Geelong’s Floating Christmas Tree returns to light up the bay on Friday 9 November.

One lucky local child – chosen through a region-wide colouring competition – will have the honour of flicking the switch to officially launch the City’s celebrations.

Gather your family and friends and join the thousands who have made the lighting of the tree an annual tradition.

The event will feature live entertainment from 7.00pm with The Kazoos, The Itchy Feet Pep Band, the cast from Medimine’s Aladdin, Geelong’s Best Kid Busker winner Tom Meadows, Piano Bar’s Andy Poljoy and friends. The entertainment will lead into a colourful lighting and pyrotechnic display at 9.00pm.

Festivities continue with a stunning new light projection show at City Hall. Created by local artist Matt Bonner, the show will start at 9.45pm.

The following evening (Saturday 10 November) will see Malop Street come alive for the twilight Gala parade, beginning with the unveiling of the Myer Christmas windows at 5.00pm.

This year’s theme is based on the children’s book One Christmas Eve by Corinne Fenton and illustrated by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall. For the second year, engineering students from Deakin University have partnered with the City and Central Geelong Marketing to enhance the window display using animatronics to help bring it to life.

All the events during this spectacular Christmas weekend are free and suitable for the whole family.

The City and Central Geelong Marketing thank our major sponsor of the floating Christmas tree, GeelongPort, along with Myer, Westfield Geelong, Deakin University, Hanlon Industries, and Elstone Diving Services.

**LET’S GET FESTIVE**

**GEELONG’S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS WILL LIGHT UP THE CITY WITH A WEEKEND FULL OF FREE ATTRACTIONS AND VISUAL DELIGHTS TO WELCOME THE FESTIVE SEASON.**

*Terms and conditions apply.*

Calling all kids 13 years and under! Enter our colouring competition for your chance to be chosen to turn on Geelong’s Floating Christmas Tree! Visit [www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au) to download the colouring picture.
MAYOR’S MESSAGE

As we enter Geelong’s busy events season, I’m reminded of how well we do events in our region, and the abundance of activities on offer for all community members.

The Geelong Seniors’ Festival is in full swing throughout October and has an impressive range of entertainment and learning opportunities. It’s also a great avenue to help our seniors be social, stay active and be connected in our community. I encourage you to get along to an event, visit www.geelongaustralia.com.au/seniorsfestival for more information.

Children’s Week is another October highlight kicking off with the 10th anniversary of Family Fun Day at the Potato Shed. A great day out with plenty of free entertainment for the whole family, there’ll be an interactive theatre show for the kids, alongside performances from the popular children’s entertainment group, the Mik Maks.

This year’s Mental Health Month during October focuses on our youth, particularly between the ages of 16–25. One in seven young Australians will experience a mental health condition, so it’s important we continue to have conversations and take action to increase our understanding and our ability to support one another.

Do you need to report issues, see off-lead dog areas, discover the best attractions or find out more about the iconic places our city and region offer? We have apps that can help you:

- Geelong City – report more than 100 different issues, across many city services.
- Love Central Geelong – find out where to shop, places to eat and what’s on in Central Geelong.
- Park Your Pet – find information on our best dog-friendly open spaces.
- Geelong & The Bellarine – discover the best attractions, events, plus amazing places to eat, drink and stay in our region.

All apps are available on iPhone or Android.

Love Central Geelong – discover the best attractions, events, plus amazing places to eat, drink and stay in our region.

October also brings White Night to Geelong for the first time. This spectacular event will see our city ‘re-imagined’ through art, music, colour and light on Saturday 13 October, with many free activities.

I hope you all discover a new event, or get along to an old favourite, as it’s our events calendar that makes Greater Geelong such a fantastic place to live!

Cr Bruce Harwood
Mayor, City of Greater Geelong

Community Update

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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
**CELEBRATING FAMILY FUN**

Gather your young (and young at heart) and join us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Potato Shed’s free Family Fun Day, from 11.00am on Sunday 21 October 2018.

**SprING INTO ACTION**

Spring is in full swing now and even though the days are longer and the weather’s warmer, it’s not all sunshine and roses. There are a few things to be mindful of at this time of year.

