



DIVERCITY

November/December 2022



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



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SHAPE
OUR CITY



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

From the Chamber

It is an honour, a privilege, and a big responsibility to be the new Mayor of the City of Port Phillip. I bring to the role a passion for community connection, a background in architecture and an open mind.

My husband Joe and I live in Port Melbourne with our three primary school aged children. I appreciate the wide variety of views in our municipality and hold no political affiliations. I will be working with all my fellow councillors to ensure the best possible outcomes for Port Phillip.



As we near the end of the year, it is a good time to reflect on achievements and consider what we can do better. 2022 has been a year of recovery and making the most of the things we value. We still have challenges on the horizon and more work to be done but I am proud of the dedication and efforts by our Council staff this year. Some highlights are:

- Reaching a funding partnership with the Victorian Government to save three ageing childcare centres and upgrade three more
- Launching our trial for Australia's first EV kerbside charger
- Helping reboot our local economy after COVID-19 lockdowns through events and activations including the return of the 2022 St Kilda Festival in a COVID-safe format
- Producing the Victorian Government funded Southside Live music festival
- Participating in the Victorian Government's e-scooter trial, which is still underway
- Partnering with the Victorian Government and St Kilda Community Housing to deliver the Wellington Street Common Ground project in St Kilda. The project will see a no longer fit-for-purpose 12-unit rooming house demolished to make way for a three-level building offering 26 self-contained units, with space for support services and a concierge. We have also provided direct support for the Marlborough Street community housing project in Balaclava, currently under construction, in partnership with the Victorian Government and HousingFirst.
- Continuing support for traders including launching a \$200,000 pop-up shop program for Carlisle Street

- Installation of 15 new high-performance lighting towers across the Elwood Park precinct, including Wattie Watson Oval. The Oval's playing surface has also been redeveloped to improve drainage, irrigation and turf. Our Council provided \$1.8 million for this significant investment into Elwood Park alongside the Victorian Government and Australian Government which contributed \$500,000 and \$720,000 respectively
- Opening of M.O. Moran Reserve off-leash dog park, a \$485,000 project which received a \$275,000 Victorian Government grant
- Advocating for our community ahead of the Federal and Victorian Government elections, including hosting a Metropolitan Transport Forum.

Looking towards 2023, we will start off the year with one of the biggest changes in our Council's service delivery history – the Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and glass recycling streams rollouts, as required by the Victorian Government. I have confidence in the Council officers planning this complex delivery. We'll all need to be open to adapting to the new streams of waste collection though, providing constructive feedback to adjust it for our various areas.

Fingers crossed for some more sunshine this summer to get the most out of our coastal setting. The annual summer management program is underway with our Council and Victoria Police working together to keep our City safe and clean over the busy warmer months.

There are plenty of great activations and festivals planned for 2023, including the St Kilda Festival returning to its traditional format. Running over 18-19 February, the first day is a dedicated First Peoples Festival Day.

There really is a lot to enjoy in the year ahead, with many opportunities to help shape our great city together through ongoing community consultation - ensuring we can continue loving where we live.

I look forward to meeting many of you as Mayor over the next 12 months.

Regards,

Cr Heather Cunsolo,

Mayor, City of Port Phillip

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visit: [https://app.vision6.com.au/em/forms/subscribe.php?
db=673061&s=368535&a=93565&k=scq_RMLdW0tjT52pxjY6ri7uNvllis48b3ZIW0H2u8](https://app.vision6.com.au/em/forms/subscribe.php?db=673061&s=368535&a=93565&k=scq_RMLdW0tjT52pxjY6ri7uNvllis48b3ZIW0H2u8)



Port Phillip charging ahead with first kerbside EV charging trial

In an Australian first, our Council has launched a kerbside electric vehicle (EV) charging trial to drive down greenhouse gas emissions.

The pop-up Kerb Charge unit allows residents without off-street parking (such as garages and driveways) to easily charge their electric vehicles parked outside their homes.

The Kerb Charging Permit issued by us to allow trial participants to install a charger on public land is the first of its kind in Australia.

As the underground charging lead is connected to a participant's personal electricity supply, only they can use the lockable 35 cm high charger, which pops up from a footpath or nature strip when in use.

The trial will help determine the merits of making kerbside charging more widely available to EV owners, especially those who struggle to charge without easy access to a power source at home.

A vehicle could be fully charged even if access to a parking spot outside a home was only available overnight (residents do not 'own' the on-street parking spaces outside their homes).

Former Mayor Marcus Pearl said the initiative is part of Council's efforts to deliver a network of EV charging infrastructure on public land to support the uptake of EVs and reduce warming greenhouse gases.

"About 11 per cent of our community's carbon emissions come from transport, with 327,926 tonnes of carbon dioxide released every year. As a bayside city, we are vulnerable to the effects of climate change so we are keen to do what we can to help reduce the use of fossil fuels," Cr Pearl said.

"Several other councils are eagerly awaiting the results of our trial so we hope this will be a

gamechanger in Victoria and beyond.”

Albert Park resident Kevin, a passionate advocate for addressing climate change, is excited about becoming the first participant in the trial. The charger has been installed on the kerb outside his home, ready for the delivery of the EV he has ordered.

“It’s almost essential to be have a charger at home. This was the only option I saw without having to move to a house with a garage,” Kevin said. “And it means I’m doing my bit for the environment.”

The flood-proof Kerb Charger, approved for use by Energy Safe Victoria, is Australia’s first onstreet personal EV charger. It was invented by Rod Walker of Williamstown-based company Kerb Charge.

Mr Walker plans to manufacture the chargers in Williamstown. Council is assessing a second permit application for the trial which will have at least 10 participants.

“I got into this because I wanted to do something in the environmental space to help combat climate change. Each petrol car that this technology can take off the road means there is 4.6 less tonnes of carbon dioxide released per annum,” he said.

“This is convenient and ultimately cheaper – it’s like why run down to the shops to charge your phone when you can do it at home?”

The permit holder pays for buying and installing the charger, which costs about \$6000. It costs \$124 for the permit which carries an annual fee of \$100. A refundable bond of \$500 is also retained by Council for asset protection.

The cost of drawing power from the grid is about 10 cents a kilowatt hour when charging offpeak, meaning an overnight charge could cost just a few dollars. The cost is even lower if a participant is using energy from solar panels. Mr Walker estimates a typical petrol or diesel car user would save between \$1500 to \$2000 a year.

There were about 324 EVs registered to Port Phillip residents in 2020, with this number continuing to grow due to factors including lower costs and government incentives.

For more information, please contact enviro@portphillip.vic.gov.au



Meet our new Mayor

Councillor Heather Cunsolo is the new Mayor of the City of Port Phillip.

Cr Cunsolo (Gateway Ward) was elected at the St Kilda Town Hall last night with Cr Andrew Bond (Lake Ward) named as Deputy Mayor. Both will serve a 12-month term.

Elected to a four-year Council term in 2020, Cr Cunsolo said she was excited to now represent Port Phillip as its Mayor.

“It’s an honour, privilege and huge responsibility to be the 15th mayor of this City,” she said.

Cr Cunsolo who has an architectural background and works in residential design, promised to bring her passion for good practical design to the role.

Advocating for the transformation of the Station Pier freight yards and progressing the proposed Green Line linear park project in Balaclava are among the projects she hopes to advance over the next 12 months.

“I am coming to this role with a strong focus on community and as someone who listens before formulating my views,” Cr Cunsolo said.

“There are plenty of challenges ahead of us. Working as a team, we can assure our community we have their best interests at heart in our decision-making.”

