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# DIVERSITY

June 2023



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CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



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## From the Chamber

I'm very pleased to share that our Budget 2023/24 and Council Plan update were adopted this month.

For the first time, this Budget has been built on an average rates rise below the Victorian Government's rates cap (3.5 per cent) and is lower than forecast inflation.

A solid financial foundation, and unexpected revenue from streams including parking, means we can do this without cutting services.

While not everyone will agree, on balance Council has decided a lower rate rise of 2.8 per cent is the best way of providing both current and ongoing financial relief to members of our community as they grapple with cost of living pressures. This is because whatever rate rise may follow in the future, it will be based off the lower 2.8 per cent figure.

Our comprehensive 10-year Council Plan continues to roll out, with this Budget providing capital project investment of \$62.8 million to maintain, grow and improve community assets.

We will also keep delivering the sustainability, social and local economic priorities we know our community want and expect and provide targeted relief to those who need it most.

I encourage everyone to take a look at these important documents which set out how we want our beautiful City to thrive both now and for years to come.



It was exciting to see film lovers back at the majestic Palais Theatre for the 2023 St Kilda Film Festival's (SKFF) opening night.

With its biggest program to date, the Festival featured more than 100 films presented in over 11 venues across St Kilda and - for the first time - South Melbourne. This included transforming South Melbourne Market into a sensational cinema for two nights. The Palais was packed on opening night and the professional development day – the Big Picture – was full for nearly all of its 32 panels, workshops, presentations and masterclasses.

Every screening had the liveliest of Q&As with filmmakers from around the country who were rewarded with glowing reactions and post film button-holing from audiences. We can't wait to do it all again!

In another significant contribution to our City's reputation as a cultural hub, we declared St Kilda as Victoria's first Live Music Precinct (LMP) in the Chamber.

An official launch featuring performers Mark Seymour, John Wayne Parsons and Alice Skye was the perfect way to celebrate this ground-breaking initiative to keep live music alive in a growing suburb. We will have more to say, including when consulting with our community, as we develop the next steps. Making it simpler for residents to raise concerns such as noise complaints, supporting musicians and music events and slashing red tape for venues are all ways our Council can be a live music 'one stop shop'.

In more good news, we were delighted to welcome Peek a Bras as the first pop-up in our vacant shop activation to help revitalise Carlisle Street, Balaclava.

If you're stuck for ideas to keep children amused over the school holidays, take a look at the great ideas in this edition of Diversity including three scavenger hunts with prizes on offer for the winning little explorers.

There's so much going on in Port Phillip for all ages to enjoy!

Regards,

Cr Heather Cunsolo,

Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## St Kilda home to Victoria's first Live Music Precinct

St Kilda is ready to rock as Victoria's first Live Music Precinct (LMP).

Officially launching the St Kilda Live Music Precinct, Port Phillip Council Mayor Heather Cunsolo said the initiative is about creating harmony, rather than increasing noise.

"St Kilda's status as Victoria's first LMP reflects our famous suburb's past as a much-loved live music hub, its present as a renowned live music destination and its future as a ground-breaking example of how to keep live music alive close to homes and businesses," Cr Cunsolo said.

"Making it simpler for residents to raise concerns such as noise complaints, supporting musicians and music events and slashing red tape for venues are all ways our Council can be a live music 'one stop shop'.

"By working with the Victorian Government to celebrate, protect and promote live music, we can also help support performers, venues and hospitality businesses to rebuild after being hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic."

A preliminary map of the precinct includes streets brimming with live music including Fitzroy, Acland and Barkly streets.

Declaring a LMP is key to progressing further – this provides a framework to support changes required to better balance the needs of venues, performers and residents in a growing suburb. Community consultation will continue to be undertaken as this project progresses.

Live music precincts (or Special Entertainment Precincts) have been set up in Queensland and New South Wales, most famously in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley. Being Victoria's first designated precinct is a fitting role for a suburb known and loved nationally and internationally

for a live music scene which generates significant cultural and economic benefits.

The next steps include:

- seeking to work with the Victorian Government to simplify, streamline and reduce the burden of regulations on live music venues and events. Four different regulators, including Council, can currently be involved with a noise complaint
- investigating a potential planning scheme amendment to protect existing and future live music venues by enshrining the existing Agent of Change principle across the LMP, instead of for individual premises. This could mean new residential developments considering existing live music venues, and the possibility of new ones opening nearby, through measures such as adequate sound-proofing.

