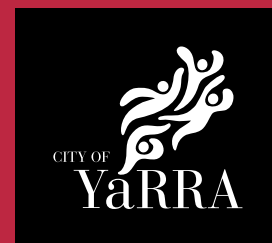


February / March 2023

yarranews



Our Community Award winners
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Message from the Mayor



It's an honour to serve as Mayor for the year ahead in Yarra, the area in which I was born and raised, and continue to live. I look forward to leading a responsive Council and continuing our work driving sustainable outcomes for future generations, helping to transform Yarra into a smart and innovative city, and making sure Council responds to the people in the community who most need support. I will work with Deputy Mayor, Edward Crossland and my fellow Councillors to ensure everyone in our vibrant and diverse community has a voice.

February is an exciting time in Yarra, kicking off with Victoria's Pride Street Party in Fitzroy. Learn about this year's line-up of festivities and more about Yarra's LGBTIQ+ heritage on **page 15**.

Meet our inspirational winners of our recent Community Awards on **pages 4 and 5**. We are lucky to have such selfless, impactful members of our community and we are thrilled to recognise their efforts.

See how we've been putting our Climate Emergency Plan into action on **page 13**. Our climate action snapshot highlights the achievements and progress we've made in response to the urgency and scale of the climate emergency.

And be sure to take a look at our upcoming community consultations on **page 10** – we have exciting projects happening throughout 2023 and want to be sure everyone has an opportunity to offer feedback and have a say.

It was great to meet with so many of you at our draft Budget pop-up consultations during my first week as Mayor and get to know the wonderful people in our community even better.

I look forward to seeing you out in the community throughout the year, whether it's at a festival, a pop-up consultation or at our new 'Community Tuesdays' series, which we've launched to increase opportunities for people to discuss important matters in person with Councillors.

Be sure to come and say hi!

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 fortnightly e-news at yarracity.vic.gov.au/yarralife

On the cover: Yarra's Citizen of the Year, Steven Jiang (left) and Young Citizen of the Year, Nicholas Tsekouras.



Latest news

Yarra's first Youth Forum meeting

Our newly-created Yarra Youth Advocacy Group hosted its first Youth Forum this summer. The forum provided an opportunity for our younger residents to share what's important to them as well as their ideas for Yarra. With these, the Youth Advocacy Group is able to advocate for greater outcomes for Yarra's young people at both a local and State level.

Are you a resident under the age of 25? Visit our website to find out how you can participate in upcoming Youth Advocacy Group workshops and events that will help Council support young people who live, work or study in Yarra.

Improving sustainability and reducing costs for local community operators

We're addressing the climate emergency through upgrades to our local community centres.

At Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre, we've invested more than \$27,000 to improve sustainability and energy efficiency with new solar and electric appliances. The project is in partnership with the Victorian Government, which contributed \$12,500.

The initiative is an example of the actions we're taking to help us achieve our goal of net zero in the Yarra community by 2030 and improve the long-term financial sustainability of community groups across Yarra.

Walker Street Community Kindergarten and Clifton Childcare Cooperative were among six additional Yarra-based facilities to receive funding under the Victorian Government's Community Climate Change and Energy Action program.

Bush Kinder program wins at Victorian Early Years Awards

Keele Street Children's Centre in Collingwood has been recognised by the Victorian Department of Education for its Bush Kinder program, winning the Emeritus Professor Collette Tayler Excellence in Educational Leadership Award at the 2022 Victorian Early Years Awards.

Designed to support children to connect to Country and nature, the program was developed by Keele Street's staff in consultation with the Wurundjeri Land Council, Parks Victoria and the Merri Creek Management Committee.

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



Celebrating our local heroes

Each year, we honour the everyday heroes who make outstanding contributions to our community with our Yarra Community Awards.

This year, we received a record number of nominations and want to thank everyone who took the time to submit one.

It has been uplifting and inspiring to learn more about the fantastic people and projects that make Yarra such a special place to be.

Citizen of the Year

Steven Jiang

During the height of the pandemic, Steven volunteered his time on weeknights and weekends to ensure that Chinese communities across Yarra had access to COVID-19 testing, vaccinations and information to keep them safe during the pandemic.

He also reached out to homelessness services and arranged for testing to be made available to community members through soup vans and kitchens.

He has gone on to work on two other local initiatives supporting residents to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 in Yarra.

