



DIVERCITY

Your guide to what's on and what's new across your City

June 2026



BALANCED 2026/27 BUDGET ADOPTED

On 29 June, our Council adopted balanced Budget 2026/27 which provides for the future while continuing to deliver the high-quality services, spaces and places our growing community expects today.

Careful financial management has allowed us to rollout initiatives including a significant \$123.1 million capital works program to maintain, grow and improve services and facilities - despite rising costs and continuing high inflation, on-going rate capping challenges and government cost-shifting.

Budget initiatives include:

- \$26 million on parks, open space and streetscapes, including \$530,000 towards the Sandridge Recreation Precinct in Fishermans Bend and new open space in Lakeside (\$450,000)
- further planning and development for places and precincts including precinct planning for Balaclava, Ripponlea and Lakeside/Domain areas with streetscape and open space works, additional greening at Acland Street Plaza, and place planning for Bay Street (\$360,000)
- \$20 million investment in essential infrastructure including road renewals and upgrades (\$3.6 million) and footpath renewals and expansion (\$1.6 million).
- targeted support for those who need it most, including supporting affordable housing and food relief
- more local laws patrols and additional CCTV
- addressing loneliness and isolation and promoting social connection.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/budget-202627-is-adopted/>

From The Mayor



LATEST FROM COUNCIL

Each year, our Council asks for your input before we adopt our budget, as it's one of the most important decisions we make for our City and community. We opened submissions early, starting November last year, with further input held during May when the draft budget was released.

Port Phillip is growing, and with that growth comes both opportunity and responsibility. Our 2026/27 Budget, adopted last night, is our answer to both. It is financially responsible, forward-looking and focused on building the city our community deserves, now and into the future.

This year hasn't been easy. Like every council across the country, we're navigating cost shifting, inflation and ongoing economic uncertainty. But we have not let those pressures narrow our ambition. Instead, we've made every dollar work harder toward the city we are building together.

At the heart of this budget is a significant \$123.1 million investment in capital works delivering real, tangible improvements that will shape Port Phillip for years to come. From upgraded open space and footpaths to strengthening our key precincts, community safety and improved community facilities, these investments reflect our commitment to a city that is fairer, more inclusive and ready for the future.

Thank you to everyone who shared feedback during our consultation. Your voice shapes how we invest in our shared future, and I encourage you to explore the budget and stay engaged throughout the year ahead.

Last week I attended the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National Assembly in Canberra, continuing our ongoing focus on community advocacy.

Port Phillip secured support for an increased focus on social cohesion, alongside calling for Commonwealth support on community infrastructure, sustainable transport and housing affordability. We were also invited to a session with the Capital City Councils, reinforcing Port Phillip's significance within central Melbourne.

On a lighter note, many of you will have seen the buzz around temporarily renaming St Kilda Beach to [Patrick Beach](#), a unique tribute to Socceroos goalkeeper Patrick Beach and Australia's remarkable FIFA World Cup campaign.

The initiative, delivered in partnership with Melbourne City FC, celebrated the Socceroos' qualification for the knockout stages and highlighted the strong connection

between Port Phillip, Melbourne City FC and Australia's national team.

The renaming has generated significant global attention, reinforcing Port Phillip as a key destination, while creating a fun and memorable way for our community to share in the excitement of Australia's World Cup success.

Like so many of you, I'll be cheering them on this Saturday. Go the green and gold!

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Alex Makin
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

City Snapshot



CURATED EATING ITINERARIES

This winter we're proud to be partnering with passionate Melbourne food journalist, restaurant critic and proud Southside local Dani Valent (pictured) to celebrate our City's incredible dining experiences.

Dani has created a City of Port Phillip Dining Guide, featuring six curated 'eating itineraries' showcasing must-visit spots and hidden gems across our neighbourhoods.

Having lived, written and dined here for more than 30 years, she brings a deep local knowledge - and it really shows. Where will you start?

