

the yarra news

VOLUME 10 | NO 11 | DECEMBER 2015



It's a dog's life!

How you can enjoy Yarra's parks this summer – page 7



Yarra City Council
wishes you a safe and
happy festive season

Weekly announcements from Yarra News will be broadcast in several languages on local radio 3CR 855AM and 3ZZZ 92.3FM



GREEK

Ανακοινώσεις από αυτή την έκδοση του Yarra News θα μεταδοθούν στο Ελληνικό ραδιοφωνικό πρόγραμμα της Δευτέρας από τις 8μμ, στο 3CR 855 AM.

TURKISH

Yarra News'un bu baskısında yer alan duyurular, 92.3 FM bandından yayın yapan 3ZZZ Türkçe radyo programında, Pazar günleri saat 10.00'dan itibaren yayınlanacaktır.

VIETNAMESE

Các thông báo từ số phát hành này của Yarra News sẽ được phát thanh trên chương trình phát thanh Việt Ngữ vào các ngày thứ Ba từ 10 giờ sáng, trên đài 3ZZZ 92.3 FM.

ARABIC

Yarra News سيتم بث اعلانات من اصداره هذه عبر برنامج صوت إريتريا الإذاعي في أيام الاثنين من الساعة 7 صباحاً، على التردد .3CR 855 AM

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

General enquiries: **9205 5555**
 After Hours Emergency: **9205 5555**
 TTY: **phone 133 677 then ask for 03 9205 5555**
 Interpreter Services: **9280 1940**
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 Website: **www.yarracity.vic.gov.au**
 Twitter: **@yarracouncil**

Our cover: Stewart Little enjoys Burnley Park, Richmond with his loyal companion, Shirvo the Portuguese Water Dog.



To improve communications with Yarra's non-English speaking community, a selected article from this edition of Yarra News has been translated into Yarra's four main community languages.

Other articles from Yarra News can be read in any language on Council's website. Visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarra-news

For more information in your language, please call 9280 1940 and quote the ref number below.

Προληπτικά μέτρα πυροπροστασίας και ετοιμότητα αντιμετώπισης των πυρκαγιών στο Δήμο Yarra αυτό το καλοκαίρι

διατρέχουν κίνδυνο από πυρκαγιές. Κάνετε τις ανάλογες προετοιμασίες πριν από την επίσημη έναρξη της θερμοπυρικής περιόδου. Καθαρίστε τις υδρορροές-τα λούκια του σπιτιού σας- και οτιδήποτε ξερά χόρτα και θάμνους και προγραμματίστε ένα σχέδιο διεξόδου σε περίπτωση πυρκαγιάς. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες για το θέμα αυτό ή άλλα άρθρα της Yarra News, πάρτε τηλέφωνο στον αριθμό 9280 1937 και αναφέρετε τον κωδικό REF 15305.

Quest'estate proteggetevi dagli incendi anche a Yarra

Anche nei centri urbani come la città di Yarra, le persone e le proprietà sono a rischio di incendi. Preparatevi per l'inizio della stagione degli incendi. Ripulite le grondaie, eliminate eventuali erbacce ed organizzate un piano da attuare in caso di incendio. Per maggiori informazioni su questo o altri articoli di Yarra News, chiamate 9280 1937 e indicate il codice REF 15305.

Phòng cháy tại Yarra mùa hè này

Ngay cả ở các khu vực đô thị như Yarra, tài sản và con người vẫn có nguy cơ bị cháy. Hãy chuẩn bị trước khi mùa hỏa hoạn chính thức bắt đầu. Hãy dọn sạch máng xối và cắt cỏ mọc um tùm và sắp xếp cách thức đối phó của quý vị trong trường hợp xảy ra hỏa hoạn. Muốn biết thêm thông tin về đề tài này hoặc bất kỳ bài nào khác đăng trên Yarra News, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 9280 1937 và báo cho nhân viên biết số REF 15305.

