

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Welcome to the first edition of Yarra News since we began purchasing 100% of our electricity from renewable sources!

This is a major milestone in our response to the climate emergency facing our city, and it was made possible by our commitment to the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP). Together with our 13 MREP project partners (including the cities of Melbourne, Moreland and Port Phillip), we are constructing a major wind farm in rural Victoria, and the new site is already generating enough clean energy to meet our needs. More on page 10.

For this issue I was delighted to visit the Corner Hotel in Richmond. I caught up with Rod and Georgie from the Corer Hotel,

and wheelchair using patrons Rocca and Ryan, for an illuminating chat about making our venues more inclusive for people with many kinds of disabilities. This is vital work and it's encouraging to see Yarra businesses embracing accessibility. More on page 3.

Our annual Women of Yarra Awards are less than a month away. I encourage everyone to join us in celebrating the stories and achievements of women in Yarra and the continuing campaign for equality. If you're reading this before Monday 18 February, there is still time to nominate individuals and groups who live, work or study in Yarra, and who have made a unique contribution to our community.

Winners will be announced at a special ceremony on Friday 8 March from 1.30pm to 3pm at Collingwood Town Hall.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ iwdawards to learn more.

Cr Danae Bosler Mavor

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings are open to the public and community members are invited to attend. All meetings listed below begin at 7pm.

- 19 February Fitzroy Town Hall
- 19 March Fitzroy Town Hall
- 5 March Fitzroy Town Hall
- 2 April Richmond Town Hall

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarrameetings for agendas, minutes and further information about Council Meetings. Agendas are published on the Friday prior to each meeting.

WURUNDJERI ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to Elders past and present.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

LANGRIDGE WARD

Abbotsford, Alphington (south of Heidelberg Road), Clifton Hill (east of Wellington Street), Collingwood (except for the area bounded by Johnston, Wellington and Smith streets and Alexandra Parade), Fairfield (south of Heidelberg Road), Fitzroy (south of Moor Street), and Richmond (in the area bounded by Lennox, Highett and Hoddle streets)



Cr Danae Bosler

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Cr Stephen Jolly

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Cr Amanda Stone

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MELBA WARD

Burnley, Cremorne and Richmond (except the area bounded by Lennox, Highett and Hoddle streets)



Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei

- **150 407 150 407**
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Cr Daniel Nguyen

- **10** 0427 493 509
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Cr James Searle

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NICHOLLS WARD

North Carlton, Princes Hill, part of Clifton Hill (west of Wellington Street), North Fitzroy, Fitzroy (north of Moor Street) and part of Collingwood (the area bounded by Johnston, Wellington and Smith streets and Alexandra Parade)



Cr Misha Coleman

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Cr Jackie Fristacky

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Cr Mike McEvov

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To contact your Councillors, call 9205 5055, send a letter to c/o PO Box 168. Richmond VIC 3121. or you can reach them via their direct lines as above.



GOOD ACCESS IS GOOD BUSINESS

More people with disability are able to enjoy the Corner Hotel's famous live music and hospitality thanks to recent accessibility improvements.

Group General Manager Rod Smith explains that installing a lift to their upstairs beer garden was just the first step in their journey. "Since then, accessibility has always been at the forefront of our minds," he says.

As part of our Good Access is Good Business project we are able to offer businesses a free appraisal where we assess accessibility and make suggestions on how they can improve.

Ryan Smith is a wheelchair user and founder of Freewheel Weekends, an online directory reviewing the wheelchair accessibility of hospitality hot-spots in Melbourne. "Physical spaces are becoming more and more accessible in terms of mobility," he says.

"We're now getting to a stage where we need to focus on attitudinal changes. Invisible disabilities require more awareness and sensitivity and there's always room for improvement."

Embracing accessibility improvements opens up a whole sector of the community to feel welcome and included in your space

The Corner Hotel now provides accessibility training to its staff so they are equipped with a better understanding of a range of disabilities. "We're in the process of commissioning custom communication boards for non-verbal customers and we're looking to introduce relaxed performances in the band room" says Assistant Venue Manager Georgie Martin.

