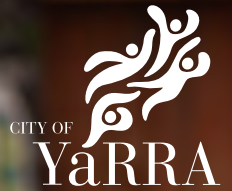


AUGUST 2024

# yarranews



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Tony Milne, Executive Officer  
(right) and Chika Jones (left)  
of the Carlton Neighbourhood  
Learning Centre



## Message from the Mayor

Hi everyone,

Last month, we proudly adopted our comprehensive Climate Emergency Plan, developed in partnership with our community. This significant milestone reflects our commitment to creating a sustainable future for all and is a testament to our community's dedication and collective efforts towards a more sustainable Yarra.

Our annual Budget has also been adopted, funding a variety of important projects and ensuring that we continue to support essential services and infrastructure projects that benefit everyone in Yarra. Key priorities include enhancing biodiversity, increasing open spaces, improving active transport, drainage management and investing in youth programs. These initiatives address immediate needs while also preparing our city for future growth. You can read more about the Budget highlights on page 5.

Our new Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) service has been operational for about a month now. It's fabulous to see so many of you embracing this initiative. Find great tips on waste reduction and the importance of avoiding FOGO contamination on page 12.

We recently celebrated the opening of Yallabirrang Kindergarten at Collingwood College. This new facility honours Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung heritage, with "Yallabirrang" being the traditional name for the area now known as Collingwood. It provides essential early childhood education services and will integrate the Early Years Childhood curriculum to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Yarra has achieved some great wins in the advocacy space lately, including the 30km speed trial expansion in May and the Minister for Planning progressing several key Planning Scheme Amendments. We've also secured \$300,000 in funding from the Victorian Government for the Richmond Youth Hub, which you can read more about on page 10.

Thank you for being an active part of our community. Your involvement and feedback help us create a Yarra that we can all be proud of. Let's keep working together to make Yarra a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

**Cr Edward Crossland**  
**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](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au)
- Sign up for our community engagement e-news and have your say on projects at [yoursayyarra.com.au](http://yoursayyarra.com.au)
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra)
- Register for our monthly e-news at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife)

## Latest News

### Bridge Road leads improvement in Yarra retail and service vacancy rates

An audit of precinct vacancy rates has shown we are making positive progress in Yarra, with Bridge Road in Richmond leading the way.

Bridge Road reduced its vacancies by 16 properties from the previous year, marking a major step towards recovery. This improvement is mirrored across Yarra, with 10 out of the 12 precincts seeing reductions. The overall vacancy rate has dropped to 13.9%.

These results reflect the effective strategies and initiatives implemented to support local businesses and highlight the value of working closely with traders' associations.

### Supporting heritage listing for portable buildings

Yarra City Council has shown its in-principle support for the Portable Buildings World Heritage Nomination Taskforce's research and of nominating portable buildings in Australia for world heritage listing initiative. At our Council Meeting in May, Council agreed to collaborate with other councils to advance the initiative. This affirms Yarra's commitment to protecting and promoting its rich historical and architectural heritage, highlighting the significance of portable buildings in the city's cultural landscape.

Portable buildings, also known as prefabricated structures, were integral to the development of Yarra and other parts of Melbourne during the gold rush era, providing flexible and quick housing solutions. The few that remain today exhibit a unique part of the city's history.



### We're supporting Swimmable Cities!

Yarra City Council has endorsed the Swimmable Cities Charter, aligning with our Climate Emergency Plan. This initiative improves waterway health, restores habitats, and helps our community connect with nature.

In collaboration with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community, we're committed to restoring the Birrarung (Yarra River) to environmental health. The Charter also supports the UN's decade on ecosystem restoration. View the Charter on our website.

### New Street Garden Guidelines to beautify Yarra

We have launched new Street Garden Guidelines to enhance local streetscapes. These guidelines aim to educate residents on plant selection and street gardening, promoting biodiversity and cooling urban areas. The guidelines also ensure accessibility and clear footpaths for pedestrians, contributing to a greener, more beautiful Yarra.

Find out more at  
[yarracity.vic.gov.au/news](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/news)



Improvements to Yarra's bike paths and cycleways are among the 65 projects we completed with a \$7.4 million budget in the past financial year.

