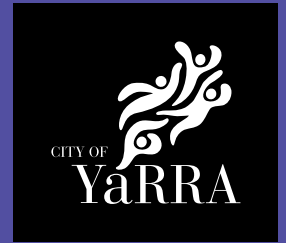


April / May 2023

yarranews



Separating waste service charges
pages 6–11

Have your say on our draft
Budget 2023/24
pages 5 and 13

Green guide to apartment living
page 14



Message from the Mayor



Hi everyone,

In this edition of Yarra News, we want to share the measures we are taking to ensure we can provide quality services to our community now, and into the future.

Like all councils in Victoria, we are facing financial challenges with rising cost pressures, rate capping and cost shifting, coupled with unprecedented growth, and increasing pressure and demand on our services.

We are deeply committed to serving the best interests of our community and recognise that consistent effort will be required to maintain financial sustainability and most effectively use public funds.

That means we are making smart and responsible decisions now, that will have far-reaching results into the future.

Our draft Budget 2023/24 is currently open for feedback. We have worked hard to align the Budget with Yarra's Council Plan 2021–25 and Community Vision, while addressing financial challenges and prioritising financial sustainability.

You can read more on **page 5** and find out how to have your say on **page 13**.

I also want to provide clarity on Council's recent decision to separate waste service charges from general rates.

The Victorian Government has introduced important legislation to reduce waste, increase recycling and create a circular economy.

Council fully supports the move to a circular economy, and we know our community cares deeply about addressing sustainability and climate change. We also acknowledge that smarter and more responsible waste management costs more.

Deducting the waste charge from general rates and charging it as a separate line item means we can be more transparent, responsible, and equitable in the way we charge for waste services and recover the true cost.

Learn more about how the separated waste charge will impact you on **pages 6–11**.

I look forward to seeing our community at our upcoming engagement events taking place across Yarra.

In this edition, you can also read about how we're supporting local families with our Sleep and Settling program and our Community Pantry partnership.

Cr Claudia Nguyen
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

Latest News



Local artist announced for Archie Roach AM AC and Ruby Hunter statue

Fitzroy-based artist Darien Pullen has been selected to design the sculpture that will honour the late Uncle Archie Roach AM AC and Aunty Ruby Hunter.

The creation of the statue is supported by the Victorian Government to celebrate and honour Uncle Archie and Aunty Ruby, their legacy and impact on the Australian music industry and their contributions to cultural life and the First Nations community.

Pullen was appointed following a competitive EOI process and in consultation with Uncle Archie and Aunty Ruby's families, the Wurunderji Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Yarra Council.

Pullen, who works primarily in bronze sculptures, most recently created the sculpture of Australian music icon Michael Gudinski which is located outside Rod Laver Arena.

The artwork will be installed in Fitzroy later this year. (Photo: Tim Carrafa)

National Volunteer Week in Yarra

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and will be held from 15 to 21 May 2023.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Yarra community and we recognise the valuable contributions made by volunteers in our community – efforts that make Yarra a more vibrant and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

We are partnering with Volunteering Victoria to provide an interactive workshop during National Volunteer Week for people who manage volunteers wanting to refresh their skills or those interested in starting a new volunteer program in the City of Yarra.

Learn more and get involved at yarracity.vic.gov.au/volunteer

Australian Heritage Festival 2023: Shared Stories

Coordinated by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), this year's Australian Heritage Festival runs 18 April to 18 May with the theme of "Shared Stories."

During the festival Yarra is proud to share the history of its various suburbs via our curated heritage walks. We have curated 11 self-guided cultural heritage walks that explore Yarra's history and share the stories of the past.

Available on our website, each walk highlights various aspects of cultural and social history in Yarra. There are also walks dedicated to the stories of First Nations people in Yarra and our local rainbow communities.

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

What's on



City Nature Challenge

Yarra's reserves and outdoor spaces

Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May

The City Nature Challenge is a four-day BioBlitz where cities around the world compete for the most observations of wild plants and animals recorded on the iNaturalist platform. If you know how to take a photo on a smart phone, then you've got what it takes to participate!

Fitzroy Block Party – featuring music by YoWo Music bands

Condell Street Reserve, Fitzroy

Saturday 13 May, 12 midday to 3pm

The Fitzroy Block Party is a celebration of all things local, held at Condell Reserve in the heart of the Fitzroy Arts precinct featuring live music from under-18s bands on the famous 'Bandwagon ute' stage, food and market stalls co-ordinated by Fitzroy Learning Network. YoWo Music runs a contemporary music program for young women and gender diverse teens in high school.



