



## PCPOPUP2019 Narrative

Following the successful 2018, 7 week pilot, lots of investigation and advocacy was done to see what we should do.....over 4000 people signed a petition to make the park permanent, but it became obvious that this might not be the right time to push for this.

In May 2018, The Victorian State Government launched Pick My Project a \$30 million community grants initiative which empowered Victorians to come up with project ideas that will help make their local community an even better place to live, and allowed communities to vote for their favourite project ideas to be funded.

The [Point Cook Town Centre Community Park was successful](#) and was the second highest votes for the whole Western Metro Region which encompasses the following local government areas: [Brimbank](#); [Hobsons Bay](#); [Maribyrnong](#); [Melton](#); [Moonee Valley](#) and [Wyndham](#).

<b>25</b>	<b>\$2,808,782</b>	<b>909,355</b>	<b>22,864</b>
Successful projects	\$\$ Allocated	Population	Votes

Many thanks to those who campaigned and voted to get it across the line including this year's interns Smriti & Darshan, University of Melbourne and Eugene (aka Elmo) and Yan Wei from Monash University.

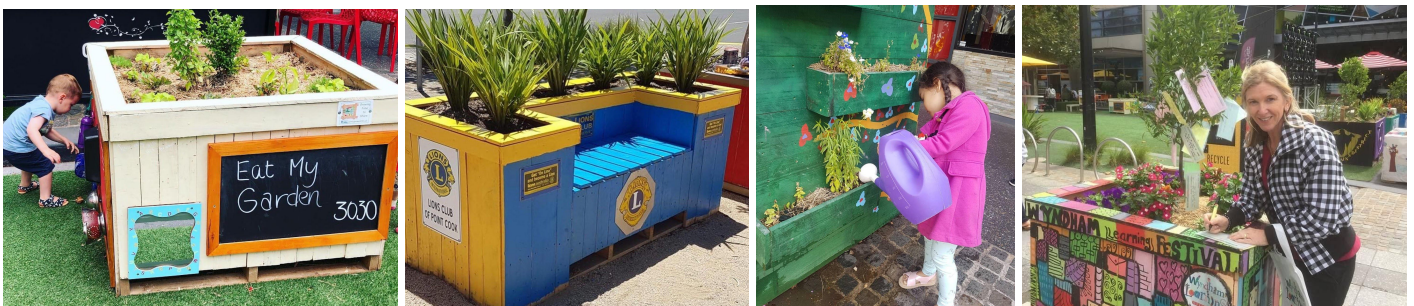


Once the confirmation of funding was in hand we had to create comprehensive project plans, budgets, sign off on contracts for the funding and source equipment etc. for the park to meet a launch target of end of January 2019. We wanted some robust kit that could be used for future activations (an additional Federal community grant allowed us to customise a shipping container that would become a centerpiece the park and allow for a storage place for the kit when not in use). At the same time we did not want to lose the lovely organic creativity that the original pilot had with all different community groups getting involved.

This year, we got the lovely chaps from Hobsons Bay Mens shed to come up with a robust prototype for the cubbies and we also trialled 2 larger style cubbies from The Cubby Hut. These were adopted and decorated by local traders Gracie's Boutique, Baby Presents, LJ Hooker Point Cook, Telstra Melbourne West and Cake Creations by Kate, creating a colourful and safe play area for our little ones. We sourced cable reels for tables and logs for stools which were decorated by Steve Ball. We loved the little toadstool versions around the cubbies. Cathy and Portia from Artizzons lovingly decorated our donated Pop Up Piano.



Harley from ThirdLife Gardens made a creative water feature (which was filled by Nick Waddell from Pipeflow) and some interesting planter benches which were decorated by Lions Club Point Cook and the folks from the Saltwater Community Hub Arts group. This year we utilised some of the existing planters as part of the road closure and some as part of the park - it was great to see the creativity come together - thank you Miwako from Eat my Garden, Meg and Team from Wyndham Learning Festival, Pat and Team from the Point Cook Community Centre, Neighbourhood Watch Point Cook Central, Nino Early Learning Point Cook, Point Cook Action Group, Point Cook Walking group, 1st Point Cook Scouts, Point Cook Guides, Western Gymkhana, CWA Point Cook, CWA Sanctuary Lakes and the Soroptimists. The colours and creativity really helped the park pop. Wolf from the Mischievous Grafter, Boomerang Bags and the CWA Point Cook and Sanctuary Lakes also helped dress the concrete road barriers.







