

**SERVICES AND
SUPPORT TO STAY
HOME, STAY CONNECTED
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THE LIFEBLOOD OF
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Stonnington news



Together on the road to *recovery*

“We have come together as a community to get through this, but now is the time to support our local businesses, which are the lifeblood of Stonnington.”

more on page 2



Mayor, CEO, praise community response

Now is the time to rebuild, recover and support local business.

City of Stonnington Mayor, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos and Chief Executive Officer Jacqui Weatherill have outlined plans for Council's road to recovery, calling on the community to 'go local'.

Cr Stefanopoulos said residents and businesses alike had answered the call to stay at home, and he was especially proud of the way people looked out for our elderly and most vulnerable citizens.

"By staying apart, we have stuck together. Never before has 'community' been such a powerful force," he said.

"Now it's time to turn that same spirit to the recovery of our business community, which is the lifeblood of Stonnington."

CEO Jacqui Weatherill acknowledged the efforts of Council's frontline staff, who continued to deliver essential services throughout the lock-down, such as waste collection, street cleaning, maintenance, and maternal, child and aged care.

Ms Weatherill said the Stonnington team had moved early to implement a Business Continuity Plan that ensured Council staff remained safe, including shutting Council offices and setting up staff to work from home throughout the lock-down.

She said Council continued to deliver its multi-million dollar business support package and ensure the community had the most up-to-date information on services and support.

"We now find ourselves entering the recovery phase a little sooner than first thought, which is a credit to the community's response. This sets us up for a strong rebound.

"We have been focusing on what this recovery will look like and how to bring Council services back as soon as possible.

"We want to reopen for business as soon as it is responsible to do so, to get our shopping precincts, libraries and leisure centres moving, and to kick-start our economy with projects that stimulate employment and set us up for the future," Ms Weatherill said.



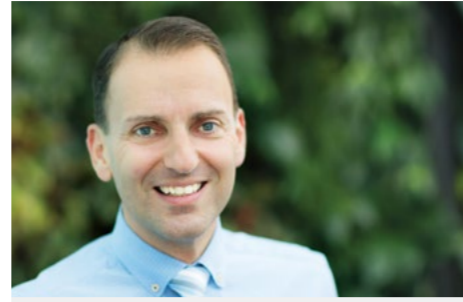
"By staying apart, we have stuck together. Never before has 'community' been such a powerful force."

— Cr Steve Stefanopoulos Mayor



"We have been focusing on what the recovery will look like... and to reopen business as soon as it is responsible to do so."

— Jacqui Weatherill CEO



A word from the Mayor: **THINK LOCAL**

It has been with pride that I have watched the Stonnington community play its part to 'flatten the curve', with thousands of us working together to overcome Australia's greatest public health and economic challenge.

I was delighted, but not surprised, at the way in which residents and businesses alike responded to calls to minimise unnecessary movement, staying at home as much as possible, and practising social distancing and looking out for the most vulnerable members of the community.

But most of all, I was struck by the kindness and respect people have shown, whether helping out a neighbour or sharing our parks and gardens.

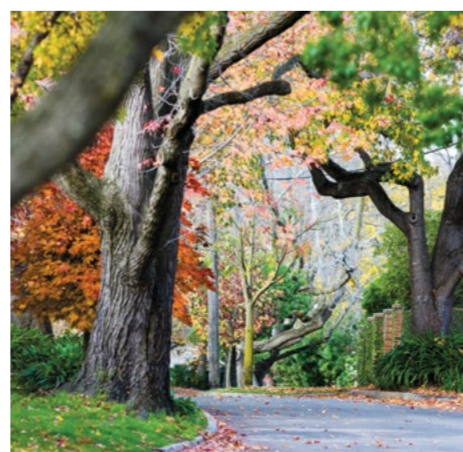
The lock-down has really sharpened our community's focus on our local environment, for example, we saw people using our parks, gardens and open spaces in record numbers.

As we move into recovery, it is important this 'think local' approach includes supporting our local businesses, who have borne the brunt of the shutdown.

So as the doors begin to open and our businesses begin to welcome customers, please support your local traders and together, we can recover.