The Nancys, part of Fitzroy Block Party

Draughtproofing for renters workshop

North Carlton Railway
Neighbourhood House

Thursday 18 May, 7pm to 8.30pm

Participants will learn DIY rental-friendly draughtproofing techniques, hear about their rights as a tenant to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, and receive a free take-home draughtproofing kit. Bookings essential; places limited.

Leaps & Bounds Music Festival turns 10!

Thursday 13 July to Sunday 16 July

Yarra's iconic celebration of live music venues and musicians reaches a milestone this year. Featuring a huge line up of gigs within pubs, bars and town halls – look out for the return of favourites including Winter Spin Record Store Day & PBS' Rock a Bye Baby.

Find details about these events and more that are coming up in Yarra at yarracity.vic.gov.au/events



Yarra's draft Budget for 2023/24

Our draft annual Budget will go out for public exhibition on Friday 21 April.

Yarra City Council prides itself on the quality, accessibility, and diversity of services we provide to the community. In addition to the services most councils provide, Yarra ensures our community has access to affordable childcare, aged care and disability services including home care, and a broad range of fitness and leisure facilities and programs.

So that Yarra can continue to provide our community with quality services and infrastructure now and in the future, we need to make some smart decisions now that will have tangible benefits in the years to come.

We have worked hard to prepare a draft Budget that aligns with Yarra's Council Plan 2021–25 and Community Vision, while addressing ongoing financial challenges and prioritising financial sustainability.

In addition to prioritising essential services and efficient infrastructure, we have carefully chosen to fund some key innovative projects that align with our Community Vision across all priority areas.

Our community's priorities are: climate and the environment, social equity and health, local economy, place and nature, transport and movement, and democracy and governance.

You can provide your feedback on the draft Budget from Friday 21 April until 5pm on **Friday 19 May 2023**.

Head to **page 13** to find out how to have your say and for information sessions coming up across Yarra.

If you need an interpreter for any of our Budget events, please call us to arrange ahead of time on **9280 1940**.

Changes to rates – Separating waste service charges

Victoria is moving towards a circular economy – a society that views waste as a valuable resource.

Yarra is very supportive of this change, but it does mean the cost of managing waste and recycling in Victoria is rising significantly. This is creating major challenges for all local councils and the recycling industry.

To meet the rising cost of waste transport and processing, and ensure Yarra’s financial sustainability into the future, Council will be separating the cost of providing waste services from general rates.

This means the cost of providing waste services will no longer be included in general rates and will be listed as a separate charge. Being clear on how much waste costs allows us to continue to provide essential waste and recycling services, as well as the full range of

