

the yarra news

VOLUME 10 | NO 1 | FEBRUARY 2015



Historic win

Yarra's 2015 Citizen of the Year is local history buff and community volunteer, David Langdon. See page 7 for more.

Copenhagen
bike lanes

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Women's award
nominations open

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Low carbon
living

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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 إرثيريا الإذاعي في أيام الاثنين من الساعة 7 صباحاً، على التردد 3CR 855 AM

CONNECT WITH COUNCIL

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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 and select a language from the drop down Google Translate menu at the bottom of the screen.

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

禮讚婦女

市政府正在為Yarra市2015 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award徵求提名。此項大獎向在Yarra市生活、工作或學習並且通過有償工作、無償工作或者義工為社區做出重大貢獻的婦女或婦女團體開放。獲獎者將於三月初在Collingwood市政廳舉辦的市政府國際婦女節活動上宣佈。提名截止時間為2月20日星期五下午5點。有關詳情，請致電9205 5240或瀏覽 www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/inspirational-women

Εορτασμός των γυναικών

Ο Δήμος ζητά υποψηφιότητες για το Yarra's 2015 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award. Το βραβείο είναι ανοιχτό για τις γυναίκες ή τις ομάδες γυναικών που ζουν, εργάζονται ή σπουδάζουν στο Yarra και οι οποίες έχουν κάνει σημαντικές συνεισφορές στην κοινότητα, μέσω έμμισθης ή άμισθης εργασίας, ή ως εθελόντριες. Η νικήτρια του βραβείου θα ανακοινωθεί στην εκδήλωση του Δήμου για την Παγκόσμια Ημέρα της Γυναίκας (International Women's Day) στο Δημαρχείο του Collingwood, στις αρχές Μαρτίου. Οι υποψηφιότητες λήγουν στις 5μ.μ. την Παρασκευή 20 Φεβρουαρίου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, τηλεφωνήστε στον αριθμό: 9205 5240 ή επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα: www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/inspirational-women

Celebriamo le donne

Il comune di Yarra è alla ricerca di nomination per il 2015 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award. Il riconoscimento si rivolge a donne o gruppi di donne che vivono, lavorano o studiano nel comune di Yarra e che hanno offerto un contributo significativo alla comunità tramite lavoro sia retribuito che non retribuito o volontariato. La vincitrice del premio verrà annunciata in occasione della Festa Internazionale delle Donne (International Women's Day) presso la Collingwood Town Hall a inizio marzo. Le nomination dovranno pervenire entro le 17.00 di venerdì 20 febbraio. Per ulteriori informazioni, chiamare il 9205 5240 oppure visitare il sito www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/inspirational-women

Tôn vinh các phụ nữ

Hội đồng đang mong nhận được các đề cử cho một danh hiệu của Yarra mang tên 2015 Inspirational Women of Yarra (Những người Phụ nữ Truyền Cảm hứng của Yarra của Năm 2015). Danh hiệu này được mở ra cho các phụ nữ hay các nhóm phụ nữ sinh sống, làm việc hay học tập trong Yarra và những người đã có các đóng góp đáng kể cho cộng đồng qua công việc được trả lương hay không được trả lương, hoặc công việc thiện nguyện. Người đoạt danh hiệu này sẽ được công bố tại sự kiện Ngày Quốc tế Phụ nữ của Hội đồng tại Tòa thị Chính Collingwood vào đầu tháng Ba. Hạn chót để nộp đề cử là 5giờ chiều ngày thứ Sáu, 20 tháng Hai. Để biết thêm thông tin, xin gọi số 9205 5240 hoặc truy cập trang mạng www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/inspirational-women

REF 15008

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

Welcome to the City of Yarra. Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the first owners of this country. Today, they are still the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Further to this, Council acknowledges there are other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of Yarra.

Feedback

If you have any comments or queries about Yarra News, please contact Jessica Matrakis, Communications Officer, on 9205 5144 or at Jessica.Matrakis@yarracity.vic.gov.au
 Large print, audio and online versions of Yarra News are also available by contacting Jessica.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition of *Yarra News* for 2015.

Soon Councillors will be engaging in workshops to prepare the draft 2015/16 annual budget, due to be released in April. I urge everyone to take an active part in helping to shape Council's budget by commenting on the draft budget. Input from our residents and ratepayers is crucial in ensuring that Council expenditure aligns with community expectations.