We thank and congratulate Steven for his outstanding commitment to the community.

Young Citizen of the Year

Nicholas Tsekouras

Nicholas strives to create a safe space and an open environment where young people can freely and creatively express themselves.

They facilitate collage workshops and art activities which focus on expression, identity and community.

Just one highlight of Nicholas's huge contribution is their exhibition group 'Zap Exhibitions' which exhibits "works of minority groups, including emerging artists, queer, gender diverse, BIPOC, deaf and disabled humans."

Nicholas creates community through everything they do, whether it be work, art, social gatherings or volunteering.

Community Initiative of the Year

Jo Buckle

Jo established a ShareWaste initiative in Gore Street, Fitzroy, enabling apartment residents to compost their green waste. Every three weeks, she composts 1.5 cubic metres of green waste, diverting it from landfill.

Jo is a hero to her fellow apartment building residents and no doubt others in the neighbourhood, who are now living more sustainably. This work is completely voluntary, and her flatmates even took over the task when she went on holidays. Well done Jo and everyone who has pitched in to this great local initiative

These are just a few of our fantastic winners! Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/awards to see the full list of winners and read their stories.



Steven Jiang



Nicholas Tsekouras



Jo Buckle



Let's talk about waste

Every year, more than 80 billion tonnes of raw materials like metal, cardboard and plastics are consumed in Australia. That's set to double by 2060.

Right now, only 9% of that raw material is reused and recycled. This is because Australia's current waste system is not well set up to effectively process waste and recyclables locally.

In fact, for a long time Australia has relied on other countries to take our recycling, particularly China. However, in 2018 China introduced much tighter restrictions on the types and quality of materials it would accept.

This change (in addition to several other factors) had a major impact on the local recycling industry and meant that we had to become much smarter about how we value materials and manage our waste and recycling here at home.

What does this mean?

It means that we need to rethink how we produce, use and treat waste at each step. It also has a direct impact on which items you can put in your recycling bin, because not all materials can be recycled locally.

As individuals, it means we need to be more conscious of the materials we buy and what happens to them after we no longer need them.



All levels of government, industry and community need to work together to increase our ability to recycle materials in Victoria. We need to develop a 'circular economy'.

What is a circular economy?

The circular economy is a new way of seeing products and materials, viewing them as valuable resources instead of 'waste'.

Instead of dealing with waste materials when we throw things away, the circular economy approach works with the complete cycle of the products we consume – from the design of products and packaging, what we purchase, how we use it and finally how we dispose of it.

Through this system, items are designed to last. They are designed to be shareable, repairable, reusable and recyclable.

How does this affect us in Yarra?

The Victorian Government introduced the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act* in 2021, with the aim of developing the circular economy in Victoria. The Act introduces changes that have a major impact on how all local councils manage waste, and includes:

- A commitment to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- Sharp increases to the waste levy per tonne (a levy paid to the Victorian Government by every council based on the amount of waste sent to landfill)
- A commitment to provide all households with a 4-stream waste service (glass, recycling, food and green organics and rubbish).

In Yarra, we introduced a glass bin service in 2020, which has seen 90% of glass collected turned into new glass bottles and jars. We are aiming to introduce a food and green organics bin in 2024.

What are the costs?

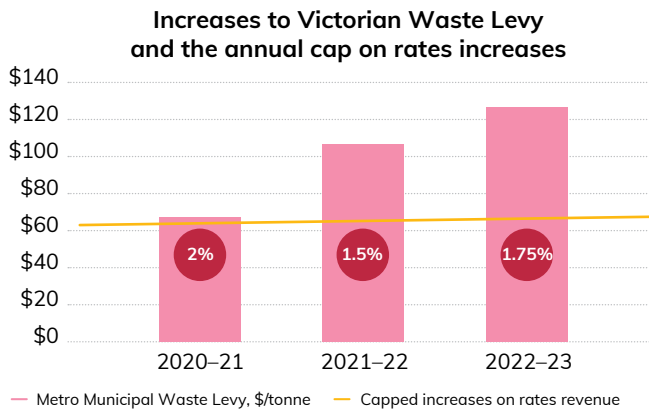
The introduction of a 4-stream waste service is an important and necessary step in diverting waste from landfill and developing our circular economy, but it comes at a significant cost.



