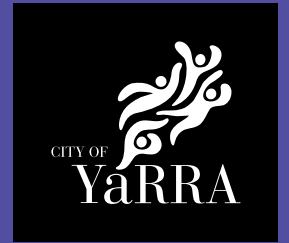


December 2023 / January 2024

yarranews



Celebrate the festive season
page 9

Growing Yarra's tree canopy
page 13

Collingwood's largest park opens
page 5



Message from the Mayor



Hi everyone,

It's an honour to serve as Mayor of Yarra, a community I have long called home.

Drawing from my experiences as Deputy Mayor and on various community advisory committees, I hope to bring great energy and inclusive leadership in my role as Mayor – with a focus on celebrating diversity and working towards equitable outcomes.

I want to hear from all parts of our wonderful community about your ideas and opportunities for how we can improve our great city, including finding new ways to continue to support our business precincts and creative communities, as well as creating better places for people and nature through enhanced streetscapes and open spaces.

I'm delighted to work with my fellow Councillors, the Deputy Mayor, and the community to address housing affordability and continue to meet Yarra's financial

sustainability objectives. Together, we'll use our collective strengths and diverse perspectives to make informed decisions to ensure we're planning ahead to provide the infrastructure and services our current and future community needs. Most importantly, I look forward to seeing you out and about in Yarra throughout the coming year, whether it's over a coffee, at a festival or fab community event, at a Your Say Yarra pop-up event or at one of our Councillor Engagement Program events – keep an eye out for dates in early 2024.

I'd like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and leadership of our outgoing Mayor, Cr Claudia Nguyen for being a champion for our CALD communities in Yarra and for advocating on behalf of our city's young people.

I'm excited to contribute towards making Yarra an even more vibrant, sustainable, and thriving community – it's going to be a great year ahead.

Cr Edward Crossland
Mayor City of Yarra

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](https://www.facebook.com/cityofyarra)) and Twitter ([@yarracouncil](https://twitter.com/yarracouncil))
- Register for our monthly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife

On the cover: A young girl enjoys the new Cambridge Street Reserve in Collingwood.



Latest News

Yarra shines at Sustainability Awards

Yarra and Merri-bek City Council have been named joint finalists for the 2023 Premier's Sustainability Awards for our Unlocking Sustainable Strata program. This initiative makes sure apartment residents are included in sustainable energy transitions, offering guides for sustainable infrastructure in medium to high-density housing. We have also been awarded the Tidy Cities Award in the Education category at Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria's Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Awards for the My Smart Garden program. Spanning 11 Melbourne councils, this program offers resources and workshops on sustainable gardening, water conservation, waste reduction, and more.

Top marks for Yarraberg Children's Centre

Yarraberg Children's Centre has surpassed the National Quality Standard (NQS) in all seven quality areas, a benchmark only 22% of long day care services in Victoria achieve. The centre's commitment to children's wellbeing and understanding of community context were particularly highlighted.

Yarra's Annual Report 2022/23

We recently published our Annual Report for 2022/23, showcasing our progress against the goals and priorities of our Council Plan 2021–25, informed by the Yarra 2036 Community Vision.

- 892 street trees planted
- 128 major road and footpath works
- 760 new bike lanes
- 965,315 library items loaned out
- 6,894 tonnes of waste diverted from landfill for recycling
- 251 capital works projects
- 32,390 swimming lessons provided
- 800,000 visits to our leisure centres
- 20,000 meals delivered to older residents and residents living with a disability

For a detailed look at our services, projects, finances, and governance during 2022/23, access the Annual Report on our website or pick up a copy at our customer service centres and libraries.

For more details on these stories, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/news

Yarra Zero: Our effort to end homelessness

Homelessness is a big issue that affects many people. We believe everyone has the right to safe and secure housing. That's why we're working hard to make sure everyone in Yarra has a place to live.

We recently launched a new project called Yarra Zero. This project aims to help people who don't have a home or are sleeping on the streets. We're working with Launch Housing, cohealth and many other partners to make this happen.

The Yarra Zero project is about more than just numbers – it's about knowing each person sleeping rough by name, understanding their unique needs, and supporting them towards stable housing.

“Something that fills me with hope about this project is the prospect of getting to know the people sleeping rough on an individual and intrinsic level,” said Verity, who is involved in a work and training program run by the social enterprise For Change Co, which gives youth who have experienced homelessness hospitality training and paid employment.

