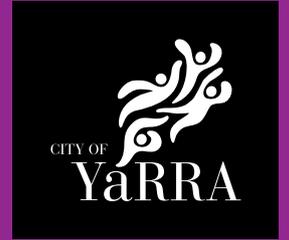


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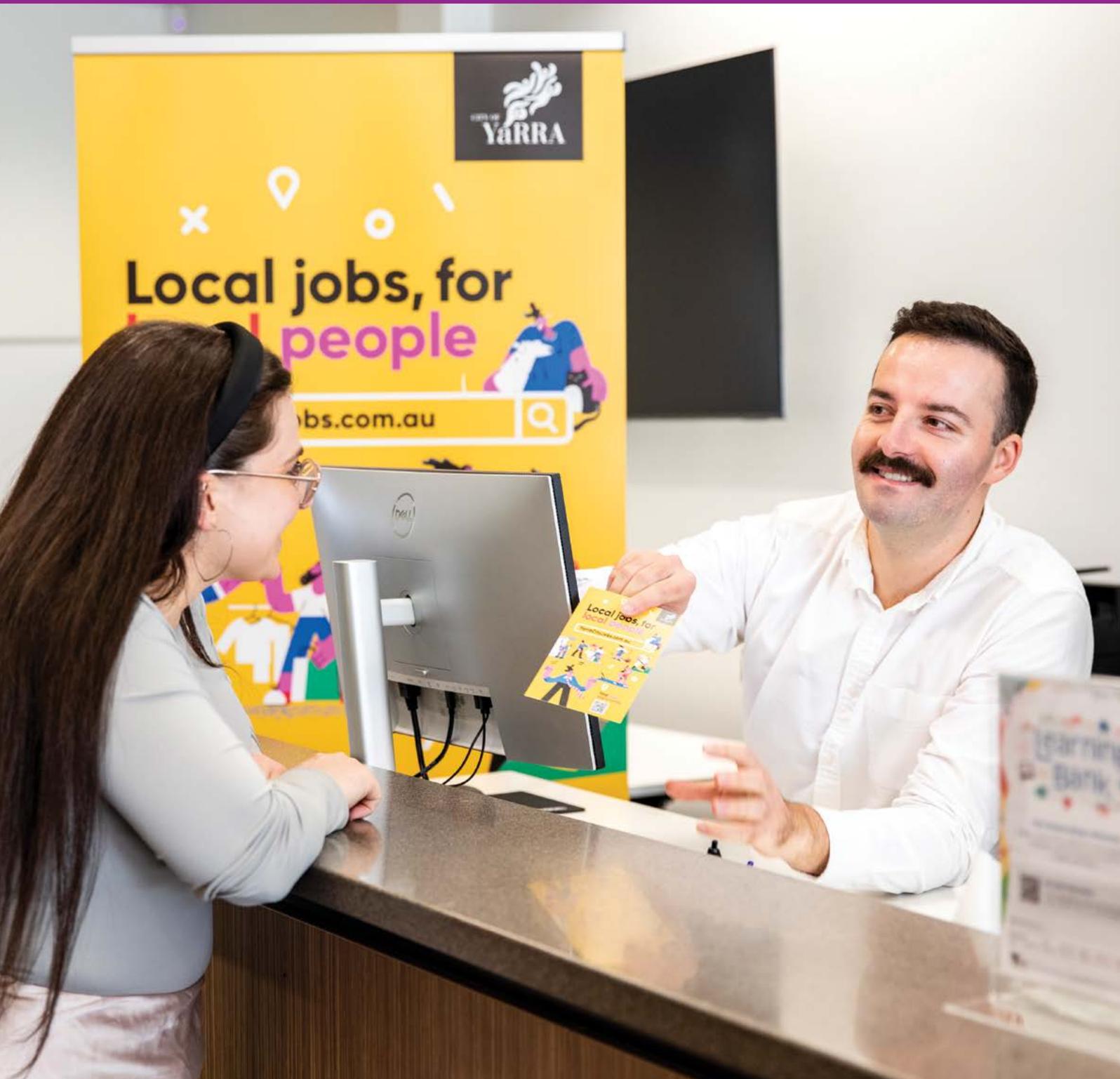
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Yarra's Budget 2023/24 delivers
pages 4–5

Applications now open for
Annual Grants
page 11

The Learning Bank fuels
community growth
page 7



Message from the Mayor



Hi everyone,

As we move into the heart of winter, we remain committed to delivering on our community's key priorities and ensuring we continue to build a city that is vibrant, forward-thinking and connected.