Cr Cunsolo, who lives in Port Melbourne with husband Joe, said she had no doubt their three children would look back on the next 12 months as an exciting time when they were older.

Cr Bond, who succeeds Cr Tim Baxter as Deputy Mayor, said he was sure Cr Cunsolo would live up to the high standards set by previous mayors.

Cr Bond’s decade of service as a Port Phillip councillor was recognised at the mayoral election meeting. He is the only councillor to have won three successive four-year terms on this council.

Outgoing Mayor Marcus Pearl told the meeting that serving the Port Phillip community as its Mayor had been one of the best opportunities of his life.

“I did my very best to make sure we put our best foot forward and with a united front.”

Both Cr Pearl and Cr Baxter said the partnership achieved with the Victorian Government to save three ageing childcare centres and upgrade three more was one of the highlights achieved over the past year.

City News

Elwood residents share their excitement for FOGO trial

In August 2020, Council launched a kerbside trial for food organics and garden organics (FOGO) recycling to approximately 500 households across Elwood.

We wanted to understand the impact of a kerbside FOGO service and how households



would utilise it.

The Elwood FOGO trial was championed by our community and achieved brilliant results. The trial diverted approximately 115 tonnes of food and garden organics from landfill throughout the 10-month trial period and achieved an overall contamination rate of <1 per cent.

In 2023 we will be rolling out new kerbside FOGO services to eligible properties across the municipality. In preparation for this, we asked some of our Elwood FOGO trial residents to share their thoughts on FOGO recycling as well as tips for other residents.

Has your household benefitted from having a FOGO bin?

“It has brought a greater consciousness of food waste – both the amount and how we can dispose of it - in a way that betters our community and environment. Previously I had felt that I was wasting the use of the rubbish bin when I filled it with garden refuse. Now I feel good about gardening and tidying up my yard. It almost acts as a motivator to tidy and prune the garden as I know I’m disposing of it in a beneficial way.” – Lisa from Elwood

“We love the FOGO bin! Most of our waste (post recycling) is organic in nature, so to be able to funnel this material to somewhere it can be put to good use, rather than just dumped in landfill, is fantastic. It gives us a sense of being part of the solution, rather than just adding to the problem.” – Elwood resident

“Yes. I have wanted my green waste recycled for ages, but wasn’t organized enough to create a compost bin, and it seemed too complicated. I feel really happy that it’s no longer going to landfill.” – Elwood resident

“Yes, absolutely! As the FOGO Champion of the family (a role that I take very seriously), the children are more aware about composting and sustainable practices to make a positive impact on our community and planet Earth. It makes us all think twice before throwing something in the general garbage bin!” – Michelle from Elwood

“The FOGO bin has benefitted us twofold in that the disposal of most garden waste can be easily maintained and has eliminated the requirement of a hard rubbish waste collection as the prime source of garden waste removal.” – Greg from Elwood

“The FOGO bin has been an amazing addition to our home. We run three compost bins so we compost everything from the kitchen. Having the FOGO bin has made keeping the house clean easy. We put the lawn clippings, all the leaves and every green waste in the bin. We fill it at least once a month.” – Adam from Elwood

How full is your garbage bin since you have been using a FOGO bin?

“We have the small garbage bin size and it only gets half filled each week versus fully filled prior to the introduction of the FOGO pilot, so 50 per cent of our garbage was attributable to food waste! Who would have thought!” – Michelle from Elwood

“Our hard waste garbage bin is very rarely more than 50 per cent full since the inception of the FOGO bin.” – Greg from Elwood

“Our red lid garbage bin usually only has a small bag of rubbish weekly (the size of a small fruit & veg bag from Coles), once our waste is separated into FOGO, Recycle and RedCycle Plastic.” – Elwood resident

“My garbage bin used to be full each week. Now, it rarely gets to halfway.” – Elwood resident

“Much less full than it used to be - probably now half full. We already compost and recycle as much as we can, but garden/leaf waste was still going into our bin.” – Jon from Elwood

What would you say to residents who are concerned about the smell of a FOGO bin?

“As regards the smell our personal experience has been that it is not an issue and we have only washed our bin out once since the trial began.” – Greg from Elwood

“We don’t have an issue with smell from the FOGO caddy indoors, except in particularly hot summer weather, when we empty it a little more regularly. The outdoor bin can get a little whiffy during summer, and benefits from a quick rinse with the hose from time to time. But it’s really no different to a regular bin with organic waste left in the sun.” – Elwood resident

“The smell isn’t as bad as a compost bin that you have to churn. If the smell is offensive, I just stand back when I open the lid and hold my breath/breathe out as I put green waste in. It really hasn’t been an issue.” – Elwood resident

“We don’t have any problem. It is stored out of the sun in a back corner of our courtyard and camouflaged by surrounding potted plants that might help dispel any smell. It is only 8 metres from our back door. Also, as above, it doesn’t receive very much protein from us. That, plus our dominant use of the bin for dry leaves and garden clippings is perhaps also a factor in avoiding any smells.” – Peter from Elwood

“I’ve not really noticed a smell at all... and we keep our FOGO outside.” – Jon from Elwood

“1) Store your FOGO bin in the shade away from sunlight; 2) Consider freezing meat/seafood waste and add to bin on the evening prior to collection.” – Michelle from Elwood

“The main time I’ve been aware of a smell and experienced tiny bugs is during warmer weather in summer. It is relatively easy to manage by occasional use of bi-carb and newspaper, that is, putting a layer between food scraps or wrapping food scraps up.” – Lisa from Elwood

Do you have any tips for residents who are about to receive a kerbside FOGO bin?

“We recommend that residents who are about to receive a kerbside FOGO bin to embrace the concept, especially if you have a garden. We were sceptical at first but in all honesty, we were quickly won over. It must also be noted that we have ample room on site to accommodate the FOGO bin as well as our waste and recycle bins.” – Greg from Elwood

“If you have one, a shady spot for the outdoor bin is a good option in warmer summer weather. Lining the caddy with newspaper makes it easy to keep clean and transfer its contents to the outdoor bin.” – Elwood resident

“Have the small bin on the kitchen bench when you start, so that it’s a visual reminder, to help break the habit of using the rubbish bin. Rinse the small bin with dishwashing liquid each time you empty it, and place newspaper on the bottom. It’s quick and becomes part of your routine.” – Elwood resident

“When we got ours, I had a cunning plan to glue a small anti smell cartridge of some sort or other to the underside of the lid. It hasn’t proven to be necessary. But others might consider it. I also guess our storage location out of the sun is a good idea.” – Peter from Elwood

“Bin there. Done that. Forgo your worries - FOGO's the future!” – Jon from Elwood

“Engage all members of the household and talk about how to use and what doesn’t go in it. Take it in turns to empty the caddy on a regular basis. Wrap messy food scraps in newspaper.” – Lisa from Elwood

“Enjoy your FOGO bin. Utilise it as it saves much time. A wonderful addition to your home.” – Adam from Elwood

More information

Our new FOGO services allow Port Phillip residents to make a serious impact on the quantity of materials we’re sending to landfill. Food waste alone makes up around 36 per cent of the waste our households send to landfill. It also produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is approximately 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Additionally, collected FOGO materials are turned into compost and soil conditioner that can be

used within Victorian parks and grounds. You will be using today's food and garden waste to grow tomorrow's fruits and vegetables.