In the meantime, Council will continue to support live music through measures including its own event programming and looking at how its permitting and noise complaint processes can be further improved.

Other initiatives announced today celebrating St Kilda's significant live music heritage:

- interactive music history map featuring a brief history of live music venues including images and links to bands who played there. Follow the trail and visit some of these landmarks in person, stopping along the way to catch a meal or a gig
- outdoor exhibition along Acland Street showcasing iconic photographs from St Kilda's famed postpunk period in the 70s and 80s featured from today until 10 July
- outdoor rock poster exhibition featuring bill posters from that era throughout central St Kilda from 23 July
- works by artists affiliated with the St Kilda live music scene of the 70s and 80s, which are part of the City of Port Phillip contemporary art collection, exhibited in the Carlisle Street Arts Space at St Kilda Town Hall from 11 July.

## Background

A LMP is defined as an area in which live music is recognised as a priority activity, resulting in potential changes to regulatory frameworks, governance processes and communications to support and protect live music activity.

The Victorian Government introduced planning controls in 2020 allowing councils to designate live music precincts, with the aim of considering "the social, economic and cultural importance of live music venues as they make decisions on local planning permits". Port Phillip is the first Victorian Council to take up this opportunity.

St Kilda was chosen as a LMP due to its rich live music history, including the City of Port Phillip's annual St Kilda Festival. It's also home to almost 70 per cent of known music venues in Port Phillip and is well-served by public transport.

The Agent of Change principle means that when anyone applies to establish, alter or demolish a live music venue, or to establish a new noise sensitive use near an existing 'Live Music Entertainment venue or in an identified precinct (as identified in the Port Phillip Planning Scheme), consideration must be given by the applicant and Council (or in extraordinary circumstances the Minister) to the impact of the proposal on opportunities for live music



## Cost of living pressures recognised in Budget

A rates rise well below forecast inflation and the Victorian Government's 3.5 per cent rates cap is at the heart of Port Phillip Council's 2023-24 Budget and Year 3 Council Plan update adopted at a Special Council Meeting.

Mayor Heather Cunsolo said the average 2.8 per cent rate rise recognises cost of living pressures, from rising inflation to interest rates, being experienced by Port Phillip ratepayers.

"This is the first time we have adopted an increase below the rates cap, introduced in 2016/17. We're doing this as we recognise many in our community are looking for financial relief," Cr Cunsolo said.

"We carefully considered a range of options as we know there are different opinions on this complex issue. Ultimately, we decided to provide current and future financial relief this way as any further rate rise must be based on this lower figure under the rates cap provisions."

The financial impact to the 2023/24 Budget will not be funded through service cuts. Unanticipated extra income from revenue streams including parking, together with continuing efficiency savings (\$2.1 million), will keep Council in a position to deliver a Budget benefitting current and future generations - while providing a reserve for unexpected expenses.

The comprehensive 10-year Council Plan continues to roll out, with this Budget providing capital project investment of \$62.8 million to maintain, grow and improve community assets.

Cr Cunsolo thanked everyone who participated in the extensive community consultation on the draft Budget.

"We always carefully consider feedback and a number of changes from what was consulted on

in the draft Budget have been incorporated,” she said.

These include a smaller reduction to the Cultural Development Fund – Projects stream (funding for individual artistic/creative projects). While funding was originally proposed to be reduced from \$187,000 to \$100,000, the Budget now provides \$125,000 in funding.

Other Budget highlights:

- rolling out the new Multi-Unit Dwelling FOGO kerbside service and communal hubs for glass and FOGO
- additional project investment over 10 years including \$25 million in provisional funding for the Elwood Foreshore Facilities Project (Stages 2 and 3), \$17 million for South Melbourne Market Connect and an extra \$9 million set aside in reserve for Fishermans Bend infrastructure
- an extra \$50,000 towards Early Education Grants (worth a total of \$206,000) to support vulnerable families’ access to childcare
- two years’ extension of the Launch Housing funding agreement (\$110,000 per annum) for outreach services assisting rough sleepers and a one-off \$40,000 allocation towards greater food relief in Port Phillip
- existing business support under the Economic Recovery Package continuing until June 2025, including ongoing activation of public spaces
- pensioner rates rebate increasing five per cent to \$210 (Port Phillip is among only a handful of councils offering this rebate)
- most fees and charges increasing 3.75 per cent – some will be higher to reflect reasonable user pays charges while others will stay the same or reduce to support those who most need it or to encourage further take-up. The 3.75 per cent rise is under the 4.5 per cent inflation forecast
- funding to improve access for girls and women at sporting facilities including J L Murphy and Lagoon Reserve in line with our Fair Access Policy (under development)
- continuing to invest in implementing our sustainability strategy, Act and Adapt, and taking action to address the Climate Emergency, including building our first Climate Emergency Plan, reducing the impact of our buildings and operations and supporting our community to take action and identifying and delivering programs to minimise climate risk in Council operations and to the community
- continuing our annual Greening Port Phillip Program and developing a new Urban Forest Strategy and Street Tree Planting Program in 2023/24
- Public Space Strategy projects moving into construction in 2023/24 in its second year, including Moubray Street Community Park and Graham Street Overpass Skatepark
- No debt, aside from some finance lease liabilities which remain as part of our financing strategy.

For more information, go to: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/council-plan-and-budget>



## Bra boutique supporting Carlisle Street revitalisation

The first pop-up in a vacant shop activation to help revitalise Carlisle Street, Balaclava, has opened.

While Peek a Bras has a strong online presence, the award-winning company is looking forward to fitting customers in person in a “brick-and-mortar” outlet.

The \$200,000 Carlisle Street Shopfront Activation Program is funded by Port Phillip Council and delivered by The Place Agency.

Under the initiative, up to \$10,000 is available for participants to lease vacant properties for one to 12 months. Spaces are offered to tenants below the market rate. Outgoings, such as utilities, are covered by the tenant.

As with many other retail precincts, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to vacancy rates along Carlisle Street. While new, long-term businesses have set up shop there over the past few months, short-term pop-ups in vacant properties offered under the program are a perfect way to test the market or trial products.

“Carlisle Street offers a unique retail experience, from independent retailers to cosmopolitan cafes,” Mayor Heather Cunsolo said.

“Building on this reputation by filling vacant shopfronts with new businesses is a win for shop owners, traders and our local economy. We can’t wait to celebrate more newcomers participating in this innovative program, right in the heart of Balaclava.”

The Peek a Bras range features patented fabric “skins” which slip easily over bras to provide a flattering, comfortable and fashionable look for all body types and ages. CEO and inventor

Ashley Grottoli said the activation program is a great fit for her business, which started online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I feel Carlisle Street chose me. It’s vibrant with a lot of diversity and welcomes new ideas,” Ms Grottoli said. “Moving into a shopfront is so necessary as we really want to be able to meet and fit our customers.”

The Carlisle Street Traders Association (CSTA) has been a strong advocate for the pop-up activation.

“The CSTA welcomes the first shop for this program which will enhance the comeback of our famous Carlisle Street,” Vice-President Igor Vainer said. “We look forward to continuing working with Council on other ways of revitalising our precinct.”

For more information, including how to apply, go to [carlislestreetpopup.com.au](https://carlislestreetpopup.com.au)

The most recent Council audit in December last year showed the vacancy rate for Carlisle Street was running at 11.1 per cent (17 properties). The vacancy rate is expected to be lower when the next audit is undertaken later this month due to the new businesses arriving.

Other Council initiatives supporting the revitalisation of this distinctive street include:

- providing \$20,000 in seed money in 2021 to support the formation of the CSTA and \$40,000 for its marketing and promotion over 2022/23
- proceeding with a special rate for the CSTA to spend on marketing, promotion and activation
- the Urban Canvas Mural Festival Hub and Exhibition, Summer Sessions free music and entertainment and a Love My Place grant
- facilitating or funding more lively street art to bring vibrancy to the street and deter graffiti.

## City News

### Our City embraces communal hubs – for glass and FOGO recycling

Over 30 communal hubs now exist across our municipality – helping residents to divert food and garden waste from landfill and minimise glass contamination in our recycling streams.

In early 2023, City of Port Phillip began expanding our food and garden organics (FOGO) and glass communal hubs to more parks and reserves throughout our City. So far, we’ve installed over 30 – and by the end of 2023 we’ll have rolled out approximately 50 more.