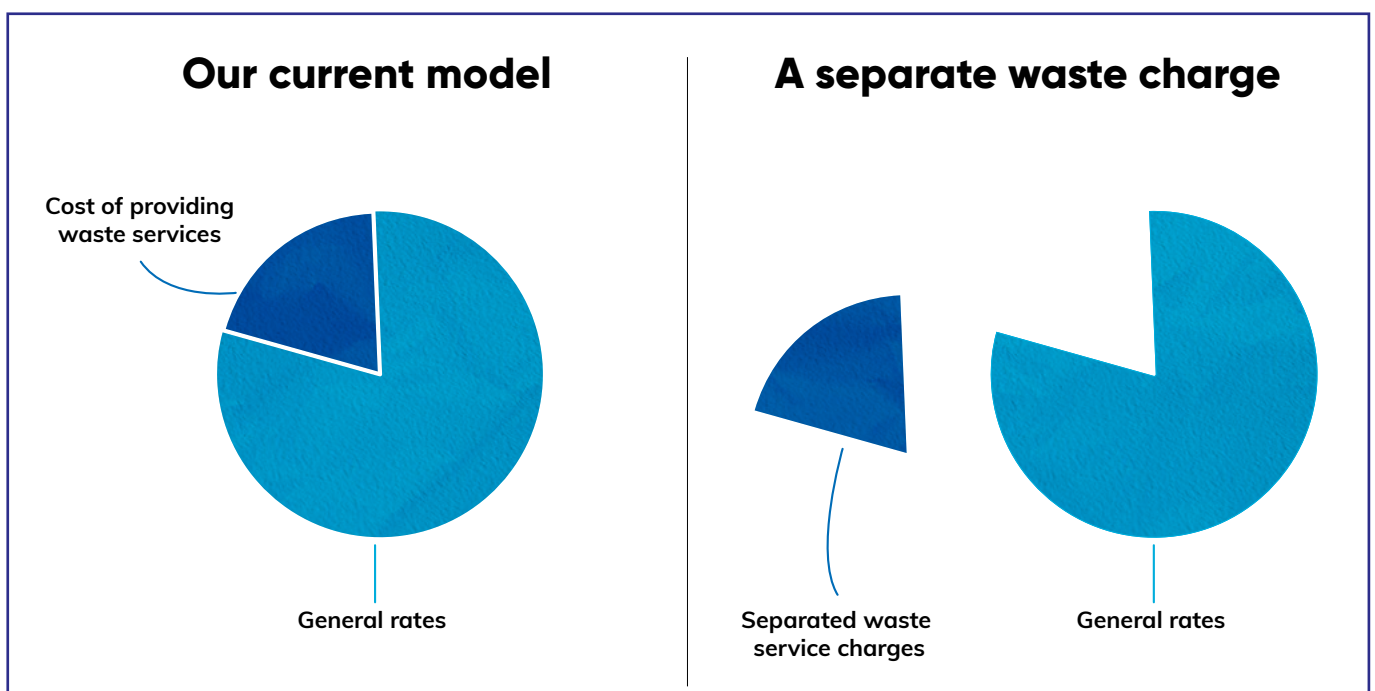


services our community values and relies on, like libraries and childcare.

The funds collected from a separate waste service charge will only be used to cover the costs of providing waste and recycling services in Yarra.

Yarra is the last Victorian council to make the decision to separate waste service charges from general rates.

We also want to reassure our community that Council is not currently considering any changes to our kerbside collection schedule.





Why does Yarra need a separate waste service charge?

The cost of providing waste services is increasing beyond what Victorian councils can recover through rates alone.

The rate cap, introduced by the Victorian Government, has capped the amount that councils can charge property owners in their Annual Rates Notices. The rate cap has averaged 1.75% over the past three years and will be 3.5% for 2023/24.

The cost of the Victorian Government waste levy (a levy paid to the Victorian Government by every council based on the amount of waste sent to landfill) has increased by 90% over the past three years.

The Victorian Government has also introduced laws to reduce waste, make the most of material that can be reused or repaired, and increase recycling. It includes a requirement for all councils to provide households with a four-stream waste



service (glass, recycling, food and green organics, and rubbish). In Yarra, we introduced a glass bin service in 2020.

To deliver the state-wide changes required by the Victorian Government while still providing all the services our community relies on, we need to take steps to recover the increasing costs of providing waste services.

By charging for the cost of waste services separately, the Victorian Government's rate cap will no longer apply. This allows Council to recover the true cost of providing waste services to our community.

We know that the Yarra community is committed to sustainability and supports innovation in waste minimisation and recycling. A separate waste service charge will allow us to meet the new legal requirements that enforce sustainable, responsible and innovative waste reduction and recycling solutions.

It will also mean that the rising cost of waste does not negatively impact our ability to provide other vital community services like libraries, leisure centres, sporting facilities and support for vulnerable members of our community.

The rising cost of waste affects every council in Victoria. The cost is not determined by Council and is outside of Council's control. We are addressing this issue now – in a transparent and financially responsible manner – to ensure that we can continue to provide the full range of services to our community now, and for future generations.

Financial sustainability

Council is committed to serving the best interests of the community and recognises that consistent effort will be required to ensure that we remain financially sustainable and make the most effective use of public funds. One of Council's key responsibilities is to ensure it is financially sustainable for both current and future communities.

Like all Victorian councils, we are facing financial challenges with rising cost pressures, rate capping and cost shifting, coupled with unprecedented growth and increasing pressure and demand on our services. Work to meet these challenges will need to be ongoing and require constant attention. There is no single solution – rather a holistic approach will be required – of which a waste charge is just one component.

The preparation of a long-term Financial Sustainability Strategy is underway, which aims to provide Council with guidance for the long-term sustainable management of its

Rates and Charges

Fire Services Levy	\$500
Fire Services Levy (Rate x CIV)	\$500
General Rates (Rate x NAV)	\$1,157.00
Public Waste Rate (Rate x NAV)	\$100.00
Kerbside Waste Rate (Rate x NAV)	\$281.00
Total	\$1,527.00

An indication of the items that will appear on your annual rates notice starting from 2023/24.

resources. These strategic reforms seek to ensure that Council's future investment decisions are based on need, underpinned by evidence and guided by informed strategies including detailed asset management plans, contemporary property management and community infrastructure planning and an ongoing program of service reviews. Council has already made progress on reducing expenditure, reducing senior management roles and other efficiencies.

The rising cost of providing waste services is a known risk and separating the waste charge from general rates is critical to addressing this risk to ensure Council's financial sustainability is not eroded further.



The waste service charge in action

On your Annual Rates Notice, you are currently charged a single 'general rate' based on your property value. Currently, a component of your general rates pays for waste services.

