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DIVERCITY

January 2025



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN FOCUS



SHAPE OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY VISIT



COMMUNITY SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON



St Kilda Festival back better than ever

What's got 10 stages, more than 80 hugely talented acts and is Australia's largest community festival? Everyone is invited to join two days of fantastic free fun at the foreshore when the 44th St Kilda Festival (SKF) returns 15-16 February.

Proudly presented by our Council, this popular annual summer celebration features music and activities for all ages. An incredible line-up of First Nations artists, including Troy and Jem Casser-Daley, will present a jam-packed day and night of music at First Peoples First at O'Donnell Gardens on the Saturday. First Peoples First concludes with a sunset ceremony.

Then it's Big Festival Sunday when thousands will flock to the foreshore and beyond for the best in live music, market and food stalls and community group activities. The Main Stage overlooking the foreshore will feature Peter Garrett & The Alter Egos, three-time ARIA Award winner Sarah Blasko, rising electronic music sensation Young Franco and ARIA #1 Album award winner, Cub Sport.

Our younger attendees will be entertained at The Optus Stage with family programming featuring for the first half of the day, with the likes of Whistle & Trick and "The Wiggles" own DJ Dorothy the Dinosaur. There will also be a Youth Safe Space with gaming activations from Hovergarden.

Other festival fun includes the Hare Krishna Vedic Village, popular Ratha Yatra Chariot Parade and two stages on Acland Street showcasing Melbourne's finest street performers. Fitzroy Street will host the New Music Stage, a POOF DOOF activation and a new stage at the Fitzroy and Acland Street intersection supported by The Prince of Wales.

SKF is supported by Revive Live – an Australian Government initiative. IMAGE: St Kilda Festival 2025 artists Private Function, Charlie Needs Braces, Queenie and Jess Hitchcock. Credit: Will Hamilton-Coates

For more details, go to: <https://www.stkildafestival.com.au>



Pride of Port Phillip

Port Phillip is bursting with pride with the return of the annual Midsumma Festival, including the iconic Pride March on Sunday 2 February.

In the traditional curtain-raiser to the Pride March, the progress pride flag will be raised over St Kilda Town Hall in a flag-raising ceremony to demonstrate our Council's commitment for Port Phillip to be an inclusive City.

The ceremony is at 3 pm on Tuesday 28 January on the front lawn of St Kilda Town Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

We have been a major partner of the Pride March since its creation 29 years ago. Celebrating solidarity in gender and sexuality diversity, over 53,000 people will parade down Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. The march starts at 11 am, so make sure to get down early and secure a great spot to view all the excitement.

Go to our website to learn about the many other Midsumma events being held in Port Phillip. From theatre, cabaret and visual arts to parties and community events, there's something for every colour of the rainbow.

City News

We-Akon Dillinja

Everyone is invited to the annual We-Akon Dillinja (Mourning Reflection) ceremony on Sunday 26 January at Alfred Square, St Kilda.

Held annually by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council, in partnership with our Council, the dawn ceremony features musical performances, readings and a smoking ceremony.

The theme for 2025 is 'Reflect, Respect, Celebrate'. Please arrive at 5.45 am for a 6 am start.

Bookings aren't required for this free event, which will also be livestreamed.

For more details, go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/first-nations-community-information/we-akon-dillinja>



Essential summer events

St Kilda and the southside is heating up for an epic summer event season.

From immersive art exhibits and music events to outdoor cinema, vibrant cultural celebrations and the iconic St Kilda Festival, check out these hot summer events and mark the dates in your diary.

Details: <https://whatsonstkilda.com/article/essential-summer-events-in-st-kilda-and-southside>



Celebrating a successful start to summer

New Year's went off without a hitch and now we're looking towards the upcoming Australia Day public holiday.

It's important that we all continue to play our part for a safe and enjoyable summer. That's why a City-wide alcohol ban will apply from 8 pm Saturday 25 January until 12 midday Monday 27 January.

Last month, Mayor Louise Crawford joined representatives from Victoria Police and Life Saving Victoria for a media call at St Kilda Beach to highlight our ongoing summer safety campaign.

Visit <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/health-and-safety/play-your-part> to learn more about the steps we're taking to make summer safer, and to find out how you can play your part to contribute to an enjoyable summer for everyone in Port Phillip.



New waste contract tender

Council's delivery of a reliable kerbside waste collection is critical for our community. In 2023, we learnt important lessons from the challenges experienced with the changeover to our current service provider.

While our kerbside collection has normalised, our existing contract no longer meets the needs of either ourselves

or our service provider. This is why we are preparing to establish a new contract for these services through a competitive and rigorous tendering process.

The tendering process is an opportunity for us to establish a fresh and mutually beneficial agreement with a provider who is committed to delivering the standard of service expected by our community.

The tendering window will start in late January 2025 and close in March 2025.