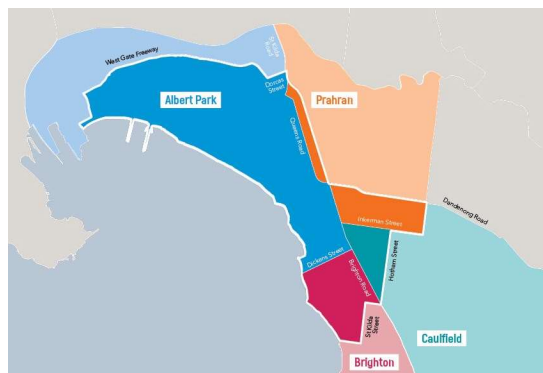
By using communal and kerbside FOGO bins, you'll be doing your part to reduce greenhouse gases and our impact on the environment.

For information on FOGO services, including more frequently asked questions, visit our Dispose of your Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) page: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/waste-recycling-and-rubbish/dispose-of-your-food-and-garden-organics-fogo>

Advocating for Port Phillip

Victorians will take to the polls on Saturday 26 November to decide which party will form government.

Council has identified several projects as our advocacy priorities for the upcoming election. We have been working to secure funding to support these critical community projects.



If you're unsure on how to place your vote, visit our Election Advocacy page to learn more about the local candidates and their commitments for Port Phillip.

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

Who let the dogs out? Our newest dog park opens at M.O. Moran Reserve

Port Phillip's newest off-leash dog park is officially open at M.O. Moran Reserve on the Elwood foreshore.



Unleash your pooch's playful side at the City's newest dog park.

M.O Moran dog park officially opened to the public on 10 November. Local dog lovers braved the weather to give their fur babies first dibs on the new grounds. Attendees were treated more than just a freshly laid park with lots of goodie bags to go round during the opening event.

Surrounded by a fenced off space, the park provides a safe space for dogs to run and play as well as accommodate the needs of dog owners in our community with amenities that dogs and their owners can enjoy. This includes seating, paths and access points from the car park and surrounding areas, multiple rubbish bins and drinking fountains with dog bowls so they can stay hydrated. The park gives our favourite furry friends room to roam, run and play in a safe and accessible public space.

We have also installed garden beds that enhance the natural environment and provide additional play spaces and shade through tree planting in the park.

The park is ideally located in on the Elwood foreshore so dogs and their owners can enjoy the freedom of our open spaces close to parking and the Bay Trail.

M.O. Moran dog park was delivered in collaboration with the Victorian Government's Suburban Parks program. For more: [M.O. Moran Reserve dog park - City of Port](#)

Summer's coming: here's how you can play your part

With summer right around the corner, we need your help to ensure our beautiful City stays safe, clean and fun for everyone.

Our foreshore and regional parks continue to be some of the most popular destinations in Victoria over summer.



To manage an influx of excited tourists and locals, we annually introduce a range of restrictions that run from 1 November to 31 March. These restrictions help us keep our community safe and provides a coordinated response to minimise harm and negative impacts created by large crowds during the extended summer period.

It's important for you to know where and when restrictions apply so that you can play your part in keeping our foreshore safe, clean and fun for everyone and avoid incurring any penalties that may dampen the summer fun.

The 2022-23 summer restrictions

- Alcohol bans – We have a range of alcohol bans in affect around our City. Apart from the year-round bans, we also have the St Kilda foreshore (1 November to 31 March) and holiday specific alcohol bans. Victoria Police will be enforcing these bans and non-compliance will result in a \$200 fine.
- Glass ban – We have a year-round glass ban, which means glass of any kind is not allowed along our foreshore. To keep our foreshore safe and glass-free, we ask that you leave all glass at home. Non-compliance may result in our Local Law Officers confiscating glass items.
- Dog off-leash areas – Dog off-leash areas change between 1 November and 31 March, especially on our beaches. Make sure you know where and when your dog can be on and off-leash. On the spot fines of \$185 apply. We have a number of dog parks and beaches across the City, including a brand new fenced, off-leash area at M.O. Moran Reserve on Elwood foreshore.
- No camping - Camping is not allowed on any Council land or public space, in any vehicle, tent, caravan or any other form of temporary accommodation. Our Local Laws Officers will be patrolling the beach car parks, reserves and streets at all hours enforcing the camping laws and moving campers along.

There are a range of signs about these restrictions located in important areas across the City.

Apart from the restrictions, we also ask that you dispose of rubbish responsibly, be sun smart when you're enjoying the outdoors, take steps to beat the heat and stay water safe when swimming in our beautiful bay.

Don't worry, it's not all rules and restrictions this summer. There are some amazing activities and events coming too. Make sure you check our What's On page and follow us on social media to stay up to date on all the latest events. You might also want to mark the 18 and 19 February 2023 on your calendar, because the St Kilda Festival will be back in a big way!

For more information: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/summer-s-coming-here-s-how-you-can-play-your-part>

Shop local at some of the best Port Phillip markets this festive season

The weather is warming, decorations are going up, barbeques are being cleaned and it's difficult to escape the sounds of a certain Mr Bubl  and Madam Carey. Which means one thing... Yes folks, the festive season is upon us.



Whether your love language is cooking or gift giving, or if you just love to stroll through stalls discovering treats and treasures, here are some of the festive markets that are popping up around our suburbs.

Port's Artisan Christmas Market

With around 150 stalls, Bay Street in Port Melbourne comes alive with its annual Artisan

Christmas Market. Enjoy live music and discover a range of handmade, locally produced gifts, art pieces, designs, jewellery and more.

Saturday 3 December 2022 | 11 AM to 5 PM | Bay Street, Port Melbourne.

3207port.com.au/blog/christmas2022-event

Space2b Laneway Festive Market

The Laneway Festive Market will be hosting a wide range of multicultural makers, designers and artists showcasing handmade and ethical gifts from around the world.

This is feel-good shopping at its best.

The Laneway Festive Market is run by Space2b in partnership with the wonderful Jorge & Susana from the Urban Creatives.

Sunday 4 December 2022 | 10 AM to 3 PM | 144 Chapel Street, St Kilda.

space2b.com.au/festive-market/

Gasworks Farmers Market

For that final food shop for Christmas, visit Gasworks Farmers Markets for beautiful local produce and great gift ideas. Soak up the vibrant market atmosphere while sampling the very best of local Victorian flavours, directly from Victorian farmers and specialty makers. Be sure to also pop in and say hello to the artists in the Gasworks Resident Artist Studios.

Saturday 17 December 2022 | 8 AM to 1 PM | 21 Graham St, Albert Park.

gasworks.org.au/whats-on/gasworks-farmers-market

Bourne Local Market

Bourne Local Elwood Market is an event for all the family to enjoy with music, friendly stalls and great gourmet foods! With a visit from Father Christmas, festive photo booth and great local music, this is the perfect spot to pick up your Christmas gifts and fresh produce, all while enjoying the village atmosphere of Elwood.

Take your time and wander around the park and discover one-of-a-kind products from Victorian producers.

Sunday 18 December 2022 | 9.30 AM to 4 PM | located behind Elwood beach, Elwood bathers restaurant and Elwood Life Sailing club.

bourne-local.com.au/elwood-market-elwood-park/

St Kilda Esplanade Market

The Christmas count down begins... Don't miss your chance to buy that very special and one-off gift for Christmas from the Market makers.

The St Kilda Esplanade Market will have Santa and his friends visiting in December plus a whole lot of other family fun activities to enjoy. Shop Handmade, unique and local this Christmas.

Sundays in December | 10 AM to 5 PM | The Esplanade, St Kilda.

stkildaesplanademarket.com.au

Christmas at South Melbourne Market

This December, the Market will come alive with festive fun. There is loads happening from festive decorations, free live music and roving performances, competitions and fun for the whole family. Santa will also be dropping in before the big day so make sure to come down for a photo and to let him know what's on your wish list this Christmas.

