Yvonne Gardner wins our Inspirational Women of Yarra award

Have your say on our proposed 2018/19 budget
Welcome to Yarra News.

We held this edition of Yarra News back by two weeks to ensure we could share the exciting details about our proposed budget. This year we have a big focus on improving vital community facilities while enhancing our overall financial position.

I’m looking forward to having a chat at our upcoming ‘Budget conversations with the Mayor’ and I invite you to lodge a formal submission by Friday 25 May.

We’d like to hear from as many people as possible, so I encourage you to get involved. Our story on our $26m capital works program may also be of interest to budget watchers.

We’ve been working closely with our Aboriginal community on a tribute to the Stolen Generations. After two years of development, the artwork, created by artist Reko Rennie, is set to be unveiled in May. There was a huge community fundraising campaign that supported this project and I thank everyone who contributed (see page 3 for more).

We have also spoken to Yvonne Gardner, a truly inspirational woman, who received our Inspirational Women of Yarra Award for her trailblazing work in support of people living with HIV/AIDS.

This month I spent some time with two wonderful young community leaders. Mubarek and Nyayoud are doing great things for young people at the Collingwood and Richmond Housing Estates. They received a council grant to help them make a difference to the lives of young people on the estates. See page 8 for more.

We’re always keen to hear your thoughts on Yarra News, so drop us a line at yarranews@yarracity.vic.gov.au if you have any suggestions.

Cr Daniel Nguyen
Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

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.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are open to the public and community members are invited to attend. All meetings listed below begin at 7pm at Richmond Town Hall.

- 8 May
- 22 May
- 29 May (special meeting to consider planning matters)
- 5 June
- 6 June (special meeting to consider budget submissions)
- 19 June
- 26 June (special meeting to consider adopting budget)

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for agendas, minutes and further information about Council Meetings. Agendas are published on the Friday prior to each meeting.

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, Highekt and Hoddle streets)

- Cr Danae Bosler
  0419 782 247
  Danae.Bosler@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Stephen Jolly
  0437 856 713
  Stephen.Jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Amanda Stone
  9205 5055
  Amanda.Stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au

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

- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
  0427 150 407
  Milin.Chenyimei@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Daniel Nguyen, Mayor
  0427 493 509
  Daniel.Nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr James Searle
  0427 121 310
  James.Searle@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 Misha Coleman, Deputy Mayor
  0428 509 943
  Misha.Coleman@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
  0412 597 794
  Jackie.Fristacky@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Cr Mike McEvoy
  0428 449 193
  Mike.McEvoy@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To contact your Councillors, call 9205 5055, send a letter to c/o PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121, or you can reach them via their direct lines as above.
TRIBUTE TO THE STOLEN GENERATIONS

Proud Mutti Mutti man and celebrated singer-songwriter Kutcha Edwards will perform at the launch of a new public artwork paying tribute to the Stolen Generations.

Edwards knows the deep pain and loss suffered by Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families. His was among the many families of the Stolen Generations, torn apart from their culture and community.

“The worst thing you can do is deny a person their belief system. They tried to drown us in religion and deny us of culture,” he says.

His journey has been long and difficult, but the light of his ancestors has guided him through the dark times.

“That knowledge, it’s not carried in my intellect - it’s in my DNA, it’s in my dreaming,” he says.

Kutcha’s gift for songwriting has been healing, for himself and many others. Through his music, he is able to share his community’s stories and connect with people.

“When I write a song, it’s not my song. It’s my family’s, my clan’s, my tribe’s and therefore my country’s song,” he says.

Like so many who were taken from their families, Kutcha and his brothers and sisters came to Fitzroy to reconnect with their mob. It was there in the early ’80s that Kutcha found cousins he’d never known before and started to learn about his culture and ancestors.

The launch of the Stolen Generations Marker will take place at Atherton Gardens Housing Estate on 26 May, the 20th anniversary of Sorry Day.

“This marker will represent all the ones that came home, and also give us a time to reflect that there are so many more who are yet to come home,” says Kutcha.

