

JULY / AUGUST 2026

yarralife



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Your Councillors

To find more about your Ward Councillors visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/Councillors

Below are contact details for your Ward Councillors.



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You can also reach your Councillors by calling **9205 5055** or sending a letter to **c/o PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121.**

On the cover: Dogs in Citizens Park, Richmond

Message from the Mayor

Hello everyone,

This year's Budget is about getting the basics right while keeping costs as low as possible for residents. We know many people are doing it tough, so we are focusing on cleaner streets, better parks, good customer service and looking after the roads, drains, buildings and community facilities we all rely on.

We've also extended Council's one-hour free parking trial to September, when we will review the trial after receiving the full data.

We are also continuing to stand with the community to fight for free community health services in Fitzroy and Collingwood. The recent 12-month funding extension for cohealth is a win for strong community advocacy, but it is only temporary. The job is not finished. Read more about what you can do on page 6.

Yarra works best when people speak up and Council listens. That's why our new Community Engagement Policy is so important. We want more people — not just the loudest voices — to have a real say in decisions that affect them.

You will also see this approach in our glass recycling changes. Residents told us glass bins were being collected too often, and the bins were often only partly full. Moving to a collection every four weeks means fewer unnecessary truck trips and a more efficient service.

Finally, nominations are now open for the Yarra Community Awards. If you know someone doing great things in our community, please nominate them.

Cr Stephen Jolly
Mayor, City of Yarra



Latest news

Commemorative marker for Vietnamese migration unveiled

Council has unveiled its commemorative marker recognising the 50th anniversary of Vietnamese migration to Australia following the Vietnam War. This new public artwork, titled 'Mythical Crane Boat' by artist Van Phu Le, honours this significant anniversary and recognises the continuing contributions of the Vietnamese community to life in Yarra.

"The boat, shaped like a mythical crane, symbolises the Lac Viet lineage, rooted in ancient legend, the crane represents wisdom, resilience and freedom," Phu Le said.

You can visit the marker at Lennox and Butler Street Park in Richmond.

2026 tree planting season completed

Yarra's 2026 tree planting season ran from April to June, with 295 trees planted in the first month. A further 318 trees were planted across May and June, keeping Yarra on track to deliver more than 1,000 new trees this financial year.

Residents can explore where trees were planted and view planned future plantings via the planting tab on Yarra's Urban Forest Dashboard.

Borrowbox at Yarra Libraries

Yarra Libraries has a brand-new subscription to BorrowBox ePress, giving you access to some of the most in-demand news titles, with no waitlist and no cap on simultaneous users!

This brings all our most sought-after news titles together in one place, creating a seamless and enhanced reading experience for all our news lovers, right in the palm of your hand.

The ePress titles available are:

- The Monthly
- The Saturday Paper
- Herald Sun
- The Australian
- The Age / Sunday Age
- The Financial Review (coming soon!)



Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/news

Council Meetings

Meetings take place at Richmond and Fitzroy Town Halls. For upcoming Council Meeting dates, and if you would like to attend, please visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details. All meetings are live streamed at webcast.yarracity.vic.gov.au

- **Tuesday 11 August, 6.30pm**
Fitzroy Town Hall
- **Tuesday 8 September, 6.30pm**
Richmond Town Hall

A smarter way to collect glass

Yarra's glass recycling service has recently changed from fortnightly collection to every four weeks, helping deliver a more efficient and cost-effective service for our community.

The change reflects how residents are using the service — and what you told us.

During consultation, 67% of respondents said their glass bin was collected too often or was not full on collection day. Audits also showed glass bins were only around one-third full on average.

By reducing collection trips, Council can lower emissions, reduce operating costs and direct resources where they are needed most.

Glass recycling remains an important part of Yarra's four-bin system. Keeping glass separate helps create cleaner, higher-quality recycling and supports a more sustainable waste system.

Need extra capacity? You can still use glass drop-off points across Yarra.



Need to check your bin day?

Use Yarra's new online bin lookup tool to quickly check which bin is being collected and when.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/bincollection



YARRA COMMUNITY AWARDS

Nominations now open!

Nominations are now open for Yarra City Council's annual Community Awards – recognising the everyday heroes making a difference in Yarra.

From grassroots advocacy and youth mentoring to community sport, arts, and protecting our local environment, past recipients have shown extraordinary leadership and dedication to their community.