With a separate waste service charge, the cost of providing waste services will be removed from general rates and listed as a separate line item on your Annual Rates Notice.

While the rate cap will not apply to the waste service charge, the money collected through the waste service charge can only be used to cover the costs of providing waste and recycling services in Yarra.

There are currently almost 18,000 properties in Yarra that are paying for a kerbside collection service they do not receive. Separating the cost of providing waste services from general rates will allow us to rectify this.





What's in the waste service charge and how is it applied?

The waste service charge will be made up of two elements: a public waste rate and a kerbside waste rate.

The **public waste rate** covers all waste and cleaning services that benefit the whole community. This includes, but is not limited to: street sweeping, street and park bin collection and litter removal.

The **kerbside waste rate** covers the cost of the regular household recycling, glass and rubbish bin collection service, operating the recycling centre, booked hard rubbish and green waste collection and processing; as well as providing new and replacement bins, transport, fuel, waste contracts, the cost of processing recyclables and the cost of disposing of materials. This charge also covers the cost of the Victorian Government's waste levy, a levy which all councils must pay based on how much material is sent to landfill.

The term 'rate' in this instance means that the cost to each property will be scaled based on property value. This is the same

way we calculate general rates. Individuals with higher value properties pay more when compared to individuals with lower value properties.

The kerbside waste rate will only be applied to properties that receive a kerbside waste service from Yarra City Council. Ratepayers who do not receive a kerbside service from Council will be exempt from this charge.

When waste service charges are separated from general rates, your rates notice will show the following charges:

- General rates
- Public waste service rate
- Kerbside waste service rate (if you receive a Council waste collection service)

When you look at your Annual Rates Notice, you will be able to clearly identify the cost of your yearly waste services.



Considering individual circumstances

The waste service charge will look different for each ratepayer depending on a number of factors including property value, pension status and if you receive a kerbside service from Council. You can find a range of different personas we've created on our website to demonstrate how the waste service charge can be applied to a range of different circumstances. Head over to our Your Say Yarra webpage to explore how a waste service charge might be applied to a situation similar to yours.

As always, we are happy to work with ratepayers to support those who are experiencing financial hardship. If you feel that you are unable to pay, you can request financial hardship support.

Our financial hardship policy aims to provide ratepayers and service users with a clear and transparent understanding of options and assistance available if currently experiencing financial difficulties.

We will continue to support pensioners with a council rates rebate, in addition to the pensioner rebate provided by the Victorian Government.

Opportunities to learn more

We understand that the waste service charge and rates in general are complicated topics, so we're dedicated to ensuring our community has plenty of opportunities to learn more.

We're holding a range of 'Waste Station' events for community to learn more about the waste service charge, Yarra's waste and recycling services, and our contribution to Victoria's circular economy.

At the time of this publication, the first of these events has already taken place at Collingwood Library. But if you missed it, there are still plenty of other opportunities for you to speak to our team about these changes.

Come along and have a chat with our friendly team at any of the below events:

Wednesday 3 May

6pm to 8pm
Bargoonga Nganjin
North Fitzroy Library
community room
(upstairs)

Saturday 6 May

9am to 11am
Jack Dyer Pavilion, Citizen's Park, Richmond

We will also be holding a range of smaller 'pop-up' information sessions where you can drop by, learn more and ask our experts any questions you have. Keep an eye on the 'What's On' section of our website to find one close to you.

All our in-person events will be attended by Greek, Italian, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking staff members, and translated materials will be available. For individuals who speak languages other than those listed, we are providing other avenues to receive the information about the waste service charge. If you require additional support please reach out and we will be happy to assist.

Providing comments

You can provide comments about the separation of waste service charges via our dedicated Your Say Yarra webpage.

The separation of waste service charges from general rates will be factored into our draft Budget 2023/24. You will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Budget during our consultation period from 21 April until 5pm 19 May. This will also be available through the Your Say Yarra website. Find out more on **page 13**.



Rock-a-bye baby



We're supporting local families with our Sleep and Settling program, which helps to find the right strategies to meet the sleep needs of their young children.

Babies need sleep to grow and develop well, but their sleep needs vary.

To support parents and caregivers, Yarra provides specialist information sessions on sleep and settling for newborns, babies and toddlers.

These sessions are designed to provide information and guidance at identified developmental stages on typical sleep patterns and behaviours that are commonly seen in children.

The aim is to support confidence in responding to infant sleep needs and give strategies and advice on addressing sleep and settling concerns using safe and effective evidence-based techniques.