今夏雅拉市防火通知

即便是在像雅拉区这样的市郊，房屋与居民仍然有遇到火灾的风险。因此，请在火灾多发季开始前做好准备。请清理您屋顶的排水槽以及杂草，并且做好应对火灾的计划，以防万一。若想获得更多这一方面的信息或其他《雅拉新闻》文章，请拨打电话9280 1937并提供参考号码REF 15305。

REF 15305

Feedback

If you have any comments or queries about Yarra News, please contact Nicole Cirson, Communications & Engagement Advisor, on 9205 5144 or at nicole.cirson@yarracity.vic.gov.au
 Large print, audio and online versions of Yarra News are also available by contacting Nicole.

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

A few weeks ago I had the great honour of being elected Mayor of Yarra City Council for the next 12 months.

I have to say that being a Councillor, and now Mayor, is one of the best experiences of my professional life because it allows me to meet so many wonderful people and help them improve their quality of life through Council policies, program and activities.

Before I continue, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors and acknowledge outgoing Mayor, Phillip Vlahogiannis for his leadership this past year.

Like previous Mayors, my focus will be to pursue and advocate for issues of importance to our community.

Among the issues I will be focusing on will be the continued prudent financial management of Yarra's budget and ensuring we continue to meet the needs and service supports for the most disadvantaged in our City.

Yarra is many things, including being the centre of Melbourne's lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex (LGBTI) community. Many organisations, bookshops, community groups, health providers, social and entertainment providers are here and I will be aiming to affirm that relationship and consider the business viability of many LGBTI enterprises.

One other key issue I will promote is the need to support our small local businesses. It is vital that we reinforce the economic, employment and

environmental benefits of shopping local and using local service providers – and what better time to do that than Christmas!

Please consider shopping locally this festive season. Find out more about this and what's on in Yarra on page 6.

I've enjoyed being a long-term Fitzroy resident and Councillor. I am now looking forward to representing Yarra's citizens in my new capacity as Mayor.

Have a happy and safe holiday season and I look forward to all that 2016 brings.

**Cr Roberto Colanzi
Mayor**

New Year's Eve in Yarra

Council is encouraging a family-friendly atmosphere in local parks and public spaces on New Year's Eve.

Please be aware that the consumption of alcohol is banned in Yarra's streets, parks and other public areas from 9pm on Wednesday 30 December through to 9am on Friday 1 January. Amplified music is also not permitted during this period.

If you're thinking of enjoying the occasion at your local park, Council encourages you not to bring glass bottles or containers and to dispose of any rubbish in the bins provided or to take it home with you.

North Fitzroy's Edinburgh Gardens – always a popular spot for people to celebrate – will feature artistic light projections from sunset until midnight on New Year's Eve. The Gardens will also have additional toilets, bins, lighting and event staff.



North Fitzroy's Edinburgh Gardens.

New Year's Eve celebrations are welcome in all of Yarra's parks and gardens but there will be zero tolerance for anti-social behaviour. Police and local laws officers will be in attendance to enforce the bans.

For more information about New Year's Eve in Yarra, contact Council on 9205 5555.

Celebrate local

Looking to enjoy some live music or dance the night away this New Year's Eve? Why not keep things local and celebrate at one of Yarra's many licenced venues, some of which have extended trading hours for the night. Walk, take the tram or grab a taxi to your favourite venue – support local businesses and celebrate responsibly.

For a listing of licenced venues in Yarra, visit www.yarracityarts.com.au

Council wishes everyone a happy and safe New Year.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Langridge Ward

Abbotsford, Alphington (south of Heidelberg Road), Clifton Hill (east of Wellington Street), Collingwood (except for the area bounded by Johnston, Wellington and Smith streets and Alexandra Parade), Fairfield (south of Heidelberg Road) and Fitzroy (south of Moor Street), and Richmond (in the area bounded by Lennox, Highett and Hoddle streets).



Cr Geoff Barbour

T | 0438 034 241

E | Geoff.Barbour@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Cr Stephen Jolly

T | 0437 856 713

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Cr Amanda Stone

T | 0429 358 170

E | Amanda.Stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

Burnley, Cremorne and Richmond (except the area bounded by Lennox, Highett and Hoddle streets)



Cr Misha Coleman

T | 0428 509 943

E | Misha.Coleman@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Cr Simon Huggins

T | 0419 581 469

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Cr Phillip Vlahogiannis

T | 9205 5055

E | Phillip.Vlahogiannis@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Nicholls Ward

North Carlton, Princes Hill, part of Clifton Hill (west of Wellington Street), North Fitzroy, Fitzroy (north of Moor Street) and part of Collingwood (the area bounded by Johnston, Wellington and Smith streets and Alexandra Parade).