By nominating someone, you help us recognise local heroes, celebrate their achievements and spotlight the positive impact they have across Yarra.

Do you know an individual or group who deserves to be recognised? It takes under 10 minutes to submit a nomination — visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/awards

Nominations close on **Sunday 16 August**.

Yarra's 2026/27 Budget adopted

Yarra's 2026/27 Budget was formally approved by Councillors on 16 June.

This year's Budget focuses on protecting the essential services and infrastructure our community relies on every day, while planning responsibly for Yarra's future growth.

It includes investment in new and improved open space, accessibility upgrades to parks and playgrounds, safer roads, better footpaths, stormwater upgrades, community facilities and customer service improvements.

Check your Ward update in this edition of Yarra Life to see Budget projects planned for your local area.

To read the full Budget and see City-wide highlights, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/budget

Your rates help keep Yarra running

Rates notices will be sent to property owners in August.

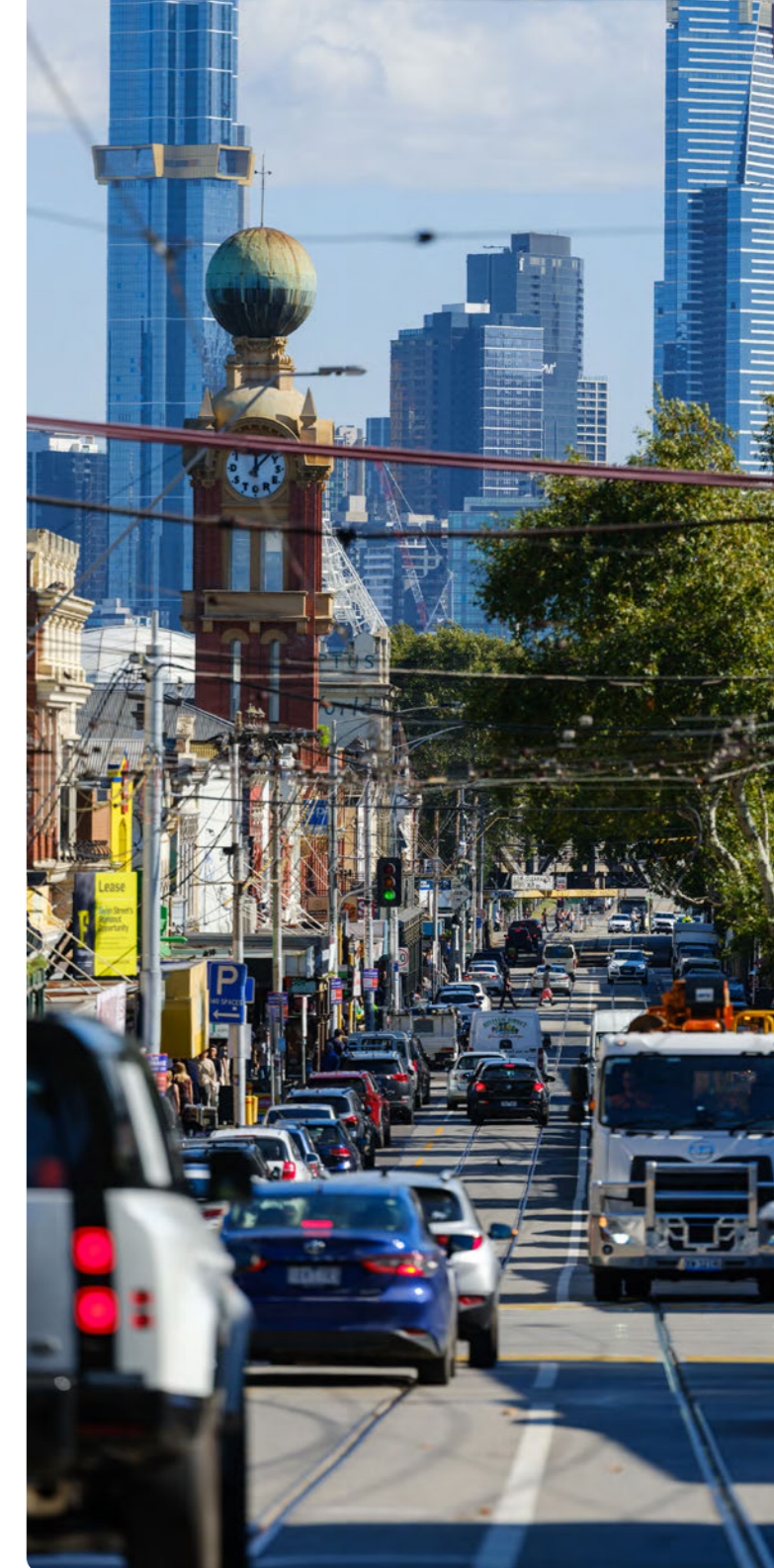
Your rates help fund the everyday services, programs and infrastructure our community relies on — from parks, roads and footpaths to libraries, children's services, community programs and local facilities.