It is expected to cost Yarra around \$5 million. This includes the cost of supplying new bins, additional transport, material processing as well as community education. While the Victorian Government will provide some financial assistance (with an expected contribution of around 15% to 20%), most of the upfront and ongoing costs will be paid for by Council.

Increases to the waste levy are also substantial. The levy has risen over 90% in the last 3 years, from \$65.90 per tonne in 2020/21 to \$125.90 per tonne in 2022/23. This increase is well above the amount councils can raise through rates alone, with the Victorian Government rate cap averaging 1.75% over the same period.





What is Yarra doing about it?

We're already taking steps to develop local recycling markets and support our community to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. This includes:

Partnering with other councils

We're working collaboratively with other councils to reduce costs, improve material recovery and recycling levels, and explore opportunities for creating shared recycling and food organics processing facilities in Melbourne.

Circular Economy principles

In line with Victorian Government circular economy legislation, Yarra is currently working toward integrating circular economy principles into all the work we do. This includes working with industry to design items that last and can be shared, repaired, reused or recycled locally. We're also supporting our community to reduce and share products, reuse items where possible and recycle effectively.

Supporting innovation

We have been working with our recycling processor, APR Plastics, supporting them to build technology for recycling soft plastics, such as shopping bags, frozen vegetable bags and bread packaging, into oil for plastic remanufacture. The oil created will be sent to a refinery for further processing so it can be reused in food-grade plastic products. This technology is the first of its kind in Australia

and with plans underway to expand, it is a great step towards building our circular economy.

Helping you reduce, reuse, repair and recycle

Our Zero Waste Map provides simple information on reducing, reusing, repairing and recycling, all in one place. Find out which local cafés offer a discount for bringing a reusable cup, where you can get an item repaired or where you can drop off your old phone or home appliances so they get recycled. Visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/zerowaste

Discount composting

You can save up to 70% on compost bins and worm farms through our Composting Revolution program. In just a few simple steps, you can find out what kind of composting system is right for your household and order it online (including free delivery). Find out more at compostrevolution.com.au/yarra

Yarra's Recycling Centre

Our Recycling Centre in Clifton Hill accepts a range of items for reuse including books, clothing and accessories, baby prams, toys and car seats. We also accept items that cannot be recycled at home including soft plastics (limited to 5 bags per drop off), polystyrene, cardboard, bike tyres, mobile phones, batteries, metal, light globes, paint and e-waste. You must be a Yarra resident to use our Recycling Centre. For a full list of materials we accept, visit yarracity.vic.gov.au/dropoff



The bigger picture

Global and national factors have a direct impact on how we manage waste at a local level. In turn, this affects the products you buy, how they are packaged and what can be placed in your recycling bin at home. Some of the key international, national and state changes that impact our local waste industry include:

2011 – Product stewardship

Product stewardship is an Australian Government policy that means whoever designs, produces, sells, or uses a product takes responsibility for minimising the product's environmental impact throughout all stages of its life cycle, including disposal. Materials collected and recycled through product stewardship schemes include oils, tyres, paint, mobile phones, televisions, batteries, and fluorescent lights.

2018 – China's National Sword Policy

This policy introduced much tighter restrictions on the types and quality of recyclable materials that China will accept from other countries. This has changed how councils across Australia manage recycling and added substantial costs to the processing of recycled materials.

2019 – National export ban

The Australian Federal Government banned the export of unprocessed plastics, paper and cardboard, glass and tyres by 2024, to stimulate and expand Australia's circular economy.

2019 – Electronic waste to landfill ban

To address the hazardous nature of electrical items in landfill and the high value of their component materials, the Victorian Government banned e-waste from landfill. Yarra provides several local drop-off points for our community to recycle e-waste.



2021 – Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act

Through this Act, the Victorian Government has introduced a range of reforms, including the introduction of the standard 4-stream waste collection service, increases to the waste levy, and the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme. These have a major impact on all aspects of the recycling industry, including how councils educate and engage our community about what and how we manage household waste.

2022 – Victorian single-use plastic ban

This state-wide ban will stop the sale and supply of a range of single-use plastic items by February 2023, including plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, polystyrene food and drink containers and cotton bud sticks.

What's next?

We are continuing to work on several options to meet the requirements of Victorian Government legislation, develop our circular economy and support our community to reduce waste.

We'll continue to keep you informed through Yarra News and via our website and social media.

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.

What's next for Smith Reserve?

