Volunteers will be the face of the ICC T20 when Geelong hosts three action-packed days of world class cricket in October 2020. Organisers are looking for a passionate, energetic and welcoming group to make a direct contribution to the delivery of a spectacular celebration!

Register your interest: www.icc-cricket.com/t20-world-cup/volunteers

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