

July 2022

yarranews



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Message from the Mayor



Hi everyone

What a busy year it's been in Yarra so far. So much has been happening across our city recently – from the return of the iconic Leaps and Bounds Festival to the opening of the fantastic new Jack Dyer Pavilion at Citizens Park in Richmond.

In May I had the honour of opening the upgraded pavilion with the Member for Richmond, the Hon. Richard Wynne MP, alongside scores of local sporting club members and residents. Head to page 7 to learn more about it.

We have also welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer Sue Wilkinson to Yarra. Sue commenced her 5-year appointment at the end of June and has hit the ground running! It's great to have Sue onboard and I'm excited to work with her toward Yarra's goals.

In other news, Yarra is now home to the state's first inner urban community battery! We flicked the switch with the Yarra Energy Foundation and the support of locals in Fitzroy North in June. More about that on page 9.

Yarra's Budget 2022–23 has recently been adopted – thank you to everyone who shared their feedback ahead of the Budget's finalisation. It is important to us that your voices are heard.

The Budget reflects our community's priorities with investments in clean energy and improved open spaces, while taking into account our current economic challenges. More details about the Budget are available on pages 4 and 5.

Whether it's at a Council Meeting, a community consultation or one of the many amazing events happening around our vibrant area, I look forward to seeing you out and about around Yarra.

Cr Sophie Wade
Mayor City of Yarra

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Stay connected with Yarra

- Online at yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Have your say on projects at yoursayyarra.com.au
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra) and Twitter (@yarracouncil)
- Register for our fortnightly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife

For the latest updates or changes to our services due to COVID-19, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

On the cover: Kids from Richmond Junior Football Club at Citizens Park in Richmond, home of the newly upgraded Jack Dyer Pavilion.

News in Brief



We're pleased to support a proposal to take on the management of the newly upgraded Fairlea Netball Precinct at Yarra Bend Park in Fairfield.

The Fairlea Netball Precinct will include eight netball courts with supporting facilities such as lighting, seating, shelters and improvements to local road access, as well as a new modular sporting pavilion.

The upgrade is part of the Victorian Government's Inner-City Netball Program which is building competition-compliant netball courts in inner Melbourne to meet growing demand.

We have taken an important step forward to establish long-term management arrangements for the Fairlea Park Precinct and will meet with Parks Victoria to secure a formal agreement.

Yarra has secured over \$800,000 in funding from the Victorian Government for the Curtain Square Stormwater Harvesting Scheme.

The stormwater harvesting system in Carlton will irrigate Curtain Square, which will reduce flood risk to over 200 local properties. The funding comes from the Victorian Government's Integrated Water Management Program.

We've adopted a new plan that will help guide the growth of our libraries.

Libraries help build an inclusive, resilient and connected community.

The Yarra Libraries Strategic Plan 2022–2026 outlines the direction for our library services over the next four years, to ensure we continue to meet the diverse and growing needs of our community.

In the lead-up to the State election, we're advocating to local candidates and political parties for strong action on matters that are important to our community.

Advocacy and representing the views of the community is a core function of all councils.

We want to put infrastructure, inclusivity and the climate emergency front and centre at this year's Victorian election. We will be seeking to advance these priorities and ensure the projects and initiatives our city needs to grow and thrive are supported by our State representatives.

Find the latest Yarra news at
yarracity.vic.gov.au/news



Curtain Square in Carlton North

Yarra's newly adopted Budget

Budget at a glance

\$219 million

Total operating expenditure

\$39 million

Capital works projects

1.75% rate increase

In line with the Victorian Government's rate cap

We have worked with our community to develop a 2022–23 Budget that is responsible and responsive, and recognises the need for change now. It seeks to build back better by investing in bike lanes, new and improved open space and cleaner energy infrastructure.

This is a Budget that focusses on improving our financial situation, while also delivering a number of great projects that our community needs and expects.

It addresses the need to improve our operations and make them more efficient by managing costs, attracting external funding and expanding opportunities to generate revenue.



We will continue to support our more vulnerable community members through our Hardship Policy and Pensioner Rebate, and will support our broader community through a number of projects and initiatives.

