

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF PORT PHILLIP



April/May 2008

issue number 38

divercity

ONE CITY-MANY NEIGHBOURHOODS ISSN 1328-0309

albert park/middle park east st kilda elwood/ripponlea port melbourne south melbourne st kilda st kilda rd

菲利普港通訊 | Ενημερωτικό Δελτίο του Πόρτ Φίλιπ | Biuletyn Port Phillip | Информационный бюллетень Port Phillip

PATRICK BLANC VERTICAL GARDEN

From Paris to a triangle near you



Drug and alcohol fuelled violence is a big issue. With a professional background in drug and alcohol counselling, I've seen the harm that's being done to individuals, families and communities. But I also know that most people use alcohol responsibly. Amidst the shocking headlines and growing anxiety, we need to act confidently as a community to insist on responsible drinking behaviour. We must work with the police, venue operators and individuals to make bad behaviour unacceptable and unwelcome.

Last month council initiated an important new roundtable on alcohol and drug related behaviour with Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Gary Jamison, senior St Kilda police and key council officers.

Top of the agenda for the round table is enforcement of the new laws that outlaw public drinking across Port Phillip from 11 pm to 7 am.

We will also tackle the serious problem of restaurants converting to bars late at night. We will send a clear message to venue owners that serving drunk customers is unacceptable, against the law and makes them liable to significant penalties.

But within this tougher stance, we need to remember that licensed venues play an important role in the social and cultural life of Port Phillip. Most of us enjoy a drink with a meal or while watching music or catching up with friends.

Before the St Kilda triangle opens, we intend to set and enforce new standards for responsible management of hospitality and entertainment venues. Working with the state government, police, venue operators and the community, we must break the link between entertainment venues and bad behaviour.

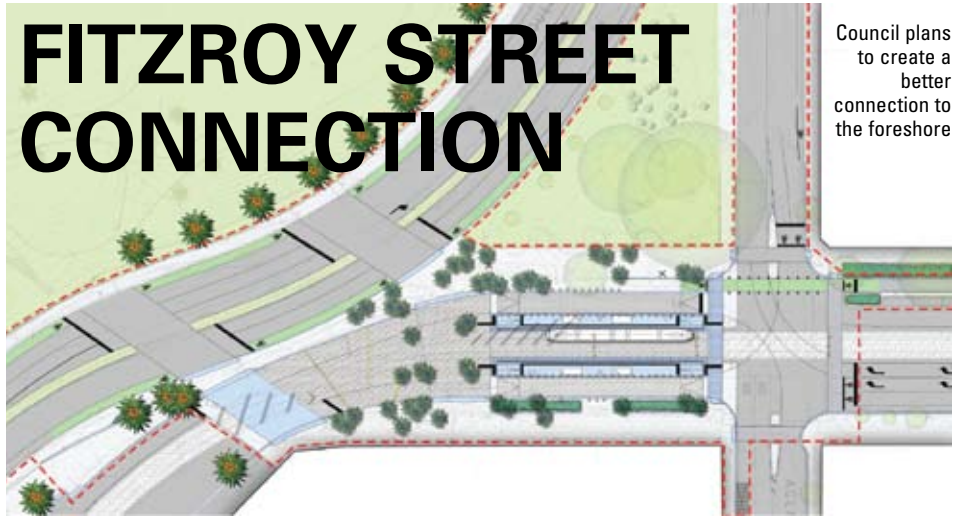
But we can't do it without you. We need you to join with us in setting a higher standard of behaviour. That means drinking moderately and directing those who need help with alcohol and drugs to the support that is available.

In my professional life, I have dedicated over 20 years to working with people from all walks of life, in crisis or coaching, in counselling or mediation to make the most of life and enjoy their lives free of dependence on alcohol or drugs. As Mayor, I want to see that more people enjoy our city without destroying it or themselves.

Janet Cribbes
Mayor

FITZROY STREET CONNECTION

Council plans to create a better connection to the foreshore



Concept plans for the Fitzroy Street tram stop at Cleve Gardens will be presented at a number of community information sessions in April.

The new tram stop and traffic plan seeks to make the beach end of Fitzroy Street more pedestrian friendly with a stronger, clearer connection to the foreshore.

The proposed works include raised tram stops and shelters integrated into a new landscaped area that creates more of a plaza atmosphere. In the plan, traffic bound for Jacka Boulevard will be required to turn right at Acland Street to join Beaconsfield Parade and vice versa.

The project also features a three metre wide fully separated 'Greenway' bike path on the north side of Fitzroy Street linking the bay to Albert Park.

Dates for Community Information Sessions are:

- Tuesday April 1:** Cleve Gardens / Tram Stop; 7-9am;
- Friday April 4:** Cleve Gardens / Cnr Fitzroy and Acland St 6-9pm;
- Tuesday April 8:** St Kilda Town Hall – Council Chamber (two sessions) 6.30-7.30pm & 8-9pm.

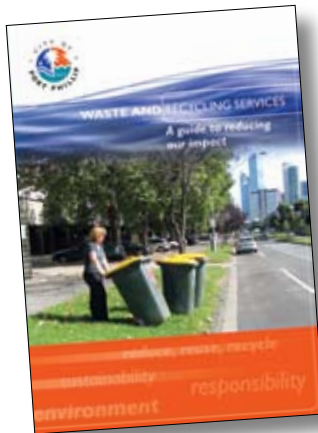
There will also be a display board in Cleve Gardens towards the end of March and a detailed brochure will be distributed to local residents.

Detailed plans and more detailed project information is available on the council website http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildas_edge.html

OUR COVER: PARIS, NEW DELHI AND SOON ST KILDA

Our cover picture is the vertical garden by celebrated French artist and botanist Patrick Blanc at the spectacular Musée du quai Branly in Paris. As announced last year, a similar vertical garden is one of the highlights of the proposed St Kilda triangle.

Blanc's work is part art and part science, creating living walls that quickly become local icons. Blanc has installed vertical gardens in India, Thailand, Japan and the US. You can learn more about Patrick and his work at www.verticalgardenpatrickblanc.com. Thanks to Clément Dudouet for permission to use his image from www.flickr.com/people/grodada



NEW WASTE AND RECYCLING GUIDE FOR HOUSEHOLDS

A handy new guide to the Council's waste and recycling services will be distributed to households in April.

