



# Minutes

## Ceremonial Council Meeting

7.02pm, Monday 15 November 2021

Ms Teams

## 1. Statement of recognition of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Land

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

*We acknowledge their creator spirit Bunjil, their ancestors and their Elders.*

*We acknowledge the strength and resilience of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, who have never ceded sovereignty and retain their strong connections to family, clan and country despite the impacts of European invasion.*

*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 here today—and to their Elders past, present and future.”*

## 2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

### Attendance

#### Councillors

- |                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| • Cr Gabrielle de Vietri | Mayor        |
| • Cr Claudia Nguyen      | Deputy Mayor |
| • Cr Edward Crossland    | Councillor   |
| • Cr Stephen Jolly       | Councillor   |
| • Cr Herschel Landes     | Councillor   |
| • Cr Bridgid O’Brien     | Councillor   |
| • Cr Amanda Stone        | Councillor   |
| • Cr Sophie Wade         | Councillor   |

#### Council officers

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| • Vijaya Vaidyanath | Chief Executive Officer                  |
| • Brooke Colbert    | Group Manager Advocacy and Engagement    |
| • Ivan Gilbert      | Group Manager Chief Executive’s Office   |
| • Lucas Gosling     | Director Community Wellbeing             |
| • Gracie Karabinis  | Group Manager People and Culture         |
| • Chris Leivers     | Director City Works and Assets           |
| • Diarmuid McAlary  | Director Corporate, Business and Finance |
| • Bruce Phillips    | Director Planning and Place Making       |
| • Rhys Thomas       | Senior Governance Advisor                |
| • Mel Nikou         | Governance Officer                       |

#### Leave of absence

- |                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| • Cr Anab Mohamud | Councillor |
|-------------------|------------|

### 3. Announcements

#### 2021 Yarra Community Awards

**Mayor:**

*We now come to the announcement of the 2021 Yarra Community Awards, which will be announced by the Community Awards Committee; Cr Crossland, Cr O'Brien and me.*

*Each year, we honour the everyday heroes who make outstanding contributions to the community with our Yarra Community Awards.*

*This year's Community Awards are particularly significant as we will be recognising those individuals and groups who have supported our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. These contributions will be recognised in a special award category titled Community Spirit.*

*The challenges and community contributions during the past two years have been significant. The way we have responded to these challenges and at times opportunities demonstrates how connected and supportive the people of Yarra are.*

*On behalf of myself and my fellow councillors, we are incredibly grateful and proud of the work our community has done in supporting each other during this time. We know the recovery work and rebuilding will continue over the coming years – as we reopen and reconnect.*

*I'd also like to acknowledge and thank everyone who submitted a nomination for this year's awards. It's always uplifting and inspiring to learn more about the fantastic projects and people within our community and we can't wait to share their stories with you. I think we all deserve some good news!*

*This year, we have eight awards to present:*

- *Four awards in our 'Contributions to' categories, including Contributions to Arts, Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion, Contributions to Heritage and Contributions to Sport.*
- *Our Community Spirit Award - this year's special category*
- *Our Community Initiative of the Year*
- *Young Citizen of the Year*
- *And our Citizen of the Year.*

*We thank all of our incredible nominees who are tuning in tonight. While we will be unable to hear from our winners this evening, we will gather with the winners and councillors for a morning tea celebration in the coming weeks.*

*I will now invite Cr Edward Crossland announce the winner of our Contributions to Arts Award.*

**Cr Crossland:**

*Thank you, Mayor. I am delighted to announce the winner of this year's **Contribution to Arts Award** is **Caroline Philips**.*

*Caroline is an inspirational leader and advocate for women's art through her volunteer work with the Women's Art Register. The Women's Art Register is a living archive of women's art practice and an artist-run, not-for-profit community and resource.*



*Caroline recently led an initiative to digitise the register's largely paper-based archives. Caroline also facilitated the register's online transition during lockdowns, ensuring its important work could continue – while also balancing volunteers' capacities and wellbeing.*

*Thank you, Caroline, for your ongoing contributions to art in Yarra.*

*I'd also like to acknowledge the broader arts community in Yarra. The past two years have been exceptionally challenging – and it has been heartening to hear of the creative and innovative ways this community has adapted during the lockdowns.*

*A special shout-out to the Disorganising Project – who have created connections between community members, artists and thinkers to experiment with divergent ways of organising and creating.*

**Cr O'Brien:**

*Thank you, Mayor. The winner of our **Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion Award** for 2021 is **Ha Nguyen**.*

