



DIVERCITY

March 2026



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



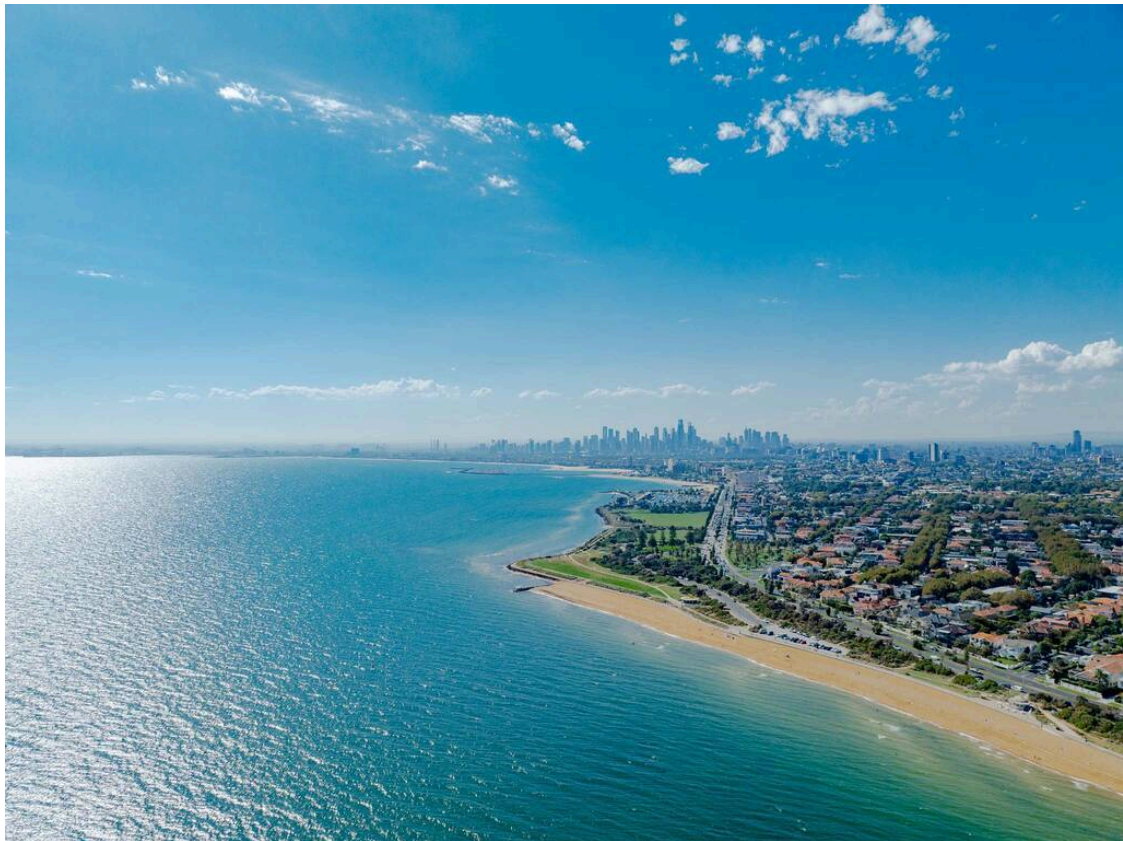
LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



Victorian Election one-stop-shop

We've launched our online Victorian election hub highlighting community and Council advocacy asks and to track candidates' election commitments in the lead up to the 28 November State Election.

The election hub allows all parties and candidates to easily identify priority projects, services and policy ideas that will benefit Port Phillip. Similarly, the hub empowers residents to track election commitments as they're rolled out.

Content will be updated regularly in the lead-up to the election so our community has a transparent, timely view of what has been promised across our City.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/one-stop-shop-for-election-candidates-and-community/>

From the Chamber

While we're always advocating for our community, this has been a particularly busy month for building awareness on issues that we know matter deeply to our community.

We've launched an [online Victorian election hub](#) ahead of the November poll so candidates and parties can easily be across what our fast-growing City needs.