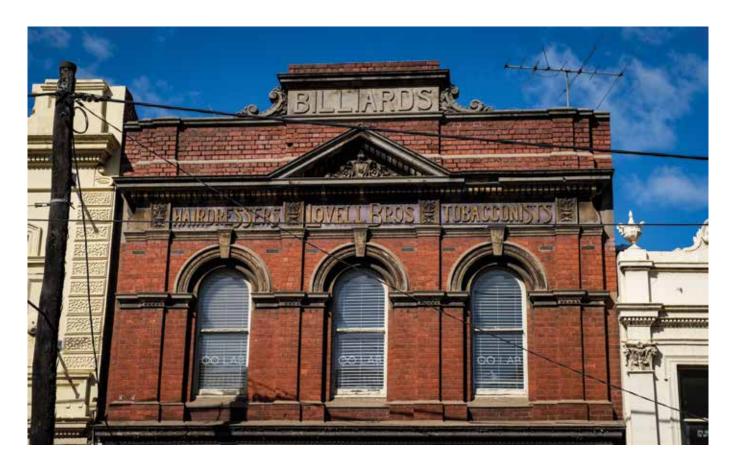
The venue also recently improved the accessibility of its website and introduced large-text menus in dining areas.

"Embracing accessibility improvements opens up a whole sector of the community to feel welcome and included in your space, which can also benefit your patronage," Georgie says.

"Accessibility at the Corner isn't perfect," Rod admits, "but we're learning and improving to make our service better for people of all abilities."

The Good Access is Good Business project is about ensuring that everyone in our community is able to enjoy our vibrant shopping strips, including people with disability.

Contact our Aged and Disability Services team on **9205 5555** or at **info@yarracity.vic.gov.au** to learn more.



PLANNING FOR OUR GROWING CITY

More than 29,000 people are expected to move to Yarra in the next 15 years. That's why we're planning for the long-term liveability and prosperity of our city.

Deciding where new residential development should go is just one piece of the puzzle. We're also planning for the things that make Yarra a great place to live – a strong local economy, employment opportunities, parks and open spaces, and better transport connections. All while protecting our neighbourhoods' heritage streetscapes and unique character.

So how are we doing this? With more than half of Yarra's residential land limited to minimal development, much of our future growth will happen in our 'activity centres', or shopping strips. This aligns with the State Government's long-term plans for Melbourne and it makes sense, because these centres offer good access to employment, public transport, services and shops.

To ensure that development of our activity centres is well planned, we've introduced some key strategies:

- Our Housing Strategy outlines where new residential development will go, promotes more housing choice, and supports an increase in the amount of affordable housing.
- Our Spatial Economic and Employment Strategy outlines our support for economic growth in our activity centres and ensures there is enough land to accommodate businesses and jobs.

We're also developing new strategies on parks and open spaces and preserving our city's heritage.

This year, we'll also be continuing our planning work for a number of our major activity centres. Planning for each centre takes up to 2 years, with the Minister for Planning's approval ultimately required. To ensure that inappropriate development doesn't happen in the meantime, we've had temporary controls approved for Swan Street, Victoria Street and Bridge Road in Richmond, Queens Parade in Clifton Hill, Johnston Street in Collingwood/ Abbotsford and Collingwood south.

Throughout 2019, we'll be seeking community feedback on our plans for permanent planning controls for some of these activity centres. The first permanent planning controls proposed are for Queens Parade, Clifton Hill and Swan Street, Richmond, which include height limits for new developments, heritage protections and zone changes.



If you'd like to receive an update on the community consultations for these planning projects, register at yarracity.vic.gov.au/planningupdates

BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Hieng Lim was just eight years old when he fled Cambodia's genocidal Khmer Rouge regime with his brothers and sisters in the early 1980s. Today, the trained lawyer and mediator works to build strong, safe and harmonious communities with the Neighbourhood Justice Centre in Collingwood.

For Hieng, this is more than just a job, as he often finds himself helping refugees and other marginalised people overcome trauma and discrimination.

"Everyone seeking asylum in Australia has enormous potential to contribute if they're given the chance," says Hieng, whose siblings include midwives, a doctor and a graphic artist.

Yarra is joining many other Australian councils in supporting the Back Your Neighbour campaign, which tells the stories of people who have found a safer life in Australia and are now giving back to the community.



The campaign is urging the Federal Government not to withdraw essential support services for refugees, which he says he finds particularly concerning.

