

Let's
talk
Bayside

Autumn 2009
ISSUE FOUR

Live it up

at the **Bright 'n'
Sandy Food and
Wine Festival**

Council services
for all

**Youth
counselling**
helps



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Let's Talk Bayside – strategic intent

Let's Talk Bayside aspires to be a valued magazine where the Bayside community can hear about what's going on, be informed on local matters, read a range of opinions on issues affecting local amenity and have a say on issues of interest.



Let's Talk Bayside – good enough to eat

Let's Talk Bayside – is Bayside City Council's official community newsletter. It is printed on 80 per cent recycled paper with

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Live it up at the **Bright 'n' Sandy Food and Wine Festival**



On Sunday 22 March, Green Point in Brighton becomes the epicentre of gourmet Bayside as the *Bright 'n' Sandy Food and Wine Festival* celebrates its fifth year.

Organisers expect a crowd of over 10,000 to make the earth (and stomachs) rumble, and predict exquisite taste bud tinglings to be felt for days.

The Festival, set above the historic Brighton Bathing Boxes, presents innovative culinary demonstrations, serves up samples from local gourmards, and adds entertainment to sunny Bayside.

Bayside City Council's Events Officer, Mark Potter and Event Producer, Suzanne Olb are among those ramping up for this year's event. Building on the successes of the previous four years, they tell us that this year's Festival will add lifestyle exhibits to the core food and beverage attractions.

Co-author of the popular Foodies Guide series and the newly released *In the Kitchen* cookbook, Allan Campion, who is a standout local and icon of the Festival will continue to lead the cooking demonstration this year.



Urchin Bar will be one of many local eateries sharing their cuisine on the festival day

“The Festival is an amazing opportunity for the fabulous food and wine of Bayside to be on show for all of Melbourne to experience, taste and enjoy,” says Allan. Wonder what he’ll be whipping up that day? Come by and see.

On the topic of demonstrations, last year’s chocolate demo was such a big hit, that this year it will be moved to the main stage so more can enjoy. Arno Backes, Ganache’s chocolatier, will guide festival goers on a tour of chocolate; teaching about its history and preparation. Naturally, tastings are included. If all that gets your thirst up, you’re in luck. The 2 Brothers Brewery is set to demonstrate the art of beer making.

Another high-demand highlight from last year’s *Bright ‘n’ Sandy Food and Wine Festival* was the children’s interactive cooking sessions. They were so popular they booked out in moments. This year, more sessions

are offered, but don’t delay if you want to participate. Book a session for your 5 to 12-year-old at the information centre as soon as you arrive.

Headlining the entertainment this year will be critically acclaimed British singer-songwriter Boo Hewerdine and Nashville artist Kim Richey in their only Melbourne performance. Called, ‘nothing short of a revelation’ by The Sun (UK), Boo and Kim top a list of delectable main stage performers perfect for families.

Quirky street theatre promises to keep the event lively between gigs. Have you ever looked up to a tulip? You will at the *Bright ‘n’ Sandy*, they’ll be giant, fluorescent, and walking the streets!

The annual event is a treat for both visitors and exhibitors. “The *Bright ‘n’ Sandy Food and Wine Festival* is a great outdoor experience, it is a good opportunity to meet the locals, and a different

environment for staff to work as a team,” says Nat Susilavorn of The Glass, exhibitor at both last year and this year’s festival.

The 2009 Festival will feature twenty food and beverage exhibitors including Winelarder, Rembroza Restaurant, Marine Hotel, Urchin Bar, Wine Justice, Espresso Elements, King Island Steak & Wine, The Glass, Half Moon (and their sister restaurant the Botanical), Ludo, the Good Food Store, Red Hill Brewery, Fiesta Foods and 2 Brothers Brewery

Entry to the *Bright ‘n’ Sandy Food and Wine Festival* costs \$2; the children’s cooking workshops have a \$5 product fee. A free bus service will operate throughout the Bayside area to get you there at no cost. For further information explore the Festival website at www.bayside.vic.gov.au/brightnsandy or phone (03) 9599 4444. ■



Council services for all

There are over a hundred ways that Council provides the services that the community expects...

