



# DIVERCITY

September 2025



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY  
VISIT



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

**PORT PHILLIP  
SENIORS  
FESTIVAL**

3 to 17 October 2025

Festival Partner  
Victorian  
Seniors  
Festival  
2025

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government

## Far out! Record number of Seniors Festival events in October

Port Phillip Seniors Festival's jam-packed program embraces this year's theme of "connect, create and celebrate" from 3 to 17 October.

With a record number of free or low-cost events across our City, it's a great opportunity to have fun trying something new or to enjoy a favorite activity with others.

The Festival kicks off with a vibrant 70s-themed event featuring far out music and bold fashion statements.

Line dancing, a women's crime writing panel discussion, sing-alongs, art, Men's Shed

tours, comedy workshop, bowling, guided history walk, 80s dance party and multi-cultural events are just some of the activities on offer for those aged 55 and over.

The Festival concludes with the Port Phillip Writes award presentations.

For more information, including how to book, go to:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/seniors/seniors-festival/>

## City News

### Balaclava's blueprint

Our Council has unanimously endorsed a motion to sell Council-owned land and roads to Coles Group Property Developments (Coles), paving the way for a major revitalisation of the Balaclava precinct.



This decision unlocks a significant opportunity to enhance Balaclava's retail offerings, creating a more vibrant and welcoming destination for residents and visitors.

Importantly, the sale safeguards community interests, with any future development required to retain the same amount of free public parking, provide accessible public toilets, and deliver new open space.

The land proposed for sale includes part of the carpark adjacent to the Coles supermarket area enclosed by Carlisle, Alfred, Nelson, and Camden Streets, plus some laneways that will be discontinued – making up approximately 2,240m<sup>2</sup> of land in total.

The land has no strategic value to Council, with Coles owning the majority of the adjacent land. Coles plans to develop a mixed-use space, which would include a larger supermarket, additional retail opportunities, and housing.

The final price for the land is to be determined via independent valuation and will be sold for no-less than market value with the proceeds used to fund investments in community infrastructure.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/balaclava-s-blueprint-council-endorses-land-sale-for-precinct-renewal/>

### Biketober beckons

October is a great month for bike riders to have "wheel" fun.

Sign up to [Biketober Port Phillip](#) for a free month-long challenge which aims to get more people riding for fitness, transport and fun. There's also great prizes on offer!



You can also celebrate National [Ride2Work Day](#) at South Melbourne Market on Wednesday 15 October. Ride, recharge and reconnect at this free public event promoting sustainable transport, health, wellness, food education and community from 7 am to 2 pm.

<https://www.lovetoride.net/portphillip?locale=en-AU>

## Treasure hunt

Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt returns to Port Phillip in November for two massive weekends of money-making, planet-saving and bargain-hunting fun.

The Garage Sale Trail is all about extending the life of our pre-loved gems while giving our community the chance to unearth trinkets and treasures!



Hosting a garage sale or second-hand market has never been easier. Hosts receive support to make their sale as successful as possible, including a free listing on the national map, handy sale tips and promotional tools. The Garage Sale Trail team does the hard work so you can focus on making money and rehoming your pre-loved items.

You don't need a garage (or even a front yard) to participate. Those in apartments and unit blocks can do the following:

Host a sale in your unit block – use your communal gardens, foyer or other shared space for your garage sale trail. Just get permission from your Owners Corporation, strata or property manager using the template email. Check out the trail website for more tips on hosting a unit block sale.

Join a group sale by searching for markets. You may need to join a waitlist.

Go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/australia-s-garage-sale-trail-returns-to-port-phillip/> to learn how to register for the event, to be held over 8 to 9 and 15 to 16 November.

## Don't waste this opportunity

Earlier this year, we asked our community for their views and preferences on the future of recycling, including how we transition to a circular economy.

This input has informed our draft waste and recycling strategy.



