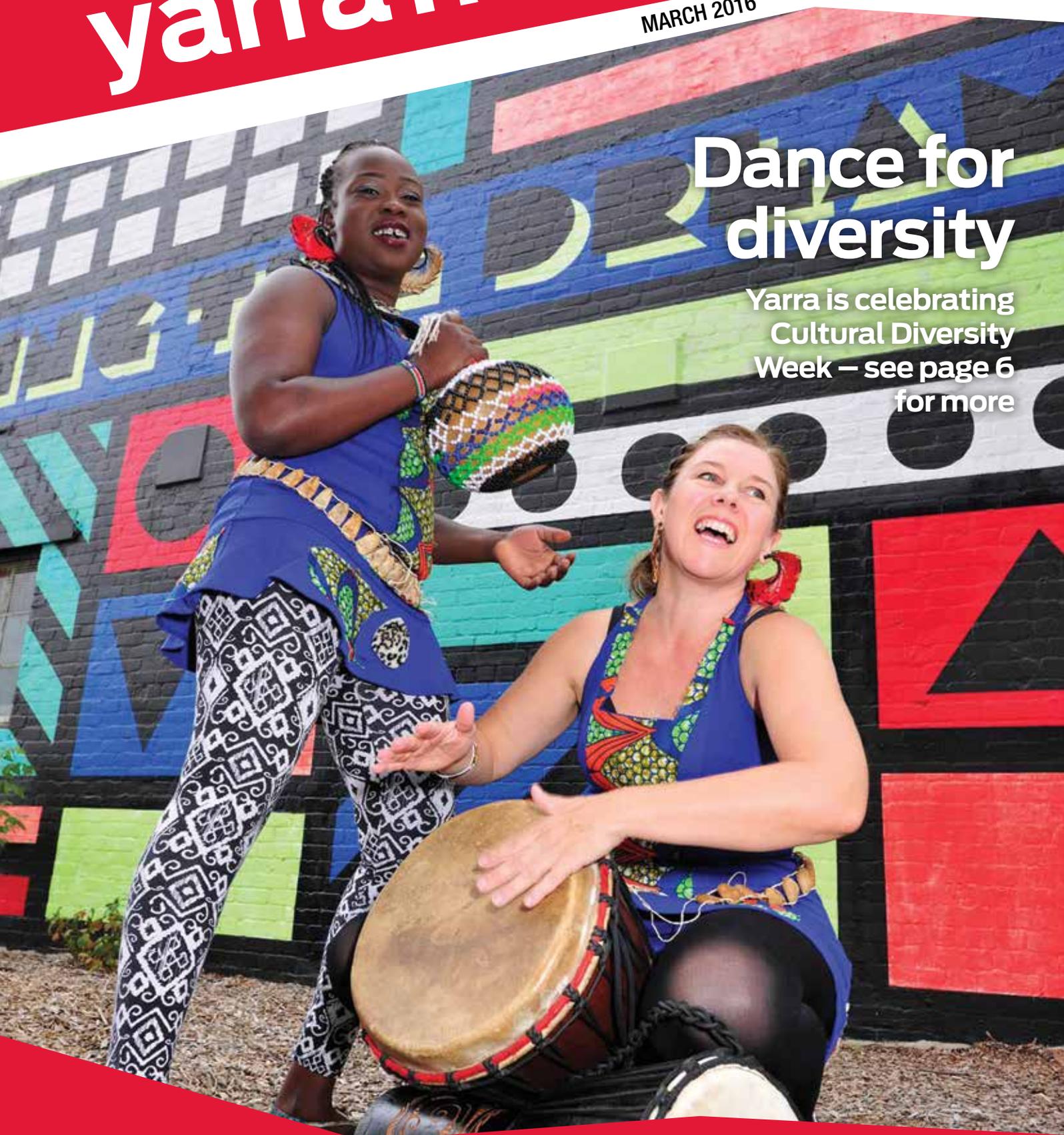


Dance for diversity

Yarra is celebrating
Cultural Diversity
Week – see page 6
for more



**New energy saving
program**

Page 4

**Check out
Jonas Street Plaza**

Page 6

**Sustainability
Awards open**

Page 7

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 من هذه عبر برنامج صوت إرثيريا 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**
 Facsimile: **8417 6666**
 Email: **info@yarracity.vic.gov.au**
 Website: **www.yarracity.vic.gov.au**
 Twitter: **@yarracouncil**

Our cover: Ayel Akot and Suzie Mzuri Watts of Mzuri Dance, who will perform at Yarra's Cultural Diversity Week celebration on 24 March - see page 6.