## Working for You: Our infrastructure milestones

We've been hard at work improving our community's infrastructure and are proud to present our achievements from the past financial year.

### Road infrastructure capital works

We completed 65 projects with a \$7.4 million budget, saving \$200,000. From upgrading roads and footpaths to enhancing cycleways, our efficient work is already benefitting residents.




### Drainage and stormwater management

With a budget of \$2.5 million, we completed 30 key projects, saving \$170,000. Our upgrades in stormwater pipes and drainage pits ensure better water management and reduce flooding risks.

### Road and footpath maintenance

Our team completed over 1,300 jobs to Council road and footpath assets, ensuring our infrastructure remains safe and reliable.

Routine inspections and public requests resulted in extensive footpath maintenance, enhancing safety and accessibility for all.

-  **Signage:** Over 2,000 works on Council signage assets.
-  **Street Furniture:** 170 minor works and upgrades.
-  **Stormwater Drain Pits:** 11,550 inspections.

These improvements are all about making Yarra a better place to live, work, and play.

Stay up to date on the projects happening in your area with our online Capital Works Map: [yarracity.vic.gov.au/currentworks](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/currentworks)

## Future-proofing Yarra: 2024/25 Budget delivers for today and tomorrow

Through the Budget engagement process, we listened to our community and have responded with a diverse range of projects that speak directly to that feedback.

Priority projects this year are split across the key pillars of our Council Plan, ensuring that social, economic and environmental needs are evenly addressed.

Key initiatives include tackling the climate emergency, enhancing biodiversity, increasing open spaces, improving active transport, investing in youth programs, and upgrading sporting facilities. These projects cater to current community needs and prepare for a 42% population growth by 2046, ensuring Yarra remains a great place to live, work, and play.

In addition to delivering vital projects and initiatives for our community, this balanced and responsible Budget will leave a lasting, positive impact on Council's long-term financial sustainability.



Building on last year's Budget, we have again taken great strides towards our goal of financial sustainability, with smart investments, significant savings and careful and timely measures to reduce expenditure.

Despite significant financial challenges shared across the local government sector, including increases to the costs of delivering services and infrastructure outpacing the rate cap and cost shifting from other levels of government, we have delivered a surplus of \$15.2m.

This surplus will ensure we can invest in capital works for future growth, avoid unnecessary new borrowings, respond to unforeseen challenges and address the emerging needs of our community.

Read the Budget in full at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/budget](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/budget)

## Rates notices

**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, general rates revenue will sit at 2.75%, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap.

Your rates may change by more or less than 2.75%. This is because rates are also affected by changes in the value of your property, and its value relative to other properties in Yarra.

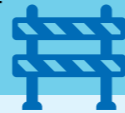
Find out more at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates)

# Highlights of the 2024/25 Budget

Implementing the new Climate Emergency Plan including assistance for climate-safe rooms for people on low-incomes, electrifying Council assets, and planting more native trees and vegetation to improve biodiversity.



Upgrading critical infrastructure like roads, footpaths and kerbs along with improving drainage systems to mitigate flooding as a result of climate change.



Renewing Council's much-loved aquatic and leisure centres at Fitzroy Swimming Pool and the Richmond and Collingwood Leisure Centres.



Funding to support Treaty discussions between Yarra City Council and First Peoples of Victoria.



Expanding kindergartens to accommodate free 3 and 4-year-old kinder under the Victorian Government's reforms, including refurbishment and reactivation of the Atherton Gardens Kindergarten to accommodate 44 children.



Providing empowering programs and activities for children and young people with a focus on members of culturally and linguistically diverse, at risk and hard-to-reach communities, including training and employment opportunities for young people who live in public housing.



Designing and delivering new parks and open spaces including through the Roads to Parks initiative, an upgrade for Charles Evans Reserve Park with a new playground, construction of the Charlotte Street Pocket Park (subject to the road discontinuance process) and a new public space on the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets.



Supporting the Yarra Zero program, which brings local service providers together to provide a coordinated and compassionate response to people who are sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness.



