



# DIVERCITY

April 2025



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY  
VISIT



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

## From the Chamber

We're in the homestretch of adopting our Council's first Plan for Phillip and need your views!

The plan, which includes the 2025/26 budget, has already been informed by feedback from almost 1300 people, including a 40-member community panel.

This feedback has shaped a theme of community safety, connection and cohesion, reflected in a broad range of proposed services and projects.

You can let us know if you think we have hit the mark during the community engagement underway, which ends 18 May. Full details of how to have your say are in this issue of Divercity.

As the 3 May federal election nears, we are continuing to campaign for our community by ensuring all Macnamara candidates are aware of our advocacy asks for our community.

You can stay up to date with candidates' commitments for Port Phillip by accessing our election commitment tracker.

There's another voting opportunity in this issue. We have three projects nominated for local government awards - and voting closes soon. This is a great opportunity to nationally showcase these great initiatives so please take a look.

This Divercity also provides an update of how Ripponlea is rebuilding after the appalling terror attack at the Adass Israel Synagogue in December.

The Adass Israel community is rebuilding the Synagogue while our Council's focus is looking at how to revitalise surrounding public areas of this unique suburb.



Ripponlea's fantastic traders are open despite construction works for the Shul rebuild. Please drop by and enjoy all they offer.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Louise Crawford  
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## Help us Plan for Port Phillip

Community consultation is underway for our Council's draft Plan for Phillip 2025-35, including the proposed 2025/26 budget.

The four-year plan, with a 10-year horizon, will be updated annually to ensure it is meeting the needs of Port Phillip's diverse community.

"This is the first over-arching plan – and budget - to be delivered over the four-year term of our Council and we are keen to hear from our community on whether you think we have hit the mark," our Mayor Louise Crawford said.

Cr Crawford said the draft already reflects direct feedback from almost 1300 people, including a 40-member community panel.

"This proposed plan - with its focus on community safety, connection and cohesion - is key to achieving the updated vision. I urge everyone to take a deep dive into the plan and tell us what you think."

Themes woven into to the draft plan reflecting preliminary community input include:

### **Community safety**

The draft Budget includes an additional \$250,000 to fund new actions flowing from the recent Community Safety Roundtable and the updated Community Safety Plan under

development.

### **Community connection and cohesion**

Additional \$250,000 to fund activities addressing loneliness and isolation, social connection and combating discrimination and racism and anti-Semitism, including \$60,000 to fast track the delivery of the Multicultural Strategy. There's also a \$1.2 million allocation for affordable housing to be provided over two years, pending the development of the updated housing and homelessness strategy.

### **Improved amenity**

Additional \$200,000 to uplift city amenity, including increased street cleaning and pressure washing of main streets across Port Phillip, and an extra \$9 million over the next decade towards improving roads and local infrastructure.

### **Events and festivals**

Consolidation of the St Kilda Festival to enable an additional \$450,000 to be invested in arts and community strengthening initiatives. The specifics of these will be agreed by Councillors after the budget process but may include increased grant opportunities and greater prioritisation on events and activations across the municipality.

### **Greener City, including access to open space**

Additional \$400,000 to improve greening throughout the City, including the development of urban forest precinct plans, and an extra \$4.5 million for the demolition and remediation of the newly acquired Sandridge public open space.

These are just some of the projects and initiatives encompassed in the comprehensive draft plan which provides a roadmap on serving the Port Phillip community right now – and for years to come.

For more details and to learn how you can have your say online and in person, go to:

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

Feedback closes on 18 May 2025. Council will then review all submissions and prepare a report summarising the community's input. A final plan will be adopted in June.





# Ripponlea reimagined

Ripponlea is rebuilding in the wake of the horrific terror attack on the Adass Israel Synagogue in December.

While the trauma will never be forgotten, recovery efforts are gaining momentum with Ripponlea especially vibrant and busy during Passover and Easter.

The Adass Israel community has deeply appreciated the support from the Ripponlea community, both in the immediate aftermath of the attack and during the current recovery phase.