The election hub also tracks election commitments as they're rolled out. A form to contact candidates directly is part of this one-stop portal and I invite you to join us in keeping the needs of our community front and centre before and during the Victorian State Election campaign.

The 4 March Council Meeting included a request by Council calling on the Victorian Government to implement the state's first acoustic noise camera trial at a local honking hotspot in Port Melbourne. We understand affected residents' frustration at being regularly disturbed by noisy vehicles and are continuing to advocate on their behalf to deter hoon behaviour.

We also reinforced our advocacy for much-needed public transport improvements to better connect our community to homes, jobs, schools and other activities across Port Phillip. Included in this list were essential bus frequency upgrades to bus route 606, which connects every locality across our community from Fishermans Bend and Port Melbourne through to St Kilda and Elwood.

This bus route experiences overcrowding during the day, while also having some of the lowest weekend service frequencies within inner Melbourne.

Furthermore, we reiterated the need for the missing Park Street tram link, which would link South Melbourne to Anzac Station and alleviate traffic pressures experienced during the Australian Grand Prix.

Planning and delivering for our growing community is vital, which is why at our 18 March Council Meeting we endorsed the release of our draft Community Infrastructure Plan for community engagement.

The Community Infrastructure Plan identifies key community needs and opportunities, supported by an evidence-based approach to keep pace with our growing and changing population. Now is your opportunity to shape this vision, so please take part and have your say to guide the evolution of Port Phillip.

At the same meeting, we also endorsed seven motions for the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Conference calling for the Victorian Government to strengthen council-led social cohesion initiatives, invest in public transport and to establish a statewide multi-year beach renourishment program.

A further advocacy avenue is our representation in the Melbourne 9 (M9) alliance. In partnership with eight other inner-city councils, we're working on shaping the future of Melbourne's inner metropolitan region, including a collaborative approach to community safety, given that many of these issues transcend council boundaries. The combined approach between Councils will enhance our response and support the work of both

service providers and other agencies.

I'd like to sign off by thanking the passionate community members who contributed to this month's adoption of the Elster Creek Catchment Action Plan.

The Plan's coordinated and collaborative approach to reducing litter, improving water quality and protecting biodiversity across the catchment shows how councils and communities can kick goals together.

It's a wonderful example of how advocacy can achieve real change. As a community we need to continue working in partnership to achieve other advocacy wins as the election approaches.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Alex Makin
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

City News

Checking in with our community

Throughout March and April, we're conducting our annual Community Satisfaction Survey to better understand your experiences with our services and facilities and identify where we can improve.



This year we've engaged two research providers – Klein Research and Metropolis Research – to carry out the survey. Researchers may contact you either by telephone or in person by knocking on your door, selected through random sample. Participation is voluntary and confidential, and we encourage you to share your thoughts.

Our researchers will identify themselves at the start of the call or when they visit your home. For in-person surveys, researchers will carry identification, which we encourage you to check. They will also carry a signed authority letter advising the survey is legitimate and not a scam.

A total of 1,300 Port Phillip residents will be surveyed, with each survey taking approximately 5 to 15 minutes to complete. Your personal details and individual responses are strictly confidential, and only the overall results will be shared with us.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/we-re-knocking-on-doors-to-hear-what-matters-most-to-you/>

Elster Creek Action Plan

Councils, agencies and community across Melbourne's south-east have united to tackle one of the most persistent urban environmental challenges, launching a coordinated, catchment-wide approach to litter reduction in the Elster Creek Catchment.

Glen Eira, Port Phillip and Bayside councils — working in partnership with Melbourne Water, EPA Victoria and local community stakeholders — have developed the Elster

Creek Litter Action Plan, a practical, evidence-informed framework to reduce litter, improve water quality and protect biodiversity across the catchment.

Litter is a significant contributor to blocked drainage infrastructure, localised flooding, waterway pollution and harm to wildlife. By addressing the issue at a catchment scale, the Plan moves beyond council boundaries to deliver co-ordinated action where it has the greatest impact.



