

DIVERCITY

City of Port Phillip magazine - September 2020

Adapting to change



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Adapting to change

It is fitting that 'adapting to change' is the theme of this final print edition of **Divercity** as it certainly is chock-full of change!

Mayor, Cr Bernadene Voss

This includes the news that Divercity will be popping up in email inboxes, rather than mailboxes. As well as offering significant savings, going online means more timely articles and listings for our community.

Please subscribe (see page 5) as residents can't be automatically signed up and we want to continue keeping you informed and entertained about all things Port Phillip.

We have launched our new City of Port Phillip website, part of our Customer Experience program, to make it easier to access new online services and forms. If you haven't already seen it,

I encourage you to take a look at portphillip.vic.gov.au

In another big change, this year's council election will be held via postal voting, following changes to the Local Government Act requiring a uniform approach to voting across Victoria. See page 6 for more information.

As I write this, we have just entered Stage 4 restrictions in Melbourne. Council continues to support our community through COVID-19 and laying a foundation for economic and social recovery.

A \$4.2 million Economic and Social Recovery program is included in

the Budget 2020/21 and, of course, we will continue to deliver the critical services and infrastructure our community expects.

I'd like to sign off with a reminder for everyone to check what they put in their recycling bins. An audit revealed the contamination rate of these bins jumped from 10 per cent in 2019 to 25 per cent in April 2020.

Items such as soft plastics, garden waste and e-waste were found, resulting in additional costs and batches going landfill.

With more people at home, it's even more important to double-check what can be recycled. Council will be releasing a guide in September to keep you informed of the latest changes. In the meantime, our website lists what can and can't be recycled.

These are incredibly challenging times, but we can all make a difference together. Please stay safe and we look forward to updating you online in the next Divercity.

Supporting you through COVID-19



Council is continuing to support the community during the pandemic, particularly our most vulnerable members.

With our City under Stage 4 restrictions, Council has a number of support programs and packages for residents and businesses.

We developed a \$2.95 million Emergency Relief package and the Budget 2020/21 provides a \$4.2 million Economic and Social Recovery program to provide targeted assistance to those who need it most as we plan for pandemic recovery phase.

As the situation evolves, please check out our website for the most up-to-date service and program changes.

Get the latest updates on COVID-19

Port Phillip Council takes the health of staff, community and visitors very seriously. We are working to keep our community safe during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and are closely monitoring the situation.

Stay updated as information becomes available.

 portphillip.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19

Rates relief

For anyone in our community experiencing financial hardship, Council is committed to providing support. Here are some of the options that Council is offering for rates relief.



Payment plans, deferrals and rebates

Range of options available to eligible ratepayers and businesses.



Free financial counselling

Available to those eligible to receive Council assistance.



Grants and financial assistance

Available for businesses and not-for-profit organisations.

For information on rates relief assistance

 portphillip.vic.gov.au/rates-valuations

Budget and Council Plan update



The consultation period for the Budget 2020/21 and Council Plan has now closed, feedback has been reviewed and the final Budget was considered by Council on 19 August 2020. Thank you to everyone who engaged with us throughout this process.

In our last issue, we outlined the financial challenges facing Council since COVID-19. We've sought efficiencies across the organisation, including a review of our overall operating model and staffing requirements.

This review involved close consultation with staff and resulted in a new operating model that will help us achieve our vision through the delivery of our organisational strategy.

Council election 2020

The 2020 council elections are expected to be Victoria's biggest election ever, with over 4.5 million voters enrolled and over 2,000 candidates expected to nominate.

This will be the first time that postal voting has been used in our City and across all Victorian councils, following changes introduced to the *Local Government Act 2020* that requires a state-wide and uniform approach to voting.

When this was announced, the Minister for Local Government stated, 'By making every vote a postal vote, we're ensuring

this vital democratic process is conducted in a safe manner that also allows for the participation of more voters.'

Taking into account physical distancing requirements, longer candidate statements will be allowed in the Victorian Electoral Commission Voter Information packs and guidance will be available on suitable and safe campaigning methods.

