

HODDLE WARD UPDATE

Collingwood

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Ward
Collingwood

Hi everyone! After four years representing those of you in the north-west of Collingwood, in what was “Nicholls Ward,” it’s a pleasure to now represent the whole of our great, compact and diverse suburb!

I’ve now had my first official Ward Meeting and had great conversations. I’m keen to speak to people from all walks of Collingwood life: those in apartment buildings, public housing, single family homes, local businesses and more. If you’ve never engaged with Council before, I want to hear from you!

Of note to all in Collingwood, there’s a Parliamentary Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne’s public housing towers on now. Yarra opposes the demolition of the towers. I encourage residents to engage in this process and to support their neighbours.

Cr Sophie Wade | Hoddle Ward



Working for You: Local projects in your area

Collingwood Leisure Centre going all electric

Collingwood Leisure Centre is set to go gas free, with **\$2.915 million** in Federal funding secured through the Australian Government’s Thriving Suburbs program.

This major upgrade will transition from gas to all-electric systems, cutting emissions by around 400 tonnes annually while improving cooling, dehumidification, and overall comfort for visitors and staff.

These works align with Yarra’s Climate Emergency Plan, ensuring community facilities are energy efficient and climate safe, while also providing a cool refuge during heatwaves.

Tree planting season has begun

Tree planting has started in Collingwood to provide shelter from the heat and rain. The ward will receive its share of **600 new trees** to be planted across Yarra this season, with new trees being planted in the following streets:

- Rokeby Street
- Northumberland Street
- Cromwell Street
- Otter Street
- Sackville Street
- Cambridge Street

All of the trees, exotic or native, old or young contribute to the liveability of Yarra and provide environmental, social, and economical benefits to the community.



Scan the QR code to view tree planting locations on Yarra’s Urban Forest Dashboard at yarracity.vic.gov.au/planting



Cambridge Street Reserve Playground upgrade

New play equipment and nature play is now open at Cambridge Street Reserve in response to community feedback.

The upgrades include a range of new play items for younger children, plus colourful line markings and nature play elements.

The new equipment includes:

- A new slide for young children
- A four-way rocker and mini trampoline
- New accessible rubber surfacing under the existing swing
- Improved pathways and new planting to enhance the space

These improvements will make Cambridge Street Reserve a more vibrant, welcoming place for local families to enjoy.

Supporting sustainability and skills: Second Chance Cycles

Vacro’s Second Chance Cycles, a much-loved community bicycle workshop based under the Collingwood Public Housing Estate, has received **\$25,000** in funding through Yarra’s Annual Grants program.

The workshop restores discarded and unclaimed bikes, giving them a second life in the community. It also provides:

- Hands-on skills training in bike repair and maintenance
- A welcoming space for locals to socialise and learn

- A chance for residents to give back to their community

By combining sustainability, social inclusion and practical skills, Second Chance Cycles is helping create a stronger, more connected community.

Supporting our community: Addressing rough sleeping

Rough sleeping is a harsh reality, forcing people into unsafe conditions such as squatting in buildings, sleeping in vehicles, or camping in parks. These circumstances leave people vulnerable, underscoring the urgent need for support and solutions.

Council takes a compassionate approach, while maintaining public health and community safety. Our Engagement Officers regularly check rough sleeping sites, make referrals to outreach services and assess safety.

Council is also involved in the Yarra Zero project, in partnership with local services to provide a coordinated response to people who are sleeping rough and experiencing homelessness.

Rough sleeping at community places can pose health and safety risks. Council does not tolerate violence and aggression in public spaces and threats to safety should be reported to Victoria Police.

If someone is in immediate danger, or poses a risk, call **000** for assistance. If you are concerned about the welfare of someone sleeping rough, please alert our engagement officers by calling **9205 5555** or Launch Housing on **8598 1111**.



Scan the QR code to find out what’s happening across Yarra with our online Capital Works Map at yarracity.vic.gov.au/capitalworks