We recently adopted our Budget for 2023/24, which puts the community first without impacting service delivery. It also brings into effect the separation of waste service charges from general rates. Head to **pages 4–5** for more.

Yarra has recently been honoured at a number of awards ceremonies. Our Yarra Grooves project was recognised at the 2023 Mainstreet Australia Awards; and our Open Library initiative, providing extended library access beyond regular staffed hours, won the "Service Delivery Initiative" category at the LGPro Awards for Excellence. See **page 3** for details.

Our cover story for this edition is The Learning Bank, a community hub on Victoria Street that's fostering connections

and promoting learning, that we have opened in partnership with the Victorian Government. Learn more about it on **page 7**.

As part of a review of our Council Order that's outlined within our Domestic Animal Management Plan, we're considering the introduction of a night-time cat curfew to protect our native wildlife and create a safer environment for our pets. Your feedback about this proposal is important to us – see **pages 8–9** to learn more about why we're considering a cat curfew and how to have your say.

We're investing \$1.77 million in the community as part of our 2024 Annual Grants program, supporting community organisations, not-for-profits and individuals in Yarra. It's part of our broader \$2.67 million grants program. Find out how to apply on **page 11**.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming pop-up events, as part of our ongoing Councillor Engagement Program. It's a great opportunity to speak directly with your Councillors about important issues. Check out upcoming event dates on **page 9**.

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

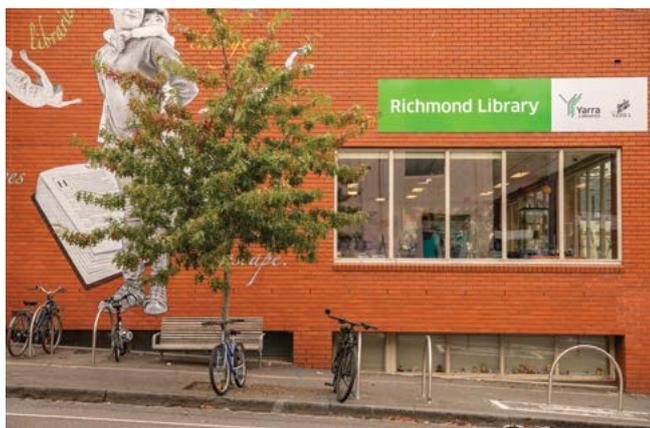
On the cover: A look inside The Learning Bank, which is now open on Victoria Street in Richmond.

Latest News

Open Library project recognised at LGPro Awards for Excellence

Yarra Libraries' dedication to enhancing community resource access has been spotlighted at this year's LGPro Awards for Excellence, clinching the "Service Delivery Initiative" category for our Open Library initiative. The annual event recognises achievements in Victoria's Local Government sector. Launched in 2021, Open Library provides extended library access beyond regular staffed hours, following a simple induction program.

The innovative project, which has benefited over 11,000 community members so far, applies to Bargoonga Nganjin North Fitzroy Library and Richmond Library, with plans to expand to more branches.



E-scooter trial extended to October 2023

The Victorian Government has extended its e-scooter trial and legalised private e-scooters. Yarra is one of four Victorian councils participating in the trial, along with Melbourne, Port Phillip and Ballarat.

Since the trial began in February last year, e-scooters have provided the Yarra community with a new, accessible, eco-friendly, and cost-effective way to travel around Yarra.

However, community concerns about disability access and mobility issues have



been raised. We take these concerns seriously and have communicated them to the government, and are working with e-scooter operators to address the issues to ensure safe and accessible streets for everyone.