South Melbourne Market will open its doors for four days straight in the lead up to Christmas Day from Wednesday 21 through to Christmas Eve, Saturday 24 December.

Wednesday 8 am to 4 pm, Friday 8 am to 5 pm, Saturday 8 am to 4 pm, Sunday 8 am to 4 pm | corner of Coventry and Cecil Streets in South Melbourne.

southmelbournemarket.com.au/news/christmas-at-the-market

The Trust Market

The Trust Makers' Market is all about showcasing lovingly handmade art, design and tasty treats across at the gorgeous Rippon Lea Estate. Expect to find a sea of marquees, an inspiring market atmosphere and products ranging from artworks, jewellery, clothing, homewares, homegrown goods and much more. It's the perfect place for a fun day out with the family so bring a picnic rug and make a day of it.

Sunday 18 December | 10 AM to 3 PM | 192 Hotham St, Ripponlea.

trustmarket.com.au

Twilight Shopping at Elwood Village

It's not technically a market, but Santa will be making a special appearance for Twilight Shopping at Elwood Village between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm. Grab your Christmas gifts from Elwood as local traders keep their doors open into the warm summer night with special offers.

This event will also feature competitions to keep the kids entertained (Participating stores only).

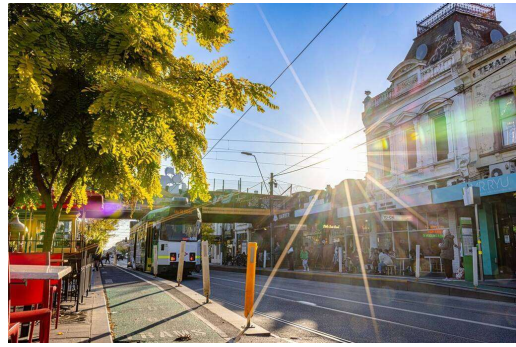
Thursday 1 December 2022 | 4 pm to 9 pm | Elwood Village, Elwood.

elwoodvillagetraders.com

If you can't make any of the markets, remember there are many local traders to discover along many of our vibrant streets, so this Christmas, support your community and shop local.

Carlisle Street activation opening doors

Port Phillip Council is bringing new life to Carlisle Street with a \$200,000 pop-up program aimed at filling vacant shopfronts with new businesses, creativity, and innovation.



Carlisle Street, Balaclava, one of Port Phillip's most recognised high streets, is experiencing a downturn, largely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To counter this, The Place Agency has been contracted by Council to activate at least five vacant properties, and a maximum of 10 at one time, over 12 months as well as developing a year-round calendar of events and promotional activities for Carlisle Street.

They will be working directly with the Carlisle Street Traders Association (CSTA), landlords, local stakeholders, and operators to implement the short-term pop-ups.

The project involves successful applicants paying a portion of the market value rent and any outgoings for the pop-up space. A \$10,000 grant will be provided to each participant to uplift their space or help cover outgoing costs.

The Place Agency has successfully delivered a range of economic development initiatives to redefine, revitalise and improve commercial precincts.

These include the vacant shopfront program for Lygon Street, Carlton, which resulted in several tenancies being activated, including fashion stores, hospitality businesses and community service providers. The program also led to some businesses signing long-term leases for their spaces and improving the longterm vacancy situation on Lygon Street.

Mayor Marcus Pearl said the most recent Council audit showed the vacancy rate for Carlisle Street was running at 10 per cent (15 properties) on 30 June this year.

"Carlisle Street is known and loved for its authentic 'village feel' and distinctive shops, from independent retailers to cosmopolitan cafes. Easily reached by tram and train, we are keen for more shops to open to give locals and visitors the best possible shopping and dining experience in the heart of Balaclava."

Council provided \$20,000 in seed money in 2021 to support the formation of the CSTA as well as \$40,000 for its marketing and promotion over 2022/23.

"Traders across our City have been greatly impacted by the pandemic. This initiative is just one of the ways we are revitalising our City and our local economy," he said.

CSTA President Igor Vainer (Vainer Optical) said the pandemic forced several traders to shut up shop.

"The departure of several banks from Carlisle Street also left a big hole," Mr Vainer said.

"Our members welcome Council's plan to revitalise our street. This is a win for traders and for our local community who can come and enjoy shopping at a vibrant street. Sometimes after a fire, there is new life and a new beginning."

The Place Agency Managing Director Jack Amies said: "We are excited to partner Port Phillip Council and the CSTA in this fantastic initiative. Carlisle Street is the beating heart of Balaclava, with a unique retail experience that is rare to find anywhere else in Melbourne. The program offers significant benefits for shop owners and operators alike, and we look forward to delivering new concepts that will benefit Carlisle Street now and into the future."

This latest activation initiative follows the success of the Renew Australia Fitzroy Street vacant

shopfront pop-up project, now in its third year of being funded by Council and the Fitzroy Street Business Association.

For more information, contact hello@theplaceagency.com or 1300 308 818.

Early Years Education and Care Centres Funding Agreement Announcement

To be attributed to Former Port Phillip Council Mayor Marcus Pearl:



We are delighted to partner with the Victorian Government under its Building Blocks initiative to future-proof six much-loved early years education and care centres in our City.

Our Council is providing more than \$18 million and the Victorian Government is contributing up to \$12.6 million.

This great news for our community follows our recent decision to not sell three ageing community-run early years education and care centres (Eildon Road Childcare and Kindergarten, St Kilda, The Avenue Children's Centre and Kindergarten, Balaclava, and the Elwood Children's Centre), subject to this funding agreement being reached.

Over the next seven years, this partnership will ensure all of these six centres requiring significant renovation or replacement will be made fit-for-purpose and accessible for generations to come at the same locations. They are:

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

Works for the first three centres will be prioritised under the partnership.

We thank the Victorian Government for this vital support as the scope of these works meant we couldn't deliver these significant renewals alone.

We also want to thank the community members and centre committees for the passion and ideas they contributed to this terrific outcome.

We're pleased this announcement provides certainty to both the operators and the families and care-givers using, or planning to use, these community resources. Our Council will continue to work closely with the centres, including consulting on design and providing support to minimise disruption to operations when construction is underway.

This is an exciting step forward as the significant investment provided under the agreement adds to our City's proud history of providing and supporting early childhood learning and care.

We own 17 facilities, providing over a third of Port Phillip's licenced childcare places, and with each we strive to achieve the vision at the core of our Children's Services Policy: Every Child, Our Future.

A children's services environment that honours diversity, builds creativity and social connections and encourages all children and families to maximise their development outcomes now and in the future.

This agreement is also timely as it supports the Victorian Government's early education and

care reform agenda which seeks to benefit all children – especially those who need it most.

While details such as the timing of the works are yet to be determined, we are now well on our way to delivering modern, high quality and accessible facilities at the start of the learning journey for many of our youngest residents.

Our staff support flood affected Maribyrnong as Port Phillip prepares for future flooding risks

Many City of Port Phillip residents are acutely aware of the impacts of flooding with low-lying areas such as Elwood, Balaclava, St Kilda and South Melbourne at risk in heavy rainfall.



Thankfully, when storms and wild weather lashed Melbourne last month, Port Phillip was mostly unscathed. But when our friends north of the Yarra River needed assistance, our Street and Beach Cleaning Team was ready to lend a helping hand.

Assembling at the Port Phillip Operations Centre at 4 am on Sunday 16 October, Council Officers were ready to help arrange emergency support for the flood affected area of Maribyrnong.