“We need to uplift and help construct strong foundations for people who haven't had the chance to set down roots or have a proper sense of security,” Verity added.



The ultimate goal? Achieving Functional Zero homelessness. This is the measurable milestone that, when sustained, means that homelessness in the community can largely be prevented and that any experiences of it are rare, brief and non-recurring.

Learn more about our efforts and find how you can help, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/homelessness



Housing is a human right



The human right of housing is the foundation upon which people build their lives and communities thrive. The Yarra Zero initiative aligns with our Homelessness Strategy, emphasising early intervention, crisis response, and the ultimate goal of prevention, and our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive Yarra for all.

Follow our progress in moving towards Functional Zero on the Melbourne Zero website: melbournezero.org.au/city_of_yarra



IT'S TIME TO END HOMELESSNESS

Collingwood's biggest park is now open

We recently unveiled the new Cambridge Street Reserve, now standing as the suburb's most expansive green space.

The transformation of the park ensures the space serves as a true reflection of local needs and aspirations.

Doubling in size, the park offers plenty of grassy areas for relaxation, extensive seating for social gatherings, more lighting and important bike infrastructure.

One of the park's highlights is the 'Close Knit' artwork by sculptor William Eicholtz, which was inspired by Australian backyards, and clothes on a Hills Hoist. This theme of home life and handcrafts is woven throughout the park, from flying jumper sculptures to knitted concrete garden walls.



This upgrade was made possible through our partnership with the Victorian Government, who contributed \$1.3 million to the project, in addition to the Council's \$731,130.

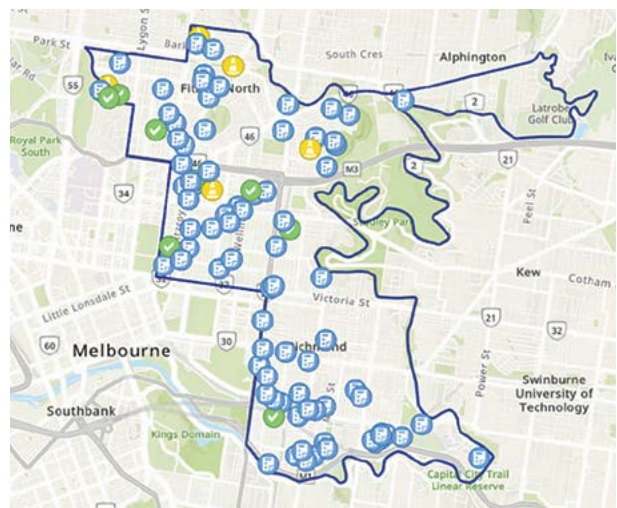
We are committed to creatively enhancing and expanding our community's green spaces. Stay tuned for more exciting open space projects, including the Otter Street and Charlotte Street Pocket Parks, coming soon to Yarra.

Discover Yarra's progress with our Capital Works Map



Stay updated on how we're enhancing Yarra! Our online Capital Works Map showcases all our ongoing projects. Scan the QR code

to learn about the exciting projects happening in your neighbourhood. It's a direct way for you to see how we're investing in Yarra's future.



Composting in the city: A Carlton North resident's green journey

This year, driven by our commitment to reduce food waste, we've seen 217 compost bins and systems find homes through our compost program!

In the heart of Carlton North, apartment dweller James is among Yarra residents leading the way in urban composting.

"When a neighbour introduced compost bins, we jumped on board," James said.

James has found there are benefits beyond waste reduction, too. "Our indoor bin doesn't smell anymore, since all the non-meat food waste goes into compost. Plus, watching the compost change with the seasons and spotting worms is fascinating," he said. "It feels good knowing our waste is managed right here, not shipped off somewhere."

For those in apartments, James advises to "use a medium-sized bucket with a lid for food waste. Place it where it's easily accessible during cooking."



Residents can purchase discounted compost systems and even sign up for a free Food Waste Challenge. With initiatives like these and residents like James, Yarra is truly embracing a sustainable future.

Sign up for a free 12-week Food Waste Challenge to find tips and tricks on how to avoid the production of food waste at yarracity.vic.gov.au/foodwaste



A helping hand for new local businesses

Considering starting a business in Yarra? Our business concierge service is here to help.