We are committed to advocating for disability access, educating users on road rules and parking, and maintaining pedestrian access on footpaths. Details can be found at yarracity.vic.gov.au/escooters

Yarra awarded top prize at Mainstreet Australia Awards

Our Yarra Grooves project has been recognised at the 2023 Mainstreet Australia Awards in the "Best Main Street Place activation, event or initiative" category. This initiative, using silent disco to explore local history, attracted over 500 participants when it ran last year. With the support of performing company Guru Dudu, we designed a COVIDSafe outdoor experience. Tours emphasised local history, including immigration, art and sport; and highlighted the importance of supporting local traders. This award is a clear endorsement of our efforts to boost Yarra's economic recovery which has exceeded initial forecasts.

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



Yarra's 2023/24 Budget puts the community first

Our Budget for 2023/24 puts community first, paving the way to a financially sustainable future.

By being smarter and more efficient in how we utilise funds, we can provide for both current and future residents.

The Budget is informed by Yarra's Council Plan 2021–25 and Community Vision 2036 – both developed in partnership with our community. In addition, we consult with the community every year when preparing our annual Budget.

We are grateful to everyone in our community who helped shape this year's Budget. We heard from hundreds of people about their priorities and vision for the future during broad community consultation in November and December 2022, and over a hundred more in April and May with their feedback on the draft Budget.

Key projects this year include investing in housing and homelessness support, a better school commute for families, local liveable streets, more parks and open spaces, tackling the climate emergency, and better bicycle and road infrastructure.

Highlights of the 2023/24 Budget:

Delivering and designing new parks, and upgrading existing, including feasibility studies for the Roads to Open Space project.



Improving road safety and amenity with major infrastructure upgrades, improvements to pedestrian and traffic infrastructure, and the development of parking strategies including for e-scooters.

Preparing the New Deal for Schools, a flagship transport program to increase the proportion of children walking, cycling and scooting to school, reduce school traffic and improve the school commute for families.

Enhancing youth engagement and participation, focusing on at-risk young people, promoting the voices of young people and participation in decision-making and employment opportunities.

Making improvements across Yarra's bicycle network with a focus on Strategic Cycling Corridors like Wellington Street's bicycle lanes.

Accelerating Yarra's Tree Planting program as a Natural Cooling Climate Emergency Response by increasing annual planting from 330 to 660 trees.

Supporting community street events and activations that celebrate the diversity and vibrancy of Yarra, like Lunar New Year and the Johnston Street Fiesta.



Boosting grants funding to provide emergency rent relief for those experiencing rental distress; support people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness; and address the social and cultural impacts for tenants of community housing.



Expanding our community engagement program and improving the community's digital access and customer experience with Yarra.

Your rates at work 2022/23

Rates notices and waste service charges

Rates notices will be sent to property owners in August. Your rates help us deliver a wide range of services, programs and infrastructure that make Yarra a great place to live, work and visit.

This year, we have increased total general rates revenue by 3.5%, in line with the Victorian Government's rate cap to account for the increasing cost of service and infrastructure provision.

Yarra has resolved to separate waste service charges from general rates to account for the increasing costs of waste

and recycling services, in line with all other Victorian councils. Yarra's waste service charge will be made up of two elements: a public waste rate and a kerbside waste rate. The kerbside waste rate will only be applied to properties that receive a kerbside waste collection service from Yarra.

If you have any questions or concerns about how the waste service charge has been applied to your property, please reach out to our customer service team.

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

1,200 hectares

of parkland maintained



6,894 tonnes

of waste diverted from landfill for recycling



128

major road and footpath works undertaken



760 metres

of new bike lanes added



2,500 metres

of bike lanes upgraded

6,000

immunisations administered



500,000

books, ebooks and audiobooks loaned through our libraries



31,611

swimming lessons for kids



800,000

people visited our leisure centres



20,000

meals home delivered to older residents and residents living with disability



A rich resource for community learning

In collaboration with the Victorian Government, we've transformed a former bank on Victoria Street into a vibrant community hub: The Learning Bank.

The Learning Bank is more than just a space – it's a place for residents and businesses to connect, create, and learn. It hosts a range of programs, from digital training courses to business training events, designed to meet the diverse needs of our community.

One standout program is the BeConnected Digital Training Course, providing digital basics – it's one of a series of upcoming courses run in different languages. For local business owners, peer learning sessions offer valuable upskilling opportunities on topics like radical collaboration and cybersecurity.

