



DIVERCITY

February 2025



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



SUSTAINABILITY



LIBRARY
VISIT



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

From the Chamber

Community safety continues to be a high priority for our Council so I want to share a notice of motion that was passed unanimously in our Council Chamber last week.

Essentially, it involves Council officers investigating suggested changes to our local law relating to people experiencing homelessness. This reflects community and traders' concerns about encampments in public places, which has been associated with anti-social and criminal activity and left some in our community feeling unsafe.



It's fair to say there were diverse views, for and against, among some Councillors and members of the public about this proposal. I want to stress that what we agreed to is a review only – and this investigation will be aligned to the upcoming broader roundtable we have convened on community safety.

Following my letter to the Chief Commissioner, we are sitting down formally with Victoria Police from this week to discuss a range of matters including how these potential local law changes might work and if there are implications we should be aware of. This working group will include the Local Area Commander.

We will also be hearing ideas and feedback from local experts ranging from Victoria Police to health and housing outreach services and legal centres at the roundtable as community safety is complex and requires everyone to work together.

You can go to portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/community-safety-in-the-city-of-port-phillip to learn more about what we are already doing to improve community safety and what resources we are advocating for.

While community safety is rightly a priority, our recent two-day St Kilda Festival was a timely reminder that St Kilda has so much to offer. I'm proud to report that the Festival was another huge success, attracting 350,000 music lovers on Big Festival Sunday alone and with great performances, despite challenging windy conditions, at First Peoples First.

The fun continues with this issue of Divercity featuring a range of upcoming events, many of them free. I invite everyone to come along, whether it's munching on mussels, enjoying live music while the Australian Grand Prix revs up or perusing a fantastic display of Porsches.

Proudly Port Phillip

Cr Louise Crawford

Mayor, City of Port Phillip



Port Phillip in pole position for Australian Grand Prix festivities

While there will be plenty of excitement trackside at Albert Park during the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix (13 to 16 March), many of Port Phillip's iconic streets are revving up for free events before, during and after the AGP.

These include huge Last Lap Live parties in [St Kilda](#) (16 March) and [South Melbourne](#) (14 to 16 March). These two suburbs will be jam packed with free live gigs and good vibes across 20+ venues. Full details are on whatsonstkilda.com

With a line up including the likes of Jimi Hocking's Blues Machine, Willie J's 6V6s, The Yachtski Brothers, Eric Powell (Mobile Disco), and Charles Jenkins, there's something for everyone. Vibrant street performances will give the ultimate party vibe to those wandering from venue to venue and for alfresco diners – and the fun starts close to the racetrack in both suburbs.

[Porsche & Coffee](#) (pictured) is a magnet for Porsche owners and enthusiasts across Melbourne. A massive Porsche exhibition lining selected streets of South Melbourne, this popular annual event on 9 March is a great curtain-raiser to the AGP. See these amazing cars up close, grab a coffee, and explore South Melbourne's vibrant cafe and shopping precinct. More information can be found at experiencesouthmelbourne.com.au

Carlisle Street, Balaclava, will light up on Saturday 15 March from 10 am to 2 pm with the free vibrant dancing street festival, [Carnival on Carlisle](#). Come along for infectious rhythms. Free workshops will run throughout the day and there are children's activities including a disco. All the details are at carlislestreet.com.au



Mussel in for a seafood and jazz spectacular at South Melb Market

What better way to enjoy the Labour Day long weekend from 8 to 9 March than munching on hot mussels while listening to hot jazz?

The Port Phillip Mussel and Jazz Festival is returning to South Melbourne Market, set to a soundtrack featuring some of the City's best jazz and soul musicians.

This two-day spectacular seafood street party features a range of great street food vendors, including for non-seafood fans.

There's also a main stage of live music, bar, workshops, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, roving performances, giveaways and more. It's free, family friendly and a whole lot of fun from 11 am to 9 pm.

Details: southmelbournemarket.com.au

City News

We-Akon Dilinja dawns in St Kilda

Our community came together on 26 January to "reflect, respect, celebrate" at the fifth We-Akon Dilinja (mourning reflection) ceremony in St Kilda.

Held by the Boonwurrung Land and Sea Council in partnership with our Council, and supported by the National Australia Day Council, the ceremony featured musical performances, readings and a keynote address by Boonwurrung Elder Fay Stewart Muir OAM.



For those who missed it, the livestream can be viewed on our website:
portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/first-nations-community-information/we-akon-dilinja

Australia Day citizenship ceremony welcomes new citizens

About 120 Port Phillip residents from 41 countries became Australian citizens on 26 January at a citizenship ceremony at the St Kilda Town Hall.