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.

Υποχρέωση δήλωσης κατοικίδιων γατιών και σκυλιών

Όλα τα κατοικίδια ζώα -γάτες ή σκυλιά- είναι υποχρεωτικό κάθε χρόνο, μέχρι την 10η Απριλίου, να δηλώνονται στο Μητρώο του Δήμου. Ο Δήμος Yarra χορηγεί μόνιμες περιλαίμιες ταυτότητες για αδήλωτες γάτες και σκυλιά. Η δήλωση του κατοικίδιου ζώου πρέπει να ανανεώνεται κάθε χρόνο, αλλά η περιλαίμια ταυτότητα δεν χρειάζεται να αλλάζει εκτός και αν χαθεί ή κλαπεί. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με αυτό ή οποιαδήποτε άλλα άρθρα, καλέστε τον αριθμό 9280 1937 και αναφέρετε τον κωδικό REF 16047.

Cani e gatti registrati

Tutti i cani e i gatti devono essere registrati presso il Comune entro il 10 aprile di ogni anno. Yarra fornisce le targhette di registrazione per i nuovi cani e gatti. La registrazione deve essere rinnovata ogni anno, mentre non è necessario sostituire la targhetta a meno che non sia stata smarrita o rubata. Per maggiori informazioni su questo o altri articoli, chiamate il numero 9280 1937 e indicate il codice REF 16047.

Đăng ký chó và mèo

Tất cả mèo hay chó phải đăng ký với Hội đồng Thành phố không trễ hơn ngày 10 tháng 4 mỗi năm. Yarra cấp thẻ đăng ký suốt đời cho mèo và chó mới. Quý vị phải gia hạn đăng ký mỗi năm nhưng không cần phải thay thẻ khác trừ phi thẻ bị mất hoặc bị đánh cắp. Muốn biết thêm thông tin về đề tài này hoặc bất kỳ bài nào khác, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 9280 1937 và báo cho nhân viên biết số REF 16047.

为猫和狗注册

每年4月10日之前，所有猫或狗都必须在市政注册。雅拉市为新养的猫和狗提供终生注册牌。注册必须每年更新，但注册牌无需更换除非丢失或被盗。若想获得关于此方面的更多信息或其他文章，请拨打9280 1937并提供参考号码REF 16047。

REF 16047

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

March will be another full month in the Yarra calendar. Council will celebrate International Women's Day on Thursday 8 March, presenting the Inspirational Women of Yarra Awards at a ceremony at Richmond Town Hall. Keep an eye out for the April edition of *Yarra News* to find out more about the 2016 recipient and the inspiring contribution they've made to our community.

Later this month we will also celebrate Cultural Diversity Week, 12-20 March. This is a special time when we acknowledge our multicultural municipality and the established and emerging cultures that make Yarra such a vibrant place.

Council will mark this day with a performance of African dancing and singing by Mzuri Dance in a free community event on Thursday 24 March. Turn to page 6 to find out more about Cultural Diversity Week. I look forward to seeing you at our free celebration.

In addition to a full calendar of events, the rising rate of development in the municipality is continuing to keep Council busy.

Council is dedicated to ensuring the urban and natural environmental impacts of planning and development are kept to a minimum. As such we successfully advocated for interim

protections for the Yarra River. Read more on this in the story below.

Finally, I want to share some exciting news. Libraries are one of Council's most loved services and we have just received a Victorian Government grant to help upgrade and rejuvenate the Richmond Library. I look forward to sharing more information with you about this upgrade in the coming months.

Cr Roberto Colanzi
Mayor

Council advocates for river development controls

Yarra City Council was recently successful in advocating for interim development protections for the Yarra River, as part of Council's commitment to minimising the environmental impacts from increasing rates of development.

The Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne, approved the interim controls, which came into effect on 14 January.