Delivering the hugely successful Leaps and Bounds Music Festival for its 12<sup>th</sup> year to support our diverse arts community and stimulate the local economy in the winter months.



Improving walking and cycling safety infrastructure and encouraging uptake in sustainable and active transport with the New Deals for Walking, Cycling and Schools including an intersection upgrade at Scotchmer St and St Georges Rd in Fitzroy North, the design of a bike kerb ramp from Gibdon St in Burnley to the Main Yarra Trail and more protected bike lanes and line markings on Church St in Richmond.



Partnering, supporting and providing funding for Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses, which offer responsive, local programs designed to empower, connect, and educate individuals and groups.

Upgrading sporting grounds and facilities including Yambla Pavilion and Brunswick Street Oval and improving access for women and girls.



A deliberative engagement on the new Council Plan that will bring a representative panel of the Yarra community together to inform Council's plans for years to come.



Designing a queer memorial and place of reflection for members of our LGBTIQ+ community who have passed away.



Commemorating the anniversary of Vietnamese migration by designing and installing a permanent structure on Victoria Street, in consultation with our local Vietnamese community.



# Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030

We all want to live in a healthy and just community where people and nature thrive. But right now, we are living in a climate crisis, driven by burning fossil fuels, land clearing, and excessive waste.

The impacts of more frequent and intense heatwaves and storms are impacting our community and Yarra's unique plants and wildlife.

The good thing is, the solutions are here and now, and we can all make a difference. In partnership with our community, we have already achieved so much.

Now it's time to build on our success and step-up our ambition with our new Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030.

Read the Climate Emergency Plan in full at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/cep](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/cep)

Climate action is a community effort at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, where locals participate in programs at the Ballam Ballam Community Garden, compost hub, and more.

## Bigger goals and a new focus

Yarra's new Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 is our assurance that we've heard the calls from our community for greater climate action, and for a more equitable and just society.

The new Plan's 7 transformations recognise that the scale of ambition must match the scale of the problem to realise our vision of a climate safe, sustainable and just society.

-  **Embedding climate action in everything we do**
-  **Prioritising support for those most at risk from climate impacts**
-  **Increasing advocacy for stronger climate action**
-  **Progressing a zero emissions city**
-  **Caring for Country and connecting community with nature**
-  **Ensuring homes, buildings, public spaces and infrastructure are climate resilient**
-  **Transitioning to a circular economy**

## Focusing on communities most at risk



Tony Milne, Executive Officer of the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre

**The climate emergency highlights and exacerbates existing social injustices and inequalities.**

For example, for some community members, the experience of extreme weather is mitigated by durable, thermally comfortable housing, and leafy, green streets. Others are more exposed due to existing vulnerabilities, challenges and inequities like those without adequate housing or income.

A key focus of the new plan is to make sure that community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.

Tony Milne is Executive Officer of the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre in Yarra, which delivers services to the diverse community of Carlton and surrounds to connect people, create opportunity, promote equity, and challenge disadvantage.

"Climate justice is intrinsically linked to social justice. The most vulnerable members of our community are disproportionately affected by the impacts of the climate emergency," Tony said. "To address that, we need to empower at-risk communities to build climate resilience."

## Save with Solar Savers!

We have partnered with Solar Savers to make solar installation easy and affordable.

Join over 3,000 Yarra households benefiting from clean energy and lower bills. Solar Savers can now help you go all-electric with efficient heating and hot water systems. Learn more: [solarsavers.org.au](http://solarsavers.org.au)



# Advocating for our community

Advocating on behalf of our community is an important role of Council. Our advocacy work focuses on issues that directly impact our community, from traffic improvements to changes in Victorian Government legislation, leading to better outcomes or more funding for those who need it most. We also partner with other government tiers, councils and community groups to achieve better outcomes on issues such as homelessness and the climate emergency.

Yarra adopted its first ever Advocacy Action Plan in 2023 and identified 56 actions which now guide our advocacy efforts. View the plan online: [yarracity.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/advocacy)

## Our recent advocacy wins

### Richmond Youth Hub

We've secured over \$300,000 for the Richmond Youth Hub, which provides a safe and inclusive environment for at-risk youth. The Hub supports over 1,000 young people, offering a variety of individual and group support programs each year.

