



# DIVERCITY

July 2025



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY  
VISIT



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

## From the Chamber

We know the environment is important to our community so it was hugely exciting to be at the launch of the Port Phillip EcoCentre redevelopment.

Construction of this cleverly designed building is now complete and it looks amazing - as well as boasting world leading sustainable features. In fact, this bigger and even better EcoCentre is expected to achieve a six-star green building rating - a certification designed for and then awarded retrospectively - after it has operated for over a year.



Our Council has supported the EcoCentre since it began in 1999 so we are very proud to be part of the next chapter for this valued and beloved community resource.

After some final touches, the EcoCentre will roll out lots of opportunities later this year for everyone to come along and enjoy.

I attended a launch earlier this month for another popular community asset. The much-anticipated Port Melbourne Skatepark upgrade means tricks and kick-flips can continue there for years to come. It's wonderful to see how popular the skatepark has become so soon after this major upgrade.

July also saw me present a certificate of appreciation to Isabelle, an eight-year-old Port Phillip resident who is passionate about litter picking. I was impressed by her deep love of the environment which shone through during our chat.

The EcoCentre is a great resource for all the Isabelles who want to do their bit and learn more about the wonderful natural world. Keep an eye on their website to learn about upcoming community events and everything else on offer at this fantastic environmental and educational hub.

Diversity also includes the results of our Council's 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey. This is a valuable tool for us as it provides insights into what we are doing well and where we can improve. It also allows residents surveyed to tell us their key concerns.

I can assure we take these findings very seriously and use the results to prioritise improvements in the areas our community tells us matter most to them.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Louise Crawford  
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## Port Phillip EcoCentre unveiled

In a win for our community and environment, the completion of the new Port Phillip EcoCentre was celebrated on 25 July.

Over the past 26 years, the Port Phillip EcoCentre has grown to annually deliver education, programs and services to 19,000 participants. This growth meant the original building was no longer meeting demand or fit for purpose.

This is why we teamed up with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to deliver an updated, functional and sustainable building. The \$6.7 million project was made possible by the Victorian Government matching our Council's contribution of \$3.35 million. The Australian Government pledged a further \$400,000 during the election campaign.

Some finishing touches are required before the building is ready for public walk-in access. The EcoCentre will start rolling out community events for everyone to enjoy from August.

For full details go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/port-phillip-welcomes-its-newly-finished-ecocentre/>

# City News

## 2025 Community Satisfaction Survey

Each year our Council conducts a Community Satisfaction Survey to better understand our residents' perception of our service delivery and what matters most to our community.



The 2025 results are now available and reveal an improvement in overall satisfaction and strong community endorsement for key services. We recognise there is more work to be done and the results provide valuable insights into where we need to improve. This reinforces efforts we are already taking and the focus areas in our new Council Plan. We have developed an improvement plan for 2025/26.

This year, for the first time, the survey was conducted face-to-face in partnership with independent research company Metropolis Research. This approach provided deeper insights, and more meaningful feedback. Over 900 randomly selected residents were interviewed across all neighbourhoods. More than half of the metro councils use Metropolis and they also conduct a broader survey of non-client councils to enable benchmarking across the sector and with metro councils.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/community-satisfaction-survey-2025-results-released/>

## Wonderful walks

The July to December free guided walks program is out with plenty of heritage treasures to explore.

Highlights include the popular St Kilda Underground Walking Tour, Artists, Designers and Landscapes of Port Melbourne and a tour exploring housing in South Melbourne, from villages, cottages, mansions, shops and orphanages to public housing and new developments.



Join our knowledgeable walks leaders as they share the cultural, architectural, art and social histories of the places that we call home and tell the amazing stories of the people who have lived here.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/history-and-heritage/guided-walks-and-things-to-do/>

## Creative croissants

Rich, flaky, buttery - and fresh out of the oven.

Here's how to get your hands on the best croissants in town any time of year. Seek out these favourites on your next pastry hunt.

From chocolate to pistachio and almond to



halloumi, there a huge variety of sweet and savoury croissants to tuck into.

<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/must-try-croissants-in-st-kilda-and-southside>

## Are you Dying to Know?

Join us for a meaningful and informative afternoon at the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre in recognition of Dying to Know Day, a national initiative on 8 August encouraging Australians to engage in conversations around death, dying, and bereavement.



Death and grief touch all of us, yet they remain some of the hardest topics to discuss, especially within our own families. Whether you're supporting ageing parents, caring for someone with a life-limiting illness or planning for a peaceful end-of-life experience, this free event is designed to help you prepare for what the options are after death and explain why planning is so important. Bookings essential.

