

YARRA BEND WARD UPDATE

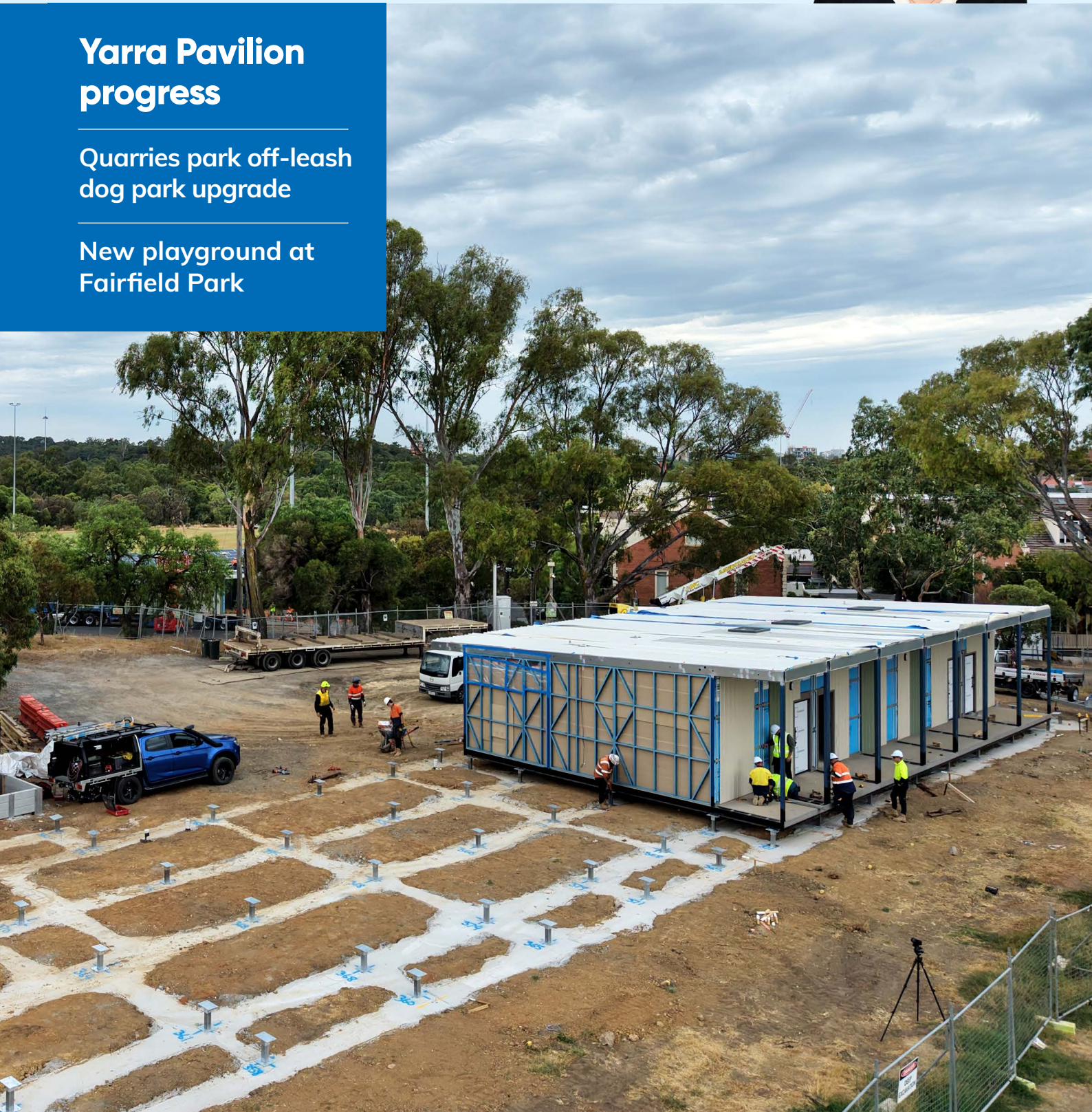
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Yarra Pavilion progress

Quarries park off-leash
dog park upgrade

New playground at
Fairfield Park



YARRA BEND WARD UPDATE | Clifton Hill and parts of Fairfield and Alphington

There is a lot happening across Yarra Bend right now. It is an exciting time for our community, with projects from the 2026 capital works program starting to take shape.

