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# DIVERSITY

October 2021



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

## From the Chamber

Spring has (finally!) arrived and I hope everyone is enjoying our City's beautiful open spaces in the warmer weather.

COVID-19 made it an even tougher winter for many of our traders. As summer fast approaches, we have already been planning how we can support you as Port Phillip starts safely reopening ahead of the busiest season of the year.



At our October 20 Council Meeting, we will be considering a permanent policy on business parklets for outdoor dining. COVID-19 restrictions make outdoor dining an incredibly important option for traders and we want to do whatever we can to support local businesses.

This focus on local business is reflected in our Council signing the Victorian Small Business Commission's *Small Business Friendly Council Charter*. The pledge reinforces our commitment to achieving the Council Plan Strategic Direction of a Vibrant Port Phillip – "A City that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne's cultural and creative hubs".

The arts will play a crucial role in helping us achieve this. Bringing vibrancy and life to our streets and public spaces means more foot-traffic for traders. We are looking forward to seeing wonderful activation ideas after entries close for our Reimagine – Activation Design Competition. We also paved the way for some fantastic creativity last week when endorsing guidelines and criteria for the upcoming 2022-25 funding round available under our Cultural Development Fund.

I continue to be proud of how our community has come together at this incredibly challenging time.

This issue of Diversity has several examples of this community connection – I hope you smile when reading about a front-yard transformed into a "gallery" and our very own friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man.

Regards,

Cr Louise Crawford  
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## Help keep Port Phillip open for business

Local business, arts and community figures are encouraging Port Phillip residents to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated against COVID-19.

A social media campaign launched by our Council this week will include calls by Palais Theatre Venue Manager Lloyd Jones, Luna Park Executive Director Mary Stuart, Victorian Pride Centre Chair Hang Vo, Stokehouse restaurateur Frank van Haandel, St Kilda MEMO Music Hall, the Astor, Linden New Art, the Jewish Museum and traders from the South Melbourne Market for our community to 'please help us reopen by getting vaccinated'.

Port Phillip's hard-hit arts and hospitality industries are not the only ones counting on a busy summer to help recover from lockdowns.

Port Melbourne Colts Football Club representatives are also participating in the campaign to highlight the devastating impact of the pandemic on community sports.

Our campaign is aimed at boosting vaccination in Port Phillip which, along with several other inner-city municipalities, is experiencing lower first dose vaccination rates.

Posts featuring different local identities will be rolled out over several weeks on the City of Port Phillip's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

There are plenty of vaccination options across our City.

General public bookings for StarHealth's Port Melbourne Town Hall vaccination centre can be made through contacting the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398. Priority individual and group bookings can be arranged via the internal COVID Helpline on 8644 331. To book online, go to: <https://bit.ly/3AQeWH4>

You can also book a vaccine (AstraZeneca, Moderna) at local pharmacies: <https://bit.ly/3if5KEZ>

For more info about where to get vaccinated, see our website: <https://bit.ly/3kzPmAV>

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## Planning for a safe and successful summer for our City

The streets of Port Phillip will again come to life with outdoor dining and eye-catching activations as we move through the Victorian Government's roadmap out of lockdown and towards a COVID-safe summer.

Once Victoria achieves a 70 per cent double vaccination rate, pubs can re-open for 50 fully vaccinated people outdoors. When the 80 per cent target is reached, (estimated 5 November) pubs, restaurants and cafes can open for seated service only, with up to 150 fully vaccinated people inside and 500 outdoors.

This means hospitality venues will once again be needing our Council's support to not only re-open but stay open through the provision of parking spaces, park and beach space and laneway/road closures, where appropriate.

As part of our 2020 Live Love Local initiative, 64 hospitality traders installed business parklets on roads to assist their post-lockdown recovery efforts. We expect this number to rise slightly this year as new businesses in our City consider how to conduct their operations outdoors. Simultaneously, we will consider a policy on making parklets permanent moving forward on October 20.

Many members of our community have enjoyed using these spaces for catch-ups with friends and family and we are looking forward to seeing our community safely gather from November.