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1430656>

## Claw and order

A tiny stray kitten “apprehended” during a police patrol is in her forever home after winning hearts at the South Melbourne Police Station and St Kilda Town Hall.

A caring South Melbourne community member flagged down a divisional van after hearing the six-week-old kitten’s desperate cries from underneath a car hood, where she was trying to get warm.



After being dropped off at the police station, the friendly feline enjoyed a tuna treat while several officers had a spirited discussion about who should keep her if she wasn’t lost.

“I won as I already have two cats and know how to look after them,” Constable Guy Wilcock said. “She was purring her head off and absolutely gorgeous.”

After contacting Animal Management Officer Tom, Constable Wilcock surrendered the kitten at the Town Hall so health and ownership checks could get underway.

“He really cared about the kitten and was very clear that he wanted to claim her if he could,” Tom said.

More cuddles and treats followed as the kitten charmed Council officers before being taken to The Lost Dogs Home for a microchip check, socialisation and de-sexing when she was a little older.

After several weeks, the call came. The kitty didn’t have an owner and was ready to be picked up.

Her introduction to the Wilcock family went seamlessly and she is living her best life. “She still sits on my shoulder, she’s amazing, very sweet,” Constable Wilcock said.

“That day she was found was the most unexpected shift I’ve ever had.”

It didn't take him long to find inspiration for her name. "It's Divi, short for divisional van."

## Arts in Focus



### TOUCH base at Gasworks

TOUCH made waves with a sold-out run at Dancehouse Melbourne during the 2023 Melbourne Fringe Festival, hailed as a must-see performance.

Now it's Gasworks Arts Park's turn to showcase this compelling production on Saturday 6 September.

Championing diversity and multiculturalism, TOUCH provides a platform for unity, celebrating differences, and transcending boundaries through the universal language of dance.

At its heart, TOUCH delves into personal narratives, addressing themes of prejudice and isolation while seamlessly blending ballet and Bharathanatyam. By challenging conventional paradigms and celebrating cultural richness, TOUCH sparks dialogues on inclusivity and acceptance.

Brought to life by two extraordinary artists, Deepa Mani of Chandralaya School of Dance and Sheena Chundee of Rebel Stepz Arts, TOUCH is more than a performance — it's a dialogue between cultures, communities, and creative visions.

The performance begins with each dancer presenting their individual style, underscoring the separation and isolation often experienced due to cultural differences. But as the narrative unfolds, the movements blend and merge, creating a harmonious and "bilingual" dance language that symbolises the transformative power of diversity and inclusion.



### Art online

The Port Phillip City Collection (PPCC) is just a click away.

Dating from 1855, the PPCC celebrates the social, cultural, political and artistic development of the City of Port Phillip and its former municipalities of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda.

Its 82,619 heritage items and 663 artworks tell a compelling story about the development of the City of Port Phillip since European settlement.

The PPCC recognises the people and places which provide the tangible and intangible heritage and unique character of the area.

Historic and contemporary art works, public art, monuments and memorials, government and societal objects, maps and plans, historic photographs and documents can all be accessed online.

Our Council acknowledges the significant First Peoples identity, past and present, of the area now comprising the City of Port Phillip through the collection of contemporary art.

Within Council, the PPCC is supported by local history research services, professional collection management, experienced curators, programmers and heritage advisors and is accessible through a range of programs, exhibitions and the image reproduction service.

Image: Centenary Council Meeting at St Kilda Town Hall, 1957

<https://copp.melbourne.axiell.com/imu/>

Go to Gasworks Arts Park's website for more information and bookings.

## 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](#).

#### Projects open for feedback

**Help us Shape Bay Street:** Tell us about your current shopping experiences on Bay Street and share what kinds of businesses you'd like to see there in the future.

Take our survey by 8 August.

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/bay-street>

**Council Meetings Governance Rules Review:** Provide your feedback on proposed changes to how Council manages speaking times, petitions and joint letters.

Provide feedback by 3 August

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/governance-rules-2025>

#### What we've heard from you:

See the latest updates on projects you provided feedback on:

- [Plan for Port Phillip \(including Budget\) 2025-35](#)
- [Enhancing Argyle Street, St Kilda](#)
- [St Kilda Botanical Gardens Public Toilets](#)
- [Proposed Changes to Dog On- and Off- Leash Restrictions](#)
- [Port Melbourne Light Rail Linear Parks Plan](#)
- [Upgrading Edwards Park Public Toilet, Port Melbourne](#)

All these links can be accessed via <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au>

## Sustainability

### Clothing swap

Our Council will invest a \$2000 Victorian Government Youth Fest grant into delivering a Clothing Swap event at St Kilda Town Hall on Saturday 27 September 2025.

