YARRA RIVER LITTER RESPONSE

Litter comes from all over Melbourne and to combat such a large problem, many groups do their part to clean our rivers and bays.

50-year Community Vision

Our Yarra River, Birrarung is a thriving river for our thriving city. It provides a unique place of transition, both spiritually and physically. Here the river and its treasured banks and backdrops are Melbourne's meeting place; an inclusive and iconic place for connection, celebration, recreation and learning. Our love for its vast and expanding green spaces and clean waters provide a healthy habitat for all.

- Yarra River 50-year Community Vision
Melbourne Water

What you can do?!

- Put your rubbish in a bin or take your rubbish with you if no bin is available
- Keep a bag in your car to collect rubbish
- Put your cigarette butt in a butt bin, or an ordinary litter bin
- Buy less packaging and use reusable containers

Yarra River Litter
Key Issues & Challenges

Public awareness · Organisational cooperation · Existing collection methods · Stopping litter at the source · Complexity of the litter problem

YRKA Blitz Location

REPORT

Litter with: Snap, Send, Solve (app)

Yarra Catchment Atlas (online)

Submit photos!

Litter Totals collected by City of Melbourne per Month 2019/20

Litter Volume m3

Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Yarra's Edge m3 · Harbour Esplanade m3 · Total m3

Melbourne Water

Melbourne Water manages water supply catchments, supplying affordable and high-quality water. They also treat and supply drinking and recycled water, remove and treat most of Melbourne's sewage, manage waterways and major drainage systems, collect litter and help to create outstanding natural community spaces.

13 Olympic swimming pools of **Silt** cleaned from the stormwater system

.6 Olympic swimming pools of **Litter** cleaned from Melbourne's drains

3.3 Million Dollars Spent per year removing litter from our waterways

City of Melbourne

The City of Melbourne Waterways unit carries out responsibilities across Docklands. Responsibilities include allocation and licensing of berths for vessels.

direct management of Melbourne City and Yarra's Edge Marina, day to day operations of the waterways, contract management and marina lesses management.

City of Melbourne has...

450 Solar Smart Bins
2000 Public Litter Bins
500 Cigarette Bins
230 Recycling Bins

YRKA's Soy Sauce reduction plan was created to help businesses understand the impacts of littered soy fish

Soy Sauce Fish

Harbour Esplanade

Governance

The lower Yarra River is governed by a number of Government departments and authorities.

Melbourne Water, Development Victoria, City of Melbourne Council & Parks Victoria all share responsibility for coordinating waterways development, provision of infrastructure and the improvement of recreation, leisure, tourism and water transport.
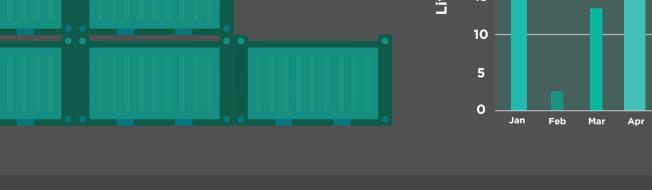
36,500kg of waste vaccumed from the river banks in 2 years By... LITTER

Gross Pollutant Traps

16 Traps on the Yarra

City of Melbourne maintain 70 GPTs, removing 13 tonne of silt, rubbish & leaf matter monthly.

The Yarra Catchment covers 4,046 Km2

CleanWater Group

The Yarra is 242km long!
It is home to 1/3 of Victorians & spans 8 municipalities

OVERFULL BINS
INDUSTRIAL WASTE
LITTER

Parks Victoria Waterways

Parks Victoria clean and maintain 20 litter traps on the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, assisting in keeping our Rivers clean. When you leave rubbish in our streets, you send rubbish to our rivers and the bay.

5.5 Shipping containers of litter collected annually

Parks Victoria litter traps collected 184m3 in 2020

The Bandalong litter traps have been on the Yarra River for over 20 years. They are a fantastic defence against litter once it reaches our creeks and Rivers, though not the complete solution.

Litter Volume m3

More than 2.4 BILLION LITTER

Microplastics flows from the Maribyrnong and Yarra rivers every year

1,934,208,000 from the Yarra

521,395,200 from the Maribyrnong

45,000 Microplastics captured & counted

The EcoCentre is a leading community-managed organisation with a dedicated team of scientists, educators and volunteers who design and implement innovative environmental programs. The EcoCentre is also the home of the Port Phillip Baykeeper, who cares for the Bay as the Riverkeeper does for the Yarra

5.5 Years of Microplastic research

Seabins
In the Yarra's Edge Marina

The Seabin acts as a floating garbage bin skimming the surface of the water by pumping water into the device. The Seabin V5 can intercept: floating debris, macro and micro plastics and even micro fibres with an additional filter.

SEABIN 5 PROJECT

Yarra's Edge Marina

City of Melbourne collect an average

31,000 Pieces Of Litter

From the Yarra's Edge Marina and Harbour Esplanade every month

From 2019-2020

Most littered (Macro) items
- YRKA River and Flows Project

- Polystyrene
- Plastic packaging
- Drink Bottles
- Cigarettes
- Tennis Balls

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association is

Looking for the biggest sources of Polystyrene Pollution
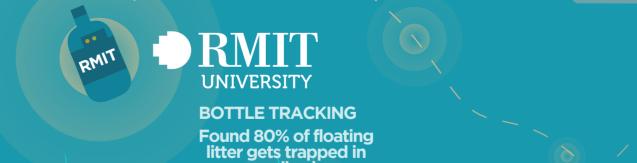
YRKA Blitz Location

RMIT UNIVERSITY
BOTTLE TRACKING
Found 80% of floating litter gets trapped in reedbeds

Retailers · Construction · Recyclers · Manufacturers

Yarra Riverkeeper

The Yarra Riverkeeper Association advocates for the River: for green spaces, for water quality, for biodiversity, for the birds, animals, insects and reptiles along the River, for good planning decisions, for the tributaries, for the parklands, for appropriate recreation, and for an understanding of our river and its role in the life of the city of Melbourne.

Yarra River Blitz's
Connects the community with the river to kayak, walk and pick up litter

YRKA Blitz Location

4 Tonnes
Equivalent to an **empty** shipping container

of rubbish was removed during the Yarra River Blitz in February 2020