For more information

portphillip.vic.gov.au/elections-voting

Our new operating model

This new model was implemented in August 2020 to deliver the following benefits:

Improved capability

required to support our community in the COVID-19 recovery stage.

A permanent reduction in labour costs

that will be achieved after one-off change costs.

Less impact on key services

achieved by reducing management overheads where possible and seeking greater efficiency in the provision of corporate functions.

Long-term financial sustainability

that will enable Council to continue to serve our community into the future.

Key dates

28 August	Electoral roll closes
22 September	Closing date for candidate nomination
Early October	Ballot pack distributed
23 October	Postal voting closes
24 October	Election day

Digital future for Divercity



Divercity has been delivered to mailboxes five times a year, for over 100 issues. The magazine is valued by our community, and we love it too, but it is time for change.

This is the final print issue of Divercity that you will receive by post. Later this year, we will be moving online.

As you know, the impact of COVID-19 has been huge and we've needed to find savings. Moving the magazine online results in a significant saving of \$179,000 a year.

Divercity online will still celebrate our City and community, but there will be new benefits, such as:

- providing timely, relevant and responsive content
- the opportunity for more frequent distribution
- greatly reduced environmental impact
- the opportunity to incorporate multimedia content
- the potential to engage more readers.

Research conducted by survey and focus groups in 2019 showed that the majority of respondents would prefer to receive Divercity as an emailed newsletter.

Residents won't automatically be signed up to the online version, so you'll need to subscribe to make sure you don't miss out.

To subscribe, visit

portphillip.vic.gov.au/divercity



Community first with online services

For the past couple of months, Council has been rolling out the next stage of our Customer Experience program, updating the online services and systems that you need.

We want your experience with us to be tailored to your needs, not ours, supported by up-to-date technology to make it as fast, easy and efficient as possible.

New website

A crucial part of this program is the new City of Port Phillip website, which launched mid-August.

User-friendly and easy to navigate, the site features new online services and forms designed to be clear and straightforward.

With this new site, our aim has been to create a customer-first experience, allowing our community to self-serve online. This informed the website redevelopment along with feedback sessions, interviews and testing with stakeholders and users.

Check out our new website and give us your feedback

portphillip.vic.gov.au

your councillors

portphillip.vic.gov.au

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recycling reset

COVID-19 has impacted recycling habits and contamination has increased dramatically in our City. We're sharing more detailed information with the community about how to recycle right with the release of **recycling reset**.

Reset your recycling at
portphillip.vic.gov.au/wastemanagement



Many of us want to take personal climate action. Here are some powerful steps to get you started.

- Purchase certified GreenPower
- Divest from institutions that invest in fossil fuels
- Eat fewer resource-intensive foods such as red meat
- Make your property more sustainable
- Walk, ride and use public transport more
- Buy less, reduce your waste and recycle right
- Join local environmental groups
- Plan for increased extreme weather events

If you live in Port Phillip or run a business or community service here, contact us for more information.

 @SUSTAINABLEPORTPHILLIP |  SUSTAINABLEPORTPHILLIP.COM




Contacting Council


City of Port Phillip town halls remain closed for the time being.

To contact Council


 portphillip.vic.gov.au/contact-us

 ASSIST 03 9209 6777


 @cityofportphillip

 @cityportphillip

National Relay Service

 www.relayservice.gov.au

Large print version

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Language assistance

廣東話 9679 9810 Ελληνικά 9679 9811

普通話 9679 9858 Русский 9679 9813

Polski 9679 9812 Other 9679 9814

Information in this magazine is accurate at the time of publishing but may be subject to change.

 portphillip.vic.gov.au

Womin djeka

Council respectfully acknowledges the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

Your Community. Your Council. In your inbox.



Diversity online will still celebrate our City and community, plus there will be new benefits, such as:

- ✔ providing timely, relevant and responsive content
- ✔ the opportunity for more frequent distribution
- ✔ greatly reduced environmental impact
- ✔ the opportunity to incorporate multimedia content
- ✔ the potential to engage more readers.

Stay up to date with news about your City and Council.

Sign up today for
Diversity online.

🌐 [portphillip.vic.gov.au/
divercity](https://portphillip.vic.gov.au/divercity)