The guide explains all you need to know about garbage and recycling collection, hard rubbish bookings and the transfer station. Information on accessing these services can also be found on the Council's website.

The Council has expanded the range of materials that can be recycled at the South Melbourne Depot to include goods such as electronic waste and mattresses. These new services, as well as an upcoming public place recycling trial, are all steps towards further cutting the City's waste output.

Mayor Cr Janet Cribbes at the picnic to open the upgraded school park next to Elwood Primary School.

SCHOOL PARK IS WORTH A PICNIC



The upgraded sporting oval and community park next to Elwood Primary School was officially opened at a fabulous community picnic in March.

The Council, with Elwood Primary School and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, funded the upgrade. The upgraded park includes a public walkway from Scott Street to Poets Grove (adjacent to the Elwood Family and Children's Services Centre), fencing for School Park, a shared path along the Elwood canal and Keats Street, and new tree and groundcover plantings.

There are also impressive new sporting facilities, including a new cricket pitch and cricket nets, and a mini soccer pitch made with artificial grass.

Council has signed a joint use agreement with Elwood Primary to enable community access to the oval area outside of school hours, for a period of 20 years. The sporting oval is a dogs on-lead area, and members of the community are asked to respect the school's use of the oval during school hours.

JOIN THE CHANGE, TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE

Port Phillip has committed to helping residents and businesses to halve their greenhouse emissions by 2020. But why wait when you can participate in the *Challenge 2 Change* and reduce your electricity consumption.

Challenge 2 Change challenges you to reduce your electricity use by up to 20% by using simple 'no-cost' actions such as switching off unused lighting; adjusting thermostat settings on heating and cooling; and turning off stand-by power.

Challenge 2 Change encourages people to get together with neighbours, workmates or classmates, to see how much electricity they can save without spending money.

Julian Donlen, Port Phillip's sustainability education officer, says the program starts with people taking a look at the energy they currently use.

'Many people are shocked to discover that

appliances on standby are gobbling up electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

'We also look at lighting and the type of globes people are using. Likewise with hot water and heating, it's important to know the role they play in your energy consumption.'

Julian said it was not unusual for households to cut their energy consumption by up to 20% without any reduction in lifestyle or comfort.

Another key aspect of the program is working with others. The council hopes to attract the involvement of existing community and social groups.

'Using less energy means changing a few habits, but the rewards are immediate.

Challenge 2 Change aims to bring people together to help each other make changes and keep on saving.'

To register contact the council on 9209 6548 or email enviro@portphillip.vic.gov.au

BE THE FIRST FOR MOVIE TICKETS

Be the first reader living in your postcode to email *Diversity* and we'll give you two movie tickets. Two tickets will go to the first email from these Port Phillip postcodes: 3182, 3183, 3184, 3185, 3205, 3206, 3207 and 3004.

To enter, send your name and address to divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au.

Sorry, council staff and contractors are not eligible for prizes.



This edition of *Diversity* is just that – diverse. It shows how the council is working with the community to improve our city and our diverse neighbourhoods.

In Port Melbourne, the excitement and fanfare surrounding the recent arrival of the luxury Queen Victoria emphasised the modern role of Station Pier but also showed the challenge that popularity creates. *Diversity* has a progress report on the moves to ‘complete’ the Port Melbourne waterfront and help make it work better for residents, visitors and port users. Many of the ideas emphasise the romance and practicality of a port and residential neighbourhood just minutes from the CBD.

Just down the road in Albert Park, Middle Park and West St Kilda, the council has commenced a review of the heritage overlay to better describe the variety of important precincts. The overlay will ultimately help guide planning decision and protect the flavour of the neighbourhood that locals love.

In St Kilda, we look at the four impressive new public spaces that are part of the triangle development. The Catani Steps, grassy slopes, Urban Square and Palais forecourt, each have a unique character. Together they will bring an additional 1.6 hectares of public space to an area that is now an unprepossessing car park.

There is also the *Challenge 2 Change* program where participants work with neighbours and colleagues to significantly reduce their electricity consumption. It shows that if we work together, we can make a difference.

On a similar note, I am pleased to say we are putting more effort into helping the community install sustainable features like water tanks and solar panels. This followed requests from residents to make such approvals easier. Please talk to council for advice before you start your installation.

Across this edition, there are countless examples of how we do better when we work together.

David Spokes
Chief Executive Officer



Playgroups are fun for mums, says the Friday group of mums and children at Broadway.

PLAYGROUPS A BIG HIT ON BROADWAY

Renovations to the former Maternal and Child Health Centre on Broadway in Elwood are set to make room for more playgroups.

For many years, the Elwood Community Playgroup has used the council building at 51 Broadway, Elwood to host play opportunities for children and their families. It is a volunteer organisation involving almost 400 families with pre-school aged children (newborn to five year olds) from around Elwood.

More than 25 playgroup sessions operate between 9 am-6 pm Monday to Friday. During each day there are 4-5 sessions which run for approximately two hours each. Families are linked to one session per week, which helps them become members of a smaller, more close-knit group. Family playgroup sessions operate on the weekends and committee meetings and first-aid courses take place in the evenings and on weekends at the centre.

Council is now renovating the Broadway site to enable the front part of the building to be also used for playgroup sessions, thus doubling its capacity.

After consultation with families, the refurbishment will include redesigning the two children’s playrooms, two new children’s bathrooms, a new kitchen, new adult toilets, and a refurbishment of the front outdoor area and entrance.

For more information on playgroups in Port Phillip contact Jacqui Wilson on 9209 6340.

WEBSITE SHOWS RESPECT FOR YOUNGEST CITIZENS

Respecting children as citizens in local government is the theme of a joint project between Council and the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood. Flowing from the council’s Municipal Early Years Plan, the project promotes children as active citizens.

The experiences and ideas shared by children through this project are being developed into an interactive child participation website. This site will provide information to children about the project – what children said about what makes it fun to live in the Port Phillip, what is difficult, what they would like to see improved, as well as what makes children feel safe and unsafe.

The website will keep children up-to-date with what is happening in Port Phillip and how they can have a say. A children’s voices newsletter developed by children for children will also be incorporated within the site. An initial website will be developed and trialled in May 2008 with children and adults to ensure the site is easy to access and navigate.