A continuing area of focus for me is addressing parking problems in our municipality. For a number of years now, parking has featured in the top three issues of concern for our community. I believe the situation can be improved if we explore some innovative solutions. Parking will be on the agenda at Council meetings early this year. Again, I urge you to engage with Council so that better outcomes can be achieved.

On a more uplifting front, please join with me in acknowledging the recipients of Council's 2015 Australia Day Awards. They exemplify our community's inspirational commitment to helping others and making Yarra a better place to live.

Citizen of the Year, David Langdon has been a dedicated volunteer and community servant for decades. David has a wealth of knowledge about our local history that he generously shares and passionately promotes as president of the Richmond and Burnley Historical Society.

Awards are a great way for Council to formally acknowledge and celebrate the work of our community. We are currently seeking nominations for the Inspirational Women of Yarra Award, to be announced on International Women's Day on 4 March. If you know a woman who has made an outstanding contribution, I encourage

you to submit a nomination (see page 4 for details).

In my first few months as Mayor I have had the privilege to meet wonderful people and to learn about their many and varied contributions to the Yarra community. I am energised by their aspirations, humbled by their commitment, and inspired by their passion.

I am looking forward to a dynamic year, doing what I can to encourage and to facilitate participation in Council's decision-making processes by our community in all its diversity.

Cr Phillip Vlahogiannis
Mayor

Copenhagen comes to Collingwood

Work will begin in March to construct separated 'Copenhagen-style' bicycle lanes in Wellington Street, Collingwood to provide a safer, better connected journey for cyclists.

The new lanes will be constructed between Victoria Parade and Gipps Street over a 12-16 week period from Monday 16 March 2015.

The majority of the work will be completed outside peak periods to reduce disruption to traffic and will be done in short sections to minimise disruptions to businesses and parking. The project will result in nine parking spaces being removed from the east side of Wellington Street and 48 parking spaces being removed from the west side.

Yarra has the highest number of residents who cycle to work anywhere in Australia and Wellington Street is one of the most popular cycling commuter routes. The Copenhagen bicycle lanes will separate cyclists from motorists, helping to make them feel safer and more confident on the road, with the aim of encouraging more people to cycle.

Council will keep residents, traders and road users fully informed prior to and during the construction period.



This Copenhagen style lane in the CBD is similar to the one that will be constructed in Wellington Street.

A community drop in session will be held on Tuesday 17 February between 9am and 1pm on the corner of Wellington Street and Peel Street to explain the project and answer questions.

For more information, contact Alistair McDonald, Bicycle Strategy Project Manager, on 9205 5737 or visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/wellington-street-copenhagen-bicycle-lanes

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

E | Stephen.Jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au



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

E | Simon.Huggins@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Cr Phillip Vlahogiannis (Mayor)

T | 0428 323 916

E | Mayor@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

T | 0428 328 904

E | Roberto.Colanzi@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.



International Women's Day

Celebrating women

Coming up in March, International Women's Day is a special time to acknowledge the achievements of women and to recognise the worldwide need for greater gender equality.

Yarra will mark this global event by presenting the 2015 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award.

Now in its second year, the award celebrates the unique and important contribution women make to our community. It is open to women or groups of women who live, work or study in Yarra and who have made significant contributions to the community through paid or unpaid work, or as a volunteer.

If you know a woman, or group of women, who you feel deserves to be recognised, please nominate them by visiting www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/inspirational-women

Nominations are due on Friday 20 February.

Community members are welcome to celebrate International Women's Day and be there for the announcement of the award winner/s at a special event at Collingwood Town Hall on Wednesday 4 March from 11am-2pm. Visit the website to find out more and to RSVP.

For more information, contact Maryanne Clarke, Policy Advisor – Gender Equity, on 9205 5240 or Maryanne.Clarke@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings Timetable

Tuesday 17 February	7pm	Richmond Town Hall (333 Bridge Road)
Tuesday 3 March	7pm	Fitzroy Town Hall (201 Napier Street)



Follow @yarracouncil on Twitter to receive the latest news from Council. We tweet regularly about events and local issues and encourage you to become part of the online community. We have 2500+ followers and growing every day!

