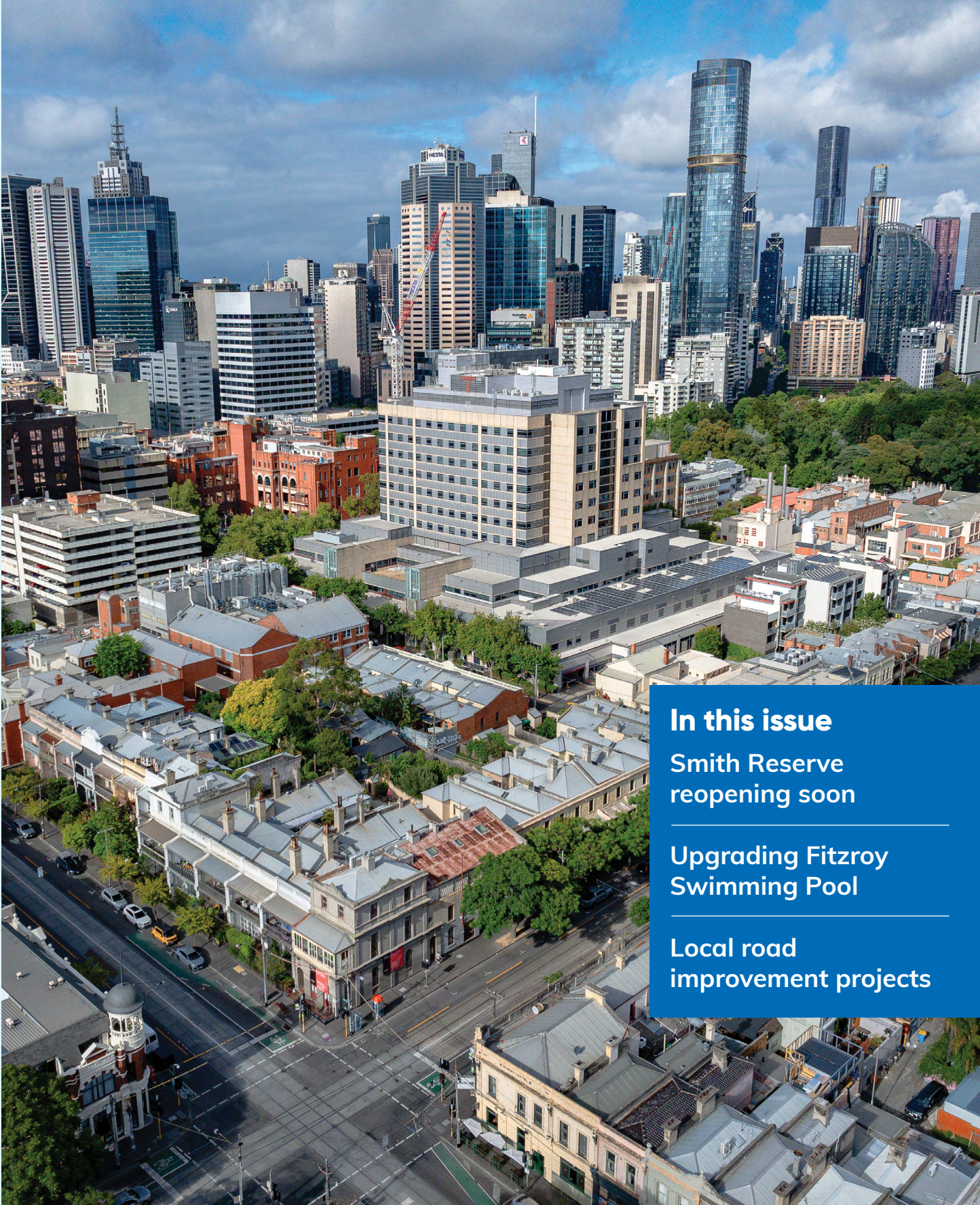


JULY / AUGUST 2025

yarranews



MACKILLOP WARD UPDATE INSIDE | Pages 6 and 7



In this issue

Smith Reserve
reopening soon

Upgrading Fitzroy
Swimming Pool

Local road
improvement projects

Your Councillors

To find more about your Ward Councillors visit 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
0427 731 722



CURTAIN WARD
Cr Edward Crossland
edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0400 326 812



HODDLE WARD
Cr Sophie Wade
sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0400 570 763



LANGRIDGE WARD
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evangeline.aston@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0427 279 953



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,

Last month, the Council approved the first Budget of this term. I have said for the past six months, this is the most important Budget we will deliver in our history. It is designed to set Yarra up to accommodate the population growth the State Government has predicted.