"Just like me, a lot of these people have this crunching of traumatic experiences that will need to be dealt with in the coming years," says Hieng.

"We're talking about them witnessing all kinds of horrible things, being child soldiers, and more. That's traumatic. How can we just say, `now get on with your life'?" Hieng is hopeful Australians will come together to support refugees as they work at building a new life in this country. "In Australia we are generous when we know someone's tried their best," he says.

Visit backyourneighbour.com.au to join Yarra Council in opposing cuts to refugee payments.

MAKING A (DELICIOUS) MEAL OF IT

The Café Meals program helps people who are experiencing homelessness or unable to prepare food at home to visit local cafés and buy themselves healthy meals.

Dietician and Café Meals Coordinator Katrina Doljanin says, "A lot of people who don't have a kitchen, or don't have regular access to food, have that anxiety of: 'Where am I going to get food tomorrow? How much money have I got left? How am I going to manage all this?'"

Participants can visit selected cafés and restaurants and buy themselves a meal up to \$12 in value for just \$3.

Along with the nutritional benefits, Café Meals helps improve mental health and reduces social isolation by giving participants a place to go with a friendly atmosphere and staff.

It makes you feel attached to the local community in a way that I wouldn't be able to afford

"I've got a place that I can meet people... I can meet friends, I can just sit and be and get waited on, it's really nice," says Kylie, a participant in the program.

"It makes you feel attached to the local community in a way that I wouldn't be able to afford."

Café Meals is a collaboration between cohealth, local agencies and participating cafés, with the support of Yarra Council.



Contact cohealth at communications@cohealth. org.au for more information on Café Meals.



MEET YARRA'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Sussan Chow is our Citizen of the Year for her tireless contribution to Yarra's Chinese community.

Sussan is a respected leader and volunteer with the Yarra Chinese Women's Group (YCWG) and a former president of the Fitzroy Chinese Association (FCA). Her caring and inclusive nature inspires and empowers everyone around her.

After leaving her government job in Hong Kong more than 20 years ago, Sussan arrived in Australia knowing very little about the local customs. "Through a Yarra City Council training course I learnt a lot about Australia, the culture and the people here which really helped me to integrate into the community," she says.

Together with her friends in the YCWG and FCA, Sussan brings the Chinese community together at least four times

a month. They take part in activities like arts and crafts, meals and cooking, health and education, singing and dancing, and exercise. "These activities help people build their confidence to love and respect themselves and build a support network by making new friends," Sussan says.

These activities help people build their confidence to love and respect themselves

Sussan ensures cultural traditions are kept alive by celebrating key Chinese festivals, including Chinese New Year, Mid-Autumn Festival, Duan Wu Jie (Chinese Dumpling Day) and International Mother's Day together. Members always enjoy a variety of cultural delicacies and get to take some home to share with their loved ones.

"It's encouraging to get this award and makes me think I shouldn't stop and should continue to work and support the community," Sussan says. "It's not only my honour, but the members are all sincerely happy about my award."

Yarra Council is proud to recognise Sussan with our Citizen of the Year Award and we are certain that she will continue to lead and inspire in the years to come.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ yarraawards to learn more about our Citizen of the Year and our other Yarra Community Award winners.

A NEW MURAL FOR NICHOLSON VILLAGE

Have you seen the new mural in Nicholson Village?

The once drab bus depot fence has been transformed into a spectacular artwork for the entire community to enjoy. The effect has been immediate, creating a sense of vitality and renewal on the strip.

Lead artists Michael Fikaris and Brody Xarhakos worked with young, emerging artists to capture the "seasons and senses" of Nicholson Street. The mural is part of a Council program encouraging young people to abandon unauthorised tagging in favour of beautification projects responding to community requests. This particular request came from our Nicholson Village traders, including



Cory Boardman of Brompton Junction Melbourne. According to Cory the old wall was threatening to "bring down the public's perception of our strip". The new mural, on the other hand, has been an unqualified hit with traders and shoppers alike. "We're big fans of street art here," says Cory.

Visit the historic Nicholson Village today to experience a great mix of fresh food, cafés, children's gifts, health care and beauty businesses.

Yarra Council delivered this project with the help of a Department of Justice Graffiti Prevention grant.

Our other valued partners included Transdev, the Youth Support and Advocacy Service and the Nicholson Village traders.



