

# City of Port Phillip Civic Awards 2004

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On Tuesday December 7 2004, at a ceremony attended by more than 200 people, Council announced the 2004 Civic Awards recipients. Our congratulations go to:



## **Citizen of the Year 2004: Maria Starcevic**

As Citizen of the Year, Maria receives a Citizen of the Year certificate. The other three nominees received a Certificate of Recognition.

## **Young Citizen of the Year 2004: Brad Myers and Matty Cottam**

Both these young people have made significant contributions and shown leadership to other young people in Port Phillip but done so in very different ways. The assessment panel had great difficulty in making a decision in awarding just one Young Citizen of the Year, so they decided on joint winners!

## **Civic Project of the Year 2004: St Kilda Police & Citizen's Youth Group for the Mobile Activity Centre**

The Civic Project of the Year Award includes \$1000 prize money made out to the organisation and Award Certificates for all project participants. The four other nominated organisations received encouragement awards of \$300 each in recognition of the contribution and value of their projects to the Port Phillip Community and all project participants receive an Encouragement Award certificate.



We would like to congratulate all nominees, the calibre of nominations was so high that the assessment panel had great difficulty in making their decisions. A short description of all nominees is provided below.



# Nominees: Civic Projects of the Year 2004

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## **St Kilda Police & Citizens Youth Club: Mobile Activity Centre (MAC Van)**

Aim of this project is to take indoor / outdoor recreational activities and health and welfare information to identified areas of need in the municipality. The MAC Van has been visiting 11 locations including Park Towers, Elwood College, St Kilda Primary, Albert Park College, St Kilda Park Primary and Dorcas Street Flats. The program is one of a kind, using sport and recreation activities as the vehicle for change in young people's lives. The program is designed to decrease crime rates and bring communities together.

**Project participants:** Adrian Mannix, Roy Brens, Mario Borg, Brad Myers, Sarah Walburn, Clayton Diaz, Dan Gallagher, Louise Benson, Shannon Friedrich, Emma Broughton, Donny Pelsoczy, St Kilda Police, South Melbourne Police



## **Elwood St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre: Roomers Magazine Outreach Project**

A number of local workers from a range of organisations got together to share their concerns about the disadvantages experienced by rooming house and Supported Residential Services (SRS) residents in Port Phillip. The idea of a magazine produced by and for residents of rooming houses and SRS's was a creative response to these concerns. It was first published in 1996 and members of the general community assist by acting as mentors and providing individual support to contributors. Roomers has grown from strength to strength and contributors to the magazine have performed at the last 3 Melbourne Writers Festivals.

**Project participants:** St Kilda Rooming House Issues Group, St Kilda Parish Mission Drop In Centre, Inner South Community Health Service, Port Phillip Community Group

## **Park Community Association: Corroboree Tree Grasslands project**

The Park Community Association worked together with the local community to complete a landscape project in parkland beside the Junction Oval in St Kilda. The design acknowledges the traditional owners of the land who are represented by seven distinct areas of native grasses from each of the tribes of the Kulin Nation. Volunteers were involved in the creation of the landscaped area and interaction with the indigenous community contributed to understanding of the Koorie culture, the significance of their ancestral lands, their creator and insight into issues over land ownership.

**Project Participants:** John Addie, Hartmut Grieb, Reg Boyd, Pat Agostino, Peter Goad, Sally Daish, Dianne Phoenix, Liz Grieb, Kathy Scholl, Alistair Sholl, Mary-Ellen Talmage, Col Finney, Alf Bruce, Christine Bruce, Julia Hamer, Gwen McIntosh, John Carey, Meg Jollands, Robin Joyce, Rosemary Goad, Peg Jones.

## **Port Melbourne Baseball Club: Introducing baseball to people with disabilities**

Two years ago Port Melbourne Baseball Club started planning to allow for the participation of more people in the community to play baseball at their club. They began to build the infrastructure and obtain the equipment required to assist in the introduction of baseball to children with special needs. Working with Joint Councils for Access for All Abilities the baseball club has been able to hold Friday afternoon training sessions with children from the Port Phillip Specialist School.

**Project participants:** Craig Morris, Helene Agius from Joint Councils Access for All Abilities, Port Phillip Specialist School



## **St Kilda Youth Services: Out of School Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Program**

Young people who are at risk of disengaging from education are identified by St Kilda Youth Services (SKYS) and enrolled in Out of School VCAL classes held at Prahran Neighbourhood House. The Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network (IELLEN) work together with SKYS on this project and provide an innovative approach to education and involve young people in their community to make learning relevant to who and where they are.

**Project participants:** Inner Eastern Local Learning and Employment Network, Prahran Neighbourhood House, Cate Thompson, Gill Meek, Kim Tedford.



# Nominees:

## Citizen of the Year 2004

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### **Maria Starcevic**

Maria is a local aboriginal community elder that has convened and led the Our Rainbow Place (ORP) Steering Group. ORP has developed as a meeting place that has enabled Indigenous and non-indigenous community members and health and welfare staff to come together in a safe and friendly atmosphere. At ORP they develop understanding of different perspectives and needs and develop trust. Her role has grown to incorporate leadership across the community in a number of areas including story telling, reconciliation and she is a founding member of the Indigenous Family Violence Action strategy.



### **Mario Borg**

Mario volunteers in programs such as the Mobile Activity Centre at St Kilda Police & Citizen's Club, Sacred Heart Mission's footy side and the Reclink program. Mario has a passion for social justice issues and has advocated for disadvantaged groups of people in our community while promoting causes to everyone from local businesses to federal ministers.

### **Rose Banks & Yvette Kelly**

These sisters are joint owners of the Gatwick Private Hotel / Rooming House which provides accessible low cost accommodation for people who would have difficulty finding accommodation elsewhere. Rose and Yvette purchased the Gatwick six years ago when their mother passed away and are honouring her commitment to low cost housing by continuing to run the Gatwick as a rooming house.



# Nominees:

## Young Citizen of the Year 2004

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### Brad Myers

Brad volunteers at St Kilda Police & Citizen's Youth Club (PCYC) in a number of various positions and activities. He leads by example, doing what he does because he believes it is the best approach. He established the Youth Management Team which is a group of young people who act as an advisory body to PCYC management and collectively suggest and organise PCYC activities. The YMT provides opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and abilities through practice. Brad has consistently been involved in programs, services and activities offered at the Youth Club over the last 3 years.



### Matty Cottam



Matty has been involved in Port Phillip's Youth Reference Group and his ideas and contribution have been instrumental around the development of the Big Cake Youth Forum. Matty has a strong vision and believes that "the community is like a big cake. Young people are the special ingredient ... you can have the cake without it, but it won't taste as good. Our job is to create the best cake ever and let everyone taste it". He also developed the idea for "Cross Cultural Flavours" a celebration of cultural diversity by young artists. Matty's a keen skater that has been involved in lobbying for skate space in Port Phillip, he was a speaker at a forum on the topic

'Adolescent Violence in the Home' and he's editing and assisting to develop SPICY (Street Press for Inner City Youth) newsletter.