- A beachy day: St Kilda to Elwood
- Port Melbourne makers
- The Big Corner: Inkerman, Barkly & Grey Street (St Kilda)
- Carlisle Street, Balaclava
- South Melbourne: day to night
- A leisurely day in Albert Park

<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/six-perfect-eating-adventures-dani-valents-dining-guide-to-city-of-port-phillip>



DREAM DAY AT THE BEACH

Our 2025/26 Accessible Beaches season has ended with smiles, splashes - and some dreams come true.

Over summer, people with mobility needs were able to enjoy our beautiful foreshore thanks to accessible beach matting and floating wheelchairs (Mobi-Chairs) at St Kilda and Port Melbourne beaches. (Matting only is always available at Elwood Beach.)

At St Kilda beach, visitors could also book an all-terrain powered wheelchair, with the added comfort if needed of a nearby Changing Places accessible toilet.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of the St Kilda and Port Melbourne Life Saving Clubs, whose volunteers brought energy, care and enthusiasm to every beach day. This season the program welcomed a record number of mobility chair bookings with the 50 per cent increase proof of how much these services matter. Increased assistance was also provided to organisations wishing to provide support to clients to access our beaches.

Achieve Your Dream Foundation founder Karen Major chose scenic St Kilda beach earlier this year as the place to make dreams come true for Rodney, Tamara and Robert.

Accompanied by Karen and other Foundation “dream makers” (volunteers), Tamara and Rodney experienced the simple joy of floating in the water in their Mobi-Chairs — relaxed and smiling from ear to ear. The trio also enjoyed “beach cruising” in the powered wheelchair.

“Our Foundation is passionate about great quality of life and fun experiences for people with disabilities,” Karen said.

“A beach day is a perfect example of making a dream possible for people who may have otherwise missed out on this joyful experience.”

For more information visit <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/beaches-parks-and-playgrounds/accessible-beaches>

To learn more about donating, volunteering or applying for a dream, go to <https://achieveyourdream.org.au> or contact Karen Major via karen.major@achieveyourdream.org.au



HELP PICK OUR PARKS

As part of the Victorian Government's Pick my Park's program, we've got three parks shortlisted in this round and we're asking our community to vote for much-needed upgrades to green spaces and playgrounds across the municipality.

This includes Cobden Place Park, South Melbourne, Graham Street Recreational Space, Port Melbourne and Jim Duggan Reserve Expansion, St Kilda.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/pick-my-park-vote-inner-melbourne>



FIFTY YEARS OF DEADLY

Fifty Years of Deadly is the theme of NAIDOC Week 2026 which celebrates five decades of First Peoples culture, community, contributions and voices.

To mark the beginning of NAIDOC Week, we'll be raising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at St Kilda Town Hall on Monday 6 July in partnership with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. Everyone is welcome to the ceremony on the front lawn from 11 am to 12 pm.

Read on to learn about other NAIDOC Week events across the community.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/celebrate-naidoc-week-2026-in-the-city-of-port-phillip/>

Have Your Say





YOUR VOICE SHAPES OUR CITY

Share your ideas on initiatives that support our communities to thrive, including a new Creative Strategy for arts, festivals and events, improved public spaces around South Melbourne Town Hall, updates and improvements in Ripponlea Village and a Multicultural Strategy to strengthen inclusion, belonging and cultural safety.