During this time, we have experienced an enthusiastic uptake of services from our community.

“It’s very clear that our community are becoming more conscious of how to recycle and separate waste materials correctly. Our communal recycling hubs have been very popular and residents have requested more locations across the City,” said Harry Goodman, our Waste Project & Technical Project Officer.

One group of residents petitioned to have an additional hub installed on the corner of Ingles Street and Garton Street in Port Melbourne – and this was delivered in March of 2023. It’s been





exciting to see members of our community get involved and support the continual rollout of this service.

As we deliver more hubs across the city, our community will have more options to contribute towards a circular economy – and in doing so, create a more sustainable Port Phillip.

### **Why communal hubs?**

The needs of the Port Phillip community are diverse, particularly when it comes to our waste and recycling services. City of Port Phillip has a unique housing demographic, with approximately 90 per cent of our dwellings being medium or high density compared to 33 per cent for Greater Melbourne. In addition to this, many of our standalone houses have limited outdoor and garden space with no room for additional kerbside bins. So, to ensure everybody can access FOGO and Glass recycling we are expanding our communal recycling hubs.

Our communal FOGO hubs allow residents to drop off their FOGO materials for recycling and send less waste to landfill. Our glass hubs allow residents to separate out glass from their kerbside recycling. This is useful because glass can shatter when mixed in with other recyclables – and broken glass contaminates other materials like paper, cardboard and plastic, making them harder to recycle.

We're using communal hubs to separate glass and FOGO materials to improve the quality of our recycling, and to support a local market specifically for glass to be recycled into high quality products.

### **FOGO for apartments and unit blocks**

In addition to rolling out more communal FOGO hubs, we are continuing to expand our kerbside FOGO services in 2023. This is to make it even easier for eligible households to prevent their FOGO materials ending up in landfill. In January of 2023 we delivered kerbside FOGO bins to eligible stand-alone houses and townhouses. And throughout winter and spring, we'll be expanding this service to eligible apartments and unit blocks.

### **Let us know how we're doing**

If you have any feedback or questions about the communal hubs, please let us know. You can lodge a query in My Port Phillip anytime, or you can contact ASSIST on 03 9209 6777.

## **A guide to our new Local Law**

On 21 June 2023, we adopted our new Local Law (Community Amenity Local Law 2023). In March, we asked the for feedback on the proposed Local Law to ensure it was developed in partnership with our community.



Local laws play an important role in enabling Council to deliver on its strategic objectives, core strategies and policies.

Our local laws are used to support the creation of a liveable, safer, and healthier city by regulating activities that occur in public and private places that may impact on urban character, local amenity, and the fair enjoyment by or safety of others.

Following our extensive community engagement, a stakeholder engagement program and evidence-based research, we identified changes that aim to improve the operation of the Local

Law 2023.

We understand that we need to ensure our community and stakeholders are fully aware of these changes and that we are fully prepared to make the necessary adjustments. That's why we're planning for changes to come into effect from 1 August 2023.

Changes include:

### **Clause 9 Connecting to Council Drains**

Previously a permit was not required for connections to Council drains where Council has approved a plan of subdivision. We've removed this exemption, so a permit is required for all connections to Council drains. This will ensure all connections are subject to Council requirements.

### **Clause 15 Asset Protection Permit**

All builders are required to obtain an Asset Protection Permit to carry out building or demolition works on Council land. The permit ensures community assets are not damaged as a result of works. Previously if a builder caused more damage than the security bond covered and they cannot be traced, Council carried the cost of the repair. This cost to the community. Our amendment expands the definition of 'builder' to include the owner of the land and ensures they are jointly responsible for all damages to Council assets as a result of building works.

### **Clause 17 Behaviour on Council Land**

This amendment addresses nuisance behaviour in our City. A public nuisance is an 'unreasonable inconvenience, annoyance or hurt to the public at large'. We've heard from our community about the impacts of antisocial behaviour on our residents. Council receives many complaints about this issue, its impacts upon amenity, safety and the appeal of high streets and other areas as vibrant, attractive and safe places to visit. This clause gives officers the ability to address behaviour that unreasonably interferes with another person on or close to Council land by asking them to stop or issuing an infringement. Officers can ask people engaging in nuisance behaviour to stop. They can also issue an infringement if there is a failure to comply.

