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DIVERSITY

March 2024



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

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From the Chamber

As we head towards the holiday season, I want to thank the countless community members who contributed to our City over 2023.

St Kilda Festival 2024 was the main topic of my last column and I'm delighted to share it was another big success.

About 330,000 music lovers enjoyed more than 60 acts over the weekend - as well as experiencing many of our fantastic local venues.



We were also delighted to receive very positive feedback from venues about our first Friday night live music "curtain raiser" to Australia's most popular free music festival.

The festival fun is beautifully captured in a video at www.stkildafestival.com.au – we can't wait for 2025's event.

With the Grand Prix around the corner, this issue of Diversity has some great suggestions about where to wine and dine nearby. We are also joining with Experience South Melbourne for the return of the popular Porsche and Coffee Meet. Adding to the theme, a fantastic open day at the Emerald Hill Library will include fun racing activities for our younger residents.

As foreshadowed last month, we considered a proposal to withdraw from in-home aged care services at a recent Council Meeting.

While that proposal was endorsed, we will retain services such as meal deliveries and are introducing a Community Connector role to help older residents navigate the aged care system under a new Village Model. This was a difficult decision but we believe our plan will ensure the

smoothest possible transition to new providers.

Council decisions so far this month include endorsing our Advocacy Strategy for 2024-27. This will assist us being a voice for our community, including when seeking funding for local projects.

We recognised recently retired Team Leader Libraries Kay Rowan's impressive 48 years' service at our 6 March meeting. Kay began working with the City of Port Phillip at the South Melbourne Library in 1976 and played a vital role in establishing the Heritage Collection, Port Phillip Heritage Centre and local history services.

We are always looking at how we can add to Port Phillip's history resources so we were proud to launch our HerStory illustrated map on International Women's Day. HerStory displays places where women are recognised and honoured in street names, parks and gardens. It's just the beginning so please let us know if you have suggestions about women whose significant efforts should be commemorated.

There are so many stories to tell in our City, and we love hearing about them.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Heather Cunsolo

Mayor, City of Port Phillip



Acland St activation opening doors

The Acland Street Vacant Shop Project is up and running with two tenants signed up and more announcements expected soon.

Our Council continues to encourage participants, including landlords, to partner with us and take advantage of this opportunity.

Kerrin, a premium casual menswear business, has already opened its doors at 104 Acland Street and The Naughty Vegan chocolate shop is preparing to move in to 96 Acland Street.

Kerrin Schuppan says: "Acland Street is a symbol of Melbourne's vibrant culture and history, now on the cusp of an exciting renewal. As one of the first participants in the Acland Street Vacant Shop Project, we're thrilled to introduce our premium casual menswear to this beloved bayside locale.

Our pop-up shop is more than a retail space; it's a hub for engaging with our customers, showcasing the craftsmanship and passion behind our designs, and contributing to the local community spirit."

The Naughty Vegan's plans for its Acland Street pop-up include tastings and offering a vibrant, fun experience for a range of dietary requirements, such as gluten free dairy free. Made in Melbourne with 100 per cent Belgian chocolate, The Naughty Vegan is committed to bringing the joy of chocolate to everyone with their vegan mylk product.

The vacant shop project aims to help revitalise this high-profile St Kilda high street by filling vacant shops with businesses which complement existing offers. Our consultants Plan 1 and Ginnane & Associates are working with the Acland Street Village Business Association, landlords, local stakeholders and operators to offer eligible tenants up to 12-month leases at below market rates.

This included a recent stakeholder event at Kerrin's for prospective landlords, real estate agents and tenants to ask questions and see the high quality fit-outs which can be achieved.

For more information including how to apply go to: <https://plan1pmc.com/acland-street-activation>



Social housing on the way for St Kilda

Construction has started to develop 26 social housing units at 28 Wellington Street, St Kilda, to support some of Port Phillip's most vulnerable residents.

We are partnering with the Victorian Government and St Kilda Community Housing to deliver a three-storey building featuring 24/7 on-site support services as part of the Common Ground housing model.