*Ha receives this award for his volunteer work on the Victoria Street Lunar New Year Festival and the North Richmond Moon Lantern Festival. These festivals are a wonderful celebration of our vibrant and diverse cultures in Yarra – and delight community members of all backgrounds.*

*Ha has a long history of volunteering for these festivals and has become the driving force behind them.*

*In addition to his volunteer work on the festivals, Ha is also the president of the Victoria Street Business Association and is a member of the Rotary Club of Collingwood – where he donates both time and the use of his cooking school for community initiatives.*

*Thank you, Ha – for your ongoing contributions to diversity and inclusion in Yarra.*

*A special mention goes to **Selima Ymer**, for her volunteer work with the Albanian Australian Islamic Society (AAIS) for more than 20 years of service. Thank you Selima.*

**Cr Crossland:**

*Thank you, Mayor. This year's winner of our **Contributions to Heritage Award** is **Terence Nott**.*

*Terence receives this award for his significant contribution to the protection of heritage in Yarra and beyond.*

*Terence is passionate about preserving and looking at adaptive reuse of buildings with historical significance – and has been volunteering in this space for the past five decades.*

*More recently, Terence has been an active member of the Queens Parade Heritage Planning and Traders group, using his expertise as a Heritage Architect to provide guidance, research and support on the protection of heritage in this area.*

*Thank you, Terence, for your ongoing contributions to heritage in Yarra.*

*A special mention goes to **Glen McCallum** and **Anne Coveny** for their contributions to the protection of heritage and neighbourhood character in Yarra.*

**Cr O'Brien:**

Thank you, Mayor. This year, the winner of our **Contributions to Sport Award** is **Stella Lesic**.

Stella receives this award for their inspiring volunteer work as the President and Founder of Queer Sporting Alliance. Stella has grown the alliance from one local basketball team to Australia's largest LGBTIQA+ multi-discipline community sports club – with over 500 members.

Stella has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours to improving diversity and inclusion in community sports in Yarra. Some of the highlights of their volunteer work include the Sunday morning "Come Out and Play" free basketball sessions and the "Come Out and Roll" free roller-skating sessions.

Thank you, Stella, for your ongoing contributions to sport in Yarra.

A special mention goes to Annette Hall for her ongoing volunteer work with an inclusive football program that caters for players with additional needs.

**Cr Crossland:**

Thank you, Mayor. This year, I am pleased to announce the winner of our **Community Initiative of the Year Award** is **Michelle Edwards and the Community Compost Group**.

The Community Compost Group provides a place for the local community to bring their vegetable food scraps, rather than sending food waste to landfill.

Michelle leads a small group of volunteers to manage this popular community compost bin system, helping to turn food waste into useable compost.

A considerable amount of volunteer work goes into managing the program and coordinating the highly physical work involved in maintaining the compost system.

Thank you, Michelle and the Community Compost Group for your ongoing contributions to the Yarra community.

A special mention goes to Tina Brunet for the "This is Me" event – celebrating women being their authentic selves and championing diversity and inclusion.

**Cr O'Brien:**

Thank you, Mayor. This year, I am pleased to announce the winner of our **Community Spirit Award**. As the Mayor mentioned earlier, this is a special category added this year to recognise the individuals and groups who have supported community recovery and resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The winner of our **Community Spirit Award** is **Lyndsey Watson**.

Lyndsey has a long history of volunteering in our local community as a program coordinator with the University of the Third Age.

During the lockdowns, Lyndsey organised with Yarra Libraries to extend the university's programs to the broader Yarra community, not just its members.

Lyndsey rose to the challenges presented by Melbourne's six lockdowns by not only upskilling herself in Zoom but also upskilling the university's members and tutors in delivering talks using Zoom and PowerPoint. This enabled the university to successfully transition to delivering its programs via Zoom during lockdowns.

*Lyndsey was also instrumental in the university's initiative to check in on the wellbeing of isolated or 'at risk' members during lockdown.*

*Lyndsey - thank you for your dedicated work in fostering community spirit and resilience during the past year, and for your ongoing contributions to our community.*

*I would also like to thank all those individuals and groups who were nominated for this special award. We were in awe of the number and quality of responses received for this category.*

*There were many inspirational examples of people going above and beyond to deliver their programs and initiatives during lockdowns. From online scout programs and wool craft workshops to homework clubs for vulnerable students – we couldn't be prouder of how our community supported each other during this time.*

**Mayor:**

*Thank you, Cr O'Brien and congratulations to Lyndsey Watson. It is now my great honour to announce our **Young Citizen of the Year**.*

