Minutes

Active Ageing Advisory Committee

Date	21st October 2026
Time	1pm - 3pm
Location	Richmond Town Hall, Meeting Room 3
Chair	Deputy Mayor Cr Sharon Harrison
Minute taker	Sarah Mathers
Content Manager Reference	**D2026/0429290**

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	Deputy Mayor Cr Sharon Harrison
Committee members	In person: Sandra Peeps, Peter Hille, Debra Chapman, Christine Gibbs. Online: Janet Pope NOTE: Peter Hille excused himself from the meeting at 2pm.
Council Officers	Lauren Krnjacky (Senior Coordinator, Ageing Well and Disability Inclusion, Ageing Equity & Comm Dev) Jess Barry (Lead – Ageing & Disability Inclusion), Sarah Mathers (Community Development officer, Ageing Well), Merle Zierke (Policy Advisor – Policy and Partnerships, Ageing, Equity and Community Development), Karen Hucker (Coordinator, Building Programs, Buildings & Capital Works, Building Projects)
Guests	
Apologies	Annie Reeves, Catherine Comans, Jonno Morris, Mary Natoli, Michael Glover (unable to join online due to tech issues)

Item number	Item title or subject	Minute notes
1.	**Welcome and Acknowledgment of Country**	Deputy Mayor Cr. Harrison
2.	**Declarations of conflict of interests** **Minutes endorsed** **Actions Arising**	**Declarations of conflict of interests** No Declarations of conflict of interests **Minutes Endorsed from 12.08.2026 Meeting** Minutes were endorsed **Actions Arising from last meeting 12.08.2026** • Community Connector Role – in Cr. McKenzie's absence, Deputy Mayor Cr. Harrison will follow up with CEO. • Care Finder in Yarra City Libraries – Lead – Ageing & Disability Inclusion. Pilot program with Winteringham pilot will run through until February (Nov, December, February). Wintringham staff will come to Yarra libraries from Nov 2026. Libraries were chosen as site for this program because of lower barriers to people who

		might need services, and co-location of sympathetic activities e.g. Chatty Cafe, community lunches, etc. • Care Advocacy Letter has been sent to Councillors and Mayor for signing off on, then to relevant ministers. • Universal Design and Disability Inclusion Policy has been accepted by Council. This policy will prioritise Universal Design in everything we do going forward. • A committee member sited Cremorne as a good example of improved accessibility, with new buildings recessed to provide for increased footpaths. • The Chair encourages committee members to email council if they identify issues for their community. Invite feedback for consideration in the budget process.
3.	**Ageing Well Newsletter**	An overview of this item was provided by Senior Coordinator and Lead, Ageing & Disability Inclusion: • Newsletter will be quarterly, online, via email, and hardcopies (available in our libraries and town halls). In preparing and researching this new endeavour we benchmarked against other councils. Our focus each issue will be What's On/upcoming events and activities, available services; and a piece on someone doing something interesting in our community – a kind of "Spotlight on… " • Other things covered will include volunteering opportunities in Yarra. A committee member asked for a translated newsletter in community languages. Unfortunately, this is not cost effective. Use community connectors to share the information.
4.	**Accessibility of Council Buildings**	An overview of the item was provided by the Coordinator of Building Projects who outlined the following matters - • Accessibility a key focus of any project • Overview of Universal Design – and the three main elements of mobility, vision, and hearing - for older people. • In addition, public toilets. • Mobility – wider passageways, lighter-weight doors, automatic doors, intuitive wayfinding. We are always looking for beyond compliance. • Flooding considerations intersect with needs of stepless buildings. • Building overlay, based on flood mitigation, will be applied. Flood zones require installation of ramps. • We will now provide a luminance contrast guide for contractors, and include visual strips on windows, stair nosings. Consideration to be given to glare and reflection. • Acoustics treatments, soundproof plaster, hearing loops, emergency alarms (no strobe lights). **Challenges** • Team expertise and commitment • Existing buildings – can be hard to retrofit • Scope of works – it is not always about just attending to the issue. There can be flow on works. • Accessibility Budget – will make a huge change to how buildings team can implement changes, can be as needed not waiting for specific funding.

		• Alphington Bowls renovation and ramp, Fitzroy Town Hall, where venues and bins placement. Currently working with Heritage Victoria about a lift for Fitzroy townhall. • Public toilets – budget for updating, not new. • A committee member said maintenance of plantings is not a considered by council. For example, new park at Dover St, Cremorne – plants are not protected; split log fence, raw wood a potential danger for kids, getting splinters. • Another committee member raised issue of lighting in a pocket park in Collingwood. **Actions:** • The Chair suggested consulting the Lighting Policy • Open Spaces Maintenance Officer to be invited to AAAC meeting next year
5.	**Yarra Community Food Guide**	Policy Advisor provided a presentation of the item, including: • Access to food is a human right. • In 2024, food insecurity was experienced by 9% of Yarra residents; 22% people were living with disability; 23% were low income. • 12% of people were aged between 18-34; 30% of people rented publicly. • Officer outlined Councils' role in creating healthy food environments and providing food relief, including increase in demand for support, how Council supports access to heathy food, investing directly in local food relief, provision of infrastructure to link the community to food relief, and neighbourhood houses and their gardens. **Four categories of Food Guides have been developed:** • Food relief • Community meals and food education • Markets and fresh produce • Community gardens These are available in Simple and Traditional Chinese, Arabic, and Vietnamese.
Other Business	**Alternative payment methods for Council services** **Ongoing funding of Neighbourhood Houses** **Effect of the loss of on street parking spaces and closing roads**	**The following matters of general business were raised:** • Alternative payment methods for Council services A committee member raised issue of council payments system being not user friendly – hard for older people to find how to make payments. Payment methods - now, people must go to a Council service centres. Finance team yet to advise on: making payment by phone and or post office. o **Action:** The Chair takes item on notice • **Neighbourhood houses – a future topic** o **Action:** The Chair suggests we can have a presentation on neighbour hood houses and Council support for them. • **Parking in Princes Hill** Committee member to be provided with information about upcoming opportunities to put forth their opposition or concerns. Other comments: • A committee member noted the information on social connection and loneliness provided in the August 12 2026 meeting is helpful o A council officer recommended reading Michael Marmot

		on determinants of health and loneliness to compliment this. • A council officer mentioned council's business as usual in terms of supporting social clubs. • A committee member congratulated Senior Coordinator and her team, for work carried out supporting the AAAC over the past 11 months. *Very gratifying to see how much has been followed up. Thanks to everyone.*
Meeting closed		*The meeting closed at 3pm*
Next scheduled meeting		TBA – Will Occur in 2027 later than January.