Council's Street and Beach Cleaning Coordinator Peter Leeming recalled the emergency event.

"The call came through on the Saturday night that they needed some help over at Maribyrnong," he said.

"They needed help and we were straight in there the next morning. We sent equipment over on the Sunday and then were able to evaluate the situation.

"It's essential to act immediately in these situations. You really need to get in there and work. You can't solve it instantly, but you've got to get in there and make a start."

They arrived to find the flash flooding had left thick goeey mud everywhere.

"Our work was just about trying to clean the muddied streets and to help out where we could to make the area accessible again," Mr Leeming said.

The Street and Beach Cleaning Team members spent four days providing emergency support, including extra staff rotations, sweeping vehicles and equipment, trucks to transport debris and sharing operational knowledge to their counterparts at Maribyrnong City Council.

Meanwhile, other members of the Street and Beach Cleaning team ensured our own backyard was in order, maintaining and tidying the 11 kilometres of Port Phillip beaches where debris washed ashore.

Be storm and flood ready this summer

It's always important to know your risk and be prepared for this summer storm and flood season.

November to March is a time of extreme weather, from intense heat to heavy rain and even flash flooding.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) recently declared a 'La Niña' climate event which means we should be preparing for an especially rainy and flood prone summer this year.

Storms can affect anyone at any time. However, some Port Phillip areas are at much higher flood risk than others including Elwood, St Kilda, Balaclava and South Melbourne. To stay flood safe, make sure you know your risk, by checking out your [local flood guides](#).

For more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/our-staff-support-flood-affected-maribyrnong-as-port-phillip-prepares-for-future-flooding-risks>

Foreshore fun for all with accessible beaches

An inclusive summer is on the way with free matting and floating wheelchairs at St Kilda and Port Melbourne beaches.

Under the fifth year of Port Phillip Council's accessible beaches program, beach matting has been rolled out at the St Kilda and Port Melbourne Life Saving Clubs (LSC) until 28 April 2023.



The matting helps people who need extra traction on the soft sand when using a walking frame or wheelchair, for example, or pushing a pram. Bookings are not required to use the matting, which is rolled up on Tuesdays from 5 -11 am so the beach can be cleaned.

The Accessible Floating Beach Wheelchair can be booked until 25 April 2023. The chairs must be used during LSC patrol times and users need to have at least one support person with them – two if they plan to enter the water.

Accessible Beaches not-for-profit organisation officer Bern Walker praised the Port Phillip program for bringing beautiful beaches to many people with disability.

“Making beaches accessible is about being inclusive and enabling everyone to be included in life,” Ms Walker said.

“A day at the beach is a quintessential part of Australian life, which many take for granted. When councils are on board with beach accessibility, it sends a strong message that diversity is a high priority and that everyone in the community is valued.”

Ms Walker said regular feedback from people who would otherwise have missed out on a beach trip is moving. “One woman who visited Port Melbourne beach said she had not been in the water for a decade and that Council’s program allowed ‘a little miracle to happen’.”

Activist and writer Anthony Bartl loves visiting St Kilda for its energy, live music – and fantastic foreshore.

Mr Bartl, who guides an electric wheelchair with his chin, said beach accessibility programs make him feel more involved in community life.

“Being able to participate in activities takes a bit of my disability away,” Mr Bartl said.

The Victorian Government funded the Changing Places toilet facility at the St Kilda LSC, which has a changing table and electric hoist, “is a must” when Mr Bartl plans a beach day. As well as providing an accessible toilet, the facility’s hoist helps with transfers to the beach wheelchair.

“Without that, I wouldn’t be able to experience it. I want to do as much as I can and get really involved in summer – enjoying the sea breeze and being around other people.”

For more information and to book the Accessible Floating Beach Wheelchair, go

to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/beaches-parks-and-playgrounds/accessible-beaches>

Join Team Respect to #callitout

Help us create equality on and off the field for 16 Days of Activism.

Ending violence against women, girls and gender diverse people starts with equality. This year, with the support of Respect Victoria and their Sexism in Sport #callitout campaign, we are celebrating the 16 Days of Activism by chatting to some of our local sporting clubs about how they encourage and promote gender equality on and off the field.



One in three Australian women have experienced physical violence since the age of 15, and one in five Australian women have experienced sexual violence. As part of creating an inclusive Port Phillip, we are working hard to address the stereotypes, disrespect and inequality that allow this violence to continue and are committed to advancing gender equality for the benefit of our whole community.

Sport has a vital role to play in promoting equality and preventing violence against women at both an individual level and more broadly as influential organisations and workplaces. With a sizeable percentage of the Port Phillip community participating in some form of sport or physical activity, the attitudes and behaviours learned and displayed in sport can have a considerable influence on how our community behaves and has a significant impact on preventing gender-based violence before it occurs.

This week we are lucky to be hearing from some young local athletes and their clubs about how they create an equal playing field for girls, women and gender diverse people in our community. As Megan from Middle Park Football Club tells us, "It's about creating a culture and an environment where people feel safe and calling out the behaviour that is not okay."

Every person at every level of our sporting clubs; including management, coaches, umpires, volunteers, players, and fans; has a part to play in promoting equality and preventing violence against women. To help create an even playing field for all genders, we have collated a range of tools and resources that are available to support our sporting clubs to #callitout:

- Visit Our Watch's website to find a detailed plan for how you can create equality and respect in your sporting club by implementing the Equality and Respect in Sport Standards.
- Visit Respect Victoria's Sexism in Sport #callitout campaign to find out more about how you can support women, girls and gender diverse people by calling out sexist behaviour.
- Watch Our Watch's video to understand how perpetuating stereotypes for men and woman creates inequality and leads to gender-based violence, watch this video by Our Watch.
- Find out how to tackle violence against women and girls through community sport Jobs Victoria (mav.asn.au)
- Learn about how harmful stereotypes of masculinity are likely to perpetrate violence, sexual harassment, and online bullying through the Jesuit Services 'Unpacking the Man Box' project.
- Learn about State Governments campaign "Change our Game: Working to level the playing field for women and girls in sport and active recreation" at Change Our Game.

Parking in Port Phillip is going cashless

From the beginning of 2023, we will be phasing out our coin-pay options on paid parking machines across our City.

Paying for goods and services by electronically has become the preferred method of payment. Over the past three years, the number of people paying by coins for parking has significantly decreased from 19 per cent in 2019 to less than 7 percent in 2022.



Going cashless gives you access to more features. Using the PayStay application, you can receive notifications on your mobile device when your current paid parking session is due to expire. You may also have the option of extending your parking time via your mobile device (depending on the time restrictions), so there is no need to return to your car.

From January 2023, we will begin removing coin payment options on our paid parking machines. Once the coin option is removed, paid parking machines in the City of Port Phillip will accept payments by credit / debit card or through the PayStay application. Coins will no longer be accepted.

Removing coin payments will ensure a higher reliability of Paid parking machines, as machine faults are predominantly attributed to malfunction due to coin jams and vandalism. An increase in machine reliability will create a better experience for drivers and significantly reduce maintenance requirements, providing an improved service to our customers.

People who don't have access to a credit / debit card or a smart phone but need to pay for parking can get a pre-paid debit card (Visa or Mastercard) from Australia Post (or other providers) to pay for parking in metered spaces. There are also many non-paid parking bays across the City.

What if I don't have access to a credit card or smart phone?

All drivers have the option to park in non-paid parking bays within the municipality. Our shopping strips have parking options in nearby streets, which are not paid parking, but may be time restricted.