The Learning Bank also houses the Thread Together clothing hub, an ethical fashion not-for-profit, and the ATM Café by North Richmond Community Health, a social enterprise café celebrating health and cultural diversity.



The initiative embodies Yarra's commitment to fostering a connected, inclusive and vibrant community. By providing a space for learning and growth, we're investing in our community's future.

The Victorian Government contributed a total of \$1,105,794 through the North Richmond Precinct Community Grants Program to establish this pop-up community space, which we will manage for three years. We're also committed to providing \$120,000 of in-kind support over the life of the project.



The Learning Bank is located at
124 Victoria Street, Richmond
Find out how to get involved at
yarracity.vic.gov.au/thelearningbank

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.

Fast-tracking Neighbourhood Batteries

Earlier this year you provided feedback to help us better understand your perceptions and attitudes towards neighbourhood batteries.

We've reviewed what you told us and are now asking for further feedback so we can do a deeper dive into the community's views and your preferred locations of potential future batteries in Yarra.

**Tell us your feedback by 9am on
Monday 7 August**

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

Alphington Road Safety Study

We're conducting a Road Safety Study in Alphington to help us address possible road safety issues in the area. To help us understand where and what types of road safety issues might need to be addressed, we need you to tell us your lived experience of using these specific roads.

Drop a pin on our virtual map and fill in our survey to let us know where you think there is a safety issue.

**Tell us your feedback by 9am on
Monday 14 August**

Keeping Yarra flood resilient

Council is in the final stages of developing flood maps for the municipality. We want to understand more about our community's experience with flooding and rising water levels.

Your experiences will provide us with further valuable information to support this and understand how weather events affect our city.

**Tell us your experiences by 9am
Monday 21 August**

Furry friends and native fauna: balancing urban life in Yarra

We're reviewing our Council Order, which outlines the requirements for people owning domestic cats and dogs within Yarra.

The review is included in our Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) that Council adopted in 2021. A night-time cat curfew is being proposed as part of the review.

This measure would require cats to stay within their owner's premises between 7pm and 7am.



The curfew is designed to keep our cats safe from injury and disease, lessen the chance of cats going missing, protect native wildlife, reduce cat-related disturbances at night, and reduce their exposure to extreme weather. Many inner-city councils already have a cat curfew or are considering introducing one soon.

The review also includes changes for dogs and off-leash areas in certain parks, to reduce the incidents of dogs digging holes on sports grounds and make sure park maintenance staff can work without any interruptions.

The purpose of these changes is to improve the management and control of pets in public spaces, ensuring the safety, enjoyment and harmony of both the community and the environment.



As part of the review, we are seeking community feedback on the proposed introduction of a night-time (7pm to 7am) cat curfew and the broader Council Order.

Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to share your feedback before the consultation closes at 9am on **Monday 7 August 2023**. Let's work together to create a safer, more harmonious Yarra for all – people, pets and wildlife alike.

You can also speak to us in person at one of our upcoming pop-up information sessions.

Head to yoursayyarra.com.au/councilorderreview for event dates.



Come and meet your 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:

Meet the Mayor

Wednesday 2 August, 4pm to 5pm
Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library

Friday 25 August, 12midday to 1pm
Richmond Neighbourhood Market

Councillor Conversations with Community

Saturday 12 August, 10am to 12midday
Piedimontes, Fitzroy North



A new style of community garden sprouts in Yarra

We're committed to helping people in Yarra access ways to grow food and have recently installed two Small Communal Growing Spaces, as part of a new trial.

The trial also aims to provide the community with more opportunities to connect through growing leafy greens and herbs which can be shared by residents within the neighbourhood.

Clifton Reserve in Clifton Hill and Linear Reserve in Fitzroy North are home to these new-style community gardens. The spaces each feature transportable planter boxes and a toolbox which doubles as a bench seat. While a gardening group of residents care for each space, the herbs and leafy greens are for all locals to enjoy.

“It’s so great to be able to pop over to the garden and grab a few leaves in the evening for a salad rather than buying a full bunch, much of which withers in the fridge,” said Gen in Clifton Hill.

Additional goals of the project are to reduce single waste plastic, food miles and household costs at the local level.