### **Clause 20 Commercial Dog Walkers (new clause)**

Our community provided feedback on this issue as part of our Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021, before it was adopted by Council. Our City has a growing population and a limited amount of public space. This clause ensures people and other animals have safe access to amenities in our community. The clause requires commercial dog walking businesses to obtain a permit if walking, exercising, or otherwise being in control of seven dogs or more on Council land. Previously no permit was required and there was no limit for commercial dog walkers on the number of dogs they can walk on Council land.

### **Clause 23 Shopping Trolleys**

Trolleys that are taken from shops and other venues are often abandoned or misused. This can result in damage to public land and block access. Trolleys can also block rivers and drains, which can contribute to flash flooding during extreme weather events. This amendment requires all venues with over 30 trolleys to have a perimeter lock system installed to reduce the number of trolleys being taken off site. A system will be installed on trolleys that automatically locks the trolley wheels when it is taken beyond the perimeter of the retailer's premises. To allow for the implementation of this amendment, we are providing a 12-month grace period for impacted venues to comply.

### **Clause 31 Residential Parking Permits**

We've seen an increase in the misuse of parking permits. Copying, forging or selling permits may result in less space for legitimate permit- holders. As our already densely populated City grows, we need to protect our resident's space and ensure the parking allocated to them is available. Previously there was currently no workable mechanism to follow up on the copying, reproduction, tampering with, lending or selling a residential parking permit issued by Council. This amendment makes it an offence to sell or purchase, hire, lease, licence or receive a residential parking permit that has been allocated to another person.

### **Clause 33 Itinerant trading**

Itinerant trading refers to a trader or business that doesn't operate from a fixed place. Food trucks, door to door sales and market stallholders are examples of this. Previously the law required a permit to engage in itinerant trading in a vehicle and in certain places in the City such as a road or the foreshore. This amendment allows Council to require and assess permits for any businesses seeking to use any Council land for commercial purposes, including e-bikes and e-scooters. This gives Council more oversight of how many traders from outside the City are trading in Port Phillip. It also provides a greater ability for us to consider how this impacts our local traders.

### **Clause 35 Special Events**

A special event is an organised sporting, recreational, cultural, commercial or social gathering of 20 or more people held on Council land. Previously a permit was required to hold a special event and for permission to busk, trade, film / photograph and erect temporary fencing. This amendment requires a permit for putting any furniture, heater, fire pit or other item on a road or Council land. This would allow event organisers to broaden what they offer at some special events. Because they are subject to permitting rules, this also allows Council and organisers to assess and manage risks.

### **Clause 43 Furniture and other items on Council Land and Footpaths (new clause)**

Items that aren't typically found on footpaths and in our parks and reserves are increasingly being found by residents to be obstructing and causing visual clutter. To ensure the cleanliness and safe passage of our public space, this new clause allows items that shouldn't be located on the street to be quickly removed and impounded. It also makes it an offence to place furniture or other items on footpaths or other Council land that obstructs access. The clause provides a power for Authorised Officers to direct that they be removed or impound the items if there is a breach. By doing this we aim to reduce incidences of dumped furniture and other items being moved from their original positions to open spaces and footpaths within the City where they impact pedestrian and customer access.

### **Clause 50 Political Signs (new clause)**

This new clause improves transparency and removes confusion regarding Planning Schemes and other legislation. The clause makes it an offence to affix, erect, install or otherwise display a political sign on Council land other than where it is authorised under any other legislation. Victorian and Australian Government legislation provide for the placing, erection and display of candidate signs within 100 metres of polling places.

### **Clause 51 Dangerous or Unightly Land**

This amendment is in response to community feedback about access issues and the visual impacts of dangerous and unsightly land. Dangerous or unsightly land refers to materials on land that can be hazardous, flammable or attract vermin. It also applies to land that has been neglected or is out of keeping with other land in the vicinity. An owner or occupier of land must not allow that land to be kept in a manner which is dangerous or unsightly and can be subject to penalties. We're expanding this clause to require owners or owners' corporations to take responsibility for land adjacent to their properties. This means they should make sure nature

strips and land adjacent to property is not unsightly or occupied with furniture or other objects. This amendment encourages a joint onus to addressing the issue of dumped hard waste in our streets. Landowners and owners' corporations will be required to book hard waste collections services through Council's service provider.