"It has felt like a nice warm hug," Adass Israel congregation board member Benjamin Klein said. "The community has stood by us, including sending donations and letters and cards of support."

He also praised emergency services, including Victoria Police, and City of Port Phillip for their help.

There are now several temporary sites for daily prayers and community gatherings, which also successfully housed Passover celebrations. They will remain during the estimated two to three year build for a new Synagogue and community centre.

The Shul is working with international and local architects and town planners to present concept drawings to the community and Council, which is advising on the permit process.

"The plans will take time and we look forward to sharing them with the community in the future," Mr Klein said.

The Shul has undertaken fund-raising for the rebuild and the Australian Government and federal Opposition both pledged funding during the election campaign so the Synagogue continues to serve as a safe and welcoming place for worship and community activities.

In a further act of support, the Port Phillip Multifaith Network, with Cr Libby Buckingham, recently visited to meet faith leaders and encourage interfaith connections.

Meanwhile, our Council is looking at how to improve and expand the public areas surrounding the Shul for everyone to enjoy under a precinct plan.

Our draft 2025/26 Budget proposes allocating \$60,000 to investigate from July:

- public realm improvements integrating security interventions, such as bollards and barriers, which provide hostile vehicle mitigation while maintaining an open and welcome public space
- more street trees and greening
- lighting upgrades
- improved connections with the Ripponlea train station and nearby Burnett Grey Gardens
- improved links to the Shul from the Glen Eira Road retail precinct.

There will be opportunities for our Ripponlea community, including traders, to have their say on the revitalisation.

The draft Budget also includes an additional \$250,000 to fund activities addressing loneliness and isolation, social connection and combating discrimination and racism and anti-Semitism, including \$60,000 to fast track the delivery of the Multicultural Strategy.

Our Ripponlea traders continue to offer exceptional retail and hospitality offerings in this historic and culturally significant part of Port Phillip. Opportunities to reinvigorate the Glen Eira Road shopping precinct will be considered under Council's Great Places and



Precincts program in collaboration with existing initiatives such as differential rates being implemented to discourage commercial vacancies.

Please show them your support as we rebuild Ripponlea together.

Image: Ripponlea traders Bill, Jenna and Christo.

## City News

### Campaigning for our community

As the 3 May federal election approaches, our Council has been actively campaigning to ensure our advocacy asks for our community are front and centre with Macnamara candidates.



We have engaged with all six candidates through meetings and letters and shared a Priority Project Opportunities document for them to consider.

Our Council's election tracker is regularly updated to reflect commitments made within the City of Port Phillip relating to our assets or advocacy priorities. Notable pledges aligning with Council priorities include:

- Over \$30 million to rebuild the Adass Israel Synagogue (Liberal, Labor)
- \$1.4 million for council investment in North Port Oval (Liberal)
- \$400,000 to support the EcoCentre fit-out (Greens, Labor)
- Funding for CCTV: \$520,000 (Liberal) and \$1.5 million (Labor)
- \$12.5 million for the Australian National Academy of Music at South Melbourne Town Hall (Labor).

For more information go to:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/governance-performance-and-advocacy/advocacy/2025-federal-election/>

### Vote for Port Phillip projects!

The National Awards for Local Government recognise and showcase inspirational projects local governments are delivering in communities across Australia.



We need your vote for these nominated Port Phillip projects:

- Urban Forest Strategy, nominated in the Environmental Sustainability category
- iconic St Kilda Festival, nominated in the Art and Culture category
- Pets of Port Phillip program, nominated in the Cohesive Communities category.

Please cast your vote before the Monday 28 April deadline to help us have these important achievements recognised at a national level.

Go to: <https://nalg.awardsplatform.com>

## Perfect places

Are you looking to hire a regular space for your next function, meeting, conference, workshop, class or community gathering?

Applications for the regular hire of our community facilities between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026 are now open.

We have 12 venues and 27 rooms available for hire. You can do a 3D virtual walk-through of our venues via our [Find a venue](#) page.