Cr Steve Stefanopoulos
Mayor of Stonnington

Keeping our streets and parks clean is an important part of maintaining community health.



Good planning, tough decisions

HOW COUNCIL RESPONDED TO THE CRISIS

The City of Stonnington responded swiftly to the COVID-19 crisis, with the first priority being the safety and wellbeing of staff, customers and the community.

City of Stonnington Mayor, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos, said many difficult decisions were made early in the pandemic, particularly the closure of facilities and services. He said decisive action – coupled with clear and consistent communications – was the only way to properly respond to this once-in-a-century event.

"These tough decisions – including closing important community services – proved to be timely and well-measured. Indeed, the City of Stonnington led the way in changing our service delivery and adjusting to the new reality," Cr Stefanopoulos said.

"These decisive moves meant we could operate with sufficient capacity and capability, while ensuring the community remained informed and prepared for the challenge."

City of Stonnington CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, said Council moved swiftly to enable the vast majority of staff to work from home, where they were able to deliver essential services to keep the city safe, clean and functioning.

"Our people have shown great resilience and have rallied during this challenge. To move an entire workforce to work from home would normally be a multi-year project, and we achieved it in days with barely a hiccup in customer service," Ms Weatherill said.

"Our frontline staff continue to collect waste and recycling, kept our streets clean and delivered a constant flow of community information. And, as always, our Community Services team never missed a beat, continuing to deliver vital support to our elderly and most vulnerable."

Ms Weatherill said the City of Stonnington worked closely with the Victorian Government and Victoria Police to communicate, what were, at first, strong health warnings and advice, but which rapidly moved into enforcement.

This included the closure of playgrounds, sports facilities and fitness equipment, the installation of highly visible signage, social media campaigns and an increased Council presence in parks and open spaces.

"Our parks and outdoor spaces have been used by unprecedented numbers of people seeking to escape, get fresh air, exercise and experience a degree of connectivity with their neighbours, albeit on the move.

"Despite the increased demand, we saw an excellent response to the call for social distancing. The cooperation across the community has been remarkable," said Ms Weatherill.

OUR SERVICES

For more information as restrictions ease, go to stonnington.vic.gov.au

Immunisation

Our immunisation program is being delivered from Malvern Town Hall only, with all services needing to be pre-booked. Find out more at stonnington.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Prahran Square

Prahran Square remains open to the public with strict social distancing restrictions in place. Organised events have been cancelled.

Maternal and Child Health

Development assessments, consultations and parent support groups are all continuing via phone or video. Find out more at stonnington.vic.gov.au/mch

Community Centres

Our community centres are closed.

Welcome to Stonnington News

Council's free news publication is looking a little different this edition.

We'll soon be going digital to better engage with you and help protect our planet's finite resources.

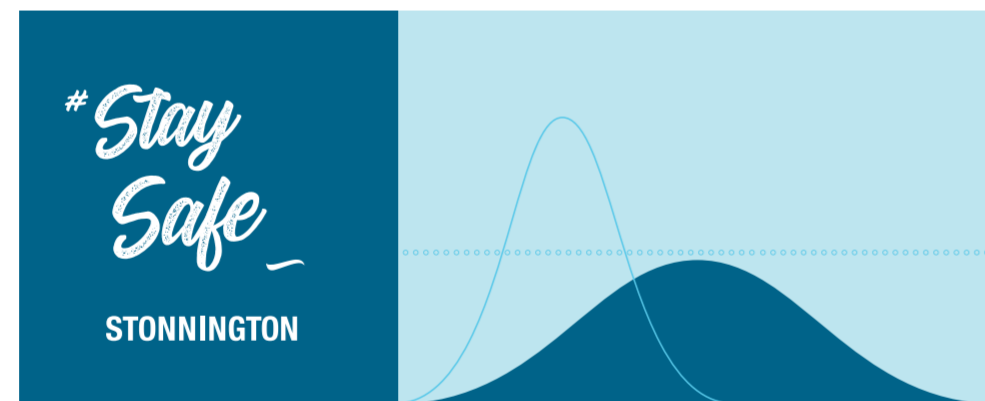
But we know some readers love to get Stonnington News in the post, so let us know how you want yours – direct to your inbox or straight in your letterbox.