**MOSQUITOES**

Warmer spring weather combined with rainfall can mean more pesky mozzies. The City monitors mosquito levels and carries out prevention programs. However, there are steps you can take to protect yourself and your family from mosquitoes:

- Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothes that cover your arms and legs.
- Use effective mosquito repellents.
- Ensure windows and doors are fitted with flywire screens.
- Remove anything from your garden that might collect or hold water, to reduce mosquito breeding.


**REducing Fire Risk**

Top five tips for fire prevention:

1. Keep grass cut to a maximum of 10cm.
2. Remove all dead and fallen vegetation.
3. Remove all flammable materials away from house (timber, cardboard, etc.).
4. Cut back all trees/branches.
5. Have an active fire plan if you live in rural areas and make sure everyone in your household knows about it.

**Magpie Season**

Native birds such as magpies and masked lapwings (plovers) are notorious for swooping at this time of year. To avoid being swooped:

- Use a stick or umbrella above your head.
- Be alert – if you need to pass through the area then move quickly but do not run. (Cyclists should dismount and walk through the area).
- Protect your head – wear a hat or carry a stick or umbrella above your head.

IF IT DOESN'T GROW, IT DOESN'T GO!

Are you putting the right thing in your garden organics bin?

Each year, we spend around $1.1 million removing plastic bags and other rubbish from garden organics (green lid) bins, with much of this painstakingly sorted by hand.

A good rule is: If it doesn’t grow, it doesn’t go.

YES
- Grass clippings and weeds
- Branches and twigs (less than 5cm in diameter)
- Leaves
- Garden clippings

Find out more about what can go in your garden organics bin www.geelongaustralia.com.au/gardenorganics

NO
- Plastic bags – go in REDcycle bins at Coles and Woolworths supermarkets
- Treated wood or wooden furniture – go in general rubbish bin (red lid) or bulky items to Drysdale/Douro St Resource Recovery Centres
- Plant pots – plastics go in recycling bin (yellow lid) and ceramics/pottery go in general rubbish bin (red lid)
- Food or kitchen waste – compost at home or put in general rubbish bin (red lid)
- Other rubbish – goes in general rubbish bin (red lid)

RETHINK YOUR RUBBISH

Last year your recycling efforts saved more than 64,000 tonnes of material, plus almost 33,000 individual items, from ending up in landfill.

Some of the things our transfer stations and kerbside collection vehicles collected last year.

- GREEN WASTE: 35,256 TONNES
- HARD PLASTICS: 3,452 TONNES
- SCRAP METAL: 4,100 TONNES
- PAPER/CARDBOARD: 15,670 TONNES
- GLASS: 5,535 TONNES
- TYRES: 6,118 UNITS
- COMPUTERS: 6,015 UNITS
- TVs: 4,512 UNITS
- MATTRESSES: 9,665 UNITS
- FRIDGE/FREEZERS: 1,898 UNITS
- WASTE OIL: 33,000 LITRES
- GAS BOTTLES: 2,282 UNITS

GOING, GOING, GREEN!

NEW GARDEN ORGANICS FACILITY TURNS CITY’S GARDEN CLIPPINGS INTO COMPOST

Ever wondered where your garden clippings end up? In August we opened a new Garden Organics Composting Facility in Anakie to help sort and process up to 35,000 tonnes of material collected from Greater Geelong’s garden organics bins each year.

The new facility turns garden organics – including grass clippings, branches and leaves – into Australian standard compost for use in our parks and sports grounds, as well as on farm land around the Geelong region.

The project is another nod towards sustainability, a key aspiration of Geelong’s Clever and Creative vision. Besides keeping Geelong’s garden organics out of landfill by turning it into useful compost, the facility also harvests water from the site for reuse in the composting process.

The $3.5 million initiative was funded by the City ($3 million) and $500,000 from Sustainability Victoria.

BOOK-IN HARD WASTE COLLECTION COMING IN 2019

The City will trial a book-in hard waste collection starting in April 2019.

We will provide you with more information early next year.
TREES HELP COOL THE CITY AND IMPROVE THE LOOK, FEEL AND LIVEABILITY OF GEELONG – AND HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Our goal is to increase our region’s tree canopy coverage from 14 per cent to 25 per cent by 2045.