Two years in the making, the concept for the Stolen Generations Marker was developed by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives in collaboration with Yarra Council. Internationally renowned Aboriginal artist Reko Rennie created the artwork, titled Remember Me.

The marker was jointly funded by Yarra Council and a grant from the Victorian State Government. It also received significant community support through a number of fundraising campaigns, including Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council, Connecting Home, Link-Up Victoria, Brotherhood of St Laurence.

Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/stolengenerations
We’re seeking your feedback and submissions on our proposed budget for 2018/19.

The budget outlines the financial resources required to provide a wide range of services and programs for our growing and diverse community.

It was developed following an initial round of public consultation held early this year, where we received more than 150 written and submissions. This helped us understand your priorities.

The budget continues to build a solid foundation to make sure we have a strong and sustainable financial position for coming years.

We now invite you to review the budget and provide feedback. Council’s 4-year Strategic Resource Plan and 10-year Long Term Financial Strategy are also available for comment.

Budget at a glance
- $188m total operating revenue
- $177m total operating expenditure
- $26m for capital works projects and other new initiatives
- $2m for community grants
- 2.25% increase in general rate revenue (in line with rate cap)
- 2.25% increase in the rate rebate for pensioners (now $182.50)

Budget highlights
- $7m on road upgrades and renewals
- $2m for upgrades and renewal works at:
  - Collingwood Leisure Centre
  - Fitzroy Swimming Pool
  - Richmond Recreation Centre
- $1m for footpath and bike path improvements
  - Including $200,000 on stage 2 of the Wellington Street separated bike lane
- $1m for upgrades and renewals to grandstands, pavilions, clubrooms and/or change rooms at:
  - Kevin Bartlett Reserve
  - Quarries Park
  - Fairfield Park
  - Victoria Park
  - Coulson Reserve
  - Knott Reserve
  - Edinburgh Gardens
  - Citizens Park
- $747,000 for traffic and pedestrian improvements in:
  - Princes Hill
  - Fitzroy (Rose Street precinct)
  - North Carlton (planning stage)
- $390,000 for activity centre improvements in:
  - Bridge Road
  - Victoria Street

VIEW THE DOCUMENTS
Online
yarracity.vic.gov.au/feedbackbudget1819

In person
- Richmond Town Hall
- Collingwood Town Hall
- Connie Benn Centre
- All Yarra Libraries branches

HAVE YOUR SAY
Online
yarracity.vic.gov.au/feedbackbudget1819

Email
info@yarracity.vic.gov.au
(subject line: budget submission)

Post
Yarra City Council, PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121

Submissions must be received by 5pm on Friday 25 May 2018.

BUDGET CONVERSATIONS WITH THE MAYOR
- Thursday 17 May
  6.30pm to 7.30pm
  Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library
  182 St Georges Road, North Fitzroy
  Community Room (level 2)
- Saturday 19 May
  11am to 12pm
  Richmond Library
  415 Church Street, Richmond
  Theatrette
- Saturday 19 May
  1.30pm to 2.30pm
  Collingwood Library
  11 Stanton Street, Abbotsford
  Meeting Room
We often receive questions about the way we allocate our capital works budget, which is expected to be just under $26m this year.

The vast majority of our funds (about 99% of this year’s capital works budget) are used to renew or upgrade assets such as roads, footpaths, drains, buildings and parkland. Our Asset Management Registers track the condition of our existing assets and let us know when they need to be repaired or replaced. This ensures that our essential assets remain safe to use and meet the evolving needs of our community.

Some capital works funding comes from federal and state government agencies via grants, and this money is given to support the delivery of specific projects.

Similarly, when we receive open space contributions from developers, this money can only be spent in accordance with Yarra’s Allocation of Moneys Received via the Public Open Space Requirement Policy adopted by Council in July 2016.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/capworks to learn more about our approach to capital works.