This year we held over 273 events and activities with over 190 hosted by local groups and businesses, Wyndham City supported with Saturday night movies and most of our Friday night live music, Youth Services put on some movie nights on Thursday nights and hosted some youth activities in the park. We particularly enjoyed the table tennis and the bicycle smoothie making. The Arts and Culture Team put together an extravaganza for International Women's Day which was a smorgasbord of colour, talent and activities.



We were especially proud to be associated with the ever popular Lunar festival ran by the Point Cook Cultural Community and pleased at how well the park complemented the activities and gave visitors and patrons a comfortable place to relax, hang out and enjoy the festivities and food offerings. We loved our dinner at Grill'd while enjoying the fireworks which looked like they were popping in the street.





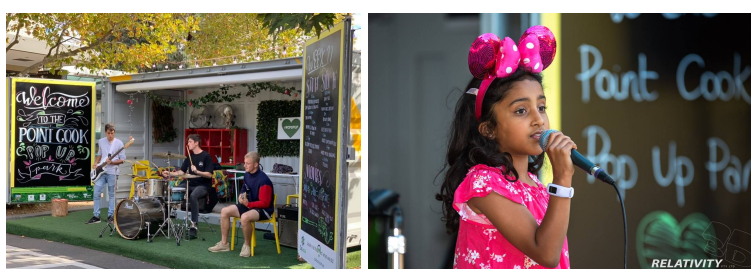
Stockland Point Cook ran the Dirt Girl World shows over the school holidays along with craft making activities in the centre for Easter and we loved the visits from the Easter Bunny who played with the kids and even had a go at DJing with with DJ Olivia.



The Library and Community hubs supported with Storytime and workshops on how to optimise your phone and tablet. Sam from Nino, Carlo from FitKicks and Carmen and Byron from Ready Steady Go Kids, Melissa and co from Hey Dee Ho and Phebe from 8SENSES supported us with a range of craft and activities for little people. Regina from Namaste Yogis not only ran family Yoga classes but coordinated a range of health and fitness activities from; Body Intuition Fitness, Konga Body Jungle by Annalie, Listen to your Body Personal Training, Zumba by Marcella, Crunch Fitness and Rainbow Bridge, Stroller Fit by Bessy from Melbourne Fit Mamas, Nia by Sarah Marie and 9 Round Fitness camp.



Steve Jaz from Universal School of Music organised a regular offering of local talent including: Niki, Zsuzsika, Zainab, Samara, Ebony, The Grand Overture Band, DJ Fiona, DJ Olivia and the awesome talent on our Pop Up Piano - Celeste Kate Polson who has recently launched her second CD 'Two Weeks'. There was no shortage of other young talent either with our buddy mini popstar Siyona Goel, The Emmanuel College concert, Rock Dynamix and Point Cook Art and Dance.





Our local CFA had a day in the park with Captain Koala talking fire safety and letting children explore the fire truck. They were also key in organising the Good Friday appeal collection event in the park. In addition to the CFA volunteers we had Century 21 collecting in the park. Later on that day we had the colourful characters: Ninja turtles, Elmo, Cookie Monster and Bob the builder sponsored by Julie Morris Conveyancing. Late afternoon included a fun outdoor photo booth. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped to raise money for the Good Friday appeal.



We were very lucky to have had the Victoria Police Pipe band appear several times, interestingly, almost every performance had different weather. One week they performed in the shade due to the extreme heat and then the next week they had their coats on! We loved watching the small children dancing together while they were playing. Thank you to Chris Sinclair, Music Director and our local police for their support making these appearances possible. The Proactive police unit separately not only brought some key personnel but also brought their mini police cars. They were a bit hit.



Leigh from the Wyndham Girl guides was a great support to the team and created fun activities with her Wednesday pop up information office.



We had a wonderful taste of culture through the Lunar festival activities organised through the Point Cook Cultural Committee and through our signature Bolly Holi event which had a wonderful fashion show organised by Sudhir and the good folks from Western Gymkhana. We had Bollywood Dance performances from ABCD Any Body Can Dance Group and Rachana Natyalaya. A Bollywood photo booth by Alok Fashions and a party atmosphere that got us all dancing and throwing colours to the Bollywood beat provided by DJ Vickk sponsored by Dosa Hut. Priya supported face painting too. We really had fun celebrating the festival of colours and finished up with the Bend It Like Beckham movie in the evening. We all needed a really good bath once we got home :).