Navigating permits and regulations can be daunting. Instead of dealing with multiple Council departments for permits like building, planning, or footpath trading, our dedicated team will simplify the process for you.

In 2023, we've already assisted close to 500 prospective businesses, from home bakers to microbreweries.

Want to be part of Yarra's vibrant business scene? Let our business concierge team guide you.

Find out more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/business



Yarra is home to over 16,800 businesses, making us a key player in Melbourne's economy. We aim for a smart, sustainable city with lively precincts and a supportive business community. Our business concierge service is a testament to that commitment.

Night-time cat curfew begins in January

From Monday 1 January 2024, a night-time cat curfew will be introduced across Yarra. The curfew requires our feline friends to stay within their homes from 7pm to 7am. This initiative, part of our commitment to responsible pet ownership and wildlife protection, aligns with measures taken by other inner-city councils.

Why the curfew?

- **Safety:** Reduces risks of disease, injury, and cats going astray.
- **Wildlife:** Protects our native birds and marsupials from predatory threats.
- **Community:** Reduces nocturnal cat-related disturbances.



Our recent community consultation highlighted support for the curfew, with 75% of the 950 responses in favour on the night-time curfew.

Further adjustments to the Council Order boost our pet management in public spaces, promoting a harmonious environment for all.

For more on the curfew and other changes, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/petsafety



Pedalling towards a safer Yarra

We're steering Yarra into a cyclist-friendly future. Recent improvements include:

- New contraflow bike lanes on Webb Street, Lambert Street and Newlands Street, forming local connections between key destinations and active transport routes.
- Upgrades at the Dean Street / Barkly Street intersection in Fitzroy North, responding to community requests for a safer crossing for school children.



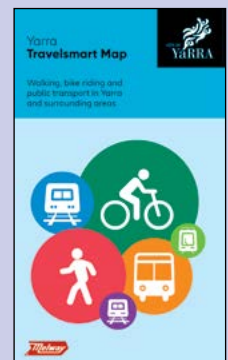
- Improving safety at Coppin and Nicholson Street intersections with pilot upgrades.

These projects show our commitment to make cycling safer for everyone. To read our transport strategy visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/transportstrategy

WORKING
FOR YOU

Explore Yarra with our TravelSmart Map!

This compact guide features walking, riding, and transport routes in Yarra. Pick up a copy at our libraries and town halls or view online at yarracity.vic.gov.au/gettingaround



Safe swimming with Yarra Leisure

Our swim school holiday program is great for kids 3.5 and up who want to practice swimming, build confidence, or just have fun!

Program 1: Monday 8 January to Friday 12 January

Program 2: Monday 15 January to Friday 19 January

Our pool facilities have Platinum Pool accreditation by Life Saving Victoria, the highest standards in aquatic safety. Our lifeguards are expertly trained, ensuring hazard-free environments and offer guidance on pool depths.

For more, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/holidayprogram



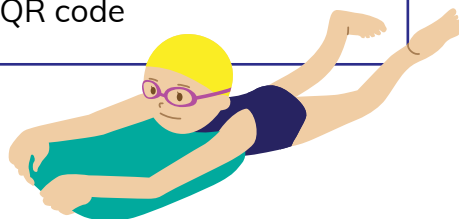
Safety tips:

- Don't swim alone
- Kids under 5 must stay within arm's reach at all times
- Kids under 10 must be constantly and actively supervised
- Check safety signs before swimming – stay in your depth
- No alcohol in the pool
- Always swim where lifeguards can see you.



Ready to learn more?

Enrolments open on 11 December! Learn more by scanning the QR code



Boost your recycling and earn some coin with the Container Deposit Scheme

Did you know you can now drop off eligible drink containers and receive a 10-cent refund per container?

We're working with the Victorian Government to provide our residents with opportunities and incentives to recycle more materials and transition to a circular economy.

Current drop-off locations include IGA Abbotsford, Cherish Health Richmond and The Lott Richmond.

For more, visit: yarracity.vic.gov.au/newwaystorecycle

For details on accepted containers and more drop-off locations, scan the QR code.



Festive Yarra

Yarra is set to sparkle with a range of events that capture the spirit of Christmas. From traditional carols to magical installations, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Carols in the Park

Thursday 14 December, 6pm to 9pm
Curtain Square, Carlton North

Join us for an evening of festive tunes with MC Casey Bennetto, performances by local schools, community choirs, and a special visit from Santa. Enjoy delicious treats from Wrap Roll It, a sausage sizzle by Collingwood Toy Library, and pop-up stalls from Billy Van Creamy and Molly Rose Brewing.