While some parking spaces are lost in the process, keeping hospitality flourishing is vital for all businesses in our neighbourhoods as busy cafes and restaurants have beneficial flow-on effects to other retailers.

While we're still assessing applications, it's likely some of the laneways which closed last year may do so again. This enabled pubs and restaurants to further spill out onto the street as well as providing areas where live music and activation can take place.

Our foreshore was a key activation site last summer and will be again this year with residents invited to dine and drink on the sand. Establishments stretching from Elwood to Port Melbourne are working on their re-opening plans and we anticipate some fantastic temporary venues where our community can enjoy the summer they've all earned in supporting each other this year.

Keep an eye out for live music, stunning activations from our Reimagine - Activation Design Competition and much more as Port Phillip emerges from lockdown to once again becomes the vibrant City we know and love.

## City News

### Recycling reset success

After more than 14,500 recycling bin inspections across Port Phillip, the results are in.

Our Recycling Reset campaign resulted in 25 per cent less recycling bin contamination incidents being spotted from the first to third bin inspection.

This is significant as one of the drivers for the six month campaign was an audit revealing the contamination rate for Port Phillip residential recycling bins jumped from 10 per cent in 2019 to 25 per cent in April 2020, as more people at home during restrictions created extra household waste.



A bin inspection and tagging program, rewarding residents using their recycling bins correctly with vouchers from local businesses, was at the heart of the campaign.

When items such as soft plastics, garden waste and e-waste were found, residents received information about how these contaminants cause additional processing costs and, in some cases, prevent an entire truckload's contents from being recycled.

Recycling Reset also increased awareness about changes to the recycling acceptance list, such as liquid paperboard (including long-life milk containers) no longer being accepted.

Managing the challenge presented by increasing waste - and the cost of managing it - is a key long-term challenge for us. This is why our Strategic Direction for a Sustainable Port Phillip includes reducing household waste sent to landfill.

There is still room for improvement and National Recycling Week (8-14 November) is a great opportunity to check if you are playing your part as a responsible recycler.

For more information, and to ensure you are up to date with what can be popped in your recycling bin, view the Waste and Recycling Guide on our website at <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/waste-recycling-and-cleaning/a-handy-guide-to-waste-and-recycling>.

*Pictured above is Port Phillip resident Vidi, who was the recipient of one of the Recycling Reset vouchers*

### Rent relief for the road to recovery

Over the past 18 months, our Council's commercial tenants have been doing it tough, with many struggling to

make payments. As we start on the road out of lockdown, we want to ensure our local businesses are in a position to do what they do best.

That's why we are going the extra mile to ensure we continue to support our local businesses through lockdown and as restrictions begin to lift.

Our Council has introduced a new rental relief scheme which goes even further than the Victorian Government's updated Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme, with a lower threshold to qualify and full rent waivers provided. The Scheme casts a wide net encompassing a range of community tenants including artists' studios, restaurants on Council managed land and South Melbourne Market stallholders.



Small-medium sized businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$50 million and with reduced turnover of 20 per cent or more are eligible to apply for our Scheme.

Details:

- Relief is offered for tenants that can provide evidence of a monthly turnover impact of 20 per cent or greater
- Turnover is considered on a monthly basis
- Council provides full rent waivers where applicable
- Discount is offered on a direct proportionate basis. For example, a 24 per cent reduction in turnover means a 24 per cent rent waiver will be provided
- Relief period is July 2021 to 15 January 2022.

If you fit the following criteria you are eligible to apply for rent relief:

1. You are a direct tenant of Council
2. Pay a commercial rent
3. Turnover (including associated entities) not in excess of \$50 million per annum.

You can apply by submitting a formal request to [property@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:property@portphillip.vic.gov.au) with a statement of:

Your decline in turnover, evidence of the previous months' trading figures and corresponding trading figures for the same period in 2019. Figures can be from accounting records or a statement prepared by a practising accountant.

