

JANUARY 2025

# yarranews



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Swim safe, stay cool

Swim star Bailey participates in Yarra Leisure's Access All Abilities program at Collingwood Leisure Centre



## Message from the Mayor

Hello everyone,

It's an honour to serve as Mayor of Yarra and to represent our incredible community.

At November's Council election, six new Councillors were elected to serve the Yarra community for the first time. This is a significant change in the make-up of the Council and is a clear and decisive message that the community wants to see change – and change you will see with me as Mayor.

The work to implement a new direction started at our November and December Council meetings, where the Council endorsed a plan to implement a focus on the things that matter. Over December and January, Councillors haven't wasted a minute, working with Council staff on this new direction and how it will be implemented.

As Mayor, I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas and working together to shape a future that reflects the values we all hold dear. I encourage you to come along to Council Meetings, to contact your local Councillor, get involved in our Community Advisory Committees or have your say online through Your Say Yarra. Your view matters and I encourage you to get involved and tell us what you're thinking.

I'm pleased to be working alongside Deputy Mayor, Cr Sarah McKenzie and a team of Councillors representing their communities. We are committed to working in partnership with the community to ensure Yarra remains a place we all love, which is planning for the future.

I hope you've had some time over the summer break to spend with friends and family, and I look forward to seeing you around Yarra in the months ahead.

**Cr Stephen Jolly**  
**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](https://www.instagram.com/cityofyarra))
- Register for our monthly e-news at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife)

## Latest news

### Richmond Recreation Centre wins Social Value Award

We're proud to share that our Richmond Recreation Centre has won the ActiveXchange Social Value Award. ActiveXchange is an industry leader in measuring the social impact of recreation facilities. This award recognises our efforts to boost community wellbeing through targeted programs. Over the past year, we've generated \$6 million in 'social value'—a measure of health benefits like \$1.53 million in mental health improvements and \$926,000 in reduced healthcare costs. By involving community members of all ages, especially older adults, we're helping more people stay active, healthy and connected in Yarra.

### Yarra's Annual Report 2023/24

We recently published our Annual Report for 2023/24, highlighting our progress against the goals and priorities of our Council Plan 2021–25, guided by your Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

#### Highlights include:

- 89,000 local native plants added to green spaces
- 75 major road and footpath projects completed
- 179 shared parking spaces added
- 497,982 books, eBooks, and audiobooks borrowed
- 7,415 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill
- 30 major drainage works projects completed
- 122,102 swimming lessons provided
- 850,000 visits to our leisure centres
- 20,551 meals delivered to older residents and residents living with a disability

For a detailed look at our services, projects, finances, and governance during 2023/24, head to [yarracity.vic.gov.au/annualreport](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/annualreport) to access the Annual Report, or pick up a copy at our customer service centres and libraries.



### Connie Benn Early Learning Centre sets new standards

We're proud to announce that Connie Benn Early Learning Centre has been rated as "Exceeding" in 6 out of 7 National Quality Standards by the Department of Education—a level achieved by only 22% of Long Day Care services in Victoria.

The Centre was praised for its focus on building meaningful relationships, prioritising children's voices in decision-making, and creating a warm, inclusive environment. This recognition highlights the dedication of our Early Years team in providing exceptional care to Yarra's children.

### \$1.3 million invested in local projects

We've awarded \$1.3 million for 130 local projects and initiatives through our 2025 Annual Grants program. These projects span housing, community development, youth programs, arts, sustainability, sport and more. The program supports local not-for-profits, grassroots organisations and individuals. Successful projects were chosen for their alignment with our Council Plan. Examples include inclusive soccer programs, community bike workshops and job opportunities for public housing residents. Our Annual Grants are part of our broader Community Grants program, which totals more than \$2 million each year.

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

# Meet your new Council

Yarra's newly elected Councillors for 2024–2028 were sworn in on Tuesday 12 November 2024. The 2024–25 Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected during a Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 November 2024.



**Cr Stephen Jolly**  
Mayor  
MacKillop Ward

Cr Jolly has lived in Yarra for 32 years. The diversity of the population and the stimulating lifestyle is what he loves most about living in Yarra. One way Cr Jolly would like to make a positive difference in Yarra is by keeping that diversity. This is his sixth term as Councillor.



