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DIVERCITY

February 2021



FROM THE CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN FOCUS



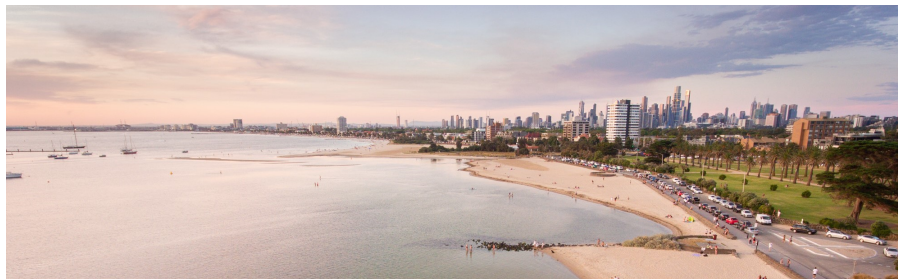
SHAPE OUR CITY



COMMUNITY SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



What do you want for your City?

We are developing the Council Plan 2021-31 with our community.

The plan will provide a 10-year strategy that outlines and guides our responses to the challenges and opportunities posed by social, economic, political and environmental factors over the next decade. It will also be shaped by recent challenges, including the enormous impact of COVID-19.

[Find out more](#)



First tenants move in for Renew Fitzroy Street

It's move-in week! Our very first [Renew Fitzroy Street](#) tenants have been handed the keys to their new shop fronts.

Renew Fitzroy Street is a retail pilot program aimed at revitalising St Kilda's Fitzroy Street by filling commercial vacancies with artists, makers and social enterprises. Successful applicants are offered a vacant retail space where they can bring their creative ideas to

life. As well as supporting local creatives, the project also aims to drive additional foot traffic to Fitzroy Street and support existing traders in the precinct.

[Find out more](#)

From the Chamber

Last night our City (like the rest of Victoria) completed a five-day 'circuit-breaker' lockdown in the continued pursuit of protecting the community from the potential harm of COVID-19.

Thank you to our wonderful community who banded together and gave each other support and encouragement. Well done to those students and parents who had to once again leave the familiarity of their classroom for home and to our incredible hospitality and retail traders who have endured so much. It was fantastic to see so many pictures of local residents supporting traders over social media and I hope that all of you join me in continuing to 'shop local' wherever possible as we move slowly through recovery.



A couple of weeks ago, on 3 February, Council convened for the first ordinary meeting of 2021. We had the opportunity to discuss the draft action plans for libraries and live music, both so vital to our City. As part of our *Art and Soul - Creative and Prosperous City Strategy 2018-22*, these plans acknowledge the importance libraries and live music have in our community, culturally, socially and economically, and detail the actions we will take to ensure that they thrive into the future. We are now seeking community feedback on these drafts. Visit [Have Your Say](#) and tell us what you think.

The draft Council Plan was also discussed. You can read more about opportunities to get involved and take part in shaping our City in the article above.

Another way to engage with us is through our neighbourhood conversation sessions. You can find out more at [Have Your Say](#). We look forward to hearing what's important to you about your neighbourhood.

Last month I wrote about We-Akon Dilinja, the formal opening to our Australia Day program. I am pleased to let you know that a recording of this special and reflective ceremony is now available to watch on our [website](#).

Regards,

Cr Louise Crawford
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

City news

COVID-19 update

Restrictions have eased following the five-day Stage 4 COVID-19 lockdown announced on Friday 12 February. For the latest on how COVID-19 is impacting Port Phillip, visit:

portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-news

For the latest health advice visit: dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus



Loving local music

We're doing what we can to support local artists and music lovers, bringing live music back to our City, safely. Our [Live Love Local](#) campaign is supporting economic recovery in Port Phillip by activating our spaces and neighbourhoods with live music and performances including a series of pop-up events showcasing our City's talent.



[Find out more](#)

Find the Hidden Gems of South Melbourne

It's easy to love South Melbourne – foodie heaven, cultural hub, bustling Clarendon Street and South Melbourne Market. And there's even more, if you know where to look. Take the Hidden Gems tour on the Love South Melbourne app for a chance to win exclusive South Melbourne experience packages.