You need to disclose any other COVID-19 relief funding and should not profit as a result of support funding. For example, if you provide details of June 2019 vs June 2021 turnover that confirms a turnover reduction of 65 per cent, a rental waiver of 65 per cent will be credited to your July 2021 rent.

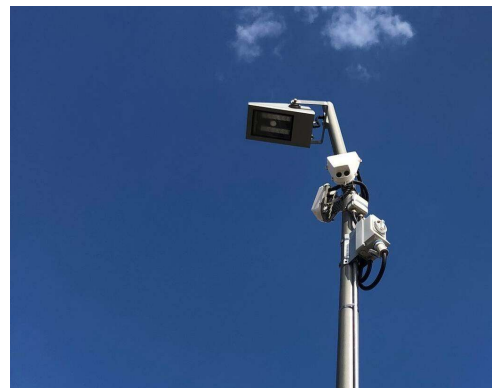
We appreciate there may be some circumstances where there has been significant financial hardship that may not strictly fall within the criteria provided above.

In those circumstances, we ask you to provide full details of your unique circumstances that will enable us to consider relief on a case by case basis.

## AI sensors assisting smart solutions

Artificial intelligence is being used to help provide smart transport and planning solutions for Port Phillip.

AI-powered traffic sensors – the first of their kind in Victoria – are measuring bike, car, truck and pedestrian movements at several Port Phillip locations – and will be able to identify e-scooters when the Victorian Government's trial of this new transport mode gets underway.



The data is anonymous as it does not capture individual moving images on roads, bike paths and footpaths. Instead, a colour assigned to each form of transport appears on a graph or radiating across an image of the sensor site. The AI capability of the Vivacity Labs sensors is so sophisticated it can even distinguish between a car and a van based on factors such as size.

The sensors are a significant tool as being able to measure what is moving where - and when - helps inform decisions to bring Council's [Move, Connect, Live](#) Integrated Transport Strategy to life.

This includes everything from encouraging sustainable transport by knowing where bike paths would be most beneficial to whether changes are needed to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. Being able to monitor demand and trends can also give planners a heads-up on where future Council services, open spaces or buildings may be required.

A pair of sensors are currently monitoring movements at both Pier Road and near the St Kilda Marina. Fitzroy Street and Loch Street intersection are due to be installed this month.

Two more sensors will be installed later this year at the corner of Buckhurst and Ferrars Street, with this data expected to help inform the development of this precinct.

Vivacity Labs has partnered with Bicycle Network, Australia's biggest bike riding organisation, and our Council for this project.

*Pictured above is the AI sensor at St Kilda Marina.*

## Supporting small business

Port Phillip Council is now a proud signatory to the Small Business Friendly Council Charter.

A Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) initiative, the Charter aims to assist small businesses as they navigate their way into the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Our Council has pledged to work with the VSBC on measures including:

- helping small businesses to keep trading while infrastructure works are underway – including consulting with business owners for the life of these projects
- working towards paying small business suppliers within 14 days
- helping new local business networks to get up and running and existing ones to thrive.

Signing the Charter further demonstrates our commitment to achieving the Council Plan Strategic Direction of a Vibrant Port Phillip – “A City that has a flourishing economy, where our community and local businesses thrive, and we maintain and enhance our reputation as one of Melbourne’s cultural and creative hubs”.

The pledge, signed by Mayor Louise Crawford and CEO Peter Smith, is the latest in a series of Council initiatives to help support traders at this tremendously challenging time. Others include:

- Facilitating outdoor dining and footpath trading for businesses keen to trade, when restrictions allow, during the pandemic
- Providing a business concierge service to help new business owners navigate approvals
- Significant rent relief to eligible Council commercial tenants
- Establishing the Prosperous Port Phillip Business Advisory Group to gain insights into the challenges faced by local businesses.

Economic activity is also being encouraged through a range of initiatives aimed at encouraging residents and visitors to enjoy our City after restrictions ease.

Love My Place Grants, live music support, the Reimagine - Activation Design Competition and outdoor dining and activations, to name just a few, will all help drive foot-traffic to our traders as Port Phillip opens up, especially during the traditionally busy summer season.