**Cr Evangeline Aston**  
Langridge Ward

Cr Aston has lived in Yarra for over 10 years. The river, cafes and walking distance to everything are what she loves most about Yarra. Revitalising and restoring Victoria Street in a contemporary, community-focused way is a priority for Cr Aston. This is her first term as Councillor.



**Cr Andrew Davies**  
Lennox Ward

Cr Davies has lived in Richmond since 1998. He is a local business owner who is focused on achieving change through building a positive partnership with the State Government, and making it more affordable to live in Yarra. He loves the beautiful period features of the area and wants to respect and maintain them. This is his first term as Councillor.



**Cr Sarah McKenzie**  
Deputy Mayor  
Yarra Bend Ward

Cr McKenzie grew up locally and has lived in Clifton Hill since 2020. She loves Yarra's rich history of progressive politics and vibrant community spirit, where people take care of each other. One way she would like to make a positive difference in Yarra is by building trust between the community and Council so that changes and challenges such as housing security can be tackled together. This is her first term as Councillor.



**Cr Sharon Harrison**  
Boulevard Ward

Cr Harrison has lived in Yarra for 12 years with her family. The diverse community is what she loves most about living in Yarra and she will work over the next four years to improve the local amenity for residents. Cr Harrison wants the community to know she is here to work for them and encourages residents in Boulevard Ward to reach out with any issue they want to discuss, no matter how big or how small. This is her first term as Councillor.



**Cr Meca Ho**  
Melba Ward

Cr Ho has lived in Yarra for 40 years. He loves Yarra's scenic river, walking trails, parks, and its diverse community with cultural events and multicultural cuisine in its shopping strips. One way Cr Ho would like to make a positive difference in Yarra is by empowering community groups and individuals to drive positive change. This is his first term as Councillor.



**Cr Ken Gomez**  
Nicholls Ward

Cr Gomez has lived in Yarra for 21 years. He loves walking his dog around Edinburgh Gardens, as well as Yarra's amazing cafes and wonderful pubs. One way Cr Gomez would like to make a positive difference in Yarra is to bring the skills and experience earned over a lifetime to bear on decisions on how we move forward together. This is his first term as Councillor.



**Cr Edward Crossland**  
Curtain Ward

Cr Crossland has lived in Yarra for much of his adult life, currently residing in Fitzroy North. He loves Yarra's diverse community, open spaces, and vibrant arts scene. One way Cr Crossland hopes to make a positive difference is by improving streetscapes with more greenery and safe walking and cycling routes. This is his second term as Councillor.



**Cr Sophie Wade**  
Hoddle Ward

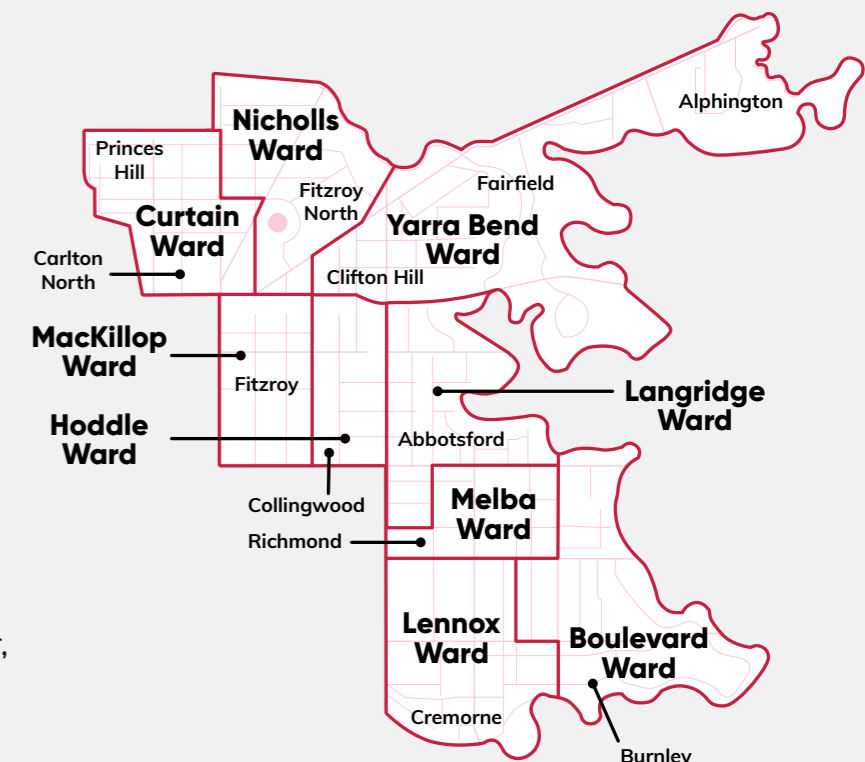
Cr Wade has lived in Yarra for eight years. She loves Yarra's diverse and progressive community, vibrant shopping strips, live music scene, and green spaces. One way Cr Wade would like to make a positive difference is by creating streets where people of all ages feel safe getting around by bike. This is her second term as Councillor.