[Find out more](#)

Dumping downer

Dumping gets us all down. A heap of unwanted junk on a nature strip, in the park, down a lane – it's not a good look. Not only that, it's a health hazard, can be dangerous, it damages the environment and it's illegal. Here are some easy ways to organise collection.



[Find out more](#)

Play Streets fun for everyone

Come and play at our inclusive, welcoming and COVID-safe spaces! We are excited to announce our new all ages Play Streets program, featuring games, live music, sports, even sausage sizzles, there's something for everyone.



[Find out more](#)

Project updates

Wondering what infrastructure, open spaces and construction projects are taking place in your neighbourhood? Here we have the latest on St Kilda/Shakespeare Grove viewing platform, JL Murphy playground, South Melbourne Town Hall and Elwood Park sportsground.



[Find out more](#)

Arts in focus



Cultural development recovery grants



Guided walk: Mirka's St Kilda

Applications closing soon! 1 March 2021

Supporting local artists, cultural organisations and creative groups, up to \$12,000 is available for projects that will take place between July 2021 and June 2022. The grant is open to all artforms and cultural heritage projects designed to develop new work, reconnect with our communities, and celebrate the creative life of the City.

Image: Lee Darroch, artist-in-residence at the Australian Tapestry Workshop 2019-20

[Read more](#)

Mirka's St Kilda is a celebration of the life of enigmatic artist Mirka Mora and the contribution she made to our City. Follow a route that shows how her legacy lives on through the art she created, the stories she told, the community who embraced her, and the many ways in which we continue to celebrate her ongoing contribution to the colour and culture in our lives.

Image: 'Family Gathering in the Dream Park' by Mirka Mora (2008).

[Read more](#)

Help shape our City



Our neighbourhood conversations are back

COVID-19 restrictions permitting, we'll be popping up in your area over the next few weeks to have a chat about what's important to you and your neighbourhood. We'd also love to hear your feedback on live music and libraries.

[Find out more](#)



Love libraries and live music?

We're seeking your feedback on draft action plans for live music and libraries in our City. The draft **Live Music Action Plan** outlines what we will do to future-proof and support live music. The draft **Library Action Plan** aims to ensure libraries continue to support our community as hubs for creativity, knowledge and connectivity.

[Have your say](#)

Community spirit

Inclusive stories: Sister of Soul

We are showcasing local businesses that offer their services in inclusive ways. For our second profile, we spoke to Michael from St Kilda, who wanted to talk about the great work being done at Sister of Soul.

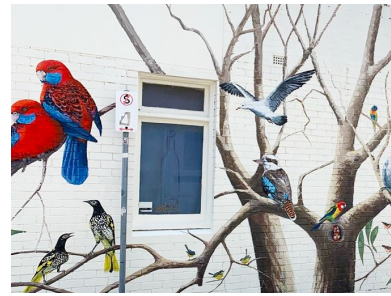
[Read more](#)



We want your stories

We want Diversity to reflect our community and feature the stories and voices of Port Phillip. If you or somebody you know has unique stories from our City, or maybe you know of some unsung heroes, please email us at divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au using subject line 'Community spirit'.

Image: Brigitte Dawson, *Mural on Wynyard*, 2020.



What's on



Culture and Nature Festival 2021

EcoCentre's online Culture and Nature Festival runs from 24 to 27 February. Celebrate multicultural traditions and nature connection through a series of digital events from cooking, gardening to multilingual online snorkelling and more.

[Read more](#)



Sport Phillip's new program launches

Sport Phillip programs are back to help you get active this summer. Activities are aligned with the Victorian Government COVID-Safe requirements for [sport and exercise](#).

[Read more](#)



International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated around the world on 8 March. The theme for 2021, Women in Leadership, marks the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future. This year we will celebrate IWD and Women's History Month with several intriguing, COVID-safe events around our city.

