



DIVERCITY

May 2025



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

From the Chamber

Many of you may have heard about our most recent Council meeting which had a strong community safety focus.

Full details are in this issue of Divercity, including how you can participate in the consultation to help us develop our new Community Safety Plan.

Community safety is an incredibly complex issue which requires a shared, compassionate response. It carries strongly held, diverse views so we want to hear from as many members of our community as possible.

Feedback can be provided on a range of topics including the Community Safety Roundtable report recommendations noted at that meeting. I sincerely thank all the Roundtable participants, including Chair Ian Gray, for their insights and efforts in looking at ways we can all work better together.

I do believe, whatever your view, that we all have the same goal of everyone feeling safe in our City.

There are several events coming up which mean a lot to us. The first on our calendar is Reconciliation Week. We are hosting or supporting several Reconciliation Week events and welcome everyone to come together at them.

From 5 June, St Kilda Film Festival is back, bigger than ever. There's a chance in this issue to win a double guest pass to the Gala Opening and after party – I hope to see you there! SKFF is a 10-day celebration of all things film so please dip into the program. There truly is something for everyone to enjoy.

Proudly Port Phillip



Cr Louise Crawford
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



Have your say on Community Safety in Port Phillip

Our community safety consultation is underway on a range of potential and suggested community safety actions to help inform our new, over-arching Community Safety Plan.

Feedback can be provided on topics including the Community Safety Roundtable report recommendations noted at last week's Council meeting.

Our community can also comment on a potential Local Laws amendment allowing Council to designate encampment "hotspots", which are raising amenity or safety concerns, as temporary no-camping areas. This potential change would only be considered as a last resort if offers of housing and health care by social service providers were not taken up by people experiencing homelessness. Issuing fines is not being proposed.

Mayor Louise Crawford stressed the only decision made was to consult on the potential amendment to help interrogate whether it would be effective and fit-for-purpose.

"The majority of Councillors felt this potential option should go to consultation to give our community the opportunity to comment. We will carefully consider their views as part of the assessment of whether we should progress further – or not."

For more information about the Roundtable, community safety and the community engagement go to <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/feel-safe-be-safe>



Red carpet rolls out for biggest ever St Kilda Film Festival

St Kilda Film Festival (SKFF) is back bigger than ever, with The Palais Theatre again rolling out the red carpet for the Opening Night Gala on 5 June.

To celebrate, we're offering a chance of winning a free double-pass to Opening Night and the after party. To enter go to <https://cityofportphillip-4.snapforms.com.au/form/divercity-st-kilda-film-festival-competition>

And in even more good news for Port Phillip film lovers, locals can use code LOCALS10 at the checkout to receive a 10 per cent discount on all SKFF tickets.

Proudly presented by our City, SKFF is Australia's longest running short-film festival. This year's 10-day celebration of Australian cinema boasts over 150 films across 34 curated sessions at several iconic venues.

These include a reimagined St Kilda Town Hall serving as the SKFF hub. Transformed into a cabaret-style cinema with bar, DJs, live music on Friday nights and an open-access Filmmaker Lounge, it will bring a new feel to the festival experience.

Full details are at <https://www.stkildafilmfestival.com.au>

Image: J Forsyth

City News

Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements - and to consider how each of us can

contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

We are embracing this year's theme of "Bridging Now to Next" by hosting and partnering on a range of events across the City of Port Phillip.

These include arts workshops, a First Nations themed Storytime and a First Nations Women in Film session at St Kilda Film Festival.

Full details at <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/first-nations-community-information/reconciliation-week/>



South Melbourne Market parking upgrade

South Melbourne Market's rooftop parking machines are going ticketless and cashless in June.

The Carpark Management System's license-plate-recognition software at the entry and exit will remove the need for paper tickets. This means a faster and more seamless entry into the carpark and a more efficient exit.

Parking will also move to cashless payments, in line with our Council's transition to cashless parking machines in 2023.

More details:

<https://www.southmelbournemarket.com.au/news/upcoming-changes-to-the-market-s-rooftop-carpark/>



Snowy's Big Adventure

An adventurous Newport kitty found wandering kilometres away in Port Melbourne was reunited with his owner by our animal management team, thanks to his microchip.

The team kept Snowy amused at St Kilda Town Hall until his delighted owner, Shelley, arrived to take him home - four months after he went missing.

"I was shocked and delighted when Port Phillip Council called me. I've asked Snowy what he did while he was away but I haven't had an answer yet," she joked. "He's always been a very independent regal character with a bit of an air."

Snowy disappeared after slipping out the cat door and into the night. He is scared of loud noises which may have caused him to run and become lost.

Our Council's animal management team was contacted by a caring Port Melbourne resident who had been feeding Snowy after he turned up hungry and skinny. When the officers offered to provide a cat trap to retrieve the freeloading feline, the resident assured him they could simply scoop him up when he timed a feed with their visit. Snowy was then scanned and his ownership identified through his microchip.