Our Urban Forest Strategy identifies opportunities to help us achieve this goal, including developing tree-lined entrances to the city, re-vegetating the Ted Wilson Bike Trail alongside the Geelong Ring Road, and planting more trees.

There are 45,000 vacant nature strips across the region that our tree management team is working through, planting 2000 new street trees every year. This will create a lasting legacy for us all.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- We’re planning for the 2019 planting season now. If you’d like a tree planted on your nature strip, call 5272 5272 or email contactus@geelongcity.vic.gov.au
- You can help your street trees grow by pouring a bucket of water on them once a week.
- Plant more trees on your property.
- Avoid removing trees from your property if you can. If you need to remove a tree, try and replant it in a different spot.

Going Green: The City is encouraging residents to help keep their street green by watering their trees in the warmer months.

EXCITING NEW CHAPTER FOR GEELONG GAOL

Geelong Gaol ‘farewelled’ its last prisoner in 1991, and since its construction in 1849–65 has operated at different times as a gaol, industrial school for girls, army detention barracks and training prison.

Most recently it has opened to visitors as a tourist attraction, with its austerity providing a sense of the challenging conditions endured by its residents over the decades.

The gaol was built to house about 150 prisoners, and contained its own hanging quarters and morgue. Infamous inmates to serve time there included gangster, Squizzy Taylor and Mark ‘Chopper’ Read. Some people believe the gaol is still inhabited by ghosts of prisoners past, and ghost tours have been a feature of the gaol’s recent history.

The Geelong Gaol is now set to enter a new phase with the City selling it to Montgomery International. Dean Montgomery, who owns a number of other significant heritage properties in Victoria, says it’s important to respect the history of such a site when developing plans for future use. Mr Montgomery says he plans to use a significant part of the site for an interactive museum based on the history of the gaol, which he anticipates will be a major attraction for visitors.

Montgomery International will carry out conservation works to preserve the historic buildings ahead of the gaol commencing its newest chapter as a major tourism destination.

EXCITING NEW CHAPTER FOR GEELONG GAOL

Sky’s the limit: Clifton Springs Boat Harbour continues to be upgraded.

GOOD NEWS FOR ANGLERS

The Clifton Springs Boat Harbour upgrade continues with more works about to get underway.

Over the next 12 months the existing 35 metre jetty will be extended by 38 metres, a new floating pontoon will be installed on the west side of the new boat ramp, and a dual level boardwalk will be installed on its east side. Additional parking will also be created, whilst retaining open space for enjoyment and recreation.

Once the works are completed, the harbour will be able to accommodate more recreational anglers, as well as locals and visitors wanting to walk along the jetty and take in the serenity.

As the weather warms up, Clifton Springs Boat Harbour is a great place to throw a line in to catch flathead, King George whiting and calamari. There are BBQ, fish cleaning facilities, and toilets on site.

DID YOU KNOW?

Construction of the Old Geelong Gaol began in 1849, and it took 16 years to complete.
COMMUNITY PLACES AND SPACES

A SPACE FOR ALL

HAVE YOU VISITED YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY HUB?

The Vines Road Community Hub is located within the Western Heights College learning precinct. It’s a place where anyone can go to make friends, pursue common interests, connect, learn and share.

Services available at the hub include the Vines Road Community Centre, Vines Road Senior Citizens Club and the shared Geelong Regional and Western Heights College Library.

The hub runs activities that cater for all ages including story time for kids, tai chi, yoga book club, craft and cooking sessions, sign language classes, table tennis, billiards, indoor bowls, a weekly social meal for seniors and more.

There’s also a new Western Heights College VCAL ‘Create12’ shop open from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (during school term), which sells homewares, soy candles, jewellery, artworks and furniture.

Western Heights College works closely with the hub. As part of the school’s hospitality course, students prepare and serve weekly meals to seniors.

GEELONG MUSEUM OF MOTORING ABOUT TO OPEN ON VINES ROAD

The Geelong Museum of Motoring is about to reopen in its new home in the Western Heights College learning precinct on Vines Road this month.

Previously housed at the Federal Mills in North Geelong, the museum features items from the former Ford Discovery Centre, which closed in 2012.

