

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2026

yarralife



In this issue:

State Election advocacy
action Page 4

Open space upgrades Page 7

Local kinder rocks! Page 8

Your Councillors

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

Below are contact details for your Ward Councillors.



MACKILLOP WARD
Cr Stephen Jolly, Mayor
stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0437 856 713



BOULEVARD WARD
Cr Sharon Harrison, Deputy Mayor
sharon.harrison@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0427 731 722



CURTAIN WARD
Cr Edward Crossland
edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0400 326 812



HODDLE WARD
Cr Sophie Wade
sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0400 570 763



LANGRIDGE WARD
Cr Evangeline Aston
evangeline.aston@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0427 279 953



LENNOX WARD
Cr Andrew Davies
andrew.davies@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0498 648 663



MELBA WARD
Cr Meca Ho
meca.ho@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0419 844 362



NICHOLLS WARD
Cr Kenneth Gomez
kenneth.gomez@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0407 571 295



YARRA BEND WARD
Cr Sarah McKenzie
sarah.mckenzie@yarracity.vic.gov.au
0427 052 602

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:
Kids learn through play at Yarra's kindergartens.

Message from the Mayor

Hello everyone,

As Council prepares to elect a new Mayor in November, this will be my final Yarra Life message after serving two consecutive terms in the role.

There's plenty happening across Yarra as we head towards the end of the year, with projects that are improving local parks, community facilities and public spaces.

The upgraded Charles Evans Reserve in Cremorne has reopened with a new inclusive playground and improved spaces for families and dog walkers. We've also completed upgrades at Golden Square, Fairfield Park, as well as Yambla Pavilion and the off-leash dog area at Quarries Park. As Mayor, I have focused on delivery of these projects for our community.

Together, over the past two years, we helped secure a further 12 months of funding for free cohealth services in Fitzroy and Collingwood. We've defended public housing residents, called for greater investment in local infrastructure and services, and pushed back against State Government cost shifting that places greater pressure on councils and ratepayers.

With the State Election approaching, that advocacy work becomes even more important. Council is calling on all parties and candidates to commit to the projects and services Yarra needs, including affordable housing, improved community facilities and more open space.

It's been a privilege to serve as Mayor. While my time in this role is coming to an end, my commitment to Yarra is ongoing, and I'll continue representing MacKillop Ward and working with our community as a Councillor.

Thank you for your passion, your advocacy and everything you contribute to Yarra.

Cr Stephen Jolly
Mayor, City of Yarra



Latest news

Collingwood Leisure Centre electrification upgrade underway

Collingwood Leisure Centre's pool hall, main entrance and reception are temporarily closed while major electrification works take place, with the upgraded facilities expected to reopen in early 2027. The gym and group fitness programs remain open as usual.

During the closure, Learn to Swim classes have relocated to Richmond Recreation Centre and Fitzroy Swimming Pool, and members are encouraged to use other Yarra Leisure facilities.

The upgrade will see the centre transition from gas heating to an all-electric facility, helping reduce emissions by around 304 tonnes each year. Works include installing electric heat pumps, improved cooling and ventilation systems, and heat recovery technology to create a more comfortable, energy-efficient environment for visitors and staff.

Council takes a closer look at smart glasses

At its September meeting, Council endorsed a motion to investigate banning smart glasses at Council leisure centres, childcare centres and playgrounds, with exemptions for people with disability who rely on the technology. Mayor Stephen Jolly said Council spaces "need to be safe and respectful," particularly where children and families come together. Council will also call on the Federal Government to strengthen privacy laws as smart glasses technology continues to evolve.

Applications for Small Grants now open

Have an idea that could make a difference in Yarra? Applications for Small Grants of up to \$4,000 are now open across seven funding streams, including the new Connecting Yarra stream, which supports community-led activities that bring people together and reduce social isolation. Applications are assessed on a rolling basis, but popular streams may reach capacity quickly, so apply early. Grants are available for projects running from December 2026 to December 2027.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/small-grants for more information and Grant Guidelines.