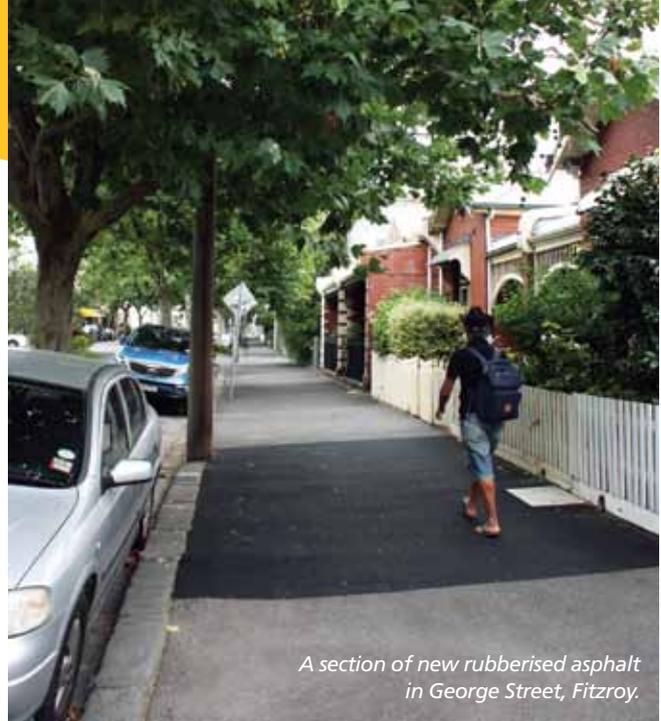
Improving footpath safety

An innovative new rubber matting product being installed on footpaths around street trees in Yarra is improving community safety and reducing Council's maintenance costs.

The rubberised asphalt has been trialled in Nicholson Street and George Street in Fitzroy and McKean Street in North Fitzroy with plans to extend its use to other areas.

Some species of trees have root systems that over time can push through asphalt and create an uneven surface to the pavement. The new rubber matting is an almost 100% recycled product and has a longer lifespan than asphalt. It can be rolled back to allow tree roots to be trimmed before being re-laid.

The matting minimises long term maintenance costs, improves skid resistance, feels good to walk on and allows tree roots to grow underneath.



A section of new rubberised asphalt in George Street, Fitzroy.

In total, there are 491 kilometers of footpaths in Yarra. Council upgrades approximately 10,000 square meters of footpaths every year at a cost of around \$2.1 million.

For more information, contact Council on 9205 5555.



Have your say on events in public places

Community input is being sought on how public events should be conducted in public spaces in Yarra.

Each year, Council manages more than 600 events across local parks, gardens and open spaces. Population growth means there will be increased demand for organised activities in our public places. Council wants to see Yarra remain a vibrant location for community events while working to ensure they don't unduly impact residential amenity.

Council has prepared a discussion paper which puts forward a range of measures to proactively manage the many competing demands of holding events in public areas.

The Events in Public Places discussion paper is a step towards developing an Events in Public Places Policy. It canvasses options for how Council might oversee and manage events in our public spaces.

To view the discussion paper and have your say, visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/consultation

Feedback is due by Monday 23 February.

For more information, contact Jay Rogan, Major Events Coordinator, on 9205 5535 or Jay.Rogan@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Support local business during sewer works

North Fitzroy and North Carlton are home to a variety of unique businesses that make an important contribution to the life and vitality of the local community.

Council is encouraging people to support local businesses, especially those located in Scotchmer Street and Nicholson Village, which have been impacted by essential infrastructure works.

Melbourne Water is undertaking a major project in the area to replace a 114-year-old sewer. The works are necessary because the ageing sewer is at risk of collapsing and will be unable to cope with future demand.

In order to complete the works, a section of Scotchmer Street in North Fitzroy is closed to traffic at Rae Street. Station Street in North Carlton, where it intersects with Princes Street, is also closed to traffic.

Both road closures are expected to be in place until early 2016.

Businesses in Scotchmer Street and Nicholson Village are still operating during the works, with traffic diversions providing access to both shopping strips.

This is a challenging time for local businesses, so Council is urging shoppers to get behind their local community and economy by shopping, dining and accessing services in the area.

For more information about the Melbourne Water project, visit www.melbournewater.com.au/carltonmainsewer

Livewell ready to launch

An exciting new project known as Livewell Yarra is set to help residents work together towards low-carbon living, with a focus on quality of life and wellbeing.