IMMUNISATIONS FOR BABIES AND FOUR YEAR OLDS

Council is hosting a special immunisation session for four year olds at the Poets Grove Family & Children's Services Centre (18 Poets Grove, Elwood) on Saturday 10 May 2008 between 10.00 am-12.00 pm.

All children receiving their booster vaccinations will be entertained with special guests and will receive a gift for their bravery.

The National Immunisation Program recommends that all four year olds receive booster doses of the following vaccines: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and Polio (Infanrix IPV), Measles, Mumps and Rubella (Priorix).

Immunisation uses the body's natural defence mechanism – the immune response – to build resistance to specific infections. A child must receive the correct number of doses of a vaccine in order to benefit from the protective effect.

If you are unable to attend this session, you can attend any one of Council's regular immunisation sessions or contact your general practitioner. If you have any queries regarding immunisation, please contact Council's Health Services Unit on 9209 6292.



Council runs immunisation sessions across the municipality every month. Pictured are Sharon Brook and baby Kai at a recent immunisation session.

Location	April	May
Elwood MCHC 9.00 am- 11.30 am Wednesdays	2	7
Liardet St 9.00 am -11.30 am Thursdays	10	15
St Kilda Town Hall 5.00 pm -6.45 pm Tuesdays	15	20
South Melbourne 9.00 am -11.00 am Saturdays	26	24
Alma Road MCHC 9.00 am-11.00 am Wednesdays	30	28

CHILD CARE PLACES BOOMING

Child care places in Port Phillip have increased by 311 places since the Council announced its five year, \$6.5 million commitment to new child care places in 2005/06.

The increase is made up of an extra 206 places in council and community centres, plus a further 105 in other centres.

And there's another 607 child care places in progress. Council/community child care places are set to expand by another 60 places while other centres will accommodate an additional 547 places.

	Places before capital works	Places today	Places coming soon
Council / community	467	673	60
Other	390	495	547
Total places in PP	857	1178	607

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES FROM THE COUNCIL

The Council provides many services for families who live and work in Port Phillip. These include operating five child care centres, supporting eight community managed child care centres and operating the home based care service. Maternal and child health centres operate in seven locations across the city providing health checks for children aged 0-6 years. Support for parents and families are provided through respite care programs, vacation care programs to assist families during school holidays and initiatives such as providing spaces for playgroups to meet. For more information about the range of services offered by Family and Children's Services contact ASSIST on 9209 6777 or see the website at: http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/families_children.html



SNAPSHOT OF PORT PROGRESS

Queen Victoria visits Station Pier.

Station Pier and the Port Melbourne waterfront are the point of arrival and departure for immigrants and now for thousands of visitors arriving by cruise ship. Two years after the State Government announced its commitment to the Princes Pier facelift, *Diversity* looks at the 'work-in-progress' across this treasured waterfront and working port.

The great challenge for the Port Melbourne waterfront is achieving harmony between the needs of a growing residential population and a busy, dynamic working port.

The recent, spectacular arrival of the Queen Victoria on her maiden round-the-world voyage, highlighted the excitement that can be

generated by cruise ships as well as the challenges of high levels of visitation.

But Port Melbourne is much more than a port. It's also the location of one of Melbourne's fastest growing residential populations. The rapidly emerging community poses a number of important issues for the council (and the state government for that matter).

The Council and State Government will be talking with people in Beacon Cove and Port Melbourne about the many issues affecting their area.

Here is a snapshot of today's projects and a sneak peek at the projects of tomorrow.

PRINCES PIER: BARGE AHOY, DESIGN IN PROGRESS

The State Government is managing this project and has committed \$14 million to refurbish the first 196 metres of the pier. The work will be done in stages beginning with demolition of the existing deck. The contract for the demolition was awarded last year, a barge is in position and works are proceeding to plan.

The Stage One redevelopment will include the full restoration of the first 196m of the pier, including the replacement of defective timber piles and supports, a new concrete deck and a lowered timber landing and mooring for recreational boats. Beyond that the decking will be removed, with the original piles being preserved as a heritage and sculptural centrepiece. The project is being managed by Major Projects Victoria (MPV).

The redevelopment will allow the heritage values of the pier to be retained whilst providing an area of public open space. Stage One works are due for completion by the end of 2009.



WATERFRONT PLACE: SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR FERRY AND PORT TRAFFIC



Waterfront Place has the potential to be an exciting urban plaza complete with trees, seating and lighting in a vastly improved pedestrian space that better integrates with the existing restaurants and surrounding buildings.

Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) and the council are working closely together to improve traffic management between Station Pier and Bay Street.

THE FORESHORE PROMENADE: CREATE A BETTER PLACE TO BE



The Council is set to carry out design studies on extending the width of the promenade between Princes Pier and Station Pier. The studies will look at access to the water, explore the possibilities of day boat berthing for visitors to Beacon Cove, extensive seating, lighting and looking at ways to incorporate a maritime history of Port Melbourne.

BEACH STREET: CREATING A BETTER LINK FOR PEDESTRIANS

The Council will do more design work later this year on this very important link along our foreshore. The current spaces are not pedestrian friendly nor do they best present the special qualities that a foreshore landscape can display to our international visitors. The design work will be informed by the earlier consultation undertaken and will include a widened promenade, extensive planting and improved lighting together with better use of the very wide road space.

BEACH STREET AND BAY STREET INTERSECTION: LINKING STREET TO BAY IN A BETTER WAY

Again the Council is starting work on designs to improve the visual and physical connections from Bay Street to the Foreshore. Consultants will be appointed to develop the plans in consultation with the council and the community. It is anticipated the work would include improved landscaping in the median and footpaths, lighting, and pedestrian pavement widening in critical areas. The work will be supported by a 'way finding' project which includes a suite of pedestrian signs to guide visitors to the attractions of Port Melbourne.

LOOKING AHEAD TOPICS FOR THE FUTURE

PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT A GOOD TIME TO REVISE THE PLANNING CONTROLS

Now that Mirvac has completed its work at Beacon Cove, it is appropriate that the Planning Scheme is amended. This process would also be an ideal opportunity to see how the planning controls could change to better reflect the aspirations of the Beacon Cove community now that residents have been living there for about 10 years.

Council believes that it is best placed to manage this project and with State Government assistance will undertake community consultation this year. The planning scheme amendment process will take 12 to 18 months and there will be several opportunities for community participation.