*I am delighted to announce that our **Young Citizen of the Year** for 2021 is **Raghda Adam**.*

*This year, Raghda has been a driving force in the establishment of Richmond Youth Hub and the development of youth programs.*

*Our Community Awards Committee were extremely impressed with Raghda's passion for social justice and her advocacy efforts on behalf of young people in our community.*

*At only 16, Raghda has become an invaluable liaison between young people, the community and the services co-located at the Richmond Youth Hub.*

*Raghda is an extremely deserving winner – demonstrating positivity, resilience, empathy and determination.*

*Thank you, Raghda for your outstanding contributions to our community.*

*A special mention goes to Korpo Sao – an up-and-coming social justice activist who uses art to campaign on topics of racism and indigenous rights, including the Black Lives Matter movement.*

*We have now come to the final award, the **Citizen of the Year Award for 2021**.*

*It is my absolute pleasure to announce the 2021 **Citizen of the Year** is **Fatuma Muhudin**.*

*Fatuma receives this award for her outstanding contributions to the Yarra community especially during the lockdowns when our community*

*was at their most vulnerable and isolated. She was nominated three times for this award and is a well-respected volunteer at the Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House.*

*Fatuma has led and supported many community-building programs and initiatives during this time, including food security programs, interest-led community activities and events, homework clubs and supports for families exposed to domestic violence.*

*In addition, Fatuma has been instrumental in supporting our community to access in-language information and online resources.*

*Thank you Fatuma for your ongoing contributions to our community.*

*Congratulations to all of tonight's winners and the nominees who received special mentions. Congratulations also to all the nominees for their incredible work and thank you to those who nominated them. You all collectively help make Yarra a very special place to be.*

#### **4. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)**

No declarations were made.

#### **5. Council business reports**

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## 5.1 Governance Arrangements

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**Reference** D21/156420  
**Author** Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor  
**Authoriser** Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Start time: 7.20pm**

1. That Council determine to elect a Mayor for a twelve month period for the 2021-2022 year.
2. That Council establish the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2021-2022 year.

### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Stone

**Seconded:** Councillor Landes

1. That Council determine to elect a Mayor for a twelve month period for the 2021-2022 year.
2. That Council establish the position of Deputy Mayor for the 2021-2022 year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**





**Election of Mayor in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and the Yarra City Council Governance Rules**

The Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the office of Mayor.

Councillor Jolly nominated Councillor O'Brien and Councillor O'Brien accepted.

Councillor Crossland nominated Councillor de Vietri and Councillor de Vietri accepted.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Cr O'Brien Councillor to address the meeting.

Councillor O'Brien addressed Council.

The Chief Executive Officer called for votes for the candidates in the order in which they were nominated.

Councillor O'Brien received votes from Councillor Jolly, Landes, Nguyen and O'Brien.

Councillor de Vietri received votes from Councillors Crossland, de Vietri, Stone and Wade.

With no candidate having achieved an absolute majority and only two candidates remaining, the Chief Executive Officer declared the election to be invalid under clause 3.3.8 of the Yarra City Council Governance Rules.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION (PROCEDURAL)**

**Moved:** Councillor Stone

**Seconded:** Councillor Landes

That a further election of Mayor be held on, and the election of Deputy Mayor be deferred to, Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 6.30pm.

**CARRIED**

## 5.3 Appointment of Council delegates

<b>Reference</b>	D21/156260
<b>Author</b>	Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
<b>Authoriser</b>	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

### RECOMMENDATION

**Start time: 7.53pm**

1. That Council ratify the following Delegated Committee appointments for the 2021/2022 Council year:

Delegated Committee	Appointments for 2021/2022 Council Year
Planning Decisions Committee	All Councillors, subject to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with Councillors, determining a quarterly attendance roster allocating three Councillors to each meeting, with the Committee membership for each meeting comprising those Councillors rostered to attend or their agreed substitute.

2. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the Audit and Risk Committee for 2021/2022 Council year:

Committee	Appointments for 2021/2022 Council Year
Audit and Risk Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

3. That notwithstanding the sunset provisions of the Council Committees Policy, the advisory committees below continue to operate in accordance with their adopted Terms of Reference and community membership and that Council appoint the following Councillors to the Advisory Committee listed below for 2021/2022 Council year:

Advisory Committee	Appointments for 2021/2022 Council Year
Active Ageing Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Active Transport Advisory Committee	Cr _____
Arts Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Business Advisory Group	Cr _____ ...
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee	All Councillors
Community Awards Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Disability Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____
Environment Advisory Committee	Cr _____ ...
Heritage Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____ Cr _____
Multicultural Advisory Group	Cr _____

Rainbow Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yana Ngargna Advisory Group	Cr _____ Cr _____
Yarra Libraries Advisory Committee	Cr _____ Cr _____

4. That Council appoint the following Councillors to the external bodies listed below for the 2021/2022 Council year:

Organisation or body	Appointments for 2021/2022 Council Year
Australian Local Government Women's Association	Cr _____
Collingwood Children's Farm Management Committee	Cr _____
Friends of Baucau	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Mayors for Peace	Cr _____
Merri Creek Management Committee	Cr _____
Metropolitan (Local Government) Waste Management Forum	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Metropolitan Transport Forum	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Municipal Association of Victoria	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)
Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action	Cr _____
Victorian Local Governance Association	Cr _____ Cr _____ (substitute)

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor de Vietri

**Seconded:** Councillor Jolly

1. That the appointment of Council delegates be deferred to Tuesday 16 November 2021 at 6.30pm.

**CARRIED**

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## 5.4 Council Meeting Schedule 2022

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<b>Reference</b>	D21/156853
<b>Author</b>	Rhys Thomas - Senior Governance Advisor
<b>Authoriser</b>	Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

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### RECOMMENDATION

**Start time: 7.54pm**

1. That Council adopt the following Meeting schedule for 2022:
  - (a) Planning Decisions Committee meetings to commence at 6.30pm on 18 January, 8 February, 1 March, 22 March, 12 April, 3 May, 24 May, 14 June, 5 July, 26 July, 16 August, 6 September, 27 September, 18 October, 8 November, 29 November, and 20 December 2022;
  - (b) Council Meetings to commence at 7.00pm for public sessions (and 6.30pm for closed sessions where required) on 25 January, 15 February, 8 March, 29 March, 19 April, 10 May, 31 May, 21 June, 12 July, 2 August, 23 August, 13 September, 4 October, 25 October, 15 November and , 6 December 2022;
2. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to determine the format and location of Council Meetings and meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee under Chapter 2, Clause 6 of the City of Yarra Governance Rules 2020, subject to prior consultation with Councillors and the necessary public notification.

### MOTION

**Moved:** Councillor Jolly

**Seconded:** Councillor O'Brien

1. That Council:
  - (a) note the Report;
  - (b) adopt the following Meeting schedule for 2022 on the basis of keeping the number of Council and Planning Decision Committee meetings in 2022, the same as held in 2021:
  - (c) note, Planning Decisions Committee meetings to commence at 6.30pm on Tuesdays 18 January, 8 February, 22 February, 8 March, 22 March, 5 April, 19 April , 3 May, 17 May, 14 June, 28 June, 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 6 September, 20 September, 4 October, 18 October, 2 November, 15 November, 29 November and 13 December 2022; and
  - (d) note, Council Meetings to commence at 7.00pm for public sessions (and 6.30pm for closed sessions where required) on 1 February, 15 February, 1 March, 15 March, 29 March, 26 April, 10 May, 24 May, 7 June, 21 June, 19 July, 2 August, 16 August, 30 August, 13 September, 11 October, 25 October 8 November, 22 November, 6 December 2022 and 20 December 2022.
2. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to determine the format and location of Council Meetings and meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee under Chapter 2, Clause 6 of the City of Yarra Governance Rules 2020, subject to prior consultation with Councillors and the necessary public notification.

**LOST**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**Moved:** Councillor Wade

**Seconded:** Councillor Crossland

1. That Council adopt the following Meeting schedule for 2022:
  - (a) Planning Decisions Committee meetings to commence at 6.30pm on 18 January, 8 February, 1 March, 22 March, 12 April, 3 May, 24 May, 14 June, 5 July, 26 July, 16 August, 6 September, 27 September, 18 October, 8 November, 29 November, and 20 December 2022; and
  - (b) Council Meetings to commence at 7.00pm for public sessions (and 6.30pm for closed sessions where required) on 25 January, 15 February, 8 March, 29 March, 19 April, 10 May, 31 May, 21 June, 12 July, 2 August, 23 August, 13 September, 4 October, 25 October, 15 November and , 6 December 2022.
2. That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to determine the format and location of Council Meetings and meetings of the Planning Decisions Committee under Chapter 2, Clause 6 of the City of Yarra Governance Rules 2020, subject to prior consultation with Councillors and the necessary public notification.

**CARRIED**



**Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 8.14pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 23 November 2021

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Mayor