Find out more about this year's Budget at yarracity.vic.gov.au/budget

Rates notices are on the way

Rates notices will be sent to property owners in August.

Your rates help us deliver a wide range of services, programs and infrastructure that make Yarra a great place to live, work and visit.

This year, we have increased our total rate revenue by 1.75%, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap.

Your rates may change by more or less than 1.75%. This is because rates are also affected by changes in the value of your property, and its value relative to other properties in Yarra.

Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates

Highlights from this year's Budget



Improving road safety through programs developed with the community in Carlton North, Fitzroy North, Clifton Hill, Abbotsford and Richmond.

A new digital literacy learning program for community members who speak a language other than English.



Accelerating Yarra's tree planting program to hit our urban forest strategy targets sooner.

Starting planning to refurbish the Collingwood College Early Childhood Centre to accommodate 3-year-old kindergarten, with funding support from the Victorian Government.

Continuing to transition Yarra Council buildings off gas, including making significant progress in relation to our town halls.



Preliminary work and consultation on a potential new shared zone in Collingwood to help create a vibrant arts precinct.

Programs to support households and businesses in Yarra to reduce their carbon emissions.



Developing a master plan for the Linear Parklands, which span from Princes Hill to Fitzroy North, including community consultation.

Annual grants program enriches our community

Applications for Yarra's 2023 annual grants are now open, with more than \$1 million in funding up for grabs.

Our annual grants invest in innovative programs and projects that enhance community connectedness.

Funding categories include:

- arts and culture
- community development
- climate action
- community housing
- family, youth and children
- sports and recreation

Among last year's recipients is Green Music Australia (GMA), which was awarded funding for its Green Action Program. Developed by GMA's Emma Bosworth, the 8-week program has been designed to help music businesses understand and improve their environmental impact.

The program, which incorporates climate science and First Nations voices, "helps businesses build a coherent map to set goals, targets, and work towards practical outcomes," said GMA's Berish Bilander.

"A critical outcome of the program was to build a new network so businesses became connected," Bilander said. "Participants came out of the program with a peer group that they could then ideate with and share learnings."

The program has proved so successful it will expand to Sydney next year.

Don't miss out! Applications close at 11.59pm on Sunday 31 July. Learn more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/annualgrants



Participants at Green Music Australia's Green Action Program, which Berish Bilander (below) helped deliver.



Peer support for LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers

Grant recipient Three For All Foundation is a community-led charity based in Collingwood, run predominantly by volunteers. Its Many Coloured Sky program provides support for a growing group of LGBTIQ+ asylum seekers across Victoria.

"Accessing support services can be very challenging for our members," said Three For All Foundation executive director Ian Seal. "They're caught in the middle as, without a visa, they're often not eligible for other LGBTIQ+ support services."

The program provides comprehensive peer support, including assistance with accessing services, learning new skills, and opportunities to connect.

"Accessing weekly social activities through our program has been a lifeline for our members, creating a queer family for them to call upon," Seal said.



Local sporting clubs gathered to celebrate the opening of the new pavilion in May with Yarra Mayor, Cr Sophie Wade and the Member for Richmond, the Hon Richard Wynne MP.

Jack Dyer Pavilion is back and better than ever

Upgrades to the Jack Dyer Pavilion in Richmond's Citizens Park are now complete.

The newly redeveloped building provides improved facilities for local sporting clubs who use the oval and a community space for broader community use.

Beyond upgrades such as gender-inclusive change rooms and a spacious new canteen, "there are many little things which make this pavilion great," said Richmond Junior Football Club president Lachlan Mosley.

"The beautiful murals, the history and stories retained in the original air raid shelter at the back ... the skylight and timber balustrades upstairs – how lucky are we?"

The Richmond Harriers and Richmond Union Cricket Club will also benefit from the new pavilion.

"Our three clubs have been co-tenants, partners and friends for nearly 50 years, and we are really happy to be sharing this wonderful building again, and able to continue working together to make this the strong Richmond community it is," Mosley said.