## Nominations closing for LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee

Nominations for the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee open now until midnight 17 October 2021.

Port Phillip is proud to be home to a diverse and vibrant LGBTIQA+ community. To ensure our City continues to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive place where people of all backgrounds and ages can thrive, we are inviting community members to join our LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee.



As a committee member, you will provide advice to Council on issues impacting LGBTIQA+ residents, visitors, businesses and the wider community to help steer the development and implementation of the Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.

We aim to ensure that members of the Committee reflect a balance between individuals and organisations and the community and business sectors.

We have up to 11 vacancies on this to fill on the committee. Nominees must work, study, or reside in the Port Phillip and they are selected on the basis of their:

- identification as LGBTIQA+
- capacity to consult with the LGBTIQA+ community and represent a wide range of views
- understanding of the needs of the LGBTIQA+ community
- capacity to analyse information and provide advice on issues affecting the LGBTIQA+ community.

We are looking to build a Committee that reflects the diverse experience of LGBTIQ+ people in our City. As far as practicable, the composition of the community members will reflect this diversity including:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds
- people with a disability
- people from variety of life stages
- people from different locations across the municipality.

Applications close on 17 October 2021. For more details, terms of reference and information on how to apply visit Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ community web page: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/join-the-port-phillip-lgbtiqa-advisory-committee>

## Conserving a piece of Port Phillip history

The South Melbourne Town Hall is one of Melbourne's oldest and most impressive civic buildings, acting as a centrepiece in the heart of the City of Port Phillip.

The iconic building on Bank Street is much loved by our community and its architectural, historical and social significance is well acknowledged through its presence on the Victorian Heritage Register.



The Conservation Management Plan was formalised with its presentation to a Council Meeting last month. Council noted that the document will help ensure that the future use, management and upgrades of this impressive asset will enrich its heritage values.

The Conservation Plan, which recognises the reactivation of the Town Hall as a priority, updates and supersedes a similar plan from 1995 as our Council prepares to undertake significant repairs of the building.

The building, originally known as the Emerald Hill Town Hall, was completed in 1880 in an area to be formally known as South Melbourne just three years later.

Now, 141 years later, the South Melbourne Town Hall is closed to the public under Council's renewal project for the site. The building is in fair condition overall but is due for major restoration and renewal, particularly after the collapse of part of the ceiling in 2018 which also caused significant water damage.

Council has undertaken a substantial commitment of \$15m over the next two years to undertake the renewal and upgrade of the South Melbourne Town Hall, which the Conservation Plan will play a significant role in ensure that the works retain and enhance the building's substantial history.

Works include repair of the damaged areas of the building, the renewal and upgrade of the building's structure, air-conditioning, electrical and fire-safety systems, plus a broad range of other general works to upgrade the Town Hall in line with current standards.

The building's main hall boasts 40 foot high ceilings and was the scene of many social events and picture-shows for about 2000 people before restorations changed the main stage in the 1930s.

Residents can take a virtual hall walkthrough of the South Melbourne Town Hall and view the building's floor plan on Council's website.

Works are anticipated to be completed in 2023.

For more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/projects-and-works/south-melbourne-town-hall-restoration>

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## Calling Artists to Call out Gender-Based Violence – The Art of Respect



We are seeking expressions of interest from artists to design four A2-sized decals to be installed across five areas in the municipality. Four artists will be selected to produce concepts for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (25 November to 10 December 2021).

Council is committed to supporting artists with diverse backgrounds and identities, including First Nations, young people, older people, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse and LGBTIQ+ people.

Artists who live, work, study or have a close connection to the City of Port Phillip are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Project Background

The United Nation's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global campaign that takes place annually between 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent human rights abuses in the world.

In Australia, on average, one woman is murdered by a current or former partner each week, and almost 10 women a day are hospitalised for assault injuries perpetrated by a spouse or intimate partner. In Victoria (indeed in Australia as a whole), intimate partner violence is a leading contributor of disability and illness in women aged 15-44. Domestic and family violence is also one of the main reasons why women and children become homeless in Australia.