The event will provide a platform for young people to engage in meaningful conversations about overconsumption, promote a circular economy and encourage the reduction of textile waste. It will also feature live performances by emerging young musicians, supporting the



growth of live music in our City.

This collaborative event brings together the Youth Events Crew, who will curate the performances, and the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), who will lead the delivery of the Clothing Swap. Together, they'll create opportunities for young people to showcase their talents and gain valuable hands-on experience in event planning.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/clothing-swap-event-for-young-people/>

## Library Visit

### New chapter for donated books

Did you know you can donate and drop off books at our Albert Park and Port Melbourne Libraries?

Donated books are collected by Rotary volunteers who carefully sort and sell them to raise funds for local charities and Albert Park College.



Through your donations, Rotary continues to promote literacy, education and community well-being - one book at a time.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/donating-books-to-rotary/>

## Community Spirit

### Little litter legend

A young Port Phillip resident's love of litter picking has been recognised by our Council.

Isabelle, 8, was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Mayor Louise Crawford this month for her determined efforts in helping keep Albert Park clean and tidy.



It reads: "This certificate acknowledges your exceptional dedication to keeping our community clean and beautiful. Thank you for consistently picking up litter in our streets and public areas and for being an inspiring role model and valued part of a cleaner, healthier neighbourhood. Keep up the great work!"

Isabelle's mother Daisy said her daughter, who is neurodivergent, had also become agoraphobic and didn't want to venture outside their home.

"We were thinking about what would make her comfortable to go outside and Isabelle suggested litter picking," she said.

Armed with tongs and a bin bag, Isabelle has spent months making regular trips to pick up litter in Albert Park's public spaces, not stopping until the bag is full.

"She even wants to go out if it is raining," Daisy said.

Cr Crawford, who is a keen member of the Elwood Ploggers (who pick up rubbish while exercising), swapped litter collecting tips with Isabelle before presenting her with the certificate.

"I was so impressed with Isabelle's efforts and of all her ideas on how to encourage the community to do more to keep Port Phillip clean. Meeting her and chatting was an absolute pleasure," Cr Crawford said.

Isabelle is also passionate about ducks and brought along two toy ducks to show Cr Crawford.

She is keen to create posters incorporating ducks as the next phase of her community minded campaign to inspire others to pick up litter.

"Whenever you see litter on the ground, you should always pick it up, even if it's not yours. The environment will thank you for it later," Isabelle said.

In the meantime, her well-deserved certificate is displayed in pride of place in her bedroom.

## What's On



### Some Happy Day

St Kilda Library

Join us on 4 August from 12 to 2 pm for a screening of Some Happy Day as part of Homelessness Week.

Some Happy Day is an independent feature film set in St Kilda but also created with local community members, many of whom are directly affected by the themes of the film.

Some Happy Day follows Tina, a homeless woman, who meets Frances, a social worker with troubles of her own.

Over a single day their lives interweave, revealing unsettling



### Juliet reimagined

10 to 25 October, St Kilda

Early Bird tickets are on sale until 17 August for the Victorian non-professional premiere production & Juliet.

Find out what happens when Juliet chooses her own fate when CLOC Musical Theatre presents & Juliet at the National Theatre.

Re-imagining the greatest love story ever told, & Juliet flips the script and asks what would happen next if Juliet didn't end it all over Romeo?

To the soundtrack of Max Martin and Friends with iconic pop songs from the



### Houses at Parliament

4 to 8 August, St Kilda

Visit the Victorian Pride Centre, 81 Fitzroy Street, for a timely exhibition during Homelessness Week.

The Houses at Parliament exhibition is being held in partnership with the Southern Homelessness Services Network (SHSN).

Representatives from SHSN member agencies and lived experience working group members will staff the exhibition from 12 to 2 pm each day, assisting visitors to make an origami house to add to the interactive exhibition and answering

connections that lead to change and redemption.

This poignant and moving film brings awareness to the global social issue of homelessness.

Further details are on our Library Service 's website.

Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Kelly Clarkson, Jessie J, Bon Jovi and more, the only tragedy would be missing the show.

More details and bookings are on the CLOC website.

questions about homelessness.

The original origami house display used on the steps of Victorian Parliament House in the 2023 and 2024 campaigns will be part of the exhibition.

More information is available on the SHSN website.

Sign Up to What's On

## 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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