MORE CASUAL AND OCCASIONAL CARE FOR KIDS

We're excited to be offering new and expanded casual and occasional care services for local families in 2019 as part of a new trial. Running until June, the trial aims to provide a better service for children, more flexibility for families and greater value to the community.

Casual care

Four childcare centres are running new, five-hour casual care sessions from Monday to Friday.

- Gold Street Children's Centre in Collingwood
- Keele Street Children's Centre in Collingwood

- Yarraberg Children's Centre in Richmond
- North Carlton Children's Centre in Carlton.

Occasional care

We're also expanding our occasional care service at Connie Benn Early Learning Centre – with earlier starts and more four-hour sessions available.

- Monday to Friday: 8.30am to 12.30pm
- Monday and Wednesday: 1pm to 5pm

If a shorter session works for you, we also offer 90-minute occasional care at Richmond Recreation Centre and Fitzroy Pool.

- Monday to Friday: 9am to 10.30am
- Monday to Friday: 10.30am to 12pm

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ caretrial2019 to find out more, including costs and how to enrol.

FACES OF YARRA

Portraits of a living city



Christa Hubik (17) is the student co-founder of 'Earth at Academy', a sustainability group at the Academy of Mary Immaculate in Fitzroy. The group has introduced reusable cups for students and staff, recycling bins for classrooms, and a worm farm to reduce food waste. "I've always felt a strong connection to nature," she says. "I am passionate about our planet's future and feel I have an obligation to lift up the people whose voices might be lost."



Follow **@CityOfYarra** on Instagram for more on Christa and our other #FacesOfYarra.

2019/20 BUDGET UPDATE

We received more than 500 pieces of feedback from our community during our 2019/20 budget consultation late last year. We're now reviewing this feedback and developing a draft 2019/20 budget, which will be publicly released in April. At this time, our community will be invited to make a formal budget submission.

Details will be available in the next edition of Yarra News and at yoursayyarra.com.au/ yarrabudget1920

CHEAPER PARKING ON BRIDGE ROAD

Parking on Bridge Road just got cheaper as part of a new trial. Visitors who pay \$2 for their first half hour will receive their second half hour for free. Any extra time after that first hour will cost \$4 per hour, which is the current rate. This will give visitors to Bridge Road the time they need to shop, dine and get things done.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ cheaperparking to learn more.

LET'S TALK ABOUT GRAFFITI

We're looking at ways we can best work with the community to tackle graffiti together. Our Graffiti Management Framework is being updated, and we would like to hear what you think. Have your say by 28 February 2019.

Visit yoursayyarra.com.au/ yarragraffiti for more information.

WHAT'S ON

THE HACKKETS

Sunday 17 February 2.30pm to 3.30pm Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library

Join us in the stunning rooftop garden of Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library to enjoy a live performance by The Hackkets. Celebrating their 25th year, The Hackkets channel their love of rock and roll classics into their own reinvented AM radio fan-fiction. Made up of members with and without perceived disability, the band writes and performs originals based on life experience and humour. Visit yarracity. vic.gov.au/hackkets to find out more.



Saturday 23 February From 3pm Holden Street Reserve, Fitzroy North

Come along for an afternoon of entertainment, activities and workshops focusing on sustainability and the environment, followed by a movie screening at sundown of The Song Keepers. This Australian film tells the inspiring story of an Aboriginal women's choir who travel to Germany to perform German Hymns in their traditional language. Visit yarracity.vic. gov.au/songkeepers to register for this free community event.



For more information about local events, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarraevents



NO WASTE COOKING WORKSHOP

Sunday 24 February 10am to 2pm Melbourne Girls' College, Yarra Boulevard Richmond

Each year in Victoria, we throw out around 250,000 tonnes of food. In this cooking workshop, learn how to be creative with veggies and more adaptable in the kitchen so you can save money and reduce food waste. Participants will cook and share a delicious vegetarian meal. Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/nowaste to register.

WOMEN OF YARRA AWARDS CEREMONY

Friday 8 March 1.30pm to 3pm Collingwood Town Hall

Celebrate International Women's Day at our 2019 Women of Yarra awards ceremony. The awards celebrate the unique and important contribution women make to our community, culture and progressive social change. We will be announcing our winner, followed by a free afternoon tea. Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/iwdawards to learn more and reserve your seat at the awards.