Coinciding with the international 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, City of Port Phillip is taking part in Respect Victoria's state-wide Respect Women: 'Call it Out' initiative. This initiative encourages councils, community health and other organisations to engage our diverse communities in conversations about gender equality and respect, ultimately contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence.

Through the "Art of Respect" project, we aim to raise awareness and start conversations in our community about these important issues, showcasing artists' work in prominent locations throughout the City of Port Phillip during the 16 Days of Activism. We seek to generate support for gender equality, and importantly, encourage people to take action when they witness disrespect towards women and girls. Not all disrespect towards women results in violence. But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour.

Decals will represent the artists' work based on their design, along with a QR code that people can scan to visit our website for more information about the campaign and the call to action. On the website, we will include the artwork, a description from the artist and the artist's bio.

### Concept Theme

The concept will involve respecting women and gender equality, must be original and must not contain business logos, advertising material, or imagery that is offensive; nor is it to be seen to promote anti-social behaviour or political bias.

With this campaign, we are asking people to:

- Think about and talk about what respect looks like in their everyday lives – including in intimate relationships, families, workplaces and communities
- Call out disrespect, sexism, harassment and abuse when it is safe to do so (to be active bystanders)
- Make the link between gender equality and family violence/violence against women

Expressions of interest open on Monday 11 October and close on Sunday 24 October.

For guidelines and more on how to apply visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/health-and-wellbeing/community-safety/family-violence>

## Primary school artists wanted for National Recycling Week

Our poster competition for National Recycling Week is open now for primary school children. This is a great opportunity for our young people to use their artistic talent to share their knowledge about recycling and help our City.

National Recycling Week is on 8 – 14 November. This year, we are celebrating by inviting our budding artists to send us their best recycling-themed posters.

You can help our City recycle by creating fun and educational posters that will be shared across the community.

We are inviting all primary students in City of Port Phillip to participate in this competition to help our community understand [what can and can't be recycled](#) in your yellow recycling bin.

There will be prizes for the top three participants. The winning entry will get \$100 gift voucher and the two runners-up will get \$50 gift vouchers each.

How to enter:

- Send us following details:
  - Child's name



- Grade and School's name
- name of the person who helped with the art submission
- Your teacher/parent or guardian can enter on your behalf
- A permission form needs to be completed and signed by the teacher/parent or guardian giving us permission for us to poster the art piece to our social media and bus shelter
- Winners will be chosen by a Council panel. Judges decisions are final.
- All submissions must be entered to [waste@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:waste@portphillip.vic.gov.au) by 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

Winners will be announced on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

For more, please visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/waste-recycling-and-cleaning>

## Swooping survival tips

In good news we're coming to the end of swooping season now but unfortunately some local swooping sites intensify at this time as the young prepare to leave the nest.



Spring is in full swing - the flowers are blooming, the daylight hours are lengthening, the birds are nesting... but that also means some birds are swooping. Native birds can swoop in parks, gardens, along bike tracks, in school yards - anywhere birds are nesting.

Know your local swooping hotspots

To reduce your chances of getting swooped, check the swooping map on Council's website to identify well-known local swoop sites and you can also add sites you've identified to alert others too. Avoid these spots if possible or if you must enter, move through the area quickly.

Tips to stay safe

Find other tips to stay safe during swooping season:

- Cover your head: Wear a hat or carry a stick or umbrella above your head. Cyclists should wear a helmet, dismount and walk through the area.
- Eyes at the back of your head: Birds may be less likely to swoop if they think you are watching them. Draw a pair of 'eyes' and attach to the back of hats and helmets.
- Don't interfere with or throw stones at birds. This gives them added reason to see humans as a threat and may increase swooping behaviour.
- Don't attempt to destroy nests. Native birds are protected wildlife and trying to remove their nests can lead birds to rebuild their nests, prolonging the swooping behaviour.