The Plan combines education and behaviour change initiatives with targeted infrastructure improvements. It also formalises support for council-led and community clean-ups, strengthens data collection and monitoring to track progress, and embeds circular economy principles to reduce waste at the source.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/action-plan-for-elster-creek-catchment-litter-reduction/>

Acoustic camera call

Our Council is urging the Victorian Government to implement the state's first acoustic noise camera trial at a local hooning hotspot.

The call for a trial under a partnership between Council, Victoria Police and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) was adopted at a March council meeting.



An acoustic camera captures exhaust noise levels along with audio and visual data. This information can be used by the EPA to decide whether to issue a Vehicle Testing Notice after confirming a vehicle has breached regulated noise levels.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/acoustic-camera-call-to-put-the-brakes-on-hoons/>

Market's new mission

South Melbourne Market has always been more than a place to shop — it is a living expression of community, culture and connection.

We're excited to share the new South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which sets out where this iconic market is heading over the next five years.



<https://www.southmelbournemarket.com.au/news/launching-the-markets-five-year-strategic-plan/>

Cultural connection

Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities, and all Victorians are invited to participate through a variety

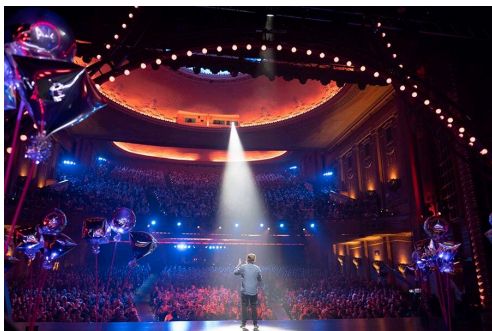
of in-person events and activities.

This year to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week we're sharing four stories from four different walks of life to highlight the connections that bring us together.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/culture-connects-us-all/>



Arts in Focus



Have a laugh locally

You don't have to travel far to catch a show at this year's Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

The always anticipated annual event runs from 25 March to 19 April.

A rich mix of stand-up comedy, cabaret, theatre, street performances and more are on offer.

From belly laughs with Urzila Carlson at the Palais Theatre to chaotic science experiments at Gasworks, here's our guide to the best comedy shows in the South.

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



Affordable studio spaces

Affordable studio spaces are opening up at Shakespeare Grove Artist Studios in St Kilda.

Managed by our Council, the seven studios will become available between 2026 and early 2027.

Visual artists living or working in the City of Port Phillip are encouraged to apply before 4 pm, Thursday 26 March.

The studios are for local visual artists looking to develop their practices and to contribute to the cultural life of our City.

Details:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/arts-and-entertainment/shakespeare-grove-artist-studios/>

Help Shape our City



Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say website](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au) at haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au for updates on projects which are open for community feedback and feedback received on a range of projects. You can also [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

- **Community Amenity Local Law 2026:** We're proposing changes to the Community Amenity Local Law to guide how Council responds to encampments on Council land while supporting people and maintaining public amenity. [Share your feedback by **Sunday 29 March 2026.**](#)
- **Building Our Future: Draft Community Infrastructure Plan 2026:** Review the draft plan that guides how we plan and deliver community infrastructure like libraries, community centres and health services. [Share your feedback by **Sunday 19 April.**](#)
- **The Swish Experiment:** Tell us what you think about the trial of the new Infinet basketball hoop at JL Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne. [Share your feedback by **Sunday 19 April 2026.**](#)
- **Port Melbourne Beach toilet upgrade:** Help shape the look and feel of the new, modern and accessible Port Melbourne Beach toilet facility, including artwork and design elements. [Share your feedback by **Sunday 3 May.**](#)
- **Our Coastal Future:** We've drafted a new Foreshore Management Plan for Port Phillip. [Tell us what you think by **Sunday 3 May 2026.**](#)

Project updates

We asked for your feedback on these projects. Read about what we heard and what's next:

- [Yani Barripbarripuyt](#)
- [Elster Creek Litter Action Plan](#)
- [Alexandra Street, St Kilda East, Green Corridor](#)
- [New park on Lansdowne Road, St Kilda East](#)
- [Clarke Reserve play space upgrade, Elwood](#)
- [Supporting Positive Ageing in Port Phillip](#)

Sustainability

Raise a glass

You can now drop off glass bottles and jars at our Resource Recovery Centre in South Melbourne.

