



DIVERCITY

January 2026



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



Two days of free summer fun at St Kilda Festival

Australia's largest community festival will soon bring two days of free festivities and amazing live music to the scenic St Kilda foreshore and surrounds. Proudly presented by our Council, St Kilda Festival's dynamic two-day format includes headliners BARKAA, Jessica Mauboy, Mental as Anything and Sneaky Sound System.

First Peoples First gets the party started on Saturday 14 February with a stellar celebration of First People's music, culture and community including a sunset ceremony.

Big Festival Sunday follows on 15 February with top live Australian music, dance performances, carnival rides and fun games, workshops, food and market stalls, extended

business trading, roving entertainment and a dedicated family-friendly stage, plus activities for the whole family to celebrate the new season of Australian Survivor: Redemption, coming to 10 soon.

Come along to see a well-loved act and stay to discover new favourites. St Kilda Festival has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia.

<https://www.stkildafestival.com.au>



Port Phillip full of pride for annual Midsumma Festival

Port Phillip will be proudly home to some of the best and biggest Midsumma events when the hugely popular festival celebrates diversity and inclusion from 18 January to 8 February.

From theatre, cabaret and visual arts to parties, community events and, of course, the iconic Midsumma Pride March down St Kilda's Fitzroy Street, there is something for every colour of the rainbow. Our Council's participation includes a stall at the Midsumma Carnival at Alexandra Gardens on 18 January.

Everyone is invited to a ceremony for the raising of inclusive rainbow and trans pride flags on the front lawn of St Kilda Town Hall on 27 January at 4 pm.

Parade, pride and party come together on 1 February from 10.30 am at the Pride March. Our Council is again a proud supporter of this iconic event which draws over 50,000 people. A post-March party kicks off after the main event in Catani Gardens.

<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/everything-you-need-to-do-at-midsumma>

City News

Pitch perfect

Two upgraded sports grounds at JL Murphy Reserve have been officially opened.

Mayor Alex Makin was joined by Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor and representatives from Middle Park Football Club and Port Melbourne Soccer Club to celebrate the milestone.

As the largest Council-managed sporting precinct, JL Murphy Reserve is a vital hub for sport, recreation and community connection. Our Council has invested \$5 million in upgrading two sports grounds, with additional support of \$275,000 from the Victorian Government.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/pitch-perfect-ji-murphy-reserve-pitches-officially-launched/>



Summer fun

An epic summer event season has kicked off for St Kilda and beyond.

From live music events to outdoor cinema, vibrant cultural celebrations and the iconic St Kilda Festival, mark these dates in your diary.



<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/essential-summer-events-in-st-kilda-and-southside>

Bushfire relief

City of Port Phillip stands with the communities who have been affected by the recent fires that have impacted much of the state.

Read on to learn how you can donate, including to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/january-2026-victoria-bushfires/>



Alcohol ban over Australia Day break

A City-wide alcohol ban applies across Port Phillip's public spaces from 8 pm 25 January to 12 midday 27 January.

The annual St Kilda foreshore alcohol ban, which started on 1 November, continues until 31 March.

These bans are enforced by Victoria Police with support from our Local Law officers. Breaching the ban risks a \$204 fine.



Arts in Focus



Feeling the blues

The St Kilda Blues Festival is back, better than ever.

This free venue-based showcase of local, national and international acts will be delighting blues lovers from Friday 27 February to Sunday 1 March.

Come along to experience more than 40 bands/artists at over 70 gigs along Acland and Fitzroy streets and the Blessington St Precinct.

Roaming street performers add to the festive atmosphere.

This event is proudly supported by our Council.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy fantastic venues as well as amazing acts.

Full details at:

<https://stkildabluesfestival.com.au>

Teaming up for art

Artist team Dagmar Cyrulla and Eolo Paul Bottaro has been appointed to create the sculpture of prominent First Nations activist Louisa Briggs.