Council, as you know, is more than roads, rates, and rubbish collection. What you may not realise, however, is just how many different services Council provides and maintains. “There are over a hundred ways that Council provides the services that the community expects in order for their day-to-day lives to run smoothly.” Councillor James Long, newly elected Mayor of Bayside, highlights some of the items from this long list. “Local libraries, sporting facilities, maintenance of footpaths, the whole infrastructure of the local community. It includes everything from good governance to public amenities like park benches and street signs.”

Bayside City Council achieves its goals through an established and effective structure.

The seven member Council is chaired by the Mayor, who speaks on its behalf. The Mayor is also responsible for liaising with the Bayside CEO, who is in charge of Council staff. The role of Mayor is virtually a full-time position with its own allowance.

The six other Bayside Councillors are all expected to be available seven days a week and to attend a large number of evening meetings. They get a smaller amount per annum for this demanding work. Taken together, this group is charged with governing the organisation and the future delivery of service to residents and ratepayers.

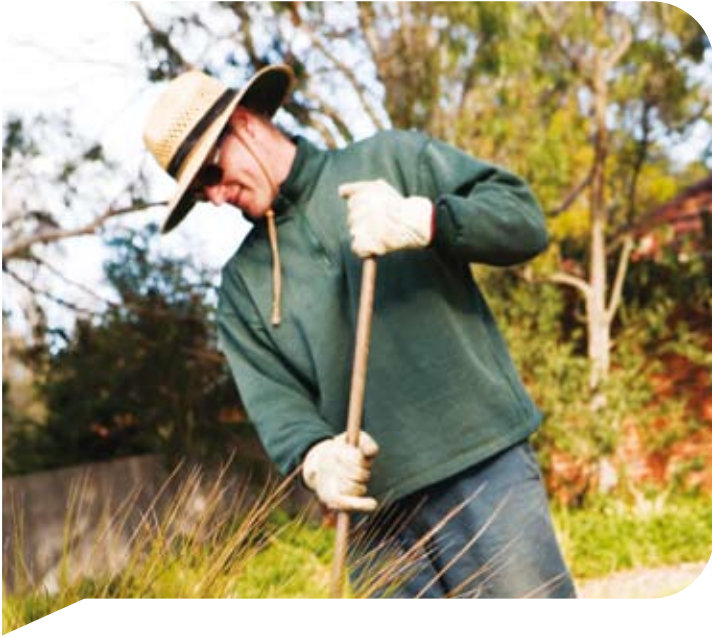
How does Council determine which services get funded? According to Bayside CEO, Adrian Robb, Council takes as its starting point a goal of improving the quality of life for everyone in the Bayside community. Exactly what falls under that broad umbrella isn't always

clearly mandated. Councillors and Council staff must listen to the needs of the community and then add their own concerns to the agenda.

“Our resources often don't allow us to do everything we'd like, despite our wide role,” says Mr. Robb. He estimates that there are up to 150 different services delivered by Bayside City Council.

Naturally, meeting the disparate needs creates challenges. Having limited resources is a chronic concern, not only in Bayside but also across Australia. Studies show many local governments are financially unsustainable. Bayside is in a relatively good position, but Council still has some way to go before it can confidently guarantee the long term quality of current and future Bayside assets and services.

Barrie Sheppard, representative of the Brighton Residents for Urban Protection, keeps a close eye on how Bayside City Council manages



its responsibilities. His group, set up in 1998 to protect against what they saw as rampant multi-unit development, remains interested in Council matters.

Mr. Sheppard says, “A lot of people see Council as a scapegoat. While Councillors and Council Officers make occasional mistakes from time to time, they are genuine in their concern for the wellbeing of residents and ratepayers.”