An initiative of Curtin University, with the support of Council, the Yarra Energy Foundation and the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living, Livewell Yarra aims to form small groups of volunteers who will receive assistance to measure their carbon footprint and implement simple lifestyle changes. The program will also involve a range of learning activities, discussion groups, and practical workshops.

With the support of Livewell, project founder Dr Rob Salter believes community members can contribute to Yarra's goal of becoming a carbon neutral community by 2020.

"Our lives seem filled with many pressing tasks and demands, and what is most important is often lost sight of. There really is something we can do about



Livewell community: Susan Inglis, Darren Sharp and Crina Virgona with Professor Ross Garnaut and Dr Rob Salter.

climate change and there are people who can support us in doing it."

Community members are invited to attend the official launch of Livewell Yarra on Thursday 5 March from 7pm-9pm at Fitzroy Town Hall, featuring guest speaker Professor

Ross Garnaut, author of the two *Garnaut Climate Change Reviews*.

To book your place at the launch, or find out more, contact Dr Rob Salter on 0423 040 209 or rob@livewell.net.au or visit www.livewell.net.au

Good access is good business

Yarra businesses are improving their accessibility credentials thanks to a program that aims to make a trip to the local shops accessible for all.

As part of the Good Access is Good Business project, Council has been working with retailers, restaurants and cafes in Clifton Hill's Queens Parade to determine how accessible they are to people with disabilities, as well as older people and those who use prams.

Accessibility goes beyond ramps. It includes lighting, clear signage and helpful and well-trained staff. People with disabilities make up around 20% of Yarra's population, so being disability accessible is not only the ethical thing to do, it also makes good business sense.

Based on the results of their review, businesses are given a gold, silver or bronze rating and sticker to display on their shopfront. The program also provides ongoing advice to businesses on how to improve their accessibility rating with simple, low-cost suggestions

Over the past three months, 35 businesses in Queens Parade have been reviewed with many receiving gold ratings and many others keen to work with Council to improve.



Project Officer Carl Thompson and MetroAccess Officer Nadia Mattiazzo (with Olympia) with Alessandra D'Angelo of gold rated restaurant Maccaroni Osteria Italiana.

For more information, contact Carl Thompson, Project Officer, on 0404 048 678 or carl@carlthompson.com.au

Australia Day winners

A lifetime of community service has seen Richmond resident David Langdon recognised as Yarra's 2015 Citizen of the Year.

Best known for his role as president and life member of the Richmond and Burnley Historical Society, David's passion for local history has seen the expansion of the society's impressive collection and the digitisation of important historical records.

David has also served as a committee member of the Ecumenical Food Relief Centre, as a volunteer for the Red Cross and as an instructor with the Burnley Gymnastic Club.

Describing the honour as a "complete surprise", David believes that the award reflects "the importance of the community and making connections with people".

"I enjoy what I do and I appreciate the opportunities that Yarra has to offer in contributing through community service," he said.

Yarra's other Australia Day winners are:



Yarra's Citizen of the Year David Langdon with Mayor Cr Phillip Vlahogiannis.

Young Citizen of the Year – Wilson Poni

Seventeen year old Wilson Poni has played a leadership role in bringing young people together from across the Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond housing estates.

Community Service of the Year – East West Link Campaign Groups

A diverse range of community organisations collaborated on a successful campaign opposing the East West Link and highlighting the need for sustainable transport solutions.

Community Event of the Year – Smith Street Dreaming

A showcase of Aboriginal culture and community spirit, the Smith Street Dreaming concert brought hundreds of people together under the banner of 'One Street. Many Mobs. One Community.'

For more information, visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/australia-day or contact Sarah Ernst, Marketing and Events Officer, on 9205 5086 or Sarah.Ernst@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Sharing the fruits of your labour

Council is seeking suitable locations in Yarra to develop open community growing spaces for people to come together, grow and share their own food.

Through a partnership between Council, the Department of Human Services Richmond Renewal Project, the University of Melbourne (Burnley) and local residents, a community growing space was recently established at the Richmond Housing Estate. The partnership transformed an undeveloped space into a large garden for the community to grow, tend, harvest, and ultimately share a variety of homegrown vegetables.