### Local park upgrades

We've secured \$600,000 from the Victorian Government's New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program to enhance Smith Reserve, Fitzroy, and Quarries Park, Clifton Hill. The funding will be used to incorporate modern facilities into the parks' designs to provide engaging and accessible green spaces for residents and their canine companions to enjoy together.

### Safeguarding services to our community for the long term

Yarra recently made a submission to the Federal Government's Inquiry into local government sustainability, highlighting the impact financial sustainability is having on councils. Rising cost pressures, rate capping and cost-shifting challenge our ability to meet the increasing demand on our services and infrastructure from a rapidly growing population. Our submission supports the views expressed by peak bodies, highlighting the impact on diverse inner-city communities with large pockets of disadvantage like Yarra. The more we are tasked with the responsibilities from other tiers of

government, the less money we have to invest locally in areas like social supports and community-strengthening.

### Advocating for local live music

Yarra is known for its iconic live music scene, but rising rents, insurance costs and the cost-of-living crisis are putting our venues at risk. Yarra recently made a submission to the Federal Government Inquiry into the challenges and opportunities within the Australian live music industry. We want Yarra's live music scene to continue to thrive, which is why we've joined with Music Victoria and the Australian Live Music Business Council to call for more support. Our Leaps and Bounds Music Festival underscores our commitment to local music venues, enhancing employment, fostering community connections, and enriching Yarra's cultural vibrancy.

### Advocating for investment in climate change adaptation

As a leader in climate action, Yarra recently lodged a submission to the Victorian Parliament Upper House Inquiry into Climate Resilience, advocating for State and Federal Government investment in climate change adaptation and mitigation. This is especially important, as the impacts of climate change affect the vulnerable members of our community the most.



## Recent achievements

### 30km speed limit trial

We successfully advocated to expand our 30km speed zone trial to include all the remaining local streets in Fitzroy and Collingwood. Results from the previous trial showed significant reductions in accidents and injuries and the approach was supported by a variety of health and safety organisations around the world including the Department of Transport and Planning and the World Health Organisation. Yarra received a grant of \$304,000 from the Transport Accident Commission and the trial was launched as part of Road Safety Week in May.

We are now advocating to the Victorian Government to empower councils to set their own speed zones on local roads, to lower speeds on state roads, to create safer pedestrian crossings and improve safety at tram stops. We want Yarra's streets to be safe and welcoming for everyone, whether they're walking, cycling, driving or catching public transport.



### Yallabirrang Kindergarten opening

We recently celebrated the opening of Yallabirrang Kindergarten, which provides much-needed early childhood education services to our community. The project was made possible thanks to \$3,640,000 funding from the Victorian Government, \$100,000 from Yarra City Council and \$50,000 from Collingwood College.

The kindergarten celebrates Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung heritage, with "Yallabirrang" being the place name for the area now known as Collingwood in the Woi-Wurrung language, reflecting our respect for the Traditional Custodians of the land. The facility offers free sessional kindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year-olds, supporting inclusive and accessible education.

## Collaborative advocacy

**We also join with partners to advocate for better outcomes for communities in and beyond Yarra's boundaries, often using the social justice lens that our community expects.**

Mayor Edward Crossland recently put forward two motions to the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) State Council. Councils from across the state voted overwhelmingly:

- for the Victorian Government to amend the Electrical Line Clearance Regulations 2020 to retain more trees in low bushfire areas

- for MAV to host forums for councils to share strategies for LGBTQIA+ inclusion and community safety.

The Mayor also joined with other councils to advocate for:

- the First Peoples Treaty process
- using the Victorian Government's Landfill Levy charges for new waste technologies and environmental initiatives
- the Victorian Government to work with local government for an equitable supply of social and affordable housing and homelessness services across the state.

## What's a no-go in your FOGO?

Did you know that your food scraps and garden organics are made into compost that is used by home gardeners, landscapers and farmers to replenish the soil and grow fresh, local food?

Since 1 July 2024, your food scraps and garden organic (FOGO) material have been collected and turned into valuable compost at the RepurposeIT's facility in Epping.