This year, general rate revenue increases are capped at 2.75%, in line with the Victorian State Government's rate cap.

Your rates may change by more or less than 2.75%. This is because rates are calculated based on the value of your individual property in comparison to others in the municipality. Council does not receive more revenue if your property value increases.



Explore your options or create an eRates account: Scan the QR code on your notice or visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates



Need a hand?

Life happens. If you think you'll struggle to pay or you're already behind, get in touch early.

Our Rates team can arrange a confidential, flexible payment plan and help you avoid extra costs. Friendly, local support is only a phone call away on **9205 5555**.

Explore your options or create an eRates account: scan the QR code on your notice or visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/rates

Save free community health services in Fitzroy and Collingwood

You may have noticed the new banners floating above the Richmond, Collingwood and Fitzroy Town Halls. Council is continuing to support the community in its advocacy to the Federal and Victorian Governments and to cohealth for free community health services to continue in Collingwood and Fitzroy.

Thanks to the tireless work of our local community, we've seen two big recent wins towards achieving this goal.

In May, the Federal Government announced it was providing \$1.5 million in funding to keep cohealth services operational for up to 12 months, while cohealth undertakes improvements to its operations with support from the North-Western Melbourne Primary Health Network.

In June, after months of asking, the final report of the Independent Review of cohealth General Practice and related services was released. We commend the Federal Government for the release of the report and all parties for their agreement to this outcome.

These are wins for strong community advocacy. But this new funding is only temporary. It does not guarantee the long-term future of the full range of GP and multidisciplinary services nor that the Collingwood site will continue to be used for community health services.



What matters now is that there is a clear and credible path forward. That path must begin with an honest acknowledgement of the mistakes that were made, including the trauma caused at a human level, and a genuine commitment from cohealth to rebuild trust with staff, patients and the communities served.

Council will continue its advocacy, supported by advice from the City of Yarra Open Campaign Committee – Community Health Services.

Everyone can help by spreading the message.

1. **Collect a campaign poster or corflute sign** from Collingwood Town Hall, Richmond Town Hall, or one of Council's libraries to display outside your home or workplace.
2. **Contact your local members and candidates.** Make sure candidates running in the State Election (November 2026) know that this issue is important to you.
3. **Watch out for more events,** more community action and more community achievements.

Learn more on our website:
yarracity.vic.gov.au/savecommunityhealth



Council's advocacy continues on behalf of our City

Following strong advocacy, Council has secured a commitment from the Victorian Government for the Victoria's Pride Street Party to continue as an annual event in Fitzroy. Yarra is also one of five councils that will share in \$15 million annually for local projects that encourage and improve safety for people walking and cycling.

Council has secured a \$250,000 grant through the State's Pick My Park program to upgrade George Knott Reserve in Clifton Hill, and \$150,000 to deliver a new school crossing outside Alphington Primary School on Yarralea Street.

In its 2026/27 Budget, the Victorian Government allocated \$485,000 for the Richmond Youth Hub and The Learning Bank on Victoria Street, and \$100,000 to build a new cricket pitch at Kevin Bartlett Reserve. The Victorian Government also announced \$1 million in upgrades to Spensley Street Primary School facilities, increased weekend services for Clifton Hill group train lines and week-night services for Burnley group train lines and the installation of tactile ground surface indicators at Clifton Hill train station.

The Deputy Mayor Cr Sharon Harrison attended the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council in May. Council's three motions were passed, calling for Victorian Government action on support for local live music precincts, venues and artists; councils retaining planning decision-making powers and sufficient infrastructure contribution arrangements; and improved accessibility on public transport for people living with a disability.