The project received \$2 million in funding from the Victorian Government as part of the Local Sports Grants initiative. Yarra Council committed a further \$1 million to the upgrade.

Find out more about the sporting facilities around Yarra at yarracity.vic.gov.au/facilities



Reducing food waste at home

Minimising food waste will save your household money and reduce your impact on the environment.

There are many small steps we can all take to limit the amount of food waste we produce, from composting to growing veggies.

Not sure where to start? Check out our tips below and visit our website for lots more waste-saving ideas: yarracity.vic.gov.au/foodwaste

Be food smart

Avoid creating food waste to begin with!

- Plan weekly meals.
- Freeze leftovers and half-loaves of bread.
- Store food in reusable airtight containers.

Compost or worm farm

Turn scraps into what gardeners call “black gold.”

- We offer compost bins and worm farms at a subsidised rate.
- No garden? No problem! Freeze food scraps and drop them off at a local composting hub.
- Sign up to one of our free workshops and learn how to get the most out of your compost.

Grow food at home or in a community garden

- Starting a garden is a great way to produce fresh food close to home and connect with community.
- We run workshops on topics such as small space gardening and keeping chickens.
- Our community growing spaces program includes pop-up laneway gardens, planter boxes and productive trees. See **page 13** for details.
- Head to our website to sign up to a free workshop or find out how to join a community garden.

What's the go with FOGO?

The local food and garden organics (FOGO) waste processing industry is currently under pressure and struggling to keep up with the large volume of FOGO waste.

The Victorian Government has acknowledged potential shortfalls in capacity and current issues with processing, and is working with industry and the local government sector to address these matters.

We are eager to introduce a FOGO bin service across Yarra as soon as the local industry can support it.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for new public drop-off locations for food waste.

New community battery makes green energy – and history

Victoria's first-ever inner urban community battery is now electrifying Yarra.

Delivered by the Yarra Energy Foundation (YEF), which receives funding from Yarra Council, the battery enables consumers to store and redistribute excess solar energy from local roofs while lowering energy prices for the community. It will allow access for those who have found access to renewable energy more prohibitive, such as renters, apartment dwellers, and small businesses.

The battery was officially unveiled and launched by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP with representatives from YEF, Yarra Council, CitiPower, Australian National University and the community.

The Victorian Government contributed funding to the project through its Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.

The community battery will support Yarra's target of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2030.



The Fitzroy North battery was launched on Sunday 5 June.

Learn more about the battery at yef.org.au

Our vision for net zero carbon developments

We're working on exciting new changes to Yarra's planning scheme to ensure all future developments reduce their impacts on the environment.

If adopted by the Victorian Government, these changes will help shape the future of planning and development in Yarra and throughout Victoria.

Developed in conjunction with a group of 30 Victorian councils as part of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE), these changes will

represent a significant step towards delivering zero carbon developments in the future.

Under the proposed changes, new developments will be required to produce net zero carbon emissions, better manage water, protect and enhance greening and biodiversity, and be more resilient to our changing climate.

Take a look at local zero carbon developments at yarracity.vic.gov.au/zerocarbon

Back your neighbour

We're proud to support **Back Your Neighbour**, a campaign advocating for fairer treatment of people seeking refugee status in Australia.

There are currently around 100,000 people living without support in Australia while their claims for refugee status are being processed. Some have been waiting for up to 10 years.

Yarra is one of 37 councils across Australia that forms the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum. Since 2018 the taskforce has been leading the Back Your Neighbour campaign, which advocates for a fairer and swifter Refugee Status Determination system and calls on local communities to support their neighbours, friends and colleagues.

Find out how you can support the campaign at backyourneighbour.com.au



Since World War II Australia has welcomed more than 800,000 people who've fled war and persecution.

Yarra has a long and proud history of advocating for people seeking asylum and has been a Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002.

Nhung's story

In the 1980s in South Vietnam, Nhung left her home with her two brothers to make the perilous journey to Australia by boat, after members of her family, including her father, had been killed.

"We left everything behind in Vietnam, our land, our house, our possessions, our community. I chose freedom."