Our Council is contributing \$5.1 million towards the project including donating surplus land under our In Our Backyard affordable housing strategy. The Victorian Government, through Homes Victoria, is contributing \$12.1 million in capital and operating funding while St Kilda Community Housing will deliver and manage this important initiative.

Mayor Heather Cunsolo (pictured right) joined Victorian Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region John Berger, officially representing Housing Minister Harriet Shing, and St Kilda Community Housing Chair Liz Johnstone for a ceremonial sod turn at the site.

This project continues our history of championing social justice by providing a safe and permanent place to call home for those in need. This includes community members facing housing stress, homelessness or those at risk of becoming homeless.

When completed in 2025, the Wellington Street Common Ground Project units will operate using the evidence-based 'housing first' approach that places people experiencing homelessness directly into permanent and safe housing where on-site support services can address complex needs.

The new residents will have the opportunity to access those services to improve aspects of their lives from health and well-being to independent living and job skills.

City News

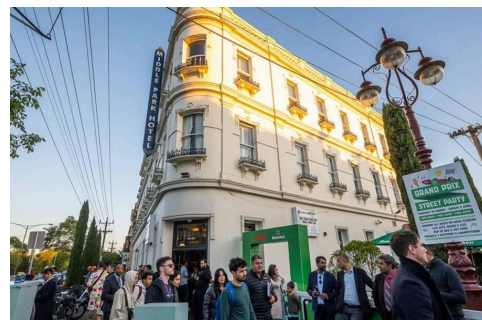
Make tracks for wining and dining during the Grand Prix

There's plenty of restaurants, bars and cafes in near "pole position" to the Grand Prix track, catering for every need from morning coffee, breakfast and takeaway to post-race kick-ons and fine dining.

Keep the celebration going at these top-gear venues, all accessible by foot or a short tram ride.

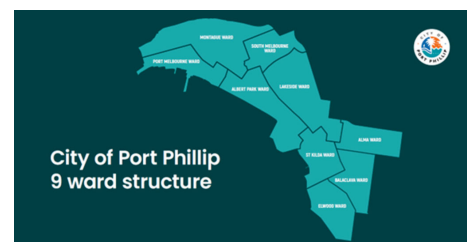
Bars and pubs, restaurants, destination dining, coffee, cake and brunch spots and venues by the beach ... the list is endless!

Visit whatsonstkilda.com for full details.



Electoral ward changes

Following an independent review from an electoral representation advisory panel, the City of Port Phillip will move to a single member ward structure for the October 2024 election.



This is in line with the recommendations in the Local Government Act 2020, and we join 39 other councils moving to the single ward structure.

This means the City of Port Phillip will move from having three wards with three councillors per ward, to nine wards with one councillor per ward.

To ensure fair and equitable representation of all voters, each ward has approximately equal

number of voters.

The new wards will be named:

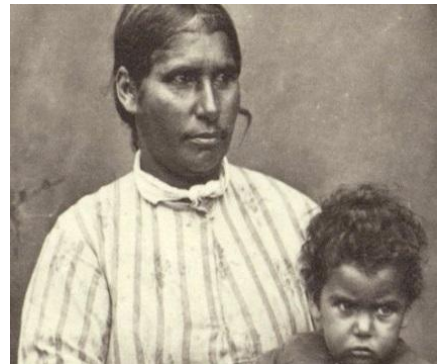
Albert Park Ward
Alma Ward
Balaclava Ward
Elwood Ward
Lakeside Ward
Montague Ward
Port Melbourne Ward
South Melbourne Ward
St Kilda Ward

For more information go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/changes-to-port-phillip-electoral-wards#:~:text=This%20is%20in%20line%20with,with%20one%20councillor%20per%20ward.>

Putting women on the map

The City of Port Phillip has a rich 'herstory' of inspiring women who have made significant contributions to local politics, literature, the arts, sport, health, education and the wider community.