Visit the magpie swooping map: <https://www.wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds>

## Registration Open for Community Stories on Film

Calling new, beginner and experienced filmmakers! We are looking for original short films focusing on the theme of inclusion and belonging in Port Phillip.

Community Stories on Film showcases short films developed and produced by community members.

Inclusive communities are thriving communities and provide a positive sense of belonging for everyone.



Community Stories on Film will be available online on the City of Port Phillip website on Friday 3 December as part of our celebrations for International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD). The short films will be available for viewing online for one week.

Your short film can be in any visual or artistic style. You might make a documentary, a comedy, interview someone, or make a purely artistic film. It must be suitable for young audiences and no longer than 10 minutes in length.

Who can get involved?

People with disability, families, carers and advocates in the City of Port Phillip community are invited to contribute an original short film. This project is open to people who:

- live in the City of Port Phillip
- work in the City of Port Phillip
- have a significant connection to the Port Phillip community through regular volunteering, study or involvement with a Port Phillip-based community organisation.
- have access to a device to use for the creation of a short film (for example, a smartphone or tablet).
- are 18 years or over

How to get involved?

You can submit your registration now by completing the form at: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/idpwd>

Registrations close at 5 pm on Wednesday 10 November. Film submissions are due at 5 pm on Wednesday 17 November.

## Kings Way tree works

The Department of Transport is doing varied tree management works on six of the eight trees planted on the centre median of Kings Way between Park Street and Queens Road on 24-26 October 2021.

This will reduce risk to community while promoting tree health and longevity. The works will be done at night and will include climbing inspections, pruning, broken branch/deadwood removal and full removal of one tree that was involved in a fatality in 2019.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/newsmedia>

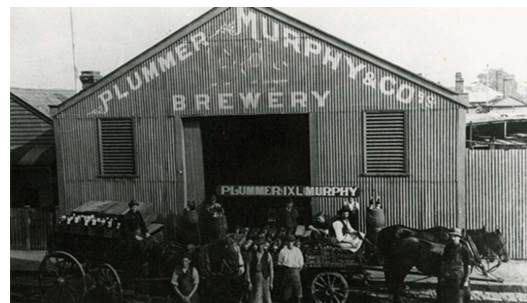


## Arts in Focus



### Garden art for the community

In a time where art galleries have been forced to close their doors, one St Kilda resident has opened her garden to display artwork to the community.



### Collection Curiosities

You never know what Port Phillip City Collection treasures you'll find online. Dive into a selection compiled to celebrate Ask A Curator Day.

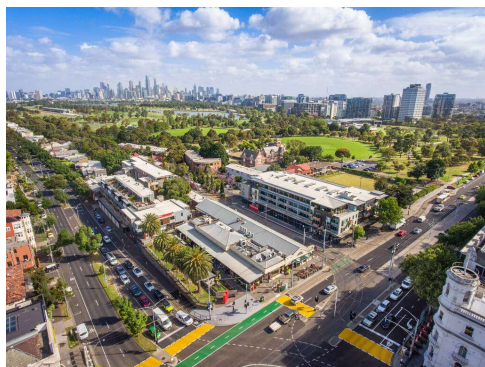
After plans to host an exhibition in her backyard were thwarted by COVID-19 restrictions, Janine Hellard instead turned her front garden into an outdoor exhibition space, allowing those passing by to enjoy art.

Find out more: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/garden-art-for-the-community>

There are two main collection themes: Art and Heritage, with a number of sub-collections: Public Art, Memorials and Monuments and Corporate Collection.

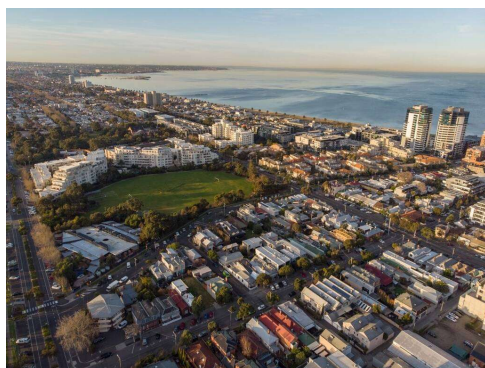
Find out more: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/we-curated-a-list-for-ask-a-curator-day>

## Help Shape our City



### Have Your Say

*Have Your Say* is the City of Port Phillip's online community engagement space where you can participate in conversations about the future of your neighbourhood, local community and our City. Don't miss out on future opportunities to have your say – register at <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/register> and we'll keep you in the loop on upcoming consultations.



