



DIVERCITY

December 2025



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



Shining a light against hate

Victorian councils including Port Phillip are standing in solidarity with the Jewish community after the tragic terror attack at Bondi Beach.

This united voice was demonstrated by more than 80 per cent of Victoria's 79 councils taking up an invitation by the Cities of Port Phillip and Glen Eira, with the support of the Municipal Association of Victoria, to co-sign a joint statement against antisemitism.

The statement includes a pledge for councils to continue to bring people together, promote social cohesion and build inclusive communities.

In Port Phillip, the St Kilda Town Hall was illuminated in white and Australian flag flown at half-mast as a visible sign of respect and support.

Council officers have been working closely with police for local events and we are sharing resources with partner organisations and community members, including newsletters and information on mental health support, understanding antisemitism and cultural awareness.

From the Chamber

As we close out December, a time that is normally spent with friends and family has been overshadowed with sorrow and anguish.

This includes our own Jewish community who had terror arrive at their doors just over a year ago with the arson attack on the Adass Israel Synagogue and are now feeling the impacts of the recent terror attack at Bondi Beach.



The City of Port Phillip, alongside our neighbours at Glen Eira City Council, led the local government response in mourning the 15 innocent lives lost in the Bondi Beach mass shootings.

We invited other councils and mayors to show their support for our Jewish community by standing in solidarity against hate and antisemitism. The result was a joint statement unequivocally supported across local government in Victoria. You can read the joint statement at:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/mayors-and-councils-stand-in-solidarity-against-antisemitism/>

Alongside our leadership across local government, we also reinforced our support by illuminating St Kilda Town Hall and flying the Australian flag at half-mast across our three Town Halls. These very visible symbols of support show we stand with everyone profoundly impacted by the horrific terror attack on the first night of Hanukkah.

Hanukkah's message is that light will always overcome darkness. Let's continue to share the timeless messages of love and inclusion and make sure we shine a light on darkness when it strikes.

At our last Council meeting this year on 10 December, we endorsed two significant roadmaps to guide how we will support our community over the coming years.

Together, the new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy 2025-35 and Community Safety Plan 2025-29 will help us shape a City where everyone feels safe, welcome and supported.

I encourage everyone to take a look at how we will be tackling these complex challenges through partnerships with a range of agencies, local service providers and Victoria Police.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to these and our many other community consultations over 2025. We greatly value your feedback and are keen to hear what you think about a range of topics, including how we allocate the budget for the year ahead.

I would also like to thank everyone who spoke or attended a Council meeting. Your active participation helps us shape decisions and I thank you for your dedication to our community and the causes you represent.

We have opened our budget submissions early this year so you can have greater impact in shaping our funding priorities for the year ahead. Please share your budget and project ideas by 1 February.

Our work next year also includes our four-year Multicultural Strategy to help strengthen inclusion, belonging and cultural safety in Port Phillip. The importance of this Strategy cannot be understated, and I look forward to Council continuing to support an inclusive and cohesive community.

We will also be progressing our Community Infrastructure Plan, which will help us plan and deliver the facilities we need in the future, including libraries, multi-purpose community centres, maternal and child health services and arts and cultural spaces. This plan will be integral to not only meeting the growth forecast for Fishermans Bend, but also across Port Phillip as we ensure our community has places to meet, build connections and flourish.

We'll also be turning our attention to advocating on behalf of our community as the

Victorian State Election approaches. Your feedback on what you would like delivered, helps build the evidence base to support our advocacy to State Government.

Lastly, with summer underway, we will see more days of warm weather. Please join us in playing your part for a safe and fun summer in our City over the warmer months by not littering, following alcohol bans and being respectful to those around you at our beautiful public spaces.

We are Proudly Port Phillip, and we continue to stand in solidarity with our community over the New Year and beyond.

Cr Alex Makin
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/housing-and-homelessness/>

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/community-safety/>

<https://cityofportphillip-4.snapforms.com.au/form/advocacy-community-engagement-survey>

City News

Charge it!

Residents, workers and visitors in Port Phillip will soon be able to access our first pole-mounted public charging electric vehicle (EV) stations.

Three of these chargers were installed in December in Herbert Street, Elwood, Chaucer Street, St Kilda, and Liardet Street, Port Melbourne. They're expected to be activated by the provider, EVX, early next year.



The EVX app, which can be downloaded now, will issue an alert when the 22 kiloWatt chargers are switched on and ready to use.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/charging-ahead/>

Excellence by design

Design excellence across Port Phillip will again be celebrated with nominations opening soon for the 2026 Design and Development Awards.

The biennial event is being held as part of the Melbourne Design Week program.



