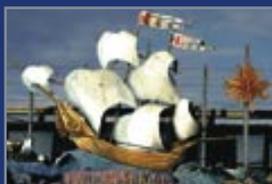




## 2003 - 2004 Annual Snapshot



Council services including home care, personal care, respite care, meals on wheels, and property maintenance mean nearly 1300 elderly or frail residents can remain in their own homes. A recent survey revealed an overwhelmingly high level of satisfaction with the services.



A swag of new trees has been planted in Hotham Street, East St Kilda. As part of the Greening Port Phillip plan which will see over 1000 trees planted across the municipality this year.



The council has been proud to sponsor the annual Pride March down Fitzroy Street for the last nine years and has just signed its fourth three-year sponsorship agreement.



Port Melbourne's booming population now has a new library. The council's ASSIST centre and cashier are located in the library, which means you can grab a book, get a parking permit and surf the net – now that's a community hub!



The EcoHouse – previously an unremarkable 'sixties brick veneer suburban home in St Kilda's Botanical Gardens – demonstrates how an ordinary house can be retrofitted to be environmentally sustainable.

Judith Jackson and her grandson, Will, join in NAIDOC (National Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee) Week celebrations.





'Local produce' was the theme at the Jackson Street Festival.



A big crowd joined this year's Sorry Day celebrations in O'Donnell Gardens. Jason Tamiru performed a smoking ceremony while Doris Pilkington Garimara spoke movingly about the events recounted in her famous 1996 book, *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*.



The new live n local program at this year's St Kilda Festival was a huge success. Opening on the Thursday night with The Cat Empire and a bazaar with camel rides on the beach, it showcased nearly 40 local bands. Many are continuing to get local bookings.



**Port Phillip is a city where diversity and harmony are sustained and encouraged. A place where the community feels connected through a sense of belonging and pride in our city. What is your vision for the city?**



Eighteen streets have held street parties since the StreetLife kit was launched late last year. By registering with the Port Phillip Community Group, residents get free hire of barbecues and trestles and free public liability insurance. The parties were roaring successes and every street says they'll do it again. An updated kit is now available from town halls, libraries and the council website.



Raoul Wallenberg, the saviour of 100,000 Hungarian Jews during World War II, was remembered on the anniversary of his disappearance in 1945. Dr Frank Vadja and Dr Reuben Glass paused at the tree planted in Raoul's honour outside the St Kilda Town Hall.



Hundreds of people attended the seminar series on gentrification



Lesley Greagg from the Older Persons' Reference Group trips the light fantastic to the Louisiana Shakers at this year's Seniors' Festival.



St Kilda's VegOut Community Gardens and Artist Studios are now producing wine as well as lots of vegetables, fruit, herbs and art. There is still a waiting list for plots.



Fresh produce and a great authentic atmosphere attract over 35,000 shoppers to our South Melbourne Market every week. The council approved a \$5million upgrade for the market over the next two years – but don't worry it is business as usual on market days!



Six public artworks and 28 plaques celebrating collective experiences and memories associated with place were unveiled as part of the *margins, memories and markers* series. Maria's Story celebrates the life of Maria Starcevic (a.k.a. 'Diamond Lil'), one of the 'stolen generation', who grew up at the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage in South Melbourne.

Nearly 200 people gathered at Gasworks to discuss how the economic bottom line is no longer the sole indicator of community success. Social, environmental and, increasingly, cultural outcomes are acknowledged as having equal weight in determining policy and evaluating programs.



Ester, David and Svetlana from Uzbekistan via Israel joined the 333 people welcomed at citizenship ceremonies. They joined people from over 50 countries who became Australian citizens at Port Phillip ceremonies.



The new skate park under the Graham Street overpass was opened as part of this year's Youth Week. It's a hit with kids.



The plastic bag lady led the charge in favour of re-useable carry bags at the South Melbourne Market. Elwood Village followed suit later in the year and became the first plastic bag free shopping strip in Victoria.



Spiralling rents and trendy development have made affordable housing hard to find in Port Phillip. Community housing is an oasis for low-income earners, older people and singles in the city. Argyle Street community housing (pictured), Excelsior Hall and Inkerman Oasis are part of the council's community housing projects that house 480 people.



**Community participation is the lifeblood of Port Phillip. There are a thousand ways to be involved: neighbourhood meetings, community activities, walking in the park, recycling in your home. How do you participate in Port Phillip?**

A 17 year planning saga involving St Kilda's legendary Esplanade Hotel ended last year when Becton and the council reached agreement over a ten-storey apartment block to be built behind the hotel. The agreement secured the future of the Espy as a live music venue.



Regular walking school buses are now established at St Kilda Park, St Kilda, Middle Park, Albert Park and St Columba's (Elwood) primary schools. It's a great way to reduce traffic congestion and cut pollution. But we need more walking buses because 55% of students are driven to school.



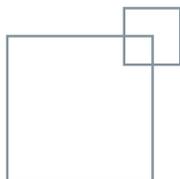
Sponge Girls replace Spice Girls on World Environment Day for students at the St Kilda Town Hall.



Port Phillip is one of only seven Victorian councils that don't spend more than they earn. Good financial management means the council can pay for important capital works that benefit the whole community without going into debt.



The cost of a salad roll and a drink and how often neighbours say hello to each other are some of the new indicators being used to measure community progress for at least the next ten years. Under the 'Sustainable Community Progress Indicators' project, the council will track progress on issues that the community regards as important, whether it is how much waste our households generate, whether our kids walk to school or how many people in our block or street we feel we could regularly talk to.



St Kilda is Melbourne's favourite seaside playground – St Kilda's Edge is the council and community in partnership to keep it that way. West Beach, the harbour and pier, Luna Park and the Palais are all protected from inappropriate development.



The council's funding supports four council-owned centres and eight community-run centres. A new children's centre for Elwood is under investigation.



Your new yellow-lidded bins have been a great success. Recycling volume is up 13.5 percent since they were introduced – congratulations residents – you've bin fantastic!

**Clean beaches and fabulous parks are just the start. Council services help make Port Phillip such a great place to live – home help and meals on wheels, childrens' services and school holiday programs, festivals and cultural events.**

**What council services do you use?**



Rex Hunt urged us to reduce litter flowing into the bay. He's Rex Hunt and he said bin it or swim in it!

The Port Phillip Family Friendly Café Award – the first in Victoria – was jointly shared by Feedings@Readings in Port Melbourne and Beetle in Albert Park.



Thanks to more flexible employment practices, a younger breed of home carers – including significant numbers of men – is bringing new levels of enthusiasm to caring for frail elderly people or people with disabilities living in their own homes.



Hewison Reserve in East St Kilda is the latest open space in Port Phillip to be cleaned up, improved and reclaimed for the public. It now has an electric barbecue more trees, seats, picnic tables, drinking fountain, bins, playground equipment and better lighting.



ASSIST staff responded to over 15,000 enquires each month. An independent customer satisfaction survey found that most questions were answered in the first contact.

Year round beach-cleaning collects nearly 2000 tonnes of litter and seaweed. All our beaches are swept weekly to remove rubbish and keep them safe.



Port Phillip directed over \$21 million towards the improvement, maintenance and creation of everyday conveniences such as roads, footpaths, drains, parks and open space and street furniture.



Fifty-one years ago the former City of South Melbourne created Australia's first meals on wheels service – on a tricycle! Now, meals – all 92,000 of them – are delivered by car.



Kids just love the St Kilda Adventure Playground and Skinner's Adventure Playground in South Melbourne, two of only five adventure playgrounds in Melbourne.