

## Heritage on foot

MARIBYRNONG City Council is providing free walking tours to explore heritage and environmental treasures across the municipality.

The council will fund 11 free tours run by professional guides, Melbourne Walks, between 29 August and June next year.

The walks will feature some of the municipality's most interesting locations, including Yarraville's Sun Theatre, Footscray Park, the Quang Minh Temple and Jack's Magazine.

"The tours are a fantastic opportunity to explore the city, meet your neighbours, learn about the history of the area and engage in easy and enjoyable exercise," mayor Sel Sanli said.

Bookings are essential and are limited to 20 places per walk.

For more information or to make a booking, call 9688 0310 or email [walking@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:walking@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)



**On song ... Conductor Shaun Islip and the Footscray Sings choir.** 51706

**Picture: DAMJAN JANEVSKI**

## Did you know?



### No Stopping

- No Stopping means No Stopping At all times - unless otherwise stated
- Follow the rules to avoid the fine of \$119



### No Parking

- No Parking means you can stop in a No Parking space for up to 2 minutes - it's a quick pick up and drop off zone
- Drivers need to stay within 3 metres of the vehicle
- Great for dropping off or picking up passengers after shopping trips
- Follow the rules to avoid the fine of \$72

## Song on Islip's lips

**BY CHARLENE GATT**

IF YOU can't hold a tune, this choir's for you.

So says Shaun Islip, conductor of the Footscray Sings Choir.

The choir started up two months ago through Creativity Australia, with the aim to bring together people from all walks of life.

So far, Footscray Sings has about 20 members, including business people, seniors, a woman in a wheelchair, a young girl, migrants and unemployed people.

"They come wanting to check it out and they leave feeling wonderful," Mr Islip said.

"The music is something that draws us together...it brings a sense of belonging and community."

"There's some kind of magic when we get together."

The group rehearses once a week at the Phoenix Youth Centre, and will move to their new home at the Hyde St Church this week.

Footscray Sings is one of six community choirs that have been set up around Melbourne.

The group will join other choirs next month at the Melbourne Recital Centre for a series of concerts.

To find out more about Footscray Sings, go to [www.creativityaustralia.org.au](http://www.creativityaustralia.org.au)

## Uni's fine food VenU

FOOTSCRAY'S foodie culture is set to get a major boost when Maribyrnong City Council puts its hand up for next year's Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

The council is in talks with Victoria University, the Footscray Community Arts Centre, Western Melbourne Tourism, the Footscray Traders Association and the Department of Planning and Community Development to stage a Footscray-based umbrella event for next year's festival, which will run in March.

The council has lodged a formal submission to festival organisers and has pledged \$41,000 to help run the event.

Event ideas include:

- A five-course gluten-free degustation dinner prepared by Victoria University students in the Le Cordon Bleu program;
- A tour through Footscray markets and subsequent cooking class;
- A two-hour mystery box challenge overseen by accredited culinary judges and coaches; and
- A three-course dinner where renowned Melbourne food writers guide the audience through food critiquing.

Victoria University's new teaching restaurant, VenU, will be star of the show, with the venue proposed to host eight of the proposed 13 events.

Councillor Sarah Carter said it was an exciting opportunity for Footscray.

"It's a significant investment...there exists a great synergy with the city's restaurants, VU, and other key stakeholders," Cr Carter said.

## This art out in the open

MARIBYRNONG'S artists will throw their doors open to the public in November for the annual Open Studios weekend.

The council is calling on all artists from the West to open their studios and share their passion, while also selling their work.

The Open Studios project was established by local artists in 2005 and has become a highly regarded addition to the arts calendar.

"Maribyrnong is emerging as the new centre of art," Maribyrnong mayor Sel Sanli said.

"This year more artists, more venues, greater art sales and more artistic experiences are all within walking distance."

To apply for a place in the Open Studios weekend or for more information, visit [www.openstudiosinthewest.net](http://www.openstudiosinthewest.net). Registrations close at 5pm on 10 September.

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