



# DIVERCITY

November 2025



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY  
VISIT



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



## Meet your new Mayor Alex Makin

Montague Ward Councillor Alex Makin (pictured left) is Port Phillip Council's new Mayor.

Councillor Bryan Mears (Lakeside Ward) will continue as Deputy Mayor following a Special Council Meeting to elect both office bearers for 2025-26.

"This is a time for Councillors to be bold. We have such great opportunities for our City. We need to build on what we have already established together so tomorrow can be even better than today," Mayor Makin said.

Cr Makin plans to meet with a range of peak organisations to help inform the roadmap under development for Port Phillip "to be the best municipality it can be".

“We’re going to have an exciting year, a year of challenges, but together we can achieve wonderful things,” he said.

“This is a time for Councillors to be bold. We have such great opportunities for our City. We need to build on what we have already established together so tomorrow can be even better than today.”

This included tackling challenges from climate change to continuing to advocate for Fishermans Bend to be set up for success through measures including the delivery of timely public transport.

Cr Mears said he would continue to focus on his ward as well as the needs of the wider Port Phillip community.

He praised the dedication and resilience of outgoing Mayor Louise Crawford, whose efforts were also commended by Cr Makin.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/meet-our-councils-new-mayor-alex-makin/>



## Play your part for a safe summer

Our annual summer management campaign is underway, including an alcohol ban along the St Kilda foreshore.

In force until 31 March, the ban covers beaches, foreshore reserves and parklands from Langridge Street to Thackeray Street and includes opened and unopened containers of alcohol.

Alcohol can still be enjoyed responsibly in non-glass containers outside the St Kilda foreshore precinct between midday and 8 pm - except when City-wide alcohol bans apply across the key public holiday periods of New Year's and Australia Day and during some major events.

Victoria Police will again be enforcing alcohol bans with support from our Local Laws Officers. Alcohol ban breaches attract a \$204 fine and alcohol can be confiscated.

## From the Chamber

It's an honour to be chosen as your Mayor, as we enter the second year of this term of Council.

My first formal event as Mayor was presiding over our largest Citizenship Ceremony to date, where we welcomed 241 new Australians to the City of Port Phillip. We pride ourselves on our diversity and inclusiveness and it is wonderful to welcome so many new Australians into our City.



At the 19 November Council Meeting we unanimously adopted our Don't Waste It! Waste and recycling strategy which will guide us over the next four years as we tackle ways of reducing waste – and its impact on our environment.

Business as usual simply isn't an option – we need to manage increasing waste volumes while also implementing the Victorian Government's mandatory four-stream waste and recycling system.

In a further waste theme, our dog waste bag trial has kicked off at 12 public sites. Please do still carry your own dog waste bags, but this trial gives a backup option in case your dog needs to answer the call of nature.

We also completed our review of our advisory committees, so they support inclusive engagement and good governance. At the Meeting, we endorsed a Council Committee Framework where we will continue to receive insights on topics from art and business to issues touching the LGBTQIA+ community, older residents, multicultural communities and young people. We will also establish a Disability Advisory Committee providing additional opportunities to share lived experiences.

We had a special moment in the Chamber where Council, alongside our Port Phillip Multifaith Network (PPMN) received the Victorian Interfaith Networks Message Stick. Receiving the Message Stick confirms that our Council and the PPMN will be co-hosts for the 2026 Victorian Interfaith Networks Festival.

We last hosted the Victorian Interfaith Networks Festival in 2011, so it is wonderful that returns to us in 2026. We are proud to be able to promote cultural understanding and community inclusion through this major event.

We are entering summer, meaning our annual summer management campaign is in full swing. We rely on everyone to play their part in helping us keep our beautiful City clean and safe – full details are in this issue of *Diversity*.

With summer comes the holiday season, so stay tuned for the countless events, markets and shopping opportunities available. *Diversity* includes a range of fun – and often free – opportunities for those wanting to dive headfirst into the festivities.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Alex Makin  
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

## A doggy "do"

We've installed dog waste bag dispensers in high-traffic areas across Port Phillip as part of a new trial to keep our public spaces clean, safe and inviting.

Our Tidy Walks trial makes it easier to be a responsible pet owner, with 12 waste bag dispensers installed in convenient locations such as parks, shopping precincts and near veterinary clinics.

With more than 8,500 registered pooches in Port Phillip and many more four-legged visitors enjoying our parks and foreshore, our waste bag dispensers aren't intended to supply every walk. Instead, they're here to have your back when you forget your own bag, ensuring you're never stuck without a way to clean up after your pup.