“I’m impressed by library services and by the fact that Council gives ratepayers two parking stickers to park anywhere on the foreshore,” says Mr. Sheppard. “I reckon I get enough value from those services alone, not to mention parks and gardens maintenance.”

Because there’s such a wide range of responsibilities taken on by Council, it is not surprising that Mr. Sheppard also sees room for improvement. In his opinion, the Planning Department is hard pressed. He sees too much turnover of staff there, resulting in a loss of continuity of knowledge.

Speaking for the Brighton Residents for Urban Protection, he says, “Generally, we’re satisfied given the pressure from the state government for high-density housing, but inevitably Council makes some mistakes, as all Councils do.”

Keeping all of the services that Bayside requires operating, and operating well, is no small task. It also takes a vast budget. If you’ve been picturing that everything Council does is funded by rates, you’re only seeing part of the picture.

Rates are essentially property tax. Just as many Council services are unrelated to property, the same is true for Bayside revenue. According to Adrian Robb, rates account for roughly 65 per cent of the Bayside City Council services budget. “No council in Victoria can survive on rates alone,” he explains.

Bayside receives the needed revenue from many sources, Bayside obtains often contrasting views and requests for service from even more sources. Crunching those needs and providing the necessary service with the funds available is the job of Bayside City Council. It’s an ambitious task that works best when the community and Council work together. ■



Here are just a few of Council’s services.

Each year Council:

- empties four million bins
- sweeps 10,000 km of road
- services 16,000 drainage pits
- delivers 160,000 meals
- provides 90,000 hours of in-home care
- receives 18,600 calls at its call centre
- conducts 21,000 maternal and child health consultations annually
- processes 1000 building and 1000 planning requests
- conducts more than 100 swimming pool inspections

Village**life:** Robert Paterson

Robert Paterson had an idyllic childhood by the bay. He spent his days playing amongst the ti-trees and cycling along the sandy tracks in the suburbs near his home in Parkdale.

"They were simple, but happy times," the now 64-year-old remembers. "We'd swim, catch fish, collect mussels from the pier or build a tree house or hut in the scrub."

Today, Robert Paterson lives in Beaumaris with his wife Danuta. After a very successful 47-year career in the printing industry, he retired last year, thinking it was time to take life easy. But the reality was not what he expected.

"It was great for the first few weeks but then I got bored," he says. "I had been so busy in my work over the years I hadn't had time to develop any hobbies other than golf. For the first time in my life, I didn't know what to do with myself."

One morning, the 64-year-old walked to Ricketts Point and stood there, remembering his boyhood,

cycling around the bay. His 'dodgy' knees prevent cycling these days so he bought a powered bicycle and started riding every day.

It was while he was riding one day, enjoying the sights along the cycling path, that a new venture struck him: to form an informal bike club for cycling on the paths, not the roads, and to publish a guidebook to the bay paths from Port Melbourne to Mordialloc.

More than six months into the project, Robert has already formed the club and works on the guide book from his tranquil home hidden away on an unsealed road just metres from Beach Road.

He has flung himself into the project, researching various attractions along the route and gathering historical information. His printing background has come in handy, enabling him to create a logo for caps and the guide book.

"Some people who live in Bayside forget just how close they are to the beach and just how wonderful it is."

"Some people who live in Bayside forget just how close they are to the beach and just how wonderful it is," he says. "Visitors from overseas just can't believe we have this on our doorstep. Locals should remember that and use it even more - it's all there. Go and look at it!"

One of Robert's favourite spots is one close to his own home: Beaumaris Yacht club at Ricketts Point.