Putting the correct things in your FOGO bin is key to reducing contamination and making sure we're reducing our impact on the climate, building Victoria's circular economy and helping create a valuable product!



### Tips to reduce FOGO contamination:



Only place food scraps (including loose leaf tea and ground coffee) and garden organics into your FOGO bin (without liners)



Place products labelled as 'compostable' or 'bio-degradable' into your rubbish bin (they are not compatible with our composting process)



Dispose of tea bags into your rubbish bin, as these can be made with plastic



Dispose of any plastic wrapping, fruit stickers, ties or rubber bands before placing food in your FOGO bin



To learn more about what can and cannot go into your FOGO bin, scan the QR code or visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/FOGO](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/FOGO)

## FOGO champion testimonials



"I am an avid gardener at have set up my own compost and worm farm at home. Though I have been able to compost most of my food scraps, there are still many items that needs to go in the rubbish bin.

Not only does FOGO mean that I am able to divert that material from landfill, but also that Council can do something positive at scale with all of our food and garden organics."

- Candyce Presland, Richmond resident

"We are very relieved to now have a simple and straightforward way to process our food waste – for the good of our club, the community, and the climate."

- Gabrielle Murphy, Vice President of the Fitzroy Football Club and convenor of the Edinburgh Gardens Sporting Community



"I do care about where my waste goes ... With FOGO, I know my unavoidable food waste will be used to create products that have value."

- Tim Greenough, Richmond resident

### Yarra local slashes food waste in her share house with simple solutions!

Coralie, a passionate scientist, tackles food waste at home by educating friends and housemates. "It's about educating them on how they can reduce avoidable food waste, one small change at a time," she says. In her latest share house, she set up a food scraps bin for composting and helped housemates develop waste-reducing habits, like freezing old bananas.

Coralie is a Food Waste Champion and participated in Yarra's Food Waste Challenge. Become a Food Waste Champion and learn more at our website.





## Pathway to gas-free leisure centres

We are proud to share the final phase of removing fossil gas-powered cogeneration systems from our leisure centres. The last unit at Richmond Recreation Centre was turned off in mid-March.

Originally installed between 2011 and 2014, these cogeneration systems helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions by generating electricity onsite with gas engines, which emitted 50% less than coal power. They also used waste heat to warm the pools.

Since 2019, our electricity has been 100% renewable, making these gas systems unnecessary. Removing them aligns with our commitment to climate action. The transition has saved over 13,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to two years' worth of our organisational emissions.

This change won't impact the centres' operations.

## Moving through life with Yarra Leisure

**Our leisure centres are inclusive and welcoming spaces that support the physical health and wellbeing of our community, no matter what stage of life they're in.**

Whether it's making a splash at our 6-month-old Learn to Swim classes or increasing stability and strength in Move For Life for older adults, there is always something for everyone to live and age well in Yarra.

Hal is a proud Yarra resident and long-time member of Yarra Leisure. At an impressive 100 years of age, Hal has been a member at Collingwood Leisure Centre for nearly 20 years, hitting the gym three times a week. Hal says his visits keep him healthy, mobile and allow him to keep leading an active lifestyle. Hal has always been active, holding the Victorian record for the 1-mile run at 16 years of age, and working as a

jiu jitsu instructor later in life. For Hal, going to the gym isn't just about maintaining his physical health, it's also an opportunity to chat and connect with other Leisure members and staff.

"The people who come here are also nice to talk to ... the staff are always very pleasant. That's important."

Hal wants people to know there is a place for them at Yarra Leisure and it's never too late to start a new fitness class or activity.

"The gym staff are really friendly and helpful. They create programs for everyone, no matter how old you are or how strong you feel."

Come along and join us! Find details about classes and facilities available at [leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au](https://leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### YOUR SAY YARRA

## Get involved in Yarra's projects

Share your feedback about upcoming Council projects and share your thoughts and ideas for Yarra. Your input will help us make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

Sign up to our engagement e-newsletter to stay informed and have your say.

Visit [yoursayyarra.com.au](https://yoursayyarra.com.au) to find out more.



