

Minutes

Active Ageing Advisory Committee



Date	Wednesday 20 th May 2026
Time	1pm - 3pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3
Chair	Councillor Sarah McKenzie
Minute taker	Jess Barry (Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion)
Content Manager Reference	D2026/0330074

Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

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.

Attendees

Councillor/s	Councillor Sarah McKenzie
Committee members	Jono Morris, Catherine Comans, Janet Pope, Debra Chapman, Mary Natoli, Sandra Heeps, Annie Reeves, Michael Glover
Council Officers	Lauren Krnjacki (Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion), Jess Barry (Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion)
Guests	Kate Simnett - Open Space Project Manager, Jillian Dent - Senior Coordinator Policy and Partnerships, Merle Zierke - Policy Advisor, Elly Murrell - Community Development Officer (Capacity Building)
Apologies	Christina Gibbs, Peter Hillie, Deputy Mayor Councillor Sharon Harrison

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country	Chair led: - Acknowledgment of Country - Attendance & apologies – including any online attendees - Welcomed new committee member - Standing item: next meeting date reminder - Wed 21st October 2026 1-3pm
2.	Governance of the AAAC	Chair led: - Adoption of previous meeting minutes - Conflicts of interest – none declared - Actions arising from previous meeting
3.	Victorian Seniors Festival (VSF) 2026	<i>The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion</i> provided an overview of Victorian Seniors Festival (VSF), 2026, including: - Date: October 1 - 31st 2026 - Background – Victorian state government led, in its forty third year - Highlighted the following Yarra VSF events:

		○ Grow Together ○ LGBTQIA+ Bent Twig Lunch ○ Cinema for Carers ○ Dancing from the heart ● Provided committee members with a provision program Matters raised by the committee ● <i>A committee member mentioned the City of Yarra Cycling Tour Presented by U3A Yarra City On Yer Bike Cycling Group</i>
4.	Exercise Equipment for Older People in Yarra	<i>The Open Space Project Manager</i> provided an overview of Exercise Equipment for Older People in Yarra, including: ● Project background ● Possible equipment locations ● Different types of exercise equipment installed to promote: strength, balance, falls prevention and fitness for older community members ● Recording committee member choice of equipment Matters raised by the committee ● <i>A committee member raised providing instructions with the equipment – physical signs and/or QR code to web instructions (noting digital access barriers)</i> ● <i>A committee member raised importance of intergenerational equipment to foster use</i> ● <i>A committee member raised safe use of equipment and slipping</i> ● <i>A committee member raised Exercise Physiologist or group classes providing a guide to users.</i> ● <i>A committee member raised equipment being close to seating and shade</i> ● <i>A committee member raised a level mat area to do Tai Chi, yoga, balance and strength in the park in addition to the equipment</i> Actions ● If members have further questions, they can email <i>The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion</i>
5.	Loneliness in Yarra and Social Connection	<i>The Policy Advisor and Senior Coordinator Policy and Partnerships</i> provided an update on Social Connection and Loneliness in Yarra, including: ● The Loneliness in Yarra research project – looking at lived experience, service providers, and primary prevention programs ● Overview of who feels loneliness in Yarra ● Overview of barriers to social connection ● Council's actions to address barriers to social connection– funds and runs over 100 initiatives ● The importance of framing and language– joining in, belonging and helping not deficit approach ● Yarra Community Activity guide – explained and handed out in printed form, also available online.

		Matters raised by the committee • A committee member asked - how to reach people that are not in the higher education Anglo-Australian demographic? How do we find the people who have fallen through the gaps? Prompting group discussion. • A committee member raised asset-based community development focusing on bridges and connectors –This should be kept in mind for the forthcoming Ageing Well Newsletter • A committee member raised the Community Connector role –is their budget for it? Where is the connector? Could help with cross cultural connection and activities beyond the estates • A committee member raised a City of Port Philip model of community bus that could be a food model for Yarra • A committee member raised correlation between demographics and loneliness – low income is the biggest factor • The committee congratulated the Policy Advisor and the - Senior Coordinator Policy and Partnerships on the loneliness and social connection work Actions • The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will keep social connection activities and the Yarra Social Connection Guide in mind with the forthcoming Ageing Well Newsletter • The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will send the research report for the Loneliness in Yarra research project to the committee • The Lead – Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion will progress the Care Finder/Winteringham in the libraries initiative
6.	Yarra Community Awards 2026	<i>The Community Development Officer (Capacity Building)</i> provided an update on the Yarra Community Awards 2026, including: • Background of the awards program • Award categories • How to nominate • The closing date: 23rd of august Matters raised by the committee • A committee member raised - why is there no Older Person of the Year? Other Councils have that category. ○ Answer: Concerns that it would split the nominations up and it's hard to get nominations for the categories that we currently have
7.	Ageing Well in the Annual Report 2026 Update	<i>The Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion</i> provided an update on capturing ageing well supports in the 2026 annual report, including: • Each priority in the Ageing Well Policy and the actions in progress to meet them. Actions • Food security guide will be presented at a future AAAC meeting

	Any Other Business	A committee member presented an Aged Care explainer and the following matters of General Business were raised: • Advocacy piece could be needed about age care services – algorithms, assessments and referrals in a marketplace system and service wait times • Dedication/memorials plaques on benches for donations • Payment of bills for aged care services through the post office – over the phone and through the post office • Fitzroy town hall – no handrails, back way around the lift is not safe and is not equal or independent access • Accessibility of major Council buildings needs to be looked at Actions • Advocacy piece to be looked at by Council Officers and Chair • Community connector role – what happened post the 2024 meeting resolution • Council Officers Ageing Well to ask Aged Care Services Unit about payment options – phone and post office • Access issues at major Council buildings raised – to be fed to Councillor support staff
Meeting closed		The meeting closed at 3pm.
Next scheduled meeting		Wednesday 21 st October 2026 1-3pm