Since arriving in Australia, Nhung secured a job at a biscuit factory and worked there for 20 years, saving enough money to buy a house. Nhung has also worked as a café assistant at Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House, has a Certificate II in Childcare and has taken English classes at Carringbush Adult Education.

Nhung still feels homesick when she thinks about her friends and family back in Vietnam. Being an active member of the Yarra community helps.

"I head up the Vietnamese Women's Cultural Group at Collingwood Neighbourhood House. We get together and do exercise, have lunch and talk about our families and share our stories," says Nhung.





Thao, left, has been helping Yarra resident Hai over the past year.

Supporting our older community and carers

Through the support of the My Aged Care program, we offer a range of helpful services for Yarra's older people. These include:

- home care services
- delivered meals
- community buses and transport

Hai has been a participant of Yarra's Aged Care Services since 2020. Together with her home carer Thao, she's found an incredible friendship and bond.

"Thank you to Thao from City of Yarra because Thao has been helping for the past year," said Hai, via a translator. "I enjoy getting services from the council."

One great initiative is our respite care service, designed to benefit carers and residents alike.

While a carer takes some time out, our experienced and qualified home carers can support the person being cared for in their own home.

Our home carers aren't limited to the home either – they can be companions when visiting friends, going out for coffee, or exploring Yarra.

This program is for unpaid carers. The carer can be a partner, family member or other person providing unpaid care and support.

The service is available weekly at a low cost, focussing on both the needs of the person being cared for and the carer. This helps keep care relationships strong.

Interested in one of these helpful services? Please contact My Aged Care on **1800 200 422** to find out if you are eligible. Or get in touch with our Aged and Disability Services team on **9205 5555** or **info@yarracity.vic.gov.au** if you would like further information.

Becoming Yarra: Swan Street heritage precinct

Yarra's places, structures, and landscapes play an important role in history. From sacred First Nations sites to the creation of Melbourne's first suburbs, every building and landmark has a story that shapes the culture of our city today.

Swan Street officially became a road in 1837. Shortly after this, land parcels were sold in the area – creating one of Melbourne's first suburbs.

In the years that followed, Swan Street became home to many retail shops serving the needs of the growing local community.

The wealth and population growth following Victoria's gold rush resulted in the building of more substantial and decorative shops and homes on Swan Street. Many buildings and structures from this time are still in place, serving as a living illustration of Yarra's past.

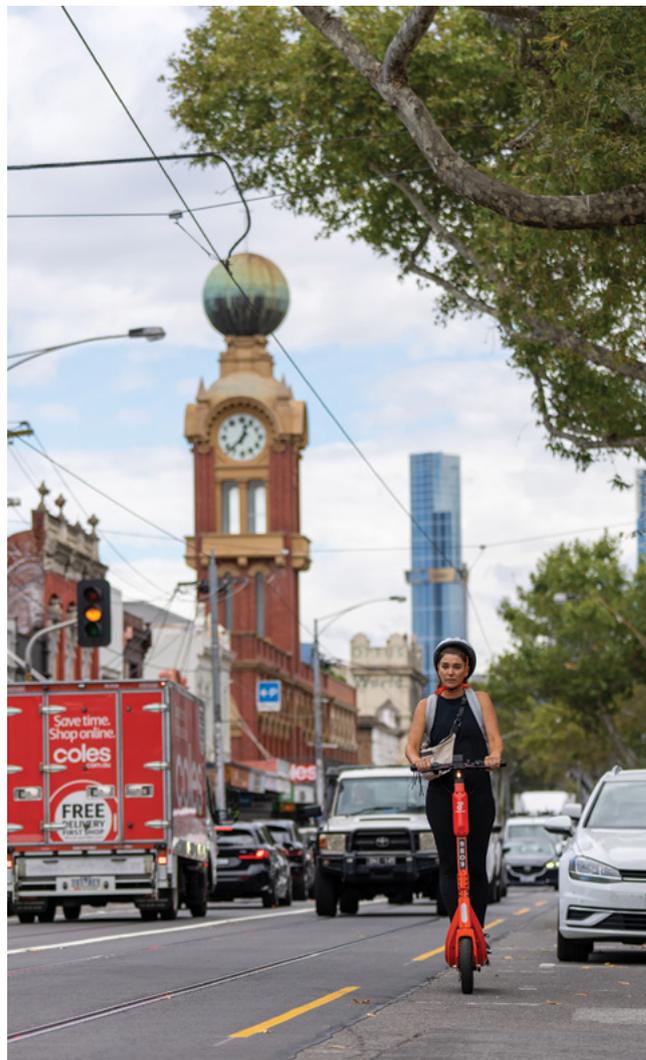
The National Bank of Australasia building at 105 Swan Street, built in 1886–1887, is a prominent example of a building from this era. Today it is a wine bar and office space.