The 'HerStory' map displays places in the City of Port Phillip where women are recognised and honoured in street names, parks and gardens, buildings and on monuments and other public artworks.



'HerStory' celebrates women's stories and achievements, but the map is just the beginning. There are many hidden stories to tell, and many more women who deserve to be commemorated.

We need your help to tell these hidden stories. We are involved in naming and renaming roads, parks, and streets. We want to celebrate the history and culture of our city by "putting her name on it". And we want to make sure everyone is included, especially women and First Nations people.

So, if you've got a great idea for a name that honours women or First Nations communities, send in your submissions to roadandfeaturenaming@portphillip.vic.gov.au with relevant supporting information.

For more information and to view the map go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/celebrating-our-herstory-this-international-women-s-day>

Roll and stroll to school

Our Walk And Wheel program encourages children to walk, ride, scoot, or skate to and from school at any time of the year to build healthy habits for life.

The program is not just about getting from point A to point B; it's about fostering a culture of active living and community engagement.

So take the first step (or pedal) and join the movement today by visiting our Walk and Wheel webpage and downloading our easy-to-use resources.

Visit <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/roll-and-stroll-your->



way-to-health-and-school

Grants up for grabs

Don't miss your chance to make Port Phillip make a healthier, sustainable, more inclusive and vibrant place to live, work and play.

Submissions for our Love My Place, Cultural Development Fund grants (projects and festivals and events) and Community Grants Program are open until midnight 4 April.



We want to hear your great ideas to benefit communities, create art and enliven local spaces.

For more information go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/we-re-opening-our-grants-and-funding-opportunities-for-2024>

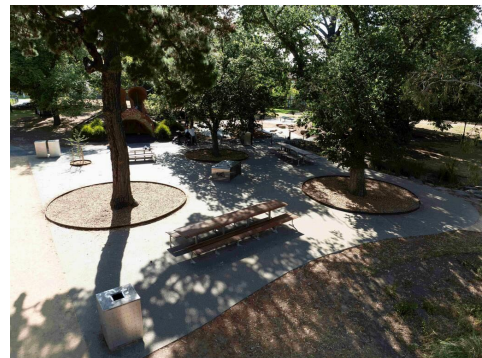
In a separate opportunity, South East Water's annual Community Grants program is open for applications until 5 pm on 12 April. Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to help local groups make their community projects possible.

Visit www.southeastwater.com.au/grant to apply and learn more about past grant recipients..

Alma Park East upgrade

With the support of the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks Program, alongside an investment from our Council, Alma Park East has been revitalised into a natural oasis for our community to enjoy.

We've installed a new barbecue plaza, complemented by upgraded furniture and a water play feature for visitors of all ages and abilities. We also redesigned pathways to make it easier for people with disabilities.

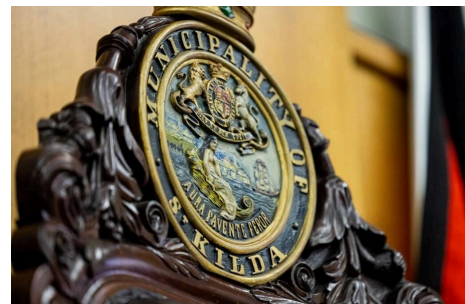


We also collaborated with ecologists to safeguard the balance of indigenous flora and fauna. Notably, the preservation of a thriving population of Southern Brown Tree Frogs makes the natural ecosystem of Alma Park East rare in a city environment.

Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Actions at our 6 March Council Meeting included:

- Considering a petition relating to Feel Good Flows yoga
- Providing a position on the Barak-Beacon Public Housing Estate development to the Victorian Government
- Endorsing the City of Port Phillip Advocacy Strategy 2024-2027
- Ending the Cowderoy Street Right Turn Restriction Trial.



Visit <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-6-march-2024>

Arts in Focus



Celebrating diversity

Our City is celebrating Cultural Diversity Week from 18-24 March and everyone is invited to enjoy the jam-packed program.