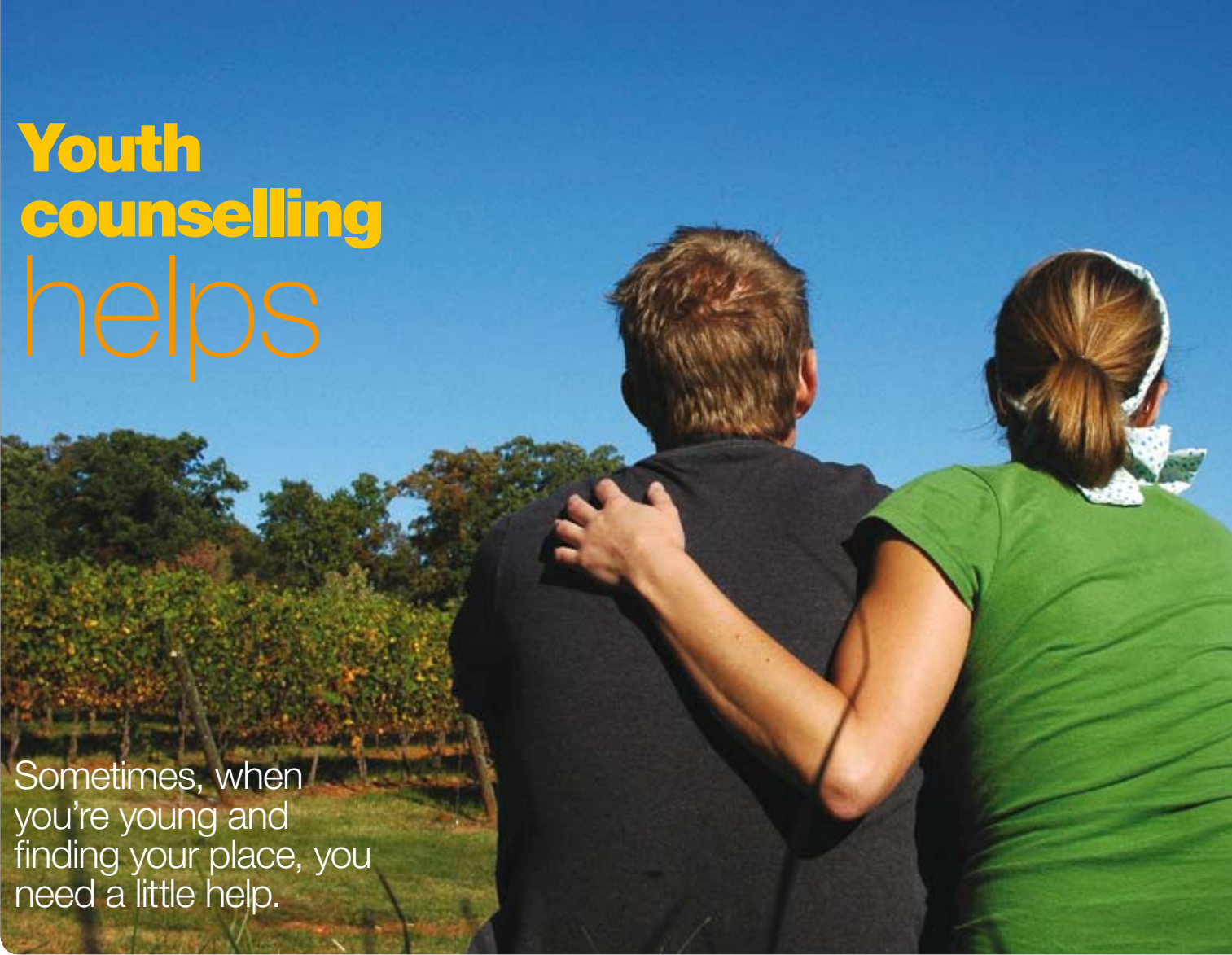
"Every day is different there," he says. "Taking photos there is a joy - you'll get a different image every day depending on the light, the water and the tide. It's just beautiful."

Robert Paterson plans to publish his guide early in 2009. For more information on the guide or the Pathfinders Club, contact rob.pathfinders@gmail.com ■



Robert Paterson enjoying Ricketts Point.