For full details go to:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/regular-hire-applications-for-202526/>



## Live music locator

With a colourful history as one of Australia's most famous live music suburbs, St Kilda is a beacon for fans of every genre.

From late night laneway bars and iconic band rooms to heritage-listed concert halls, there's something for every music lover.



And now there is a gig guide, Live Music Locator, to help you find all the shows on offer. Plan your night out, with this guide featuring gigs, across every genre, on any date you choose.

Go to: <https://stkilda.lml.live>

## Scooting safely

Since 2022, there have been 1.5 million shared e-scooter scheme rides getting residents and visitors around our City.

We have listened to our community's safety and amenity concerns and are continuing to improve how this convenient and low-emission travel option is ridden and parked.

Improvements our Council has implemented over the past six months - or successfully encouraged operators to undertake - include:

- 50 eye-catching "no footpath riding" decals at key high streets and activity centres to educate riders about the road rules and deter them from riding on footpaths
- the almost complete rollout of footpath detection cameras across the entire scooter fleet in Port Phillip. These cameras can be used to issue verbal alerts, and if necessary, disciplinary action on users by the operators
- continuing to require 'no parking' digital geofences in apps so GPS technology stops



users from ending their trips in unsuitable locations

- an upcoming trial of 10 marked on-footpath parking bays at key high streets and activity centres with wide footpaths to further improve e-scooter parking in these areas. A consultation will be part of this trial.

Our Council will be considering its long-term position on e-scooters in the next few months.

For more information, go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/travelling-around/e-scooters>

## Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Actions at our 16 April Council Meeting included:

Endorsement of the draft Plan for Port Phillip 2025-35 (including the 2025/26 budget) to be released for community engagement

Presentation of the CEO Report.

More details:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-16-april-2025/>



## Arts in Focus



### The write stuff

Gasworks Script Lab is again offering a free creative development program for emerging and experienced playwrights living in Port Phillip.

Presented in partnership with the Melbourne Writers' Theatre and delivered on-site at Gasworks Art Park, the program will culminate in two script showcases to be presented on stage for the public on 17 and 18 October.

Before that, participants will attend a series of writing workshops and develop new scripts in sessions with professional directors and actors.



### Making history

Port Phillip locals were presented with major prizes recently at the 2024 Victorian Community History Awards ceremony.

Albert Park's Phillip Deery (pictured) won the History Article Award for his piece "A Community in Crisis: Dr Deery and the Healesville Hospital Dispute, 1961–62".

The judges said: "Phillip Deery is arguably Australia's foremost historian of the cold war years. He has a knack for using biography to elucidate the bigger sweep of history, based on deep research into often arcane archives that he deploys with a light but masterful touch."



Expressions of Interest open Wednesday 1 May and close Friday 16 May.

The EOI, and full details will be available from 1 May on the Gasworks Arts Park website:

Participants must be available to attend all of the program sessions.

Full details:

<https://gasworks.org.au/artists-opportunity/gasworks-script-lab/>

The Middle Park and Albert Park History Group (represented by Gary Poore and Sonya Cameron) won the Local History Project Award for their book "Albert Park. Bridport St and Beyond".

The judges praised the book as a "pleasing example of a polished, well-structured and engaging collaborative local history publication".

More information:

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/community/grants-and-awards/community-history-awards>

## Help Shape our City



### Have your say

Keep an eye on our [Have Your Say website](#) for updates on projects which are open for community feedback. For more detail about opportunities to give your feedback you can [sign up to our monthly community engagement newsletter](#).

### Projects open for feedback

#### Plan for Port Phillip (including budget) 2025-35

City of Port Phillip has unveiled the draft Plan for Port Phillip (including budget) 2025-35. This plan outlines how Council will serve and support our community now and into the future. It addresses the evolving needs of our community and outlines key services, initiatives, and projects to help Port Phillip thrive. This forward-looking plan includes the proposed 2025/26 budget.

#### Built with the community, for the community

This draft plan is the result of nine months of community engagement, with nearly 1,300 residents contributing through surveys, workshops, neighbourhood pop-ups, and a dedicated 40-member community panel.

