

APRIL / MAY 2025

# yarranews



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## Your Councillors

To find more about your Ward Councillors 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  
0437 856 713



**YARRA BEND WARD**  
**Cr Sarah McKenzie, Deputy Mayor**  
sarah.mckenzie@yarracity.vic.gov.au  
0427 052 602



**BOULEVARD WARD**  
**Cr Sharon Harrison**  
sharon.harrison@yarracity.vic.gov.au  
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**CURTAIN WARD**  
**Cr Edward Crossland**  
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0400 326 812



**HODDLE WARD**  
**Cr Sophie Wade**  
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**LANGRIDGE WARD**  
**Cr Evangeline Aston**  
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**LENNOX WARD**  
**Cr Andrew Davies**  
andrew.davies@yarracity.vic.gov.au  
0498 648 663



**MELBA WARD**  
**Cr Meca Ho**  
meca.ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au  
0419 844 362



**NICHOLLS WARD**  
**Cr Kenneth Gomez**  
kenneth.gomez@yarracity.vic.gov.au  
0407 571 295

You can also reach your Councillors by calling **9205 5055** or sending a letter to **c/o PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121**.

## Message from the Mayor

Hello everyone,

The State Government recently announced that Yarra will need to accommodate 44,000 new homes by 2051.

In response to this unprecedented growth target, Council's draft Budget is focused on preparing Yarra for the future, through investing in building and planning new parks and open spaces; modernising sporting facilities; repairing and constructing new stormwater drains and pits; upgrading active transport networks; and improving much-loved facilities like Richmond Library and Collingwood Leisure Centre.

The draft Budget will propose the biggest capital works spending in the history of Yarra.

If we don't build community infrastructure for the future, Yarra will become another Docklands — with heaps of high-rise apartments but insufficient facilities that make an area a real community.

Community consultation for both our draft Budget and draft Council Plan are open now for your feedback on our website. Get involved and have your say, including at our 3 June Council Meeting where we will be all ears, and you can come along and speak to your Budget submission.

Last month, Council capped fees paid by sporting clubs to no more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). And pleasingly, last month we increased funding for our nine Neighbourhood Houses, that do great work, and moved our three Toy Libraries onto a permanent financial footing to support their operations.

In March a Council Report outlined a subsidy to e-scooter companies Neuron and Lime (which are owned by Uber) to the tune of \$580,000 this year. We acted to make our contract with them cost neutral to rate payers and they notified us of their intention to remove their e-scooters from Yarra.

I believe this problem will be short lived as a new contract will be signed later this year and we expect plenty of e-scooter companies to tender.

Finally, in November we announced a move to return Council Meetings back to Fitzroy Town Hall every second month. Keep an eye on our website for the first Fitzroy meeting date.

**Cr Stephen Jolly**  
**Mayor City of Yarra**



## Latest news

### Collingwood Leisure Centre is going gas free

Collingwood Leisure Centre will receive \$2.915 million from the Australian Government's Thriving Suburbs program to transition from gas to all-electric systems.

The upgrade will cut emissions by around 400 tonnes each year, improve cooling and dehumidification, and enhance comfort for visitors and staff.

### 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.

### New Council process to protect angled parking

Listening to the community, Yarra City Council approved an important change to how angled parking decisions are made.

Most proposals to remove angled parking will now go to a full Council Meeting, ensuring transparency and community input. This change balances the needs of local businesses and residents with projects that improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Some exceptions apply, such as temporary works for emergency management.

### Remembering former Mayor John Sawyer

Yarra City Council acknowledges the passing of former Mayor John Sawyer in late 2024.

Councillor Sawyer was Mayor of the first democratically elected Yarra City Council from 1996 to 1997. He served on Council until 1999.

He had previously served on the pre-amalgamation Richmond City Council.



Collingwood Leisure Centre

As the only member of the newly-created Yarra City Council with previous local government experience, he brought insight and wisdom to the task of uniting cities with very different identities and traditions.

John's colleagues recall a plain-speaking man with a strong sense of social justice and commitment to getting the best for our community.

Yarra City Council passes its condolences to his widow Barbara and their family.



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

## Council Meetings

Meetings take place at Richmond and Fitzroy Town Halls. 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)

- 13 May 2025 - Council Meeting
- 3 June 2025 - Extraordinary Council Meeting (draft Budget submissions)
- 17 June 2025 - Council Meeting

# Shaping a better Yarra together

65,000 homes, 18,500 businesses, 19.2 square kilometres of streets and more than 97,000 residents make up the City of Yarra. Every home, business, street and resident is impacted by the Council Plan.



## The Council Plan informs all our work, decision making and strategic direction over the next four years.

At Yarra we are always better together. That's why the draft Council Plan has been created after extensive feedback from the community.

We started this process in October last year when we received feedback on your priorities to be reflected in the new Plan. Almost 2,000 residents, business owners and visitors told us their thoughts, including 140 of our youngest residents – the children who call Yarra home!

From there, 45 people were selected from Yarra's diverse community for our community working group. The community working group came together over four workshops throughout January and February 2025 to help refine the priority areas of the new Council Plan.