NAVIGATING THE UNCERTAINTY OF RETURNING TO WORK

Thursday 14 March 12pm to 1pm Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library

Trying to return to work after a child is hard enough, from juggling childcare arrangements and inevitable illnesses to trying to do your job properly. In this free business training a commercial lawyer will help you understand your rights as an employee returning to work. Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/returningtowork to register your attendance.

WORM FARMING AND COMPOSTING

Sunday 31 March 11am to 12.30pm Finbar Neighbourhood House

Learn about Finbar Neighbourhood House's award-winning worm farming and composting and choose a system that's right for you. You will learn how to keep your system working well, avoid common mistakes and troubleshoot problems. Visit **yarracity.** vic.gov.au/composting to find out more.



POWERING UP FOR **SUSTAINABILITY**

Thanks to our commitment to sourcing 100% renewable electricity you can now feel even better about using our services and facilities.

That means every time you take one of our exercise classes, use a computer at one of our libraries, attend a function at one of our town halls, drop your child off at one of our childcare centres, or make your way home beneath one of our street lights, that's 100% renewable electricity at work.

Since 1 January we have been sourcing all of our electricity needs from a major new windfarm in regional Victoria

Since 1 January we have been sourcing all of our electricity needs from a major new windfarm in regional Victoria. We are helping to drive construction of the wind farm under the umbrella of the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP). Our partners include the cities of Melbourne, Moreland and Port Phillip, as well as leading universities, corporations and cultural institutions.

The windfarm is located in Crowlands, around 15 km northeast of Ararat, and work has been completed on 21 of 39

planned wind turbines. There is already enough power flowing into the grid to meet all of our power needs, and construction will continue over the coming months. The site is owned and operated by Melbourne-based clean energy company Pacific Hydro and the power will be supplied by its retail arm, Tango Energy.

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/ climate2019 to learn more about our response to the climate emergency.

RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE **EMERGENCY**

We commit to urgent action

Switching to 100% renewable electricity for all Council operations is part of our response to the climate emergency facing our city.

This initiative builds upon and supports - our ongoing commitment to carbon neutral certification, which we have achieved every year since 2012.

Other recent sustainability wins include:

- Installing solar panels and battery storage units across multiple Council sites, reducing our estimated greenhouse gas emissions by around 408 tonnes per year.
- Launching a food and garden scraps collection trial for 180 homes in Abbotsford, diverting more than 7000 kilograms of waste from landfill.
- Adopting an Urban Forest Strategy to ensure that Yarra continues to experience the environmental, social and economic benefits that trees provide.



Sustainable Yarra

How to save energy in your home

Reducing energy at home saves you money and helps our environment. You have the power!

The tips presented on this page are based on Victorian Government and Yarra Energy Foundation resources.



Become a fan of the fan

Fans can help you feel up to 3°C cooler and cost only a couple of cents an hour to run.



Go behind the curtains

Close your curtains to keep the heat out during summer and the heat in during winter.



Light up your life with LEDs

Install energy-efficient LED light globes to save up to 80% off your lighting costs.



Cut the juice if it's not in use

When you're not using your appliances, power points or lights, switch them off at the source.



Use cold water

Wash your clothes in cold water and on the shortest cycle.



Set your thermostat

Set your thermostat to at least 26 degrees in summer and 18–20 degrees in winter.



Ditch the draft

Seal gaps around your home to save on heating and cooling.

Local resources

- Looking for some expert advice on solar panels and other energy saving measures? The Yarra Energy Foundation is here to help.
- Visit www.yef.org.au/iliveinyarra to learn more.
- Our library offers a great range of devices to help you manage your power use, including light meters and energy efficient power boards.
 - Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/energysavers to learn more.

State Government resources

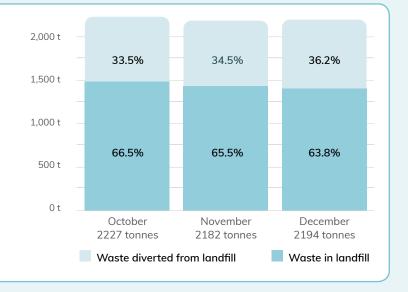
- Visit victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au to learn how to obtain products like energy efficient lights, evaporative coolers and shower heads at a discount price.
- Visit **compare.energy.vic.gov.au** to compare your energy bill with offerings from other companies and to claim a \$50 power saving bonus.

