

MACKILLOP WARD UPDATE

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Making Brunswick Street safer

MacKillop's community grants recipients

Footpath improvements in Fitzroy

MACKILLOP WARD UPDATE | Fitzroy

Thank you to everyone who came along to my Ward meeting in March. It was great to connect with locals and provide updates on several great projects which are taking shape in Fitzroy. A special thank you as well to those who tuned into my live stream of the meeting through Instagram.

We've seen a real surge in capital works projects delivered here in Fitzroy, mainly focusing on footpaths, drainage and road safety. Progress is also being made on our concept designs to improve Garryowen Reserve and deliver the new Futsal Court at Atherton Gardens.

Advocacy to ensure cohealth maintains its services beyond 31 July is also continuing. We want to ensure vulnerable residents retain safe, sustainable access to primary healthcare.

It was great to see so many people enjoying our street festivals as part of the summer events season. Fitzroy was really buzzing with the Johnston Street Fiesta and Victoria's Pride Street Party. The Australian Heritage Festival is on this month so if you're into local architecture, check out some of the local heritage walks and our nearby landmarks.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all the local recipients in the Yarra Community Grants funding round. I look forward to seeing the great projects from community groups in our ward come to life.

Cr Stephen Jolly | MacKillop Ward

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 **MacKillop Ward** included 3CR Community Radio, Fitzroy Somali Women's Group and Atherton Gardens Estate Chinese Choir.



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

Working on creating a safer Brunswick Street in Fitzroy

Council is investigating options to make Brunswick Street in Fitzroy safer and more welcoming for everyone.

We've completed a Crime Prevention safety audit throughout the Brunswick Street precinct, which included site assessments and consultation with Victoria Police and business owners.

This audit identified a series of priority improvements to be considered for the area, including:

- Laneway lighting
- Targeted surveillance options
- Graffiti and facade maintenance
- Pedestrian movement at the intersection with Johnston Street
- Seating near public amenities.



Council is now investigating potential capital works projects which can address these priorities. These will be submitted for consideration in our program for the 2027 financial year.

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'.

MacKillop Ward features some of Melbourne's most intact 19th-Century streetscapes, with iconic corridors like Brunswick Street and Nicholson Street. Its character is shaped by bluestone laneways and the extension of the Hoddle Grid, alongside institutions such as the former Convent of Mercy.

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



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Minor upgrades at Fitzroy Swimming Pool

Maintenance works were completed at Fitzroy Swimming Pool in late January. These included replacing a faulty shower head and ceiling fan and repairing a bench seat in the women's changeroom.

The works were completed during a busy period at the Fitzroy Swimming Pool, which hosted plenty of activities as part of its Summer Series. These included Storytime by the Pool, DJ sets as part of Sound Waves, and various lawn games. The pool also hosted the Northside Pride Pool Party with more than 350 attendees as part of the Midsumma Festival.

New public toilet on Kerr Street

A new public toilet has been installed on Kerr Street, Fitzroy to replace the old facility, which was deemed unusable after severe vandalism. The works were covered by Council's insurer and included installation of the new toilet, along with asphalt reinstatement, a new meter connection, vinyl wrap and signage. This provides new and more comfortable amenities to the area after the old toilet was closed in October 2025.



Repairing footpaths across Fitzroy

Council repaired two footpath sections in parts of Fitzroy in February. The first job was on Gore Street, near Charles Street, as part of the old footpath had become uneven and damaged due to tree-related heaving and cracking. This actioned us to reconstruct and resurface the affected section, to provide a smoother, safer and more accessible surface for pedestrians. The cost of the works was \$10,000.

We also completed similar works near a property on Westgarth Street, grading the pavement which had become uneven due to tree root impacts. The resident noted that the smoother transition had made a meaningful difference for pram and wheelchair access, and thanked workers for their attention to detail.

Napier Street speed bump

We installed a new speed bump on Napier Street in Fitzroy in late February, between Charles Street and Little Charles Street. Workers also carried out appropriate line marking and installed signage in the works area.

The bump was approved as a traffic calming measure to address ongoing concerns about vehicles travelling at unsafe speeds. This will help reduce the risk of accidents and improve overall safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and nearby residents.



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