The group was asked to reflect on our Community Vision to ensure it met the current needs and aspirations of our

community. The opinions of the group will be considered during our review of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, Community Infrastructure Plan, 10-year Asset Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

## What has happened since?

Since we finished our engagement sessions, Councillors have been reviewing the community priorities and finding ways to meet the aspirations of our community.

These priorities have been crucial in the development of our draft 2025/26 Budget. Yarra City Council's draft 2025/26 Budget is focused on delivering the community's priorities and building and planning our infrastructure.

Our draft Budget continues to support essential services like waste and recycling; parks; roads; sports facilities; and open space improvements, to meet current needs and to plan for future growth.



Participants at our Council Plan deliberative engagement

## Have your say

By spending a few minutes today, you can have your say on Council's plan and shape Yarra's future. We want your feedback on Yarra City Council's draft 2025/26 Budget and its 2025/29 Council Plan. These documents are about our short and medium term future and this is the opportunity for you to have your say. Whether you live in Yarra, own a business, work or socialise here; let's shape Yarra together.

**Please take the time before 5pm on Friday 23 May to provide your feedback on the draft documents.**



Scan the QR code to visit [yoursayyarra.com.au](https://yoursayyarra.com.au) and learn more.



## A plan for pets: Have your say on our revised Domestic Animal Management Plan

**Calling on all pet owners (and non pet owners) in Yarra! This is your chance to have a say on our draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29 (DAMP), which helps us manage dogs and cats in our city.**

This document guides:

- Our approach to registration and desexing
- How we manage overpopulation
- Our education programs for locals
- How we train Council Officers to manage domestic animals
- How we handle stray or nuisance animals

We know the impact our furry friends have on our community's lives, so we invite you to review the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2025-29 before it is considered for adoption by Council.

Move those paws because this consultation opens on Monday 19 May and closes at 9am on Monday 16 June. Visit [yoursayyarra.com.au](https://yoursayyarra.com.au) for more information.

## New Graffiti Management Framework is tackling illegal tagging

Quicker response times for graffiti removal and improved access to clean-up services are key outcomes of Yarra's recently adopted Graffiti Management Framework 2024–2030.

In response to community feedback, Council has committed an additional \$500,000 over six months to enhance graffiti removal across the city.

### Key improvements include:

- **Faster** response times for graffiti removal
- **Doubling** the number of free paint vouchers and graffiti removal kits for residents and businesses
- **Proactive** cleaning of graffiti on properties flagged as unsightly
- **Making it easier** for renters to request graffiti removal



WORKING FOR YOU



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/graffiti](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/graffiti) and request graffiti removal or find out more.



## Celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese migration through art

As part of Yarra's 50th anniversary celebrations of Vietnamese migration, we have commissioned local artist Viet-My Bui to create a special artwork, *Đi Chợ Với Mẹ* (Going to the Market with Mum), honouring the milestone. Viet-My, a second-generation Vietnamese Australian, grew up visiting Victoria Street in Richmond — the heart of Melbourne's Vietnamese community — with her parents, who migrated to Australia in the 1980s.

Her artwork features five versions of her mother, representing each decade since Vietnamese migration. From her teenage self in Vietnam, wearing an áo dài, to her present-day self, the artwork honours the resilience and contributions of Vietnamese migrants over the past 50 years.

"Going to Richmond was a seminal experience for me as a young Vietnamese Australian," Viet-My Bui said. "It was a time where I was surrounded by people who looked and sounded like me, who spoke my language. It was a time where my mum seemed most vibrant. I took these trips for granted as a child, and I look back at them so fondly now."



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/50years](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/50years) to learn more and discover upcoming events



## Increased support for our Neighbourhood Houses

Yarra City Council has committed over \$3.4 million in funding to its nine Neighbourhood Houses for the next four years.

This decision ensures annual funding increases of 3.5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is higher.

These community hubs play a vital role in fostering social connections and enhancing wellbeing. Additionally, the Neighbourhood Houses are now eligible to access the Yarra Community Grants Program for new initiatives.



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses) and learn more about our Neighbourhood Houses

## Advocacy in action: securing wins for Yarra

Yarra City Council has been advocating strongly on behalf of our community to secure funding and support from both State and Federal Governments — delivering real outcomes that support our climate emergency response and community priorities.

With support from the Australian Government, Council has secured **\$2.9 million** to transition Collingwood Leisure Centre from gas to all-electric energy, helping to cut **400 tonnes** of emissions each year.

Council has also secured **\$400,000** from the Victorian Government's 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program to deliver four new neighbourhood batteries at community facilities across Yarra, helping store locally generated solar power for nearby residents.

**Advocacy efforts haven't stopped there. Council continues to push for:**

- More affordable and social housing in Yarra, with the Mayor raising this directly with both State and Federal Housing Ministers.
- Greater support for Local Government priorities, which the Mayor highlighted in one of the first meetings with the new Victorian Minister for Local Government in February.
- Victorian Government support to commemorate 50 years of Vietnamese migration, with Council inviting the State to partner on this important milestone.