There is also the option of purchasing a pre-paid debit card (Visa or Mastercard) from Australia Post (or other providers) to pay for parking in metered spaces.

When will all the cash meters be removed from Port Phillip?

This will happen in two phases. First, we will remove the coin option from our credit card machines which will take one month. In the second phase, we will change the coin machines over to credit card. This will start around March / April and will take one and a half months.

Why is Port Phillip moving to cashless parking meters?

There has been a steady decline in the use of coins to pay for parking in the City in the last three years. Use of parking apps such as PayStay has increased while only 6 per cent of motorists pay for parking with coins.

What are the benefits?

Paying by credit or debit card or through the Pay Stay application is fast and easy.

If you pay through PayStay, you are able to receive notifications on your mobile device when your current paid parking session is due to expire. You then have the option of extending your parking time via your mobile device (depending on the time restrictions), so there is no need to

return to your car.

What if I have an Accessible Parking Permit?

People with a Category 1 Accessible Parking Permit are exempt from paying for parking in Paid parking spaces in Port Phillip.

Download the PayStay app

The PayStay app allows you to pay for parking on your smartphone. You can also extend your parking time remotely from your phone (depending on the time restrictions) so you can continue enjoying our City without the need to return to your car.

Celebrate disability inclusion in Port Phillip

To celebrate International Day of People with Disability, we have curated a range of events across Port Phillip.

We are celebrating International Day of People with a Disability (IDPWD) and acknowledging the achievements and contributions of people with disability through a range of exciting events.



City of Port Phillip libraries are helping you get your body moving with Fog Theatre, an incredible ensemble of emerging and established theatre and dance artists with disability. The group will be taking us on a playful journey through the St Kilda Library through a series of pop-up performances. Head down to St Kilda Library on Thursday 1 December for the first performance at 12 noon in the library foyer, and stick around for the finale at 12.50 pm in the story time area of the library.

Our libraries are also hosting a special author talk with Carly Findlay OAM; award-winning writer, speaker and appearance activist who has received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her work as a disability advocate. Carly will be interviewed by Renay Barker-Mulholland, a proud disabled, Biripi / Dungutti woman and staunch supporter of disability justice. You can be a part of this exciting conversation Thursday 1 December from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm at the St Kilda Library.

We are dedicated to providing a City that is accessible and welcoming for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. For the latest news about other accessible events and programs in Port Phillip and surrounds, be sure to check out our Accessibility and Disability Inclusion page: https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/EtTmCXLK1Rf48xJAU4_KmL?domain=news.portphillip.vic.gov.au

Photo: David Hansen

Port Phillip Phantoms

Halloween may have come and gone but these timeless tales will continue to send a chill up your spine.

THE FRIENDLY GHOST OF POINT ORMOND

Urban legend has it that at the exceptionally beautiful lookout at Point Ormond, lives (Or haunts) a ghost who helps to keep children safe.



The tale told is that this friendly ghost (let's call him Casper) once appeared to a sleeping mother, dressed in a ye olde style outfit. Casper woke the woman and told her to call her children back to her, who were playing by a bayside cliff. She took his notice and called to her children, just in time to see the cliff edge crumble away as they arrived safely back by her side. She turned to thank the child that had warned her, to find he had vanished.

THE JOKER GHOST OF LUNA PARK

One of our more popular poltergeists is the Joker Ghost of Luna Park, who has been known to appear on the Scenic Railway and the Ferris Wheel, to spook riders before disappearing into thin air. But who is this mysterious figure? There are a number of different theories. One is that he is a snake charmer who was bitten on the neck by one of his tiger snakes during a performance. Another is that it is the spirit of a man who, while riding the Scenic Railway, turned to speak to someone behind him and in doing so, leaned out of the cart and hit his head on an oncoming support pole. The list of possible identities is possibly the most frightening thing about this particular story but don't be surprised if you see this trickster (and for goodness' sake, keep your arms, legs and head inside the rides!)

PREDICTING THE METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY EXPLOSION

On 4 April, 1920, the Port Phillip location of the Metropolitan Gas Company exploded with a boom that was heard 60km away, reducing it to a pile of steel and rubble. Incredibly, there were no resulting injuries. What is a bit creepy, is the letter that the secretary of the company received on 31 March saying:

'I am a student of occult science, and it has come to my knowledge that on or about April 25 there will be an attempt to blow up the company's gasometer at South (sic) Melbourne, perhaps more. Feeling the responsibility heavy upon me, I am writing to warn you, so that means may be taken to prevent, if possible, this awful thing. It is purely and simply through the Divine will this came to me. Other knowledge which came to me through the same channel has proved correct'.

The cause of the fire was thought to be a pipe leak, with corrosion to metal structures also contributing - no evidence of human or occult interference was found.

THE WOMAN OF THE GRAHAM HOTEL

The two brothers who own The Graham Hotel in Port Melbourne have reported sightings of a mysterious woman, dressed in a bonnet and white night clothes. She appeared to walk through the restaurant to look out the window, then turned and walked back through the restaurant then slowly up the stairs. After rumours began to spread, a regular patron told the brothers that long ago a woman had been murdered upstairs.

THE GHOST OF ALFRED FELTON

Ok, so technically there are no reports of an Alfred Felton ghost sighting (yet). However, in the former dwelling and place of death of the well-known philanthropist, is the chic, cosy bar named the Ghost of Alfred Felton. Located in the historic Esplanade Hotel, the venue does have other ethereal residents, with a number of floating women sighted in the upper storey windows of rooms that were unoccupied and boarded up at the time. Spirits in this venue are not just behind the bar... (Sorry I had to).

SECRETS OF THE PALAIS

Theatres are magical places, full of tales told both on stage and by the many people that visit them. The iconic Palais theatre in St Kilda has its fair share of stories to make you shiver. Staff of this great beauty have reported hearing doors opening when they have been alone in the building (an idea that sends a chill down my spine on its own). There have also been reports of shadows flitting across the upstairs mirrors and not long ago a hidden door was uncovered that used to be the old ladies cloakroom – But why was it covered up!?

There have also been sightings of a woman standing in the upstairs seating, staring out

towards the stage. A former usher from the 1960s recently visited the venue and turned to the venue manager to simply say "Have you seen her yet?"

HISTORICAL REFLECTION AT ST KILDA CEMETERY

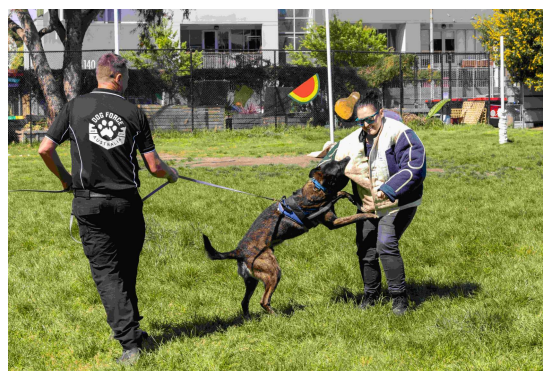
St Kilda Cemetery is a beautiful monument to many of Melbourne's most known residents and much-loved family members with over 51,000 burials. The tranquil grounds are divided into sections by denomination, with areas for Church of England, Catholic, Independent, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Baptist, Other Denominations, and Hebrew. Walk through the historic tombstones and garden beds, discovering the resting places of names both known and unknown. There are tours available if you want to learn more about this historic site.

Ruff day at the office

Scooby's bite was worse than his bark when he put council officers through their paces at a dangerous dog management workshop hosted by our Council recently.