T&T LINE TRUCK PARKING: CREATIVE POSSIBILITIES

Council and PoMC have started technical studies on traffic and T&T freight handling needs in and around Waterfront Place. The aim is to improve traffic flow for residents and increase the amenity of the area while boosting the viability of the working seaport.

There will be several opportunities for community input about the best ways forward.

While there are no concrete proposals yet before council, possible creative solutions include covering the truck parking area to create public open space adjacent to the Pier and Waterfront Place.

TODD ROAD DUPLICATION: AN ESSENTIAL LINK

As movement through the Port of Melbourne increases, the transport infrastructure also needs to increase. The PoMC Development Plan 2006-35 identifies the Todd Road duplication as a crucial project. The PoMC are currently in a process to engage consultants to work on improvements to the road infrastructure to service the Port.

Council and the community will continue to work with the PoMC to ensure that residential amenity is protected with buffering from increased traffic, noise and night lighting. It is anticipated that the works will include high quality landscape design, sound walls, artwork, bicycle and pedestrian pathways.

Council sees it as a good opportunity to significantly improve the public landscape while improving connections for residents and visitors.

TRIANGLE PLEASURE GAR

The St Kilda triangle will feature impressive public spaces, each with a unique character and carefully crafted design. Fashioned in the spirit of Catani, the public areas are designed for promenading, rambling and being seen.



Acoustic concert in the Palais forecourt.

PALAIS FORECOURT: TRIANGLE MEETS LUNA PARK

Nowhere could be more symbolic of St Kilda than the face of Luna Park. The Palais forecourt creates a new interface to the face of St Kilda. It will be much more than a place to mill around before and after Palais performances. Protected from south and west winds, it will be a great place for outdoor events like salsa classes or street theatre.

The forecourt will also be a major thoroughfare for foot traffic from Acland Street and the tram interchange. Stepping through the forecourt will bring you to Little Cavell Street (a new arcade that runs alongside the Palais) or to the walkway that goes to the Urban Square or to the Vertical Garden for a postcard photograph.

Because it will have more foot traffic it will be a safe and public place to meet friends. You can say, "I'll meet you in front of the Palais – opposite the Luna Park face."



GRASSY SLOPES: RELAX WITH A VIEW

Connected to the Upper Esplanade, the grassy slopes are a series of "rooftop gardens" with grassed areas, succulent gardens, Catani style rock walls and terraced views. The slopes will enable picnics with a bay vista or a place to listen to music from the Catani Steps, or watch fireworks on NYE. The slopes also overlook the Urban Square, giving an overview of the piazza parade.

DENS ARE PUBLIC SPACE



CATANI STEPS: LINKING THE ESPLANADE AND FORESHORE

These broad, flowing steps offer much more than a link between the Upper Esplanade, Jacka Boulevard and the St Kilda foreshore. The steps also double as an amphitheatre with a platform at the base for performers. They will be a place to pause as the sun sets or to watch the passing parade.

Named after the foreshore's first architect and Italian immigrant Carlo Catani, the steps are inspired by the Spanish Steps that link Piazza di Spagna and Piazza Trinità dei Monti. At the widest point, the Catani Steps span 18 metres and range down over 40 steps.

ICE SKATING WILL RETURN

A temporary ice rink will be located on the Upper Esplanade (opposite the location of the former St Moritz) during winter months.



A food festival event in the Urban Square.

URBAN SQUARE: SUNNY, BUT SHELTERED PIAZZA

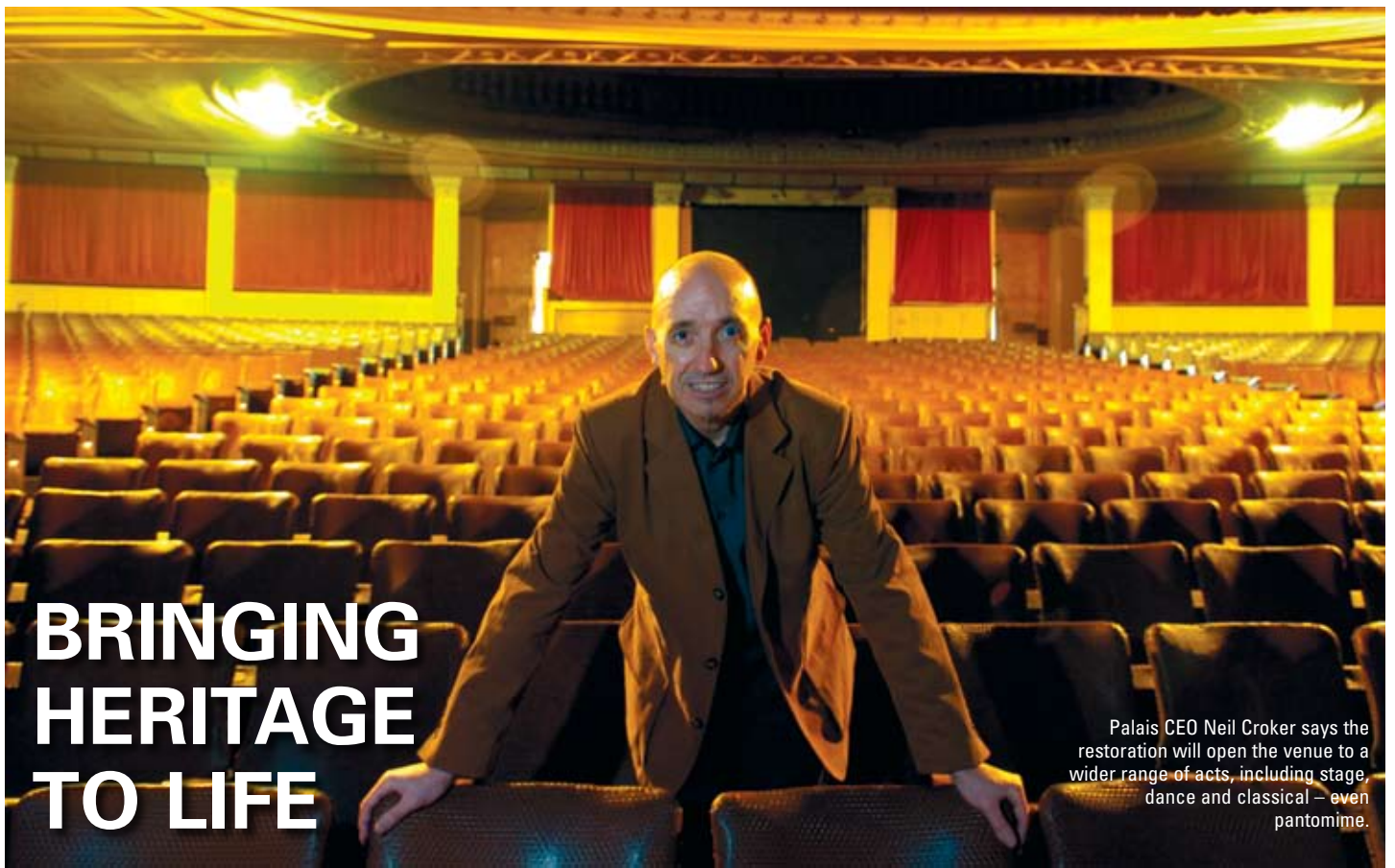
Melbourne's weather was one of the trickiest challenges facing the triangle design team. An open square with a western aspect was going to be made uncomfortable by the chilly souwesterlies that sweep across the bay to St Kilda. The solution was to locate the Urban Square one level down from the Esplanade, protect it from three sides and make it big enough to be sun-drenched most of the day.