As well as being open to the public, the new-look museum will have a focus on education, including strong links with Western Heights College. The museum’s 35-strong volunteer team is keen to pass its combined knowledge and skills on to the students. The partnership means students will have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in vehicle restoration, engineering, design and technology as well as administration, customer service, history and other fields.

COMPLETED AND OFFICIALLY OPENED.

THE $2.8 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT OF LEOPOLD MEMORIAL RESERVE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND OFFICIALLY OPENED.

The long-term Memorial Reserve upgrade features improved facilities for the football, netball and cricket clubs and was completed in three stages.

Stage one included two new flood-lit rebound ace netball courts, netball and umpires’ change rooms, office and storage area.

Stages two and three included new social and community spaces, entrance and kitchen as well as refurbished football and cricket change rooms and a new gym.

The successful completion is an example of sports clubs, volunteers, state and local governments and business working together to deliver new infrastructure for the community.

This project was funded by the City and the Victorian Government through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and Country Football and Netball Program, as well as the Leopold Community Bank.

Good sports: New and improved facilities for Leopold football, netball and cricket clubs at Memorial Reserve.

LOOKING GOOD AT LEOPOLD

THE $2.8 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT OF LEOPOLD MEMORIAL RESERVE HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND OFFICIALLY OPENED.

Creating Hubs in the North

Works have started on the Rosewall Community Hub in North Corio, which will replace the existing Rosewall Neighbourhood Centre as a meeting place for community groups, adult education classes and social gatherings.

It will have multi-purpose spaces – including offices, small and large activity rooms, a pottery room and kiln, a hospitality training kitchen, cafe, outdoor decking areas and a large break-out space.

The Cloverdale Community Hub, also in Corio, is starting to take shape.

The existing Cloverdale Community Centre’s multipurpose room, activity room, computer spaces, maternal and child health consulting rooms, administration and office spaces are all being refurbished.

The extension will provide two new activity rooms, another maternal and child health consulting suite, as well as landscaping works.

Both community hubs are expected to open in mid 2019.

Have your say

On the places and spaces that matter to you

We’re currently seeking feedback from everyone in the community about the places and spaces in which you gather, connect, learn, have fun and access services.

The information we collect will help us review our Social Infrastructure Plan, that guides our decisions on future investment in places and spaces.

With continuing population growth and the ageing state of some of our existing assets, we plan to make the best use of limited resources and find clever and creative options to meet our future needs. But we can’t do this without you. So have your say at www.geelongaustralia.com.au/yoursay.

We look forward to hearing from you and using your feedback. Consultation on this stage closes in mid-November.

www.geelongaustralia.com.au CityofGreaterGeelong @GreaterGeelong CityofGreaterGeelong
MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Did you know that in any 12-month period one in four young people experience a diagnosable mental health problem?

Young adults experience rapid changes that can be difficult to deal with. Many young adults also move into new adult roles such as starting university or TAFE, entering the workforce, moving out of home, or starting a family.

The City offers the following free mental health first aid classes:

Teen Mental Health First Aid
This course teaches secondary school students in years 7–12 how to provide mental health first aid to their friends.

Youth Mental Health First Aid (class for adults)
Youth mental health first aid is offered to parents and teachers at all schools where teen mental health first aid is delivered.

Ways young people can stay mentally healthy:
- Get enough sleep
- Eat well by eating fresh nutritious foods
- Do what you love
- Stay active
- Connect with family and friends

For more information visit www.youthcan.vic.gov.au

“You don’t expect to get accolades but it just makes you feel good that you can spend a bit of time with them. Half the time people just want someone to talk to.”

Gwenda Dixon (pictured) began volunteering with the City’s Meals on Wheels program when she spotted an advertisement in the paper asking for Meals on Wheels volunteers in 1971. Initially going to help for a short time, Gwenda is still volunteering 47 years later!

Gwenda says her favourite parts of volunteering are the people she has met along the way, and being able to help people.

CELEBRATING 47 YEARS

WHAT IS WHITE NIGHT GEELONG?