Watching our waste

Every issue we take a look at the amount of waste collected in Yarra from residential properties and businesses and the percentage of waste diverted from landfill.

Some of the ways waste is diverted from landfill is through household recycling collections, our recycling drop-off centre and composting of green waste.

Visit **yarracity.vic.gov.au/wastewatch** for tips on reducing your waste!



DO YOU KNOW THE 5 TIPS TO #SURVIVETHEHEAT?

Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/heathealth to explore our tips to beat the heat this summer and stay cool in Yarra.











DRINK WATER

PLAN AHEAD

KEEP COOL

HOT CARS KILL

HELP OTHERS

SURVIVE THE HEAT

Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au



Weekly announcements from Yarra News will be broadcast in some languages on local radio 3CR 855AM and 3ZZZ 92.3FM

GREEK

Ανακοινώσεις από αυτή την έκδοση του Yarra News θα μεταδοθούν στο Ελληνικό ραδιοφωνικό πρόγραμμα της Δευτέρας από τις 8μμ, στο 3CR 855 AM.

TURKISH

Yarra News'un bu baskısında yer alan duyurular, 92.3 FM bandından yayın yapan 3ZZZ Türkçe radyo programında, Pazar günleri saat 10.00'dan itibaren yayınlanacaktır.

ARABIC

سيتم بث اعلانات من اصدارة Yarra News هذه عبر برنامج صوت إريتيريا الإذاعي في أيام الاثنين من الساعة 7 صباحاً، على التردد 3CR 855 AM

Read stories from this edition in your community language. For more information call **9280 1940** and quote **REF 18262.**

本期《雅拉新闻》(Yarra News)的精彩看点包括:让残疾人去本地商户更方便、在尼克尔森村(Nicholson Village)推出新壁画、本市转为使用100%可再生能源、以及雅拉年度市民(Yarra Citizen of the Year)Sussan Chow的访谈录。如果您需获取有关本期新闻的更多信息,请致电9280 1937并使用编号18,262查询。

Τα κυριότερα σημεία της παρούσας έκδοσης των Yarra News περιλαμβάνουν ιστορίες για το πώς να γίνουν πιο προσβάσιμες οι τοπικές επιχειρήσεις στα άτομα με αναπηρίες, τα εγκαίνια νέας τοιχογραφίας στο Nicholson Village και τη μετάβασή μας σε 100% ανανεώσιμη ενέργεια, καθώς επίσης μια συνέντευξη με την Πολίτη της Χρονιάς της Yarra Sussan Chow. Εάν θέλετε περισσότερες πληροφορίες για την παρούσα έκδοση, καλέστε το 9280 1934 και αναφέρετε REF 18,262.

I punti salienti di questa edizione di Yarra News comprendono articoli su come rendere più accessibili le imprese locali per le persone con disabilità, sul lancio di un nuovo murale a Nicholson Village, e sul nostro passaggio al 100% di energie rinnovabili, oltre a un'intervista alla Cittadina dell'anno di Yarra Sussan Chow. Se desideri maggiori informazioni su questa edizione chiama il 9280 1931 e cita REF 18,262.

Những tin đáng chú ý trong số báo Yarra News lần này là những câu chuyện về việc giúp người khuyết tật dễ ra vào các cửa tiệm trong vùng hơn, ra mắt bức bích họa mới ở Làng Nicholson và chuyển sang năng lượng tái tạo 100%, cùng cuộc phỏng vấn với Công dân Tiêu biểu Toàn Năm của Yarra, Sussan Chow. Muốn biết thêm về tin tức đăng trong số báo này, xin quý vị gọi số 9280 1939 và báo cho nhân viên biết số REF 18,262.

YARRA CITY COUNCIL

PO Box 168 Richmond VIC 3121 T 9205 5555 E info@yarracity.vic.gov.au W yarracity.vic.gov.au **ON THE COVER:** Yarra Citizen of the Year Sussan Chow visits Abbotsford's Asian furniture and home décor store Orient Curio.

If you have any comments or queries about Yarra News, please contact us at **yarranews@yarracity.vic.gov.au** or call **9205 5555**. Large print, audio and online versions are also available.