

# MELBA WARD UPDATE

Cr Meca Ho | [Meca.Ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:Meca.Ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au) | 0419 844 362



## Revitalising Victoria Street

Melba's community  
grants recipients

Celebrating  
Yarra's heritage



Calico Bakehouse, Victoria Street

## MELBA WARD UPDATE | Richmond

Thank you to everyone who attended my Ward meeting on 21 March. I love connecting with the community and it was great to hear your insights and the local issues and projects you care about.

Council is campaigning for improvements along the Route 78 tram line, which goes through part of our Ward. Many of you also visit Victoria Street, and we're seeking an urgent review into the designs of the tram stops at the Lennox Street intersection and North Richmond Station, which are subject to regular incidents. It's important that we all have access to safe public transport options which are disability compliant and can be used by the whole community.

I'm really excited to see the work continuing on our Victoria Street Revitalisation project and look forward to seeing the draft plans being released shortly. Remember that the one-hour free parking trial is still operating, so be sure to take advantage of it and support our wonderful business owners.

Finally, a huge congratulations to all our recipients in the Yarra Community Grants for this year — we are lucky to have community-minded people with such great ideas living in Melba Ward.

**Cr Meca Ho | Melba Ward**

## Elizabeth Street roadworks underway

We have almost completed resurfacing Elizabeth Street in Richmond.

We reconstructed road humps and relocated the existing bike lane bollards along Elizabeth Street.

These works will improve road quality and reduce disruption for residents and businesses.

The works form part of our broader plans for the Elizabeth Street Cycling Corridor, endorsed at our February meeting, where we agreed to maintain and extend the protected bike route while restoring 45 car parking spaces.



Additional works also include speed cushions on Little Hoddle Street and Regent Street, a contraflow bike lane on Jonas Street, and installation of a bike-friendly grated drain cover.

## Victoria Street Revitalisation update

Council is continuing its work on a long-term revitalisation of Victoria Street in Richmond — a dedicated priority project from our Council Plan.

Our project team has been liaising with business owners and supporting businesses by finding simple ways to beautify the street. We are also exploring projects to return it to one of Yarra's most thriving, safe and attractive destinations. February's annual Lunar New Year Festival was another huge success and highlighted Victoria Street's potential for staging vibrant celebrations and events.

Recent initiatives we have implemented include:

- Graffiti removal on roller doors of shop fronts and properties, with 20 businesses taking part. This has been supported through a Victorian Government grant.
- Planter box installations, in partnership with the Victoria Street Business Association.
- Vietnamese Community 50th Anniversary commemorative marker to recognise the 50-year anniversary of the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in Australia.
- Assessing improvements to street lighting.

We have also formed a Community Reference Group and held a Community Forum. Both of these are providing direct insights to help us with our draft revitalisation plan, which will be released in the coming months.

For more information, go to [yarracity.vic.gov.au/victoria-street-revitalisation-project](http://yarracity.vic.gov.au/victoria-street-revitalisation-project)



# 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 **Melba Ward** which have local significance. These include Richmond Town Hall, the old courthouse and police station, as well as the Gardner Street precinct which has some late Victorian, Edwardian and early interwar housing.

For full festival details, visit [nationaltrust.org.au/ahf](https://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](https://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 **Melba Ward** included North Richmond Community Health, Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House and Richmond West Primary School.



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](https://yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarra-grants)