An enchanting fairy light tunnel will also illuminate Curtain Square until 4 January.

Fitzroy Town Hall Decorative Display

Until Wednesday 3 January
Fitzroy Town Hall, from dusk

Vin Tagé transforms the façade with festive trimmings, including garlands, wreaths, and twinkling festoon lights.

Richmond Town Hall Christmas Projection

Until Wednesday 3 January, from dusk

Experience a vibrant Bauhaus-style projection by Multimedia Events, illuminating Bridge Road in festive colors.

Turn to **page 15** for more upcoming events.

Service changes over the holidays

We will be operating some of our services on adjusted timetables during the holiday period.

- For changes at customer service centres, keep an eye on yarracity.vic.gov.au
- For changes to library opening hours, visit library.yarracity.vic.gov.au
- Find changes to our Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond Leisure Centre opening hours at leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au

Bin collections over the holidays

This Christmas, there's a change to waste and recycling collections. As Christmas Day falls on a Monday, there will be no collection on 25 December. All collections for that week will be one day behind, with Friday's pick-up moved to Saturday.

The Recycling Centre will be closed on 24, 25, 26 and 31 December, and 1 January 2024.

Advocacy in Yarra

We champion strategic priorities to State and Federal governments on issues like climate change, active transport, planning, health and wellbeing.

Our advocacy to government helps to amplify the voices in our community on the issues that matter to them. It also brings tangible results like the Learning Bank on Victoria Street in Richmond, backed by the Victorian Government with over \$1.1m, demonstrating our coordinated efforts.

In Collingwood, our advocacy helped to secure over \$2.4m for two new parks, Otter Street Pocket Park and the extended Cambridge Street Reserve. We're also pushing for support for projects like the Charlotte Street Pocket Park, Richmond Youth Hub, pop-up bike lanes, and more accessible tram stops.

We've got a big year ahead!



2024 partnership highlights

- Otter Street Pocket Park: New open space in Collingwood
- Collingwood College Kinder: New kindergarten offering early years education.
- Fitzroy Gasworks Sports Centre: Multi-purpose facility opening
- Atherton Gardens Kindergarten: Expansion to offer 44 more kindergarten spots
- Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter statues: Iconic musicians statues unveiled in Fitzroy



Urgent Care, without the long wait

Visit the new Richmond Priority Primary Care Centre at 283 Church St, Richmond

For those times when it's urgent but not an emergency: mild infections, burns, or suspected fractures.

- Free access for all: No Medicare card needed.
- In partnership with St Vincent's Hospital.

Skip the emergency department queue and get care fast.



Willowview Centre: 30 years of enriching lives

This year, Willowview celebrates 30 years of providing social support to Yarra residents aged 65 and over. Located in Abbotsford's Eddy Court, the centre is a cornerstone of the community.

"We support each other," Elly and Margaret explained at a recent event at the centre. "We take part in discussions and socialise and have built friendships with people from all backgrounds and interests." Former antique shop owner Menka has been coming to the centre every week for over eight months. She enjoys imparting her skills and expertise to her friends at Willowview, from removing stains from vintage furniture, to polishing silver. "I'm a social butterfly," the Fitzroy North resident said.



If you or someone you know would benefit from joining the Willowview family, register through My Aged Care by calling **1800 200 422**. For more details, contact Willowview Centre on **9205 5276**.

Willowview reflects our dedication to supporting social connections and well-being for older people. We're committed to ensuring every resident, including our seniors, remains an active, connected, and valued member of the Yarra community.

For more, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/willowview

Willowview offers:

- Chair yoga sessions
- Art creation workshops
- Intergenerational programs
- Community lunches
- Engaging games
- Gardening activities
- Opportunities to socialise and make new friends



FIVE EASY WAYS TO BE SAFE IN A HEATWAVE



1 Drink plenty of water (tap water is safe to drink)



2 Close curtains and blinds to block out the heat



3

Spend the day in cool buildings

5

Check on sick or older people



4

Emergencies call 000



For more information visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/heatwave

Beat the heat: Stay safe and prepared this summer

Extreme heat claims more lives in Australia than any other natural disaster, making readiness key. While anyone can be affected, older people, young children, individuals with medical conditions, and outdoor workers are at higher risk.