Learn more about Council's advocacy work and agenda: yarracity.vic.gov.au/advocacy



THIS STATE ELECTION NOVEMBER 2026

YARRA DECIDES

LET'S SPEAK UP FOR YARRA

Council has launched its Yarra Decides campaign, ensuring candidates for the seats of Richmond, Northcote and Brunswick are aware of some key community infrastructure and service needs in their electorates.

You can help spread the message by:

- Displaying one of our Yarra Decides signs outside your home
- Contacting candidates and letting them know what is important to you
- Coming to our community events and forums.

Council will host several community forums with candidates over the coming months. The first will be held on **Wednesday 26 August** at 6pm at Collingwood Town Hall. Keep an eye out closer to the date for more details.

You can visit our webpage for more information and the latest updates:
yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarradecides

More EV charging options for Yarra



Yarra's public EV charging network is continuing to grow, helping residents and visitors make the switch to electric vehicles.

A new neighbourhood battery and public EV charger has launched outside Collingwood Leisure Centre in Clifton Hill, delivered by the Yarra Energy Foundation with support from Yarra City Council.

Funded through a \$750,000 Victorian Government grant, the project includes a 60 kW EV charger with two wheelchair-accessible charging bays.

It is the first project of its kind in Australia to test how a neighbourhood battery and EV charger can work together. The battery will help manage demand from EV charging by encouraging use when solar production is high, supporting cleaner transport and reducing pressure on the grid.

We have also rolled out 26 utility pole EV charging sites across Yarra. These slower-speed chargers are designed for locations where users typically park for two to four hours. Find out more: yarracity.vic.gov.au/pole-charger-trial



Retail Ready

A free program designed to help people explore the retail industry, develop practical skills and build confidence to gain employment.

- Introduction to retail and customer service
- Store presentation, merchandising and communication skills
- Hands-on learning in a clothing hub
- Visit to Victoria Gardens and meet retail managers
- Resume, cover letter and interview preparation
- Optional unpaid volunteer shift for additional experience
- Receive a Certificate of Participation
- Pick an interview outfit from the Thread Together Clothing Hub
- Ongoing support and retail opportunities!



THREAD TOGETHER

Taking registrations now!

To register or find out more, scan the QR code, call **0488 940 971**, or email learningbank@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Early learning close to home

Yarra runs a network of early learning services across Fitzroy, Collingwood, Richmond and Carlton North, offering long day care, kindergarten and flexible care options for families with children aged up to six years.

All council-run services meet national quality standards and follow the Early Years Learning Framework, with a strong focus on child safety, wellbeing and inclusive, play-based learning to help children thrive. Many centres also offer casual or occasional care, supporting families who need flexibility alongside quality early learning.

Spotlight on Fitzroy services

In Fitzroy, Connie Benn Early Learning Centre and Dill-be-din Kindergarten are welcoming families throughout the year.

Registrations now open for 3 and 4-year-old kinder in 2027



Connie Benn Early Learning Centre offers long day care, kindergarten, occasional care and casual care for children from six weeks to six years. The centre features spacious indoor learning areas and a large outdoor space with trees and play equipment. Meals, nappies and excursions are included, with no hidden costs, and families are supported by a diverse team of qualified early childhood educators and health professionals.

In 2025, Connie Benn was recognised at the Victorian Early Years Awards, winning in the category of Promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing.

Across the park, Dill-be-din Kindergarten provides a play-based kindergarten program for children aged three to six. Formerly Atherton Gardens Kindergarten, the service was renamed in partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Dill-be-din means 'safely look after and protect'.

The kindergarten includes a large, tree-filled outdoor yard designed to support imaginative play, independence and connection to nature, with learning experiences that encourage care for Country.

Families are encouraged to explore these Fitzroy services — as well as other council-run early learning centres across Yarra — to find the right fit for their child.

Find out more or book a tour:
yarracity.vic.gov.au/children-services

Help Yarra's street gardens grow

Street gardens are bringing more colour, plants and life to Yarra's streets.

Earlier this year, we shared how residents are creating and caring for street gardens in nature strips, tree plots and other Council-managed streetscapes.

Now, Yarra's Street Gardens program is continuing to expand, with more residents putting their hand up to care for growing spaces, and more Council-supported planting across the City.

Through the program, Council is creating, infilling and maintaining new biodiverse garden beds in suitable locations. Residents can also apply to start street gardening, register an existing one, or nominate a larger site in their neighbourhood that may be suitable for Council to investigate.