Youth counselling helps



Sometimes, when you're young and finding your place, you need a little help.

You might feel embarrassed about it, but since Bayside City Council's Youth Services offers free counselling, getting the help you need is no hassle at all.

One 14 year old who has been availing herself of regular, free youth counselling for the past year spoke to Let's Talk Bayside about the service.

To hear Claire* talk about it, she wasn't in such good shape a year ago. By the time she was finishing Year 7, more than one of her teachers had expressed serious concern about her behaviour. Claire was regularly yelling back at her instructors, throwing things in the classroom, and generally acting out of order.

Claire's self-described miserable behaviour wasn't restricted to the classroom, either. Her relationship with her mother had deteriorated to the point where she was no longer welcome in the family home.

Luckily, one of Claire's teachers was able to talk her into giving youth counselling a go. At first, the idea didn't sound appealing at all. Why, Claire wondered, would she want to talk to some random person? "It was nerve wracking at first," Claire shares. "I didn't know what to say to the counsellor, or if I should tell them the truth or not."

However, after she started to feel more comfortable, Claire began to find the weekly sessions really helpful. Her counsellor was non-judgemental and didn't take sides. The pair would meet privately at school when it was in session and other times at the Peterson Youth Centre in Highett. Sometimes during school holidays, they'd even catch up over lunch.

Through the course of her sessions, Claire began to see how she could have a calm relationship with her mother again. She also began to see how her actions made her look to other people. That helped her find her way back to a path where

she feels healthier and happier.

"Mum and I are having a steady relationship without bumps everywhere now. We're getting back to being mum and daughter again. I'm not such a brat anymore."

When asked, Claire eagerly recommended that if her peers need it, they should take advantage of Youth Services counselling. "A couple of my mates do it as well and they love it, too," she says. "There's no catch to it. You go for as long as you want and stop when you want."

"If you're having problems, it can make a big difference."

Bayside City Council's Youth Services offers free counselling and individual support for people aged from 10 to 25 years old and their families. If you are struggling with an issue or just need someone to talk to, please contact Youth Services on (03) 9599 4622 from Monday to Friday between 1pm and 5pm. ■

**Names have been changed*

Cheltenham Football Club: Good point

The attitude at Cheltenham is that football is the byproduct of community engagement, not the other way around.



Ron Jenkins takes us on a tour of Cheltenham Football club

Cheltenham wants to be

known as the best country football club in the city. “In the country, a football club is the hub of the town,” explains Executive Committee President Ron Jenkins. “People gather to it. At Cheltenham, we’re aiming to create an atmosphere where a two-year old child can crawl around safely and an eighty-year-old feels at home,” says Ron.

The attitude at Cheltenham is that football is the byproduct of community engagement, not the other way around.

Regardless, in its 115 year history, the Cheltenham Football Club has earned its stripes, (they’re red, black, and yellow). While five years ago the club was another typical suburban club in financial difficulties, now it sets the standard for success. It is the only senior club in Australia with AFL Gold Accreditation status.

Ron was part of a group of Club leaders who stepped forward to help Cheltenham live up to its potential. A formal plan was created and it included some dramatic changes.

The Club bar, for example, now closes at 8pm on Saturday nights. While this may sound like an odd business strategy, it is part of a responsible alcohol policy that cut the club’s dependence on bar revenue from 70 to 23 per cent.

New Club policies also tackle racism and smoking, provide support for the disabled, and encourage women, youth, and seniors to get involved. “Embrace the past,” explains Mr. Jenkins, “but live for the future.”

An essential part of Cheltenham Football Club’s long-range plan is youth services. Providing a safe environment for young people, supplying a second home for adolescents, and trying to be a positive influence—that’s a huge part of what Cheltenham is about. But how do you transform those ideals into action? How about by providing free meals for juniors on Thursday nights and offering discounts to functions. Add to that a strict anger management program and you’ll



start to see the Cheltenham formula for success.