If you believe that an existing asset is in urgent need of repair or replacement (e.g. broken footpath), please contact us immediately on 9205 5555.
A GREAT WAY TO PLAY

More than 80 playgroups run weekly throughout Yarra, enabling babies, toddlers and pre-school children, as well as their parents and carers, to get to know each other.

Each playgroup meets for 2 hours per week on a drop-in basis to play games, sing songs, tell stories and connect with other families in the area.

Local mum Sam So takes her two daughters (Angelica and Jellena) to the Richmond Community Playgroup at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House every week. “I’ve been coming to this playgroup for about 6 months and my girls and I love it. My eldest daughter can get bored playing at home by herself. Here, she plays with lots of kids from different backgrounds and she has made some great friends. I enjoy chatting with the parents too!”

Jacinta Harper, Playgroups Team Leader, explains that “playgroups are fantastic for children to connect with each other and gain confidence, but they also benefit the parents and carers by allowing them to share ideas, discuss their parenting wins and challenges and feel part of the local community. Many families are new to Yarra and don’t have strong support networks yet. They join a playgroup and build relationships.”

There are playgroups for everyone in Yarra, including families with babies, families with twins and triplets, rainbow families, and families who speak a language other than English.

A GREAT WAY TO PLAY
Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/playgroups or call 9205 5555 to find a playgroup near you.

MAKING SPORT SAFER

All grass-based sports clubs in Yarra now have access to a defibrillator at the nearest pavilion, which can be used not just for players, but also spectators and other park users.

The time between an occurrence of a medical emergency and emergency services staff arriving onsite can be crucial.

Someone who knows this firsthand is Elaine McPartlin, president of Alphington Football Club. The club has had a defibrillator installed in their pavilion since 2014 to be used by the many teams that play at their Alphington Park Oval.

Tragically, last year much-loved club veteran Lewis Zhi Liu passed away after suffering a cardiac event during a morning training session at an away venue without a defibrillator.

In the most recent round of Yarra community grants, the club received a grant of $1,650 towards purchasing a portable defibrillator for their veterans’ team to take to training and games.

“Having a portable defibrillator provides an increased level of comfort for our over-45 players, their families and the Alphington Football Club,” Elaine says.

Our community grants program has provided $25,000 over 3 years to help 6 clubs purchase and install life-saving defibrillators.

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Our 2018 Inspirational Women of Yarra Award winner Yvonne Gardner has spent over 3 decades championing LGBTIQ rights and supporting individuals affected by HIV.

She was heavily involved in the Victorian LGBTIQ rights movement in the ’70s and ’80s and was on the committee for a number of gay and lesbian rights groups.

“I’ve seen kids kicked out of home because of their sexuality and I cannot, cannot stand it,” she said.

Yvonne is the founder of Positive Attitude Inc. a not-for-profit organisation that supports people living with HIV. This includes holding a weekly luncheon for community members where they can enjoy a nutritious 3-course meal together.

“Realising that visiting separate apartments wasn’t the most effective way to help them, she found a venue with a kitchen and started Positive Attitude Inc. which she still runs today.

Yvonne was “so surprised” to be chosen as the individual winner of this year’s Inspirational Women of Yarra Award, presented on International Women’s Day at Richmond Town Hall alongside 2 fantastic winners in the groups category: the Fitzroy High School Feminist Collective and the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health Bilingual Health Education Team.

Many of the participants are alienated from their families and struggle with social isolation, but are able to spend time together at the weekly luncheon.

Yvonne started the lunches during the height of the AIDS crisis in the ’80s when a number of young men in Melbourne were diagnosed with HIV and lived in public housing, often disowned by families and unable to work due to their illness.

“I’ve seen kids kicked out of home because of their sexuality and I cannot, cannot stand it”

She saw their need for healthy meals, “so I started a soup kitchen – I used to make a big cauldron of soup, and I knew some of the boys in Dight Street, I would go around with a pot in the back of my Golden Holden,” she said.
LEADING A NEW GENERATION

Mubarek Imam and Nyayoud Jice are inspiring positive change within their local community and helping other young people find their voice.