## Fire risk: Dispose of vapes and batteries safely

Vapes and batteries don't belong in your bins!

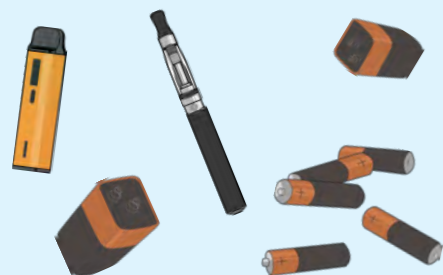
These hazardous items can spark fires, harm the environment, and put waste facility staff at risk.

Our recycling partner, APR Plastics, has found dangerous materials in waste streams, highlighting the need for proper disposal.

Help protect our community by dropping off vapes, batteries, and other e-waste — like old phones, chargers, and electronic accessories — at designated collection points.



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/wastemap](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/wastemap) and find out your nearest e-waste drop-off location with our interactive map.



## What's on

It's been an exciting start to the year in Yarra — from the vibrant Johnston Street Fiesta to live music at Fairfield in Feb, and the incredible celebration of Victoria's Pride. And there's still plenty more to come, with festivals, walks, music and community events to keep you connected and entertained as we head into the cooler months.

### Walking the Inner Circle Line

Monday 12 May, 10am to 12pm

Meet at the corner of Bowen Crescent and Holtom Street West, Princes Hill at 9.45am

On this walk you will see remnants of the now long-gone Inner Circle suburban train line, including an inspection of what used to be the North Carlton station.



### National Reconciliation Week 2025: Bridging Now to Next 27 May to 3 June, multiple locations

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The NRW 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future. At a time when Australia faces uncertainty in its reconciliation journey, this theme calls on all Australians to step forward together.

Be sure to explore our dedicated collection of works by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, writers and creatives at each of our five library branches.



Horns of Leroy performing at the Night Cat at Leaps and Bounds 2024

# LEAPS AND BOUNDS

### Community clothing swap

Saturday 14 June, 10am to 1pm

Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library, 182-186 St Georges Rd, Fitzroy North

Clear out your closet or find a new outfit at our community clothing swap! Bring along items from your wardrobe that you'd like to donate and swap them out for whatever catches your eye. Adult clothing, all sizes and gender expressions welcome.

### Reclink Community Cup

Sunday 15 June, Victoria Park, Collingwood

Get ready for a big day of footy, fun and live music at the iconic Reclink Community Cup! This much-loved charity match sees local musicians face off against media personalities — all to raise funds for Reclink Australia, helping provide sports, recreation and cultural programs for people experiencing disadvantage. [reclink.org](http://reclink.org)

### Leaps and Bounds Music Festival

Thursday 24 July to Sunday 27 July

Live music venues across Yarra

Yarra's Leaps and Bounds Music Festival is back this winter, celebrating our world-class music scene and the artists, venues and audiences that make it all happen. Keep an eye out for the full lineup and program details closer to the date. [lbmf.com.au](http://lbmf.com.au)

### Open House Melbourne Weekend

Saturday 26 July to Sunday 27 July  
Multiple locations across Yarra

Open House Melbourne Weekend is Australia's largest celebration of architecture, design and the built environment — and this year, Yarra is proud to be a precinct partner.

There's so much to explore across Yarra, from a brand-new heritage walk in Richmond marking 50 years of Vietnamese migration to Victoria, to a packed program of events celebrating our diverse history and vibrant communities.

[openhousemelbourne.org](http://openhousemelbourne.org)

### Services and activities for residents 65+

Looking for ways to stay active and connected? Yarra Council offers community transport, social groups, exercise and art classes, meal delivery and community lunches for residents aged 65+. To find out more, call 9205 5555 and speak with our friendly team.



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/events](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/events) to learn more and discover upcoming events



## Helping local businesses thrive

We're making it easier to do business in Yarra.

Our Business Concierge program received **483 enquiries** last year.

Through tailored, one-on-one support from our economic development team, the program helps our community:

- Determine which permits and registrations they need
- Navigate different Council departments
- Open businesses more efficiently



Scan the QR code to visit [yarracity.vic.gov.au/business](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/business) to find out more and get in touch.

### 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)

### Speak your language

If your language is not listed below, please call our interpreter service on **9280 1940** and quote REF 20334.

Italiano 9280 1931 中文 9280 1937 Ελληνικά 9280 1934  
Español 9280 1935 العربية 9280 1930 Tiếng Việt 9280 1939

## Thanks for treating our staff with respect

Our staff are the heartbeat of Yarra.

They keep our streets clean and safe, care for our children, support our older and vulnerable neighbours, and keep our libraries, gyms and community services running smoothly.

Unfortunately, instances of abuse and harassment towards our frontline staff still occur.

It's never okay for anyone to face disrespect at work — whether that's in person, on the phone or online.

By treating staff with kindness and respect, we create a safer, more welcoming community for everyone. Thank you for your support.