Now, we're seeking your feedback on the draft, to make sure we've got it right.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/have-your-say-on-our-draft-waste-and-recycling-strategy/>

## Showcase your stall at St Kilda Festival

Applications are open for food and market stalls to take part in St Kilda Festival 2026 on Sunday 15 February.

If you own a business, this is your chance to bring your culinary creations or market treasures to St Kilda Festival's diverse and enthusiastic crowd.



Businesses also benefit from the iconic Festival's extensive marketing efforts across social media, local promotions and media coverage which boost the visibility of your business.

Image: Will Hamilton-Coates  
<https://www.stkildafestival.com.au/get-involved/>



## Finding a sweet treat is a piece of cake

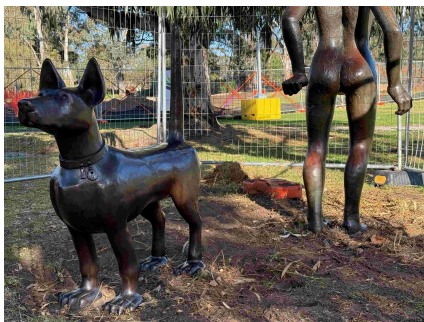
Looking for a sweet treat or mid-afternoon pick-me-up?

We've curated a list of must-try cake shops and bakeries offering everything from Russian honey cake to chocolate babka, vanilla slice to pandan croissants and challah to pretzels for folks who like a savoury treat.



So scroll on for delicious offerings across our City.  
<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/must-try-cake-shops-and-bakeries-southside>

## Arts in Focus



### Our chum Chomley returns

A familiar canine companion has returned to Gasworks Arts Park.

'Not Without Chomley' has been restored to its original appearance, with artist Anne Ross commissioned to recreate her endearing artwork after the second Chomley dog was stolen in 2023.

In August 1991, the sculpture was installed as a gift to the people of South Melbourne, making it the first permanent sculpture at the park. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by vandalism not long after arriving.



### Your streets, your stories

Join the Port Phillip Heritage Centre's photography competition and help preserve and celebrate Port Phillip's rich history.

The competition theme is "your streets, your stories" and there are three categories all carrying a \$200 prize: 18 and over, people's choice and under 18.

We're seeking a diverse range of perspectives that can be kept for years to come so future generations can see what you love about being in Port Phillip.

Whether it's your favourite cafe, the



In November 1992, a new and more durable bronze version was installed.

A popular hangout for our four-legged friends, Gasworks Arts Park is the pawfect location for this artistic tribute to the bond we share with our canines.

<https://gasworks.org.au/visit-us/public-sculptures/>

beautiful foreshore or a faded sign on the side of a building, we want to celebrate and learn what it means to you.

Entries close at 11.59 pm on Friday 31 October.

Full details are on the Port Phillip Library Service website.

## Help Shape our City



### Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say website](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au) for updates on projects which are open for community feedback:

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au>

[Register for our monthly community engagement newsletter](#) to keep up to date with how you can help shape your local neighbourhood:

[haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/register](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/register)

### Projects open for feedback

**Don't Waste it!** Share your feedback on our draft waste and recycling strategy. [Provide feedback by 19 October.](#)

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/dont-waste-it>

### What we've heard from you:

After receiving and acting on your feedback, Council has now endorsed the following documents. Go our HYS website for details.

- [Domestic Animal Management Plan](#)
- [Governance Rules and how Council Meetings are run](#)
- Urban Forest Precinct Plan for Balaclava and St Kilda East

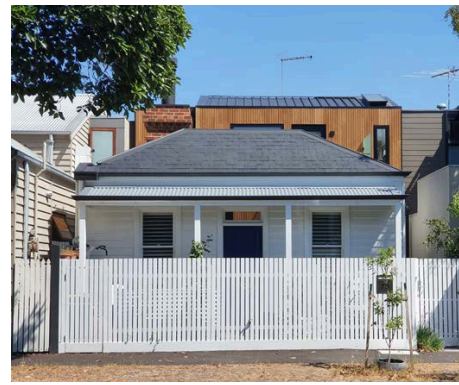
## Sustainability

### Be prepared

Extreme weather is already impacting Port Phillip, and climate change will make it worse. Many local homes weren't built for these conditions but simple upgrades can improve comfort, cut energy bills and protect your health.