In the past three years, participation in the Under-18 sides has doubled while other clubs are shrinking. In fact, Cheltenham’s new policies have paid off both financially and in terms of community involvement.

Over the past four years, on-field participation has grown by over 120 per cent and membership is up 200 per cent. The Club is once again operating in the black.

For those unfamiliar with the Cheltenham Football Club, their April 19 ANZAC Day commemoration event is a fantastic opportunity to experience the revitalised club. This year’s guest speaker will be Army Major General, Alan Stretton. All of the previous year’s speakers will attend the event as well, promising a moving experience.

When asked about the Club’s immediate goals, Mr. Jenkins talks about Ladies Day, on the Saturday before Mother’s Day, and their

positive inclusion program. “We would like to bring more women into the club and hopefully affiliate with netball clubs,” says Ron. Also on the list is putting on a General Manager to help run the Club. Currently, around 40 volunteers pitch in at Cheltenham every weekend.

If you’re interested in getting involved either on or off the field, Ron encourages you to visit the Club’s website at www.cheltenhamfc.com.au, or contact him directly at ron.jenkins@hotmail.com or at 0418 385 762. ■



Be a **Let's Talk Bayside** letterbox auditor

Council is seeking your help to improve the distribution of *Let's Talk Bayside*.

We are looking for residents with email to help us detect distribution problems. Following the distribution of *Let's Talk Bayside*, which occurs quarterly, you will receive an email from Council saying that the newsletter is on its way. You simply reply by email telling us if you received your edition, or not.

If you want to be a letterbox auditor email your details to communications@bayside.vic.gov.au ■

Council meetings

Council and Committee Meetings are held at 7pm on Tuesday evenings at the Council Chambers - Civic Centre, Boxshall Street, Brighton. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

If you would like to submit a question at the Ordinary Meeting of Council, or speak on an agenda item at either an Approvals or General Committee Meeting, please call Council on 9599 4444 or visit the website at www.bayside.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings.htm

Upcoming meetings:

Planning Committee Tuesday 10 March 2009

General Committee Tuesday 17 March 2009

Ordinary Meeting of Council/
Planning Committee Tuesday 24 March 2009

Planning Committee Tuesday 7 April 2009

Easter Tuesday Tuesday 14 April 2009

General Committee Tuesday 21 April 2009

Ordinary Meeting of Council/
Planning Committee Tuesday 28 April 2009

Bayside in brief

Computer **Training Courses**

Back by popular demand! Brighton Library is holding computer courses for all skill levels and ages. Courses range from basic computer skills to digital photography and are either free, or priced from \$48 to \$90. All classes are taught by trained professionals and are capped at eight students. Receive a 20 per cent discount if you book and pay for more than one fee paying course at the same time. For more information visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au/library or contact Sue Doherty at Brighton Library on 9591 5907. ■

Children's Services **Open Weekend**

Are you looking into childcare and kindergarten options for your family? On Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May 2009, children's services facilities in Bayside will open their doors to allow you the opportunity to come by and investigate. This is your chance to view the various facilities and meet with staff prior to making a decision on where you want to send your children. For more information on which facilities will be open, and when, please contact Gay Sherry, Council's Kindergarten Liaison Officer on 9599 4359. ■

Attention Letterbox **Auditors**

Due to an over-enthusiastic clean out at the tail end of 2008, the details of some initial respondents to the request for Letterbox Auditors have been erased. Anyone who nominated themselves to be involved prior to the distribution of the December 2008 edition and is still interested in participating, please re-email your details to communications@bayside.vic.gov.au ■

Dig deep for the fire victims

Council is encouraging residents to dig deep and reach out to bushfire victims and donate to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Appeal. The recent bushfires have been Victoria's worst and our thoughts go to all those that have been affected, both directly and indirectly. The Victorian Bush Fire Appeal, assists individuals and communities affected. People can donate to the fund by calling the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund on 1800 811 700. Donations can also be made through the Red Cross, NAB, ANZ, Commonwealth Bank and Westpac. ■