#### Your feedback

Now is your opportunity to help shape the final version of the Plan for Port Phillip. Council is committed to continuing to listen and evolve the plan based on community input. Have we got it right?

View the draft and share your feedback until 18 May 2025 at:  
[haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/planforportphillip](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/planforportphillip)

#### Coming up

#### New Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy

We are developing a new 10-year Homelessness and Affordable Housing Strategy for our City.

This strategy will set out Council's role in supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to find pathways to secure housing, and in accessing affordable or social (public and community) housing.

Feedback is open until Monday 19 May on our [Have Your Say website](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au):

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

## Sustainability

### Electrifying expo

Come along to the Electrify Southside Expo at the St Kilda Town Hall on Sunday 22 June, delivered in partnership with the City of Port Phillip.

Electrify Southside is an exciting new initiative supporting people to make the switch to an energy efficient, all-electric future.



This Expo will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and the local community from 10 am to 5 pm to explore the latest advancements in energy efficiency, electrification and sustainable transport. Come along and go electric with confidence and expert support.

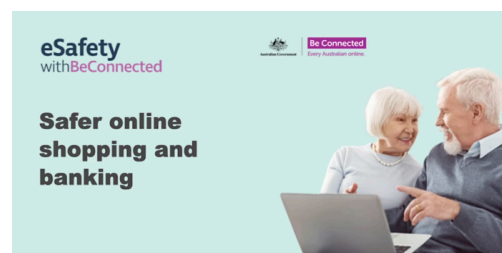
Full details: <https://electrifysouthside.org>

## Library Visit

### Free eSafety sessions

Three free livestreamed eSafety presentations at St Kilda Library in May will cover a range of important topics:

- Protecting your personal information online (6 May)
- Safer online shopping and banking (8 May)
- Can you spot a scam? (22 May)



Bookings essential.

Full details: Call 9209 6655 or visit <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/whats-on/free-online-safety-presentations/>

## Community Spirit

## Lifesaving lessons

Ambulance Victoria, in partnership with our Council, is holding free 90-minute workshops with parents and carers in mind.

Delivered by paramedics, participants will learn subjects including common medical conditions in children and how to address them and when to call Triple 000.



CPR and how to use an Automatic External Defibrillator will also be taught. The next workshop is at Middle Park on 10 June. Bookings essential.

For more details and to book, go to;  
<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1358832>

## What's On



### Temple talk "after the fire"

Tuesday 6 May

How do we recover precious objects and why are they significant in the first place?

These topics, and more, will be discussed at Emerald Hill Library from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm as part of the Australian Heritage Festival.

Join historian and curator Dr Sophie Couchman and students from the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne for a free talk about recovery efforts after the devastating 17 February 2024 fire at the See Yup Temple in South Melbourne – and the work ahead.



### Community Planting Day

Sunday, 27 April

Come along and help the Ecocentre put 2000 plants in the ground at the Point Ormond lookout along the Elwood foreshore.

This will support revegetation and restoration after building works and foster ongoing preservation of coastal habitats.

Planting is from 10 am to 12 pm.

Meet at the bottom of the path to the lookout where the pedestrian and bike paths intersect.

Don't forget a hat, sunblock, water and your own gardening gloves.

Go to the Port Phillip



### Japanese eateries Southside

Delicious all year round.

We're spoilt for choice if you're craving Japanese food in Port Phillip.

Here are a few top-rated Japanese joints to make you feel like you're right in Tokyo or Osaka:

- Brother Shota, Albert Park
- Misuzu's, Albert Park
- Moonfishh, Albert Park
- Bounty of the Sun, Balaclava
- Taiko Sushi, Balaclava
- Yo-Sho, Port Melbourne
- Kuu, South Melbourne
- Moon Mart, South Melbourne
- Machi, St Kilda



Bookings are essential.  
Call 9209 6655 or visit  
the Port Phillip Library  
Service's website.

EcoCentre's web page to  
register.

- No 18 Ramen,  
St Kilda.

Details:  
[whatsonstkilda.com](http://whatsonstkilda.com)

## 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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