To receive a digital copy, subscribe at stonnington.vic.gov.au/stonningtonnews or message us via our social media channels



To continue receiving it at home, email us at communications@stonnington.vic.gov.au or write to us at **The Editor, Stonnington News City of Stonnington PO Box 58, Malvern 3144**



Doing our bit to flatten the curve

The business of Council continued throughout the lock-down, with hundreds of frontline staff delivering essential services such as waste, immunisation programs and planning services.

Council moved quickly to set up more than 300 staff to work from home, and mobilised its entire Customer Service operations out of Council offices – without compromising response times or levels of service.

By moving early, Council did its part to minimise the risk of transmission, while keeping the community safe and clean, and gearing up for a rapid recovery for a stronger, more connected Stonnington.



To keep up-to-date with what Council has done during the pandemic, go to stonnington.vic.gov.au/covid19

City of Stonnington online
We're making it easy to find what you're looking for online including information about our services and what's open and available.
Keep an eye on our website stonnington.vic.gov.au for news, updates and new features to make your experience with us even better.
Stay informed via socials and stay connected on our Stonnington Facebook page

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Staying connected at home

While infection rates continue to fall, COVID-19 remains a serious risk to public health.

As we begin to reopen services and facilities, the wellbeing of our community will continue to be our number one priority. The way we deliver these services and operate these facilities is likely to be different, so stay connected with your local council via our website or follow us on social media for the latest news.

You can find more information at stonnington.vic.gov.au/covid19

How to contact us

Public facing Customer Service centres are closed but our team is still receiving and responding to requests and questions by phone and via online channels.

Alternative ways to contact us are:

stonnington.vic.gov.au

council@stonnington.vic.gov.au

[facebook.com/stonningtoncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/stonningtoncouncil)

8290 1333 (general enquiries) or 8290 3329 (planning specific enquiries)

Request a service online at stonnington.vic.gov.au/requestservice

Report an issue on Snap Send Solve: snapsendsolve.com

Ways to connect, general assistance and help lines

Department of Health and Human Services

dhhs.vic.gov.au

1800 675 398

Australian Government Department of Health

health.gov.au

Centrelink, pension and health related services

servicesaustralia.gov.au/my.gov.au

Beyond Blue

1300 224 636

In an emergency

Triple zero (000)

Support package for our local businesses

The City of Stonnington recognised early that our local businesses were being hit hard by the restrictions and moved quickly to pass an Emergency Support Package.

Mayor, Cr Steve Stefanopoulos said small business is the lifeblood of the community and had borne the brunt of the strict social distancing restrictions.

“Sadly, many wonderful and entrepreneurial people have had their businesses and livelihoods severely impacted. These are people who have spent many years growing, employing and contributing to what makes Stonnington unique,” he said.

In March, the City of Stonnington announced a substantial support package for business, including refunding \$1m worth of permit fees

to help businesses get through a tough period, and rental relief for food businesses at Council premises.

Cr Stefanopoulos said many businesses had changed their offering during the restrictions, focusing on delivery and pickup options.

“Our business community continues to do things differently to adapt to the restrictions. Particularly, our wonderful hospitality industry which has reinvented itself with pickup and delivery options, sometimes even changing what they offer and moving to groceries. Our precinct associations also rose to the challenge, with some great marketing campaigns showcasing what was on offer during a difficult time.

“The relaxing of restrictions will help, but our community needs to get behind our businesses. Staying closer to home and supporting Stonnington businesses will create and sustain local jobs now and into the future,” said Cr Stefanopoulos.