Cr Roberto Colanzi (Mayor)

T | 0428 328 904

E | Mayor@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Cr Jackie Fristacky

T | 0412 597 794

E | Jackie.Fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Cr Sam Gaylard

T | 0448 586 884 / 9489 5429 (after hours)

E | Sam.Gaylard@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To view a map of your ward, visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/ward-map

To contact your Councillors, ring **9205 5055**, send a letter c/o **PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121**, or contact them as above.

Community satisfaction, trust and confidence in Council increases

Yarra has once again shown it is a great place to call home, with Council rating highly in its 2015 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Satisfaction with the overall performance of Yarra Council improved strongly in 2015, up 5.5% on the 2014 result. This result is the highest Metropolis Research has recorded for the City of Yarra since it commenced in 2009.

Metropolis Research interviewed more than 800 residents across 10 local neighbourhoods during September and October. As a snapshot, results showed:

- An improvement in satisfaction with Yarra's governance and leadership (up 3.6%), environmental responsibilities (up 2.3%) and planning and housing development (up 10%).
- Maintaining community trust and confidence, responsiveness to local community needs, as well as Council's ability to make decisions in interests of the community also increased in 2015.
- Satisfaction with seven of the eight specific aspects of customer service were categorised as 'excellent' (up 5%) and community consultation and engagement was categorised as good (stable from last year).
- Average satisfaction with the 27 Council services and facilities was up from last year and best categorised as 'very good'.
- Services which rated highly included weekly garbage and recycling collections, local libraries, Fitzroy Swimming Pool and Richmond and Collingwood leisure centres.

The top five areas Council could improve on were identified as:

- Car parking
- Building, planning, housing and development
- Traffic management
- Parks, gardens and open space
- Provision and maintenance of cycling/walking tracks

This Survey provides Council with a wide range of information covering community sentiment and community feel and involvement. It meets the requirements of the Local Government Performance Reporting by providing importance and satisfaction ratings for the major Council services and facilities as well as scores for satisfaction with Council overall.

For more information about any of Council's services, contact us on 9205 5555 or info@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Fire protection in Yarra this summer

Be prepared this fire season and ensure your gutters are free of debris.

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone regions in the world, and even in urban areas like Yarra, properties and people are still at risk.

Ahead of the official start of the fire season, officers from the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Parks Victoria and Yarra City Council are undertaking property and public land inspections.

These inspections will ensure the municipality is well prepared this summer and provide an opportunity to identify, and minimise, risks of fire in our community.

As a property owner or tenant, there are things you should do now to prepare, including:

- Clear grass and weeds from around your house, and clean out gutters and downpipes
- Store any flammables (such as gas bottles, firewood or excess rubbish) away from your house
- Check your insurance is up-to-date
- Decide now and discuss with family or friends how you will respond to a nearby fire and where you will go
- Check your smoke alarm is working

For more information on fire safety contact the Metropolitan Fire Brigade on 9662 2311 or www.mfb.vic.gov.au

Assist on Road Safety Strategy

If you have a passion for road safety, think about volunteering on a technical workgroup Council is establishing to develop a strategic approach to road safety.

The workgroup will also comprise representatives from Victoria Police, VicRoads, advocacy groups and Yarra Council. Your time commitment would be attendance at up to three meetings between February and June next year and extra time to read and comment on the draft strategy. To express interest, contact 9205 5222 or visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/roadsafetystrategy

Council Meetings Timetable

Meetings are open to the public and begin at 7pm. yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for more information.

Tuesday 15 December Richmond Town Hall

Tuesday 2 February 2016 Fitzroy Town Hall

Tuesday 16 February Fitzroy Town Hall

Green bins ready for business

Unleash your inner green thumb with Council's green waste bins, now available for purchase.

The bins have been introduced by popular demand after a Council survey indicated residents were eager for a more effective method to recycle their green matter.

A 240 litre green waste wheelie bin can now be purchased for \$100 and paid for over the counter at Collingwood or Richmond town halls or Connie Benn Centre, or online at www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/green-waste-bins

Council currently has more than 200 residents who have expressed interest in purchasing a green waste bin. It is estimated bins will be delivered within a few weeks of residents placing their order, once the first 250 orders have been received.