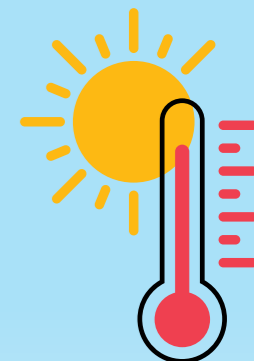
## Yarra's new Ward structure

In 2024, Yarra moved to a single-Councillor Ward structure as part of the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) electoral review, which takes place every 12 years.

Each Ward is now represented by one Councillor.

You can still reach out to any Councillor, no matter which Ward you live in.





# Beat the heat: Stay safe and prepared

Extreme heat claims more lives in Australia than any other natural disaster, making heat readiness essential.

While anyone can be affected, older people, young children, individuals with medical conditions, and outdoor workers are at higher risk. Here are some ways to ensure you're prepared:

## Swim into summer

Make a splash this summer with our Learn to Swim programs at Collingwood Leisure Centre and Fitzroy Swimming Pool!

Our January holiday program is perfect for kids looking to build their swimming skills or just have fun in the water.

- **Collingwood:** 13 to 17 January (mornings) and 20 to 24 January (afternoons)
- **Fitzroy:** 20 to 24 January (mornings)

Enrolments are now open – don't miss out!

### Term 1 of Learn to Swim

We're excited to bring back after-school lessons at Fitzroy Swimming Pool in 2025. With an active Learn to Swim enrolment, you'll get great benefits:

- Unlimited access to all three Yarra Leisure pools
- Easily transfer class days/times/centres via our online portal
- Live access to assessment results

Enrolments for Term 1 are now open for Fitzroy Swimming Pool, Collingwood Leisure Centre and Richmond Recreation Centre.

For more information, visit [leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au)

## Swim safety tips

- Swim in a supervised area, whether at a local pool or beach; always swim between the flags
- Never swim alone
- Read safety signs before entering the water
- Know the specific rules of the pool you visit, as some rules may vary
- Speak to a lifeguard if you are a weak swimmer or have a medical condition
- Avoid drinking alcohol when swimming
- Make sure children under 5 are within arm's reach
- Children under 10 should always be actively supervised by a responsible adult (person over 16)

### Emergency alerts

Connect with local resources, stay updated with weather forecasts, and adjust your schedules to avoid extreme temperatures.

- Download the VicEmergency App and tune into ABC Melbourne 774 Radio for essential updates.
- Call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** for preparation and planning information.



- Those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can reach the hotline via the National Relay Service on **1800 555 677**.

Offering help to neighbours, especially older or ill people, strengthens community ties and might just save someone's life.

### Heatwave health tips

- Spend the day in cool buildings, such as shopping centres or libraries.
- Close curtains and blinds during the day to block out the heat.
- Drink plenty of water (tap water is safe to drink).
- Stay cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool showers. Use fans on low speed.

To learn more about staying safe this summer, visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/heatwave](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/heatwave)

### Heatwave tips for pets

Make sure pets have plenty of drinking water and shade. If the ground is too hot to rest the back of your hand against, it is too hot for your pet's paws. Never leave them in a parked car, which can heat up quickly and put their lives at risk.