We're developing a draft landscape concept plan for Smith Reserve in Fitzroy and want your help in its design!

The concept plan will set out a vision for this space and guide upcoming works to ensure the park caters for our community now and into the future.

Have your say before 9am on Monday 20 February

Make your voice heard by visiting yoursayyarra.com.au to see our latest projects and find out how you can get involved.

Recognising our queer history

We want to do more to identify buildings and precincts of significance to our LGBTIQ+ communities.

We need your insights on why these spaces are important to help inform statements of significance as part of our heritage overlay.

These will help ensure queer spaces throughout Yarra can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to find out more

Fast-tracking neighbourhood batteries

Due to the success of Yarra's Fitzroy North battery and recently funded Burnley Backyard battery, we're hoping to discover other suitable locations for potential future batteries in Yarra.

Tell us what you think about neighbourhood batteries and whereabouts they could go.

Visit yoursayyarra.com.au to find out more

Playtime in Alphington Park

We're passionate about creating open spaces that are safe and inclusive for people of all abilities.

In designing Alphington Park's new playground, we listened to the community's feedback about what they wanted to see in the design, including ample shade and more swings.

Since opening earlier this summer it's been a hit!



Playground features:

- double swing set with a single swing and 'expression' swing seat – allowing parents and infants to swing together
- softball rubber surface to provide safe and easy access to all play items
- multi-play tower with tiered platforms, climbing features, a variety of slides and monkey bars
- accessible spinner with easy access for all abilities
- shade sail over the play structure. The surrounding mature trees will also provide shade to the play area.

Yarra City Council invested \$259,000 towards the new Alphington Park Playground and the Victorian Government supported the project with \$140,000 from their Parks Revitalisation Grants Program.

Remember to renew your pet's registration



Do you own one of Yarra's adorable cats and dogs?

We know our community is home to the cutest pets in town. Keeping your pet's details up to date is important

so we can reunite you with your pet if they become lost and so we can get in touch with information about pet registration.

Pet registration renewals will be coming up soon, with the annual deadline of 10 April fast approaching.

To keep your pet as protected as it can be, be sure to let us know if any of the following changes have occurred since your pet was last registered:

- Moved to a new address
- Your contact details have changed
- Your pet has been desexed
- Your pet has passed away or is missing

It's every pet owner's responsibility to make sure their pet's registration is renewed before 10 April each year.

You may be issued an infringement notice if you don't do this on time.



Find out more and renew online at yarracity.vic.gov.au/pets

Growing together

Would you like to have a planter box on your street?

For over a decade we have been supporting our residents to grow food in public places. Residents that have space on their footpath or in certain parts of the road reserve can apply to have a planter box.

It's a great opportunity for neighbours to come together and form a gardening group and get multiple boxes on their street. They're also available to individuals households.

We have over 200 planter boxes across Yarra – the boxes are part of our Community Growing spaces program.

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



Sign up to attend our free online Community Growing Spaces Workshop to find out about low-maintenance food gardening and how to apply for a public community growing space in Yarra.

Monday 6 March, 6pm (online)

Registrations are filling up so RSVP today!



Acting on the climate emergency

We've been busy putting our plan into action. Since adopting our Climate Emergency Plan in 2020 we're pleased to share that 112 of the 119 actions in the plan are either completed or on track.

The plan supports our community to respond to the climate emergency. It helps us create a climate-adapted city by shifting to renewable energy and zero emissions transport. We are also moving towards zero waste and conscious consumption.

25



Number of Council buildings that have transitioned from gas to all-electric powered by renewables since the adoption of the Climate Emergency Plan.

1



With our support, Yarra became the home of Australia's first urban community battery.

75



Participants in the Community Skills for Climate Action Program we developed and delivered and resulted in 22 local climate actions projects.

200



Extra street trees planted across the city thanks to additional funding provided in 2021/22 to accelerate our street tree planting program in priority locations.

6

Years ahead of schedule in delivering glass recycling collection service across the municipality to separate glass from co-mingled recycling stream. The service will be required across the state in 2027.



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

What's on

Fairfield in Feb

Fairfield Amphitheatre,
Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield

Each Sunday in February, 6pm to 8.30pm

Join us this month for a series of four free performances each Sunday evening in February at the Fairfield Amphitheatre. Much loved for over two decades, the series presents a surprising and ever-changing feast for the ears by the beautiful banks of the Yarra River, from opera and strings to jazz acapella.