The Budget provides more than \$35m for capital works across Yarra, building communities and supporting residents now and into the future.

Highlights include:

- \$3.2 million for the new Yambla Pavilion at Quarries Park, Clifton Hill
- \$5.8 million to create and upgrade parks and open spaces
- \$4.2 million to repair ageing stormwater drains
- \$2.3 million to upgrade Collingwood Leisure Centre, including getting the centre off gas
- \$300,000 for the next stage of the Richmond Library upgrade
- \$100,000 design funding for an all-weather futsal court beside Atherton Gardens public housing in Fitzroy (with an additional \$200,000 to be provided by the Victorian Government).

I would encourage you to read the centre pages to see what we are doing in your local community.

This edition of Yarra News also features Council's pioneering LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study, the first of its kind in Victoria, which maps and celebrates places of importance to queer communities who have long called Yarra home. I'm proud that we're safeguarding this history for future generations.

Council is moving forward on its proposal to deliver genuinely affordable housing for key and essential workers that are otherwise locked outside Yarra's housing market.

Yarra's thriving hospitality and health sectors rely on key and essential workers to keep them going. I've been discussing Yarra's proposal with Federal and State Ministers and MPs to get their buy-in. Watch this space as we progress this important project.

Thank you once again for helping shape this landmark Budget. I look forward to delivering these projects with you and for you, and to continuing our work to make Yarra an even better place to live, work and play.

Cr Stephen Jolly
Mayor City of Yarra



Latest news

Revitalisation plan for Victoria Street underway

Yarra City Council has announced the development of a Urban Renewal Strategy for Victoria Street in partnership with local businesses, residents and the private sector.

The Plan will include a range of short, medium and long-term targeted interventions, including greening and beautifying public spaces, as well as making them safer. It will also look to foster a more vibrant and resilient local economy by working closely with existing traders and exploring ways to encourage new investment.

Federal Government invests in Linear Parklands

The Federal Government has committed \$3.75m for Linear Parklands in Fitzroy North.

The funding will support Council to upgrade the playground, incorporating Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung nature play elements for children, and the basketball and volleyball courts. The surrounding parklands can be revitalised with furniture and facilities, native vegetation and a rain garden.

The upgrades would form part of Yarra City Council's Linear Parklands Masterplan, which is a 20-year vision to deliver the largest creation of green space in the inner city.

Keep an eye out for our community consultation over the coming months to share your input and help shape the design and delivery of upgrades to the park.

Victoria Street sites commemorate 50 years of Vietnamese migration

To mark 50 years since Vietnamese migration to Australia, Yarra Council has installed commemorative plaques at 13 culturally significant sites along Victoria Street. These sites — including the Chợ Bến Thành Clock Tower and the locations of the first Vietnamese newspaper, furniture store, and more — celebrate the rich entrepreneurial and cultural contributions of the Vietnamese community. Since the arrival of refugees in the 1970s, Victoria Street has grown into a vibrant hub of Vietnamese life in Melbourne. Visit our website to learn more about this milestone and how we're honouring it.



Andrew Negrelli

Bringing home the silver medal to Yarra

Congratulations to Princes Hill resident Andrew Negrelli, who represented Australia in the Special Olympics' World Winter Games in Turin, Italy in March.

Andrew has been skiing for more than 20 years and achieved some fantastic results in his first international competition. With his parents cheering him on, he claimed a silver medal and finished second in the Giant Slalom.

He also competed in the Super Giant Slalom (5th place) and the general Slalom (7th place).

"I was going in there hoping I can do my best and give it my all, and then I ended up with a medal," Andrew said.

"It's a huge achievement, it was my first time wearing the green and gold and to get a silver medal, I was really proud of that."



Find out more at
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 for details. All meetings are live streamed at yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast

- 12 August 2025 - Council Meeting
- 9 September 2025 - Council Meeting

Free parking trial now underway in Richmond

A 12-month trial offering one hour of free parking on Victoria Street, Bridge Road and Swan Street began on 1 July, giving shoppers more reason to visit and stay local.

Council introduced the trial to offer additional support to Richmond businesses and to revitalise our main shopping strips.

These businesses offer essential goods, services and employment to our community. Local businesses are the heartbeat of Yarra, and our residents want to support them. The free parking trial removes the barrier of parking costs and encourages more people to shop in these precincts.