Identified areas of interest include:

- Understanding sleep and sleep cycles
- Identifying children's cues
- Sleep associations
- Sleep concerns and management
- Safe sleeping

We also offer sessions for families with languages other than English, young mums, dads, grandparents and other carers.

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

Connecting the community with their Councillors

We're creating more opportunities for you to speak with your councillors and discuss issues that matter to you with a series of in-person events. This is in addition to our Your Say Yarra engagement pop-ups listed across the page. Keep an eye on our website for more dates in addition to the upcoming events below:

Meet the Mayor

Wednesday 19 April, 3.30pm to 4.30pm
Richmond Library

Wednesday 3 May, 3pm to 4pm
BANH Neighbourhood Market, Collingwood

Friday 12 May, 12 noon to 1pm
Smith Reserve, Fitzroy

Community Tuesdays

Tuesday 9 May 2023, 5pm to 7pm
Carlton Library

Councillor Conversations with Community

Saturday 29 April, 10am to 12 noon
Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield
(Outside Fairfield Boathouse)

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.

Draft Budget 2023/24

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our draft Budget 2023/24. We have worked hard to align the Budget with Yarra's Council Plan 2021–25 and Community Vision, while addressing financial challenges and prioritising financial sustainability.

The focus of the 2023–24 Budget is to make sure we can continue to provide quality services and infrastructure to our diverse community, now and in the future.

We are now inviting feedback from our community and key stakeholders on the draft before the final Budget is adopted in June.

Pop-up sessions

Clifton Hill

Thursday 11 May 2023

10am to 12 noon

Collingwood Leisure Centre

Cremorne

Monday 15 May 2023

5pm to 7pm

Building A, Bendigo Kangan Institute

Next steps for Smith Reserve

We've developed a draft Landscape Concept Plan for Smith Reserve in Fitzroy using the feedback you gave us earlier this year!

We now want you to review it and let us know if we got it right. Is the design what you envisioned?

Make your voice heard by visiting yoursayyarra.com.au to see our latest projects and find out more.



Green guide for apartment living

Join the Yarra apartments and townhouses making their homes more comfortable, efficient and sustainable with solar, all-electric appliances, and energy saving measures.

We've developed two new guides, in partnership with Merri-bek City Council and the environmentally sustainable design experts at Hip v Hype, to help apartment residents and owners' corporations improve sustainability, install solar, and go all-electric in their buildings.

Unlocking Sustainable Strata

Find out about upgrading to efficient electric appliances, installing solar, working with your owners' corporation and strata manager, and more. Get tailored information on sustainability retrofits for high-rise, medium-rise, and low-rise apartments, and townhouses with our four infographics.

Guide to Electrifying your Apartment Building or Townhouse

Learn about options for modernising your building with efficient electric hot water, heating and cooling, and cooking.

Guide to Solar for Apartments

You can also learn about installing solar on your apartment building with this new guide from the Yarra Energy Foundation, which includes step-by-step guidance about different solar options available to apartment owners and renters, including technical solutions and tips for working with your owners' corporation.

As part of our Climate Emergency Plan commitments, we're working to make it easier to improve sustainability in apartment buildings for the 87.5% of dwellings in Yarra that are medium or high density.

Download the guides and discover more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/solarapartments

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**
anab.mohamud@yarracity.vic.gov.au

Melba Ward

- **Cr Edward Crossland, Deputy Mayor**
edward.crossland@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Herschel Landes**
herschel.landes@yarracity.vic.gov.au
- **Cr Claudia Nguyen, Mayor**
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 16 May
- Tuesday 13 June
- Tuesday 18 July

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF **19,563**.

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19,563。

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 19,563.

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 19563.

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 19,563.

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 19.563.

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 19.563.

Our pantry is your pantry!

Did you know that anyone can head to Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library and grab a free frozen meal or basic pantry items from our Community Pantry?

We're proud to partner with FareShare Australia, Meals with Impact and Open Table to deliver this program, which provides up to 400 frozen meals and 500 pantry items each week to members of the community in need.

Anyone who needs a healthy meal or a pantry restock is welcome to drop by and grab what they need – no questions asked.

“It’s meant to offer a dignified experience,” says Dylan Oosterweghel, Community Engagement and Outreach Officer. “People don’t have any concerns or shame. You can generally tell who may be looking for food and the staff at the desk offer to open it up for them.”



Addressing food insecurity issues through initiatives like the Community Pantry is part of our work to improve social equity and the health of our community.

You can access the pantry at any time during library opening hours. The freezer is accessible during staffed hours.

Learn more at yarracity.vic.gov.au/communitypantry

Local jobs, for local people

YarraCityJobs.com.au



Find your opportunity