Both are involved in the Youth Peer Leader program at Drummond Street Services.

“Working with young people is our passion, it’s what we do,” says Mubarek.

They recently ran a campaign called No Shade to advocate for a new youth space in Richmond. Nyayoud, who comes from a South Sudanese background, is supporting a workshop called Better Together exploring racism and discrimination with the hope of “bridging the gap between police and young people.”

Nyayoud currently works as a research officer with Monash University studying the media’s portrayal of Sudanese young people and its effect on the community.

“We’re portrayed by the media as thugs, criminals, offenders, but when we’re the victims we don’t get our side out there,” she says.

Their advice for young people thinking of applying for the youth peer leader program in the future is “Don’t be afraid, just try.”

The Youth Peer Leader program at Drummond Street Services has received funding through Yarra’s Youth Grants.

LIVE AND LEARN

A new public high school has opened in Gleadell Street, bringing fresh activity to the heart of Richmond.

The aptly named Richmond High School opened in February with an intake of 76 Year 7 students.

Colin Simpson is the inaugural principal, and he sees the school as an important member of the local community.

“I am pleased with the way that families in Richmond have embraced the return of the school, we are excited to have such a strong start,” he said.

The school will support Richmond’s growing population (15,253 new residents expected by 2031) and bring new trade to the popular Bridge Road shopping and dining strip.

One of the big advantages of the Gleadell Street site is its closeness to public transport, and students are already making great use of the nearby tram and train lines.

The academic centre of the new school is currently being built in nearby Griffith Street and will be open for the 2019 school year. The school will expand to about 650 students at full capacity.

Visit rhs.vic.edu.au to learn more about Richmond High School.
There has been a lot of interest in the recent changes to China’s recycling policy and the impact it may have on Yarra. Yarra is not affected by these changes at this stage. In the short-to-medium term, our recycling will continue to be collected and processed as usual, but there are some things we need to look at in the future.

Much of the recycling collected from households is sold to China to be processed and made into other products.

In January this year, China announced it needed a better standard of recyclable materials and would pay less for recycling that is ‘contaminated’ - in other words, recycling that is mixed in with non-recyclable materials, like plastic bags, food and liquids.

As part of our contract with recycling company Visy, our recycling continues to be collected and processed as normal. At this stage, there has been no extra cost to Council or our ratepayers, but we will need to continue to monitor the wider impact of these changes and respond accordingly.

About 30% of the 10,000 tonnes of recycling collected each year from Yarra’s homes is processed locally and made into paper and cardboard products. The remainder is exported. None is sent to landfill.

We’re working with other levels of government to find a long term solution. One answer is to develop a local industry for processing recycling so Australia can make its own products and reduce our reliance on overseas markets. This will require commitment from a range of stakeholders, including State Government.

We can all play our part too by being mindful of the products we buy and recycling the right way to reduce contamination in the bin.

Here’s how you can help:
- Don’t put plastic bags or soft plastics (like cling wrap) in the recycling.
- Food crumbs and oil stains on things like pizza boxes are okay, but big pieces of food aren’t recyclable.
- Empty plastic drink bottles and milk containers.
- Keep your recycling loose in the recycling bin. For example, putting aluminium tins inside cardboard boxes means the items are hard to separate in the recycling process.
- Avoid waste in the first place! Reduce the amount of material that goes to recycling by avoiding products that come in unnecessary packaging, and by using reusable water bottles and coffee cups.

For more tips on recycling, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/waste

For more information about what happens to your recycling, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/recycled

NO INTERRUPTION TO RECYCLING
Join comedian Craig Reucassel from the ABC’s War on Waste to celebrate the people who are helping create a more sustainable Yarra.

The Yarra Sustainability Award nominations are now in and winners will be announced at our awards night in June.

The awards recognise the sustainability achievements of local schools and children’s centres, businesses, sustainable buildings, community organisations and individuals. With Craig as our host it promises to be an entertaining evening!

To book in and for further information, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/sustainability or contact us on 9205 5555.