Port Phillip Animal Management and City Amenity officers and representatives from Bayside, Melbourne, Glen Eira, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges Councils refreshed their dog

handling skills under the expert guidance of Dog Force Australia instructors including Scooby, a superbly trained Belgian Malinois.



Port Phillip Animal Management Officer Elle, who helped organise the event, said it's crucial for officers dealing with dogs to stay alert and up to date, especially as reported dog attacks are increasing (this may be due to more people becoming aware of the reporting process).

"It was great training together as we also built working relationships and swapped stories, ideas and experiences," she said. "The feedback was that it was a really awesome experience and we are looking at hosting other training events."

Officers chosen to demonstrate their dog whispering skills suited up in padded protective gear.

"When Scooby was told to attack me on command, you could feel the pressure of the bite through the padding but there was no pain. I have never been attacked on the job, my skills to avoid this have worked so far. But this training gave me a lot of insight into the force of a dog's jaws and their strength. Scooby chased me and hit my shoulder but I managed to stay upright." Scooby was showered with pats after the training when he was 'off the clock' for being a good boy.

The theory and practical work included:

- types of dog aggression that officers may be faced with in the community
- risk assessment / management for various scenarios
- handling techniques
- dog body language.

Elle said many dog attacks happen when pooches should have been on-leash.

Signs that a dog may be feeling tense or aggressive can include snarling, teeth baring, lunging and raised ears and hackles.

"There's so much to assess when approaching a dog. I scan the whole area to see how best to approach it. Some dogs just aren't social, it's not their fault."

Elle believes muzzles can be a useful tool for dogs which may become stressed in public places.

“There is an unfair stigma about muzzles. I think some owners may discount their dog’s behaviour and think it will be OK. But if the worst happens, it’s too late.”

Training advice from vets and dog trainers/behaviouralists should also be sought if a dog’s behaviour raises red flags.

“At the end of the day, it’s about keeping us and the dog safe. We want them to be as happy as possible.”

This year there have been 129 reported dog attacks so far in Port Phillip.

Port Phillip officers are working on a dog attack reporting kit with tips on how to report or avoid a dog attack. Collecting as much information as you safely can, such as the offending dog owner’s name, their pet’s name, phone number or numberplate, assists investigations.

Vale Kathleen Mary Kehoe

The Port Phillip community gathered in numbers to celebrate the life of a maternal nurse who supported thousands of local families.

The City of Port Phillip lost a valued member of the community when Kathleen Mary Kehoe passed away in August.



Kathleen was known to many across Port Phillip and beyond for her work in local maternal and child health care services.

Kathleen, a Middle Park resident, provided maternal and child health services from 1976 to her retirement in 2010, having assisted generations of families in Port Phillip.

Those who formerly worked with Kathleen described her as someone who was passionate about her work and adored by the families she supported. In some cases, Kathleen would assist families from the time their newborn child arrived home for the first time all the way through to the age of three or four years old.

Kathleen was also the daughter of Mary Kehoe who also left a lasting legacy of helping others in her community as one of the many women of the South Melbourne Home Help Auxiliary, established in 1947.

Mary Kehoe was also instrumental in establishing Australia’s first Meals on Wheels service in South Melbourne in 1953. Her work was recognised as Albert Park’s Senior Citizens’ Centre was named in her honour in 1984.

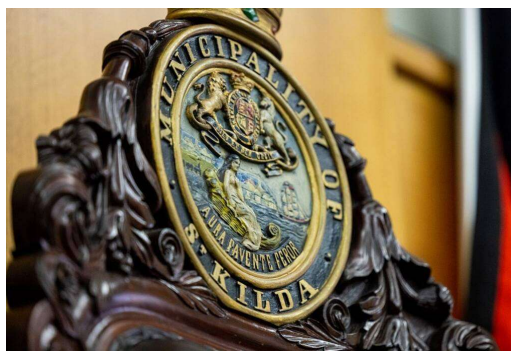
Port Phillip Council extends its sincere condolences to the Kehoe family.

Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Read our Council meeting recap to catch up on what you missed from the 16 November meeting and watch the livestream of the event.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/port-phillip-council-meeting-recap-16-november-2022>



Arts in Focus



Meet Linden New Art's next Director

Vincent Alessi has taken on the role as Linden New Art's new CEO and Director as he steers the St Kilda art gallery into its fifth decade.

Mr Alessi has been involved in the arts sector for over 20 years as a director, curator and academic. From 2006-2014 he was the Artistic Director of LUMA (La Trobe University Museum of Art) before taking up the position of Curatorial Manager at the Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne.

He has curated exhibitions both nationally and internationally on artists as diverse as Mike Brown, Philip Hunter, Brook Andrew, Julie Rrap, Polkong Anading and the Ryan Sisters, and on topics varying from abstraction in Australian landscape painting to notions of place and identity in contemporary practice.

Mr Alessi described Linden as a "remarkable institution" for Port Phillip residents to have in their own backyard and said he wanted to continue to build on the gallery's connection to the community.

"I want to cement Linden as a place where the City of Port Phillip community can take



Summer Sessions bring the sounds of summer to Port Phillip

Summer celebrations are set to come alive across Port Phillip with Port Phillip Council's free Live Love Local Summer Sessions returning bigger and even better.

Following popular entertainment activations at three locations last summer, the outdoor fun will expand to seven sites across the City, featuring about 100 live music performances.

There's something for everyone to enjoy with live music and performances from Amos Roach, Charlie Needs Braces, Pal Mar, Ignite Bollywood Dance Company and many more.

Mayor Heather Cunsolo will launch Summer Sessions at 5 pm, Saturday 3 December at Acland Plaza, St Kilda.

The launch includes live music from Darren Clinch and Canisha C-K, a dance performance by Mexbourne and a bubble-making workshop with Dr Hubble.

We are proud that First Nations performers make up more than 50 per cent of the participating artists. While over 75 per cent of Summer Sessions artists are local to Port Phillip with many selected from Council's [Live N Local](#) Featured Artist Database.

ownership of it and can proudly say it's their gallery," he said.

"We already run great programs like our Postcard Show to help achieve this, but I want to expand on what we do to make Linden a real social space so that the local community feel really comfortable to come see our exhibitions, public programs and come to Linden as a place to hang out or bring friends and family."

Mr Alessi said he would visit the gallery space when he was younger and that he was drawn to the role by Linden New Art's strategy around supporting mid-career artists and promoting bold and risk-taking art.

"Linden's one of those institutions, it's been around for decades and it has an important legacy, not only within the immediate community, but within the arts community more broadly.

"It was one of those places that was firmly in my mind as a place to visit when I was on my own discovery of the arts. To now be a part of Linden's story coming into its fifth decade is just a really exciting opportunity."

The Linden New Art gallery is a Council-owned facility, run by an independent incorporated board of management. It receives annual funding from Council to deliver artistic and cultural programs that enhance the life of Port Phillip.

The gallery will soon host its 32nd annual Postcard Show in an iconic display of more than 1000 miniature masterpieces. It will pair with a solo exhibition from previous Postcard Show competition winner Michael Kluge.

"The wonderful thing about the Postcard show is it's so democratic and egalitarian at its heart in the sense that everyone is welcome to apply and pretty much everyone who applies gets in," Mr Alessi said.

"It's an exhibition that can be a stepping stone for something bigger – and this is the case for Michael Kluge, who now has a solo show that will sit alongside the Postcards. It's a great demonstration of the importance of the Postcard Show."