A great deal of thought was put into the scale of the Urban Square. Too big and it could be a cold, lonely place. Too small and it would be cramped and overshadowed by the terrace above. It had to be useful as an open arcade and terrace for cafes.

Architect Ian McDougall says squares in Australia have often been too large, resulting in barren, wind-swept spaces that appear desolate. 'The dimensions of the Urban Square have been carefully modelled on overseas success stories such as New York's Rockefeller Centre Plaza and Piazza Umberto in Capri. The smaller scale creates an intimacy because a person can be recognised across the space. It also avoids the problem of appearing abandoned during quiet times. The balance between the dimension of the square and the single storey edge allows a sense of enclosure and wind protection, as well as plenty of sun at lunchtime. This intimacy is a nice counterpoint to the view out to the water.'

TRIANGLE WATER STORAGE

The triangle will have a 200,000 litre storage system to harvest rain water for re-use. Water will be primarily used for irrigation purposes. Based on average annual rain fall, the storage will meet the irrigation demand across the development without relying on potable water supply. The triangle also has grey water collection and re-use.



BRINGING HERITAGE TO LIFE

Palais CEO Neil Croker says the restoration will open the venue to a wider range of acts, including stage, dance and classical – even pantomime.

A heritage restoration is only the first step in restoring the famed Palais Theatre to its rightful place at the heart of a vibrant St Kilda entertainment scene. *Diversity* spoke to Palais Theatre CEO Neil Croker about his plans for the theatre.

Revitalising the Palais was always part of the St Kilda triangle vision, and new Palais Theatre CEO Neil Croker is just the man for the job. Former tour manager for acts like AC/DC, Bette Midler and Carole King, Neil spent much of the last 20 years in the music industry as an executive producer and promoter.

‘The redevelopment is going to bring the Palais back to life in grand style and open it to a great variety of acts.’

Neil said that the restoration would protect the heritage features while adding the technology needed in a modern venue.

By restoring the orchestra pit and adding ‘in-house lighting and sound systems’ the theatre will be able to play host to a much wider variety of entertainment.

‘The orchestra pit opens the door for ballet, opera and other musical theatre. It would also

The Palais will again be able to host musical theatre, ballet and rock’n’roll as it did in the 1970s with Jesus Christ Superstar, the Bolshoi and Rolling Stones.

make it an ideal venue for Christmas pantomime and dance school shows.

‘Installation of air conditioning will make the venue more comfortable for both audiences and performers.’

Neil said that the 3000 seat capacity of the Palais made it a vital venue for growing acts and touring artists.

‘The Palais is big enough, yet small enough at the same time to cater for people on the way up and established acts that want more intimacy than an arena.’

‘The Palais will be working with the other music venues at the triangle to program acts that are sympathetic.’

‘Don’t be surprised if you leave the Palais and go to another venue at the triangle for an after-show drink and catch some of the band doing a jam session.’

Neil said the underground parking would make the Palais very attractive for older audiences interested in musicals and concerts.

‘The Palais and the other music venues at the triangle will bring a host of live entertainment back to St Kilda where it rightly belongs.’

The Palais will close for renovation in May 2008 and re-open 20 months later in 2010.

STOP PRESS

Palais to host Sacred Heart Mission’s ‘Heart of St Kilda’ concert 23 May.

The opening night of the 2008 St Kilda Film Festival and the Sacred Heart Mission’s ‘Heart of St Kilda’ concert on 23 May could be the last gigs before the renovations commence.

Other forthcoming events at the Palais before renovations start include: Harry Connick Jnr, Patty Griffin, The Black Crowes, Air, Duran Duran, Jose Feliciano, Kiev Ballet – Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty, Eve and Joe Jackson. Visit www.palais theatre.net.au for information about all upcoming shows.

The highly successful combination of Luna Park, picture palace and dance hall on the Lower Esplanade early last century built St Kilda’s reputation as an exciting seaside playground.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES 9209 6777



CR JANET CRIBBES, MAYOR
ORMOND WARD
 9209 6431 (business hours)
 9525 7314 (home)
 0411 098 553 (mobile)
 9536 2769 (fax)
 mayor@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR JANET BOLITHO, DEPUTY MAYOR
SANDRIDGE WARD
 9645 4754 (home)
 0411 096 400 (mobile)
 9536 2766 (fax)
 jbolitho@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR PETER LOGAN,
EMERALD HILL WARD
 9699 1606 (home)
 0412 697 074 (mobile)
 9536 2718 (fax)
 plogan@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR DICK GROSS
BLESSINGTON WARD
 0411 446 167 (mobile)
 9536 2719 (fax)
 dgross@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR JUDITH KLEPNER
ALBERT PARK WARD
 9682 7314 (home)
 0409 968 850 (mobile)
 9536 2768 (fax)
 jklepner@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR DARREN RAY
ALMA WARD
 9525 8430 (home)
 0413 334 523 (mobile)
 9525 8430 (fax)
 dray@portphillip.vic.gov.au