Expect an awe-inspiring, family-friendly evening with dozens of free events and hours of light installations and projections, exhibitions, music, dance and performance. White Night will re-imagine Geelong under the ephemeral cloak of night.

Over 50 original works will be featured with 40 per cent of these being local Geelong artistic works. Even if you have experienced White Night in Melbourne, Ballarat or Bendigo, there are 19 works of art that will be presented in Geelong for the first time – not seen at any other White Night event in 2018.

This will be a significant event for our city with a big influx of locals and visitors. It’s going to be BIG! It’s also a pedestrian-only event. The White Night Geelong precinct features Gheringhap Street as its spine and one block either side, bordered by Rylie Street in the south and Corio Bay in the north.

White Night Geelong is nearly here!
Saturday 13 October, 7.00pm–2.00am

GETTING TO THE EVENT

Geelong’s FREE Park and Ride bus and public transport are the best ways to get to White Night Geelong because there will be road closures and limited parking in Central Geelong.

Park and Ride
A FREE Park and Ride bus service will operate to and from Central Geelong, from the north, south and east areas from 6.00pm–3.00am. Save parking frustrations. Park your car and catch the FREE Park and Ride.

Bus
Extra public transport bus services will operate during this event.

Train
An extended train service will operate until 3.00am. The Geelong Railway Station is located right next to the event precinct – making it a great way to get to and from the event.

Car parks
There are a number of on and off-street parking options outside the event precinct in Central Geelong.

Accessibility
White Night Geelong is a proudly accessible event. All program locations and venues are accessible.

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RETRIEVED FROM
www.youthcan.vic.gov.au

DID YOU KNOW?

More than two million people in Australia are helped by Meals on Wheels services.
TOAST TO THE COAST

3–4 November at various wineries
Unleash your senses and explore the wineries of the Bellarine, Surf Coast and Moorabool regions, tasting the best of our epicurean region. Tickets, including shuttle bus passes, are now on sale.

CHRISTMAS IN GEELONG OPENING NIGHT

9 November at Geelong Waterfront
You are invited to enjoy the spectacular show as we kick off our Christmas celebrations and light Geelong’s Floating Christmas Tree. Starts 7.00pm. See cover story for more details.

GALA PARADE

10 November in Central Geelong
A visual spectacular, creating a fun and enchanting atmosphere igniting children’s imaginations with glittering lights, LED parade floats and performers. Starts at 7.00pm.

RUN FOR GEELONG’S KIDS

18 November at Waterfront Geelong
Get active and support our kids with this family-friendly event that caters to all fitness levels with a 10 km and 5 km run, 5 km family walk and a 1 km kids’ run.

2018 INTERNATIONAL PARA-BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

20–28 November at Leisuretime Centre, Corio
Over 150 athletes and officials from around the world will be in Geelong for the highly anticipated Australia Para-Badminton International (20–25 Nov) and VICTOR Oceania Para-Badminton Championships (26–28 Nov).

OCTOBER

On now – 18 Nov
2018 Archibald Prize, Geelong Gallery
On now – 31 Oct Geelong Seniors’ Festival, various Geelong locations
13 White Night Geelong, Central Geelong
13 Australian Supercross Championships, GMHBA Stadium
13 Day Out With Thomas, The Bellarine Railway
18–21 Royal Geelong Show, Geelong Showgrounds
20 2 Worlds Festival, Fyansford Paper Mills
20 Ahn Do – The Happiest Refugee Livel GPAC
21 Family Fun Day at the Shed, the Potato Shed, Drysdale
24 Geelong Cup, Geelong Racecourse
27 The Very Hungry Caterpillar, GPAC
27 Oktoberfest Greater Geelong, Geelong Showgrounds
27–28 Spring Plant Sale, Geelong Botanic Gardens

NOVEMBER

16 Word for Word Non-Fiction Festival, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre
20–29 Oceania and Australian Para Badminton Championships
27–29 Targa Florio Australian Tribute, Waterfront Geelong

DECEMBER

1 Denis Walter Carols by the Bay, Eastern Beach Reserve
2 Waterfront Makers and Growers Market, Steampacket Gardens

BE THE PERSON WHO KNOWS IT FIRST!
Sign up to receive our newsletter today at www.eventsgeelong.com.au