Separating glass from other recyclables helps us maximise the amount of glass we can recycle.

Our [communal glass](#) and [FOGO hubs](#) continue to operate. On average, they receive nearly nine tonnes of glass per month.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/glass-recycling-at-the-resource-recovery-centre/>



Library Visit

Don't take the fall

Did you know a third of people over 65 experience a fall at least once a year, often in and around the home.

Bolton Clarke's free Falls Prevention community information session at our Port Melbourne library on 2 April from 11 am to 12 pm will show you practical ways to reduce the risk of falls and stay active and independent for longer.



Everyone who attends will receive helpful take-home resources, including simple exercises to improve strength, mobility and balance.

Bookings via: <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/falls-prevention-with-bolton-clarke/> or call 9209 6882.

Community Spirit

Net a discount

Did you know Melbourne Mavericks Netball is using the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park as their central hub for training, recovery and game preparation?

Their new home base seems to be paying off, with the Mavericks recently winning their opening match of the season.

The Port Phillip community is eligible for a 20 per cent discounted membership by entering the code PORTPHILLIP20 via <https://bit.ly/4uzl1xh>



<https://melbournemavericks.memberlink.net.au/memberhome>

Going green

South Melbourne Sustainability Group is running free gardening workshops, supported by our Council.

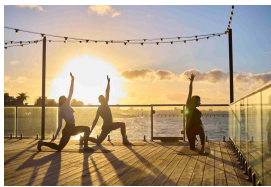
The workshops will be held bi-monthly on the first Saturday in April, June, August, October and December at Foundry Park Community Garden, corner of Gardner Place and Park Place, South Melbourne, from 10 am to 11 am.



Covering topics including edible flowers, growing vegetables from seeds and know your weeds, the Square Metre Sustainability Series has plenty to interest all types of gardeners.

To learn more visit South Melbourne Sustainability Group on Facebook or email foundationgardens@gmail.com

What's On



Wellness hub

Sunday 19 April, Port Melbourne

The Blue Mind Wellness Day features 18 facilitators, four active spaces and three community activations across the Port Melbourne Yacht Club and The Chandlery.

The day blends yoga, pilates, qi gong, meditation, breathwork, art conversations, ocean dips, ice baths and social connection — all just steps from the bay.

Beyond Blue will receive \$5 from every full-priced ticket as well as the raffle proceeds.

Community focussed activities include a free 8 am ocean dip with the Port Melbourne Icebergs



Elwood eats

With its picturesque beachside location and charming village ambiance, Elwood serves up exceptional dining and drinking experiences any time of day.

Discover quality brunch spots with top-notch coffee, all-day dining on the foreshore, and hidden bars loved by the locals.

There's also a wide range of globally-inspired dinner options from South American, Greek and Italian to modern Australian and more.

Whether it's on the beach, Ormond Road or beyond, and cafe and brunch spots, our guide has Elwood covered.



Puppet masters

8 to 11 April, Gasworks, Albert Park

The Riddle of Washpool Gully is the perfect adventure for families.

Combining old-fashioned storytelling with contemporary puppetry and exquisite miniature sets, The Riddle of Washpool Gully is a visually stunning and deeply imaginative theatre experience.

An AUSLAN-interpreted performance will take place on Saturday 11 April, including a tactile tour prior to the performance.

Creative workshop bookings have opened for youngsters aged 10+ for 9 and 10 April.

and discover sailing tour with the Yacht Club.

Go to the yacht club yoga website for full details.

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

Tickets via the Gasworks website.

Your Councillors



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Alma Ward
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Cr Libby Buckingham
Balaclava Ward
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Cr Louise Crawford
Elwood Ward
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Cr Bryan Mears
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