Emergency alerts

Connect with local resources, stay updated with weather forecasts, and adjust your schedules to avoid extreme temperatures.

- Download the Vic Emergency App and tune into ABC Melbourne 774 Radio for essential updates.
- Call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** for preparation and planning information.
- Those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can reach the hotline via the National Relay Service on **1800 555 677**.

Offering help to neighbours, especially older or ill people, strengthens community ties.

Thunderstorm Asthma

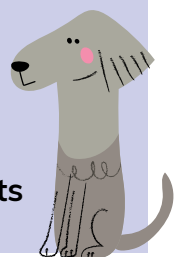
Thunderstorm asthma can occur in summer during certain thunderstorms amidst high grass pollen levels, causing wheezing, breathlessness, and coughing. It can be severe and life-threatening. Manage risks by consulting with your doctor, especially if you have asthma or hay fever, and have reliever medication at hand. During grass pollen season, avoid thunderstorm wind gusts by staying indoors.

To learn more about staying safe this summer, visit: yarracity.vic.gov.au/heatwave



Paw-sitive heatwave tips for pets

Make sure pets have plenty of drinking water and shade. Never leave them in a parked car, which can turn into an oven quickly. Find more tips to keep pets safe this summer at yarracity.vic.gov.au/summerpets



Branching out: planting trees for climate resilience

Through our Urban Forest Strategy, we're increasing our tree canopy and cooling our streets to respond to the climate emergency.

Yarra's urban tree canopy is now at 17.7% – well on track to meet our goal of 21.25% by 2040.

A key benefit? In inner-city areas like Yarra, hard surfaces like pavements retain heat, creating what's known as the urban heat island effect. Trees help counter this by offering shade and cooling, supporting our resilience against climate change impacts.

Since adopting our Urban Forest Strategy in 2017 we have added:

- 4,000 street trees
- 3.8% to the overall canopy
- 6% to street canopies – where heat is most felt

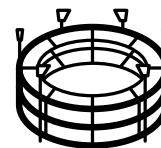


This growth in our urban forest is creating a greener, more resilient Yarra for current and future generations and is an excellent example of how nature can provide climate solutions.



Learn more about Yarra's Urban Forest Strategy and even request a new tree for your street or park at yarracity.vic.gov.au/trees

Since our Urban Forest Strategy was adopted, Yarra's tree canopy has grown by 3.8%, equivalent to seven Melbourne Cricket Grounds!



Respect our parks

Please do your bit by being respectful of our outdoor spaces, nearby residents, and other park visitors:

- Don't litter, avoid glass, and pick up after your pets. Keep our parks clean for everyone to enjoy.
- No amplified music unless you have a permit.
- Check whether you are visiting a dog-off-leash area. If not, please keep your furry friend on a lead!
- Use the toilets provided.
- Don't peg down marquees, use weights instead.

YOUR SAY YARRA

Get involved in Yarra's projects

Share your feedback about upcoming Council projects and share your thoughts and ideas for Yarra. Your input will help us make decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of our community.



Sign up to our community engagement e-news to stay informed and have your say on decisions that impact you.

Planning and prioritising services for the years ahead

Delivering value for rates and making sure our services meet the needs of our growing and diverse community is a priority for Council. Our draft Financial Sustainability Strategy includes the development of a comprehensive service planning and review framework. Tell us what you think and help us understand how you want us to plan and prioritise services for the years ahead. Share your thoughts by **9am on Monday 18 December 2023**.

Street Garden Guidelines

We've developed draft Street Garden Guidelines to provide direction to residents who want to use Yarra's streetscapes to install street gardens. We're now asking the community to review these draft Guidelines and let us if we've missed anything, or whether more detailed information is needed to guide you on planting your own street garden. Tell us what you think before the consultation closes at **9am on Monday 18 December 2023**.

Gertrude and Brunswick Streets Corner

This corner is a key meeting place in our community. As part of the Brunswick Streetscape Masterplan, Council aims to enhance this area, including new seating, greenery, lighting, improved Atherton Gardens connectivity, and tram shelter modifications. Take a look at the draft concept design and provide your feedback by **9am on Monday 18 December 2023**.