### Upcoming changes to Port Phillip Planning Scheme

In July 2021, Council endorsed changes to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme and resolved to prepare a planning scheme amendment to reflect these changes.

The amendment proposes to update the local Planning Scheme to implement the findings of the Port Phillip Audit Report 2018 and align with Victorian Government requirements.

Find out more: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/upcoming-changes-to-the-port-phillip-planning-scheme>

## Community Spirit

### St Kilda's superhero

Not all heroes wear capes - including St Kilda's very own amazing Spider-Man.

St Kilda East resident Stuart Tyson has become a popular lockdown icon since regularly jogging around St Kilda in a Spider-Man suit since last July.

The trainee psychologist first suited up to lift his own spirits during lockdown and to hopefully create some fun for others.

He was astounded when a friend told him that posts on local community Facebook pages were applauding his efforts while posing the question – who is this masked man?

“It was a moment of joy when I realised that people were having fun seeing me,” he said.

“I like to entertain and lift people’s spirits. This was a way of spreading lightness and colour and joy - and even a little silliness - during a difficult time.”

Stuart ended the web of speculation by “unmasking” himself publicly but continues to don his Spider-Man suit about twice a week.



His favourite haunts are the St Kilda foreshore, Acland Street and Alma Park, where he more often resembles the Pied Piper with up to 30 children following him before he speeds off.

That endurance took a while to achieve as running in head to toe Lycra presents unique difficulties.

“The first time I lasted five minutes, it’s hard to breathe and you sweat more than you can imagine. Breathing through the nose and mouth helped but the biggest thing was conditioning myself.”

He’s now on to his second Spidey suit, with a third on hand for special appearances.

“A friend of a mum with a four-year-old boy receiving chemotherapy asked on Facebook if anyone knew my contact details as he was a Spider-Man fan. I visited him (last year when restrictions allowed this) and it was incredibly rewarding, although he did say he also loved The Flash,” Stuart laughed.

Stuart’s commitment to spreading joy is no flash in the pan as he doesn’t plan to stop his superhero sprints after lockdown ends.

“I’m thinking about whether to run as other characters so St Kilda Spider-Man may have some friends – although I can’t confirm that yet.”

Whatever he decides, we think Stuart will always be a local hero.

## Share the Food: Helping residents in need

As Melbourne’s lockdown continues, the tireless efforts of local community organisations are as important as ever.

This includes the Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG), whose Share the Food Program was developed to help our community during COVID-19 restrictions.



In addition to ensuring food security for more vulnerable members of our community, the program has enabled Council to fulfill its obligation under the State COVID Relief Plan to provide food relief for persons needing support to isolate due to COVID-19. This has included support for both individuals and for residents in social housing that have been required to quarantine for 14 days.

Executive Officer Karen Sait says demand caused by the pandemic has seen the PPCG go from feeding hundreds of people a week to feeding thousands in the Port Phillip community.

“When the pandemic hit, we were really concerned about how our clients would get food and other essential items. The City of Port Philip convened a meeting with us and other players like Sacred Heart Mission, the Salvo’s, and Launch Housing, and it became obvious that everyone shared

concerns about their client groups and how they were going to access food," Ms Sait said.

"As demand from the community grew, we started seeing a whole different group of people needing help that we traditionally wouldn't have seen due to loss of jobs and inability to meet their financial commitments."

Between April 2020 to September 2021, Council contributed \$180,000 towards PPCG's food relief program which provides food staples, fresh food, toiletries and hygiene products as well as COVID-19 information and personal protection items to people facing financial hardship and those quarantining.