These small garden spaces can make a big difference. They help support biodiversity, provide habitat for insects and other wildlife, create more attractive streetscapes, and help make neighbourhoods feel more welcoming and connected.

Already caring for a street garden? Please register it with Council. Registering helps us understand which gardens are being actively maintained, so our contractors can take this into account during routine maintenance. You'll also be able to access guidance, program updates and support.

Want to start a street garden? Council's Street Garden Guidelines explain what can be planted, where street gardens are suitable, and how to keep footpaths, trees, underground services and other public spaces safe and accessible.



Get involved and learn more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/street-garden

Homelessness Week in Yarra

Visit Council's Homelessness Week stall at Gleadell Street Market on **Saturday 1 August** to learn more about homelessness in Yarra and the support services available locally.

Rough sleeping is increasing in Yarra, with the number of people recorded as sleeping rough rising from 54 in April 2025 to 67 in July 2025. The figures were collected through Yarra Zero, a local partnership working to end rough sleeping and homelessness by coordinating support for people sleeping rough. Drop by between 8am and 12 noon to take part in an origami house folding activity, where you can fold, draw or write a message on a paper house as part of a community display for Homelessness Week.

You can also find out how to refer a rough sleeping site through Council's online reporting tool and learn more about local support services for people experiencing homelessness. Launch Housing will be onsite to share information about its new Initial Access Point on Bridge Road.

For more information, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/homelessness



Helping more people have their say

Your Say Yarra has a new look and feel, supporting Council's new Community Engagement Policy and making it easier for more people to get involved in the decisions that affect them.

Adopted by Council in April, the new policy is designed to bring more people into the conversation. This includes those usually not heard through the engagement process, such as people with a disability, renters, culturally diverse communities, and children and young people.

The policy sets clear standards for how the community is involved in engagements with the introduction of the Engagement Matrix for



Council activities. It has a focus on strengthening reporting requirements, introducing segmented data analysis to show who has participated, who has not, and demonstrating perceptions and views from different cohorts.

It also formalises the commitment of reporting back not only to Councillors, but to the community.

For more details about the new Community Engagement Policy, to check out the new platform, and to have your say and tell us what matters to you, visit yoursayyarra.com.au



What's on

My Smart Garden: How to grow veggies at home

Thursday 27 August, 7pm to 8.30pm, online

Growing your own leafy greens is a great way to get started in the garden. It's easy, affordable and can be done in a small space. If you want to skip the supermarket and pick delicious and nutritious veggies right from your garden, this webinar is for you. Join us for a beginner-focused session that will introduce you to the joys of growing your own greens.

Yarra Leisure: Parents and Prams group exercise

Collingwood, Richmond and Fitzroy locations, various times

Parents and Prams is a fun and supportive space to exercise where crying babies, late arrivals and breaks are absolutely okay. Designed to reduce barriers to exercise, this inclusive class supports all fitness levels and encourages you to prioritise your health and wellbeing. Visit yarraleisure.vic.gov.au for local timetables.

Wurundjeri Acknowledgement

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land now known as Yarra.

We also acknowledge the significant contributions made by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to life in Yarra.

We pay our respects to Elders from all nations and to their Elders past, present and future.

Stay connected with Yarra

- Online at yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Sign up for our community engagement e-news and have your say on projects at yoursayyarra.com.au
- Follow us on Facebook or Instagram (@cityofyarra)
- Register for our monthly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife-e-newsletter

This edition of Yarralife has been printed on 100% recycled paper.

Dancing from the Heart: Seniors Dance series

Sundays 30 August, 27 September,
18 October, 2pm to 4pm
Collingwood Town Hall, Collingwood

Love to dance? You're invited to a series of dance events celebrating Ageing Well in Yarra. Starting up again in August, people aged 65+ can enjoy two hours of music, movement and social connection in Collingwood Town Hall's historic ballroom. Expect familiar tunes, an MC and a welcoming atmosphere. This is an inclusive event: come on your own or with friends, everyone is welcome.

Bookings are essential. Call **9250 5555** or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au



Victorian Seniors' Festival returns in October! Keep an eye out for Yarra's event program in September.



Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/events for more information and discover other events happening near you.



Speak your language

If your language is not listed below, please call our interpreter service on **9280 1940** and quote REF 20762.

Italiano	9280 1931
Español	9280 1935
中文	9280 1937
العربية	9280 1930
Ελληνικά	9280 1934
Tiếng Việt	9280 1939