Whether you're renting, renovating, or just want quick fixes, our new resources and workbook offer practical solutions for every budget.

Go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/planning-and-building/building-eco-friendly-homes/> to learn how to better prepare your home for extreme weather from resources including our new Climate Resilience Workbook.



## Library Visit

### Home Is Where the Art Is

Port Phillip Library Service hosted a powerful event this month where people with lived experience of homelessness shared their stories.

Held in partnership with Port Phillip Community Group, Elwood & St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Roomers Magazine and Wild At Heart, their stories were conveyed through song, spoken word and visual art at the Home Is Where the Art is event.



With over 50 attendees, St Kilda Library was a welcoming space where every person had a story worth hearing and every story had the power to shift hearts and minds, allowing everyone to see the world through someone else's eyes.

## Community Spirit

### Vale Anne Scambary

The life, legacy and huge community contribution of Digital Programming & Engagement Officer Anne Scambary was recognised at the 17 September Council Meeting in a condolence motion.

Anne sadly passed away earlier this month, following a sudden illness.

Joining the City of Port Phillip in 1997, Anne was a passionate advocate for arts and culture and engaging people in local heritage. She gave voice to the many stories of the history of the municipality and the community and took great care of the Port Phillip City Collection and the people, places and stories contained within it.



# What's On



## On the fringe

30 September to 11 October, Albert Park

Gasworks Arts Park is home to an exciting Melbourne Fringe Festival program featuring an extraordinary mix of theatre, circus, cabaret, music and interactive experiences.

Acts include Magic Noir, the Now You See Me circus showcase, super science show and the Space Pirates children's show.

For tickets and full program details, go to:

[gasworks.org.au/whats-on](http://gasworks.org.au/whats-on)



## Missing memories

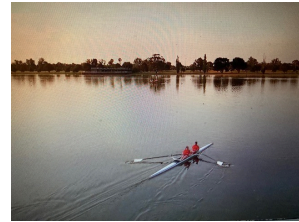
14 to 18 October, St Kilda

The Vessel, by Dawn Bamforth, offers a profound and compassionate exploration of dementia through the memories of a woman approaching the palliative stages of life.

Themes of love, loss and the emotional depth of aged care are captured in this Melbourne Fringe Festival performance at Theatre Works in Acland Street.

This is a touching opportunity for reflection, understanding and connection.

Go to the Theatre Works website to book.



## Row your boat

25 October, Albert Park

Albert Park South Melbourne Rowing Club is offering a free introduction to rowing at its Albert Park Lake base on 25 October.

The "Come and Try" session for novices will run from 9 to 11 am.

You will learn the very basics of rowing and experience the pleasure of rowing in a crew with other novices and experienced rowers. The fun continues afterwards with morning tea.

To confirm your seat, RSVP by 11 October to [apsmevents@gmail.com](mailto:apsmevents@gmail.com)

# Your Councillors



**Cr Rod Hardy**  
Albert Park Ward



**Cr Justin Halliday**  
Alma Ward



**Cr Libby Buckingham**  
Balaclava Ward



0425 409 483

0431 741 415

0431 776 115



**Cr Louise Crawford**  
**Elwood Ward**  
0466 514 643



**Cr Bryan Mears**  
**Lakeside Ward**  
0431 779 361



**Cr Alex Makin**  
**Montague Ward**  
0431 778 761



**Cr Heather Cunsolo**  
**Port Melbourne Ward**  
0466 227 014



**Cr Beti Jay**  
**South Melbourne Ward**  
0431 776 230



**Cr Serge Thomann**  
**St Kilda Ward**  
0431 770 512

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