# Building a flood-resilient Yarra

Climate change is increasing the risk of flooding and rising water levels across Victoria. Keeping Yarra flood resilient requires an all-of-community response. It is important that the community understands that the most well-designed drainage system in the world can't protect communities against the weather events we are seeing as a result of climate change.

Contrary to information circulating in the community, Council's drainage and stormwater infrastructure is in good condition and is actively maintained and upgraded. Council invests significant funding each year in maintaining and improving our infrastructure and will continue to do so into the future.

Flood mapping is an additional measure to improve a city's resilience to changing weather patterns and severe storms. We need to ensure that new developments are planned to be resilient to flooding. Many Victorian councils have completed or are currently undertaking flood mapping work to improve their city's resilience to these storms.

We have worked in partnership with Melbourne Water on flood maps for Yarra. These maps were guided by best practice design, benchmarked against other councils, and supported by our community's feedback during last year's consultation.

Head to our website to view the flood maps, learn more about how we developed them, and how they will be used in the future.



Keep up to date with Yarra's strategy to keep Yarra flood resilient by scanning the QR code.



# Safe and sound: Understanding Yarra's cat curfew

In January, we introduced a night-time cat curfew to help keep our beloved cats safe from injury and disease and to protect local wildlife. Here's what you need to know:

## Curfew hours

All cat owners must ensure their cats are kept within their homes between 7pm and 7am.

## Found a cat?

If you find a cat on the street during curfew hours, please try to contact the owner first.

## Unidentified cats

Any cats found on the street during curfew hours without a name tag or registration may be taken to an authorised council officer or an animal shelter. Council officers will always try to return a cat to its owner whenever possible.

## Tag and register

It's important that your cat has a name tag with your contact details and is registered with Council. This helps us return your cat to you quickly if it is found outside. If your cat is not registered, please contact us or head online to register your cat.

By following these simple steps, we can all help keep our feline friends safe and our wildlife protected.



For more information on the cat curfew and how to register your cat, visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/pets](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/pets)

# Clean heating for healthier air

Enjoy cleaner air and a healthier environment by making smart heating choices. According to the EPA, wood-burning fires can emit harmful pollutants, affecting air quality and health.

Here's how you can heat your home more sustainably and reduce wood smoke pollution.

## Switch to electric heating:

- **Healthier and sustainable:** Electric heating, like reverse cycle air conditioning, is cleaner and safer
- **Incentives available:** The Victorian Government offers rebates and discounts to help make the switch. Learn more at [energy.vic.gov.au/households](http://energy.vic.gov.au/households)

## Tips for cleaner wood burning:

- **Use dry, seasoned hardwood:** Burns cleaner and produces less smoke
- **Maintain your heater:** Regularly clean the flue to ensure efficient burning
- **Avoid burning treated wood:** Only use untreated wood to reduce toxic emissions

Making these changes helps improve Yarra's air quality and supports a healthier environment.



Scan the QR code to learn more or visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/allectrichome](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/allectrichome)

# Join our Seniors and Sprouts program!

From little things, big things grow. Enjoy the rewarding experience of participating in a kindergarten program for 4-year-olds.



Our expanded Seniors and Sprouts program invites senior residents to spend an hour a week with a kindergarten class to promote social engagement and community connections.

Research shows intergenerational activities foster mutual respect, compassion, and empathy. Young children develop greater social acceptance, while seniors enjoy improved quality of life, cognitive health, and reduced social isolation. It's a win-win that combats ageism, promotes mental health, and strengthens community ties.

## Information sessions:

- **Richmond Kindergarten:**  
11am, Tuesday 8 October
- **Princes Hill Kindergarten:**  
11am, Wednesday 9 October

## Program dates:

- **Richmond Kindergarten:**  
October 22 to December 10,  
11am to 12 midday
- **Princes Hill Kindergarten:**  
October 23 to December 3,  
11am to 12 midday

## Requirements:

- Age 65+
- Working with Children Check
- Police check (assistance available)
- Attendance at an information session

Find out more and register your interest by calling our Positive Ageing Officer on **9205 5555**.