The controls provide stronger protection against overdevelopment in the river corridor, between Darebin Creek and Punt Road, until permanent controls can be introduced by the State Government.

In addition, the new controls will strengthen the consideration of the landscape and environmental values of the river area when Council considers planning applications.

Council has long advocated for minimum setbacks of between 25 and 40 metres from the nearest adjoining title to the river, and height controls varying between one and four storeys.



The new interim planning and development controls imposed along the Yarra River ensure stronger protection against overdevelopment in the river corridor.

More permanent planning controls are planned to replace the interim controls for the length of the Yarra River corridor extending from Punt Road to Warrandyte. This will be done through a group planning scheme amendment for the municipalities of Nillumbik,

Manningham, Banyule, Boroondara, Stonnington and Yarra.

The Minister for Planning will oversee this amendment and it will include opportunities for public comment and discussion. It is expected that the amendment will be released for comment in mid-2016.

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

T | 0428 323 916

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 | 9205 5055

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.

Energy-saving program to help those in need

Low-income homeowners now have the opportunity to receive a free retrofit to make their homes more energy efficient.

Under a new program, a partnership between the Yarra Energy Foundation and Yarra City Council, local homeowners with a pensioner concession card qualify to receive assistance to reduce their energy bills, improve their home's comfort and contribute to helping the environment.

Residents who qualify will receive free installation of high-quality lighting, door seals to prevent draughts, a house inspection from a licensed architect, as well as IKEA curtains, blinds and rugs to improve comfort in all seasons. Information on simple energy-saving tips to reduce energy bills will also be provided.

Sarah Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of the Yarra Energy Foundation, said the program addresses rising energy prices, affordability, health, thermal comfort and the reduction of carbon emissions.

"It's about health, equity and climate change and how we can make sure some of Yarra's vulnerable residents are living comfortably in cold winters and hot summers simply by improving the energy efficiency of their homes," said Ms Johnson.

Program applications close Monday 14 March. For more information on the project and to sign up, contact Claire Havens, YEF Project Manager, on 0499 620 042 or claire.havens@yef.org.au or visit www.yef.org.au

Council Meetings Timetable

Ordinary Council Meetings are held twice a month on a Tuesday in Yarra, and community members are invited to attend and participate in discussions.

Key issues to be discussed at each meeting are detailed on Council's website homepage the Friday prior. Important information take-outs from the meeting are reported on in the following days. Visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Council meetings are open to the public and begin at 7pm. For meeting agendas and minutes, visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings

Tuesday 8 March	Fitzroy Town Hall
Tuesday 22 March	Fitzroy Town Hall
Tuesday 5 April	Richmond Town Hall



Don't toss that tag

Maggie shows off her new green lifetime registration tag.

In Yarra, pets are for life – and so are their Council-issued tags. Every cat or dog over the age of three months must be registered with Council by 10 April every year.

Registering your pet with Council not only helps to ensure security and safety for the community and pets, it also makes it easier for your animal to be returned to you if it ever gets lost.

Yarra provides lifetime tags for new cats and dogs. Your pet's registration needs to be renewed annually, but the tag itself does not need to be replaced unless it is lost or stolen.

For more information on pet registration and to register your pet today, call Council on 9205 5555 or visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/animal-registration

Ensure your building works are safe

Community members planning to undertake building works on their home, investment property or business are reminded to first contact Council to obtain the necessary building permit/s.

Having a permit is not only a legal requirement, it also ensures that building works meet the required safety standards.

Property owners are responsible to ensure that the necessary permits are obtained. Owners and builders could be fined if they do not obtain a permit, or if they fail to comply with the conditions of their permit.

A building permit is required for:

- Any new building
- Any works that involve structural alterations to a building
- External work to a building including extensions, verandahs, garages and additional storeys
- Internal work to a building that requires walls to be moved or altered

- Demolition of a building, or part of a building
- A change in a building's use (for example, the conversion of a warehouse into apartments)
- Construction of fences
- Construction of a swimming pool or spa and safety barriers
- Minor structures such as carports and roller doors
- Underpinning and restumping
- Alterations to essential safety measures
- Any building work that adversely affects the safety of the public or occupiers of the building
- Signage, high masts, poles, aerials or similar
- Retaining walls greater than one metre

Before you begin your building project, contact Council's Building Services team on 9205 5585.