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 information about attending, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details.

All meetings are livestreamed at webcast.yarracity.vic.gov.au

- **Tuesday 10 November, 6.30pm**
Richmond Town Hall
- **Tuesday 17 November, 6.30pm** Richmond Town Hall (Extraordinary Council Meeting to elect Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
- **Tuesday 15 December, 6.30pm**
Fitzroy Town Hall

THIS STATE ELECTION NOVEMBER 2026 YARRA DECIDES

The City of Yarra has limited land, ageing assets, and an existing need for more open space and community infrastructure and services.

Currently, it's home to over 100,000 people, a workplace for almost 125,000, and a destination for millions of people every year.

The Victorian Government has set a target for us to grow by 44,000 dwellings over the next 25 years. This means almost doubling our housing stock and our population. This has implications for all of us.

The time for making sure that Yarra continues to be a great place to live, do business, work and play is now. With a State Election approaching, we're encouraging everyone to let their local candidates know what's important to them.

That's why we've been hosting community forums with candidates, and a Youth Voices event, giving senior high school students the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions with local candidates.



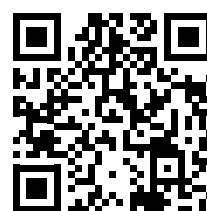
✓
Look out for promotional materials

You can pick up materials on the Saving Community Health Services campaign and the Yarra Decides campaign at Council's town halls, leisure centres and libraries.
Or contact us at yarradecides@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Local candidates must listen to local voices

Go to our Yarra Decides web page for a list of local candidates and their contact details in all three state electorates within the City of Yarra and look out for some other community events Council will be hosting as the election draws nearer.

✓ Note that Yarra City Council is strictly non-partisan. It does not endorse any party or candidate.



Call to action in the lead up to the State Election in 2026

Council has its own list of key asks of an incoming State Government, based on identified community needs and priorities. We've been promoting these to current ministers, MPs and candidates. If any of them resonate with you, please be sure to mention them in any contact you have with candidates. You'll find background information on each of them on our Yarra Decides web page.

Yarra City Council's key asks

- 1 Stop the closure of free public health services in Collingwood and Fitzroy, delivered by cohealth.
- 2 Commit to building a North Richmond community services hub in one of our fastest-growing precincts.
- 3 Release unused government land at 2 River St, Richmond for open space and kindergarten places.
- 4 Commit capital funding and fast-track planning approvals for key worker affordable housing on Council land.
- 5 Commit capital funding to upgrade Richmond Library.
- 6 Help refurbish Alphington Bowls Club to meet accessibility standards and expand its community uses.
- 7 Move the Medically Supervised Injecting Room away from the primary school and homes and expand rehabilitation and recovery services.
- 8 Protect Yarra's unique live music industry by establishing a live music precinct, fit-for-purpose regulations and support to venues and artists.

Community voices heard at election forum

Yarra community members made their voices heard on 2 September at the first of two Council-hosted community forums with local candidates running in the Victorian Election. Five candidates participated, sharing their policies and vision for the Richmond electorate, and answering questions from the audience.

Topics of discussion included the loss of community voices in assessing large, local development applications, the need for more public housing and concerns about the demolition of the towers, the location of the Medically Supervised Injecting Room and the need for more facilities across Victoria. Also raised was the need to secure the future of local community health services in Fitzroy and Collingwood, and how an abandoned State Government site at 2 River Street, Richmond, could be used to provide the community with more open space and kindergarten places.

If you missed it, the full livestream recording of the event is available to watch on Council's YouTube channel.

We're hosting a second community forum on 14 October at Fitzroy Town Hall. This time with a broader focus, covering all three electorates with boundaries within the City of Yarra — the seats of Richmond, Northcote and Brunswick.



Your bin days sorted

Our new and improved online bin collection lookup tool makes it simple to check your collection day, see which bin to put out and plan ahead.

Simply enter your address to see your personalised collection schedule. You can also download and print a calendar for your collection area, so you can keep your bin dates handy throughout the year.