Shelley remains intrigued how he made it to Port Melbourne as it can be a circuitous route of about 13 km involving the West Gate Bridge or a punt from Spotswood.

She was unsurprised Snowy was easily distracted with food. "He'll eat anything continuously if he could." Safely back home, Snowy is enjoying lots of cuddles, chicken treats and his favourite napping spots.

Shelley wanted to share her story to promote the benefits of microchipping when a pet goes missing.

Parking permits no longer "sticking around"

On 2 June 2025, we will make the change from physical parking permits to digital permits for our registration-based permits.

From this date, the next time you renew your permit, instead of displaying a sticker on your vehicle, your resident, foreshore and combined permit will be registered digitally. We're not making any changes to visitor permits at this time.



Digital permits offer better security, safeguarding against loss or theft, are environmentally friendly and eliminate the need to peel stickers off your windscreen.

Full details: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/were-changing-to-digital-parking-permits/> or call our ASSIST Customer Service Team on 9209 6777.

Community grants open to grow great ideas

Submissions for our 2025/26 Annual Grants Programs are open to midnight 10 June.

If you have a great idea for a community project, local festival or event that brings people together in our shared places and spaces, you may be eligible to apply.



Grants are available for projects happening between November 2025 and November 2026.

Details:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/our-202526-annual-grants-programs-are-now-open/>

Get your skates on for winter

Need a little pick-me-up during these colder months? The beaches might be frosty, but from Elwood to Port Melbourne there are events to keep you busy and chase away those seasonal blues.

Explore our curated list of huge events and winter warmers to keep you entertained.

These include a winter wonderland at Riviera Beach Club - the club's beachside oasis has become a winter wonderland and an immersive event with something for all ages. Think ice skating, mulled wine, hot chocolates, toasted marshmallows, markets, private igloos family-friendly events and more.



Read more at:

<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/essential-winter-events-in-melbournes-southside>

After the ballot

In the lead-up to the 2025 Federal Election, our City launched a proactive and strategic advocacy campaign to champion key local priorities and secure vital federal support for our community.



Thanks to strong advocacy and community engagement, there was a total of over \$115 million in commitments across major parties to projects within our City.

These pledges reflect a shared recognition of the importance of investing in our local infrastructure, culture, environment and wellbeing.

For full details, including what was promised, go to:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/2025-federal-election-advocacy-campaign-wrap-up/>

Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Actions at our 21 May Council Meeting included:

- Noting the Community Safety Roundtable report and recommendations
- Endorsing community engagement on community safety, including a potential amendment relating to encampments.



<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-21-may-2025/>

Arts in Focus



Port Melbourne Music Crawl

The Port Melbourne Music Crawl returns on Sunday 8 June, promising a day of music, community spirit and local flavor.

From midday to midnight, this free all-day festival, proudly supported by City of Port Phillip, will feature performances across multiple venues in Port Melbourne.

Attendees can look forward to an unforgettable experience of diverse musical acts and vibrant atmospheres.

Explore the precinct's iconic pubs, bars and breweries, and watch performances from the likes of Tim Rogers, Mansplainers, Emilee South, Don't Thank Me Spank Me, One Spirit Africa, Mila & Lucas, Coby Grant and more.

The crawl is running across more than eight local venues including The Local, CBCo Brewing, The Topsy Cow and The Exchange Hotel.

All performances are free to enjoy. Some venues require bookings — be sure to contact the venues directly to reserve your spot.

And don't forget the Jazz Parade down Bay Street from 11 to 11.30 am!

All the details are at:

<https://visitportmelbourne.com/port-melbourne-music-crawl-2025/>

Seniors Festival opportunities

Our Seniors Festival launches on 3 October and submissions are now open for events grants and the Festival's annual writing competition.

The Port Phillip Writes Awards provide an opportunity for older residents, regardless of their writing experience, to enter a competition that stimulates and celebrates local writers.

You can submit one fictional story, poem or a non-fiction piece on any topic until 27 June. All entries will be published in the Port Phillip Writes publication. Outstanding entries are eligible for an award.

The Festival is enhanced every year by fantastic community events, such as open days at sporting clubs and cultural groups, musical and literary events and dances and art exhibitions.

Applications for Seniors Festival Event Grants can be submitted until 10 June.

For information about both opportunities, go to:

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

Stay tuned for full details of the jam-packed program which will run from 3-17 October.

Help Shape our City



Have your say

Keep an eye on our [Have Your Say website](#) for updates on projects which are open for community feedback. For more detail about opportunities to give your feedback you can [sign up to our monthly community engagement newsletter](#) on the website.

Projects open for feedback:

Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety in Port Phillip

Share your priorities for community safety to help inform the development of the new

Community Safety Plan.

- Share your feedback by 29 June.

Managing cats and dogs

Give your feedback on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026 – 2029.

- Share your feedback by 6 June.