We’ll assess the outcome of the trial after 12 months and consider expanding the initiative.

Grow food safely

As with many inner-city areas, parts of Yarra were once predominantly industrial. To ensure your veggies and herbs are safe to eat, we recommend soil testing, or grow edibles in containers or raised beds. Head to **page 15** to find out how you can apply for a planter box for your street.

Want to get involved? Get in touch with the Urban Agriculture team by email urban.agriculture@yarracity.vic.gov.au or call 9205 5555



Annual Grants are now open!

Do you need funding for a local community project or artwork?

We're investing \$1.77 million in the community as part of our 2024 Annual Grants program, which forms one part of our broader \$2.67 million grants program. Funding is available for community organisations, not-for-profits and individuals in Yarra working across health and wellbeing, arts and culture, climate action and sustainability, sports and recreation and youth and family programs.

Our past Annual Grants recipients include social enterprise florists The Beautiful Bunch (pictured), First Peoples' theatre company ILBIJERRI, food charity FareShare and the Yarra Riverkeepers Association. Whether it's improving social equity, protecting our natural environment or creating thriving, accessible and connected local spaces – our grants support a diverse breadth of important projects around Yarra.

Apply online by Monday 31 July at yarracity.vic.gov.au/annualgrants

Electoral Structure Review brings change to Council elections

Following a change to legislation, the way Councillors in the City of Yarra are elected will be changing. One big change is that from the 2024 election, the municipality will be divided into more wards, with only one Councillor elected in each one.

An independent panel – called the **Electoral Representation Advisory Panel** – is conducting a review of the system and is asking for feedback from the community. The panel will be making recommendations about:

- the number of Councillors Yarra should have
- where the ward boundaries should be
- what the new wards should be named.

This is a process independent of Yarra Council, but you can learn more about it and contact the Victorian Electoral Commission with any questions you have at vec.vic.gov.au

Lighting the way to a cleaner, greener future

We've joined forces with over 60 councils across Australia to Electrify Everything!

This nationwide initiative is all about harnessing clean energy, and supporting our residents and businesses in transitioning to all-electric.

It's about more than environmental responsibility – it's also about improving community wellbeing and our planet. With energy bills on the rise, transitioning to efficient electric appliances can offer protection against future price hikes. Plus, electric appliances have been proven to be safer and healthier, eliminating indoor pollution associated with gas.



Here are a few ways we're helping residents and businesses:

- We've created a 'Go Electric Action Plan' template that offers a plan and checklist with actions you can take to make the switch to all-electric.
- We have a series of online webinars on how to create an all-electric home, including an introduction to induction cooking.
- Through Yarra Libraries, we've launched portable induction cooktops that can be borrowed and trialled.

Check out an induction cooktop from the library

Want to try induction cooking before you switch? You can now borrow a portable induction cooktop from Yarra Libraries to try out at home, as part of our Library of Things.

In our recent solar and all-electric homes survey, we heard that trying out induction cooking and discovering the benefits first-hand was a big factor in helping Yarra residents to make the switch.

Borrow a cooktop to try induction cooking at home, then choose induction when your cooktop needs replacing, to contribute to a clean energy future. Visit one of our libraries to borrow a cooktop, or place a request online.

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

For more details on events, incentives, and rebates to make the switch more affordable, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/allectrichome



What makes us great is you, our Yarra Leisure community!

Our leisure centres are more than just physical spaces – they’re community hubs that embody our commitment to fostering a healthy, inclusive and vibrant Yarra.

We’ve designed programs and services to promote wellbeing and social connection. Whether it’s through our fitness classes, mindfulness sessions or community events, we strive to create a place where people from all walks of life can connect, grow and embrace their best selves.

Mandy is a mother to three girls, an advocate for equality, a quadruple amputee and a survivor.

In 2013, Mandy became very unwell with sepsis. After life-saving surgery which involved the amputation of her hands and feet, she began her long journey to recovery.

Mandy says Yarra Leisure’s Empower program “is great because it can be what I need it to be. I need to be able to move and walk fluidly with confidence and know that I am always stable no matter where I am.”

Mandy strives to make the world a better place and advocates for the needs of people with disability.

