

MELBA WARD UPDATE

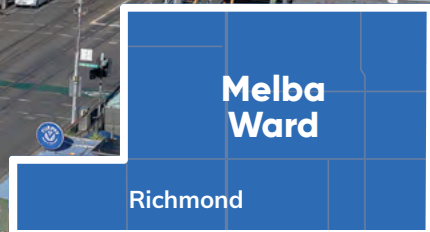
Richmond

I'm pleased to update you on my first six months as your Melba Ward Councillor. I have heard loud and clear that you want to see Council focus on rejuvenating Victoria Street. I am working with Councillors on ways we can look to improve the area and make it safe and enjoyable to shop and socialise.

I'm pleased with a number of projects in the draft Budget for our community, including upgrades at Richmond Library; significant road and footpath upgrades along Highett Street; stormwater improvements on Lennox Street, and upgrades to the much-loved Citizen Park.

Please have your say on our draft Budget before May 23.

Cr Meca Ho | Melba Ward



Working for You: Local projects in your area

Richmond Recreation Centre renewal complete

We've invested **\$400,000** to refresh and modernise facilities at Richmond Recreation Centre, ensuring it continues to be a welcoming and accessible space for all.

The works are now complete and include new skylights over the 50m pool, bringing in more natural light while replacing ageing infrastructure. We've also refitted the sauna and steam rooms, creating a more comfortable and relaxing experience for users.

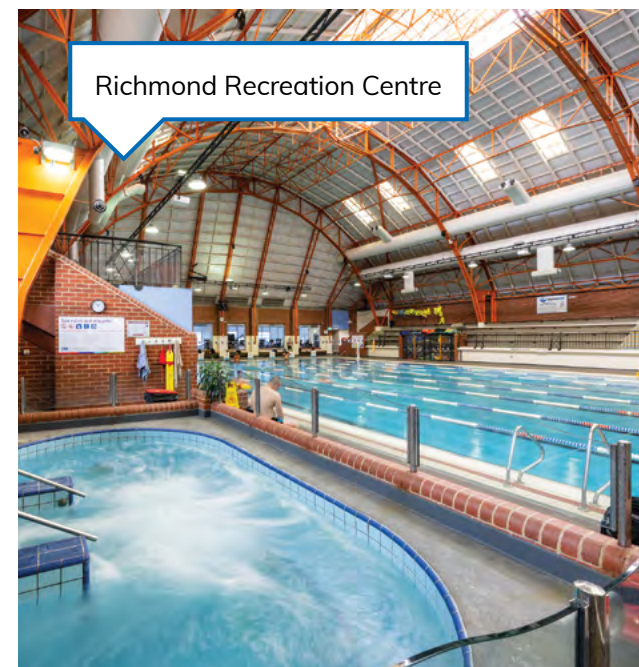
Other improvements include new pool blankets to help reduce energy use, and fresh paintwork in the wet change rooms. These upgrades mean the centre is better equipped to support the health and wellbeing of our community for years to come.

Citizens Park working group

Citizens Park is a valued shared space, and Yarra City Council has formed a working group to help guide its use.

The group includes community representatives, alongside Ward Councillors and Council's Animal Management Team, and will provide input on the shared use of Citizens Park.

The first meeting took place in March and the group will operate until 30 June 2025.



Richmond Recreation Centre

Safer streets on Belgium Avenue

We've invested **\$429,988** to renew the road, footpaths, kerbs and drainage on Belgium Avenue in Richmond.

These works improve safety, accessibility and stormwater flow to make Belgium Avenue safer and more welcoming for everyone — whether you're walking, riding or driving.

Upgrades include:

- New footpaths, kerbs and channels
- Road resurfacing and pavement improvements
- Root barriers to protect footpaths from tree roots
- Drainage improvements along sections of Highett Street

The works are now complete, improving everyday access for residents, businesses and visitors.



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

Richmond Youth Hub: Affordable and inclusive after-school activities

After-school activities help young people learn new skills, improve their mental and physical health, and build confidence. However, cost can often be a barrier.

Richmond Youth Hub provides affordable and inclusive after-school programs for young people in Yarra, offering activities such as:

- Basketball and soccer
- Cooking and creative arts
- Circus skills and more

These activities create a welcoming space where young people can connect, develop new interests and feel supported.

Find out more: yarracity.vic.gov.au/youth

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**.