Bayside Literary Festival Coming

Leave space in your calendar for this year's Bayside Literary Festival, held during Library Week, 22 to 31 May. Featuring writing workshops, talks from authors working in a variety of genres, plus poetry and writing competitions, this is a brilliant opportunity for those in Bayside with a taste for the literary arts. The Bayside Literary Festival will also showcase work from local writers and writing groups. For more information about the Bayside Literary Festival visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au/library or phone Ali Hill on 9591 5906 (Tue—Thu) or Karyn Siegmann on 9599 4426 ■

New councillors **elected**

As of December, Bayside City Council has a new slate of Councillors. Five should be familiar faces as four have been re-elected to office and one has returned to Council after serving previously. The returning Councillors are James Long, Clifford Hayes, Michael Norris, and Alex del Porto. Simon Russell is back representing the Southern Ward, having served previously as Bayside Mayor in 2001/2002.

Bayside welcomes new Councillors Felicity Frederico and Lousie Cooper-Shaw, both standing from the Central Ward. Councillor James Long, also from the Central Ward has been elected by the group to serve as Mayor. Clifford Hayes, from the Northern Ward, is the new Deputy Mayor. Contact details for your local Councillors are listed on the back page of this newsletter. ■



Bayside Business Network more than ever... **value for money**

With membership in the Bayside Business Network (BBN) pushing past the 300 mark, and its popular Women's Luncheons commonly sold out, now is the time to join and secure your seat for upcoming events. The first BBN Business Breakfast is Tuesday 3 March at The International of Brighton. Next up, on 11 March, will be an informal networking evening at Cerberus Café in Half Moon Bay. The BBN Seminar Series, *Profit from Learning*, launches on 23 March. The first Bayside Women's Luncheon of 2009 follows on 31 March. Due to the popularity of these events, it is important to book early. Networking nights are members only, and the Seminar Series is free for members. For more information, please contact Robert Wolff at Bayside City Council at 9599 4444. ■

Correction

In the previous issue, it was incorrectly reported that 350,000 cigarette butts enter Port Phillip Bay each year. The correct figure is 350,000 cigarette butts each day. We apologise for the error. ■

Beaumaris Children's Playhouse

saves for a non-rainy day



There's no sense in flushing drinkable water down the drain. That's the idea Beaumaris Children's Playhouse put into action when they connected their new rainwater collection tanks last August.

Working with an \$11,300 grant from the Federal Government, plus \$2,000 from their own coffers, the Playhouse installed two large tanks on their grounds. Environmental Projects Officer, Rachel Sorley, explained the process took around 18 months from when they first submitted the initial grant application, but it is already paying off.

Now, when the children and their guardians use the facilities, they get dual flush toilets running on rainwater plus sensor taps on the sinks. No more forgetful young people leaving the taps running. As the Playhouse uses about the same amount of water as a small family home, the example here is one visitors can take home with them.

In support of this environmental initiative, the South East Water education team helped to stage a celebratory Water Wise Day at the Playhouse. Those taking part in the fun on 12 November 2008 had the opportunity to learn more about the water cycle and water conservation. Murray Thompson, Member for Sandringham in the Victorian Parliament, also took the time to admire the improvements at the Beaumaris Children's Playhouse the following week.

Rachel Sorely shares her appreciation for the government funding that made these improvements possible. While many of us think of using rainwater on our gardens, connecting collection tanks to bathrooms greatly increases our ability to conserve water. ■

Your **voice** at Council

Northern Ward

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Cr James Long

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Cr Louise Cooper-Shaw

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Cr Michael Norris

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Cr Simon Russell

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You can also contact the *Councillor Support Line* on 9598 2046 to make contact with your representative.