2016/17 budget update

Yarra Council's 2016/17 draft budget is expected to be released for community comment in April.

The draft budget will detail Council's total operating budget, major capital works projects, new programs, community grants and the level of rates, fees and charges for the next 12 months.

Copies of the draft budget will be available on Council's website or at any Yarra customer service centre or library from mid-April. People will have 28 days to review the draft budget and provide feedback.

This is the second phase of Council's consultation on the 2016/17 budget, the first phase being an online engagement forum which was live from 26 October to 27 November 2015.

More than 500 people visited the online forum and 93 ideas were submitted by 57 people.

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



Ayel Akot and Suzie Mzuri Watts of Mzuri Dance will perform at Yarra's Cultural Diversity Week celebration.

Cultural diversity burns bright in Yarra

March is set to be a big month for Yarra's diverse community, with Cultural Diversity Week celebrations and the establishment of a new Multicultural Advisory Group.

Awe-inspiring African dancing and singing show Mzuri Dance (pictured) will bring their unique rhythms to Richmond Town Hall for Council's Cultural Diversity Week event on Thursday 24 March from 10am-1pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free community celebration, which will also

feature belly dancers, live Latin American music and food from across the globe (see RSVP details below). Continuing this theme, Yarra's Multicultural Advisory Group will meet in April for the first time, providing an opportunity for community members from all cultural backgrounds a chance to meet, exchange ideas and build relationships with other local groups and individuals.

It will also allow attendees to talk to Council staff, discuss Council projects

and provide feedback about issues that are important to them. The group will meet quarterly and anyone can attend. The first meeting will take place on Thursday 7 April from 6pm-8pm at Richmond Town Hall.

For more information or to RSVP to the Cultural Diversity Week event or Yarra's Multicultural Advisory Group meeting, contact Cristina Del Frate, Community Partnerships Team Leader, on 9205 5174 or cristina.delfrate@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Jonas Street Plaza.

Jonas Street Plaza trial pops up in Richmond

Nestled among lively Asian restaurants, cafes and grocery shops you'll find Jonas Street Plaza, an urban oasis in the heart of Richmond's vibrant Victoria Street.

The trial plaza, which will be in place until late June, features seating, native plants and flowers, artificial turf, colourful paint work and bicycle parking.

It's a perfect spot for people watching, a place for local residents, visitors and workers to sit, relax, have lunch and watch the world go by.

The trial is one of the major projects identified in a Streetscape Masterplan for Victoria Street, which aims to create more open space and improve safety and liveability in the area.

It's complemented by the recently completed easy access tram stops in Victoria Street, making a pedestrian-friendly link between the tram stop and North Richmond train station.

Council welcomes ideas for how the plaza could be used by the community, for example for small events, gatherings, performances or markets. Community groups, artists, performers and anyone with an idea for using the space can contact Council.

Let us know what you think of the plaza or submit your idea for using the space at www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/jonas-street-plaza or by calling Council on 9205 5555.

Bridge Road Early Learning Centre was recognised last year for environmental education initiatives, as shown here by Gabriella, River, Maggie, Nicoletta, Sadie and Felix.



Time to nominate for Yarra Sustainability Awards

The Yarra Sustainability Awards return in 2016 to celebrate the community's significant achievements in environmental sustainability.

Whether you are a local resident, business owner or part of a school or community group, the awards are a great chance to share your sustainability success story and

network with like-minded people and industry leaders.

In past years the awards have recognised impressive local projects including businesses reducing their emissions, a sustainable farmers market and the Bridge Road Early Learning Centre, who received the Educational Services category award

for tackling environmental challenges through education.

Nominations must be received by 5pm Wednesday 23 March. For more information on how to apply visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/ysa2016 or contact Courtney Deans, Sustainability Officer, on 9205 5783 or awards@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Budding business moguls make their mark

Eight young Yarra entrepreneurs are set to make waves in the business world after recently graduating from a landmark Council program introduced last year.

Yarra Young Entrepreneurs provides participants with support in the development of their business idea through workshops, mentoring, links to local Yarra business people and business opportunities.

The program enables participants to develop skills in marketing and promotion, fine-tune their interview and communication skills and learn from local business mentors.