[Read more](#)

Explore our City

Your Councillors

Gateway Ward



Cr Heather Cunsolo
0466 227 014



Cr Peter Martin
0435 390 821



Cr Marcus Pearl
0466 448 272

Lake Ward



Cr Andrew Bond
0481 034 028



Cr Katherine Copsey
0466 478 949



Cr Christina Sirakoff
0435 419 930

Canal Ward



Cr Tim Baxter
0466 495 250



Cr Rhonda Clark
0435 098 738



Cr Louise Crawford
0466 514 643

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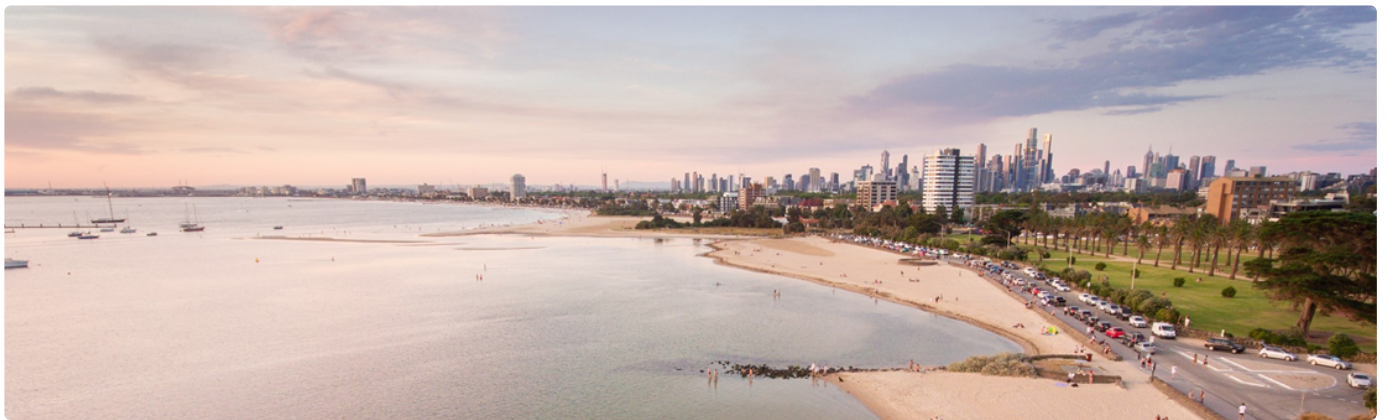
What do you want for your City?

Published 12 February 2021

I want to

Council Plan 2021-31

Feedback



We are developing the Council Plan 2021-31 with our community. The plan will provide a 10-year strategy that outlines and guides our responses to the challenges and opportunities posed by social, economic, political and environmental factors over the next decade.



[Return to Divercity](#)

It will also be shaped by recent challenges, including the enormous impact of COVID-19.

The following themes will guide its development:

- Social change and community wellbeing

- Customer expectations and diverse customer needs
- Government and legislative change
- Climate change and the environment
- Economic and technological change
- Population growth and urbanisation
- Transport, parking and mobility.

The Council Plan reflects all of us and everyone is encouraged to by participating in the range of consultation opportunities available.



How can I get involved?

Engaging with the community is at the heart of developing a Council Plan, and we thank everyone who registered their interest in January to be part of the ongoing conversation.

For more information about the Council Plan process and opportunities to have your say, sign up via Have Your Say for regular updates

If you'd like to get involved, register at [Have Your Say](#).

Our first tenants for Renew Fitzroy Street are moving in

Published 12 February 2021

Feedback



It's move-in week! Our very first Renew Fitzroy Street tenants have been handed the keys to their new shop fronts. Renew Fitzroy Street is a retail pilot program aimed at revitalising St Kilda's Fitzroy Street by filling commercial vacancies with artists, makers and social enterprises.



[Back to Diversity](#)

Successful applicants are offered a vacant retail space where they can bring their creative ideas to life. As well as supporting local creatives, the project also aims to drive additional foot traffic to Fitzroy Street and support existing traders in the precinct.

City of Port Phillip has partnered with [Renew Australia](#) and Fitzroy Street Business Association to empower these creative enterprises to have visible space in an iconic Melbourne location.

We have selected four fantastic businesses that we believe will thrive through this incubator style program. Expressions of interest remain open, and we can't wait to introduce you to new businesses as the project continues to grow.

Stay tuned for an official opening celebration date.

Meet our first four businesses

Farm Goat

Shop 1/63 Fitzroy Street

Farm Goat produces some of Australia's best handcrafted goat's milk soap.