There was a sense of excitement as conferees were presented with their citizenship, along with a wattle pin and a native Australian plant. A performance by the Low Rez choir and a sausage sizzle outside on the lawns added to the celebratory atmosphere.

Elwood resident Linda Drechsel travelled to Melbourne in 2016 for a marketing internship. Nearly nine years to the day of her arrival, she's now an Australian citizen, celebrating the day with close friends at a local pub.

Linda shared her love for Elwood – the suburb she now calls home. “I enjoy being able to walk down to the beach and go for a swim in summer. It's something I never would have been able to do if I still lived in Germany,” she said.

Fellow conferee and former Ireland resident, Stephen Boland also moved to Port Phillip in 2016 with his partner.

After spending time living in Gippsland and Essendon, Stephen was ultimately drawn back to St Kilda thanks to its strong cultural ties to his homeland.

“Of course, a lot of Irish people live around St Kilda and Port Phillip. We quickly made friends here and every weekend we found ourselves coming back to St Kilda to catch up with our friends,” he said.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/australia-day-citizenship-ceremony-welcomes-new-citizens>

Clean Up Australia Day in Port Phillip

After a fabulous turnout last year, we are hosting a community Clean Up Australia Day event at Marina Reserve in St Kilda on Sunday 2 March from 10 to 11.30 am.



Everyone is welcome to come for as much time as they can. We will meet at the Sun sculpture near the skate park/car park.

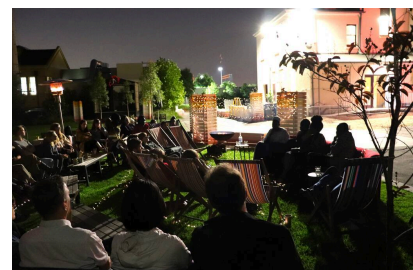
We will provide gloves, recycling bags, general waste bags and sunscreen and hand sanitiser.

For details on how to register and what to bring, go to <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/clean-up-australia-day-returns-to-port-phillip>

Celebrate Cultural Diversity Week

Cultural Diversity Week (17 to 23 March) is a chance to share stories, learn from one another and embrace our multicultural identity.

Join us for an evening of storytelling under the stars at



Campfire Stories at St Kilda Library on Thursday 20 March 2025, from 6 pm to 8 pm.

Gather around a warm fire as First Nations speakers and local voices share powerful stories of migration, resilience and belonging. Hosted by DJ and TV personality Miss Katalyna, the night features you'll hear from Noè Harsel, Rohini Vij, George Kyriakou, and James Seow.

To book, go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/people-and-community/multicultural-community/cultural-diversity-week>

Annual Community Satisfaction Survey coming soon



During March and April, we're conducting our annual Community Satisfaction Survey to better understand our community's experience with our services and facilities as well as other issues of concern in the City of Port Phillip.

In the past, the survey was conducted by computer assisted telephone interview. This year, Metropolis Research will conduct the survey face-to-face. Personal details and individual responses are confidential and only the overall results are shared with City of Port Phillip.

The survey methodology is to interview 900 residents across our municipality and may take 12-15 minutes to complete. Our researchers will have identification and introduce themselves to you. We encourage you to view their ID and they will have with them a signed authority letter advising the survey is not a scam.

Details: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/2025-community-satisfaction-survey-coming-soon>

St Kilda Light Rail Corridor Works

Works will soon be happening along the St Kilda Light Rail Corridor between Whiteman Street, South Melbourne and Fitzroy Street, St Kilda.



The tram rails and other tram infrastructure require urgent maintenance so Yarra Trams can continue to deliver safe and reliable tram services in the area.

Early works will take place each night from 11 pm to 5 am, Monday 24 February to Thursday 27 February 2025. Then 24-hour main works will follow from 9 pm, Friday 28 February to 5 am, Monday 3 March 2025.

More information: <https://yarratrams.com.au/projects/st-kilda-light-rail-maintenance-works>

Make a difference

Do you want to help make a difference for our City? We are inviting community members to nominate for voluntary positions on the City of Port Phillip Community Grants Assessment Panel Reference Committee and the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee.



Full expression of interest details, including criteria, will be on www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media from 28 February. Applications close Monday 31 March.

Committee appointments approved by our Council will be announced in May 2025. The Council Grants Reference Committee positions are for two years.

Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Actions at our 19 February Council Meeting included:

- Endorsement of proposal to review suggested changes to the local law relating to people experiencing homelessness. This investigation will inform the upcoming broader roundtable convened by our Council on community safety.
- Mid-Year 2024-25 Financial Review
- Endorsement of motion for MAV State Council Meeting which advocates to the Victorian Government on community safety resources.