The one-hour free parking zones will be clearly marked with signage. **Even though the first hour is free, you must start the meter or PayStay app to ensure you do not receive a fine.** You will not be charged for the first hour. Any time after your first free hour will be charged at the standard hourly rate.



For more information about the trial, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/free-parking



Linear Parklands revitalisation

Advocacy pays off for the Yarra community

Advocacy is one of Council's most important responsibilities because it's how we secure funding from other levels of government to fund local projects and services.

By working with our local members in the lead up to the Federal Election, we secured \$3.7 million from the Federal Government to revitalise Linear Parklands, spanning across Princes Hill, Carlton North and Fitzroy North. Anticipated uses include playground upgrades, new furniture and facilities, and native vegetation.

In its 2025/26 Budget, the Victorian Government allocated \$314,000 to the Richmond Youth Hub; \$165,000 to the Learning Bank on Victoria Street, and \$200,000 towards a futsal court at Atherton Reserve.

Earlier this year, the Deputy Mayor took the Federal Member for Cooper, Ged Kearney MP, on a tour of Yambla Pavilion in Clifton Hill, to meet young people who will benefit from the Federal Government's injection of \$2.25 million to upgrade the facility.

Cremorne temporary open space

We've launched a new temporary open space in Cremorne in front of the heritage listed State School building on Cremorne Street (85 Cremorne Street, Cremorne).

The space has been developed in close collaboration with Kangan Institute. This is a temporary open space being made available while we actively pursue opportunities to provide more, much needed, permanent open space in Cremorne.



Scan the QR code to stay up to date about current and future works in Cremorne or visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/cremorne

Submissions

We're working to ensure our community's interests are represented in key Victorian Government decisions. In the past few months, Yarra has lodged submissions to the:

- **Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers**, urging the Victorian Government to fully assess the condition and redevelopment potential of each tower before proceeding with works.
- **Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Victoria Strategy**, highlighting the importance of housing growth being matched by State and Federal Government investment in infrastructure and services
- **Parliamentary Inquiry into Victoria Planning Provisions amendments (VC257, VC267 and VC274)**, emphasising proper community consultation for the amendments is essential to ensure trust from the community.



From food scraps to flourishing gardens

Meet Elizabeth, a keen volunteer at Railway House Community Garden in Carlton North. Her background in research science informs her approach to growing food, but producing a successful harvest comes with a few challenges. "We struggle to produce enough good compost to meet our needs," Elizabeth said.

To address this issue, Council is bridging the gap by supplying compost created from material collected in our food and garden organics (FOGO) bins to community growing spaces.

The program is funded in partnership with the Victorian Government through Sustainability Victoria's Circular Economy Organics Councils Fund, which helps councils turn kerbside organics into high-quality soil products.



Want to see a circular economy in action, or join a community garden yourself? Scan the QR code to learn more or visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/circular-economy

The 12 major 2025/26 Budget highlights

Yarra's 2025/26 Budget was formally approved by councilors on 17 June. Along with everything happening in your ward, here are 12 key projects we'll be embarking on across the City over the next 12 months.

Key improvements include:

- 1 Victoria Street, Richmond**
\$550,000 to revitalise the street with improvements to support traders.
- 2 Fitzroy Futsal Court**
\$100,000 for a new all-weather futsal facility near the Atherton Gardens public housing estate in Fitzroy.
- 3 Yarralea Kindergarten**
\$300,000 to redevelop Yarralea Kindergarten in Alphington.
- 4 Richmond Library upgrade**
\$300,000 for improvements to Richmond Library.
- 5 Pools and Leisure Centres upgrades**
\$2.33 million for Collingwood Leisure Centre, \$55,000 for Fitzroy Swimming Pool (gym and lockers) and \$30,000 for Richmond Leisure Centre (pool tiling).
- 6 Yambla Pavilion**
\$3.2 million to construct the new Yambla Pavilion at Quarries Park, Clifton Hill.
- 7 Kevin Bartlett Reserve**
\$335,000 to improve playing surfaces, along with \$200,000 to design the new Gillon Pavilion.
- 8 Parks and open spaces**
\$5.8 million towards creating and improving parks and open spaces across Yarra.
- 9 Cycling infrastructure**
\$1.16 million for expanded cycling infrastructure across Yarra.
- 10 Drainage improvements and renewals**
\$4.2 million to repair and replace stormwater drains in parts of the City.
- 11 Road safety works**
\$2.2 million in road safety improvements on identified streets and busy thoroughfares.
- 12 Electric vehicles (EV)**
\$100,000 to deliver and install more charging points for EV users across Yarra.