The now thriving community garden, which also features a colourful cow sculpture, is being cared for by local residents who are enjoying the opportunities and benefits that urban agriculture provides.



Volunteers pitched in to create a community garden at Richmond Housing Estate.

This is one of a series of projects being developed through the Richmond Renewal Project and is the first in a number of community growing spaces planned for the housing estate over the next six months.

If you know of a suitable location in your neighbourhood to develop a community growing space, contact Kathi Clark-Orsanic, Council's Urban Agriculture Facilitator, on 9205 5782 or Kathi.Clark-Orsanic@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Proud to be Yarra Festival will feature a great line up of bands, including Kooii.

WHAT'S ON IN YARRA!

Proud to be Yarra Festival

Sunday 22 February, 10am–4pm

Be there for the debut of a colourful new festival in celebration of sustainable living. Created by the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF) with the support of Council, the *Proud to be Yarra Festival* will feature dozens of stalls, presentations and workshops, as well as musical performances and a delicious assortment of food. There'll even be a poster design competition for the kids! Don't miss this chance to learn more about solar energy, water efficiency, composting, growing food and many other ways to make your lifestyle more sustainable.

The festival will take place in the Sacred Heart Courtyard at Abbotsford Convent. For further information, contact YEF on 9021 0979 or team@yarraprojectzero.org.au or visit www.yarraprojectzero.org.au

Fairfield Summer Series

Every Sunday in February, 5pm–7.30pm

Presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria, the Fairfield Summer Series brings performing arts from the four corners of the globe to one of Yarra's most picturesque parks. Bring along a picnic rug or cushion and enjoy exotic cuisine as you take in a vibrant array of circus, comedy, music, dance and spoken word performances.

The Fairfield Summer Series will be held at the Fairfield Amphitheatre. For more information, visit www.multiculturalarts.com.au

SoundWaves at Fitzroy Pool

Every Sunday in February, 1pm–5pm

Visitors to the Fitzroy Swimming Pool will be treated to a cool summer soundtrack courtesy of poolside DJs each Sunday in February. The annual SoundWaves event

features a great line-up of DJs including Joelistics, Dan Kelly and Ennio Styles. Whenever the weather is fine, a barbeque will also be on hand to cater to hungry swimmers.

SoundWaves takes place at the Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Alexandra Parade, Fitzroy. For more information, contact Yarra Leisure on 9205 5032 or YarraLeisure@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Coming up...

A Global Gathering Sunday 1 March, 11am–4pm

Bridge Road in Richmond is playing host to an amazing day of food and culture. Collect your free passport and sample food, beer and wine from more than 30 culturally diverse pubs and restaurants. Travel along Bridge Road in the free tuk-tuks, watch live cooking demonstrations, take a beer tasting master class, or relax and enjoy the live entertainment. Tasting plates start from \$5.

Visit www.globalgathering.com.au

Collaborative Workspace Showcase & Cocktail Networking Evening, Tuesday 10 March

Expand your professional networks and connect with like-minded business operators at Yarra's Collaborative Workspace Showcase and Cocktail Networking Evening. The collaborative workspace scene in Melbourne is booming, with many small or home-based businesses and entrepreneurs now choosing to share both office spaces and ideas. To celebrate this movement, a free Collaborative Workspace Showcase is taking place at the Abbotsford Convent (St Heliers Street, Abbotsford) on Tuesday 10 March from 4pm-6.30pm. The showcase will be followed by a ticketed networking evening, where you can meet other local business owners, share experiences and make new contacts. Featuring guest speaker Megan Quinn, co-founder of renowned online luxury fashion retailer, Net-a-Porter.

Bookings for the free showcase are not required. Tickets to the networking evening cost \$55. To book your ticket, visit www.yarrabusiness.com.au For more information, contact Council on 9205 5049.

Ride2School Day Friday 13 March

Is your school participating in Bicycle Network's Ride2School Day? This is the perfect opportunity to embrace a healthier lifestyle by walking or riding to school. This nation-wide annual event is a great way to show school communities just how easy and enjoyable riding can be. Register your school today to ensure you receive your resource pack by early term one.

For information regarding Ride2School Day and registration advice, contact Heidi Marfurt, Sustainable Transport Officer, on 9205 5734 or Heidi.Marfurt@yarracity.vic.gov.au