## Digital skills for seniors

**Did you know Yarra Libraries provides an iPad lending program for residents who want to improve their digital skills?**

The program provides library members with an iPad that comes pre-loaded with mobile data, as well as induction training and ongoing support.

The program is designed to help participants learn the basics of using an iPad, including how to access the internet, use apps, and stay safe online. Participants can use the iPad to connect with friends and family, stay up to date on the news, and learn new things.

If you, a family member, or neighbour would benefit from this program, call Yarra Libraries on **1300 695 427** or visit [library.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://library.yarracity.vic.gov.au) for more information.

We also offer one-on-one digital guidance and a range of free workshops on online safety. This initiative helps us to promote equitable access to digital resources for all Yarra residents.



# What's on

## Live Music Locator

Ongoing to September

Discover the vibrant live music scene in Yarra with LiveMusicLocator (LML)! This exciting pilot program consolidates live music events from 17 different online sources into one easy-to-use digital feed. Now, you can effortlessly find gigs happening across all our local venues, including performances as part of the 2024 Leaps and Bounds Music Festival.

Access the service via a mobile-friendly website to discover your music and lose yourself. Support our local performers and businesses by exploring the rich musical landscape right here in Yarra. The Leaps and Bounds Music Festival, along with LiveMusicLocator, underscores our advocacy efforts for live music venues, building community connections and cultural vibrancy. Learn more at [livemusiclocator.com.au](http://livemusiclocator.com.au) or visit [lml.live](http://lml.live)

## Storytime Around the World

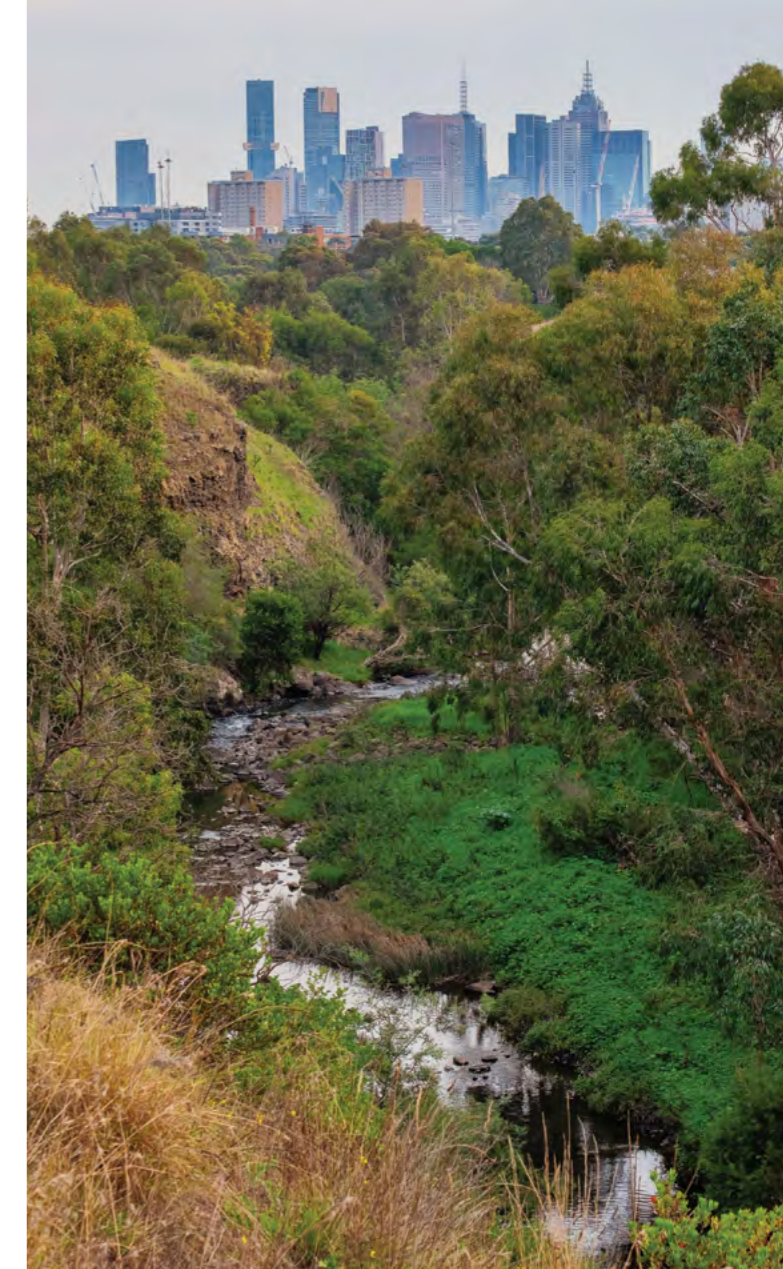
**Every Tuesday until 17 September, 11am, Collingwood Library**