Scan the QR code to view our full approved Budget or search 'Council Budget' at yarracity.vic.gov.au

Your rates help keep Yarra running

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 — from leafy parks and welcoming libraries to seniors' programs, children's services and safer local roads.

This year, general rate revenue increases are capped at 3% in line with the Victorian State Government's rate cap.

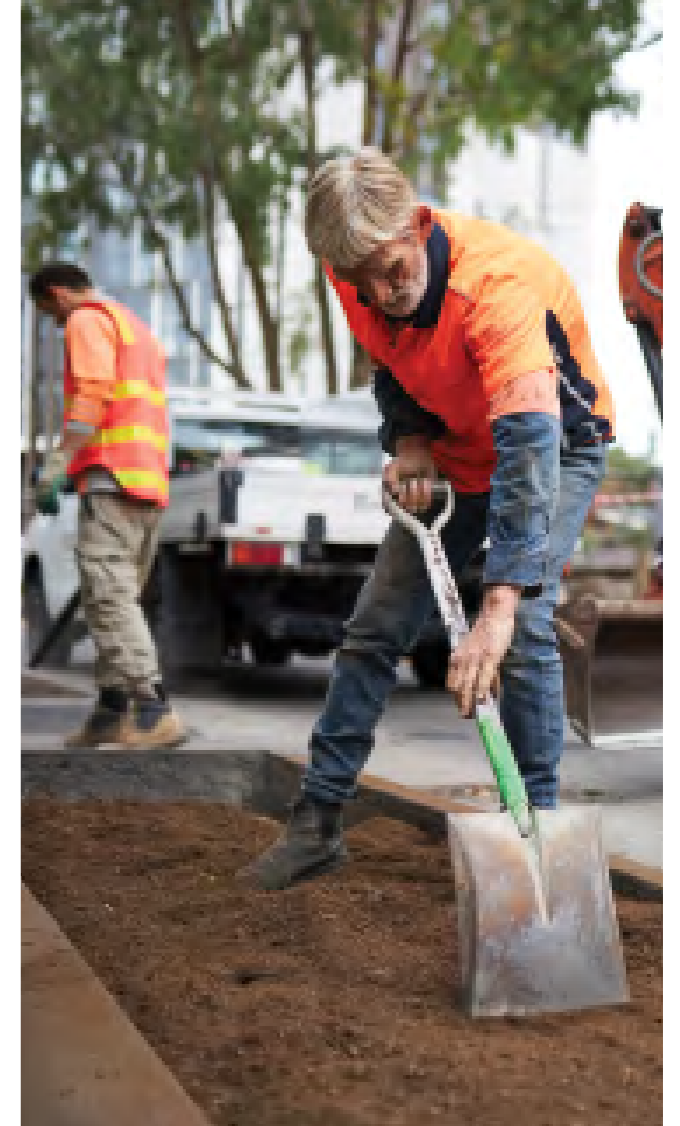
Your rates may change by more or less than 3%. This is because rates are calculated based on the value of your individual property in comparison to others in the municipality. Council does not receive more revenue if your property value increases.

New for 2025/26: State Government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund Levy

From 1 July 2025 the Victorian Government will replace the Fire Services Property Levy with the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF). Council opposes the levy and will continue to campaign against it. This includes seeking legal advice to ascertain whether council can refuse to collect it and whether there is potential for a legal challenge to the instruction to collect the ESVF. Council will also be reaching out to other councils and interested groups to collectively advocate against the levy.

The ESVF will appear as a separate line on your rates notice and be clearly designated as a State Government charge, not a Council charge.

For further information on concessions, volunteers and how the levy may impact you, visit the Victorian Government's website: dtf.vic.gov.au/emergencyservices-and-volunteers-fund



Need a hand?

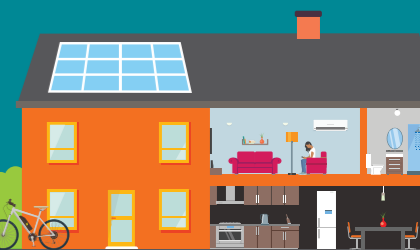
Life happens. If you think you'll struggle to pay or you're already behind, get in touch early. Our Rates team can arrange a confidential, flexible payment plan and help you avoid extra costs. Friendly, local support is only a phone call away on **9205 5555**.



Explore your options or create an eNotices account: Scan the QR code on your notice or visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates

Solar Savers program expanded

Solar Savers is going all electric! Solar Savers can now help you electrify, go solar and save energy, with quotes from a panel of trusted suppliers. Get multiple quotes from pre-vetted suppliers for solar, efficient electric heating/cooling and hot water, induction cooking, insulation, draught proofing and home energy assessments. Learn more at solarsavers.org.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. Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to find out more.