### Dispenser locations

Bridport Street, Albert Park; Ormond Road, Elwood; Gasworks Arts Park, Port Melbourne; Carlisle Street, Balaclava; Acland Street, St Kilda; Alma Park West, St Kilda; M.O. Moran Reserve, Elwood; Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda; Garden City Reserve, Port Melbourne; Bay Street, Port Melbourne; Eastern Reserve, South Melbourne; Clarendon Street, South Melbourne.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/tidy-walks-in-port-phillip/>

## Pre-loved treasures

Do you love digging through second-hand racks for a bargain or discovering a rare vintage find?

Vintage, thrift and op shops are a sustainable and super fun way of finding bargains to make your heart - and wallet - happy.

We've pulled together must-visit spots to discover retro finds across Port Phillip.



[Must-visit vintage, thrift and op shops in St Kilda and Southside | What's On St Kilda & Southside](#)

## New plan for waste management

We have adopted our Don't Waste It! (2025 - 28) waste and recycling strategy.

The wide-ranging strategy aims to minimise waste, reduce the impact to our environment and deliver best practice waste management across our densely populated municipality.



This is crucial because as our population grows, so does the waste generated - and the cost of managing it. Read on to learn about how we will reduce waste to landfill, increase

the recovery of resources and provide a value for money service.

To read the strategy visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/oe2hswy3/dont-waste-it-waste-management-strategy-2025-28-pdf-15mb.pdf>

## Helping young people get involved

Do you know a young person who is interested in exploring a new activity but can't afford the cost - or perhaps your organisation needs financial support to provide programs?

City of Port Phillip Youth Access Grants, open until 14 December, are a terrific opportunity for young people to participate in new and meaningful experiences in our City.

In the past, our grants – for both individuals and organisations - have supported young people interested in everything from football and photography to the environment and coding.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/funds-grants-and-subsidies/youth-access-grants-program/>



## Play time

There's two more fantastic upgraded playgrounds for our younger residents to enjoy.

We're excited to welcome our community back to the St Vincent Gardens playground in Albert Park, with improvements including a new raised path, improved accessibility to the playground and a nature play area.



The Sol Green Reserve in South Melbourne now features upgrades such as new and more accessible play equipment, new basketball ring and court and extra shade and seating.

## Arts in Focus



**Sending a creative signal**



**EnviroFest**

Have you spotted 10 brightly painted signal boxes in Fitzroy Street?

They feature vibrant plant inspired artworks painted by Aurora Campbell.

As well as hiding the signal boxes, the artwork brightens Fitzroy Street and helps deter graffiti.

This project is part of our great Places and Precincts Program.

This program supports projects that enhance the vibrancy, safety, and appeal of key public areas through creative and place-based design.

Set amongst the beautiful St Kilda Botanical Gardens and inside the new Port Phillip EcoCentre, EnviroFest brings together music, art, nature and sustainability in one inspiring day on Saturday 29 November.

From 10 am to 3 pm, this fantastic family-friendly festival celebrates the power of nature-based experiences and community-led environmental action.

The program includes live performances, wildlife encounters, hands-on workshops, garden tours, citizen science activities and more.

Our Council is a proud supporter of EnviroFest.

## Help Shape our City



### Have your say

Visit our [Have Your Say website](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au) at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au> for updates on projects which are open for community feedback. [Register for our monthly community engagement newsletter](#) there to keep up to date with how you can help shape your local neighbourhood.

### Projects open for feedback

- **Help plan the year ahead:** In June 2025, Council adopted the Plan for Port Phillip 2025-2035. We're now planning for Year 2, and we want to make sure it still reflects what matters most to you and your neighbourhood. [Submit your idea by 1 February 2026](#)
- **Supporting Positive Ageing in Port Phillip:** We're proposing some changes to how we support older residents. [Provide feedback by 7 December](#).
- **Multicultural Strategy:** Help us to strengthen inclusion, belonging, and cultural safety across our diverse community. [Share your ideas by 14 December](#)
- **Upgrading play spaces at St Kilda Botanical Gardens and Clarke Reserve, Elwood:** Share your ideas for new play areas. [Share ideas by 14 December](#).
- **Renewing Ripponlea:** Join your neighbours in shaping Ripponlea's future – share your ideas for welcoming public spaces and a playful Burnett Gray Gardens. [Share ideas by 12 December](#)
- **Supporting Middle Park during the 2026 Australian Grand Prix:** – Share your feedback to help shape the trial road closure. [Share ideas by 14 December](#)
- **Elster Creek Litter Action Plan:** Help shape a cleaner, healthier waterway. [Share your feedback by 14 December](#).