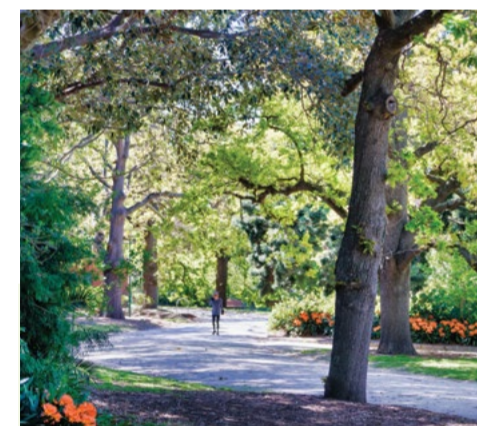


What's happening in your hood?

For information about businesses in your local area, check out Stonnington's precinct associations on social media.

- facebook.com/chapelstreetprecinct
- facebook.com/glenferrieroadmalvern
- facebook.com/highstreetarmadale
- facebook.com/toorakroadsouthyarra
- facebook.com/toorakvillage

For more information, including links to business support and advice from other levels of government, visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/business



Have you registered your pool?

On 1 December 2019, the State Government introduced laws to improve swimming pool and spa safety.

This includes new registration, inspection and compliance requirements, and brings Victoria in line with safety requirements of other states. Property owners who have not yet registered their pool or spa are reminded that an application for registration must be lodged by 1 June 2020.



More valuable than ever

Our parks, gardens, open spaces and reserves are open and they're as busy as ever with people staying closer to home.

If you're using them, please follow social distancing; keep 1.5m between yourself and others and be mindful and respectful of people around you. Playgrounds, fitness equipment, skate parks and BBQs remain closed, however check our website for the most up-to-date informaton.

To find out more, visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/pools

Reducing waste at home

As people spend more time at home, our waste trucks are getting more full.

You can help reduce what we send to landfill by placing items in the correct bin:

- » **garbage bin (green lid):** general rubbish, disposable nappies, polystyrene, broken glassware and ceramics and *soft plastic packaging
- » **recycling bin (blue lid):** rigid plastic bottles and containers, paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium foil and cans, steel cans and aerosols
- » **food and green waste (burgundy lid):** fruit and vegetable scraps, leftover foods, dairy, egg shells, lawn clippings, small branches, leaves and bark.

Help your recycling bin make it through the fortnight by folding down cardboard boxes, buying items without excess packaging and looking at opportunities to reuse items that may have gone into recycling.

Our bin collections are continuing as normal, just place your bins out on your usual day. Collections may take place at a different time of day so don't be concerned if your bins are not collected as early as usual.

* Soft plastics can also be recycled using dedicated bins at supermarkets.

More information at stonnington.vic.gov.au/waste

BUSINESS AS (UN)USUAL

Council continues to monitor the situation and fully supports the efforts of the Australian and Victorian governments to keep our community safe.

Our focus during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is to keep our community safe and maintain essential services like waste and recycling, immunisation, maternal and child health and child care.

Our events, facilities, programs and services have been modified so we can deliver them safely or are postponed.

Our waste and recycling program continues as usual, so we encourage you to please put out your bins on the day that you usually would.



For up-to-date information, visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/covid19

Our Councillors hard at work

Council has been working hard to limit the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on essential services such as our community programs, waste collections and general maintenance.

However, Mayor Cr Stefanopoulos said equally important has been the ongoing administration of the City and the ability for the Councillors to meet and make important decisions.

“With impacts forecast on future revenue and adjustments needed to our major capital works program, Council meetings are more important than ever to ensure responsible budget and investment strategies are in place for the next financial year and beyond,” he said.

In April, the Victorian Government agreed to changes to the Victorian Local Government Act 1985 that

from 1 May 2020 will allow Council Meetings to be held using online technology. Previously, meetings were only permitted in person.

In the lead-up to this change coming into effect, Stonnington has put in place measures to allow our Council meetings to continue while having social distancing requirements observed, and the meeting live streamed (see below).

“My fellow Councillors and I are committed to transparency and democracy and is committed to a return to full open Council meetings when conditions allow,” the Mayor said.

For more updates on our position, go to stonnington.vic.gov.au



Looking after our seniors

Catching Coronavirus is serious for any member of your family, friends or neighbours – but even more so for loved ones aged over 70.

gone online and community transport services have been postponed.