Red-lidded rubbish and lime green-lidded FOGO bins are collected weekly. Yellow-lidded recycling bins are collected fortnightly, and purple-lidded glass bins every four weeks.



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

New Community Local Law

Council's new Community Local Law came into effect on 1 September 2026, replacing the previous General Local Law.

Our local laws help keep Yarra safe, accessible and well managed. The changes affect different groups in different ways.

Residents now need to bring bins in by midnight on collection day and keep trees and shrubs from overhanging footpaths.

Businesses now have clearer rules for commercial bins, signage, goods displays and outdoor furniture, with some permits now automated.

Property owners may need to address unsightly or defaced vacant properties, while builders need to keep waste and materials off roads and out of stormwater drains.

Supermarkets also need to ensure shopping trolleys are labelled and fitted with wheel locks to help prevent abandoned trolleys.

Residents, businesses and other affected groups are encouraged to learn what the changes mean for them and how they can meet their responsibilities.



To find out more visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/community-local-law



Working for You

Here are a few exciting projects that are now open for the community to enjoy:



Charles Evans Reserve inclusive play area

In August, we reopened Charles Evans Reserve with a more inclusive play space for multiple ages and abilities, plus more nature-play elements.

The reserve is in a stunning pocket of Cremorne and now has new play equipment, wooden tables and chairs for families to sit while they use the new BBQ facilities, and a separate dog area.



Golden Square playground in Bicentennial Park reopens

Golden Square playground has been transformed into a play area for everyone. The new inclusive space welcomes toddlers and older children and caters for all abilities.

The upgraded playground includes nine new mature trees to create more shade and comfort, and a new cubby built with durable, sustainable materials.



Yambla Pavilion upgrade

Soccer in Yarra has been given a major boost, with the newly upgraded Yambla Pavilion.

The modernised pavilion is designed to support the growing needs of local clubs and the wider community, while creating more opportunities for women and girls to get involved in the game as players, officials, volunteers and supporters.

The upgraded facility features four all-gender changerooms, improved public amenities, a social space, kiosk, referee and first aid facilities, and a viewing deck overlooking the soccer pitch.

The new pavilion was opened by the Member for Cooper, Ged Kearney, and the upgrade was made possible through a partnership between all three levels of government, including \$2.25 million from the Australian Government through the Thriving Suburbs Program, \$500,000 from the Victorian Government through the World Game Facilities Fund, and Council's own investment of up to \$2.6 million.



WORKING
FOR YOU



Quarries Park off-leash dog area

A major refresh of the Quarries Park dog off-leash area delivers a safer and better-equipped space for local pups and their humans.

The upgrade is designed to make the park more welcoming, more functional and more accessible. The upgrade includes a new dog park layout, new paths, a new shelter and seating, upgraded fencing along Wright Street and Yambla Street, new garden beds, a dedicated dog agility area, new tree planting, and a new drinking fountain and bins.

The improvements to the Quarries Park dog off-leash area are supported by \$270,000 from the Victorian Government through the New and Upgraded Dog Parks program and \$50,000 from Council.



Fairfield Park play space expansion

We have made Fairfield Park accessible for more age groups. We have expanded the water play area and installed new equipment.

The park is now safer due to improved surfaces and parents can watch their children more easily due to improved visibility of the play equipment.

There are new shaded areas and seating, making the park more comfortable for longer visits, picnics and community gatherings.

Yarra's kindergartens:

A great start for your child's education

Looking for a kindergarten for your three- or four-year-old child? Yarra's programs help children learn, build confidence and get ready for school through play.

What will my child learn at kinder?

Kindergarten programs are led by qualified teachers and educators. Through play, children build social skills, confidence and early learning habits, while getting used to routines and group settings.

Children learn to:

- make friends and manage feelings
- build confidence and speak up when they need help
- follow instructions and focus
- explore early maths, language and self-care skills.

Is kindergarten free?

