



DIVERCITY

October 2025



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



Rebuilding lives in new housing

An empty St Kilda rooming house transformed into 26 units for Port Phillip people sleeping rough was officially opened in Wellington Street on 22 October.

Our Council proudly partnered with the Victorian Government through Homes Victoria and St Kilda Community Housing (SKCH) to help bring Madden House, named after former SKCH Chair Paul Madden, to life.

Attendees at the opening included Parliamentary Secretary for Homes Katie Hall, representing Housing Minister Harriet Shing, Councillors, Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor, Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region Ryan Batchelor and SKCH representatives including CEO Andrew D'Arcy.

We initiated this project in 2019 as part of our longstanding history of supporting safe, affordable homes for people experiencing homelessness. Madden House is based on the innovative Common Ground model of providing on-site wraparound support services to help people with complex needs to thrive and stay in housing.

Council contributed \$4.75 million to the \$10.87 million project, as well as a section of land worth \$365,000 which is now the driveway.

There is a concierge on site and VincentCare Victoria and the Ngwala Willumbong Co-operative will provide on-site support services and cultural connection.

Residents are expected to start moving into the self-contained permanent accommodation to be managed by SKCH next month.

From the Chamber

After joining the sod turning, it was fantastic to see the Madden House site transformed from levelled ground into 26 self-contained units with onsite support services.

This innovative project is an important step in helping people sleeping rough in our City to rebuild their lives in safe housing and is part of our continuing commitment to doing what we can to address homelessness.



Full details of the official opening – and how to provide feedback on our draft Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy - are in this issue of Divercity.

Advocating for our community is always front of mind for us. Our first Advocacy Annual Report details our Council's advocacy efforts over the past financial year.

This issue also includes our response to the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan, released earlier this month. While welcoming the Plan, we are keen to see timeframes for the public transport needed to ensure Fishermans Bend lives up to its huge potential.

In the meantime, we decided at our 15 October Council Meeting to incorporate advocacy to improve the frequency and reliability of the 606 bus route into our broader Fishermans Bend transport advocacy campaign. This follows a petition citing frequency and reliability concerns about this important bus route from Elsternwick to Port Melbourne via St Kilda.

We also agreed to extend our kerbside waste contract with Cleanaway at that meeting. Missed bin reports have dropped sharply since the collection issues of 2023, with only nine bins reported as missing in August 2025 per 10,000 properties. We're confident this positive trend will continue under the new agreement which includes several enhancements to further boost service quality and efficiency.

Some great upcoming events are showcased this month – boogie in Balaclava, stroll around a market, snap up a bargain at the Garage Sale Trail or brush off the cobwebs with some thrilling Halloween activities.

There's always something to enjoy in Port Phillip!

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Louise Crawford
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

City News

Advocating for Port Phillip's community

Our first Advocacy Annual Report presents a complete overview of our advocacy efforts throughout the past financial year.

Key achievements are \$8 million in funding through competitive grants and a successful federal election advocacy campaign including a \$1.5 million commitment for our council to deliver CCTV upgrades

We are working towards the upcoming 2026 Victorian State Election and actively seeking collaboration with key decision makers on a number of ongoing priorities.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/city-of-port-phillip-releases-first-advocacy-annual-report/>



Cultural canoe

A stunning sculpture of a traditional First Nations canoe has been installed at the entrance to Station Pier as part of the Migration Public Art Trail.

A Port Melbourne Business Association initiative, the “Water Journeys” artwork was designed by First Nations artist Simone Thomson (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung, Yorta Yorta) and funded through a Victorian Government Living Local - Suburban grant.



SW Art Consulting and Lump Sculpture Studio also played an important role in bringing Simone's vision to life and our Council proudly facilitated the process.

The more than four-metre high artwork symbolises migration, cultural journeys and deep connection to place. Crafted in Corten steel with a natural rusted finish, it evokes bark canoes, vessels crafted with skill, ingenuity and a deep knowledge of Country.

