

YARRA BEND WARD UPDATE

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**Fairfield Park's
fabulous
playground**

**Yambla Pavilion
unveiled**

**Quarries Park
open for dogs**

YARRA BEND WARD UPDATE |

Clifton Hill and parts of
Fairfield and Alphington

It's been fantastic to see so many projects from the 2026 capital works program taking shape across Yarra Bend. One of the biggest changes is at Collingwood Leisure Centre, where electrification works are now underway. This upgrade will transition the centre from gas heating to a fully electric system, cutting emissions, improving energy efficiency and creating a much more comfortable pool area for members — especially during extreme heat. It's a major investment in the future of the facility, and I'm looking forward to seeing the benefits once the works wrap up early next year.

We've also seen some wonderful improvements to our parks and play spaces. The Fairfield Park Play Space reopened in late August with new accessible equipment, expanded water play and a tree-top walk that has already become a favourite with local families. Nearby, the Yambla Pavilion has officially opened, providing modern all-gender changerooms, a social space, kiosk and viewing deck that will support football at every level. Smaller but important upgrades are happening too — renewed footpaths in Clifton Hill, new pedestrian treatments in Alphington, and self-help kiosks at Collingwood Leisure Centre to make customer service easier.

And of course, we celebrated the completion of the Quarries Park dog off-leash upgrade, which has reshaped the space with a new layout, paths, shelter, fencing, garden beds and a dedicated agility zone. It's already proving popular with our four-legged locals and their humans. These projects reflect our commitment to creating safe, accessible and welcoming places across Yarra Bend, and I'm proud to see them coming to life for our community.

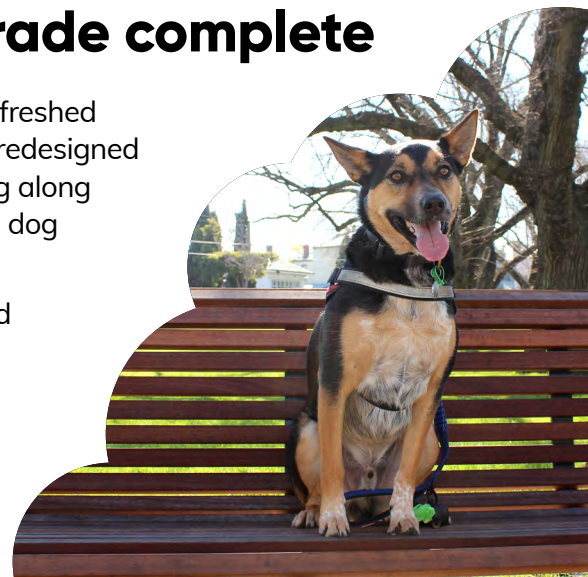
Cr Sarah McKenzie | Yarra Bend Ward



Quarries Park dog off-leash upgrade complete

Clifton Hill's four-legged friends and their owners are enjoying the refreshed space designed around comfort and safety. The renewal includes a redesigned dog park layout, new paths, a shelter with seating, upgraded fencing along Wright Street and Yambla Street, new garden beds and a dedicated dog agility zone for pups who love a challenge.

Extra tree planting, a new drinking fountain and improved bins round out the upgrade, creating a cleaner, greener and more accessible space for the community.



Fairfield Park Play Space reopens

The upgraded Fairfield Park Play Space reopened on 29 August, with improved accessibility, new play equipment and expanded water play.

The upgrade includes a tree-top walk with raised platforms and bridges, slides, firefighters' poles, horizontal bars, balance beams, a rotating disc, climbing equipment and an in-ground trampoline. A new swing set incorporates accessible and baby swing units.

The play space also features improved surfaces and paths, new shade and seating, a sheltered BBQ area, drinking fountain, picnic tables, bicycle racks and signage.

New garden beds and planting have been added, while existing trees have been retained and protected. The landscaping is designed to strengthen the connection between the play space and the surrounding parkland and enhance biodiversity.

The upgrade was identified as a high priority in Council's Play Space Strategy, which proposed upgrading the existing Local Level playground to a City-wide Level playground.

Council allocated \$989,000 for construction of the project.



Yambla Pavilion officially opens

The upgraded pavilion, which opened in July, includes four all-gender changerooms, public toilets, first aid and referee facilities, a social space and kiosk, a commercial kitchen, storage and a viewing deck overlooking the soccer pitch, plus external services, landscaping and a laser-cut mural by a Melbourne-based artist.

The new facilities support women's, men's, junior girls' and boys' football and complement Council's recent investment in the Yambla playing surface.



The \$5.35 million project was delivered through funding from all three levels of government, including \$2.25 million from the Australian Government, \$500,000 from the Victorian Government and up to \$2.6 million from Council.

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Pedestrian improvements

Pedestrian improvements were carried out in Adams Street, Alphington with the addition of new line markings, signage and rubber kerbs to help with pedestrian movements. The cost of the works was \$31,000.



Footpath renewal

The footpath on Walker Street, Clifton Hill was renewed recently, along with a new tree square, in response to tree roots lifting the footpath. The cost of the works was \$1,500.

Collingwood Leisure Centre electrification works update

Collingwood Leisure Centre has entered a new chapter, with major electrification works now underway through to January 2027. The upgrade will transition the centre from gas heating to a fully electric system, making it one of the first leisure centres in Australia to retrofit its operations in this way. Once complete, the shift to electric heat pumps and 100% renewable electricity will improve energy efficiency across the building and is expected to cut emissions by around 304 tonnes each year.

The works will deliver noticeable improvements for members and staff, particularly in the pool and spa area. New cooling, upgraded air handling and better dehumidification will create



a more comfortable and safer environment — especially during extreme heat. To complete these upgrades, the pool hall, main entrance and reception will be closed for approximately four months, while the gym and group fitness continue to operate as usual. When finished, the electrification project will support a cleaner, more resilient and more enjoyable leisure centre for the Collingwood community.