CR KAREN SAIT
ST KILDA WARD
 8598 9624 (home)
 0411 098 477 (mobile)
 9536 2767 (fax)
 ksait@portphillip.vic.gov.au

All enquiries during office hours should be directed to the Mayor and Councillors' Office

Mayor Tel: 9209 6431 (Anita Gilham, Mayoral Exec. Assistant)
 Fax: 9536 2711
 Email: mayor@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Councillors: Tel: 9209 6705 (Mary Baensch, Councillors' Support Officer)
 Fax: 9536 2708
 Email: see individual email addresses

All Councillors email: councillors@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Postal address: City of Port Phillip, Private Bag No. 3, PO St Kilda Vic 3182

NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS

TAKING CARE OF PERCE

PORT MELBOURNE: You can meet friends and help keep Perce White Reserve looking good by being part of a regular working bee. The next dates are Saturday 12 April and Sunday 4 May. Meet between 9.30 am and 12 noon at Perce White Reserve, Melways 56 G3. Look for the Friends of Port Melbourne's Foreshore white banner in the car park. BYO gloves, water, sun protection and enthusiasm!

NEW HERITAGE OVERLAY GETS SPECIFIC

WEST ST KILDA TO SOUTH MELBOURNE: Council has started a review of Heritage Overlay 3 (H03) that includes the suburbs of South Melbourne, Albert Park, Middle Park and part of West St Kilda. No significant changes are anticipated to the existing overlay, heritage policy or heritage map. The review will create new statements of significance for a number of smaller precincts within the H03 area. These more focused statements will better reflect the heritage of each area and encourage development that is respectful and sympathetic to the character of the precinct.



Crs Peter Logan and Judith Klepner say H03 planning changes will better protect local character.

A draft of the revised statement of significance will be sent to all property owners for comment and feedback in the coming months. Likely precincts will include the Albert Park Lake and its surrounding parkland; the Bridport Street/Victoria Avenue shopping area; and the larger residential 'circuit' that includes St Vincent Place.

KIDS IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN



Drawing brings students closer to nature at Elwood Primary School.

ELWOOD: Work has begun on 'The Kitchen Garden DVD' with grade four students at Elwood Primary School thanks to a grant from the Port Phillip Cultural Development Fund. Local illustrator and animator, Trace Balla and writer Cazz Stafford are working with the students to make a DVD and books about the school's kitchen garden. 'By drawing your environment you take a closer look, and by looking closer you appreciate nature more,' says Trace Balla. The DVD and books will be launched in June.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FOCUS

SIGN OF THE TIMES IN FITZROY STREET



Cr Karen Sait with one of the many new street signs in St Kilda.

ST KILDA: New signs are not the only thing that's new around Fitzroy Street. You may have noticed that the streets are cleaner – that's because the Council has been trialling a special 'hot summers' day' cleaning regime. On days where the mercury climbs above 25c (and the crowds head for St Kilda), extra street cleaning staff were deployed to deal with the extra volumes of litter, overflowing bins and the like.

Also in the neighborhood, Yarra Trams have started planning an upgrade to the Park Street Tram terminus, and VicRoads are improving pedestrian crossings on Fitzroy Street as part of their Greenlight program.

STOP PRESS: The magnificent fig tree in Cleve Gardens will be flood-lit by the Traders as a welcome to Fitzroy Street.

PLAN TO EASE TRAM JAMS

ST KILDA RD: The State Government has announced plans to add a third tram track on St Kilda Road near the Arts Centre. The first stage will cost \$8.2 million and add a 69-metre section of a third track for 'through' trams to run efficiently, even in the event of a breakdown. Work will begin by mid-2008, with the major components due for completion by late 2009. Interestingly, St Kilda Road is Melbourne's busiest tram thoroughfare, with about one tram arriving every minute and more than 50 million passenger trips a year on St Kilda Road-bound trams – that's a lot of ding, ding.

THANKS FOR THE TANKS

EAST ST KILDA: Council and Christian Brothers College (CBC) have teamed up to harvest rain water to help maintain nearby Alma Park Oval. CBC already had tanks that supply water to their toilets and bathrooms, but about only half the runoff from their very large roof was being captured. Thanks to drought relief funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria, Council has been able to install three large rain water tanks. The water will service the Alma Park Oval and the water carts that are used to water trees when required.

MASTERPLAN FOR GARDEN CITY RESERVE

PORT MELBOURNE: Council has recently completed a draft master plan for Garden City Reserve and Howe Parade Reserve in Port Melbourne. Funding for the first stage of the works plan will be considered by council in the coming months. These works could include new trees, paths, and street furniture.

Further information is available at www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

'ON YA BIKE' FAMILY DAY

ALBERT PARK LAKE: The Festival of Cycling People's Day will be held on Sunday 20 April around Albert Park Lake. Besides cycling events, the festival has a Family Fun Ride and the 'Go for your life' One Hour Challenge. There will also be a range of family entertainment involving human powered locomotion, children's activities, displays, expo, fitness, wellness and environmental education. Entry fees apply, visit www.ceg.com.au for details.

PRUNING NEAR YOU

ALBERT PARK & SOUTH MELBOURNE: Trees in residential streets are pruned on a two and a half year cycle. Trees on major roads and streets that are part of a boulevard or avenue are pruned annually as are trees beneath high voltage powerlines. Pruning trees promotes good health, shape, vigour, reduces dead wood and ensures appropriate clearances. Over April and May, the pruning squad will be working around Albert Park and South Melbourne.

LIGHT RAIL RESERVE SET TO EXPAND

PORT MELBOURNE: Council is likely to close Raglan Street between Station Street and the Light Rail to expand the reserve. The closure will add approximately 890 sq m of parkland and create an aesthetically pleasing, naturalised setting at the exit of North Port Station. Council plans to install kerbing along Station Street to provide additional on-street parking spaces.

STEPS GIVE BETTER ACCESS



PORT MELBOURNE: Maintenance works to upgrade the western portion of the sea steps at Sandridge Beach have just been finished. The sea steps have been resurfaced to provide a user-friendly surface, which is safer and more attractive than the original concrete. The steps now have a new timber access ramp onto the beach to help Sandridge Lifesaving Club to launch their boats.

in brief

MUSIC GROUP FOR ALL SORTS

Blow the dust off the violin, get a new reed for the clarinet!