City of Port Phillip presents the awards to showcase and recognise innovative and imaginative designs which add to the City's diverse and distinctive streets and spaces.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/2026-design-and-development-awards-nominations-opening-soon/>

Key milestones achieved for South Melbourne Town Hall

The redevelopment of South Melbourne Town Hall continues to progress, with several key

milestones achieved and exciting works underway.

The slate roof on the east-south and west annexes of the building had reached the end of its life. It's now been meticulously replaced and is expected to last for 50 years or more.



We have commenced seismic roof strengthening in the Main Hall area – installing steel beams to protect against events such as earthquakes and tremors. We're also completing roof strengthening in the Main Hall's trusses and roof structure.

Looking ahead, we are on track to commence conservation works including seismic strengthening of the Clock Tower in early 2026.

Once this building has been completely restored and renovated, it will sport a brand new 150-seat venue that will sit alongside the existing, re-imagined 350-seat Main Hall. The building will become a multi-functional space capable of hosting a wide range of events from performances and weddings to meetings and school speech nights. It will also be a secure home for ANAM.

This major restoration is expected to be completed in late 2027, and the building will be publicly accessible in 2028.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/south-melbourne-town-hall-restoration-update/>

Christmas Day feasts and snacks

Not in the mood to cook on Christmas Day?

There's plenty of options to enjoy a Christmas lunch at select St Kilda and Southside venues.

For a more casual outing, check which spots are open for coffee, food and drinks.



<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/whats-on-and-whats-open-on-christmas-day>

Holiday season services

There will be some changes to waste and recycling collections and to our service desk operating hours during the festive season.

There will also be adjusted hours at our libraries, with branches closed at some times.



<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/service-changes-this-holiday-season/>

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/summer-opening-hours/>

Beat the heat

Now the weather is hotting up, it's a good time to think about how to beat the summer heat.

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast above average temperatures for most of Victoria, including the City of Port Phillip, for this summer season.

Read on for tips about how to stay safe when it's sweltering.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/health-and-safety/emergencies-and-extreme-weather/extreme-weather-heatwaves/>



Play your part over summer

Our summer management campaign is in full swing.

You can help us ensure that our shared spaces remain safe, clean and fun for everyone over the busy summer period by following our alcohol and glass bans, dog restrictions and not littering.



The annual St Kilda foreshore alcohol ban runs from 1 November until 31 March. There are also public holiday-specific citywide alcohol bans including New Year's (8 pm 30 December to 12 midday 2 January).

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/health-and-safety/play-your-part/>

Planning for Port Phillip

In June 2025, our Council adopted the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035. We're now planning for Year 2 and want to make sure it still reflects what matters most to you and your neighbourhood.

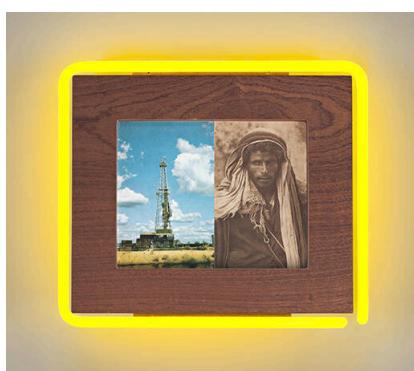


If you or your group have a great idea or know of something in Port Phillip that could be improved, we'd love to hear from you by 1 February 2026.

Now is the best time to submit your ideas – early submissions have the greatest chance of being included in the draft budget, rather than in April as you have done previously.

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

Arts in Focus



Calling visual arts experts



Seekers Way

Are you expert in the visual arts and keen to provide advice about our Council's acquisitions?

We are seeking nominations for new members of our Art Acquisition Reference Group which provides recommendations, advice and feedback about visual arts acquisitions.

Nominations for these volunteer positions are open until midnight 28 December 2025.

Applicants must live or work in Port Phillip and meet eligibility and selection criteria.

Meetings are held quarterly (exceptional meetings as necessary).

<https://cityofportphilip-4.snapforms.com.au/form/art-acquisition-reference-committee-eoi>

A member of The Seekers, Bruce Woodley, was on hand for the official launch of "Seekers Way" in St Kilda – a street renamed to honour the iconic Australian band.

Formed in 1962, The Seekers were the first Australian pop band to climb the charts in The United Kingdom and United States.

Seekers Way was born from a decision by our Council to rename Nelson Street in St Kilda.

This was to avoid confusion with another Nelson Street. It is home to a house which the Seekers used as a base to meet and rehearse.