The Linden Postcard Show will run from 3 December to 27 February. For more

Cr Cunsolo said Summer Sessions provides a boost to local musicians and artists while providing extra foot traffic to traders by activating public spaces with free entertainment.

"We're proud to bring back Summer Sessions with free entertainment spanning across Port Phillip from Elwood to Port Melbourne," she said.

"Come for the free music and entertainment and stick around to enjoy a drink and grab a bite to eat at a nearby restaurant this summer."

Programming runs from December to March with locations including Albert Park, South Melbourne, Ripponlea, Elwood, Acland Street (St Kilda), Fitzroy Street (St Kilda) and Port Melbourne.

For more information about Summer Sessions, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/arts-and-entertainment/summer-sessions-2022-23>

information, visit the Linden New Art website: <https://www.lindenarts.org/>

Help Shape our City



Join the conversation

New consultations are arriving online in November and December and we'd love your input. Visit Have Your Say and keep the conversations going in 2022.

Upcoming feedback opportunities

[Exploring the possibility of a pump track in Port Melbourne](#)

Help us understand the suitability of a new pump track for bike riders and lovers of wheeled sports in Port Melbourne.

Join the conversation before 18 December 2022.

[Lagoon Reserve Upgrade](#)

Your feedback is a vital part of our planning. It helps us make decisions to ensure the Lagoon Reserve becomes a reserve that meets the needs of the local community.

We'd love you to look the draft concept design for and let us know what you think.

We are taking feedback until 11 December 2022.

Community Spirit

Port Phillip Pickers provide the good oil

Unloved olives are being transformed into delicious oil thanks to the Port Phillip Pickers, a band of volunteers bringing the community together one olive at a time.

Few know that Port Phillip's public spaces are home to more than 400 olive trees, with about a quarter being fruiting varieties. Olive trees are the oldest cultivated trees in existence and this community-minded band of volunteers are working together to keep them flourishing on nature strips and in parks for years to come. The trees can be found across the City, especially in Port Melbourne, Albert Park and Middle Park.

Members of local European communities used to tend the trees and brine the olives or transform them into versatile olive oil. With many of these members moving on, the delicious



fruit has largely gone to waste over recent years, creating a squishy mess when dropping onto footpaths.

This changed when our Council asked graduates of its Environmental Leaders Course in April if they wanted to help solve the problem.

Pickers co-founders Isabel Gardner and Agnieszka Majer had coincidentally been talking about a project in the northern suburbs which encourages olive lovers to collect the fruit in private and public spaces for pressing. They jumped at the opportunity to spearhead a similar operation in their own “backyard” and quickly found about eight volunteers to harvest olives over a two-day trial.

The fruits of their labour were 23 litres of oil pressed from 200 kilograms of olives that would have otherwise gone to waste.

“It really snowballed from when Council asked us to get involved. We were in the right place at the right time,” Isabel said. “The trial has given us confidence that this idea is scalable and doable.”

The plan is to recruit more volunteer pickers to lend a hand when the next crop is ready to be picked in April or early May next year.

“It’s also about re-creating a sense of ownership, with people pruning and fertilising trees they have ‘adopted’,” Isabel said.

“We would like to reframe the thinking so people feel they are living in urban food production zones rather than just a high density city”

Isabel believes the sustainability project also helps people, as well as trees, to thrive.

“The harvesting really brought a sense of community connection while reconnecting to the land around us. When I was picking from a grove in a park, families at a nearby playground jumped in and helped.”

Agnieszka agrees the successful trial showed the community’s appetite for a sustainable solution to the olives going to waste.

“People were cheering us on when we were picking and telling us where we could find other olive trees. This is a great way for us to find people still tending trees who may want to join us for the next harvest.”

“This project is not just practical and yummy, it also brings people together, it’s reconnecting us to previous generations.”

Agnieszka and Isabel recently hosted a tasting for Councillors, including Mayor Marcus Pearl, when sharing the Pickers’ success story.

Isabel said they valued the support from Council, which included paying for the oil pressing. They hope to sell the next batch so they can become a self-funded not-for-profit group.

Cr Pearl said Council is keen to continue to support the Pickers. “Isabel and Agnieszka exemplify the leadership and vision we promoted in our Environmental Leaders Course and we look forward to the Port Phillip Pickers continuing to contribute to sustainability across our City.”

To volunteer or learn more, go to the Port Phillip Pickers Facebook page or email isabelgardner@hotmail.com

Op Shop delivers record amount of grants

Christmas gifts arrived early for 22 community organisations in Port Phillip as South Melbourne Community Chest (SMCC) delivered significant funding as part of its annual grants day presentation.



Each year, the non-profit organisation distributes the proceeds from its Op Shop to local organisations across the City as well as financial donations and bequests.

SMCC President Gary Hutchens said he enjoyed gathering with the grant recipients to present the cheques alongside Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo on 14 November.

“It’s a really satisfying day for many in the Port Phillip community,” he said.

“The thing that appeals to me is that you’re seeing the community giving back to the community. We rely on community donations for the Op Shop and when we sell them, the profits we make are handed back to the community.”

Some of the grant recipients for 2022 include:

- Rotary Port Phillip: to assist its work creating backpacks for essential items for children in crisis
- Albert Park College: to provide music scholarships for six disadvantaged students
- Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project: to provide fresh food vouchers for people seeking asylum
- Napier Street Aged Care Services: to fund the restoration of a garden with suitable plantings.

SMCC volunteers had good reason to celebrate with a record number of grantees named and the largest amount of funding ever distributed by the Community Chest.

“It was a beautiful day and one that we all look forward to every year. We get a sense of reward for the hard work we’ve all put in, but more importantly for the contribution we’re making to the Port Phillip community,” Hutchens said.

SMCC was created following World War II in November 1946 as an umbrella charity fund in the City of South Melbourne. The organisation has seen many iterations throughout this time but has stuck true to its vision of bringing together local residents, Council, the business community and other community-based organisations in a common effort to advance the welfare of the Port Phillip community.

In recent times, SMCC has donated almost \$2 million in grants to community organisations across Port Phillip. Council is proud to support the Community Chest by leasing the Op Shop property at a peppercorn rent.

SMCC is looking for new volunteers and encourages those interested to visit their website.

What's On



The Palace Foreshore

18 November to
10 December

Enjoy live music against the beautiful backdrop of St Kilda Foreshore.

Palace Foreshore is St Kilda's premium outdoor music and entertainment venue.

The venue is situated at the St Kilda Triangle, directly adjacent to the iconic Palais Theatre.

Operating each November and December, the venue is a central part of St Kilda's ongoing revitalisation and identity as Melbourne's summer playground.

Artists include The Teskey Brothers, King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard, Tim Minchin and many more.



Lakeside Carols Street Party

Thursday 2 December
5.30 pm to 8.30 pm

The Lakeside Carols Street Party is set on bringing some Christmas cheer to Albert Park Village and surrounding suburbs.

The street party is the perfect opportunity for friends and family to reconnect with their community.

The event will feature live music, street performers, extended trading hours from local vendors, food and drink specials and of course a special visit from Santa.

The street party will take place in Albert Park Village on the corner of Bridport Street and Victoria Avenue.



Albert Park Book Fair

17 December
8 am to 5 pm

Whether you're looking for a Christmas gift or just wanting to have your holiday reading sorted, the Albert Park Annual Book Fair is just the place.

The Book Fair is hosted by Albert Park College in conjunction with Rotary Club of Albert Park at 83 Danks Street, Albert Park.

Choose from thousands of pre-loved books including art, history, non-fiction, cook books, children's books and more.

A portion of the proceeds go towards supporting local residents in need.

Entry is free.

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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