Allsorts is an informal group for people who like playing an instrument and enjoying working out different styles of music. The Allsorts play a lot of ethnic music but also have a go at some classical – even with the occasional performance.

Bring along your favourite instrument. Even if you haven't played for many years, all are welcome.

Thursdays, 2.00 pm
 Port Phillip Ecocentre
 Cnr Blessington and Herbert Streets
 St Kilda
 For more information contact Zoe Hogg
zoehogg@bigpond.net.au

HUSKY WINS \$5,000 MUSIC PRIZE

The 2008 St Kilda Festival New Music winner Husky has received a \$5,000 cash prize and a guaranteed spot on the 2009 main stage. You might have caught Husky, a local St Kilda act on the Air New Music Stage during this year's Festival. Developing their sound through late night gigs and busking on the streets of St Kilda, Husky consists of singer/songwriter Husky Gawenda, Gideon Preiss (keyboards) Marco Cascarino (drums) and Evan Tweedie (bass).

Don't miss them on the main stage at next year's St Kilda Festival.



20 YEARS OF THE POLISH SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB



It's easy to see why the Polish seniors' club is named after a beautiful Polish flower.

Named after the aster flower, the St Kilda Polish Senior Citizen's club 'Astry' supports local people of Polish background. The club celebrates Polish traditions, customs and culture and creates a social network for isolated members of the community. The club's choir has become very successful, performing at multicultural festivals and events throughout Victoria.

'Astry' is open to everyone over 55. Activities include excursions, raffles, card games, singing, dancing and playing music. Annual membership is \$10.

Meetings

Tuesdays 12 pm-3 pm
 Betty Day Centre, Argyle Street
 St Kilda

20th Anniversary Celebration

Tuesday 8 April 11am-2 pm
 St Kilda Town Hall
 Cnr St Kilda Road and Carlisle Street
 St Kilda

Enquiries Maria Kulesza 9596 7464 or
slkulesza@bigpond.com

BREAKDANCING AT LUNA PARK

Freestyle Fever is an annual under 18's dance competition created by young people to fill a noticeable gap in the hip hop competition arena.

The competition is open to anyone under 18 who wants to jump in. There are solo and crew battles, and battles performed to live youth percussionists. Trophies and great prizes will be awarded to competitors displaying the best level of skill, presentation, attitude, energy and vibe within the Funk, Hip Hop and Break genres.

This is a State Government Sponsored Freeza Event. Alcohol, drug, smoke-free and fully supervised.
 11 am-3 pm, registration closes 12 pm
 19 April
 Luna Park Function Room
 18 Lower Esplanade, St Kilda
 For more information email neda@nedjelly.com
 or call Martin on 9209 6167

BE A DIVERCITY LETTERBOX AUDITOR

Council is seeking your help to improve the distribution of *Diversity*. We are looking for residents with email to help us detect *Diversity* distribution problems. Following the distribution of *Diversity*, which occurs every second month, you will receive an email from the Council saying that the newsletter is on its way. You simply reply by email telling us if you received *Diversity* or not.

If you want to be a letterbox auditor, contact ASSIST on 9209 6777 or email your details to divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au



in brief

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS

Newborns: the joys and challenges of those first 8 weeks

Parents and significant others who have a new baby in their life are invited to attend this free session.

Second Thursday of every month,
1.30 pm-3.00 pm.

Raising happy healthy kids: the keys to resilience

A free seminar that covers the main points that make a difference when raising children – based on research but delivered with humour and practical strategies. Facilitated by Helen Rimington, who has experience at Parenting Australia & The Royal Children's Hospital.
24 April

South Melbourne Community Centre
Cnr Ferrars Place and Park Street,
South Melbourne (Melways 57F2)

Contact Rosemary on 9209 6766 or email mchadmin@portphillip.vic.gov.au to book.

WALK AND TALK: TRIANGLE AND HIDDEN TREASURES

The Century of the Triangle

Trace one hundred years of development on The Triangle from the foreshore strategy 1906 to the 'Edge' strategy 2006 using old photos, paintings and memories including Palais Pictures, Palais Theatre, Palais de Danse, Little Luna Park, Casino Optical Stage, Comedy Theatre, Returned Soldiers Lounge, Stardust and Palace.

Sunday 13 April, 10.00 am-12.00 pm
Leader: Meyer Eidelson

Hidden Treasures of South Melbourne and Albert Park

Tour St Vincent Place and admire the history and architecture of the elegant houses in this unique garden setting. Walk to the equally unique See Yup Society Chinese Temple, still in use today as a place of worship.

Sunday 18 May, 10.00 am-12.00 pm
Leader: Kay Rowan

Bookings 9209 6229 or walking@portphillip.vic.gov.au
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/walks

THE SCOUNDREL YOU NEED...

A masterpiece of nineteenth century Russian comedy, *The Scoundrel you Need* is coming to the Gasworks Theatre in May.

Performed for the first time in Melbourne and directed by James McCaughey, this classic piece of theatre by Alexander Ostrovsky follows the fortunes of a social climber who finds himself on the ladder of ambition every bit as rotten and hollow as his own collapsing schemes.

The Scoundrel you Need takes us back to Tzarist Moscow and finds it not all that far from Melbourne today.

7 May to 24 May 2008
Gasworks Theatre, Gasworks Arts Park
Cnr. Graham and Pickles St, Albert Park.
Bookings 9699 3253 or www.gasworks.org.au

GASWORKS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



Bootscootin' (5-10yrs)

Learn to Bootscoot with Tao from The Mighty BUZZniks and during the band's performance you can get up and join them for the bootscootin' song.

Bootscootin' 10 am-11 am.
Concert 11.15 am-12.15 pm
Tue 1 & Wed 2 April

Swordfighting (4-8yrs & 9-12yrs)

Join this intensive group class and hone your swashbuckling skills with nationally accredited coach Chris Jones.

Tue 1, Thu 3 & Fri 4 April

Snakebusters (4yrs +)

Join Australia's best reptile handlers and learn about frogs, spiders and snakes that live in Australia. All venom is removed and handling will be possible – if you dare!

Thu 3 & Fri 4 April

Circus Skills Workshop (4-8yrs & 9-12yrs)

Learn exciting circus skills including balancing, juggling, spinning plates and tumbling with teachers from the National Institute of Circus Arts.