### Project updates

We asked for your feedback on these projects. The engagement reports are now available - read about what we heard and what's next:

- [Shaping Bay Street](#)
- [Making it easier to have your say \(Community Engagement Policy\)](#)

## Sustainability

### Recycling waste in apartments

Whether your building is on a Council waste service or not, there are ways to keep your food scraps out of landfill and help create nutrient-rich compost instead.



If your apartment block receives a Council waste service, you should have received access to a shared FOGO bin between 2023 and 2024. These green-lidded bins are designed for recycling food scraps, garden clippings, coffee grounds and more.

To make sorting easier at home, residents can collect a free kitchen caddy from any of our [libraries](#). It's a simple way to separate organics before dropping them into the shared bin. If your building isn't covered by Council waste services, you can still recycle food waste at communal FOGO hubs or potentially through a private contractor.

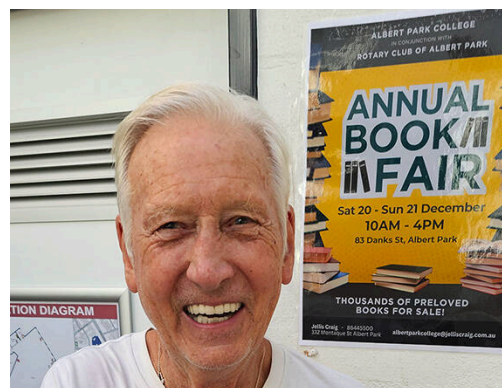
<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/recycling-food-and-garden-waste-in-apartments-your-fogo-options/>

## Library Visit

### Book bargains

Looking for your next great read? Visit the Albert Park College Annual Book Sale from 20 to 21 December. (10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am to 4 pm on the Sunday)

Thousands of pre-loved books at unbeatable prices are on offer - and it's for a great cause. Our Albert Park and Port Melbourne Libraries are drop off points for many of the books which Rotary sorts and sells.



Your purchases fund scholarships, local charities and literacy programs at Albert Park College. Last year, more than \$6,000 was raised and over 25 years, this small club has contributed \$1 million to community initiatives.

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

## Community Spirit

## A matter of faith

At the 19 November Council Meeting, Council and the Port Phillip Multifaith Network were presented with the 'Victorian Interfaith Networks Conference' Message Stick', acknowledging City of Port Phillip as the host of the 2026 Victorian Interfaith Networks Festival.



The Message Stick represents a tradition of passing responsibility and trust between communities. By receiving it, we and the Port Phillip Multifaith Network reaffirm our commitment to fostering interfaith dialogue, inclusion, and cultural understanding.

The Victorian Interfaith Networks Festival is delivered annually by the Faith Communities Council of Victoria (FCCV) in partnership with local Councils and interfaith networks.

The event is expected to be in November.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/port-phillip-to-host-2026-victorian-interfaith-networks-festival/>

## What's On



### Carols in the park

6 December

Carols are returning to Gasworks Arts Park.

This year's fun and free event is running from 5 pm to 9.30 pm as part of Summer in the Glade - a new series of quarterly celebrations highlighting creativity, connection, and community.

Pack a picnic and enjoy:

- Christmas Carols by Lakeside Community Events
- Art and craft market with Rose Street Market
- Food trucks
- Children's activities
- Open artist studios.



### Digital safety

4 December

Evolve Education is delivering its second parent information session on eSafety for young people, funded by the City of Port Phillip.

This session looks at the changes in social media age restrictions for under-16s coming into effect on 10 December, exploring ways to help families navigate these changes.

The sessions starts at 6 pm at Port Melbourne Secondary College.

Registrations via trybooking are essential.



### Christmas cheer

17 December

Meet Santa and his Elf at South Melbourne Market.

Santa will be taking some time out from his busy schedule to visit the Market from 9 to 11 am on 17 December.

Catch him wandering the Market and visiting your favourite traders, spreading festive cheer to all.

Keep an eye on the SMM website for the full Christmas program, festive season trading hours, Christmas gift guide and gift wrapping and how to pre-order

This event is proudly supported by our Council.

Full details are on Gasworks Arts Park's website.

sensational seafood, turkeys and more.

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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