



# DIVERCITY

July 2023



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN  
FOCUS



SHAPE  
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY  
VISIT



COMMUNITY  
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WHAT'S ON

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## From the Chamber

Some of you reading this may have been experiencing missed bin collections since Citywide became our new kerbside bin contractor on 3 July.

I want to personally thank you for your patience and understanding as Citywide resolves its route and bin location mapping issues. There have been big improvements and Citywide is expecting to achieve significantly more collections this week.

While most waste collection services are unaffected, this is little consolation to those understandably frustrated by the delays.

We are doing everything we can to assist Citywide rectify its mapping issues and I know our staff redeployed in Council trucks to help reduce the backlog are appreciating the kind words from residents when they roll up to lend a hand.

The official launch of the Waterlines sculpture at Kirrip Park is a timely reminder of why we are committed to doing what we can to achieve a sustainable and liveable Port Phillip.

This includes endorsing three key sustainability plans and strategies in July to go out for community consultation. They are the:

- draft Climate Emergency Plan



- draft Act and Adapt Sustainable Environment Strategy 2023-28
- Urban Forest Strategy Draft Vision and Principles.

The draft Climate Emergency Plan focuses on five key priorities, including minimising greenhouse gas emissions, more sustainable transport options and enhancing our community's resilience.

Our draft Act and Adapt Strategy involves building on, expanding and reviewing the earlier 2018 version to ensure we have the most effective actions and targets to tackling everything from carbon emissions to waste reduction.

We know urban forestry and greening is incredibly important to our community. Our updated strategy will deliver a long-term framework to guide the planning, provision and protection of greenery across our beautiful City.

All these initiatives are on our Have Your say webpage. I encourage everyone to provide their feedback to guide us as we tackle important environmental issues now – and into the future.

There was a “full house” in the public gallery at a Council Meeting when we discussed whether to proceed with building a public toilet in Fitzroy Street. There were strong views expressed both for and against before the decision was ultimately made not to proceed.

Efforts to find a location had been underway for 16 years as there is general agreement that a public toilet is needed – only the site is debated. While an alternate potential location won't be explored until at least 2025, it would be wonderful if a future development on Fitzroy Street could include public toilet facilities.

A petition to stop plans to redevelop Lagoon Reserve also drew some passionate community members to the Chamber in July. While we are continuing with our plans for the \$15 million redevelopment, which includes greatly improved grounds and a two storey sporting pavilion, we acknowledge the dog walking community who loves this space and will make sure they continue to have access after the works are done.

As our City is home to a large rainbow community, I was delighted to see our LGBTIQ+ Action Plan adopted in the Chamber.

This Plan sets out outcomes we want to reach, based on the needs and aspirations of LGBTIQ+ people, and how to achieve them.

We really appreciated the excellent feedback received during the consultation phase, including from our LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee. The next step is developing an implementation plan to bring us closer to attaining our vision of “an inclusive City where diverse LGBTIQ+ communities are safe, connected and celebrated”.

Regards,

Cr Heather Cunsolo,

Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## Waterlines a wonder for Port Phillip City Collection

A thought-provoking public art addition to the Port Phillip City Collection was officially launched in July.

Located in Kirrip Park, Waterlines is a large glass-fibre reinforced concrete sculpture created by renowned Australian artist Ian Strange and funded and donated to our City by Wonderment Walk Victoria.

The artwork is valued at \$300,000 and resembles a local roof peak reflecting the residential and industrial heritage of the Montague area.

Waterlines explores the long and complex history of flooding and water management that has shaped the Fishermans Bend precinct and sparks an important conversation on the threat of a rising water table.

Strange, a multi-disciplinary artist, explained the bottom portion of the sculpture is marked in black to depict exactly where water levels reached in a historical 'one-in-100-year' flooding event.

"One of my favourite things from the research was finding the photos of the floods and seeing kids floating down the street on doors and playing in the floods," Strange said.

"It was always really polluted and covered in this sort of black coal. And then during these floods the waterlines would rise up and leave these black markings on houses and buildings."  
"The sculpture itself is based on a series of cuts taken out of timber-framed homes and so really replicates a lot of the tropes of those early workers' homes in the area," Strange said.

Strange collaborated with science educators to produce a free primary education resource for

South Melbourne Primary School, which sits adjacent to Kirrip Park. The resource encourages students to think and respond to the artwork through multiple lenses including visual art, science, humanities, and mathematics.

The sculpture was installed in April 2020, shortly after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The artwork was celebrated with an official launch event in July to acknowledge its donation to the Port Phillip City Collection.

Wonderment Walk Victoria is a philanthropic initiative which develops and installs public art across Melbourne with a scientific and environmental focus. For more information about Waterlines, visit the Wonderment Walk Victoria website.

## City News

### Kerbside bin collections update

We're pleased to share we are receiving fewer reported missed bin collections and our new waste contractor is expecting significant improvements to their kerbside service this week.



There have been unacceptable numbers of missed rubbish, recycling and FOGO bin collections since Citywide took over as our contractor on 3 July.

While the vast majority of these services have been going smoothly, we acknowledge this is little consolation to those residents who have been affected and we understand their frustration.

Since last week, the number of missed bins reports has dropped drastically. While this is encouraging, further improvement is imperative and our Council will continue to do everything we can to help Citywide resolve its route and bin location mapping issues.

This includes Council staff undertaking street audits to inform Citywide of any missed collections. We are also checking their maps to make sure they are listing all streets and laneways.

You may have also noticed redeployed Council staff out and about in our trucks every day to help reduce the number of unemptied bins.

Residents have the option of dropping off their rubbish free of charge at our Resource Recovery Centre until kerbside services are operating normally.

If you are still experiencing missed bins, please let us know via the Snap, Send, Solve app or My Port Phillip on our website. This means we can continue to:

- let Citywide know where they have missed bins
- capture critical data to send to Citywide to improve the accuracy of their maps
- send Council crews to help empty missed bins.

We have also reinforced to Citywide that bins must be returned neatly to where they were picked up.

We sincerely thank everyone for their patience and will continue to keep our community informed as full restoration of affected collection services moves closer.

## Flashing lights saving drivers from flash flooding

Newly installed flood monitoring equipment is enhancing the safety of two flood-prone roads in Elwood.

The flood monitoring device on Foam and Wave streets features flashing lights which activate automatically to warn drivers about oncoming floodwater across the road.



If the floodwater continues to rise to a higher trigger level, Council officers are alerted via text message and close the road.

The lights have been triggered multiple times since being installed after high tides and rainfall on Wave Street.

Council officers have seen drivers stopping and turning around when the lights are activated rather than attempting to drive through the submerged road.

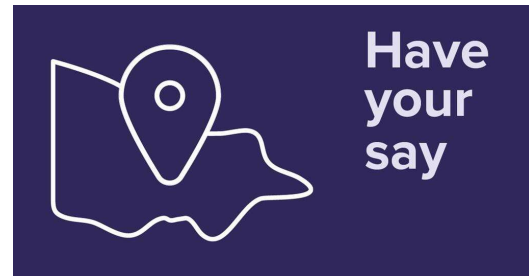
The devices are also allowing Council staff to respond even faster to flash flooding events.

Always remember to never drive through floodwater. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car.

For more information to know what to do during a flood visit the [Victoria State Emergency Service website](#).

## Help shape our City's electoral structure

An advisory panel is conducting a review of the electoral structure in Port Phillip. The panel is seeking your feedback to ensure all voters are represented in a fair and equitable way.



The advisory panel is supported by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). The panel will consider:

- the appropriate number of councillors and wards for the council
- ward boundary locations
- ward names.

Public information sessions about the review will be held at 12 pm on Monday 17 July and 6 pm on Tuesday 18 July. Visit the [VEC website](#) and click the link to attend the live online event.

The panel will consider the requirements of the law to propose models for the council's structure. This will be outlined in a preliminary report. You will be able to share your views on this report and which model would best serve your community. This is known as a response submission.

The preliminary report is released and response submissions will close at 5 pm on Wednesday



9 August.

At the end of the review, the panel will make a final recommendation to the Minister for Local Government. Any change to the electoral structure for the City following this review is expected to apply at the next Council elections.

To find out more visit [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) or call 131 832.

## Community grants applications are open

Applications for our Community Grants are now open.

Our grants support eligible community groups and organisations to apply for funding to produce projects and programs that benefit our community.

More grants are on the way as applications for the [Cultural Development Fund - Festivals and Events](#) and [Cultural Development Fund - Projects](#) open on 31 July.

Visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/community-grants-applications-are-open>



## Mayor meets with Minister for Police

The City of Port Phillip welcomed the Minister for Police and Minister for Crime Prevention, Anthony Carbines, to St Kilda Town Hall this month for a discussion on crime prevention and the opportunity for collaboration with the Victorian Government in the interests of safety for our residents and traders.



Mayor Heather Cunsolo and CEO Chris Carroll sat down with the Minister to discuss efforts by our Council to address disadvantage within our City, and our ongoing efforts to support residents who are experiencing financial difficulties.

Our Council budget extended the Launch Housing funding agreement for two more years, providing \$110,000 per year for outreach services to assist people sleeping rough and allocated \$40,000 for increased food relief in Port Phillip.

Crime prevention and deterrence across our municipality remain a priority for Councillors.

Mayor Cunsolo said the meeting was an opportunity to get our message across that more must be done to ensure our residents and traders feel safe, and that our streets are welcoming and thriving for visitors from across Victoria and beyond.

"This was an important opportunity for us to ensure the messages we are hearing from some members of our community about safety in our City were heard directly by the Minister," Cr Cunsolo said.

"We are looking forward to hearing more about how our Council and the Victorian Government can work together to deliver great outcomes for our City."

This followed other Mayoral discussions held recently with Josh Burns, the Member for Macnamara and Nina Taylor, the Member for Albert Park.

The City of Port Phillip continues to use every opportunity to pursue a rigorous advocacy agenda for 2023/24 across a wide range of project and policy aims.

## Scooting safely in Port Phillip

The Victorian Government has expanded its e-scooter trial under strict new rules.

Safely using and parking e-scooters is important for everyone so we encourage riders to visit the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) website for safety tips.

We are also continuing to work with DTP and operators to address community concerns around safety and amenity, including poor parking on footpaths.

E-scooters are being well-utilised with over 740,000 trips completed in Port Phillip since the trial began in February 2022.

Visit: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/e-scooters-in-victoria>



## Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Read our Council meeting recap to catch up on what you missed from the 19 July meeting and watch the livestream of the event.

Visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-19-july-2023>



## Arts in Focus



**Guided Walks in Port Phillip**



**EcoCentre mural showcases biodiversity**

Our popular Guided Walks program has returned with a free program of monthly walks exploring the heritage treasures 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.

The next available Guided Walk, Talk and tour: The See Yup Temple and Family History, is on Saturday 26 August.

Book your free place for a tour of the See Yup Temple and a talk from Ming and John Griffiths about their family history journey back to China.

This Guided Walk is at the See Yup Temple, 79 Raglan Street South Melbourne.

The latest Guided Walks program is from July to December.

Visit:  
<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/history-and-heritage/guided-walks-and-things-to-do>

A mural project in the St Kilda Botanical Gardens has transformed the temporary hoarding around the Port Phillip EcoCentre redevelopment site.

Artist, Emily Gardner from ADORE Murals and Artwork, created the mural to reflect the beauty of the surrounding gardens by promoting the local biodiversity

The mural design was created in consultation with volunteers from the Port Phillip EcoCentre, the Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens, and visitors to the Gardens. The design features birds and animals who visit the Gardens as well as its indigenous plants. Paint used for the mural is carbon-absorbing, in keeping with the environmentally sustainable design of the new EcoCentre building.

The artist set out to portray a natural environment to connect to the surroundings.

"Through collaborative design and carbon-absorbing paint, we transformed the construction site into a sustainable, living canvas and a meaningful connection to our unique natural heritage, inviting viewers to cherish and protect our environment," she said.

This project was funded under Council's Public Art program, separate to the redevelopment project. The hoarding and mural will be recycled to another building site once the redevelopment is completed.

The mural helps to enrich the space by connecting locals and visitors to their environment and adding a sense of meaning and place. By beautifying this key area, we can make it feel safer and more connected through a shared appreciation of what makes our Garden unique.

We expect construction work on the EcoCentre Redevelopment to be completed in mid-2024. The mural will remain while the hoarding is in place.

## Help Shape our City

Help shape a more sustainable Port Phillip





We're committed to a sustainable future where our community benefits from living in a city that is greener, cooler, cleaner and climate-resilient.

Council and the community play a key, collaborative role in shaping this future. Tell us what's important to you by sharing your feedback on the below strategies:

- [Urban Forest Strategy](#)  
Feedback closes on 6 August
- [Act and Adapt Sustainability Strategy](#)  
Feedback closes on 12 August
- [Climate Emergency Plan](#)  
Feedback closes on 6 August

## Learn more about the community feedback we received

- [LGBTIQA+ Action Plan](#)
- [Basketball facilities at J Talbot Reserve, St Kilda](#)
- [Managing weeds in our urban and open spaces](#)

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

## Sustainability

### Farewell to plastic produce and net bags!

On 1 July, single-use plastic produce bags and net bags were removed from South Melbourne Market's fruit and vegetable stalls.

This is yet another step in the commitment to phase out unnecessary single-use plastics and is one of the key actions of the Market's first [Environmental Sustainability Strategy](#).



Visit: <https://www.southmelbournemarket.com.au/news/farewell-to-plastic-produce-and-net-bags>

## Library Visit

### Off Your Back

Over 115,000 homeless Australians will be freezing through a cold winter and they need your help.

Throughout August you can donate your pre-loved coats and jackets to Off Your Back.

Visit the team at St Kilda Library to donate your warm winter clothing and support this great

community initiative.

Visit: <https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/off-your-back-winter-coat-donation-drive>



## Community Spirit

### Fifty year milestone of fighting for justice

A free St Kilda community legal service has celebrated 50 years of helping thousands of people on low incomes find justice.

As a community legal centre, Southside Justice supports people experiencing violence and abuse, financial hardship, housing insecurity and discrimination and other social and legal issues.



Southside Justice began as the St Kilda Free Legal Service in 1973, a time when passionate lawyers and volunteers started banding together to make legal advice more accessible and available.

“Our Centre had its beginnings in this social movement and we are very proud to be providing free legal advice half a century later,” Southside Justice CEO Mel Dye said.

Southside Justice’s work includes Community Justice Partnerships with the Better Health Network, Launch Housing, Sacred Heart Mission and the Salvation Army.

“These partnerships recognise that a lawyer is not always the first person our clients will turn to for legal help. By delivering targeted, timely and integrated legal help at the right time, we can help resolve problems which might otherwise escalate, causing even more issues, disadvantage and higher costs.”

Mel estimates the centre has assisted tens of thousands of people over the past 50 years and remains an important community resource for those requiring legal help.

“This is an incredible milestone and also a stark reality that there are still many people in our community going through tough times,” she said.

“In the last financial year we assisted close to 900 people. Given the complex and interconnected issues people face, the demand for our service is increasing.”

For more information go to: <https://southsidejustice.org.au>

If you think you meet the eligibility criteria and are seeking a legal advice appointment, you can contact the Centre on 7037 3200 from Monday to Thursday between 10 am to 12 pm or 2-4 pm.

# What's On



## Material Remains

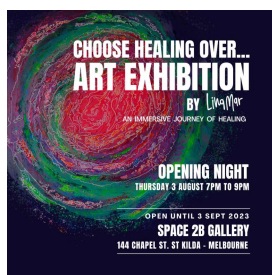
6 July - 7 August

Linden New Art is hosting Material Remains, a curated exhibition that explores the socio-historical, archival and formal threads of fabric.

It opens with Martin Kantor's 1986 photograph of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and ends with three works that look like fabric, but are in fact drawing, painting and stitched paper.

In moving from local history to total abstraction, the slipperiness of fabric emerges: it is embedded in community; a carrier of identity and memory; and substrate that in art, eludes capture.

For more information, visit the [Linden New Art](#) website.



## LinaMar: Choose healing over...

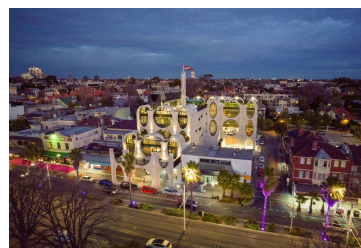
3 August - 3 September

Space2B's upcoming LinaMar Exhibition: "Choose healing over..." explores the transformative power of art in promoting mental health and well-being.

The exhibition is organised by a group of talented migrants, showcasing abstract paintings that portray the artists' journey towards healing.

The exhibition features artwork that reflects the experiences of the artist in her journey towards healing.

For more information, visit LinaMar's [website](#).



## Free Fun Day at the Pride Centre

Sunday 30 July

The Victorian Pride Centre is hosting a day of free activities for rainbow families and allies on Sunday 30 July.

Enjoy everything from yoga classes by Ziggy Razuki, a 'Manicure Bar' by Sally Hansen, free sausage cart by Woofy's and free coffee by resident organisation The Little Social, to tarot card readings and much more.

No bookings are required, simply go along from 10 am and enjoy the program of family fun.

For more information, visit the Pride Centre [website](#).



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## Your Councillors

### Gateway Ward



**Mayor 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 Robbie Nyaguy**  
0466 611 598



**Cr Christina Sirakoff**  
0435 419 930

## Canal Ward

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**Cr Tim Baxter**  
0466 495 250



**Cr Rhonda Clark**  
0435 098 738



**Cr Louise Crawford**  
0466 514 643

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