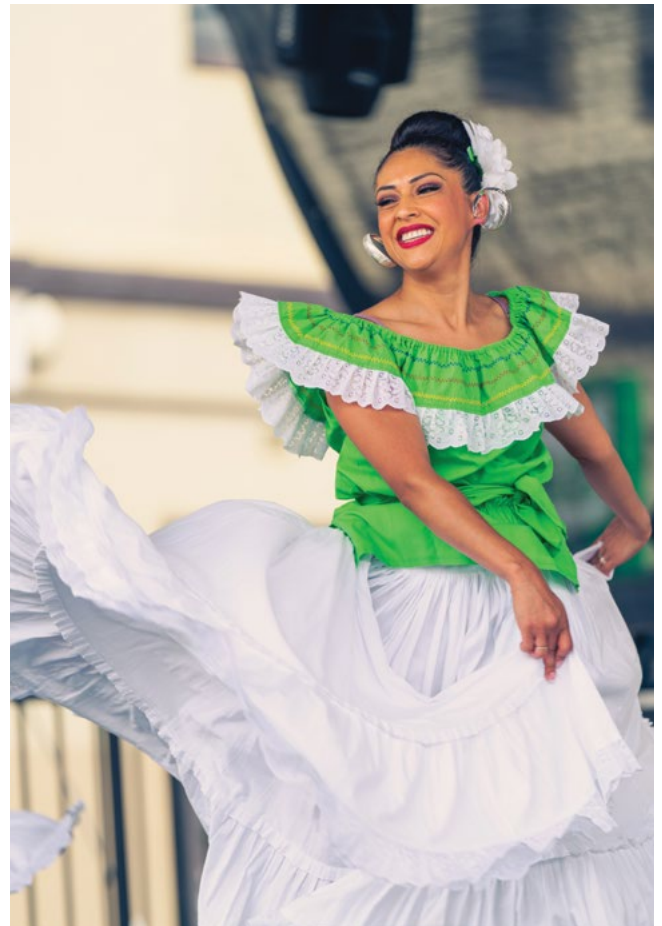
Johnston Street Fiesta

Saturday 25 February, 12 midday
to 11.30pm

Sunday 26 February, 12 midday to 9pm

It's back! The Johnston Street Fiesta is one of Yarra's much-loved cultural events, a vibrant street festival celebrating heritage, tradition, music and food of the world's many Spanish-speaking countries.

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



Johnston Street Fiesta

Fitzroy Community Market

Atherton Gardens
125 Napier Street, Fitzroy

Friday 3 March, 3.30pm to 5.30pm

Come down and interact with local stall holders, community service organisations and Yarra Libraries. With free fresh food from our partner community organisations Open Table and Cultivating Community, and meals from FareShare available for everyone, what's not to love.

Solar for Apartments Q&A

Thursday 23 March 2023, 7pm to 8pm
online

Join our panel of experts and residents to get your questions answered and hear practical tips for installing solar on your apartment.

Victoria's Pride Street Party

Get ready to celebrate as Pride returns to Yarra.

Fitzroy will burst to life in a fabulous street party to celebrate Victoria's diverse LGBTIQ+ communities.

**Sunday 12 February, 11am to 9pm
Gertrude Street and Smith Street**

Two live music stages will showcase a variety of performances, including musicians, comedians, speakers, circus performers, and drag artists.

Wellness activities, community stalls and street performers are all part of the free event.

Our local businesses and traders will also open their doors to showcase their offerings. Be sure to keep an eye out in the shopfronts for pop-up performances!

This event is brought to you by Midsumma in partnership with the Victorian Government and Yarra City Council.



Courageous heritage

Fitzroy Councillor Ralph McLean became Australia's first openly gay mayor in 1984.

Courage is a bronze statue created by sculptor William Eicholtz to honour Ralph's courage and the entire LGBTIQ+ community.

Find it at Whitlam Square in Fitzroy, where it was erected in 2014.



Your Councillors

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

Langridge Ward

- **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 14 February
- Tuesday 14 March

Information from this edition in your language. For more information please call **9280 1940** and quote REF **19,456**.

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19,456。

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 19,456.

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 1935** واذكر الرقم المرجعي 19456.

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 19,456.

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 19.456.

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 19.456.