Made from stringy bark trees, and at times from river red gum or river reeds, these canoes were shaped by fire, heating and bending the bark, sealing the form with clay and mud and binding it with handwoven rope.

These canoes carried people across rivers and bays, and were used for fishing, travel, and ceremony. Fishing itself was more than sustenance; it was a practice of relationship and respect, guided by seasonal rhythms, kinship, and lore, and grounded in a profound understanding of the living waterways.

Simone said: “This has been a journey in itself getting to this point, but I am so thrilled to see this beautiful story of our bark canoes and the relationship and profound knowledge of our living waterways guided by the seasonal rhythms of Country in its new home.”

Fright Night

As the spooky season creeps in, it's time to dust off your costumes and prepare for a frightfully fun time across St Kilda and beyond.

Deliciously creepy Halloween events include a haunted séance at Luna 'Dark', the family friendly Acland Ghoulish Ghost Tour or Nightmare on Fitzroy Street's Halloween Hunt.



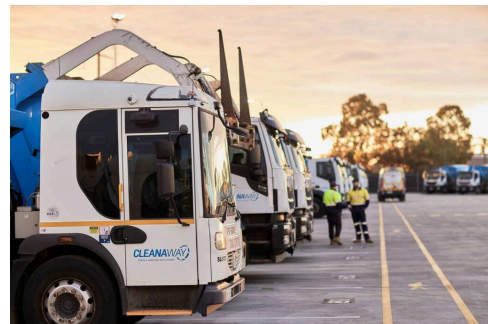
Let your imagination run wild and dive into these spooktacular experiences.

<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/spooky-things-to-do-in-melbournes-southside-this-halloween>

Kerbside waste contract extension

Kerbside waste collection is one of our Council's largest and most complex services.

Following a rigorous and independently led tender, we decided this month to extend our kerbside waste collection contract with Cleanaway.



This decision ensures continuity for one of our Council's most critical services, which covers over 51,000 homes and hundreds of public and community sites.

Missed bin reports have dropped sharply since the collection issues of 2023, with only nine bins reported as missing in August 2025 per 10,000 properties. Council is confident this positive trend will continue under the new agreement.

The contract includes several enhancements to further boost service quality and efficiency:

- a \$600,000 investment in service optimisation, such as route adjustments, to reduce costs and support Council's waste transformation goals
- three upgraded, fit-for-purpose vehicles added to the fleet
- improved recycling truck capacity and better alignment of communal FOGO days with residential pickups.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-secures-waste-collection-deal-with-cleanaway/>

Timely transport for Fishermans Bend

Our Council responded this month to the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Integrated Transport Plan.

While we welcome the Plan, the lack of clear delivery timeframes or funding commitments is disappointing.

We're urging the Government to provide commitment and clarity on the timeframes for delivery of trams and Metro 2 to give our Council, community, developers and investors the much-needed certainty required to unlock Fishermans Bend's huge potential.

Mayor Louise Crawford said: "Plans for new bus services with no clear delivery timeframes do not make up for the continuing lack of commitment to delivering new trams and trains early, a key part of the original Fishermans Bend Framework 2018.



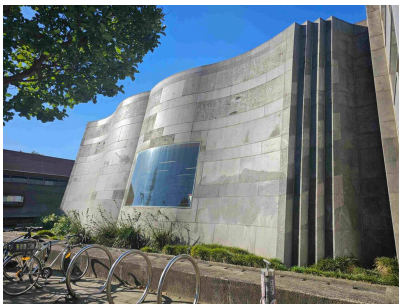
"The move to a demand responsive approach, rather than providing public transport as a catalyst to stimulate growth, is a fundamental shift which risks under-development, less certainty and investment, more congestion and parking conflicts, fewer homes and accessible local jobs being created and, ultimately, a missed opportunity for Port Phillip and greater Melbourne.