This year's theme is Our Shared Stories – Celebrating Together, which asks us to reflect on our own experiences and recognise how each story has the potential to create shared connections and understanding.

Events and activities include:

Festival Africa at St Kilda's Space2b, a family-friendly day of rhythm, flavour and community spirit. The celebration includes free drumming lessons, a market and an art exhibition.

Eighteen of our City's multicultural seniors groups coming together to host a spectacular afternoon filled with stories, music, food, art, movement and more.

You can also celebrate the inclusive multicultural heritage of Port Phillip by following the immigration trail starting from Station Pier.

Events at our libraries include a classical Indian music performance by Vinod and Anubrata . A Greek interpreter will be present for an author talk by George Kyriakou on seven generations of culture, conflict, compassion and understanding.

An afternoon of family-friendly activities celebrating our community's diverse cultures will be hosted at the St Kilda library on 23 March, including craft activities with Space 2b and Cool Capoeira.

Details can found at <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/multicultural-community/cultural-diversity-week>



New takes on Port Phillip history

A history of St Kilda's "golden age" (1841-1900) has taken out the top prize at the prestigious Victorian Community History Awards.

In a golden moment for Port Phillip projects, two other local entries were recognised at the awards night at the Arts Centre Melbourne.

St Kilda East resident Carmel McKenzie was awarded the Victorian Premier's History Award for her book *St Kilda 1841-1900: Movers and Shakers and Money-Makers*, detailing how St Kilda was a bastion of aristocratic privilege prior to the 1890s.

The judges described the book as "a beautifully presented and profusely illustrated social history".

St Kilda's Richard Lowenstein, and Martie Lowenstein, won the Oral History Award for *Don't Be Too Polite Girls*, a documentary about oral history pioneer Wendy Lowenstein.

The Middle Park and Albert Park History Group won a commendation for their book *Albert Park: Gardens to the Sea*.

The Victorian Community History Awards are held in celebration of activities undertaken to explore and preserve the State's history.

The range of award categories acknowledge that history can be told in many and varied formats with the aim of reaching and enriching all Victorians.

Help Shape our City



Help us support fair access in sport

We are seeking club and community feedback on our draft 'Fair Access in Sport' Policy and Action Plan to support women and girls in sport. [Register](#) for an online information session on Wednesday 13 March.

Provide your feedback at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/fairaccess> by 24 March 2024.

Future South Melbourne (draft South Melbourne Structure Plan)

The draft South Melbourne Structure Plan outlines a vision for the next 20 years, focusing on: maintaining the areas' character, enhancing transportation, expanding green spaces and stimulating economic growth. We are seeking community feedback on this draft plan.

Provide your feedback at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/future-south-melbourne> by midnight Thursday 28 March 2024.

Gasworks Arts Program Pulse Check

Share your ideas on how Gasworks Arts Park can enhance its program offerings for a diverse and vibrant experience and curate a schedule of vibrant and inclusive performances and events.

By completing our short online survey, you can go into the draw to win a double pass to a performance of your choice at Gasworks Arts Park.

Provide your feedback to <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/gasworks-pulsecheck> by midnight Sunday 14 April 2024.

Port Phillip Housing Strategy

After two rounds of community engagement to understand the housing issues and opportunities in the City of Port Phillip, we have prepared a draft Housing Strategy for the City. Give your feedback on this draft Strategy to help us best plan for our residents' current and future housing needs.

Provide your feedback to <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/draft-housing-strategy> by 19 April 2024.

Sustainability

Keeping it clean

More than 30 volunteers attended our official Clean Up Australia Day event at Marina Reserve in St Kilda. And many more people attended community events run by outstanding volunteer groups like Beach Patrol and Love Our Street.

At our Council-run event, participants collected almost 43 kg of waste and recyclable material – plus 85 beverage containers eligible for Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.



Clean Up Australia Day may only happen once a year, but if you're passionate about keeping our gorgeous City's streets, parks and beaches clean, you may be interested in joining one of the community groups which do this on a regular basis. They are also a great way to meet people and to get to know an area within Port Phillip.