The Australian Government's MyAgedCare website myagedcare.gov.au/covid-19-information-support has important information and support for older people dealing with the impacts of COVID-19, including a dedicated phone support service: 1800 171 866.

You can help take care of the older people in your life by offering to assist with shopping or other tasks so they can stay home, be safe and we can all help save lives.

Advice from the Australian and Victorian governments is for our seniors to stay at home.

Our home care, personal care, meals on wheels and home maintenance programs are still operating. This includes help with shopping so that our older community members don't need to leave the house. Face-to-face assessment services are being replaced with phone assessments while our Alfresco Social Support Program has

Download your Stay Connected Stonnington flyer from <https://bit.ly/2zrmHIW>

Dogs in parks

We have 27 parks and reserves in Stonnington where you can walk your dog off-lead.

If you're using one of these, make sure you:

- » keep your dog under control and on a lead when travelling to and from designated off-lead areas
- » carry a lead so that you can control your dog if it misbehaves, and
- » pick up after your dog – bags and bins are supplied in these parks.

If you're able to, walking your dog in the morning will mean that you're there at the least busy time of the day while people are using our parks more.

Let's all play our part to flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay safe by maintaining social distancing of 1.5 metres and be mindful that Stonnington parks are shared parks.



Find out where your closest off-lead park or reserve is at stonnington.vic.gov.au/offlead



Active Stonnington at home

Many people have used the lock-down as a chance to focus on their physical wellbeing.

Keeping active supports our immune system, helps manage stress and anxiety and increases energy levels.

But it can be difficult to get motivated at home, so here are couple of resources to get you started:

- » the **Active Stonnington YouTube** channel featuring our fitness team from Harold Holt Swim Centre taking you through a range of do-at-home exercises
- » Sport Australia's *Find Your 30* will help you commit to being active for 30 minutes a day sportaus.gov.au/findyour30

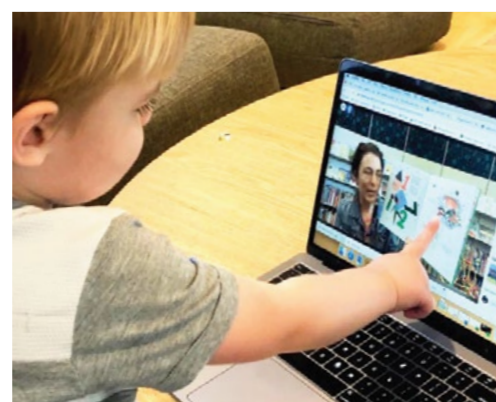
Our teams at Harold Holt Swim Centre and Prahran Aquatic Centre can't wait to see you again once this is all behind us.

Until then, check our Facebook page facebook.com/stonningtoncouncil for ideas on how to stay active at home and keep healthy.



“I was just wondering if you could pass on a big thank you to the library teams (Amy, Jack, Nadia and co) for continuing storytime online. The old Armadale Library and then Malvern Library were central to my upbringing and cultivated my love of English, literature and books (real paper books). Now that I have my own son who was born just before this pandemic hit, Stonnington online storytime is something we can enjoy together whilst in isolation. It still feels like an outing and I'm sure he appreciates hearing someone else's voice. Something so simple means so much, especially to this new mum.”

— **Maria** Stonnington resident



We're still loving our Libraries

Stonnington Libraries' eLibrary offers access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming movies, documentaries and music, digital magazines and more.

All you need to do is become a library member. If you're not a member yet, you should be.

On Facebook, the team is running Storytime at Home during the week and sharing lots of stories and examples of ways people can make their library membership work for them while we're in isolation.

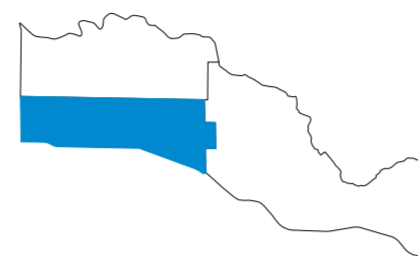
The team can't see you in person right now, but they have plenty to offer.



