

STONNINGTON

A fine way to raise money

Holly McKay

PARKING fines and other infringements have raked in a whopping \$14.88 million for Stonnington Council — 12 per cent of the city's total earnings in the last year.

By comparison, neighbouring Boroondara Council collected \$20.7 million, while Banyule Council in Melbourne's northeast nabbed \$7.4 million.

PARKING PENALTIES KEEP COUNCIL CASHED UP

Rates and charges accounted for the majority of council revenue totalling 58.7 per cent, or \$73.73 million, according to the Annual Report 2011-12.

User charges, including fees for leisure centres, childcare, children's programs brought in 16.7 per cent, or \$20.97

million, while grants and subsidies netted 6.6 and 6.2 per cent of revenue.

Staff wages was the council's biggest expense, costing \$47.10 million, followed by service delivery and material and contract payments at \$26.72 million and \$16.68 million respectively. Financial figures showed

the council achieved an operating surplus of \$12.1 million, compared to a budgeted \$5.7 million.

Borrowings reduced from \$4 million to \$3.364 million.

How do you rate the council's performance? Tell us at stonningtonleader.com.au

AT A GLANCE

- 1,139,198 library items loaned; 614,963 visits to Stonnington libraries.
- 395,818 visitors to aquatic facilities.
- 374,873 hours of childcare in five centres.
- 68,628 hours of in-home support services (general home, personal and respite services).
- 47,343 meals delivered through Meals on Wheels.
- 1138 inspections of food premises; 275 inspections of beauty-industry premises.
- 372 investigations under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act.
- 226 inspections for Tobacco Act compliance.
- \$2.6m community grants.

PRAHRAN



Instead of getting into trouble, Maggie, 2, Tom, 3, and Julia, 2, were encouraged to play in the dirt.

Picture: MARK WILSON N18MP259A1

Happy kids go to pot with dirt on their hands

CHILDREN from the Prahran Community Learning Centre became green thumbs for a day. Playgroup facilitator

Moira Burke said Bunnings in Port Melbourne donated pots, potting mix, seeds and plants to help educate the children on plant life.

Ms Burke said it was important for children to "get their hands dirty". "It's important children understand how things

grow. They live in an urban area and for some, planting was a first. "I think children should feel connected to the earth.

"Later in life they will learn how to grow and cook their own food. "It's an important aspect of life."

STONNINGTON

Poor voter turnout

IT looks like Cr John Chandler will enter his 29th year in local government.

As the *Leader* went to press, Cr Chandler led Stonnington's North Ward with 31.05 per cent of first-preference votes, followed by Matthew Koce with 14.48 per cent and Marcia Griffin with 14.11 per cent.

South Ward's Cr Melina Sehr was leading with 31.03 per cent of first-preference votes, followed by Cr Claude Ullin with 18.67 per cent and Sam Hibbins with 16.09 per cent.

East Ward was too close to call, but Erin Davie had 23.36 per cent of first-preference votes, John McMorrow had 23.15 per cent and Matthew Knight had 14.84 per cent.

It was a lacklustre turnout for the Stonnington Council election.

Of 80,674 Stonnington residents on the electoral roll, only 44,775 bothered to go to the polls, and of those, 4033 voted informally — leaving just on half making a vote that counted.

For the latest election coverage, go to stonningtonleader.com.au

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