

HODDLE WARD (COLLINGWOOD) UPDATE

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New open space in Collingwood

Collingwood Leisure
Centre upgrade

Continuing our
cohealth fight



HODDLE WARD UPDATE | Collingwood

Thank you to everyone who attended my Summer Ward meetings. So many things were discussed – green open spaces, bins, trees, bikes, business, crime, walking everywhere, and more.

The fifth annual Pride Street Party was a fabulous day, and all the more needed in light of difficult news for the LGBTIQ+ community around the world (including, sadly, targeted attacks on the community in Melbourne). Pride was a way to say that you are loved, you belong, and Collingwood will always welcome you!

I'm extremely passionate about creating more open space here in Collingwood, and I'm absolutely stoked to announce that we're officially turning two roads to parks in the suburb's north under our Roads to Parks program (which really does what it says on the tin!). Draft designs were released in record time, and I look forward to seeing what you had to say!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me on any issues and ideas you have for Collingwood at any time!

Cr Sophie Wade | Hoddle Ward



Exploring new open space in Collingwood

Council is continuing to deliver more open space to Collingwood through our Roads to Parks program, which is part of our Open Space Strategy.

This involves closing small sections of existing roads and making them into pocket parks, and filling the area with trees, seating, lawn areas and other features. Previous examples include Otter Street Park and Cambridge Street Reserve.

The new ones on the way are at the corner of Mater Street and Wellington Street (near the Salvation Army site) and on Budd Street (near the substation on Easey Street).

The community was recently invited to provide feedback on the proposed new parks and consultation closed on 13 April.



We are currently analysing and considering the feedback received. We also advertised a road closure proposal for each site which was open for submissions between January and February.

For more information, go to yarracity.vic.gov.au/new-open-spaces

Australian Heritage Festival 2026

This year's Australian Heritage Festival, presented by the National Trust, is on from 18 April to 18 May. It invites us to explore how architectural history shapes us and how we are shaping history through the 2026 theme 'Change'.

There are plenty of landmarks in **Collingwood** which have local significance, including the Yorkshire Brewery, Singleton Dispensary, (the original site of community healthcare in

Collingwood), The Peel Hotel, Collingwood Post Office and the Tannery and Boot Factory.

For full festival details, visit nationaltrust.org.au/ahf

You can also discover Yarra's heritage precincts with one of our self-guided walks, available to download at yarracity.vic.gov.au/heritage-walks

2026 Yarra Community Grants recipients

We're delighted to have awarded more than \$1.06m to 70 local projects and initiatives as part of our Community Grants funding round for 2026.

The Yarra Grants Program funds community-driven projects that improve access to, and the quality of, social, economic and cultural life across the neighbourhoods, shared spaces and communities of the City of Yarra.

Successful organisations and projects based in **Collingwood** included Second Chance Cycles, the Bent Twig Alliance, and ILBIJERRI Theatre Company.



Scan the QR code for the full list of recipients and to find out more about the program, or go to yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarra-grants

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Local projects in your area

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Collingwood Leisure Centre electrification update

We are pleased to provide further details on our major upgrades to Collingwood Leisure Centre, with the major focus on taking the centre off gas.

The electrification of the centre will transition it from being powered by gas to 100% renewable electricity. This will be achieved by removing the existing gas boilers and installing efficient electric heat pumps, and carrying out other works which will improve energy efficiency at the centre.

To carry out this transformation, works have begun in Mayors Park to extend the plant yard and install a new substation kiosk. Further works will continue throughout 2026, and you can view the planned schedule at our dedicated project page on Council's website.

The project is being funded by a \$2.9m grant from the Federal Government and equivalent funding from Council. Once complete, all users can expect major, eco-friendly improvements to



their comfort and safety inside the centre, including improved heating and air flow, and the introduction of cooling inside the pool hall and changerooms.

Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/collingwood-leisure-centre-electrification

Continuing to fight for cohealth

In October 2025, cohealth announced the closure of its Collingwood clinic and that it would stop offering GP, pharmacy, and general counselling services at its Fitzroy and Kensington clinics.

Immediate, strong advocacy from Council and the community saw the Federal Government inject \$1.5 million to ensure free GP services would continue operating until 31 July. The Federal and Victorian Governments have also co-commissioned an independent review.

Council has lodged a submission and was interviewed by the review panel. We advised that the community's central concern is that any outcome beyond 31 July ensures vulnerable residents retain safe, sustainable access to primary healthcare.