

# OLDER PERSONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC) has been appointed by the City of Port Phillip council to be its main advisory body on all issues affecting older residents living in the City of Port Phillip. Encompassing a wide range of backgrounds and views, the OPCC is accessible and engaged.

## January 2016 to April 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

This is the Annual Report of the City of Port Phillip Older Persons Consultative Committee (OPCC). The report covers the activities of the Committee for the period January 2016 to April 2017.

The Committee was established in 2000 as an outcome of the International Year of the Older Person, celebrated in 1999.

The stated purpose of the OPCC is:

*The Older Persons Consultative Committee will provide advice to Council and Council officers about policies, plans and services affecting older people.*

### OPCC Terms of Reference Objectives

- To be the peak advisory and advocacy body on issues affecting the wellbeing of older people (55+) within the Port Phillip municipality.
- To provide advice to Council and its officers on policies, plans and services that affect older people and their interests.
- To advocate to the Community and Council, on behalf of older people, reflecting the United Nations principles of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity.
- To connect with other community advisory structures of Council.
- To liaise with other organisations and networks who have a direct interest in older persons in the City of Port Phillip.

### Membership

Membership of the OPCC includes:

Members	Locations
Lesley Greagg	Elwood
Betty Knight	Albert Park
Coralie Ling	St Kilda
Brigid McCoppin	Albert Park
Alex Njoo	St Kilda
Liz Robson	Port Melbourne
Jane Sims	St Kilda
Past Members	
Maureen Smith	Port Melbourne (2003 – January 2017)
Neil Imlach	Elwood (2011 – April 2017)
Philipa Bergman-Hill	Elwood (2013 –August 2016)
Office Bearers	
Coralie Ling	Chairperson
Jane Sims	Deputy Chairperson
Brigid McCoppin	Secretary
Council Representative	

Councillor Anita Horvath	Representative Councillor (Jan 2016 –October 2016)
Councillor Dick Gross	Representative Councillor (Dec 2016 – present)
<b>Council Officer/s</b>	
Laura Cattapan	Coordinator Access & Inclusion
Sherridan Green	Community Development and Liaison Officer (July 2016 – present)
Elena Kalnin	Previous - Community Development and Liaison Officer (Jan to June 2016)

### **Past Members 2016**

Elwood resident Philipa Bergman-Hill was a member of the OPCC from January 2013 to August 2016. Philipa was also a member of the St Kilda Rotary Club. As a member of the Committee Philipa provided advice relating to governance and assisted with the development of the OPCC manual.

Elwood resident Neil Imlach was a member of the OPCC from January 2011 to April 2017. As an active member of the Linking Neighbours Elwood Neighbourhood Working Group Neil ensured the Committee was across all Linking Neighbours initiatives and the program was promoted through all OPCC activities. Neil was also a member of the Port Phillip Alliance for Sustainability where he represented the OPCC and advocated for climate change to be a regular OPCC agenda item. During his time on the Committee Neil maintained a strong interest in advocating for affordable housing for older people and ageing in place.

### **Acknowledgement of Maureen Smith**

The OPCC would like to acknowledge Maureen Smith who died on 19 January 2017. Maureen was an active member of the committee since August 2003. In 2007 and 2008 Maureen was Chairperson and Secretary in 2004. Maureen was a vocal advocate on issues such as Councils safer streets strategy for older residents, ensuring the South Melbourne Market is accessible and housing for older residents including supporting local residential care initiatives.

As President of the Lions club of Port Phillip Maureen encouraged the Club to support initiatives that benefit the health and wellbeing of our older residents. Maureen's can do attitude, practical approach and humanity will be sadly missed by the OPCC and Port Phillip community.

### **Meetings**

The OPCC members met on a monthly basis. A total of nine OPCC meetings were held in 2016 (February–September and December).

Due to the Council elections in November 2016 the OPCC did not meet in September and October during Caretaker period. An extension of the tenure of the current OPCC members to April 2017 was passed by Council at the 22 November Council meeting.

OPCC meetings were then held in 2017 (Feb – April) at the St Kilda Town Hall.

The quorum at each OPCC meeting in 2016 and 2017 continued to be maintained.

During the reporting period members of the OPCC and Councillor Representative accepted the resignations of the following members:

- Ms Philipa Bergman-Hill August 2016
- Mr Neil Imlach April 2017

The OPCC members continued to maintain an interest on matters relevant to older people residing in the City of Port Phillip and deliberated on Council matters relating to older people and the wider community.