"Our soap (SUDS) is made from sustainable ingredients. Each bar contains over 25 per cent goat's milk, which is full of rich fatty acids that are wonderful for rejuvenating your skin. Farm Goat's founder, Greg Egan, is an award-winning chef with a passion for food and flavours that he has carried into his new venture. He has created unique aromatic blends based on essential oils - and free from palm oil. We visit the goat farm in Echuca regularly to collect our milk and enjoy a close relationship with our goat carers. Our SUDS make for a great gift or a touch of luxury for yourself. You will relish the awesome scents of these SUDS."

Mike Stretch Finds

Shop 2/63 Fitzroy Street

Born from a passion of supporting both Australian streetwear and artists, Mike Stretch Finds was established in Melbourne in 2018. With a strong emphasis on selling high-quality garments with original bold imagery, and a goal of giving local creatives a new platform to shine on, the shop has grown a community of like-minded and passionate individuals.

"Previously only online, we could not be more excited to bring our carefully curated catalogue to its very first brick and mortar storefront to create a unique one-stop shopping experience showcasing all our favourite brands and artworks."

Calistags Plants

Shop 7/63 Fitzroy Street

Calistags Plants specialises in "living art pieces"; using epiphytic plants that grow on trees in the wild and turning them into one of a kind, handmade wall hangings - where the plant continues to grow and evolve attached to a piece of decorative wood. Both a unique and space friendly way of getting your "planterior design" on.

The business also offers a stunning collection of statement making indoor plants and pots, alongside horticultural advice and plant styling for your home, office, or desired space.

ARTWORKS St Kilda artists collective

Shop 4/63 Fitzroy Street

ARTWORKS is a mixed media art collective based at Artworks studios in St Kilda. Ranging from floristry and fibres to paintings and graffiti art. The businesses featured in Artworks include:

- Flo & Co. - Florals, Events & Styling Studio
- Mr Macrame - Fibre artist specialising in knots and patterns using raw natural materials.
- Rus Kitchin - Visual artist & cartographer of chaos.

Tom Cerdan - Autodidact artist Specialising in painting large murals/canvas and a digital drawer for video games & cinema industry.



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Loving local music

Published 12 February 2021

 Feedback



We're doing what we can to support local artists and music lovers, bringing live music back to our City, safely.



[Back to Diversity](#)

Live music has long been at the heart of Port Phillip. From our iconic music venues to unique festivals, our music schools and institutions to our buskers and community groups, our City is known for live music and is celebrated for it.

Our [Live Love Local campaign](#) is supporting economic recovery in Port Phillip by activating our spaces and neighbourhoods with live music and performances including a series of pop-up events showcasing our City's talent.

The 2021 [St Kilda Festival](#) was cancelled in August due to COVID-19 concerns, with the savings set aside for a number of [economic and cultural recovery activities](#) to help keep creative and cultural spirits alive until the festival can safely return.

The first live music event was held on Saturday 30 January in Dundas Reserve at Albert Park and performances will continue to pop up across Port Phillip throughout February and March.

Keep an eye out for local performers at upcoming locations in St Kilda, Ripponlea, Elwood, Port Melbourne, Beacon Cove, South Melbourne and Balacava.

You just might discover Australia's next big act!

Have your say about the future of live music in Port Phillip

We are creating a draft [Live Music Action Plan](#) to support and sustain live music to ensure it continues to be an everyday part of life in our city. Be sure to [have your say](#).

Are you a local business looking to activate a public space?

Learn more about parklets, play streets and pop ups at [Support Port Phillip](#).



Find the Hidden Gems of South Melbourne

Published 12 February 2021

I want to

South Melbourne Hidden Gems



It's easy to love South Melbourne – foodie heaven, cultural hub, bustling Clarendon Street and South Melbourne Market. And there's even more, if you know where to look. Take the Hidden Gems tour on the Love South Melbourne app for a chance to win exclusive South Melbourne experience packages.



Back to Divercity

The Hidden Gems tour takes you on a 30-minute journey through the true hidden gems of South Melbourne: discover its vibrant coffee culture, taste the delights of some of the extraordinary talents of its many food artisans, explore its quaint laneways and side streets and alluring street art, learn about its fascinating heritage, uncover some of its hidden community gardens, discover its thriving creative and music scene, relax in its health and wellness precinct or meet up with friends and family at the many pubs or cool rooftop bars.