The Asian New Year festivities were organised by fellow member Senthill and included : The 'Sopanam' Chenda melam (Kerala Traditional Drums) Wyndham - Prakash Madhavan Bharatanatyam Dance by Natyanjali (School of Dance) Point Cook - Anita Perumal Rajasthani dance by Yeshhika -- choreographed by Aarati S Neemkar and the Rangoli Competition sponsored by "Sri Murugan Trading" Indian Grocers , Kerala/Tamil Fusion Dance by 'Punarjani' Dance Group - Samjida Majeed and Punjabi Folk Dance by Khusboo & Team.



Sumitra from Samarpan Arts and Theatre treated us to "The Cultural night." Along with colorful cultural performances like singing, dancing & instrumental music, there were two major attractions. One was the experience of upcoming Samarpan Indian village. A sample Mud hut was displayed & decorated with details like cot, pots, mud stove and home cooked food that was served on hand which the audience relished. Actors were wearing rural costumes & jewellery. Another attraction was 'Shakti'- a dance drama presentation to honor women fighting against all kind of abuse all over the



world. Event vibrations were uplifted by chantings & dance by Hare Krishna Temple group. Thanks to the Samarpan team: Nitika Goel, Om Prakash Behl, Swarnlata Behl, Brajesh, Anjani, Vanya, Nawaz, Ambika, Divyangi, Rubina, Chhanak, Praveen and Sumitra to hold the fort. Truganina based Bindaas Bollywood Dance group, Point Cook based Beat Factor Music drum group, Tarneit based Haryanvi Folks, local Super Talented Kids Siyona, Avya, Dev, Kairavi. Blogger Jiwanpreet, local singers Purnami & Gargi, Cliff DJ, Alok Designer Boutique, Dabba Rasoi, & Storm maintenance.



We included a bit of culture in our movies as well with Living Prospect Real Estate sponsoring Invictus (South Africa) plus popcorn. We managed to source Whale Rider (New Zealand) and The Sapphires (Aust) for Anzac Day.

The Point Cook Action Group sponsored The Greatest Showman which was very popular, and LJ Hooker Point Cook sponsored the Easter eggs for our Easter Monday movie Hop.

Movies were a favourite event in the Park and even the chilly weather on some nights did not keep people away. The most popular movies were Moana and Finding Nemo which kept young and old entranced.





We had no shortage of craft and activities for all ages, The Point Cook Rocks group with support from Point Cook Action group, provided workshops and demonstrations on how to create and decorate rocks. These were created and hidden in the park for patrons to find, enjoy and re-hide. Harley from ThirdLife Gardens ran lots of workshops on gardening, We had a theme around sustainability and science with Worm Lovers and Science Workshops supported by Wyndham City, Dirt Girl by Stockland and robotics by STEM centric. A big thanks to Wyncity Bowl and Entertainment who provided a day of fun bowling for all.



Point Cook Swing Patrol had us all up and dancing to the beat in no time and we loved the outfits and sense of fun.



We had so many wonderful musicians come and perform and locals amazed us with their talent, Brett Carmen (Grill'd) and The Other Brothers (and Friends) were awesome and we loved Brett and daughter Evie duet to Shallow. Sandee Facy and Breeze entertained us with cruisy afternoon songs, The Beat Factor Drum group and the AJP Jazz Trio were a favourite with young and old. Lisa Worley performed several times and organised some very special talent to perform along with her.