A Richmond retail icon

One of the most distinctive structures along Swan Street is the Dimmeys building, located at 140–160 Swan Street.

According to David Langdon, President of Richmond and Burnley Historical Society, Dimmeys was well-known for selling quality fashion goods and attracted customers from all across Melbourne.

“Following a fire in 1906, Dimmeys changed their approach and began stocking quality goods at a discounted price,” said Langdon.



“The ball on top of Dimmeys iconic clock tower was first made of ruby glass and lit from inside. When lit, the ruby dome was visible for miles. The ball was replaced with the existing copper ball during World War II – due to a fear that the light would attract bombings,” he added.

Protecting Yarra's heritage

Did you know that Yarra is home to 54 heritage precincts? This is the first in a series of articles showcasing Yarra's unique history through these precincts. We are passionate about preserving history. Learn more about our past and how Yarra protects local heritage at yarracity.vic.gov.au/heritage

What's On

Rhythm and Line by Flightgraf

From dusk, Friday 15 to Sunday 24 July,
Richmond Town Hall façade
and forecourt

Come see dynamic projections and sound work centred on renowned Hungarian composer Franz Liszt's music, which has been re-adapted by Tokyo based artist duo Flightgraf.

Croissants & Whiskey

Saturday 23 July, 7.30pm,
Fitzroy Town Hall Reading Room, \$20

Combining some of Melbourne's most versatile and in-demand musicians, Croissants & Whiskey bring a new energy to ancient instruments with their eclectic line-up, wicked sense of humour, and serious chops. This gig is one to put in the diary! Book via yarracity.vic.gov.au/events

Community growing spaces workshop

Monday 1 August, 6pm to 7pm, online

Want to apply for your own public planter box, productive tree or laneway garden? Join us for an online workshop that covers the application process and what it means to have an Urban Agriculture Agreement with Yarra Council. Book and find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/grow



Uncle Jack Charles

Ali MC : Stories of Homelessness

Tuesday 2 August, 6.30pm to 7.30pm,
Richmond Theatrette, FREE

Join photojournalist and academic Ali MC as he discusses his investigations into experiences of homelessness in Melbourne for National Homelessness Week. Ali's 8-part series, published in Al Jazeera and funded by Yarra's Creative and Engage Program, raises the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness within international media. Uncle Jack Charles (pictured) is among interviewees in the series. Book via yarracity.vic.gov.au/events

Belgium Avenue twilight market

Wednesday 3 August, 3.30pm to 5pm,
Gathering Place, 9 Belgium Ave,
Richmond

Hosted by Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House, this monthly market is filled with local art and craft, food, music, and stalls.

Binge-worthy webinars: Let's electrify Yarra

Online

Catch up on our series of three webinars. Find out about solar, battery and electric home rebates and other online resources to help you go renewable and all-electric. Watch them all at: yarracity.vic.gov.au/allelectrichome

Connecting local job seekers and Yarra traders in need

Yarra City Jobs is back to help business find strong applicants and job seekers to find meaningful employment.

You've probably noticed more "help wanted" signs in the windows of businesses across Yarra.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, this isn't a coincidence. They reported that one in five businesses around the country say they don't have enough staff this year.

We know this is an issue for many local traders still recovering from the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and want to help.

Yarra City Jobs is a free online portal for employment opportunities at some of the 17,000 vibrant and diverse businesses that call Yarra home.

Job seekers looking for temporary, part-time or casual employment can sign up for free and create an online resume.