<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-19-february-2025>

Arts in Focus



The blues are back

The 6th annual free St Kilda Blues Festival is back from Friday 28 February to Sunday 2 March.

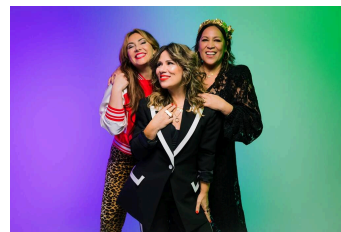
More than 40 bands / artists and 70 gigs along Acland and Fitzroy Streets and the Blessington Street Precinct are there for your entertainment, along with roaming street performers.

For the first time, the festival features a special opening night celebration at the iconic Gershwin Room at The Espy on Thursday 27 February from 7 pm.

Limited tickets are available to purchase for this event featuring headliner Ashley Naylor, a renowned guitarist with Australian band Even.

Blues Music Hall of Fame Victoria 2024 recipient Kerry Simpson and talented guitarist Kathleen Halloran are also on the bill.

Performances from bands such as Murray Cook's Soul Movers, Jesse Redwing, Robert



Get ready to ROAR

The inaugural [ROAR FEST](#) will hit St Kilda on the Labour Day long weekend, 8 to 9 March, coinciding with global celebrations for International Women's Day.

ROAR FEST's dynamic program is filled with more than 40 exciting performances by artists ranging from grassroots to superstars, insightful panel discussions, engaging activities and abundant networking.

Major events in the exciting program include the:

[ROAR FEST's headline show](#) Celebrating Women in Music hosted by Ella Hooper. The lineup includes Kate Ceberano, Tania Doko, WILSN, Gabriella Cilmi and star on the rise, Gypsy Lee.

[In Conversation Panel](#) where ROAR FEST ambassadors Kate Ceberano, Ella Hooper, and Tania Doko will come together for a thought-provoking conversation to celebrate International Women's Day

Celebrating Women in Music photo exhibition at the Carlisle Street Arts Space

Susz and so many more will present throughout iconic venues while the streets will come alive with music, dance and fun with street band Hoodoo Mayhem offering that good ole New Orleans feeling.

City of Port Phillip is a proud sponsor of the festival, now in its seventh year.

More info: <https://stkildabluesfestival.com.au>

[Women on the Bay](#) in George Lane featuring sets from a diverse lineup of emerging artists

City of Port Phillip's [2025 Guided Walks Program](#) with three walking tours celebrating International Women's Day

Streets and venues of Fitzroy Street and Acland Village ringing with the sounds of female artists from diverse cultural backgrounds during the [ROAR Street Shows and ROAR Side Shows](#)

Full details: <https://roarfest.com.au>

Help Shape our City



Help Shape Our City

Keep an eye on our [Have Your Say website](#) for updates on projects which are open for community feedback:
<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au>

For more detail about opportunities to give your feedback [sign up to our monthly community engagement newsletter](#):

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

Continuous improvement survey

We are always looking to improve how we engage with our community. Can you help us with our engagement planning for this year, by letting us know your preferences for giving feedback on Council projects? This survey will take 3 minutes and is open until Friday 28 February.

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/community-engagement-policy-1/let-us-know-how-you-prefer-give-feedback>

Help shape Our Coastal Future!

Are you passionate about the use and future of our coast? We are looking for dedicated individuals to join our community reference group.

This is your chance to:

- Play a key role in shaping our coastline's future.
- Have your voice heard on crucial coastal actions.
- Collaborate with others while balancing community interests.

If you have a strong connection to our coast and want to make a difference, we want to hear from you. Applications close 31 March 2025.

[Apply by filling out this registration form](#):

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

What we've heard from you: Plan for Port Phillip 2025-29

From 15 November until 16 December 2024, we asked for your ideas on what Council should focus on for the next four years. We heard from 1002 community members, across 34 engagement activities. [Visit Council's Have Your Say page to view the full engagement report.](#)

We are now working together with a Community Panel, a select group of 40 community members from different walks of life, who are meeting four times in February to provide additional advice and recommendations about the Plan for Port Phillip.

The draft Plan for Port Phillip will be presented back to you in April and May for further comment before it's finalised.

Save the date: March Neighbourhood Conversations

We will be popping up in neighbourhoods from 15 to 29 March to hear your feedback on a range of Council projects.

Keep an eye on our [program page](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodconversations) for updated dates, locations and projects:
<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodconversations>

Sustainability

Getting climate ready

Expressions of interest are open to join our Climate Ready Communities (CRC) project in Port Phillip. This innovative program empowers you and your neighbors to tackle climate challenges head-on, right where you live.

After joining a supportive community network passionate about local climate action, you will receive expert training and resources to identify climate challenges affecting your area and explore practical, achievable solutions that make a difference.

And through our ongoing partnership with The Resilience Canopy, your community will continue to receive support to sustain and grow your climate action projects well into the future.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/sustainability-and-climate-change/top-10-ways-to-take-action/climate-ready-communities-program>



Be an Environmental Leader

Are you passionate about environmental sustainability but not sure where to start? Do you have an environmental idea you would like to put into action? Then our Environmental Leaders course could be for you.

This course is aimed at anyone who wants to become an environmental leader with a focus on individual growth in a team-based environment. No pre-requisites or skills required. Expressions of interest for 2025 are open now.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/sustainability-and-climate-change/top-10-ways-to-take-action/environmental-leadership-course>



Library Visit

A Day on The Hill open day

With the Porsche and Coffee event happening just outside Emerald Hill Library's doors on

Sunday 9 March, and the Mussel and Jazz Festival around the corner, this is the perfect day to explore the library.

Discover the stories, history and wonder of Emerald Hill Library from 8 am to 2 pm while immersing yourself in a fun-filled, family-friendly day in South Melbourne.

The open day fun includes driving simulators, children's shows live music in the courtyard, gaming sessions, crafting stations and library tours.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/a-day-on-the-hill>



Community Spirit

St Kilda Gatehouse fundraiser

St Kilda Gatehouse's Fashion and Fauxtails fundraiser from 6 pm to 8 pm on 28 February is a fun way help this fantastic organisation make a difference..

Funds raised will directly support some of our community's most vulnerable women who are living with the consequences of trauma: homelessness, life-controlling addiction, reliance on street sex work for survival and vulnerability to exploitation.

The event at St Kilda Town Hall features a gorgeous fashion parade with beautifully curated vintage and upcycled garments shared by St Kilda Gatehouse's Greeves St op shop. Comedian Jodie J Hill will keep the vibe playful.

Beginning with a complementary NON beverage, Fashion and Fauxtails is the perfect place for Friday night drinks with friends (you keep your glass and can head to the bar for \$5 refills). There will also be live music, a grazing table and a silent auction with a range of unique experiences, designer goods and art. This event is proudly supported by City of Port Phillip and NON drinks.

Bookings: <https://whatsonstkilda.com/event/31507321-a/fashion-and-fauxtails>



New timeslot for document signing centre

There has been a change to the Justices of the Peace document signing service at the Victorian Pride Centre, originally reported in the November edition of Divercity.

The free service has switched from Sundays to between noon and 4 pm on Saturdays, excluding public holiday weekends. This is the only community-based Document Signing Centre within a 10 km radius of Melbourne's CBD that isn't a police station.

Over two months, 14 volunteer JPs serviced over 120 clients and signed over important 650 documents at the DSC@VPC.



What's On



St Patrick's Festival

15 to 16 March, St Kilda

This annual celebration of Irish culture is returning to O'Donnell Gardens with even more entertainment.

The fun starts on the 15th from 10 am to 7 pm at a free family day which includes a parade at 11 am.

Live music, a dog show, children's activities, roving entertainers, pop-up bar and Irish cuisine and dancing are all part of the experience.

The next day is a ticketed event for attendees aged 18 and over from noon until 9 pm.

An international Irish band, local live performers and artists, food and beer gardens, workshops and roving entertainers are all on offer.

For details, search online for the Melbourne St Patricks Day website.



Body of Work

Ends 1 March, St Kilda

St Kilda artist Pamela Reid's professional and personal life is the impetus for her Body of Work II exhibition.

Featuring works created during rehearsals for "Madiba the Musical" (the life of Nelson Mandela) - a theatrical production that toured Australia/New Zealand nationally – the exhibition also includes portraiture, life drawing (contains nudity) and en plein air painting.

The exhibition is open at Space2b, 144 Chapel Street, St Kilda, from 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Friday and 10 am to 2 pm on Saturdays.

Space2b is an art and design social enterprise, supporting people seeking asylum, refugees and newly arrived migrants through creative enterprise, workplace training and business mentoring.



Rooftop bars

There's no better way to soak up the summer sun than at a rooftop bar - and you don't need to go to the CBD to find them.

From Port Melbourne to South Melbourne and St Kilda, there's a bunch right here on the Southside.

Suggestions include:

- Saba Rooftop (Port Melbourne)
- Mirror Mirror (South Melbourne)
- Golden Fleece Hotel (South Melbourne)
- Captain Baxter (St Kilda)
- The Local Taphouse (St Kilda)
- Albion Hotel (South Melbourne).

<https://whatsonstkilda.com>