"The challenges associated with this approach are well documented in our growth suburbs - this is not appropriate for Australia's largest urban renewal area and will not deliver the high-density, sustainable and liveable places that were envisaged or help alleviate housing affordability issues.

"We urge the Victorian Government to provide commitment and clarity on the timeframes for delivery of trams and Metro 2 to give our Council, community, developers and investors the much-needed certainty required to unlock Fishermans Bend's huge potential."

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/fishermans-bend-integrated-transport-plan-puts-growth-plans-at-risk/>

Arts in Focus



Creatives callout

Expressions of Interest (EOI) to exhibit and share your artwork in 2026 in one of our fantastic community spaces are now open.

Artists, curators, historians and community groups are invited to apply.

The Community Art Spaces program provides local creatives and community members with a platform for sharing their work and an opportunity to develop skills in exhibition and display.



Balaclava boogie

The Balaclava Boogie Music Crawl is again bringing live music to some of Port Phillip's quirkiest venues on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November.

Carlisle Street will be transformed into a free two-day festival of sound, culture, and community with 18 artists across 18 unique venues.

Imagine bands in barbershops, violins in vintage interiors, Latin grooves in pizzerias, jazz in cake shops and indie rock in speakeasies.

Port Melbourne Town Hall, Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre and St Kilda Library will be the backdrops for the exhibits.

Applications are accepted from individuals or groups who live, work or have a strong connection with the City of Port Phillip.

There is no fee to apply or exhibit in this program.

The EOI closes at 11.59 pm on 16 November 2025.

To apply, visit <https://bit.ly/4ndxtED>

Every stop along Carlisle Street becomes part of the performance, creating a precinct-wide celebration unlike anything else in Melbourne.

Music lovers are encouraged to book tables at participating venues to secure their spots.

Artists include Adalita, Archer, Xani, Daisy Kilbourne, Max Koenig, Alex Burkoy, Charlie Lane, Mathilde Anne and Hysteria.

This event is proudly supported by our Council.

Full details are on the Carlisle Street website.

Help Shape our City



Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say](#) website for updates on projects which are open for community feedback. [Register for our monthly community engagement newsletter](#) to keep up to date with how you can help shape your local neighbourhood.

Projects open for feedback

- **Building our future:** Help shape current and future community facilities – win a \$50 gift card! [Provide feedback by 2 November.](#)
- **Feel Safe. Be Safe. Community Safety in Port Phillip:** Share your feedback on the draft Community Safety Plan. [Provide feedback by 2 November.](#)
- **Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy:** Have we captured what matters most to you in our draft Strategy? [Provide feedback by 3 November.](#)
- **The future of Carlisle St, Balaclava:** We've developed a draft Streetscape Plan. Your feedback will guide how we finalise its key elements. [Provide feedback by 16 November.](#)
- **Caravans, Boats and Trailers:** We're proposing to change the local law to limit the amount of time that caravans, boats and trailers can park on public roads and Council land. [Provide feedback on the proposal by 9 November.](#)

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

Sustainability

Explore your bin room

Living in an apartment?

You're in good company, over 90 per cent of our residents live in high-density housing – but when it comes to waste and recycling, things can get a little complicated.

In our City, many residents living in apartments receive a Council waste service. This typically includes a three-bin system:

Garbage

Mixed recycling

Food and garden organics (FOGO)



However, not all apartment blocks are the same. Some are serviced by private waste operators, while others have a hybrid arrangement – a mix of Council and private services. This patchwork of providers can make it tricky to know exactly what's available in your building.

If you're unsure about your building's waste and recycling setup, your Building Manager or Owners Corporation larger apartment complexes, it's worth taking a closer look at your bin room. You might discover recycling options you didn't know existed – like a dedicated FOGO bin for food and garden waste.

And if you think your building could benefit from a service that's not currently offered, start by checking in with your Building Manager or Owners Corporation. They may be able to help arrange it. It is your best first stop.

Got bulky items that won't fit in your regular bin? If your building is on a Council waste service, you are entitled to six free hard and green waste collections each year.