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

Sustainability



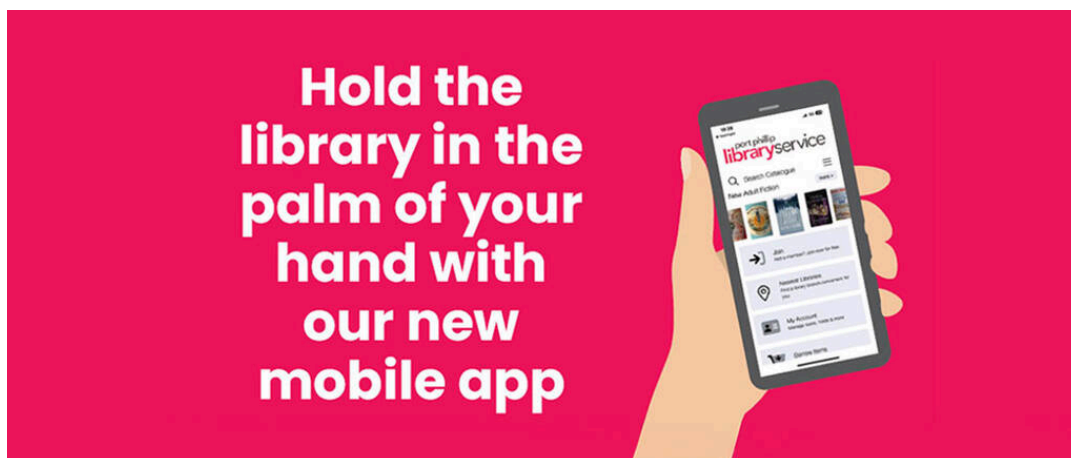
DITCH THE (FAKE) FISH

South Melbourne Market is turning the tide on single-use plastic by phasing out plastic soy sauce fish.

Known for its incredible fresh seafood, this is the latest Market initiative aimed at reducing waste and protecting the Bay. The ditched "fish" cannot be recycled and frequently end up in waterways or landfill.

<https://www.southmelbournemarket.com.au/news/ditch-the-fish/>

Library Visit



Hold the library in the palm of your hand with our new mobile app

MOBILE LIBRARY

Stay connected with the Port Phillip Library Service anytime, anywhere, with our user-friendly mobile app.

You can find your next read, explore our eBooks and eAudiobooks, discover programs and events, borrow items from your phone, renew your loans on the go and store your digital library card.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/introducing-your-new-library-app/>

Creative City



SHARED GROUND

"Shared Ground" brings together diverse works by the 15 talented local artists in residence at the Shakespeare Grove Artist Studios in St Kilda, a longstanding hub for creative practice in our City.

Explore this free exhibition at Carlisle Street Arts Space from 26 June to 24 July or book to join the free opening night celebrations on 1 July.

CSAS, at St Kilda Town Hall, is open 8.30 am to 5 pm on weekdays (closed on public holidays).

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/arts-and-entertainment/carlisle-street-arts-space/>

What's On



PORT OF CALL

Eat, drink, explore, repeat. From multi-sensory dining to an internationally renowned whisky distillery, you'll be spoilt for choice in Port Melbourne.

Find the guide at the What's On St Kilda and Southside website.



BUDGET BITES

There's more than 80 specials, covering every kind of cuisine and dining experience, across Acland and Fitzroy streets.

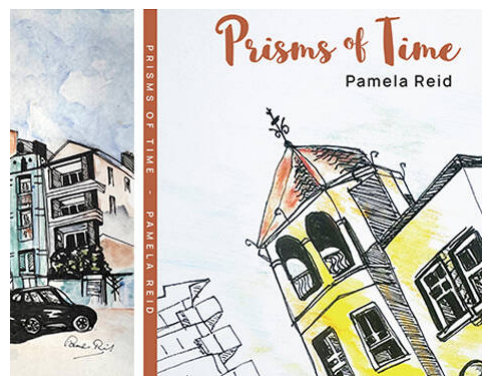
Full details on the Fitzroy Street website.



GUIDED WALKS

Our City's Guided Walks 2026-27 program is out, starting with a Shakespeare Grove guided tour and Open House guided walk in July.

Details are on Council's website.



BOOK LAUNCH

St Kilda artist Pamela Reid launches her "'Prisms of Time' 'urban abstract illustrations'" book on 25 July from 3 to 5 pm at Plume Gallery, Albert Park.

<https://plumegallery.com/pages/contact>

Council Corner



This email was sent by City of Port Phillip, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182, Australia to

CONNECTING WITH YOUR COUNCIL

Ahead of the 29 June meeting to adopt the 2026/27 budget and Year Two Plan for Port Phillip, Council met on 17 June to discuss [agendas](#) including adopting the Foreshore Management Plan and Accessibility Action Plan and to amend the Local Law so caravans, boats and trailers can only be stored on Council land for 14 out of every 60 days.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-17-june-2026/>

Meet your councillors

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/who-we-are/your-councillors/>