For more, visit
yoursayyarra.com.au



What's on

New Year's Eve at Edinburgh Gardens

Sunday 31 December, 4pm to midnight

Ring in 2024 at Edinburgh Gardens! Enjoy free movie screenings, including a special early film for kids. Grab a bite from food trucks Wazzup Felaful and Froygo and join the countdown to midnight in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.



Details about these and more events around Yarra are available at yarracity.vic.gov.au/events

Victoria Street Lunar Festival

Sunday 4 February 2024,
12 noon to 10pm

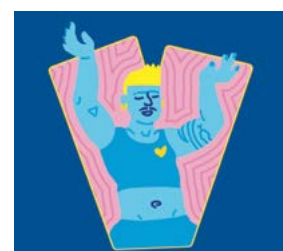
Victoria Street (between Church Street and Hoddle Street)

Welcome the Year of the Dragon at the vibrant Victoria Street Lunar Festival. Get into the festive spirit of Richmond's Vietnamese heart, with local eateries offering delightful street food. Celebrate the Lunar New Year with music, food, firecrackers, and more. Whether you're drawn by tradition or the promise of a lively street party, this festival is a must!

Victoria's Pride Street Party

Sunday 11 February 2024

Fitzroy's streets will come alive with the return of Victoria's Pride Street Party. Midsumma is again delivering the event in partnership with the Victorian Government. Stay tuned for details!



Your Councillors

To find your Ward visit
yarracity.vic.gov.au/councillors

Below are contact details for your Ward Councillors. These are listed in alphabetical order.

Langridge Ward

- **Cr Michael Glynatsis**
michael.glynatsis@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Stephen Jolly**
stephen.jolly@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Anab Mohamud (Deputy Mayor)**
anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

- **Cr Edward Crossland (Mayor)**
edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Herschel Landes**
herschel.landes@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Claudia Nguyen**
claudia.nguyen@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Nicholls Ward

- **Cr Bridgid O'Brien**
bridgid.obrien@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Amanda Stone**
amanda.stone@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Sophie Wade**
sophie.wade@yarracity.vic.gov.au

To contact your Councillors, call **9205 5055**, send a letter to **c/o PO Box 168, Richmond VIC 3121**, or email their address above.

Council Meetings

Meetings take place at Richmond Town Hall. If you would like to attend, please visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/meetings for details.

All meetings are live streamed at
yarracity.vic.gov.au/webcast

- Tuesday 12 December

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF19,780.

本期的《Yarra News》介绍了我们社区的最新动态以及当地即将举行的活动和市议会最新的重要消息。欲了解有关《Yarra News》的更多信息, 请致电**9280 1937**并报上查询参考编号19,780。

Σε αυτήν την έκδοση του δελτίου Yarra News, μάθετε τι συμβαίνει στην κοινότητά μας. Διαβάστε για τις επερχόμενες τοπικές εκδηλώσεις και τις σημαντικότερες ενημερώσεις του Δήμου. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με το Yarra News καλέστε στο **9280 1934** και δώστε τον αριθμό αναφοράς 19,780.

في هذا العدد من Yarra News (أخبار يارا) تعرّفوا على ما يحدث في مجتمعنا وعلى الأحداث المحلية القادمة وأهم وآخر مستجدات المجلس. لمزيد من المعلومات حول Yarra News (أخبار يارا)، اتصل على **9280 1930** واذكر الرقم المرجعي 19780.

Trong ấn bản này của Yarra News, hãy tìm hiểu xem điều gì đang xảy ra trong cộng đồng của chúng ta. Đọc về các sự kiện sắp tới được tổ chức tại địa phương và các thông tin cập nhật quan trọng của hội đồng. Để biết thêm thông tin về Yarra News, hãy gọi số **9280 1939** và trích dẫn số tham chiếu 19,780.

Nella presente edizione di Yarra News, scoprite cosa sta succedendo nella nostra comunità. Leggete delle novità dei prossimi eventi locali e degli aggiornamenti importanti del comune. Per ulteriori informazioni su Yarra News telefonate al numero **9280 1931** e citate il numero di riferimento 19.780.

En esta edición de Yarra News, descubra lo que sucede en nuestra comunidad. Lea sobre los próximos eventos locales y las importantes actualizaciones del municipio. Para más información sobre Yarra News, comuníquese al **9280 1935** e indique el número de referencia 19.780.

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