Please note, residents are not required to purchase a green bin in order to have their green waste collected by Council, and green waste can continue to be bundled or cardboard boxed as usual.

There are no additional charges for green waste collection and can be booked as many times as needed throughout the year.

For more information on purchasing your bin, call Council on 9205 5555.



Christmas shines bright in Yarra

Claire McLean and Jon Pandoleon from Bridge Road's Laikon Deli are gearing up for a busy Christmas period.

Yarra is set to shine this festive season as a wondrous variety of holiday activities hit the precincts and set the scene for this much-loved time of year.

Children will be able to say hello to Santa and get their photo taken with the jolly man in red at Richmond Plaza forecourt on Saturday 5 December and later that afternoon at the park outside Piedimonte's in North Fitzroy Village.

Santa will also be taking to Yarra's retail precincts in the lead up to Christmas, and he'll be in good company with the Boite Choir and Salvation Army Band singing your favourite carols in the street for you to enjoy.

Festive decorations will give Yarra a celebratory feel, as will the Christmas signage displayed by many of our local businesses.

Council encourages residents to support the municipality's traders and urges the community, where possible, to shop local this Christmas.

To find out more about what's on in Yarra this festive season, call Council on 9205 5555.

Community to benefit from Annual Grants

Council has continued to invest in its community, with close to \$840,000 awarded to recipients of Council's 2016 Annual Grants.

A wide cross-section of Yarra's community has been given a boost with funding awarded to projects across seven categories, including: Community Development; Arts and Culture; Family, Youth and Children; Youth-Led Grants; Sport and Recreation; Community Housing; and Environment.

Among the Annual Grants recipients are Circus Oz who, together with Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, have developed Deadly Elders Circus for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders aged 45-90 years.

"We are very grateful for the City of Yarra's support for our Deadly Elders Circus program," said Maggie Tekell, Circus Oz Philanthropy Manager, of the program which promotes social connectedness and physical and mental wellbeing.

"The support of the program will allow us to continue to build even stronger connections with our local Yarra community, especially our Elders."

Council has allocated a total of \$2 million for a range of



Deadly Elders Circus participant Uncle Graham shows off his juggling prowess.

community grants in the 2015/16 financial year, including the Annual Grants, three-year Investing in Community Grants and Small Project Grants programs.

For every \$1 invested in community grants, there is a \$4 return in terms of leverage funding, which is a significant benefit-cost.

For more information on Annual Grants recipients and their programs, visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au



Meet Shirvo!
 Shirvo, the seven-month-old Portuguese Water Dog loves getting out and about in Yarra's parks. As well as chasing balls, he loves pats, food and saying hello to other dogs.

Richmond resident Stewart Little talks responsible pet ownership with Mayor, Roberto Colanzi.

Enjoy Yarra's parks this summer

With the weather warming up it's time to rediscover the many parks, playgrounds, ovals and reserves across Yarra – perhaps with your furry friend in tow!

Our local parks are vital community hubs for organised sports, dog walking, jogging, picnicking and exploring, and are enjoyed by large numbers of residents and visitors. To give everyone the opportunity to share and enjoy these spaces, restrictions apply. Key points to keep in mind include:

- Dog walkers have designated areas and/or times to exercise dogs (areas can be on-leash, off-leash or prohibit dogs entirely)
- Sports clubs have licences to use playing fields and ovals during set times each week, so keep off while sports are in progress
- Familiarise yourself with each park's regulations – what can and can't occur

- Cooperate with other park users and choose an appropriate area for your activity
- Do your bit to keep our parks in good condition. You must carry something suitable to clean up after your dog and fill in any holes they dig.

Council works hard to manage the liveability and public safety of increasingly populated inner-urban areas.

You know your dogs best, so take stock of their habits (good and bad) when you enjoy the outdoors this summer.

For more information on Yarra's parks and open space, or tips on responsible pet ownership, call Council on 9205 5555 or visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/off-leash-areas

Help shape arts and culture in Yarra

Yarra's exciting arts and cultural scene is one of the many things that makes our municipality vibrant and unique – and we want to hear from you as to how we can keep supporting the spaces, art and events you love.