Community trends relevant to Council were identified through the OPCC meetings where reports were provided from OPCC representatives. The OPCC continued to maintain connections with other associations relevant to their work both internally and external to Council, this included:

- Port Phillip Multicultural Forum
- Port Phillip Multifaith Network
- Port Phillip Linking Neighbours Program
- Council of the Ageing (COTA) Victoria
- Municipal Association of Victoria Positive Ageing Network
- CASPA Care
- U3A Port Phillip
- Port Phillip Lions Club
- Port Phillip Alliance for Sustainability
- Older person's reference committees existing in other Councils

In 2016 and 2017 members of the OPCC continue to be represented on the Fisherman's Bend Urban Renewal Area Community Forum and the St Kilda Triangle Community Forum.

As part of OPCC general business the committee has consulted on relevant Council activities and initiatives. This is a collaborative approach where OPCC members seeks community feedback on Council business and inform Council on issues that have been raised by the community.

Council Officer's also seek OPCC advice and feedback on specific Council business in relation to the needs and inclusion of older people.

### **OPCC Objectives and Plan January 2016 - April 2017**

An OPCC Pre Planning Sub Committee was established to develop the 2016 OPCC Objectives and Plan. The committee was made up of the OPCC Chair, Deputy Chair and two members of the OPCC who nominated to participate. The session was held in the Training Room at the St Kilda Town Hall on the 18 January 2016. The draft was presented at the 1 February 2016 meeting for consultation and was accepted by the OPCC.

Due to the Council election in November 2017 and the extension of tenure of the current OPCC, a Pre Planning Sub Committee was established to extend the current OPCC Objective and Plan to June 2017. Members included Cr Dick Gross, OPCC Chair, Deputy Chair and two members of the OPCC who nominated to participate. The session was held in the Gunawarra Room at the St Kilda Town Hall on 13 January 2016. The updated draft was presented at the 6 February 2017 meeting for consultation and accepted by the OPCC.

The OPCC Objective and Plan was developed within the context of the City of Port Phillip Council Plan (2013 – 2017), World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly Cities (AFC) Framework and the OPCC 2015 Objectives Action Plan and Terms of Reference. Seven Objectives were identified and aligned to the Council Plan and AFC Framework, they include:

1. Advice and Advocacy: To represent the interests of older residents to COPP on council plans, strategies and services.
2. Communication and Information: To listen to and communicate with older Port Phillip residents.
3. Governance: To ensure transparent, sustainable processes for the Committee.
4. Diversity: To ensure that the OPCC represents the diversity of the older community.
5. Networking/Partnerships: To continue and further develop information exchange for networking and partnerships.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change: To consider the implications/impact of climate changes for the ageing population of CoPP.
7. Physical Environment: To consider the implications/impact of climate changes for the ageing population of CoPP.

Please see *Attachment 1.1 City of Port Phillip Older Persons Consultative Committee Objectives and Plan 2016 and Objectives and Plan January – June 2017*.

### **Consultative work undertaken by the OPCC during the reporting period directly related to Council business:**

#### *St Kilda Triangle 'Have your Say' (February 2016)*

OPCC gave feedback relating to older persons needs included the need for provision of accessible public toilets, shaded seating, sufficient water fountains, accessible pathways and buildings.

#### *Footpath Management - Sustainable Transport (February 2016)*

Sustainable Transport consulted the OPCC on shared bike and pedestrian paths asking if they knew of hot spots where people have had bad experiences.

#### *Council Plan and Budget Consultation - Service Business Improvement & Communication and Engagement (February 2016)*

Council Officers presented on the Draft Council Plan and Budget and discussed the survey for residents that will assist Council to prioritise services and advise on options to help with the savings due to rate capping.

#### *Feedback on City of Port Phillip FACT Sheet on the Aged Care Reforms transition to My Aged Care - Access and Ageing Department (March 2016)*

The OPCC provided feedback on the readability and comprehension of the FACT sheet which was drafted to provide to staff to communicate changes to Councils Age Care recipients.

#### *South Melbourne Market strategic Plan 2015 – 2020 feedback (March 2016)*

A copy of the strategic plan was presented/provided for information and concerns/comments made included parking, seating, accessibility and the retention of the current market atmosphere/environment.

#### *Footpath Repair and Management lived experience inspection - Maintenance Team Footpath Inspectors (April - May 2016)*

A footpath inspection was conducted with a local older resident and OPCC Chairperson following the resident's correspondence to the OPCC. This was regarding mobility issues about accessibility of footpaths in South Melbourne and Albert Park. The inspection was organised by Council Officer footpath inspectors. The meeting provided Council Officers with an understanding of the lived experienced of walking on footpaths if you have a mobility issue.

The outcome of this inspection resulted in Council Officers now using a motorised scooter to do footpath inspections. Older residents are also now encouraged to report to Assist any issues they are experiencing with footpaths in Port Phillip.

#### *Aged Care Reforms update - Manager Access and Ageing (April 2016)*

Manager of Access & Ageing gave an update on the aged care reforms and how it is affecting council. At the time of the meeting there had been little changes impacting Council and the introduction of My Aged Care through the Commonwealth Home Support Program would be coming into effect from July 2016 for current HACC recipients over 65. People under 65 will maintain HACC services until the full role out of the NDIS in 2018

#### *Home and Community Care (HACC) Services update - Coordinator Community Support (June 2016)*

Port Phillip Coordinator Community Support provided the OPCC with an update on HACC Services and the Aged Care Reforms. The OPCC was informed that with the change from HACC to the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) there is a more stringent client review process and the transition from State HACC Services to CHSP means as of July 2016 any referrals to Port Phillip aged care services for people over 65 (over 55 for Indigenous) will come via the My Aged Care portal or phone line rather than directly to Council. This also applies for current clients who request additional services or changes to their current HACC services.

#### *Feedback provided on the draft Port Phillip CHSP and HACC Survey to clients (July 2016)*

Members of the OPCC provided feedback on the draft survey that the Access and Ageing Department sent out to all Council CHSP and HACC recipients.

#### *2016 Census Data Collection Presentation - Social Planner (July 2016)*

Port Phillip Social Planner informed the OPCC of the changes to the Census Data collection in 2016 that may affect input from older residents due to the data collection going online and no longer a door knock. Given Port Phillip's poor uptake from residents in the past this skewed results for the municipality. OPCC members were asked to encourage older residents to ring the information line if they are not online. A flyer was provided to members to distribute informing older residents on how to get a hard copy of the survey.

#### *Council Plan Consultation – Senior Community Health Development Officer and Health Equity and Social Justice Project Officer (February 2017)*

Council Officers attended the meeting to directly consult with the OPCC on key issues/items they would like the Council Plan to include. The OPCC workshopped the following questions:

1. What do you love about your neighbourhood?
2. What would make your neighbourhood better?

### **Consultative work undertaken by the OPCC during the reporting period with external groups and organisations include:**

#### *St Kilda Housing Association presentation on housing for older people in Port Phillip - CEO John Enticott (May 2016)*

John provided a PowerPoint presentation on the St Kilda Housing Association and Community Land Trust (CLT) initiative. Currently there are no CLT in Australia, St Kilda Housing Association aims to set up the first CLT by 2018 which would provide opportunities for older residents.

#### *Feedback from OPCC Members visit to CaSPA Care (June 2016)*

Seven members of the OPCC and Port Phillip Coordinator Access and Inclusion visited CaSPA Care residential facility. All who attended were impressed with the facilities and progressive homemaker model the facility has adopted.

#### *Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria presentation and discussion - Community Development and Policy Officer (September 2016)*

Some of the key information presented to the OPCC by COTA included that much of their work focuses on housing, poverty and security in retirement. COTA has been advocating for State Government to develop a policy for older people in relation to issues of ageing and poverty which they identified as a key issue for older persons. COTA have been in contact with the FBURA taskforce and advocated for older persons needs to be considered in planning. They have been working collaboratively with the Municipal Association of Victoria to develop a training package based on the Age Friendly Cities framework that will target Councillors and Executive Leadership Teams.

## *Victorian Active Ageing Partnership Project Update - Port Phillip Coordinator Access and Inclusion (March 2017)*

Coordinator Access and Inclusion, Advisory Committee member for the Active Ageing Partnership Project auspiced by Move (formerly the Arthritis Foundation) provided an update on the project. This included the development of a Self-assessment Tool and Resource for local clubs and service providers including Council.

### **OPCC Forums and Events**

#### *OPCC Annual Forum "Living Alone" (June 2016)*

The OPCC annual forum was held in the Auditorium at Port Melbourne Town Hall on Wednesday 1 June. The Forum titled "Living Alone" was targeted for residents who currently live alone, have recently began living alone through separation or who want to understand what it means to live alone. Topics included daily living, community connections, relationships, emotional wellbeing and support.

Mayor Bernadene Voss opened the forum emphasising the importance of issues affecting our older community living alone and the role of the OPCC both within Council and in the community. Coralie Ling OPCC Chairperson was the Forum facilitator.

This year the OPCC were very fortunate to have Gerrard Mansour Commissioner for Senior Victorians as key note speaker. Gerrard provided an overview of his recent report 'Ageing is everyone's business' and highlighted the issues affecting social isolation in older people.

Local residents Josephine Simsa and Phil King provided insightful and informative presentations about their own experience of living alone and ageing. Damian Ferrie CEO Inner South Community Health provided information on support services people can access.

This forum was well supported with 57 people attending.

#### *The City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival 10 – 23 October 2016.*

The OPCC continued to be involved with the planning and hosting of the Annual Port Phillip Seniors Festival 2016. This year the festival was held over a two week period.

The Port Phillip's Seniors Festival follows a similar format to the Victorian Seniors Festival Program which is held in the week preceding Port Phillip's Seniors Festival.

The OPCC Seniors Festival Subcommittee met on a monthly basis with support from Port Phillip's Community Development and Liaison Officer. The content of the festival was similar to the 2015 with some additional collaborative events with both internal and external stakeholders. This resulted in a more diverse and colourful program.

Collaborative events included:

- Port Phillip Arts Team - Pinnie Exhibition at the Emerald Hill Heritage Centre and Speaking Stories Two located in the Town Halls across the city.
- Port Phillip Library Services - Writing Workshops and 'Port Phillip Writes' Seniors Writing Awards.

The highlights of the 2016 Port Phillip Seniors Festival

#### *Seniors Festival Dance:*

This event launched the Festival with approximately 200 people attending. CEO Tracey Slatter opened the event and OPCC Chair Coralie Ling was the Master of Ceremony. The local seniors music group the 'All Sorts' played to welcome guests as they entered. Afternoon tea was serviced and guests danced to the Port Phillip Show Band as well as learning some new steps with Zumba Gold. This year included a parade of apron's from the Pinnie's Exhibition and a raffle ran by South Port Day Links who supplied 2 hampers to be won.

### *Seniors Festival Writing Awards – St Kilda Library*

The Writing Awards was the closing event of the Festival. This event now in its 12th year and 65 guests attended to enjoy an afternoon of literature. There was a presentation of the judges' awards for entries in the 2016 Port Phillip Writes stories and poems competition. This year's competition had 24 writers enter with 34 stories and poems published. OPCC member Lesley Greagg was MC for the event and led the readings. Stories and poems were also read by OPCC members and local writers from the publication.

### *Tea for the Baroness (Greyhound Hotel)*

This event was a tribute to Richard James, gay activist, older persons advocate and one of the founding members of the OPCC. Presented by The Tea Cosy Project and Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and supported by a Port Phillip Seniors Festival grant and the Victorian Seniors Festival. A film documenting Richard's life was shown which included tributes from many well know Port Phillip residents including OPCC member Lesley Greagg. A billboard size stencil art canvas was drawn during the event which will be hung in the Victorian Pride Centre.

In addition to Council run events there were a variety of other activities held by a range of community groups and services supported through the Port Phillip Seniors Festival Grant. \$13,000 was granted to over 26 community groups. The OPCC believe the Seniors Festival is a popular and well attended event acknowledging and celebrating our local older residents and engages residents in a range of activities making the City a more welcoming, accessible and safe place for older people.

### **OPCC Profile Raising and Communications**

In 2016/April 2017 OPCC was promoted through the following:

- OPCC Forum
- Divercity Magazine
- City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival program
- Access and Ageing Insights Newsletter to service recipients

### **Advocacy**

OPCC members provided feedback/advice/input on the following:

- St Kilda Triangle - Have your say.
- Footpath Repair and Management Report and attended footpath inspections.
- Council Plan & Budget Consultation 2016/2017.
- South Melbourne Market Strategic Plan.
- Beacon Cove Public toilets.
- Port Phillip Public Toilet Strategy.
- Housing for Older Port Phillip Residents.
- Fisherman's Bend Urban Renewal Area Community Forum.
- The Linking Neighbours Program.
- Aged Care Reforms – Transition to My Aged Care, Commonwealth Home Support Program.
- Beacon Cove Adult Fitness Equipment consultation.
- Council Plan Consultation 2017 – 2027.
- COTA Victoria key priorities.
- City of Port Phillip FAC Sheet on Aged Care Reforms.
- St Kilda Housing Association housing for older residents
- COTA Vic Conference challenges for older people and the workforce.
- 2016 Census Data Collection pathways for older persons to participate.
- Victorian Active Ageing Partnership Project.
- Moonee Valley Age Care 'Age n' Dem' toolkit – An age and dementia friendly streetscapes toolkit for use in all councils across Victoria.

## **Acknowledgement**

The OPCC would like to acknowledge the support throughout the year of the Councillor nominated by Council to support the OPCC, Councillor Anita Horvath (January - September 2016) and Councillor Dick Gross (December - April 2017).

This report was prepared by OPCC Committee Member Betty Knight, and Laura Cattapan Port Phillip Coordinator Access and Inclusion and confirmed by the OPCC in May 2017.

Coralie Ling  
OPCC Chairperson  
May 2017