If you are looking to upskill yourself, you can stay up to date with training options while looking for your next career opportunity.



Local businesses can post job vacancies on the portal at no cost.

You can also create posters to print and display in your business with a QR code for job seekers to scan and apply online.

Find out more and sign up online at yarracityjobs.com.au

YOUR SAY
YARRA

Sign up to Yarra Council's consultation website to have your say on decisions that impact you.

Your Say Yarra is the place to go to have a say on Yarra services, projects and planning. Play a part in creating the Yarra you want!

Get involved at yoursayyarra.com.au



Your Councillors

To find your Ward visit
yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors

Langridge Ward

- **Cr Stephen Jolly**
stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Anab Mohamud**
anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Gabrielle de Vietri**
gabrielle.devietri@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

- **Cr Edward Crossland, Deputy Mayor**
edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Herschel Landes**
herschel.landes@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Claudia Nguyen**
claudia.nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Nicholls Ward

- **Cr Bridgid O'Brien**
bridgid.obrien@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Amanda Stone**
amanda.stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Sophie Wade, Mayor**
sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To contact your councillors, call **9205 5055**, send a letter to **c/o PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121**, or email their address above.

Council Meetings

Meetings may be held online or in person depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Before attending, please visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details.

All meetings are live streamed at yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast

All meetings begin at 7pm:

- Tuesday 12 July
- Tuesday 2 August
- Tuesday 23 August

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote **REF 19,237**

本期的《Yarra News》介绍了我们社区的最新动态以及当地即将举行的活动和市议会的最新消息。您还可以了解到如何查询本年度《年度预算》的更多信息。欲了解有关《Yarra News》的更多信息,请致电**9280 1937**并报上查询参考编号19,237。

Σε αυτή την έκδοση των Yarra News, μάθετε τι συμβαίνει στην κοινότητά μας. Διαβάστε για τις επερχόμενες τοπικές εκδηλώσεις και τις ενημερώσεις του Δήμου. Ανακαλύψτε πού μπορείτε να μάθετε περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τον φετινό ετήσιο προϋπολογισμό. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τα Yarra News τηλεφωνήστε στο **9280 1934** και πείτε τον αριθμό αναφοράς 19,237

في هذا الإصدار من Yarra News ستتعرف على ما يحدث في مجتمعنا، وستقرأ عن الفعاليات المحلية القادمة وآخر مستجدات المجلس، كما ستعرف من أين يمكنك العثور على مزيد من المعلومات حول الميزانية السنوية لهذا العام. لمزيد من المعلومات حول Yarra News تفضلوا بالاتصال على الرقم: **9280 1930** واطلبوا الرقم المرجعي: 19,237

Trong ấn bản này của Yarra News, hãy tìm hiểu điều gì đang xảy ra tại cộng đồng của chúng ta. Đọc để biết về các sự kiện sắp diễn ra ở địa phương và thông tin cập nhật của hội đồng thành phố. Tìm hiểu nơi quý vị có thể biết thêm thông tin về Ngân sách Thường niên của năm nay. Để biết thêm thông tin về Yarra News, hãy gọi số **9280 1939** và trích dẫn số tham chiếu 19,237

La nuova edizione di Yarra News, vi informa sugli eventi della nostra comunità. Leggete le novità sugli eventi locali e gli aggiornamenti del comune. Scoprite dove trovare maggiori informazioni sul Bilancio annuale. Per ulteriori informazioni su Yarra News chiamate **9280 1934** e citate il numero di riferimento: 19.237

En esta edición de Yarra News, descubra qué sucede en nuestra comunidad. Lea acerca de los futuros eventos locales y las actualizaciones del municipio. Descubra dónde puede encontrar información adicional en el Annual Budget (Presupuesto anual) de este año. Para más información acerca de Yarra News, comuníquese al **9280 1935** e indique el número de referencia 19.237

Stay connected with what's happening in Yarra by signing up to our e-newsletter!



Scan below to subscribe to Yarra Life.



Yarra Life is sent directly to your inbox every three weeks. We share important news, community events and ask you for your thoughts on upcoming consultations.

