

Highlights from Janet Rice's Mayoral Year

Footscray Station

Janet led the charge to get commitment from the state government to upgrade Footscray Station. The Premier has promised works will be done in the next financial year. All the planning, design and costings have now been done – we have called on the government to announce the details of the works before the election.

Trucks

Janet has been an unwavering campaigner to get trucks out of Footscray and Yarraville and onto the Westgate and Citylink. Actual progress on the issue has been slow because of the state government's intransigence. It's going to take an ongoing noisy campaign to see some action, with Council and the community working together. For this reason Janet's been a great supporter and member of the Maribyrnong Truck Action Group.

MAV - McArthur Fellowship 2005

Janet was awarded this prestigious award which funded a six week trip across North America and Europe, learning from cities which had really good public transport, walking and cycling. She came home inspired and adamant that the number one thing holding Melbourne back is lack of political will from our state and federal governments. Janet has given almost a dozen presentations about her trip since coming home, sharing her learnings at major conferences, to other Councils and to community organisations.

National Award

National Award for Contribution to Cycling by a Politician was awarded to Janet by the Cycling Promotion Fund last month. Janet's enthusiasm about the role that bikes have to play in a more sustainable future was shown by her decision to opt for a Mayoral bike instead of a car. The award also reflects the work that Council has undertaken to promote bike riding both by the community and by Council staff.

Footscray Wharf

Janet led negotiations with the Port of Melbourne Corporation resulting in a commitment to boats returning to the wharf as part of a major wharf redevelopment, and development of the waterfront for commercial, tourism and recreational purposes.



More street improvements

Janet's been a driver behind accelerating Council's tree planting, footpath upgrades, more cleaning of central Footscray, and 'greening' central Footscray. Janet has also been a strong advocate for 'wayfinding' signs in Footscray to help people get around.

Building Communities A leadership journey

This cutting edge community leadership program, running in Maribyrnong in 2007, will be free for participants and run at minimal cost to Council. Janet's promotion of Maribyrnong as an ideal municipality for the program, and Council's strong record on sustainability and community building, led to Maribyrnong being selected as only one of two municipalities in the state for the program.

Meetings, Celebrations, Launches...

Janet has attended and spoken at well over a hundred events this year. She's been a more than fulltime Mayor and has enjoyed the opportunity to meet and listen to the community and appreciate firsthand our amazing diversity. Some highlights have been multicultural celebrations held as part of Refugee Week, chatting to seniors, and meeting groups at our community centres and neighbourhood houses.

Influencing state transport policy

As chair of the Metropolitan Transport Forum Janet brings together sixteen Melbourne Councils to work together on transport issues. The MTF has issued two highly influential reports in the past year, one on the economic benefits of investing in public transport and the second looking in detail at needed transport improvements in the north-eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Footscray Community Facility

Plans for Footscray Community Centre are taking shape and will be out for community consultation in the coming months. It won't make up for losing the pool from the heart of Footscray, but will create a much needed community hub, with meeting room spaces, room for recreational activities, courses and events.

Revitalisation of central Footscray

Janet is passionate about Footscray's potential. The award winning redevelopment of Maddern Square has been the flagship project underlining Council's commitment to boosting central Footscray. Council will start work on an upgrade of the Nicholson St Mall next year. Janet initiated the Footscray Reference Group which brings Council, the community and traders together. The group has had a great year with our second sell out progressive dinner and the launch of a Footscray Heritage trail brochure.