Find out more at stonnington.vic.gov.au/library

Our Councillors, your representatives

SOUTH WARD

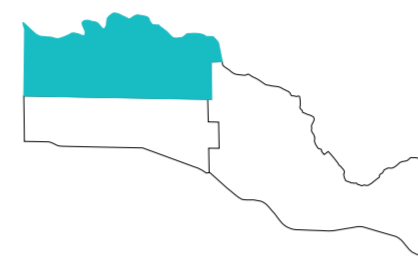


Cr Steve Stefanopoulos
Mayor

I have been heartened to see our community maintaining physical distancing between one another during the current health crisis. I understand that the closure of many of our community facilities and services has caused distress, but we are now planning how best to reopen these and improve our online delivery of services. I ask for your continued patience as we work towards a 'new normal'. In the meantime, if you have any concerns, please get in touch with Council by phone, email or social media.

@sstefanopoulos@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0437 118 718

NORTH WARD

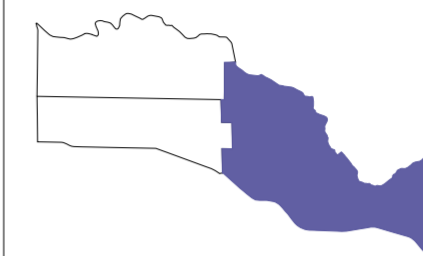


Cr John Chandler
Deputy Mayor

Adversity brings out the best in our community, and I have admired the way the Stonnington community has rallied throughout this challenge. Council has worked hard to ensure we can continue to deliver the services and functions that keep our city clean, safe and working, including being able to continue to meet and make important decisions as a Council. I thank my fellow Councillors for the unity we have all brought to the table. Such a spirit will be an important legacy of overcoming this challenge.

@jchandler@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0417 771 288

EAST WARD



Cr Glen Atwell

In these difficult times, I do hope you and your loved ones have adjusted as well as can be expected to the State Government's 'stay at home' requirements. And as the health authorities continue to report an encouraging downward trend in COVID-19 cases, I thank you for adhering to the challenging but necessary social distancing measures. Ours is a resilient community, and we will emerge from this pandemic different, undoubtedly, but ready to take up the opportunities that lay ahead. Stay well.

@gatwell@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0429 106 772



Cr Judy Hindle

It is not easy to stay positive in these uncertain times, particularly if you live alone, have lost your job or are frustrated with the behaviour of others in your household. There are things that can help: take a walk each day, even if it is a short one. Smile and say hello to anyone you meet and pick up some autumn leaves. You can also telephone somebody you have not spoken to for a while which can be very therapeutic.

@jhindle@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0437 118 718



Cr Marcia Griffin

I am deeply concerned by COVID-19's impact on our community and local retail businesses, who are the backbone of our economy and so essential to residents. I encourage business to continue to respond creatively and to take advantage of all government grants. Your Council is being very proactive in helping local businesses as well as our most vulnerable residents, but please keep up social distancing, keep exercising and stay optimistic. We will get through this. History proves that human beings can overcome huge challenges.

@mgriffin@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0429 239 413



Cr Melina Sehr

As a parent, my thoughts right now are for those in our community juggling the challenge of working from home, parenting, feeding and schooling our kids. Across the community, COVID-19 has had a major impact on the way we live, work and learn. As a Council, we are doing all we can to support every part of our community – from small businesses to families to our elderly and most vulnerable. Please look out for each other, and we will get through this together.

@msehr@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0417 773 644



Cr Matthew Koce

In times like these, it is vital to maintain our physical and mental well-being, and I urge our community to make the most of our wonderful parks, gardens and open spaces. And take a moment to appreciate the work our City of Stonnington team has done to maintain these important assets. This is an unprecedented health and economic challenge for the nation, but I have great faith and confidence in the resilience of our community, and I know we will be back, better, and more united.

@mkoce@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0419 147 352



Cr Sally Davis

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the world in ways we could never imagine. As a Council, it's our legislative role to look after the health and wellbeing of our community and we do this in many varied ways. When Council facilities closed because of isolation requirements, many people came to realise the important role Council plays in supporting people through their various life stages. More importantly, these past few months have reinforced the importance of maintaining a 'sense of community'.