Find more tips to keep pets safe this summer at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/summerpets](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/summerpets)



## Personalised programs for swimmers of all abilities

Bailey, our cover star, is making waves in our Access All Abilities swim program. This inclusive program supports children and adults aged 5 and over with a permanent or temporary disability, helping them build confidence and skills in the water.

With lessons tailored to individual needs, participants enjoy a safe and supportive environment where they can work on water safety, improve their strokes, and reach personal milestones.

For more information, email [yarraleisure@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:yarraleisure@yarracity.vic.gov.au) or call **03 9205 5522**

## Stay cool with split system rebates this summer

Ready for the heat this summer? We've partnered with Solar Savers to make installing an energy-efficient split system air conditioner easier than ever.

Did you know a split system is also the most efficient way to heat your home and enjoy year-round comfort? If you replace a gas heater with a split system, you could be eligible for a Victorian Government rebate of \$560 or more. Plus, you'll be one step closer to creating an all-electric home powered by renewable energy.

Find out more about rebates and get a quote for a quality, reliable split system at [solarsavers.org.au](http://solarsavers.org.au)



## Bringing Nature Back to Yarra: Revitalising our urban spaces

### Yarra's urban spaces are becoming greener, wilder and more resilient.

Through our Bringing Nature Back to Yarra program, we're restoring ecosystems in parks, streets and gardens to create a more sustainable and liveable environment.

The program focuses on planting indigenous species, creating habitats for native wildlife and reconnecting people with nature. With the help of our community, we're seeing real progress in restoring biodiversity and improving liveability for everyone in Yarra.

As part of this, we've planted thousands of indigenous trees and plants across Yarra, including:

- **Swan Street reserve:** Over 23,000 native ground cover and understory plants, expanding vegetation and improving habitat connectivity.

- **Birrarung and Merri Merri Habitat Corridors:** 386 advanced indigenous trees along these corridors, creating essential "stepping-stone" connections for fauna and providing winter foraging opportunities for the threatened grey-headed flying-fox.
- **Burnley Golf Course:** Over 26,000 indigenous plants, from ground cover to canopy trees, to enhance the ecological function of this important green space.
- **Quarries Park, Ramsden Reserve, and Alphington Wetlands:** Nearly 24,000 indigenous plants, expanding the Merri Merri wildlife corridor and linking wetland habitats with hilltop vegetation.

These initiatives go far beyond restoring nature—they also provide cooling effects, mitigate climate change impacts, and improve air quality by capturing carbon and filtering pollutants.

### What's next?

As we move into the new year, we'll continue to expand our green spaces and habitats. We're also working closely with Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, other councils and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People to protect the Birrarung (Yarra River) and its parklands for future generations.

Aligned with the Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrn) Act 2017, we are committed to managing the Birrarung as one living and integrated natural entity. *Burndap Birrarung burndap umarkoo*—what's good for the Yarra is good for all.

### Get involved

There are plenty of ways to get involved, from participating in planting days to simply appreciating and caring for the green spaces in your neighbourhood. Together, we can ensure Yarra's natural environment thrives now and into the future. Learn more at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/grow](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/grow)

## The Manna Gum and the Wurundjeri People

The Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) is a totem species of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People. The Wurundjeri name comes from the words 'wurun,' meaning Manna Gum, and 'djeri,' referring to the witchetty grub found near the tree. Restoring the Manna Gum along the Birrarung (Yarra River) honours the relationship that has existed for thousands of years between the Wurundjeri People and this land.

Source: [deadlystory.com](http://deadlystory.com)



### Meet Michal: One of Yarra's unsung recycling heroes

**Behind the scenes at the Clifton Hill Recycling Centre, dedicated staff like Michal work tirelessly to ensure Yarra's waste is properly sorted, recycled and repurposed.**

Having studied waste management in Prague and Vienna, Michal joined Yarra over a decade ago and has seen significant improvements in waste separation practices. "Yarra is doing a fantastic job and accepts a range of materials for recycling at the depot—from soft plastics and batteries, to bicycle tyres and polystyrene—allowing us to divert significant amounts of waste from landfill," Michal says.

