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.”

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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, Ms 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 after 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 is the time to turn that same spirit to the recovery of our local community, which is the lifeblood of Stonnington.”

CEO Jacqui Weatherill acknowledged the efforts of Council’s frontline staff, which continued to deliver essential services throughout the lockdown, such as waste collection, street cleaning, maintenance, and maternal, child and aged care.

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

— Jacqui Weatherill CEO

Mayor of Stonnington

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 online platforms, social media and via phone or email.

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

OUR SERVICES

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.

Materiel and Child Health

Development assessments, vaccinations and 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.

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

“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.

Mr Weatherill said the City of Stonnington moved quickly to set up more immunisation programs and planning services.

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.

“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 how to reopen business as soon as it is responsible to do so.”

— Jacqui Weatherill CEO
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 their communities and what makes Stonnington unique, “entrepreneurial people have had the vision to move into groceries. Our precinct 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, showcasing what was on offer during a difficult time.”

The business community continues to do things differently to adapt to the restrictions. Particu larly, 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 close to home and supporting Stonnington businesses will help cement and sustain local jobs now and into the future,” said Cr Stefanopoulos.

What’s happening in your hood?

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

Facebook
council.stonnington

twitter
gudenstake

facebook
toakroksrodehoppers

facebook
torakroksstonyarra

facebook
torakroksrat

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 glass and ceramics and ‘soft’ plastics packaging
- recycling bin (blue lid): rigid plastic bottles and containers, paper, cardboard, glass, aluminum foil and cans, straw caps and aerosols
- food and green waste (burgundy lid): fruit and vegetable scraps, leftover food, dairy, egg shells, lawn clippings, small branches, leaves and bark.

Help your recycling bin make it through the autumn by helping to keep your waste truck clean.

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

For more information on the service, go to stonnington.vic.gov.au/waste

Have you registered your pool?

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

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.

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

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 of responsible practices. There are playgrounds, fitness equipment, skate parks and BBQs remain closed, however check our website for the most up-to-date information.

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

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 equality 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 1989 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 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.

Advice from the Australian and Victorian governments is 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 assessment while our Allensvale Social Support Program has 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 777 866. You can help take care of the older people in your life by offering to assist with shopping or running other tasks so they can stay home, be safe and we can all help save lives.

Download your Stay Connected Stonnington flyer from https://bit.ly/2ZeroHN

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 - dog waste and bins are supplied in these parks.

If you’re able to, walking your dog in the morning will mean that you’re less likely to hear the noise 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.
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 checking in with them via Instagram. By streaming a featured song from their performance at Chapel and checking in with them via Instagram!

We’re still loving our Libraries

Stonnington Libraries’ eLibrary offers access to ebooks, audiobooks, streaming movies, documentaries and music, digital magazines and more.

As a parent, my thoughts right now are for those in our community juggling the working from home, parenting, feeling and feeding our kids. Across the community. COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our daily lives. As a Council, we are doing all we can to support every part of our community – from small businesses to families to our residents and most vulnerable. Please look out for each other, and we’ll get through this together.

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

Our Councillors, your representatives

SOUTH WARD

Cr Steve Beer, Manager

North Ward

Advocacy brings out the best in our community, and I admire the way the Stonnington community has rallied through 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.

Cr John Chandler

Deputy Mayor

In these difficult times, I do hope you and your family have not suffered physical as well as can be expected to the suffering that is experienced in its health. And as a result of the difficulties, we will emerge from this pandemic without the need to return to the ‘normal’ with the same understanding and realisation that the community and our city will emerge from this pandemic different, undoubtedly, but ready to take up the opportunities that lay ahead. Stay well.

Cr Glen Aweell

EAST WARD

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the world in ways we could never have imagined, and it has forced people to look after the health and wellbeing of our community and society in ways we do in many varied ways. When Council facilities closed because of isolation requirements, many people came to realise the importance of Council plays in supporting people through their various life stages. More importantly, these past months have reinforced the importance of maintaining a ‘sense of community’.

Cr Sally Davis

Varietyville – Acts of Absurdity

The ISO Late Late Show is a brand new concept program to be hosted by Kerrie Stanley and Dolly Diamond on the newly launched JOY TV.

@kerrieanddolly

Head to their Instagram page @chapeloffchapel to find out who have performed at Chapel and performed at Chapel and who have performed at Chapel.

Staying Connected, Staying Active, Staying Safe

We are continuing to support our community and residents during this challenging time. This is not easy to stay positive in these uncertain times and as a council we are sharing lots of stories and encouraging downward trends in anxiety and increases energy levels.

Many people have used the lockdown as a chance to focus on their physical wellbeing.

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

It is not easy to stay positive in these uncertain times, particularly if you are not used to it. Our Library is fully stocked with engaging books and videos to help you get through this time. If you have any concerns, please get in touch with Council by phone, email or social media.

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

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Our libraries are open and we are doing all we can to support every part of the community – from small businesses to families to our residents and most vulnerable.

Please look out for each other, and we’ll get through this together.
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

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