

# MACKILLOP WARD UPDATE

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## Relax at the Gertrude Street corner

Yarra Youth Centre improvements

Better footpaths on Nicholson Street



## MACKILLOP WARD UPDATE | Fitzroy

I hope you've had a pleasant start to 2026.

Towards the end of last year, I was proud to see our new Live Music Precincts strategy approved at our final Council meeting, and we're now moving to get this introduced into an amendment in the Yarra Planning Scheme. This will give greater protection and support to pubs and venues in Fitzroy and other parts of Yarra and ensure live music remains a valuable part of our City's fabric.

I'm also proud of the wins we've had so far in the fight to maintain cohealth's services operating in Yarra, and continuing the campaign for the future of Atherton Gardens and other public housing towers in our City. There was a great turnout at the community event in mid-December with the kids' soccer tournament also taking place.

And near the estate, it's great to see some fantastic work completed at our open spaces and facilities. The newly-opened Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner site is looking great, and the improvements to the Yarra Youth Centre on Napier Street look fantastic as well.

**Cr Stephen Jolly | MacKillop Ward**

## Advocacy priorities for MacKillop Ward

Our adopted Advocacy Roadmap is shaping our requests to the Victorian and Federal governments. Read more on pages 4 and 5.

The Roadmap calls on the Federal and Victorian governments to work with cohealth to reverse its decision to reduce GP, pharmacy and counselling services in Fitzroy, which will affect the communities that need them most.

We call on the Victorian Government to stop demolition of Yarra's public housing estates and retain public land for public housing. It must also act to protect our live music industry, restore the Brunswick Street Festival, enhance sports facilities, and provide sufficient community infrastructure for our growing population.

## Gertrude Street Corner Revitalisation

Our revitalised open space on the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick streets is open for the whole community to enjoy.

Council worked closely with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, and Homes Victoria to bring the \$550,000 project to life, which was first identified when we compiled the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan.

The new space is filled with trees, native shrubs and greenery as well as a new water fountain and lighting, bespoke furniture and decorative and functional rock work.

It is a place for residents, visitors, and families to gather, relax, and enjoy the vibrancy of our City.



Creating this space is a small but significant step to ensure that Fitzroy continues to thrive as a welcoming and inclusive neighbourhood.

## Our new bin baskets are here!

We've made it easier for you to recycle on the go and have attached 20 baskets to key outdoor bins in Yarra.

The baskets are designed to keep recyclables out of landfill and support Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme. You can place cans, bottles and cartons in the baskets and give other people the chance to earn 10 cents for each item they return to a collection point.

The baskets have been placed across all nine wards in Yarra — in **MacKillop Ward**, you can find them attached to bins at **Atherton Gardens**.

For the full list of locations, scan the QR code to find your nearest park or search 'Baskets' at [yarracity.vic.gov.au](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au)



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## Local projects in your area

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### Outdoor improvements at the Yarra Youth Centre

The Yarra Youth Centre has been given some valuable enhancements near its front entrance.

Two shade sails have been installed over its outdoor courtyard, at a cost of \$34,000. These will provide shelter from the sun, wind and rain and allow the space to be used better for activities in a range of conditions.

The centre's street garden bed facing Napier Street has also been given a makeover with new native groundcovers and small shrubs. It was one of the larger sites out of 67 street garden beds which Council has renewed across the municipality.



### Footpath improvements in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy

We've completed footpath works in three locations along Nicholson Street in Fitzroy. These works resolved cracking and tripping hazards. At a cost of \$30,000, these upgrades have delivered safer and smoother surfaces for pedestrians to walk, cycle and wheel on.



### New public toilet signage

We've updated signage on our automated public toilets across Yarra. The new signage is more durable and helps people receive the correct information upon entry.

These toilets are open from 7am to 10pm daily, and there are two you can use locally.

- Corner of Victoria Street and Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
- Corner of Peel Street and Smith Street, Collingwood (Hoddle Ward border)

A third toilet, on the corner of Kerr Street and Smith Street in Fitzroy, is temporarily closed for repairs until early 2026.



### Drainage works at Palmer Street, Fitzroy

Minor drainage improvement works have been completed on Palmer Street, Fitzroy, near the intersection with Fleet Street. The works involved a small culvert improvement and the installation of an additional inspection opening to assist with surface water flow at this location and make future maintenance and cleaning easier.



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