Visit the friendly team at 168 Roseneath St, Clifton Hill to learn more about recycling in Yarra. Find out more about our recycling centre at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/recycling)

# Shaping a better Yarra together

Every four years, Yarra City Council creates a new Council Plan – our roadmap for making Yarra an even better place to live, work and visit.

As we prepare to develop the next Council Plan, we've been working closely with our community to ensure it reflects your priorities. This process allows us to reflect on the progress we've made and look ahead to what's next.

The Council Plan aligns with your Yarra 2036 Community Vision, created to capture your hopes and aspirations for the future. It also includes how we will track and report our progress on the way to achieving the vision.



## Key achievements from Council Plan 2021-2025

Your 2021-25 Council Plan laid out the key areas Council has focused on over the last four years, from tackling climate change to supporting the local economy. Here's a snapshot of what's been achieved:

### Climate and Environment

- **All-electric Council buildings:** We transitioned 28 Council buildings from gas to all-electric, reducing the carbon footprint and using renewable energy to power these facilities.
- **Community battery launch:** We launched Australia's first-ever inner-urban community battery in Fitzroy North, a groundbreaking project that supports sustainable energy use right here in Yarra.

### Democracy and Governance

- **Financial sustainability:** We created Yarra's first Financial Sustainability Strategy to ensure that we manage resources responsibly and in the best interests of the community.
- **Community-led planning:** Through a comprehensive engagement process, we developed 16 community-led principles that will inform future service planning, ensuring that your voice shapes the decisions that impact you.

### Local Economy

- **Supporting local businesses:** We introduced a permanent parklet program, allowing hundreds of local businesses to expand their outdoor dining areas. This program was crucial in helping businesses continue to thrive during COVID restrictions.
- **Engagement with traders:** We've connected with over 2,600 Yarra traders through our business support programs, providing them with the tools and resources they needed to navigate challenging times.



### Place and Nature

- **Creating green spaces:** We've developed new open spaces across the municipality, including pocket parks in Cremorne, Peel Street Park, Otter Street Park, and Cambridge Street Reserve, making Yarra an even more liveable place.
- **Urban greening:** Over 2,700 street trees have been planted to increase the tree canopy, improve liveability and boost biodiversity in Yarra.

### Transport and Movement

- **Sustainable transport projects:** The first-ever Transport Strategy guided the construction of over 40 sustainable transport projects, including expanding the 30km/h speed limit trial to all of Collingwood and Fitzroy, making streets safer and more pedestrian-friendly.

### Social Equity and Health

- **Affordable housing:** We have supported the construction of hundreds of social and affordable homes in key developments across Yarra, ensuring more people have access to safe and secure housing.
- **Revitalising community spaces:** The Djerring Centre in Abbotsford, previously known as the Collingwood Senior Citizens Centre, has been revitalised to better serve the community's needs.
- **Celebrating diversity:** Victoria Pride added to the vibrant energy of Gertrude and Smith Streets, with over 30,000 people joining the celebration in its first year, highlighting our commitment to inclusivity for our LGBTIQ+ community.



## Working with our community to shape our plan

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our first stage of community consultation—it's your input that helps shape the future of Yarra. This feedback is now being reviewed and will play an important role in shaping the next steps of our planning.

In early 2025, a diverse group of community members will take part in deliberative engagement workshops, led by an independent facilitator. These sessions will explore ways Council can respond to Yarra's growth in a financially sustainability way. They will also provide recommendations of draft priority areas for the new Council Plan. The expression of interest to be a part of this group is open until 12 midday on Friday 10 January 2025.

### Your opportunity to review the draft Council Plan

In the first half of 2025, the draft Council Plan will be presented for public exhibition, giving all residents a chance to provide feedback and influence the final plan.

### Stay connected



Keep up to date with the progress of the Council Plan and learn more about the expression of interest. Scan the QR code on this page or visit our website for updates and ways to stay involved in shaping a better Yarra.

# How your FOGO waste is nourishing Yarra's gardens

Since we introduced our new food and garden organics (FOGO) collection service in July 2024, instead of going to landfill, we're now able to keep accepted organic materials in circulation as valuable compost used on parks, gardens and farms.



In the first four months since the introduction of the service, we've been able to divert **1,025 tonnes from landfill**. There is still a large amount of FOGO material going to landfill, so please continue to use this service to its maximum capacity.