For more details go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/clean-up-australia-day-2024>

Library Visit

Fast track to fun

There's a "racy" theme in South Melbourne on 17 March.

The fun kicks off with Experience South Melbourne's free "Porsche and Coffee" meet outside South Melbourne Town Hall and surrounds.

Supported by our Council, there will be an eye-catching display of vintage and modern Porsche cars and plenty of opportunities to enjoy delicious coffee and tasty treats from local traders.

The theme continues nearby at Emerald Hill Library's A Day on the Hill. The free family-friendly open day features activities including driving simulators, Mario Kart and LEGO racetracks and workshops. Small library tours and free membership sign-up will be available for everyone on the day.

All the details can be found at <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/a-day-on-the-hill>



Community Spirit

South Melbourne Community Chest seeking volunteers

South Melbourne Community Chest (SMCC) is searching for treasure... in the form of new volunteers.

The SMCC Op Shop saves unwanted goods from landfill while investing profits back into our local community.

Watch SMCC's music video which was created by the City of Voices Inclusive Theatre Group in collaboration with 'Captain Trash' (Port Phillip Baykeeper Neil Blake) from the Port Phillip EcoCentre.

Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/896735466>



What's On



St Patrick's Festival

St Patrick's Festival, St Kilda, is back bigger than ever over 16-17 March at O'Donnell Gardens and Acland Street.

The whole weekend is focused on celebrating Irish music and culture.

The first day offers free family fun including activities for children, carnival rides, roving entertainers, Irish dancers, live music and a parade.

Sunday features a ticketed live music festival. The Tumbling Paddies will be performing, along with local Victorian acts.

For more information, visit the event's website.



Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Balaclava-based comedian Jeremy Moses is bringing his unique take on disability, multiculturalism and young grief to the Classic Southside stage in Elsternwick from 9-14 April.

Bookended by what he coined 'Bad Slam Poetry' - a silly art form he developed in the deepest depths of lockdown, Jeremy will tell tales of growing up legally blind, his big, diverse family, and the beret-topped alter-ego that spawned hundreds of hours of nonsense on social media.

There will be an Auslan interpreted/relaxed/sensory friendly performance on Sunday 14 April at 2 pm.

To book tickets, visit the Comedy Festival's website.



Bike course

Experienced back2bikes workshop managers have designed this course for people who enjoy cycling and want to understand the best ways to maintain their bikes.

Over six weeks from 9 April in Port Melbourne, the course includes: basic mechanical skills, tyres and tubes, gears and transmission, brakes, frames and on-ride repairs.

Specially prepared bikes covering a range of bike types will be provided and the course includes discussions, instruction videos and hands-on experience.

For more information including cost and bookings visit their website.

To Diversity είναι το επίσημο ηλεκτρονικό κοινοτικό ενημερωτικό δελτίο του Δήμου Port Phillip. Επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα Νέων και Μέσων Ενημέρωσης του Δήμου και επιλέξτε τη λειτουργία 'μετάφραση' ['translate'] στο επάνω μέρος για να διαβάσετε ιστορίες στο Diversity στην γλώσσα προτίμησής σας.
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Diversity 是菲利普港市的官方社区电子新闻通讯。
访问市政府的新闻及媒体网页，在顶部选择翻译功能，您便能用中文阅读 Diversity 里面的故事。
免费注册用电子邮件接收 Diversity，上网跟进本市和市政府的新闻，网址：**portphillip.vic.gov.au**。

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Visite la página de Noticias y Medios de Comunicación (News and Media) del ayuntamiento y use la función "Translate" ("Traducir") en la parte superior del menú para leer las historias de Diversity en el idioma de su elección.
Suscríbase de manera gratuita para recibir Diversity directamente en su buzón de correo electrónico y manténgase al tanto de las noticias de City of Port Phillip y su ayuntamiento en **portphillip.vic.gov.au**

Your Councillors

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Mayor 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 Robbie Nyaguy
0466 611 598



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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