Council is currently developing a new Arts and Cultural Strategy 2016 – 2020 to provide a blueprint for our work in response to trends in the arts and the local context.

The arts are an important part of Yarra's identity and something Council encourages in many ways, including through the funding of creative developments, supporting community and arts organisations and project managing festivals and events.

We also provide venues and open spaces for creative purposes, produce and commission arts projects and public art, and act as custodians for Yarra's growing art and heritage collection.



The annual Lunar Festival is one of Yarra's most loved cultural events.

A short survey to identify key themes and interests is the first step in this three-stage process. Have your say and find out more by visiting www.yarracityarts.com.au/arts-strategy/

For more information contact Arts and Culture on 9205 5555.

Council opening hours this festive season

Yarra Council wishes everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Council's opening hours and services over the holiday period are:

Customer Service Centres

Customer service centres at the Richmond and Collingwood town halls and Connie Benn Centre will close at 2pm on 24 December.

The centres will be closed on the Christmas Day and Boxing Day public holidays (25 and 28 December) and the New Year's Day public holiday (1 January).

Rubbish and Recycling Collection

Rubbish and recycling will be collected on Saturday, 26 December, while New Year's Day collections remains as normal.

Library and Leisure Services

Yarra's five library branches will open from 10am–2pm on 24 December and close 25–28 December, re-opening on 29 December until 6pm. All branches will close at 6pm and 5pm respectively on 30 and 31 December. All branches will be closed on 1 January and will resume normal opening hours from 2 January.

Leisure centres will close at 6pm on 24 December and along with the Burnley Golf Course, will be closed on Christmas Day. Modified hours will apply at various leisure centres for all public holidays. For details call Council on 9205 5555 or visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/services/Yarra-Leisure/

Christmas tree collection

A free Christmas tree collection service is available to local residents from Wednesday 4 January until the end of January. Collected trees will be mulched, with the mulch to be used around Yarra's parks.

To register for a collection, call Council on 9205 5555 before Monday, 16 January. Trees will need to be left out for collection within property lines.



There are lots of festivities in Yarra on offer in the lead up to Christmas, including street performances from the Salvation Army Band.

WHAT'S ON IN YARRA!

Family movie night – The Grinch

Tuesday, 15 December, 6–8pm at Fitzroy Library

Join us for a family movie night watching the great Christmas favourite, *The Grinch*. Based on the Doctor Seuss book and starring Jim Carrey, *The Grinch* is rated PG.

Bookings essential, visit the Events page at www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/libraries

Nominate for Yarra's Australia Day Awards

Nominations close Friday, 18 December

If you know a group, person or organisation that has made an impressive contribution to Yarra, nominate them for the 2016 Yarra Australia Day Awards. We're looking for our Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Service of the Year and the Community Event of the Year. Nominees must be Yarra residents and Australian citizens and made contributions in community service, sport, arts and culture, environment, and/or business development.

To find out more visit www.yarracity.vic.gov/Australia-Day

Yarra Libraries' Kid Explorer Quest

Tuesday, 1 December through to Sunday, 31 January

Over the summer holidays, help find the five monkeys loose in every Yarra Libraries branch. Guided by your *Kid Explorer Quest Map* you'll unlock secret codes, solve puzzles and read some great books on the way to finding the monkeys. Find all five monkeys and go into the draw to win an iPad Mini or one of five amazing prize packs. This activity is open to kids aged between 5–12.

For further information visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/libraries

Christmas Bedtime Storytime

Monday, 21 December, 6–7pm at Carlton Library

Tuesday, 22 December, 6–7pm at Fitzroy Library

Christmas is just around the corner! Join us for our special Bedtime Christmas Storytimes at our Carlton and Fitzroy branches with festive stories, singalongs, and a special guest appearance. All ages welcome and no bookings required.

Editor's note

Page eight of the November edition of *Yarra News* featured an image of volunteers in relation to the Australia Day Award Nominations. This photo was of the Abbotsford Convent Foundation's Tour Guides who were awarded Community Service of the Year at the 2014 Awards. Pictured in the photo (from left) Dr Madonna Grehan, Ilona Hamilton, Rema O'Neill and Clive Rumney. We apologise for not acknowledging them in the last issue.