Thanks to everyone's effort in using FOGO bins correctly, we're seeing a very low rate of misplaced items at just 1.45%! By keeping only accepted materials in FOGO bins, we're able to create high-quality compost that nourishes Yarra's parks and gardens.

**But there's always room for improvement! To make sure you're not contaminating your FOGO bin, keep an eye out for these common mistakes:**

**Don't include paper bags.** Our FOGO processing facility has advised us that some paper bags, such as shopping bags from major supermarket chains, contain chemicals in glues that are not appropriate for organic waste.



Remember to **empty food from containers** into the bin.



**Remove stickers** from your fruit and **rubber bands** from your veggies.



**Don't use products labelled compostable or biodegradable products (including bags).** There are many different types of 'compostable' bags on the market. It is difficult for consumers and for staff on the sorting line to identify compostable bags from non-compostable ones. Try using paper towel or newspaper as an alternative.



For more information about how to best use your new FOGO bin, head to our website: [yarracity.vic.gov.au/fogo](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/fogo)

# Yarra's big advocacy wins



Over the last 12 months, we've been actively engaging with the State and Federal Governments on key challenges that matter to our community. Here are some of the major advocacy wins we're excited to share, which will make a big difference to people living in Yarra.



## Yarra secures \$5 million Thriving Suburbs grants

Through sustained advocacy, we have secured over \$5 million in Australian Government funding through the Thriving Suburbs program to improve community infrastructure and climate outcomes.

The Collingwood Leisure Centre will receive \$2.9 million to transition from gas to electricity, cutting emissions by 400 tonnes annually while improving comfort, safety and climate resilience. A \$2.25 million grant will transform Yambla Pavilion at Quarries Park into a safe, inclusive facility with changerooms, amenities and accessible spaces for all, supported by an additional \$500,000 from the Victorian Government.

## More open spaces

After four years of persistent advocacy, we're thrilled that the Victorian Government has approved our request to nearly double Yarra's public open space contribution rate, increasing it from 4.5% to 8.65%. These developer contributions will provide vital funds to expand and improve open spaces for our growing community.

## Additional Route 546 bus services

Good news for public transport users! Passengers on the Route 546 bus service, which runs between Heidelberg Station and Melbourne University, will benefit from an additional 241 services. This includes more frequent weekday services (every 20 minutes) and extended evening operations, as well as the introduction of weekend services to better meet demand.

Young people at a workshop organised by grant recipient Ronen Jafari.



## Youth-Led Grants: Applications now open!

Are you aged 16 to 25 with an idea for a project or event to benefit young people in Yarra? Our Youth-Led Grants program is now open for applications!

You could receive up to \$3,000 in funding to bring your idea to life. A recent grant recipient, Ronen Jafari, used funding to support young artists through exhibitions and workshops. His project provided accessible pathways for creatives to connect with the art world and gain hands-on experience.

Interested? Learn more and apply at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/grants](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/grants)



## Collingwood Leisure Centre's Container Deposit success

Since the launch of the Container Deposit Scheme in November 2023, the reverse vending machine at the Collingwood Leisure Centre carpark has helped keep over 1.3 million containers out of landfill!

With over 22,530 transactions completed so far, Yarra residents have been doing their part to boost recycling and earn a refund of 10 cents per eligible container.

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150ml and 3 litres are eligible. You can keep the lids on, as they are recycled, too.

Ready to join in? You can drop off your eligible drink containers at the Collingwood Leisure Centre carpark and help us continue to reduce waste, one container at a time!

## Let's take the lead on weeds

If you have these plants in your outdoor space, consider removing and disposing of them carefully. The great news is you can replace them with native alternatives, which are better for our natural environment and much safer alternatives.



**Moth vine, false choko, cruel vine (*Araujia sericifera*):** This climbing plant is poisonous to animals and humans. It is easily recognised by its egg-shaped green fruit, which turn brown before splitting to shed white cotton-like seeds.



**Madiera vine (*Anredera cordifolia*):** A fast-growing vine with heart-shaped leaves and fragrant, bunched white flowers. This plant spreads quickly.