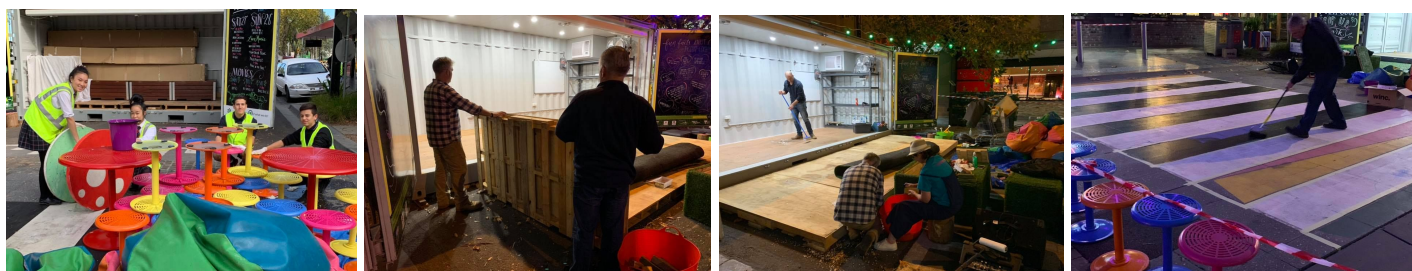




Projects like these don't happen without a lot of goodwill and community support for the planning, set up, daily duties and pack down which are a necessary part of creating something awesome. So thank you Chris Boddington, Senthill Sundaram, Demos Mitchell, Shanti Balakrishnan, Akla Nanayakkara, Bob Fairclough, Jy and Jay Naikkar, Karthick Thanigaimani, Leigh Younger, Divya Jayam, Sudhir Juneja, Brett Carman, Harley Collins, Katie & Jimmy Fuimaono and the team from Storm Maintenance, Tim Butler and Sam Sortino, Cynthia and Bruce Bodington, Silvana Masalkovski, Mia White, Libby McIntyre, Chris McIntyre and Roma Pedersen who helped us with all the behind the scenes work.



We really enjoyed having young people from Emmanuel college support us with survey taking and with pack up duties. Tim from Oz Turf was a star in ensuring we all knew what we were doing with turf laying, roll up and with ensuring it is all packed away for future activations. Attila Kimmel from Mowing and Maintenance services was never too busy to run around collecting, delivering and dropping off a growing list of elements that needed to get from A to B. Sian Day kindly arranged pallets to make our stage. Valetta Johnston collected our little fruit trees from Blackburn South. We could not have done this without you all.



Tim and Sam from Point Cook TV created an awesome showcase of local places, activities and people for our big screen and unfailingly made sure we had an up to date weekly what's on the screen. Storytelling is such an important part of capturing the memories and again we need to thank David Mullins from Relativity 3D for design elements, timelapse and special moments. Senthill from Shri Photography and apprentice photographer Demos for ensuring we have memories to treasure. Melissa Longo from Ink Cloud and Pat Rayner from Point Cook Community Hub were great at ensuring our story was told to the broader community too. Helen and John from Jill Hennessy MP office helped to keep our community up to date with all the activities through printing the program.

Supporters video here: <https://youtu.be/ihrWOnDNSS4>

Cynthia Boddington lovingly kept the public library tidied and stocked up with a little support here and there from hubby Bruce.



We were blown away by the generosity in our community and the willingness to contribute time and goodwill for the good of all and it was lovely to see how much the community appreciated it. Thank you to Ozturf, for your ongoing support, Liz Caliba design and branding for the revitalised artwork, AJ for being our poster girl and Murnane Design and Print for the Tees. Stockland, Telstra Melbourne West, LJ Hooker Point Cook, Grill'd and Boost Juice Point Cook for the contributions to the showbags and LJ Hooker bear for supporting us at the teddy bears picnic finale and providing us with a raffle prize which was won by another Pop Up Favourite Jason Coghill and his lovely family. Thanks as well to the team at Reliance Real Estate for extra bean bags which were enjoyed by all in the park.





## What's Next..?

We are not sure what the future holds for the Pop Up Park at this point, as there is a significant cost in staging it that need to be addressed to be sustainable. We have created a new Non-profit entity CoLocal for the purpose of supporting local projects that build capacity around social capital and local economy. Our next step is to work on the board and governance structures for this. Rest assured we are working with key stakeholders to look at what comes next. In the meantime if you are missing the park, please make use of the Pop Up pockets that have been created at the Town Square, Basketball area, Target quadrant and Point Cook community centre - all colourful and tranquil little spots to enjoy in the heart of Point Cook.



Please enjoy our highlight video and playlist:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMeeiUUh\\_VQ&list=PL7bHZbE2LKA0hUv\\_MEXagyIQ6zbgyht\\_K](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMeeiUUh_VQ&list=PL7bHZbE2LKA0hUv_MEXagyIQ6zbgyht_K)



Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts - Team PCPOPUP