Follow the Hidden Gems trail on the Love South Melbourne app, collect your virtual Hidden Gems at each stop and enter the competition to win weekly South Melbourne Experience packages valued up to \$500 each, so you can truly experience the hidden gems of South Melbourne.

Love South Melbourne is available to download for free from Google Play or the App Store.

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[Waste and recycling](#) [Sustainability](#) [Diversity magazine](#)

Dumping downer

Published 12 February 2021

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Hard and green waste collection



Feedback

Dumping gets us all down. A heap of junk on a nature strip, in the park, down a lane – it's not a good look. Not only that, it's a health hazard, can be dangerous, it damages the environment and it's illegal. So what can you do with unwanted rubbish?



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Just being neighbourly?

Dumping unwanted junk on the nature strip for someone else to go through is not a neighbourly or charitable act. It's a massive health and safety risk: someone could trip over it, cut themselves on it, catch something from it, and after a few days, it stinks.

Meanwhile, loose waste becomes litter and spreads throughout our streets.

Look out for your neighbours by booking a hard rubbish pick-up with Council, and hold off putting it out until the night before collection.

Dumping attracts dumping

The more people see dumping in an area, the more likely they'll think of it as 'a dumping ground', and dump their own stuff there, aggravating the problem.

Collection is easy

Why dump when hard-waste collection is free and easy to organise? Collections can be booked online or by calling ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777.

Other legal disposal options include dropping items off at our Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) in South Melbourne and donations to local charity stores.

Residents can also drop off household quantities of recyclable material for free at the RRC (fees apply for non-recyclable waste based on volume). Our RRC also has charity donation bins for clothing and other pre-loved items in good quality.

Residents can book a [free hard-waste collection](#) or visit the [Resource Recovery Centre](#) to recycle unwanted mattresses, or ask the store delivering their new mattress to collect the old one.

Play Streets fun for everyone

Published 12 February 2021

Feedback



Come and play at our inclusive, welcoming and COVID-safe spaces! We are excited to announce our new all ages Play Streets program, featuring games, live music, sports, even sausage sizzles, there's something for everyone.



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A Play Street involves the temporary closure of a street, reimagining the street as family-friendly public space, encouraging connection and play through safe, inclusive and accessible programming.

Our City enjoys a rich and diverse multicultural community and Play Streets are truly fun for everyone! You can expect to enjoy:

- family-friendly activities
- kids' play
- sausage sizzles
- live music
- sport and games.



Where can I find a Play Street?

St Kilda

Saturday 13 March 2021, 11 am to 5 pm

Sunday 14 March 2021, 12 noon to 5 pm

Dickens Street, between Chapel Street and Brighton Road

Adjacent to St Kilda Primary school

South Melbourne

Saturday 27 March and Sunday 28 March 2021

11 am to 5 pm

South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt, Bank Street

Are you a sporting, arts, community organisation or business that wants to be involved with Play Streets in Port Phillip?

Get in touch at eventpermits@portphillip.vic.gov.au.

Learn more about Play Streets, parklets and footpath trading at [Love My Place](#).

Project updates

Published 12 February 2021

Feedback



Wondering what infrastructure, open spaces and construction projects are taking place in your neighbourhood? Here we have the latest on St Kilda/Shakespeare Grove viewing platform, JL Murphy playground, South Melbourne Town Hall and Elwood Park sportsground.



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JL Murphy playground

Current works will at the [JL Murphy Reserve](#) will improve access to the park and pavilion area, achieve landscaping and park integration and provide a new playground and recreation facilities.

Play spaces will include exciting features such as:

- two large play structures, one junior and one senior, to cater for children of all ages and abilities
- three new swing units including a large 360-degree basket swing
- a carousel
- musical elements and nature play activities.

[Read more](#)

South Melbourne Town Hall restoration

South Melbourne Town Hall is a 140-year-old building, that shapes the character of Emerald Hill, helps tell the story of the City's history, and provides a focal point for community gatherings and events.

The building is in fair condition overall but due for major restoration and renewal. It requires some repair, due to a collapse of part of the ceiling in 2018 that triggered the fire system, causing water damage.