@sdavis@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0429 343 561



Cr Jami Klisaris

I am so proud of the way in which our community has responded to this challenge to the fundamental way we live and engage with each other. Led by our CEO the City of Stonnington has been swift and decisive in making our facilities and open spaces safe while keeping essential services running. The community's response has been overwhelmingly positive and cooperative. It shows we can beat this thing. And when we do, we will be better, kinder and stronger for it as a community.

@jklisaris@stonnington.vic.gov.au
0427 333 471

Check in with Chapel

One of Melbourne's best venues, Chapel Off Chapel, is staying connected to artists and audiences with their new and hugely popular Check In With Chapel series.

Patrons can still get close and personal with many great artists who have performed at Chapel by streaming a featured song from their performance at Chapel and joining a conversation with them on Instagram Live.

series including ukulele strummer, drummer and singer Bobby Alu, soul powerhouse Thando, singer songwriter duo Jess & Matt, and Byron Bay musician Kyle Lionhart.

If you've been checking in, you will have caught up on performers from this year's Chapel Summer Sessions

Head to their Instagram page @chapeloffchapel to find out who will be featured next!

Chapel Off Chapel Loves

Beam Chapel Off Chapel's entertainment recommendations straight to your living room.



Kerrie & Dolly's House Party

A new live-streamed light entertainment variety program to be hosted by Kerrie Stanley and Dolly Diamond on the freshly launched JOY TV. Check them out!

@kerrieanddolly



The ISO Late Late Show

The ISO Late Late Show is a brand new concept concert in a time of social isolation presented by Little Red Theatre Company. Fabulous presenters and performers.

@theisolatelateshow



Varietyville - Acts of Absurdity

Don't miss Varietyville's Online Live Zoom Variety Shows! So much fun! The acts are out of this world.

@varietyvilleproductions

Contact us

- 8290 1333
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- council@stonnington.vic.gov.au

Visit us online

- stonnington.vic.gov.au

Get social with us

- facebook.com/stonningtoncouncil
- twitter.com/StonningtonNews
- instagram.com/whats_on_stonnington
- linkedin.com/company/city-of-stonnington



If you are blind or have low vision, you can receive an audio version of Stonnington News delivered to your home.

For more information, email access@stonnington.vic.gov.au or call 8290 1192



If you are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service: TTY users call 133 677, then ask for 8290 1333.

Speak and listen users, call 1300 555 727, then ask for 8290 1333

We speak your language

Mandarin	普通话	9280 0730
Cantonese	廣東話	9280 0731
Greek	Ελληνικά	9280 0732
Italian	Italiano	9280 0733
Polish	Polski	9280 0734
Russia	Русский	9280 0735
Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesia	9280 0737
Vietnamese	Tiếng Việt	9280 0748
All other languages		9280 0736

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge that Stonnington is on the traditional land of the Boon Wurrund and Wurundjeri people. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land, offering our respects to elders past and present.

To stay in touch with our Councillors, visit stonnington.vic.gov.au/mayorandcouncillors or view a livestream of a Council meeting at stonnington.vic.gov.au/councilmeetinglivestreaming

Stay Connected

STONNINGTON



Let's look after each other and stay safe.

Help out the neighbours in your community who are self-isolating by downloading this flyer at <https://bit.ly/2zrmHIW>

- Picking up shopping
- A friendly phone call/text
- Posting mail/collection
- Urgent supplies



Stay Connected

STONNINGTON



Let's look after each other and stay safe

My name is: _____
I live locally at: _____
My phone number is: _____

If you are self-isolating, I can help with:

- Picking up shopping
- A friendly phone call/text
- Posting mail/collection
- Urgent supplies

Help stop the spread of Coronavirus by:

- » Staying home
- » Practising social distancing – 1.5 metres from others
- » Going contactless – drop items off on your neighbour's doorstep
- » Keeping informed
- » Communicating with others over the phone or technology

#stayhome



Stay
CONNECTED
STONNINGTON



Stay
CONNECTED
STONNINGTON



City of
STONNINGTON