To book a collection, just chat with your Owners Corporation or Building Manager – they'll organise it for you.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/waste-and-recycling-in-apartments-what-you-need-to-know/>

Library Visit

Celebrate poetry and song

Curated by acclaimed local poet Michael Crane, the Emerald Hill Music and Poetry Festival brings words and music together in the unique setting of our Emerald Hill Library.

From 11 November to 2 December, the library will come alive every Tuesday night at 6 pm with four unforgettable evenings of poetry and song.



Don't miss this chance to experience some of Melbourne's finest poets and musicians in an intimate library setting. This event is supported by Arts Access, the Palais Theatre Community Fund and South Melbourne Community Chest.

Community Spirit

Dennis Fisher nets an honour

Elder Uncle Dennis Fisher – known as “Den the Fish” – has been inducted into the 2025 Victorian Aboriginal Honour Roll.

Uncle Den was officially recognised at an Arts Centre Gala Ceremony for his lifelong contribution to truth-telling, cultural education, and reconciliation.

This includes an almost 30-year legacy of being central to Port Phillip Citizens for Reconciliation, leading Sorry Day commemorations, cultural storytelling and community dialogue. His work as a cultural guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens and a broadcaster on 3KND Radio has also connected many to First Nations history and culture.

IMAGE: Aunty Judith 'Jacko' Jackson, Mayor Louise Crawford and PPCfR's Rosemary Rule congratulate Elder Uncle Dennis Fisher.

<https://www.ppcfrr.org>



Medal moment

The Order of Timor-Leste Medal was presented to Councillors this month by Alberto Barros and Amelia Amaral from the Centro Comunitade Covalima

The President of East Timor (Timor-Leste) HE José Ramos-Horta, awarded the Order of Timor-Leste Medal to 26 Australian Friendship Groups, including Friends of Suai/Covalima (a City of Port Phillip initiative).

This prestigious medal honours 25 years of friendship and partnership between the communities of the City of Port Phillip and Covalima, East Timor (Timor-Leste).

The medal is part of an exhibition of treasured items celebrating this milestone at the Emerald Hill Library and Port Phillip Heritage Centre until 14 November.

Friends of Suai/Covalima support includes mentoring and funds raised for scholarships and reforestation.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/social-cohesion-diversity-and-inclusion/multicultural-community/friends-of-suai-covalima/>



What's On



Cultured and cured

5 to 15 November

A Foodie Affair: Cultured & Cured invites you on a mouth-watering journey through the world of pickled, cultured, cured and fermented flavours.

From tangy kimchi croissants and pancakes to creamy raw milk cheese, burrata bao, Italian cured meats, Spanish white anchovy toast and even indulgent black garlic and miso pastries, South Melbourne Market (SMM) traders are serving up bold tastes and timeless traditions in every bite.

Explore the Market stalls in any order you choose.

Details including how to book tickets are on the SMM website.



To market, to market

Spring and summer

Save the date for these events, offering everything from locally-made gifts and fresh produce to vintage gems and pre-loved bargains.

Our market round-up makes it easy to plan ahead with categories showcasing new, seasonal, local and community and farmers markets.

Grab a basket and scoop up fresh produce, unique gifts or a treat for yourself!

Full details at the What's On St Kilda and Southside website.



Hit the sale trail

8 to 9 and 15 to 16 November

It's not too late to register for the Garage Sale Trail, Australia's biggest second-hand treasure hunt.

As part of our commitment to reducing waste, we are bringing this festival back to the City of Port Phillip

Sell what you have and buy what you love over two big weekends of garage sales and thrift markets.

It's fun, free to take part and keeps pre-loved items out of landfill.

All information is on the Garage Sale Trail website.

Your Councillors



Cr Rod Hardy
Albert Park Ward
0425 409 483



Cr Justin Halliday
Alma Ward
0431 741 415



Cr Libby Buckingham
Balaclava Ward
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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