Full details:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/an-update-on-our-kerbside-waste-services-contract>



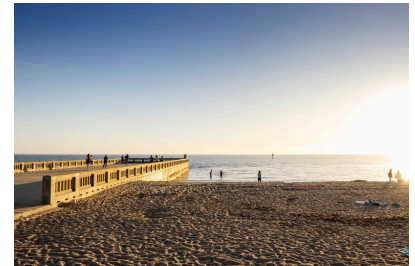
Elwood Main Drain Duplication

Melbourne Water is adding 660 metres of new drain from Elsterwick Park to the Elwood Foreshore as part of its Elwood Main Drain Duplication Project.

The project will reduce the risk of flooding to Elster Creek that impacts Elwood and surrounding suburbs.

For more information about the project, including timelines, visit the Melbourne Water website:

<https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/elwood-main-drain>



Arts in Focus



Creatives networking event

Arts and culture workers in the City of Port Phillip (both within Port Phillip organisations and working independently) are invited to a networking and social opportunity on Tuesday 11 February 2025.

Preview the ROAR: Celebrating Women in Music exhibition, hear from teams across our Council on industry support initiatives and, most importantly, connect with your fellow Port Phillip creatives to kick off a busy 2025.

Light refreshments will be provided.

The event runs from 5 to 7 pm at the Carlisle Street Arts Space (in the St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street St Kilda).

To book, go to the Trybooking website.



Sustainable art open day

Sustainable art and activities and fresh produce for sale are on the menu in St Kilda as part of the National Sustainability Festival 2025 on Saturday 1 February.

City of Port Phillip's Shakespeare Grove Studio's resident artists are holding a free exhibition from 10 am to 3 pm at 11 Shakespeare Grove.

These talented creatives are showcasing their work in a group exhibition focusing on sustainability within their arts practice and are eager to welcome visitors to chat about their working process.

At the same time, there will be free activities in VegOut Community Gardens and fresh produce available for purchase at VegOut Farmer's Market

in the Peanut Farm Reserve next door.

Enter through the VegOut Community Gardens main gate on Chaucer Street, St Kilda.

Help Shape our City



We pause most of our community engagement during the summer holiday period. You can keep an eye on <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au> for updates and to [sign up to our monthly community engagement newsletter](#).

Our Coastal Future

Win \$200 and show off your photography skills!

Enter our photography contest and capture the beauty of Port Phillip.

There are four categories: Professional, Amateur, Youth, and Children. The overall winner, based on the most likes, will receive a \$200 gift voucher. Each category winner will also receive a \$200 voucher.

We've extended the photo competition. You can keep capturing those golden moments throughout summer! Winners will be announced on Friday 4 April 2025.

[Submit your entry by 31 March 2025.](#)

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/our-coastal-future/our-coastal-future-photo-competition>

Love your neighbourhood

Our neighbourhoods and precincts are wonderful places to be, and we want to hear what you love most about yours! Take our survey and tell us about what you love most about where you live, work and play in our City.

Your feedback will help us create meaningful support for our local traders, guide our art and placemaking activations, promote visitation to our local high streets and attractions and much, much more.

[Give your feedback by Friday 31 January 2025.](#)

https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/index.php?cID=2354&ctask=check-out&ccm_token=1733784811:049387444976f21000b2092a304742aa

Plan for Port Phillip 2025-29

From 15 November until 16 December 2024, we asked for your ideas on what Council should focus on for the next four years. We heard from 1002 community members, across 34 engagement activities. Visit Council's Have Your Say page to view the engagement report which will be released on Friday 24 January.

We are now in the process of preparing for the Community Panel which will meet four times in February to provide additional advice and recommendations about the Plan for Port Phillip.

What we've heard from you

You can read the community engagement reports for some recent projects we've heard feedback on here:

- [Greening Raleigh Street, Windsor](#)
- [Danks Street Biolink Review and Renewal](#)
- [Reinvigorating Shopping on Acland Street](#)

Sustainability

Know your bin

Our Council will soon be launching a new bin audit and education program for a sample of households across our City.

We want to know how full bins are and if there are any items that people are regularly putting in the wrong bin. This will help us better understand how we're tracking towards our goals as outlined in our [Don't Waste It!](#) strategy.

Another goal is to improve how bins are used by providing real-time feedback to residents through bin tags and letters. The ultimate aim is to maximise recycling including preventing recyclable material from going to landfill.

This is an audit and education program only. Fines won't be issued if bins have not been used correctly. The bins will only be visually inspected, and we will not be keeping any contents.

Details:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/kerbside-bin-education-program-launching-soon>



Green Team on the go

There are nearly 54,500 more trees and plants across Port Phillip's public spaces following the 2024 planting season.