Kindergarten is open to all three- and four-year-old children and sessional kindergarten for all three- and four-year-old children is FREE. Your child has the right to at least 15 hours of FREE kindergarten every week. Some families are eligible for up to 25 hours of FREE kindergarten.

Integrated kindergarten is part of a Long Day Care service and has fees. Families at participating services receive a Free Kinder fee offset and may also be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy.

What if my child needs support?

All children can access kindergarten. If your child has a physical or developmental need, we will work with your family to ensure they are welcomed, included and supported.

Can I get help enrolling my child?

Contact our team for enrolment, interpreter or CALD Outreach support.

Contacts:

Collingwood Early Years Precinct: 9205 5576

- » Gold Street Children's Centre, Keele Street Children's Centre and Yallabirrang (Collingwood) Kindergarten

North Yarra Early Years Precinct: 9274 2710

- » North Carlton Children's Centre, North Carlton Kindergarten and Princes Hill Kindergarten

Fitzroy Early Years Precinct: 9426 1500

- » Connie Benn Early Learning Centre, Connie Benn Kindergarten and Dill-be-Din (Atherton Gardens) Kindergarten

Richmond Early Years Precinct: 9274 2740

- » Yarraberg Children's Centre and Richmond Kindergarten

Vox Pop

"I love dancing to music at kinder, my favourite is Rumi (KPop Demon Hunters)."

- Sondor

"I love to play with the swings."

- Orlando



For more information and to register for 2027 enrolment: yarracity.vic.gov.au/kinder



Saturday starts at Gleadell Street Market

Fresh produce, good coffee and familiar faces have been drawing people to Gleadell Street Market for generations.

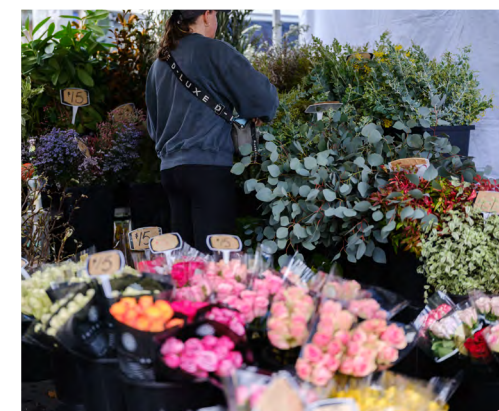
The market has been operating for more than 150 years and remains a Saturday morning fixture for many locals.

Browse seasonal fruit and vegetables, artisan breads and pastries, dairy and deli products, specialty foods and more from a mix of established and emerging traders.

The market runs every Saturday from 7am to 1pm. And don't forget your reusable bags — it's a plastic-free market.

Find out more:

yarracity.vic.gov.au/gleadell-street-market



Get involved in Yarra's projects

Share your feedback about upcoming Council projects and your thoughts and ideas for Yarra.

Your input will help us make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community.

Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to find out more.



YOUR SAY YARRA

Finding connection close to home

Everyday moments can bring people together – chatting at the dog park, joining an exercise class, book club or community garden, or having coffee with someone new.

Small moments like these can make a big difference to how connected we feel to the people and places around us.

Recent research commissioned by Yarra City Council found that 32% of Yarra residents often experience loneliness. It also showed that connection can look different for everyone, and that barriers such as cost, accessibility, lack of information and uncertainty about whether an activity will feel like the right fit can make joining in harder.

Residents who took part in the research said informal and regular activities were especially valuable. One described connecting with other dog owners during twice-daily visits to Ramsden Street Oval, while another spoke about talking to other parents at the park and chatting with neighbours.

Council programs can also create opportunities for neighbours to meet and spend time together. Richmond resident Sarah has seen this through Yarra's Street Garden program.

"It's been wonderful to see the transformation of our street," Sarah said. "The project has created such a lovely sense of community, with neighbours out weeding, planting, and stopping for a chat. It's had such a positive impact on our street."

Council's *Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029* identifies social connection and belonging as priorities. This includes supporting community organisations, providing welcoming and accessible spaces, and delivering programs that bring people together.