Ms Sait estimates about \$1.5 million worth of predominantly donated food and essential items have now been delivered to residents since the beginning of the pandemic. "We have been most impressed with the many local businesses, communities and individuals for their exceptional generosity, and in volunteering their time and expertise".

From just July to September last year, the organisation distributed over 8,000 substantial food parcels or meals plus provided hundreds of kilos of fresh food that community agencies used to also cook meals for their communities

As many of Council's venues were closed due to the pandemic, they were able to be put to good use by the PPCG, which continues to run its operations from the Fishermans Bend Community Centre as lockdowns and restrictions continue, after initially using the JL Murphy Pavilion until local sport resumed.

"It grew really quickly and organically. We had to learn how to run a warehouse during a pandemic, because we were getting lots of food and other donations yet the need was so great," Ms Sait said.

"Port Phillip Council staff have also come and worked alongside with our staff and the exceptional community volunteers. It's a nice way for people to get to know each other and to hear about each other's stories."

One example is Council's Social Support Program Facilitator David Clerehan, who would normally be transporting residents on Council's community bus. Now his bus rounds are used to help deliver food parcels.

"I'm not carrying passengers at the moment so I'm obviously not having conversations, but it's still very satisfying as there's a lot of people in desperate need and it's good to do this service and get food out there," Mr Clerehan said.

Mr Clerehan, who supports the Share the Food program three days a week, spoke highly of PPCG's work in the community.

"It's a great group of people down there, I felt instantly welcomed from my first shift. There was a callout for a driver and now I've been there for five or six weeks and there's always such a positive vibe in there."

For more information about the Share the Food Program, including volunteering opportunities and ways to donate to this program, visit the Port Phillip Community Group website.

## What's On



**Poets paradise**



**First Stories Festival**



**Pick a park for**

Sundays, 3-5 pm

Calling all poets and poetry lovers! Planetary Healing Artists is currently seeking expressions of interest for their themed Poetry Reading Afternoon Teas on Sundays from 3-5 PM.

Themes include: Conserving the Earth, Displaced Poems, Exile at Home and Free Poems.

You are welcome to read your own, or another person's poem relating to the particular theme for each event, or just attend as a listener.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, the events are planned to take place at the Mary Kehoe Community Centre or via Zoom.

For more information, contact Josephine at [hartsjosephine@gmail.com](mailto:hartsjosephine@gmail.com) or visit their [website](#).

Applications close 29 October.

Across February and March of 2022, Theatre Works will present the inaugural First Stories Festival - a Deadly new writers festival for First Nations storytellers, proudly delivered #ByMob4Mob.

They are currently seeking expressions of interest from First Nations and Torres Strait Islander participants, with applications open until October 29.

The week-long festival program aims to empower emerging First Nations writers to find their voice in their own way.

For more information and to apply, visit their [website](#).

Please note, applications will only be accepted from First Nations and Torres Strait Islander persons.

## picnic season

As Melbourne's often unpredictable weather starts to provide more sunshine, and with COVID-19 restrictions easing, now is the perfect time to celebrate picnic season.

The City of Port Phillip offers many great locations to pop down a rug and feast on some treats from local businesses.

Try out Catani Gardens where historic boulevards of Canary Island palms trees line the walking paths, while nearby Fitzroy Street offers abundant eating options and the Acland Street precinct is a short walk or tram ride away.

For more information on picnicking locally, visit Council's [website](#).

## Your Councillors

### Gateway Ward



**Cr Heather Cunsolo**  
0466 227 014



**Cr Peter Martin**  
0435 390 821



**Cr Marcus Pearl**  
0466 448 272

### Lake Ward



**Cr Andrew Bond**  
0481 034 028



**Cr Katherine Copsey**  
0466 478 949



**Cr Christina Sirakoff**  
0435 419 930

## Canal Ward



**Cr Tim Baxter**  
0466 495 250



**Cr Rhonda Clark**  
0435 098 738



**Cr Louise Crawford**  
0466 514 643

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