Thu 3 & Fri 4 April

Gasworks Arts Park

Cnr. Graham and Pickles Streets, Albert Park.
Bookings 9699 3253 or www.gasworks.org.au
Enquiries 8606 4200

CHOIR ADDS A EUROPEAN NOTE



Rehearsals begin for the choir's performance at the St Kilda Town Hall.

Diversity is embraced by the Nadezhda Community Choir. Members hail from all over Europe and sing songs in Russian, English, Italian and Yiddish. A popular hobby in the former USSR, choir singing brings people together in a creative and positive way. Since its inception in 2003, the 24 member choir has performed at cultural festivals and events in the City of Port Phillip.

ACADEMY ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET

The Australian National Academy of Music brings together 52 young Australian musicians with the world's leading artists. The 2008 season includes performances by pianist Emanuel Ax, tenor Steve Davislim and conductor/artistic director Oleg Caetani.

April and May events

Elizabeth Wallfisch and the Italian Baroque (22-26 April)

The Viola in my Life (13-16 May)

Olivier Messiaen and Michael Kieran Harvey at Midnight (21-24 May)

Tickets from ticketmaster.com.au or 13 61 00.

Free Friday talkfests

ANAM holds the Fridays @ Three series of talks, with 2008 guests including Michael Leunig, Julian Burnside, Paul Grabowsky, John Williams and Barry Jones AO. Talks are held every Friday at 3 pm, at ANAM. Free entry.

11 April The Arts – Why Bother?
Julian Burnside QC

18 April Are Australian musicians boring?
Paul Dean, clarinetist

2 May Hon Dr Barry Jones AO

9 May A Polytonal Career – being open to musical possibilities
Graham Abbott

16 May Laptops and Violins
Ajax McKerral

23 May The Music of Olivier Messiaen
Richard Toop

30 May Performance Practices for Bamboo Flute
Players Riley Lee

On Tuesdays, the Academy hosts free lunch hour concerts featuring Academy musicians and Resident Faculty.

Australian National Academy of Music
South Melbourne Town Hall
210 Bank Street, South Melbourne
1800 248 861 or 9645 7911
www.anam.com.au

2008 ST KILDA FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 25th year, the St Kilda Film Festival will inspire, challenge and entertain audiences from around Melbourne and Victoria with an exciting preview into the next wave of Australian filmmaking.

The St Kilda Film Festival screens the Top 100 Australian short films submitted, ensuring a diverse range and the highest quality of films (there's some fierce competition – over 700 films were submitted in 2007).

The 2008 Festival includes screenings, forums and VIP events, and an expansion of the National Tour to take in regional centres as well as capital cities Australia wide.

6 May to 11 May, 2008

Opening night 6 May at the Palais Theatre.

KEEP IT LEGAL

Youth Services have produced a pamphlet explaining how street artists can be active in legal street art projects with education links. Council will link aspiring artists with a mentor to paint murals in prominent legal sites within Port Phillip. They can also display their art work at a recognised art gallery and be part of artist education program to refine their skills. The pamphlet also provides critical information around the new state graffiti legislation and the ramifications for a young person persisting in illegal graffiti. Call ASSIST for a copy 9209 6777.

EASY AS 4, 5 AND 6



Cr Dick Gross has pushed to make recycling easier.

Recycling is something that we can all do and now it has got even easier to recycle even more plastic products in your council yellow bin.

Cr Dick Gross, President Metropolitan Regional Waste Group, says it is now possible to include plastics with the Identification Codes 4, 5, 6 and 7 in your recycling. This includes food storage containers, yoghurt containers and milk cartons. 'It's all about recycling more by making it easier for households,' he said.

But please don't put plastic bags, nappies, cling wrap, broken crockery or window glass in your recycling. A full guide to recycling will be distributed to all households in April.

INFORMATION, REQUESTS, QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK? CONTACT ASSIST!

You can visit your local ASSIST at:

St Kilda Town Hall - Cnr Brighton Road and Carlisle Street, St Kilda

South Melbourne Town Hall - 222 Bank Street, South Melbourne

Port Melbourne Town Hall - 333 Bay Street, Port Melbourne

Telephone 9209 6777 / Fax 9536 2722 / TTY line 9209 6713

SMS for the hearing impaired 0432 005 405

Email assist@portphillip.vic.gov.au Internet www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

E-newsletter – subscribe online at www.portphillip.vic.gov.au

TRANSLATIONS

For a translation of the information contained in this edition of *Diversity* please call the council's interpreter service:

- Chinese - 9679 9810
- Greek - 9679 9811
- Russian - 9679 9813
- Polish - 9679 9812
- Other languages - 9679 9814

AUDIO RECORDINGS

Audio recordings of *Diversity* are available on the council's website and on cassette from a Port Phillip library. Audio cassettes are delivered to 200 vision-impaired residents every issue.

Information included in this magazine is accurate at the time of publishing but can be subject to change.

Diversity #38

April/May 2008

Acting Editor: Greg Day

Writers: Greg Day and Kathryn McGrath

Photography: Greg Day, Bindi Cole, Ron Cassano and Clément Dudouet

Design & Production:

Mediation Communications

Feedback:

divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Diversity is printed on recycled paper



Want to do something more than just read about climate change?

Join with others in your local community to take action to reduce our climate footprint forever.

Discover how you can reduce your energy, water and car use by up to 50% with little or no additional cost.

Port Phillip Climate Action 2008 is about helping you to act sustainably in your home, workplace or neighbourhood.

Here are some of the ways you can be involved and take action in your own way.

Small Poppy Grants (Climate Response) – for residents & local groups

Apply for up to \$10,000 to fund a community solution or plan that can reduce local energy use, water use or waste.

Challenge 2 Change – for residents, schools, businesses and organisations

Use no-cost actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water use by up to 20% in your home, business, school, organisation, street or neighbourhood.

Climate Challenge 1000 – for households

Switch to 100% approved GreenPower purchase for all your electricity and receive a free energy and water audit and retrofit to your home.

Showerhead X Change – for households

Exchange your old showerhead for a water-efficient one and save more than 10% on your annual water use.

Walk and Cycle 2008 – for residents, schools & businesses

Find out more about safe local routes and easy options to reduce your transport emissions.

Take Action



Call the Port Phillip Sustainable Environment Team
9209 6548 or email enviro@portphillip.vic.gov.au
www.portphillip.vic.gov.au