**Fountain grass or swamp foxtail grass (*Pennisetum spp*):** Commonly planted in gardens, these plants produce hairy burrs that are readily dispersed.



**Replace with bushland friendly:** Small leaved clematis (*Clematis microphylla*)



**Replace with bushland friendly:** Purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)



**Replace with bushland friendly:** Windmill grass (*Chloris truncata*)

## 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.

YOUR SAY  
YARRA



Our commitment to a sustainable Yarra extends beyond urban planning. By addressing environmental weeds, we're safeguarding our native flora and boosting local biodiversity. Together, we can ensure Yarra remains a haven for native species and a community that thrives in harmony with nature.

Find a full list of common environmental weeds in Yarra and recommended replacements at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/biodiversity](https://yarracity.vic.gov.au/biodiversity)



## Cleansing program

Every day, our dedicated street precinct officers are out in force, making sure Yarra's streets stay clean and safe for everyone.

From removing litter and dumped rubbish to clearing syringes, our team works hard to ensure Yarra remains a great place to live, work and visit.

Whether they're on regular patrols or responding to reports from the public, our precinct officers are committed to managing hazards and rubbish to keep our community safe. With their attention to detail and great care, Yarra's streets are in good hands.

### By the numbers



Over **17,600** dumped rubbish jobs actioned (16,100 proactive, 1,500 reactive)



**12,200** hard waste bookings serviced



Collected over **125 tonnes** of waste from public bins each month

Stats from FY23-24

## Shop local and support your community!

Spending your money locally helps support small businesses, keeps people in jobs and strengthens Yarra's vibrant economy.



With over 18,500 businesses in Yarra, including 1,500 retail stores and 900 hospitality spots, there's something for everyone.

From the vibrant energy of Smith Street's live music venues and foodie delights to Queens Parade's unique retail and wellbeing services, Yarra's 12 precincts each offer their own charm. Wander through Nicholson Village's welcoming community of family-run businesses, enjoy Fitzroy North Village's award-winning restaurants and relaxed vibe, or head to Swan Street for a lively atmosphere before or after a sporting event.

Discover hidden gems, from boutique retailers to artisanal food producers, that make Yarra's precincts truly one of a kind. Plus, every local purchase helps keep money within our community and supports the businesses that help Yarra thrive.

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

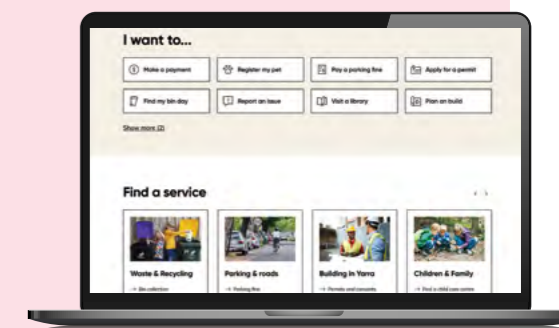
## Updated Yarra City Council website is live!

Discover a faster, simpler way to access local services and information.

We've launched an updated website to make it easier for you to find the services and information you need. Now, you can easily access services, join gym classes, pay bills, or explore local events anytime, anywhere.

Our content is now more accessible, easier to read and designed to grow with your feedback. This is just the beginning as we continue to enhance our digital services to better serve the community.

Check it out at [yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au)





Artist Sarah Ward, of Fat Fruit, at Victoria's Pride 2024. Photo by Tom Noble.

## What's on

### BIG Summer Read

**Sunday 1 December to Friday 31 January**

Participate in Victoria's statewide summer reading program for kids. It's a fun way to track your reading over summer with activities and challenges, with a chance to win some great prizes. The BIG Summer Read is delivered in partnership with Public Librarians Victoria, Bolinda Borrow Box, Story Box Library and School Library Association Victoria. To register, visit [readbooks.com.au/bsr](http://readbooks.com.au/bsr), and select Yarra Libraries as your preferred library service.