Yarra already has a strong network of libraries, neighbourhood houses, leisure centres, parks, gardens and community programs. Council's new Community Activity Guide brings many of these opportunities together in one place, helping residents find activities that suit their interests.

The guide includes free and low-cost activities ranging from exercise classes, book clubs and community choirs to volunteering and gardening. There are programs for families, young people, carers, older residents and people with disability.

There are plenty of ways to get involved locally – the Community Activity Guide can help you find one that suits you.

Explore the Community Activity Guide:
yarracity.vic.gov.au/community-activity

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2026



CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE

1–31 October



Victorian Seniors Festival 2026



The Victorian Seniors Festival is a chance to get active, try something new and connect with others. All events are free and bookings are essential unless otherwise stated. Find events and booking information at yarracity.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival. For assistance, call 9205 5555 or email info@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Tapestry Hanging

Thursday 15 and 22 October | 1pm to 4pm
Carlton Library
667 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North

Over two sessions, you will learn how to use a sewing machine and create a hanging patchwork tapestry to take home, then use your new skills to collaborate on a larger display to be exhibited within Yarra Libraries. All materials and equipment provided.

Cinema for Carers

Thursday 15 October | 10am to 1pm
Eclipse Cinema, 32 Wellington Street, Collingwood

Are you a senior and a carer? Take some time out to enjoy a movie at Collingwood's only cinema! Stay for coffee and chat at the end of the session.

Dancing from the Heart

Sunday 18 October | 2pm to 4pm
Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford

Love to dance? Join us for two hours of movement and social connection in Collingwood Town Hall's historic ballroom. A combination of group and independent dancing will fill a songlist of familiar tunes. Expect afternoon tea, an emcee, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Mindful Moments:

Haiku Poetry and Painting

Saturday 24 October | 12.30pm to 2.30pm
The Stables, 19 Duke Street, Richmond

A painting workshop inspired by the Japanese tradition of haiku poetry. Reflect on the present moment and create your own artwork using paints and collage materials in a safe and supportive environment. Email manager@rnc.org.au to register.

Richmond Repair Corner

Sunday 25 October | 10am to 12pm
Studio 1 Community Hub
15 Barnett Way, Richmond

Got something to fix? Want to extend the life of a favourite item? Book in now to have your things repaired by skilled volunteers who care about the environment and want to share their skills with the community. From small furniture and electrical appliances to bikes and data removal, we've got you covered. Email manager@rnc.org.au to register.

A Taste of Greece - music, dance and community

Monday 26 October | 11am to 2pm
Djerring Centre, 6 Eddy Court, Abbotsford

A special celebration for Greek speakers, hosted by Willowview and members of Yarra's Greek seniors' groups.



What's on

Remembrance Day Commemorative Service

Wednesday 11 November, 10.30 to 11.30am
Barkly Gardens Memorial, corner of Coppin Street and Mary Street, Richmond

Council invites the community to join us for our annual commemorative service at Barkly Gardens. It is a meaningful opportunity for us all to stand together in reflection and pay our respects to fallen and returned service members. For more information, please email civic@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Swap your fruit tree netting

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8am to 4pm
Clifton Hill Depot, 168 Roseneath Street, Clifton Hill

Help protect Yarra's native wildlife by swapping illegal household fruit tree netting for a safer alternative. Yarra residents can bring illegal netting to the depot and receive one free legal replacement net, while stocks last. Bring proof of your Yarra address. Netting with mesh larger than 5mm x 5mm at full stretch is illegal to use in Victoria.

My Smart Garden workshop: Maintain your tools

Thursday 12 November, 6pm
Bargoonga Nganjin, Fitzroy North Library

Want to get more from your garden tools, replace them less often and save money? Learn how to clean, sharpen, protect and repair everyday garden tools with qualified horticulturalist Craig Castree. Craig will demonstrate how well-maintained tools should look, answer your maintenance questions, and give you the skills you need for your garden to thrive.



**my
smart
garden**



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

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.



Speak your language

If your language is not listed below, please call our interpreter service on **9280 1940** and quote REF 20842.

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