

MELBA WARD UPDATE

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**Shop local
this summer**

Fresh turf at
Citizens Park

Bridge Road pop-up
park now open

MELBA WARD UPDATE | Richmond

It's been exciting to see new projects come to life across Richmond. Citizens Park has a fresh new playing surface and a handy new drinking fountain for park users and their dogs. The Bridge Road pop-up park is now open and already proving popular with locals and traders alike.

Thank you to everyone who has come along and raised local issues at my two ward meetings this year. Please keep an eye on your letterbox and online for details of my next meeting in February.

As Christmas and summer arrive, it's a great time to shop local – whether it's homewares and design along Church Street, food and fashion on Bridge Road, or the vibrant mix of dining and culture on Victoria Street. And don't forget our one-hour free parking trial, making it even easier to support our local businesses.

Wishing you and your loved ones a safe and happy summer.

Cr Meca Ho | Melba Ward

My highlights from the past year

Victoria Street Lunar Festival

Mark your calendars for Sunday 1 February 2026, when the Victoria Street Lunar Festival returns to celebrate the Year of the Horse. It's one of our biggest and most vibrant local events — with delicious street food, live entertainment and cultural performances. A huge thank you to the Victoria Street Traders Association for bringing this much-loved celebration to life each year.

Citizens Park

Council has been busy maintaining and improving one of Yarra's most popular open spaces. The main oval at Citizens Park in Richmond has been returfed, making it safer and more durable for our community and ready for cricket season. Thank you to all the regular visitors for staying off the oval while works were completed in September.

Access for all

As Councillor for Melba Ward (most of Richmond) I am committed to making our community more inclusive and accessible for people with a disability. Through our Access All Abilities programs at Richmond Recreation Centre, we provide tailored gym and swimming classes designed to support people of all abilities to stay active and connected.

The Richmond Library offers accessible spaces and inclusive programs that welcome everyone to participate. Council's Access and Inclusion Policy is currently being developed to guide future improvements across our services and facilities. I would encourage community members to share their experiences and ideas—get in touch if you'd like your feedback included in this work.

Shop local this festive season and support your community

This Christmas and holiday season, spend your money where it counts — right here in Yarra! Shopping 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. Yarra's 12 precincts each have their own unique character.

Melba Ward features a stylish mix of shopping and dining options, with Church Street leading the way in homewares and design, and nearby Bridge Road and Victoria Street offering everything from café culture to international cuisine. It's a diverse and welcoming corner of



Yarra, where every precinct has something to explore.

Plus, every local purchase helps keep money within our community and supports the businesses that help Yarra thrive. Learn more by searching 'Retail and service precincts' at yarracity.vic.gov.au

Enjoy your local parks

With the warmer weather kicking in, it's the perfect time to head out for a picnic, a walk or a play and spend time in Yarra's fantastic parks. We have more than 60 open spaces across the City for you, your family and (in some spots) your four-legged friends to enjoy.

Some of the great local parks you can visit in **Melba Ward** include Citizens Park, Williams Reserve, and the Lennox and Butler Street Park.

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.
- Amplified music is not allowed 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.

Find your nearest park or playground on the 'Parks, reserves and playgrounds' page at yarracity.vic.gov.au

Working for You

Local projects in your area

WORKING
FOR YOU



Improvements to Citizens Park

Richmond's Citizens Park has had a series of works completed focusing on its main oval and other amenities surrounding it.

The oval was freshly returfed recently, delivering a safer, more durable playing surface for our community. The upgrade readied the ground for the Richmond Union Cricket Club's season and will better support year-round use by football and cricket clubs, dog owners, personal trainers and neighbouring Richmond High School.

Additionally, we recently repaired the netting behind the goal posts at the Gleadell Street end of the oval, and we've installed a new drinking fountain with a dog bowl at the Highett Street end near the Jack Dyer Community Centre.



Diverting hard rubbish from landfill

Every month, Council workers action more than 1,000 hard rubbish bookings across the municipality. In the past calendar year, our hard rubbish crew removed 2,400 tonnes of hard rubbish from booked collections.

Hard rubbish collected by our crew is transported to the Clifton Hill Depot, where recyclable items such as metal, mattresses, and white goods are separated for processing by our external recycling partners. Over the past year, about 30% of hard rubbish was successfully diverted from landfill.



Bridge Road pop-up park

In mid-September, we installed the new pop-up park on Bridge Road outside the old Richmond Police Station and next to Richmond Town Hall.

After ordering a kit of parts, our workers assembled pieces of street furniture which were placed in the forecourt, accompanied by new garden beds and planter boxes. The creation of the park has been warmly welcomed with lots of positive feedback received from members of the local traders' association.



Drainage upgrades on Lennox Street

Works are complete on the upgrade to stormwater drainage on Lennox Street in Richmond, between Elizabeth Street and Little Butler Street. The \$270,000 upgrade was required as the clay stormwater pipes reached the end of their useful life. The works included replacing the pipes with new reinforced concrete pipes, renewing the drainage pits and reinstating the roadway.



New accessible ramp at Finbar Neighbourhood House

This month, we'll be installing an accessible parking ramp out the front of Finbar Neighbourhood House on Kent Street in Richmond. It will make it easier for visitors who have a pram or wheelchair to enter the building. The project is likely to be completed over a week in mid-November.



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