### Queerways listening and walking tours

**East: Friday 24 January, 5.30pm to 8pm**  
**West: Friday 31 January, 5.30pm to 8pm**  
**Queerways Mural, Little Smith Street, Fitzroy (Outside Evies Disco Diner)**

Wear your sturdy shoes and join us for a vibrant journey through Yarra's LGBTQIA+ history! Listen along as we guide you through places of queer significance such as the Keith Haring mural, The Peel, The Laird and more as originally researched and documented by Queerways 'Retracing Queer Footprints'. Hear captivating stories, celebrate community, and be immersed in the historical significance of our suburbs.

### National Sustainability Festival

**Saturday 1 to Friday 28 February**  
**Multiple locations**

Celebrate sustainability with a diverse program of local events across Yarra, part of a nationwide festival inspiring climate action and sustainable living. Highlights include Open Table's no-waste cooking workshop on Saturday 8 February and a recycled t-shirt craft session on Saturday 22 February. Explore the full program of local events at [yarracity.vic.gov.au/our-libraries](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/our-libraries) under Programs and Events.

### Victoria Street Lunar Festival

**Sunday 2 February, 12 midday to 10pm**  
**Victoria Street (between Church Street and Hoddle Street)**

Welcome the Year of the Snake at the vibrant Victoria Street Lunar Festival. Get into the festive spirit of Richmond's Vietnamese heart, with local eateries offering delightful street food. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with music, firecrackers and more. Whether you're drawn by tradition or the promise of a lively street party, this festival is a must!

### Victoria's Pride

**Sunday 9 February 2025, 12 midday to 9pm**  
**Gertrude Street and Smith Street**

Fitzroy's iconic Gertrude and Smith Streets will once again be transformed into an extravagant street party to celebrate Victoria's diverse LGBTQIA+ communities. This free event will showcase live performances, music, circus acts, keynote speakers, activities, community stalls and interactive workshops, delivered by Midsumma in partnership with the Victorian Government. Full program details are available on the website: [midsumma.org.au](http://midsumma.org.au)

### Fairfield in Feb

**Fairfield Ampitheatre**  
**Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield**  
**Sunday 9 February and**  
**Sunday 16 February, 6pm to 8.30pm**

Join us this February for two free performances at the Fairfield Amphitheatre, programmed by Vollyspot. Loved by audiences for over two decades, this series offers a delightful and ever-changing mix of musical styles by the picturesque banks of the Yarra River.



### Johnston Street Fiesta

**Saturday 22 February**  
**12 midday to 11.30pm**  
**and Sunday 23 February, 12 midday to 9pm**

The Johnston Street Fiesta is one of Yarra's much-loved cultural events, a vibrant street festival celebrating the heritage, tradition, music and food of the world's many Spanish-speaking countries. This vibrant street festival transforms Fitzroy's Johnston Street into a lively hub of music, dance, food and community spirit.

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)



## Respect our parks

**Please do your bit by being respectful of our outdoor spaces, nearby residents and other park visitors:**

- Don't litter, avoid glass and pick up after your pets. Keep our parks clean for everyone to enjoy.
- No amplified music unless you have a permit.
- Check whether you are visiting a dog-off-leash area. If not, please keep your furry friend on a lead!
- Use the toilets provided.
- Don't peg down marquees, use weights instead.

## 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.

### MacKillop Ward

- **Cr Stephen Jolly, Mayor**  
[stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Yarra Bend Ward

- **Cr Sarah McKenzie, Deputy Mayor**  
[sarah.mckenzie@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:sarah.mckenzie@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Boulevard Ward

- **Cr Sharon Harrison**  
[sharon.harrison@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:sharon.harrison@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Curtain Ward

- **Cr Edward Crossland**  
[edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Hoddle Ward

- **Cr Sophie Wade**  
[sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Langridge Ward

- **Cr Evangeline Aston**  
[evangeline.aston@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:evangeline.aston@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Lennox Ward

- **Cr Andrew Davies**  
[andrew.davies@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.davies@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Melba Ward

- **Cr Meca Ho**  
[meca.ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:meca.ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

### Nicholls Ward

- **Cr Kenneth Gomez**  
[kenneth.gomez@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:kenneth.gomez@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. For upcoming Council Meeting dates, and 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)

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Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF 20161.

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20161。

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 20161.

في هذا العدد من Yarra News (أخبار يارا) تعرّفوا على 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 20161.

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 20161.

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 20161.

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 20161.