<https://www.portphilip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/seek-and-ye-shall-find/>

Help Shape our City



Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say website](#) at <https://haveyoursay.portphilip.vic.gov.au> for updates on projects which are open for community feedback and to access all of the below. [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

Shape our budget: We're now planning our budget for the year ahead and we want to make sure it reflects what matters most to you and your neighbourhood. [Submit your idea by Sunday 1 February 2026](#)

Project updates

We asked for your feedback on these projects. These policies and strategies have now been finalised and adopted by Council:

- [Making it easier to have your say](#) – On 3 December, Council adopted a new Community Engagement Policy.
- [Feel Safe. Be Safe](#) – On 10 December, Council adopted the new Community Safety Plan.
- [Homelessness and Affordable Housing](#) - On 10 December, Council adopted the new Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy.

Sustainability

O, Christmas tree

When you're ready to dispose of your real Christmas tree, it's important to do so responsibly.

If you live in a house or townhouse, you have several options including booking a hard / green waste collection.

You can also cut the tree into pieces and pop them into your FOGO bin or drop the tree off at our Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) free of charge. Apartment or unit block residents can also book a hard/green waste collection or go to the RRC. We request you to not use our FOGO communal hubs as the trees take up a lot of space.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/how-to-dispose-of-your-christmas-tree/>

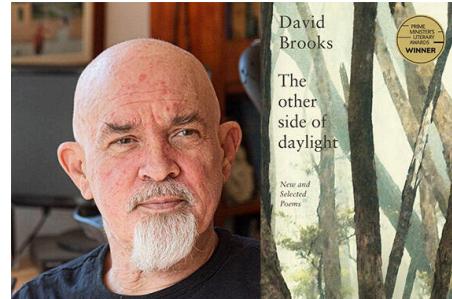


Library Visit

Brooks' books

Join us at Emerald Hill Library on Thursday 29 January for a special evening of poetry from renowned Australian author David Brooks.

The free evening will begin with a short performance by local poet Michael Crane before Brooks reads.



Brooks' latest collection of poems, *The Other Side of Daylight*, was awarded the 2025 Prime Minister's Award for Poetry. Bookings are required.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/david-brooks-poetry-reading/> or call 9209 6655.

Community Spirit

Accessible beaches

Our Accessible Beaches program is back until April, ensuring that people of all abilities can experience the joy of our iconic foreshore.

The initiative provides residents and visitors with free access to beach matting, floating beach wheelchairs (St Kilda and Port Melbourne), and an all-terrain powered beach wheelchair (St Kilda) throughout the summer season.



These services are designed for people with permanent or temporary disabilities, or reduced mobility, and are supported by the dedicated teams at St Kilda and Port Melbourne Life Saving Clubs.

For more information, and to make a free booking, visit:

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

Get gardening

The Pakington Street Community Gardens Group is a great way to grow friendships and produce.

New members are welcome to help plant, maintain and harvest produce beds in Pakington Street Reserve, St Kilda.



Members gather on the first Sunday of each month from 2 to 4 pm. No special skills are required and all knowledge is shared. A horticulturist is available if help is needed.

Children are welcome at the casual get-togethers which are also open to community members wanting to join the fun without gardening. For more information, email andrewfoster@tpg.com.au

What's On



Bird's-eye view

Until 26 April 2026

The Skyline Ferris wheel is back at Catani Gardens, St Kilda.

City of Port Phillip residents receive a 30 per cent discount on ticket box prices by presenting any form of ID showing their address.

Tickets can be snapped up on-site at the ticket box or online.

Come along and take in the breath-taking views of the St Kilda foreshore, new pier and city with unparalleled views.

Go to Skyline Attractions' website for details.



Happy New Year

New Year's Eve

With epic views of Melbourne's rooftop fireworks and a huge range of events, St Kilda and Southside is the place to be on New Year's Eve.

Choose from beachside dance parties, rooftop celebrations, live gigs, fine dining, casual drinks and even a 2025-themed trivia night!

Republica turns up the tempo with a house music takeover, while The Emerson brings R&B vibes to Captain Baxter. Kick off the night with complimentary drinks from 5 pm to 6 pm for all ticket holders, then dance your way into 2026.

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



Midsumma

18 January to 8 February 2026

Come along to our Council's stall at the Midsumma Carnival at Alexandra Gardens on 18 January,

Our annual flag raising ceremony for the Midsumma Festival is outside the St Kilda Town Hall at 4 pm on 27 January.

And Fitzroy Street will be transformed into a sea of colour on 1 February for the Midsumma Pride March, proudly supported by our Council.

Check out the Midsumma program for the huge range of events, there is something for every colour of the rainbow.

Go to the What's On St Kilda website for more information.

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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