A lot of the action is at Quarries Park. I recently went down to check out the new dog off leash area with Mia the dog, who was very enthusiastic about supervising the works. Importantly, the new space does not change any existing off leash areas. It adds another dedicated area for our growing community of four legged friends, which means more room for everyone to enjoy the park. By the time you are reading this it may already be open, so make sure you head down and take a look.

Next door, the Yambla Pavilion has been craned into place and the finishing touches are underway ahead of its opening, expected around mid May. This will be a fantastic new facility for FC Clifton Hill and for the wider community.

Our Ward is also becoming a real hub for renewable energy. It is great to see all three community batteries now switched on, and work is well underway on the electrification of the Collingwood Leisure Centre, which will make a real difference to emissions and running costs.

Council and I are continuing to push hard to secure cohealth's long term future beyond 31 July. We have made it clear that our community's priority is making sure vulnerable residents continue to have safe, reliable access to primary health care close to home.

And finally, if you are looking for something to do, the Australian Heritage Festival is on until 18 May. It is a great chance to explore local places like the Clifton Hill Shot Tower and learn more about the architectural history of our area. More info is at nationaltrust.org.au/ahf

Cr Sarah McKenzie | Yarra Bend 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 **Yarra Bend Ward** included Red Tag Fly Fishers Club, Friends of Merri Creek and Reground.



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

Exciting projects at Quarries Park!

We are delighted that two huge projects at one of Yarra Bend's best open spaces, Quarries Park in Clifton Hill, are both close to completion.

Off-leash dog park

In fantastic news for our four-legged friends (and their owners), our upgraded off-leash dog park is on track to be ready for use this month!

It will be filled with agility poles, logs and boulders, shelter with seating, a water fountain and garden beds.

There will also be improved drainage in the area, and workers have been busy installing new fencing along Yambla Street and Wright Street to reduce the likelihood of dogs running onto the roads.

Yambla Pavilion

The highly-anticipated new Yambla Pavilion is set to be completed by the end of May.

A major milestone was reached in early February when the new pavilion was installed on site. The pavilion's modular buildings were delivered by oversized vehicles through the back streets of Clifton Hill and then craned in over three days. The FC Clifton Hill president and nearby residents came along to watch them be installed.

Workers are now completing the fit out of the pavilion and landscaping at the site.



Other park updates in Yarra Bend Ward:

Fairfield Park

Works have started on our new play space after a one-month delay. The old playground has been demolished and new play equipment and furniture is beginning to be delivered and installed. It is expected that the playground will be re-opened with its fresh new look in July, subject to weather conditions.

George Knott Reserve

The playground is set for a \$250,000 upgrade after securing funding through the Victorian Government's Pick My Park program. Along with replacing the playground, we'll be exploring more seating, better accessible paths, a wider mix of play elements and dedicated places for people to linger and meet. We'll also investigate if the play space can be shifted closer to existing sports facilities.



Working for You

Local projects in your area

WORKING
FOR YOU



Community batteries now operating

Our four new community batteries are installed and up and running, with three of them located here in Yarra Bend Ward!

As part of our Community Charge Project, we installed batteries at the following locations in Fairfield and Alphington:

- Alphington Park Pavilion
- Maxwell Sutherland Pavilion
- Fairlea Reserve Netball Complex

This was made possible by a grant of almost \$400,000 through the Victorian Government's 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program and a \$44,000 contribution from Council.

The batteries will primarily be used to export renewable energy into the local electricity system during times when demand for electricity is high. The solar they capture during the day will also help provide field lighting and space heating/cooling at these sites at night.



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

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 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