Since June 2020, South Melbourne Town Hall has been temporarily closed to the public as part of our renewal project for this site.

Restoration works are currently in planning, as well as the scheduled routine maintenance and life cycle replacement works that will follow.

[Read more](#)

Elwood Park sportsground upgrade

We are upgrading the lighting and playing surfaces to enable the ongoing support of our local community's health and wellbeing, and to comply with Australian standards for sports lighting.

The lighting upgrade will utilise high performance exterior technology, with the latest LED and dimming technology that will lower power consumption and eliminate upward light and increase lamp life, reducing maintenance.

[Read more](#)



New viewing platform for St Kilda Beach

Construction will commence this year to replace the Shakespeare Grove main drain outlet on St Kilda Beach and construct a [new viewing platform](#).

The drainage system, including drain outlets, plays an important role in taking stormwater safely away from properties, roads and built-up areas, which minimises the impacts of flooding.

By delivering a viewing platform, the project will also create a destination point for the community to enjoy.

Construction will impact the surrounding area, including access to public carparks, with details yet to be confirmed.

[Read more](#)



Feedback

Inclusive stories: Sister of Soul

Published 12 February 2021

Visit their website

[Sisters of Soul](#)



We are showcasing local businesses that offer their services in inclusive ways. For our second profile, we spoke to Michael from St Kilda, who wanted to talk about the great work being done at Sister of Soul.

Hello Michael. Please share your experience of visiting a local inclusive business in St Kilda with us.

I am a regular at Sisters of Soul, Acland Street St Kilda. It's a vegan café/restaurant. The staff there are very attentive and good at listening to people's food requirements; always polite and respectful.

They provide information about the ingredients in meals for customers to make their choice. I've seen repeat customers and heard positive comments about the place.

I haven't noticed staff turnover in the time I've been going there, which is a good sign – to me the staff are valued in the work they do. They are friendly in the way they interact with each other and with customers too. Everyone is treated equal.

Another thing I am appreciative of are the level walkways and wide areas between tables – this was happening at Sister of Soul even before the pandemic. It means I can easily walk through with my crutches, or on a bad day in my wheelchair. There is a variety of heights in the seating options and I have noticed that they have stored their extra chairs high up on the wall rather than use the accessible toilet as storage space like some venues do. I have easy access to this space and don't have to ask someone to make room for me to transfer. They have an outside parklet seating area too, for people who prefer to be outdoors right now.

These are some really great examples of how to include customers. Have you anything else to share?

Look, I think in the past people with disability would not have ventured out. Now we are being encouraged to do just that! People need to feel comfortable around all kinds of people, and be ready for any kind of situation that might be present a challenge – the other day I was sitting in a café and a nearby customer started to faint – they looked like any other person but they could've had an underlying condition. You need to be prepared to respond to anything really!

If you have a story to share about an experience with a local inclusive business, please contact Kelly Armstrong, Access and Engagement Officer via ASSIST:

Email: access@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Phone: [03 9209 6777](tel:0392096777)



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Diversity magazine

International Women's Day 2021

Published 12 February 2021

I want to



Feedback

International Women's Day is celebrated around the world on 8 March. It is a day when all women are recognised for their achievements. The theme for 2021, 'Women in Leadership', commemorates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future.



[Back to Divercity](#)

This year we will celebrate IWD and Women's History Month with several intriguing, COVID-safe events around our city.

Keep an eye on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for an inspiring 'Poster Project' celebrating Women's History Month in March that will showcase influential women, past and present, around the City of Port Phillip.

You can support and recognise women in Port Phillip by attending an IWD event near you.

City of Port Phillip International Women's Day 2021

When: Thursday 4 March 2021 at 6 pm

Where: St Kilda Town Hall

[Book your free ticket](#)

Attend an IWD breakfast

Live Love Work Port Phillip IWD Breakfast 2021

When: Friday 5 March 2021 at 7 am

Where: The Prince Hotel in St Kilda

Female Leadership Network IWD Breakfast 2021

When: Wednesday 3 March at 7 am

Where: Life Saving Victoria Headquarters in Port Melbourne

Find another event

For further details and more events head over to [What's On St Kilda](#).