Business ideas for the first graduating class ranged from creating bike safety gear, mobile phone applications, running hip-hop dance classes and a fashion clothing label.

"I was really interested in business and had a lot of ideas floating around my head and I wanted to learn how I could build



Graduates from the inaugural Yarra Young Entrepreneurs program (L-R) Angelo Duot, Nyuol Bol, Abraham Poni, Yach Bol, Agum Deng and Douaj Chol, with Yarra Mayor, Cr Roberto Colanzi and program facilitator, Shona Malberg.

those into something," said 19-year-old Nyuol Bol, a local university student who became involved in the program to develop general business and entrepreneurial skills.

"I learnt a lot and I would definitely encourage other people to get involved in the program," he said.

The next program is scheduled for mid-2016. For more information and to get involved, contact Kate Rizzo, Youth Development Officer, on 9426 1455 or kate.rizzo@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Kinneman Dancing Spirits Troupe, led by Amos Roach. Photo: Windu Kuntoro.

Black Harmony Gathering

Sunday 13 March, 1pm-5pm

Multicultural Arts Victoria and The Warrior Spirit Collective in partnership with Council present *Black Harmony Gathering* – an afternoon of live music, dance, food and activities. The event brings together diverse local Indigenous and emerging communities in the spirit of maintaining and supporting culture. Bring a picnic rug, cushion and your dancing shoes for an afternoon of free entertainment at Fairfield Amphitheatre on the stunning banks of the Yarra River.

Black Harmony Gathering takes place at Fairfield Amphitheatre, Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield. Entry is free. For more information visit www.multiculturalarts.com.au

Harmony Day

Saturday 19 March, 1.30pm-2.30pm
at Collingwood Library

Celebrate World Harmony Day with an African Drumming Workshop run by acclaimed performer, Lamine Sonko. Get into the spirit of this world-wide day and learn to dance, clap, drum, and sing in Wolof language with this amazing performer.

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

The Eyeball End with Ali MC and Abe Nouk

Wednesday 23 March, 7pm-8.30pm
at Fitzroy Library

Incorporating music, spoken word and discussion, Ali MC will cover themes from his book *The Eyeball End*, including travel, refugees and cultural experiences. He will be joined by Abraham 'Abe' Nouk, the founder and director at Creative Rebellion Youth – a spoken-word poet, hip-hop fanatic, MC and author.

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

SPECTACLE

Friday 8 April, 10am-3pm at
Atherton Gardens Housing Estate,
Napier Street, Fitzroy

SPECTACLE is a huge day of live music and DJs, dancing, arts and sporting fun for local young people. Join Yarra Youth Services for free food, activities and give-aways at this special National Youth Week celebration.

To find out more information contact Yarra Youth Services on 9426 1455 or visit www.facebook.com/yarrayouthservices

Premier's Active April

Get moving this April with the Premier's Active April, which encourages all Victorians to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day during the month. Log your daily movements with the Active April Activity Tracker, chart your progress and discover events taking place in your local area.

Every participant will receive a host of offers for joining up, and if you're a student or teacher, you'll also go into the draw to win even more great prizes for your school.

Find out more and register today at www.activeapril.vic.gov.au

WHAT'S ON IN YARRA!

School holiday fun for kids

25 March-10 April

Children needn't be bored these school holidays – Yarra's five libraries are offering free activities every day, with movies, craft, Lego and photography workshops, Storytime and Mini Maestro sessions, video games and more.

Activities will take place at all Yarra Libraries branches. For full details visit www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/libraries

Connect with Yarra

There are many ways to connect with Yarra Council:



Make a request online:
yarracity.vic.gov.au



Download Y-app from the Apple or Google App store – search for 'Yarra Council' or 'Y-app'.



Email us at
info@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Tweet us @yarracouncil



Join our Facebook conversations:
/ Yarra City Council
/ Yarra Youth Services
/ Celebrating Aboriginal Culture



Follow us on Instagram
[@CityOfYarra](https://www.instagram.com/CityOfYarra)



Call us on 9205 5555



Visit our customer service centres (all open weekdays from 8.30am-5pm)

Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford

Richmond Town Hall
333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Connie Benn Centre
160 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy