



DIVERCITY

April 2026



FROM THE CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN FOCUS



SHAPE OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY VISIT



COMMUNITY SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



Charging ahead with EV options

Our Council is investing in more EV charging options and locations throughout our City as demand grows for electric vehicles.

Three pole-mounted chargers can now be accessed at: 85 Liardet Street, Port Melbourne, 24 Chaucer Street, St Kilda, and 27-31 Herbert Street, Elwood (pictured) and we're investigating other locations.

Plans are also underway for providers to install and manage five public fast chargers on Council land over the next two years at Balaclava, Garden City, Albert Park, Port

Melbourne and South Melbourne. Several other sites are being evaluated.

We understand it's more difficult for residents to charge their EVs if they don't have off-street parking. This is why we're expanding our private kerbside EV charger pilot from the single option of a footpath installed charger. We will soon be announcing details of how eligible residents can apply for a permit for a cable to be temporarily popped into a gully recess in the pavement when charging.

We'll continue to update our community as new public chargers and private options come online.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/traffic-management-and-transport/electric-vehicle-chargers/>

From the Chamber

It's my pleasure to share with you our new look for Divercity, which will be popping up in your inbox from May.

Our fortnightly Divercity Express will deliver more frequent, "bite size" news and event articles to make it easier for time-crunched readers to discover what's going on.

Our long format Divercity, will provide a deeper dive for readers every quarter.

We hope you love the new look and feel of Divercity Express so let us know what you think!

In April we endorsed two advocacy focused motions on issues we know our community cares about – planning decision-making and a call for greater regulations over private e-motobikes, e-bikes and e-scooters.

I will be writing to the Victorian Planning Minister to express concern about recent Victorian Government planning reforms that will remove local community input and diminish the role of Council as the decision-maker for certain developments. We are calling for a planning system that is locally informed, evidence-based and publicly accountable, including clear pathways for our residents to participate in decisions shaping their neighbourhoods.

Following community concern about the safety and regulation of e-bikes, e-scooters and e-moto bikes, our Council will be seeking co-ordinated action from government departments, authorities and Victoria Police to address issues including post-sale modifications and enforcement and education on existing road rules.

Advocating for our community is something that is always front of mind. This edition of Divercity includes details of our more than \$18 million investment in redeveloping six ageing childcare centres, alongside \$16.5 million contributed by the Victorian Government.

I'd like to conclude by inviting you to the 2026 Reconciliation Week Flag-Raising ceremony on 27 May. Held in partnership with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, this ceremony is a fantastic opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation.

Divercity also has details of two ANZAC Day services held in our City to honour everyone who has served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. We also supported the recent recent services for the 85th commemoration of the Rats of Tobruk and the recent St Kilda Anzac March.



Lest we forget.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Alex Makin
Mayor, City of Port Phillip

City News

Building for the future

Our Council is joining with organisations including the Victorian Government to upgrade children's services across Port Phillip under the Building Blocks Partnership (BBP).

Facilities to be included in the project include:

- Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten, St Kilda
- Clarendon Children's Centre, South Melbourne
- The Avenue Children's Centre and Kindergarten, Balaclava
- Elwood Children's Centre, Elwood
- Lilian Cannam Kindergarten, South Melbourne
- North St Kilda Childcare Centre, St Kilda



The BBP program represents a \$34.5 million investment to upgrade six children's services.

Council is planning to invest over \$18 million, with the Victorian Government contributing \$16.5 million through the Victorian School Building Authority.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/raising-the-roof-for-little-learners/>

Exploring autumn wonderlands

Discover these gorgeous green spaces that give the gift of happiness year-round, including for invigorating autumn strolls.

Rug up, breathe in the fresh air, relax in the sunshine or get the blood pumping with a brisk walk. You'll soon feel better in mind, body and soul.



<https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/nine-stunning-southside-parks-and-gardens>

Century milestone

Former mayor and councillor Pat Brown reached a remarkable milestone this month, becoming the first Port Phillip Councillor to celebrate her 100th birthday — and she did it with the same wit, warmth and community spirit that have defined her life of service.

Pat told Divercity she was touched and delighted by the flood of birthday messages she received, including congratulations from King Charles, the Governor-General, the Governor of Victoria, the Victorian Premier, our Mayor — and her beloved Sydney Swans.

Her passion and dedication were formally recognised in 1989, when she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to the community and local government.



Speaking from her South Melbourne aged care facility where she keeps busy and active, Pat joked that the only disappointment that day was losing a game of bingo. “I nearly always win a prize,” she laughed.

Those competitive instincts have long served the community well. Pat clocked up wins as an advocate for the community as a private citizen and then as a councillor at the former City of South Melbourne (1978–1984 and 1988–1994), including a term as Mayor from 1983–84.

When the City of Port Phillip was created through the amalgamation of the Cities of South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and St Kilda, Pat once again stepped up, becoming one of the Council’s first elected councillors (1996–99), lending her experience and steady hand during a time of major transition.

Her road into public life began simply: she picked up a candidate nomination form because she wanted to make a difference. “In politics, it’s always about the numbers,” she reflected.

Determined to remain independent, she declined the backing of a men’s business association and ran her campaign on her own time and resources.

One of the causes closest to Pat’s heart was the successful grassroots campaign in the 1970s against the proposed F9 highway, part of the 1969 Melbourne Transportation Plan. The freeway would have cut through inner suburbs including South Melbourne. “You can fight and win,” she said proudly.

She also found deep satisfaction in helping to scale back the height of a proposed aged care development. Left unchecked, she believed it would have been “like parking elderly people in pigeon-holes”.

Pat was active on several hospital ladies’ auxiliary committees and maintains a strong interest in the Mercy Hospital. She also played a role in the development of the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, delighting attendees by tackling the waterslide at the MSAC pool opening. “It was a very proper, ladylike bathing costume,” she laughed. “I wasn’t like Hedy Lamarr.”

Now Victoria’s longest-living serving Justice of the Peace, Pat continues to keep informed about issues affecting the voluntary role.

Her late husband Hugh, who wholeheartedly supported her community-minded work, passed away several years ago. This milestone birthday was still celebrated in style with Pat surrounded at two gatherings by family, friends and former councillor colleagues.

Pat credits good genes for her longevity but concedes that never smoking, rarely drinking alcohol and staying active and curious have likely played their part.

“I’d love to live another 100 years to see what’s going to happen to the world,” she said.

For now, she is relishing every moment of life in vibrant, historic South Melbourne. “It’s the

place to be.”

Pat's 100th birthday and community service legacy was acknowledged at the 22 April 2026 Council Meeting.

Book a room

Are you looking to hire a regular space for your next meeting, workshop, class or community gathering? Then we have the venue for you!

Applications for the regular hire of our community facilities between 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 are open until 3 May 2026.

We have 13 terrific venues with 28 spaces available for hire including the Lagoon Reserve Community Room, Betty Day Community Centre and Fishermans Bend Community Centre.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/events-venues-and-performers/hire-a-venue/regular-hire-of-community-facilities/>



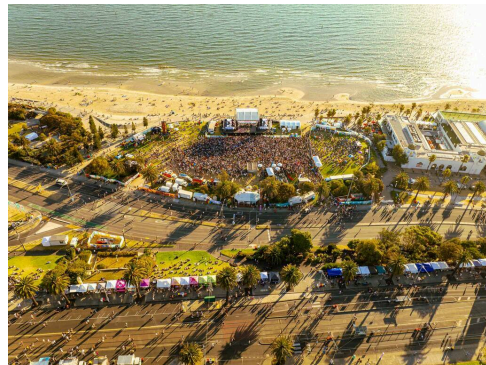
Vote for St Kilda Festival

Australia's largest free music festival has been nominated in the Arts and Culture category of the upcoming National Awards for Local Government!

Show your support by casting your vote.

Please note: you'll need to register to vote. Registration takes around five minutes to complete.

<https://nalg.awardsplatform.com>



New pavilion for Port Melbourne

The new Lagoon Reserve Pavilion provides a welcoming, multi-use home for sport, events and community connection for the Port Melbourne community for many years to come.

The modern and community focused facility delivers inclusive change rooms, accessible amenities, expanded storage and flexible social spaces.

This marks the completion of the \$15 million upgrade to Lagoon Reserve which includes cricket nets, public toilets, BBQ, picnic facilities, a reconstructed sports field, new sports ground lighting, upgraded path network and management of contaminated soil.



[Find out more](#)

Arts in Focus



Moving mural

A powerful new mural honours Boonwurrung matriarch Louisa Briggs.

The artwork rises over South Melbourne at 2 Bowen Crescent.

It was created by acclaimed artist Peter Seaton, (CTO), in collaboration with Briggs Family descendants (Boonwurrung).

The 20-meter high work celebrates Victorian Aboriginal heritage, women's leadership and the strength of intergenerational storytelling.



Script Lab

Gasworks Script Lab returns in 2026 to identify and nurture talented playwrights.

A partnership between Gasworks Arts Park and Melbourne Writers' Theatre, this free creative development program led to the creation of seven new short plays and further development of six new full-length plays in 2025.

Applications open on 1 May and close on 29 May. There are two streams: emerging and experienced writers.

Go to Gasworks Arts Park website to learn how to access the EOI.

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 and project updates.

Projects open for feedback

- **Caravans, boats and trailers:** Based on your feedback, we're proposing a change to the Community Amenity Local Law to add a time limit for how long caravans, boats and trailers can be parked on Council land and roads. [Share your feedback by Sunday 17 May.](#)
- **Greening St Kilda East:** We're planning new greening works in Fulton Street and Raglan Street as part of the Greening Port Phillip Program. [Share your feedback by Friday 15 May.](#)

- **Our Coastal Future:** Based on your feedback, we've drafted a Foreshore Management Plan. [Share your feedback by Sunday 3 May](#).
- **Upgrading toilets at Port Melbourne Beach:** Share your thoughts on how the new toilet facility should look, including any artwork. [Share your feedback by Sunday 3 May](#).

Project updates

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

- [St Kilda Botanical Gardens play space upgrade](#)
- [Shaping the future of St Kilda Festival](#)
- [Plan for Port Phillip](#)

We're popping up in your neighbourhood!

Throughout May, we'll be visiting neighbourhoods across Port Phillip. Come along to share your ideas, ask questions and meet your councillors. [Visit Have Your Say for dates and locations.](#)

Sustainability

Never bin a battery

Over summer two of our waste and recycling trucks caught fire, most likely from lithium-ion batteries placed in bins.

When damaged or crushed, these common batteries can catch fire or even explode. This puts our community, including workers, at serious risk.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/never-bin-a-battery/>



Library Visit

New chapter for Middle Park Library

Middle Park Library is temporarily closed while an exciting upgrade to create a more welcoming, functional and engaging space for our community is underway.

All other services in the building remain open.

The upgrade, expected to finish on 30 June, includes new furniture, shelving and carpet and new self-service kiosk and after-hours return bin. During the closure, you can visit our other branches, including Albert Park Library which is just four minutes away by car or 10 to 15 minutes by public transport.



This project is proudly co-funded by our Council and the Victorian Government's Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

Community Spirit

Hello kitties!

The latest cat collaboration between our Council and The Lost Dogs' Home saw a record 91 felines find their fur-ever homes.

Ranging in age from just eight weeks to 10 years, some had spent up to two months in care. During that time, many received veterinary treatment, rehabilitation and plenty of compassion - making Sunday's outcome even more special to their former caregivers.



The excitement was visible well before the doors swung open. Eager adopters queued outside the Town Hall from early morning, some arriving with camp chairs and hot thermoses, determined to be first inside.

Gwyneth, now the proud owner of Luna, was among the adopters. A gentle seven-month-old black cat, laid-back Luna was getting less attention than more playful younger cats when Gwyneth spotted her.

"I was just planning to ask questions about how to adopt for the future. But when I stared at her eyes, I thought I could love you forever."

Luna is flourishing in her new home as a loving companion, "She is so affectionate and curious and keeps following me around."

Adult cats were adopted for \$25, while kittens found homes for \$100, with every feline microchipped, desexed and vaccinated by The Lost Dogs' Home.

These successful adoptions mean more animals can move into foster care - giving them time to adjust to life outside the shelter - as well as extra space being created for incoming homeless animals.

Stay tuned for details about the next quarterly Cat Adoption Day at St Kilda Town Hall on Saturday 4 July.

Medical milestone

Street Side Medics' (SSM) free mobile healthcare service has celebrated its first anniversary in St Kilda.

The not-for-profit's well-equipped red and blue medical van can be accessed by vulnerable members of our community, including people experiencing homelessness, every Wednesday from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm at Cleve Gardens.



Only bad weather stops the dedicated volunteers from coming to St Kilda to break down barriers which can deter people from seeking healthcare such as cost, lack of

documentation and access to transport.

Up to 15 patients are treated each visit. While bookings aren't required, triaging ensures those with the most urgent needs are seen first.

From prescriptions, dressing changes and diabetes and blood pressure checks to referrals for tests or more specialised medical care, each patient is treated with care and compassion.

The St Kilda visits have also become part of something bigger. Other organisations regularly park nearby when Street Side Medics is on site, offering laundry facilities, food and welfare services.

To learn more, or find out how you can support SSM, visit:

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

What's On



ANZAC services

Saturday 25 April,
Elwood and Port
Melbourne

ANZAC Day (25 April) is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. It is a day when both nations commemorate those who have served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations.

Two ANZAC services are being held in Port Phillip on ANZAC Day.

8.30 am to 9.30 am

Elwood Anzac Commemoration at Elwood Sailing Club forecourt and foreshore.

10 am to 11 am

Port Melbourne Anzac Commemoration at the WW1 Memorial, corner of Bay and Beach Streets.



Flag raising

Wednesday 27 May,
12.30 to 1.30 pm, St
Kilda Town Hall

Everyone is warmly invited to attend the City's **2026 Reconciliation Week Flag Raising Ceremony**, marking the start of National Reconciliation Week.

Held in partnership with the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, the ceremony will include the raising of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags and an opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation.

The ceremony is on the front lawn of the Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street.

There is no need to register.

We look forward to gathering together.



Long lunch

Saturday 23 May, 12 to 4 pm, Fitzroy Street Precinct, St Kilda

Fitzroy Street Precinct Traders are transforming the popular Around the World promotion to a delicious long lunch edition.

This epic restaurant crawl gives you the opportunity to taste 20 restaurants' cuisines.

Each restaurant is offering two tasters.

Most venues will allow participants to sit and eat if they pay extra to order a drink, while some venues are takeaway only.

Bookings close 21 May at 5 pm.

Full details are 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
St Kilda Ward
0431 770 512



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