Event details
Thursday 28 June 2018
Arrive from 6pm for a 6.30pm start.
Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle St, Abbotsford
This is a free event and all are welcome to attend. Drinks and light supper provided.

Meet Ashbaadin ‘Din’ Mohamed. Din emigrated from Ethiopia in 2014 and now manages Wash Against Waste, a sustainability program aiming to eliminate single-use coffee cups.

Din can often be seen at the farmers’ market at Collingwood Children’s Farm, where the Wash Against Waste marquee allows customers to clean their reusable mugs.

Follow @CityOfYarra on Instagram for more on Din and our other #FacesOfYarra.
WHAT’S ON IN YARRA

VIETNAMESE READING MONTH
Various dates and library locations throughout May
Nga Diep will get you some sizzle in your life with a demonstration on making Vietnamese vegetarian noodle dishes or learn about writing traditional Vietnamese poetry from Dr Nguyen Hung Quoc. Vien Trinh will transform poems into song lyrics using his own works.
Grab more details at yarralibraries.vic.gov.au

LGBTI ELDERS DANCE CLUB
Thursday 3 May, 5.30pm to 7.30pm
Sunday 3 June, 2pm to 4pm
Fitzroy Town Hall
Keen for a night out and a boogie? Learn some new dance moves, enjoy delicious food and drinks, and socialise with other LGBTI elders and allies.
No dance experience needed.
Book at yarracity.vic.gov.au/danceclub

MARK BRANDI AND SOFIE LAGUNA
Wednesday 23 May
6.30pm to 7.30pm
Richmond Library
Join us for a chat with Mark Brandi, author of Wimmera, and Sofie Laguna, author of The Choke, two of Australia’s best award-winning authors. Elizabeth McCarthy, a 3RRR FM Radio Producer, will moderate a discussion about their writing practices.
Book your free ticket at yarralibraries.vic.gov.au

STOLEN GENERATIONS MARKER LAUNCH
Saturday 26 May
3pm to 6pm
Atherton Gardens Housing Estate, Fitzroy
Witness the unveiling of a powerful new tribute to the Stolen Generations. This landmark ceremony will feature a performance from acclaimed singer-songwriter Kutcha Edwards.
No booking required. Learn more at arts.yarracity.vic.gov.au

BLAKWIZ
Wednesday 30 May
6.30pm to 8.30pm
Fitzroy Town Hall
Find out more about Australia’s First People at BlakWiz, a fun night of trivia and musical performances. It’s hosted by Aboriginal artists to celebrate Reconciliation Week 2018. Test your knowledge about Aboriginal culture, history, music, politics and have some laughs along the way.

FRESH VOICES
Wednesday 13 June
6pm to 9pm
Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library
Emerging Melbourne-based artists come together for a night of spoken word and poetry performances. Turn up and feel the power of spoken word and be awed. Fresh Voices is delivered in partnership with Melbourne Spoken Word.
Free tickets at yarralibraries.vic.gov.au

For more information about local events, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/yrreaevents
Weekly announcements from Yarra News will be broadcast in several languages on local radio 3CR 855AM and 3ZZZ 92.3FM.

GREEK
Anακοινώνωση από αυτή την έκδοση του Yarra News θα μεταδοθούν στο Ελληνικό ραδιοφωνικό πρόγραμμα της ΤΕΕ από τις 8μ, στο 3CR 855 AM.

TURKISH
Yarra News’un bu baskısında yer alan duyurular, 92.3 FM bandından yayılan 3ZZZ Türkçe radyo programında, Pazar günleri saat 10.00’dan itibaren yayınılanacaktır.

VIETNAMESE
Các thông báo từ sổ 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
تقرير الأحداث من أصدار يارا
هذا عبر برنامج صدى إكيرز الإذاعي في أيام الاثنين من الساعة 7 صباحاً، على التردد
.3CR 855 AM


If you have any comments or queries about Yarra News, please contact us at yarranews@yarracity.vic.gov.au or call 9205 5555. Large print, audio and online versions are also available.