The artists were selected for their combined creative strengths and depth of research in a competitive selection process led by N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs and the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council.

The sculpture is funded through the Victorian Government's Victorian Women in Public Art Program in partnership with McLlland.

This celebration of a remarkable legacy is due to be installed this year at the St Kilda foreshore.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/projects-and-works/louisa-briggs-sculpture/>

Help Shape our City

Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say website](#) at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au> for updates on projects which are open for community feedback. [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

Help shape how we allocate the budget: In June 2025, our Council adopted the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035. We're now in the next phase – Year 2 – and want to make sure it still reflects what matters most to our community.

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

Your ideas will be considered as we develop our budget and can help make our neighbourhoods safer, friendlier, and better for everyone.

Submit your idea by 1 February 2026.

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

Sustainability

Making the switch

We're proud to work in partnership with businesses to help them reduce costs, cut emissions and operate more sustainably.

One of the programs making a real difference is CitySwitch – a free initiative supported by our Council which helps commercial office tenants reduce their environmental footprint.



Read on to learn how South Melbourne based architecture firm Baenziger Coles achieved zero net carbon emissions with support from CitySwitch.

[https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/local-business-leads-the-way-to-netzero-with-support-from-cityswitch/](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/local-business-leads-the-way-to-net-zero-with-support-from-cityswitch/)

Library Visit

Classic Kitchens

Pop into the Port Phillip Heritage Centre (Emerald Hill Library) for a fascinating exhibit about one of Port Melbourne's most iconic factories.

While John Kitchen and Sons used a number of titles over the years, it was always "Kitchens" to Port Melbourne residents.

From the 1860s to early 21st century, the factory was one of the largest employers of labour in the district. The exhibit provides insights into factory life, employee welfare, innovation and industry until 24 March.

<https://library.portphilip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/heritage-exhibition-working-life-in-port-melbourne-john-kitchen-sons-1859-2013/>



Community Spirit

Equipment fund grants

The Toyota Equipment Fund is back, supporting local not-for-profit organisations and community groups with grants of up to \$2000 to help purchase essential equipment.

This funding can help strengthen community programs and improve the services that support people across Port Phillip.



Applications open 27 January 2026.

<https://www.portphilip.vic.gov.au/toyota-equipment-fund/>

What's On



Tennis time

January 2026

Can't get enough of tennis this summer? There's plenty of beach tennis to play and watch in St Kilda.

The Beach Tennis Summer Classic hits the sand from 21 to 22 January, showcasing Australia's top beach



Art incubator

Until 6 February, 2026

Our Summer Artist Incubator is the inaugural pop-up artist studio program at the Carlisle St Art Space, St Kilda Town Hall.

The program transforms the gallery into free temporary studio space for a 12-week residency.



Foodie Fare

Monthly, Fitzroy Street

Come along to the Fitzroy Street Business Association's Foodie Fare on the third Sunday of every month for delicious fresh and homemade foods.

You'll find a seasonal, changing mix of stalls including fruit and veg,

tennis players in a fast-paced, team-based format.

Then from 23 to 25 January, the Victoria Beach Tennis Open takes over - an ITF Beach Tennis World Tour event open to both professional and amateur players. It's a fantastic chance to compete or simply enjoy the action on Melbourne's iconic foreshore.

Full details at the Victoria Beach Tennis website.

The gallery remains open to the public for viewing throughout the program, providing an opportunity to see the artist's work in progress, learn about their processes, and meet the artists when they are in the studio.

Opening hours are 8.30 am to 5 pm on week days (closed public holidays).

More information is on our Council's website.

meat, cheese, sweets, tea, oils, sauces, jams, fresh bread, plants, homemade pet foods and more.

Next dates: 18 January, 15 February, 15 March and 19 April from 9 am to 1 pm.

The market runs along the Fitzroy Street footpath, from 149 Fitzroy Street (Rye & Dough) up towards the Junction.

Extra information is on the Fitzroy Street website.

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
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