“It would be fantastic if all the gyms did this stuff, if people with disability could be welcome in any gym around Australia.”

Get to know more members of our Yarra Leisure family and find out how you can get involved at leisure.yarracity.vic.gov.au

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 18 July
- Tuesday 15 August

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF19,686.

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19,686。

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 19,686.

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 19686.

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 19,686.

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 19.686.

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 19.686.

What's on

Gertrude Street Projection Festival

Multiple locations around
Gertrude Street, Fitzroy

Thursday 27 July to Sunday 6 August,
from dusk

Experience captivating projections by 11 resident artists this winter as a dazzling convergence of community, art, and light returns to Gertrude Street. The festival will also feature special projects, events, talks, and screenings. Immerse yourself in a sensory fusion of history, technology, politics and emotions. Full program details at gspf.com.au

Gertrude Street Projection Festival is supported through Yarra's Celebrate Yarra funding program.



Art by Honey Long and Prue Stent.
Photo: Matto Lucas

Community Growing Spaces Workshop Online

Monday 7 August, 6pm to 7pm

Would you like to create a community growing space on your street? Growing your own food is great for your health and for the environment. It can also be a fantastic way to connect with your community.

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

Take the first step in getting a planter box, productive tree or temporary laneway garden in your neighbourhood by attending our free online workshop to find out about low maintenance food gardening; and how to apply for a public community growing space in Yarra.

Accessing Affordable Housing Information Session

Fitzroy Library

Tuesday 8 August, 6pm to 7pm

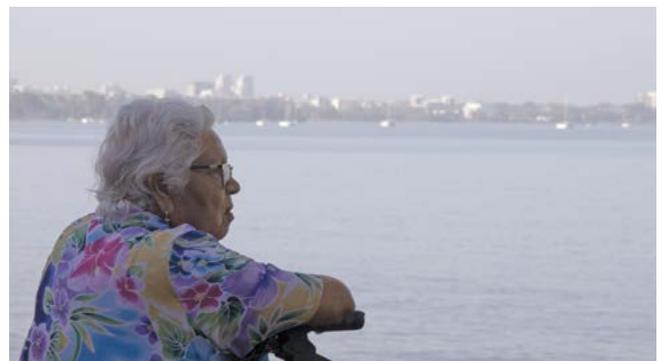
In partnership with the Housing for the Aged Action Group, this session will teach you about the unique challenges housing stress has on LGBTIQ+ communities and older people. You will also discover practical tips and advice on how you can access affordable housing.

'Under Cover' Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Bargoonga Nganjin, North Fitzroy Library

Thursday 10 August, 6pm to 8.30pm

Discover the poignant stories behind homelessness in "Under Cover," an unmissable documentary during Homelessness Week 2023. Margot Robbie narrates the lives of resilient women over 50 facing homelessness, exposing societal flaws. A panel discussion and Q&A will follow the screening. Limited spots available, register online.



A scene from "Under Cover."

Seniors and Sprouts: A community call-out

Join our Seniors and Sprouts program and enjoy the rewarding experience of participating in a kindergarten program for 4-year-olds.

- **What:** One hour a week spent with a kindergarten class
- **When:** Weekly from Monday 9 October to Friday 8 December 2023
- **Where:** Richmond and South Richmond area
- **Requirements:** Age 65+, Working with Children Check, Police Check (assistance available)

Research shows intergenerational activities foster mutual respect, compassion, and empathy. Young children develop greater social acceptance, while seniors enjoy improved quality of life, cognitive health, and reduced social isolation.

It's a win-win that combats ageism, promotes mental health and strengthens community ties.

Find out more by calling our Positive Ageing Officers on **9205 5555**.



Detox your Home is coming to Clifton Hill

Saturday 26 August 2023
8am to 3pm
Clifton Hill Depot, 168 Roseneath Street

Household chemicals such as bleach, pesticides, weed killers, cleaning products, cosmetics, cooking oil and fuels should never be put in your rubbish bins or poured down the drain.



Safely dispose of unwanted household chemicals at Sustainability Victoria's free Detox your Home event, without harming your health or the environment.



Find out more, including a full list of chemicals accepted at sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Detox your Home events are drive-through and contactless.