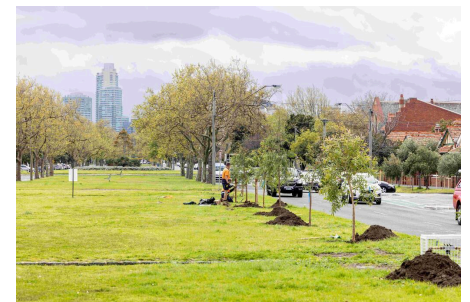
Over 850 trees from a range of species are now providing the further shade and biodiversity we are rolling out under our Urban Forest Strategy.

These additional new and replacement trees are part of our regular street tree planting program with even more popping up in projects and Greening Port Phillip programs.

Dubbed Operation Findaspot, our Green Team has been systematically scouring Port Phillip to identify suitable sites for replacement and new trees on nature strips and verges.

More information:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/green-team-on-the-go>



Library Visit

Book into Book Clubs

Looking to meet new friends and enjoy literary discussions? Our monthly book clubs are perfect for you!

Groups are limited to 10 members for better discussions.

Books provided for the year include genre novels, recent releases, classics, non-fiction and Australian books.

Available at most Port Phillip library branches, some clubs are at capacity but spots are available. New clubs can start if there is enough interest.



Full details:
<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/book-club>

Community Spirit

Randy rodents rescued

Our Council's animal management officers recently had a change of pace from it raining cats and dogs when a deluge of gorgeous guinea pigs popped up.

While we don't usually have the resources to assist with the handling or surrender of 'pocket pets', our officers stepped in as this case required speedy support.

A Port Phillip resident approached us after two guinea pigs he bought for his daughter had expanded to 20 – with more on the way – after he didn't correctly identify and separate the males and females.

It can be tricky to gender a guinea pig and things were approaching critical mass in a small apartment after the pocket pets got social.

The resident had already approached several rescue organisations and shelters which couldn't assist as they were overflowing or required a standard impounding fee of several thousand dollars.

In an extra effort to recruit help from a specialised rescue, animal management reached out to Lil, the incredible Shelter Manager of Australia's Cavy Sanctuary (ACS) operating near Eltham. Lil offered to take in and support all 20 guinea pigs and insisted on no fee being paid.

When Divercity recently checked in with Lil, she reported the guinea pigs were doing well in quarantine - with three new babies adding to the fun and one remaining pregnant piggy.

The guinea pigs will be ready for adoption in a few weeks to responsible forever homes. Lil is happy to bring the pigs to Port Phillip for adoptions.

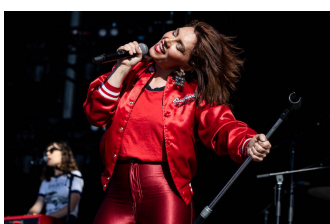
Lil said the typical lifespan of this sweet, non-aggressive pet is 5-8 years.

"Some people say they are boring and don't do anything but that's not true. They're amazing, beautiful little things that can be taught tricks. I enjoy watching their hilarious antics, they sometimes do little somersaults when they see their favourite treats and respond to their names."

We'd like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thank you to Lil and the Victorian ACS sanctuary for the incredible love and support they give to animals in desperate need. The ACS website, <https://www.australiancavysanctuary.org>, provides details of how you can support their much-needed efforts by donating, volunteering or adopting.



What's On



ROAR Exhibition



Kitten Adoption Day



Guided walks

7 Feb - 13 May, St Kilda,

Through iconic portraits and performances captured by Australia's best female music photographers, this exhibition celebrates women, non-binary and gender non-conforming musicians both on and off the stage.

ROAR features photography by Brittany Long, Jacinta Keefe, Michelle Grace Hunder, Suzanne Phoenix and Tiffany Garvie; alongside reproductions from the Australian Performing Arts Collection and local herstory curated by music sub-culture researcher Melynda Von Wayward.

Presented in partnership with ROAR FEST 2025, the exhibition is at the Carlisle Street Art Space at St Kilda Town Hall.

Sunday 9 February, St Kilda Town Hall

The St Kilda Town Hall auditorium will soon be filled with 50 frisky felines seeking their forever homes.

Most will be aged three months or younger at the adoption day run by The Lost Dogs' Home and supported by our animal management team.

The \$270 adoption fee includes desexing, immunisation, microchipping and Council's initial registration fee.

There will be plenty of expert advice on hand from 10 am to 3 pm for cat lovers eager to provide a good home.

Stayed tuned for further details on The Lost Dogs' Home website.

2 Feb to 22 June

Discover the heritage treasures and secret histories of Port Phillip with new online and in person guided walks.

This is a free program of monthly walks that explore the heritage treasures of the City of Port Phillip.

Join our knowledgeable walks leaders as they share the cultural, architectural, art and social histories of the places that we call home and tell the amazing stories of the people who have lived here.

Go to the Guided Walks page on our website to learn more and book your spot.

Two St Kilda underground music walking tours and a Piers and Politics walk in Port Melbourne are on offer in February.

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