Sport and active recreation

We're developing a long-term strategy for sport, active recreation and physical activity in Port Phillip and we'd like your input.

- Share what motivates you to be physically active and any challenges you face by 2 June.

Shaping Balaclava, Together

Do you love Balaclava? We're considering improvements to this vibrant precinct and we'd love your input. Have your say on:

- A vision for Balaclava's future
- A proposal to sell Council-owned land and laneways in the carpark area behind Carlisle Street for potential development by Coles
- A Streetscape Plan to improve public spaces around Carlisle Street, St Kilda Town Hall, and behind the Library.

- Share your feedback online by 15 June OR chat to us in person at the Balaclava Community Forum on 29 May 2025. For event details and registration visit Have Your Say.

Road Management Plan 2025

We're reviewing our Road Management Plan to improve how we manage road maintenance requests, inspections and repairs.

- Share your feedback by 6 June.

The HYS website is at:

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

What we've heard from you

You can also read the community engagement reports for some recent projects we've heard feedback on at the Have Your Say website:

- [Reviewing the Dickens Street Pop-up Park, St Kilda](#)
- [Lagoon Reserve Upgrade](#)
- [Waste and Recycling Strategy](#)

Sustainability

Keeping warm in winter

Save money on heating bills with this free Council-backed Solar Savers program.

Join the shift to split systems, a smart, simple and cost-effective ways to make your home more comfortable to live in. They're available now to all households in City of Port Phillip.



The Solar Savers program also includes heat pump hot water systems, solar hot water, solar panels and home battery systems.

Working together with Solar Savers experts will give you peace of mind, making upgrading your home as smooth and simple as possible.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/sustainability-and-climate-change/top-10-ways-to-take-action/go-electric-with-complimentary-council-backed-program/>

Library Visit

Full of Pride

Our library service is proud to be celebrating Pride Month in June with a range of free activities.

This celebration of inclusivity features a conversation with celebrated LGBTIQ+ activists Liz Ross and Graham Willett, mini-Storytime and badge making and decorating giant rainbows.



Free rainbow shoelace bead kits are available from 1 June until they run out.

Bookings can be made: via <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/celebrate-pride-month-2025-at-port-phillip-libraries/> or by calling 9209 6655.

Community Spirit

Taking healthcare to the streets of St Kilda

St Kilda is the latest stop-off for Street Side Medics' free mobile healthcare service. The not-for-profit's well-equipped red and blue medical van can be accessed by people experiencing homelessness every Wednesday from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm at Cleve Gardens.



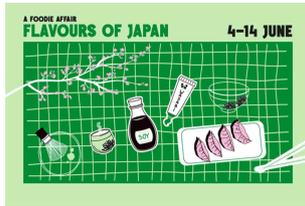
The service is breaking down barriers which can deter people from seeking healthcare such as cost, lack of documentation and access to transport.

From reducing the risk of stroke by getting blood pressure under control to testing for the often "silent" disease of diabetes, Street Side Medics is making a real difference.

By identifying and treating vulnerable patients, often with chronic health issues, its volunteer GPs are vastly improving - or even saving - lives.

Go to: <https://www.streetsidemedics.com.au> for full details, including how to volunteer or donate.

What's On



Flavours of Japan

4-14 June, South Melb.

A Foodie Affair: Flavours of Japan invites you to embark on a delicious self-guided degustation tour at South Melbourne Market, exploring the unique tastes and traditions of Japan.

Wander at your own pace, visiting traders in any order you choose. Sample an array of Japanese-inspired delights like fresh sashimi, crispy katsu curry, juicy gyoza and indulgent matcha treats.

Along the way, discover the art of the traditional tea ceremony, the beauty of flower arrangement, the rich history of incense appreciation and the elegance and tradition of Japanese kimono.

Tickets are limited. To book, go to the SMM website.



Dreamy desserts

7 June, St Kilda

Come and explore the Acland Street Precinct's famous sweet side.

From 12 pm to 3 pm, you can try 4 x cake shops, 4 x ice cream shops AND one yoghurt shop for only \$15.

Or choose the 4 x ice cream shops and yoghurt shop option for \$10.

With its decades old cake shops, with windows filled to the ceiling with cakes and slices, and delicious and varied ice cream and yoghurt shops, Acland Street has to be Melbourne's dessert precinct.

Tickets must be booked before the event.

Ticket sales close at 3 pm on Friday, 6 June.

Details are the Acland Street Village website.



Hello kitties!

31 May, St Kilda

Looking for a companion to keep you warm this winter?

We're partnering with **The Lost Dogs' Home** to hold an Adult Cat Adoption Day at St Kilda Town Hall.

We want to help find forever homes for adult cats who are often overlooked for the cuter and more energetic kittens.

Some of the benefits of adopting an adult cat include them requiring less supervision and attention, making them suitable for busy lifestyles.

The Adoption Day is from 10 am to 2 pm (or until all cats are placed in homes - whichever is earlier).

Your Councillors



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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