Foster a love for reading in your child with our exciting new early literacy program that celebrates the rich tapestry of languages and cultures in our community. Each week, we transport young explorers to a different corner of the globe with bilingual stories, songs, and activities.

## Nature Walk Along the Birrarung

**Saturday 14 September, 10.30am to 12.30pm, Collingwood Library**

Join author and storyteller Maya Ward for a guided nature walk along the Birrarung (Yarra River). Starting at Collingwood Library, we'll walk around 4km, hearing stories from Maya's life and her book, *The Comfort of Water: A River Pilgrimage*. Discover the art of river contemplation and learn to engage more deeply with nature.



## Richmond Urban Agriculture Walk

**Monday 16 September, 3pm to 4.30pm, Richmond Library**

Curious about growing food in our busy, urban environment? Join us for a guided tour of Richmond's thriving agricultural spaces. Discover local community gardens, neighbourhood houses and learn creative ways of growing food communally to save money and connect with nature. Presented in partnership with My Smart Garden.

Find details about these events and more that are coming up in Yarra at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/events](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/events)

## Your Councillors

To find your Ward visit  
[yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors)

Below are contact details for your Ward Councillors. These are listed in alphabetical order.

### Langridge Ward

- **Cr Michael Glynatsis**  
michael.glynatsis@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Stephen Jolly**  
stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Anab Mohamud (Deputy Mayor)**  
anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au

### Melba Ward

- **Cr Edward Crossland (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**  
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 take place at Richmond Town Hall. If you would like to attend, please visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings) for details.

All meetings are live streamed at  
[yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast)

- Tuesday 13 August
- Tuesday 10 September

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF 20027.

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最新的重要消息。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19,903。

Σε αυτήν την έκδοση του δελτίου Yarra News, μάθετε τι συμβαίνει στην κοινότητά μας. Διαβάστε για τις επερχόμενες τοπικές εκδηλώσεις και τις σημαντικότερες ενημερώσεις του Δήμου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με το Yarra News καλέστε στο **9280 1934** και δώστε τον αριθμό αναφοράς 19,903.

في هذا العدد من Yarra News (أخبار يارا) تعرّفوا علي ما يحدث في مجتمعنا وعلى الأحداث المحلية القادمة وأهم وآخر مستجدات المجلس. لمزيد من المعلومات حول Yarra News (أخبار يارا)، اتصل على **9280 1930** واذكر الرقم المرجعي 19903.

Trong ấn bản này của Yarra News, hãy tìm hiểu xem điều gì đang xảy ra trong cộng đồng của chúng ta. Đọc về các sự kiện sắp tới được tổ chức tại địa phương và các thông tin cập nhật quan trọng của hội đồng. Để biết thêm thông tin về Yarra News, hãy gọi số **9280 1939** và trích dẫn số tham chiếu 19,903.

Nella presente edizione di Yarra News, scoprite cosa sta succedendo nella nostra comunità. Leggete delle novità dei prossimi eventi locali e degli aggiornamenti importanti del comune. Per ulteriori informazioni su Yarra News telefonate al numero **9280 1931** e citate il numero di riferimento 19.903.

En esta edición de Yarra News, descubra lo que sucede en nuestra comunidad. Lea sobre los próximos eventos locales y las importantes actualizaciones del municipio. Para más información sobre Yarra News, comuníquese al **9280 1935** e indique el número de referencia 19.903.

Council elections are coming up in October 2024. Learn more at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/elections](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/elections) or visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)