Draft Community Infrastructure and draft 10-Year Asset Plans are open for community feedback. Both have been informed by engagement for the Council Plan 2025-29. The 10-Year Asset Plan is a roadmap that helps Council understand the long-term impacts of asset decisions and ensure they are used effectively. The Community Infrastructure Plan sets the strategic framework to guide Council's community infrastructure planning to respond to the needs of the community. Read the draft Plans and tell us what you think by **9am on 11 August 2025** (subject to Council approval).

Local Law review

Community feedback earlier this year drew 471 survey responses during our comprehensive consultation that included nine pop-up events and targeted stakeholder sessions. The engagement report is now available on the Your Say Yarra website. Using your input, Council is drafting a new Local Law. The draft will go to Council later this year, and the community will be given further opportunity to give feedback.

YOUR SAY
YARRA



What's on

Leaps and Bounds Music Festival

Thursday 24 July to Sunday 27 July

Live music venues across Yarra

Each winter, Leaps and Bounds turns Yarra into a celebration of sound. From the pulse of Kennel District at The Punters Club and The Evelyn to the soaring soul of Bumpy & Kee'ahn at Bodriggy Brewing Co, this lineup is a love letter to Yarra's music identity — a genre-spanning smorgasbord of gigs for every punter. lbfm.com.au

Open House Melbourne Weekend

Saturday 26 July to Sunday 27 July

Multiple locations across Yarra

Australia's biggest architecture and design festival comes to Yarra. Explore a new Richmond heritage walk marking 50 years of Vietnamese migration, plus a program celebrating our diverse history and communities. openhousemelbourne.org

Join our Seniors and Sprouts Program

We're inviting 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, empathy and wellbeing. It's a win-win that combats ageism, promotes mental health, and strengthens community ties.

Requirements:

Age 65+, Working with Children Check, police check (assistance available), attendance at an information session. Register with our Positive Ageing Officer on **9205 5555**.



Group nature experience

Explore Yarra's natural spaces with our Nature Connection experiences

Join expert-led walks and hands-on activities to deepen your understanding of local biodiversity, the threats posed by the climate emergency, and how we can build a more resilient urban environment. Whether you want to learn, engage or simply unwind, these events offer a chance to connect with nature and your community. Visit our **Take Climate Action** webpage for more details.

The Adaptation Game (TAG) Yarra

Join a facilitated, story-driven tabletop experience tackling real-world climate adaptation challenges in Yarra. Collaborate, think creatively and learn together. No prior knowledge needed, just curiosity and willingness to play. Whether you're deeply involved in climate work or just starting out, TAG Yarra offers a fun, immersive way to explore solutions. Register your interest on our website to play!



Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/events to learn more and discover more events.

Protecting and celebrating LGBTIQ+ cultural heritage in Yarra

Yarra has long been a safe, vibrant home for Melbourne's LGBTIQ+ community, and a new Council study has mapped this history for future generations. The LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study identifies 91 Yarra sites tied to activism, community services, events and businesses.

Three key places are recommended for Heritage Overlays in the Yarra Planning Scheme: The Laird Hotel, the former Morning Star Hotel and 3CR Community Radio (all in Abbotsford and Collingwood). The study was developed with input from the community, local organisations, Heritage Victoria, the Australian Queer Archives and Yarra's Rainbow and Heritage Advisory Committees.



Crowd at the Night Cat Leaps and Bounds 2024



Active, healthy and connected for life

Through the Commonwealth Home Support Program, Yarra Council helps older residents stay active, socially connected, and eating well. Below are three of our most popular programs and services, available to eligible individuals and community groups.

Community transport

Our accessible buses can pick you up and take you to shopping trips, Neighborhood Houses, health centres and Willowview.

Meals at Home and in the community

We deliver nutritious meals right to your door, or you can join others for an affordable lunch at the Djerring Centre in Collingwood.

Willowview social support

Enjoy exercise classes like chair yoga, craft, gardening, cooking and outings; with morning tea, lunch and return bus transport included.

Find out more

To check eligibility or learn about more services, call Senior Support Services on **9205 5285**

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
- Sign up for our community engagement e-news and have your say on projects at yoursayyarra.com.au
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra)
- Register for our monthly e-news at 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 20422.

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Español 9280 1935 العربية 9280 1930 Tiếng Việt 9280 1939

This edition of Yarra News has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

**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.