### **Clause 52 Managing amenity on building sites – tree protection barriers**

This amendment recognises the environmental and aesthetic values of our City's trees as well as the significant investment of public funds in tree maintenance, monitoring and replacement. A builder must comply with the measures for the management of a building site stated in the Procedures and Protocols Manual. This proposed amendment would require Tree Protection Barriers for Council trees (including root zone) on the nature strip or other Council and adjoining a building site.

### **Clause 52 Managing amenity on building sites – allowable hours**

Previously a builder did not require a permit for construction work between 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am to 3 pm Saturday. We're extending hours for Saturday construction hours so that works can be carried out until 5 pm on a Saturday without requiring an 'Out of Hours' permit. This increases the allowable hours from 9 am to 3 pm to 9 am to 5 pm. This is in response to increasing requests for permits from the construction industry and in consideration of our City's increasing level of development and projected growth. Issuing permits beyond these hours will be carefully managed to protect community convenience and maintain the liveability of our City.

Read the full Community Amenity Local Law 2023 and the accompanying Procedures and Protocols manual: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/health-and-safety/local-laws-and-enforcement>

## **Citywide to take over kerbside household waste collection**

From Monday 3 July, our kerbside (household) waste collection services will be carried out by a new contractor: Citywide. We expect that while Citywide become familiar with the routes there may be a minor impact on households.



Your bin collection day will remain the same, but collection times may vary. For example, if your bin is normally collected at 9am, you may notice that it's now collected at 4pm. There's no need to lodge a missed collection request should this occur. However, if your bin hasn't been collected after 24 hours, get in touch with us. You can lodge a query in My Port Phillip anytime, or you can contact ASSIST on 03 9209 6777.

We've been working closely with Citywide and our existing contractor, Four Seasons, to ensure as smooth a handover as possible. We'll continue to work with Citywide to ensure we're providing exceptional service across all waste collection streams. We appreciate your patience during this transition period.

## **Addressing food relief and building social cohesion**

Since the COVID lockdown, the demand for food relief in our City has continued to increase.

That's why we're working to address the increasing demand for immediate and long-term food relief in our community. Through this, we will identify practical and sustainable food relief

activities for community members in need. By doing so we also want to connect people to additional support services.

The project is being led by City of Port Phillip in partnership with Cities of Yarra and Melbourne. It is funded through a \$330,000 grant from Victorian Government through funding provided by the Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund.



To support the immediate needs of those experiencing food insecurity, \$100,000 of the grant funding was allocated across the region (\$36,666 to each Council area).

Port Phillip's share was allocated to Port Phillip Community Group's (PPCG) Share the Food program in Port Melbourne.

This additional funding helped PPCG to buy bulk food and share it to 15 food relief agencies, widening their food relief distribution network.

Food relief agencies have told us what it means to the community to have this extra resource. Emerald Hill Mission pointed out how the supply of fresh food has helped their clients.

"The continual supply of fresh fruit, eggs, desserts, personal care items and selected foodstuffs means that we can be confident that many sleeping rough and living in substandard accommodation can be fed with healthy, appetising food. Without the support of Share the Food, we would struggle financially to provide not only food, but the social and caring support that so many of our clients have come to rely on."

It also enables agencies to distribute more food along with better-quality food items including protein, dairy, culturally appropriate foods and special dietary requirements.

Paul, a recipient of food through the program pointed out the importance of the service for as a boost for his mental health as well as for his material needs.

"You give good stuff in the hampers, all things we can use, so we don't throw away much. That's because you know what we need. But it's not all about the material goods, it is also moral support. It gives you a boost to know that someone cares and spends the time to make you the hamper. Even during COVID lockdowns, you never missed a day. It gave us something to look forward to" he said.

Volunteers working on the program are also getting that sense of social cohesion and connection through the food relief program. One Share the Food volunteer described the family they found as part of their work:

"I sometimes take my three children to volunteer at the warehouse as well, to teach them that not everyone can afford food. It is a bonus that you meet so many like-minded people who care about community. Some of them became my best friends, or more like family."

The wider Food Security project is being delivered by Sustain – The Australian Food network, in a three-stage research report:

- Stage one: involved an extensive research stage that included the mapping of current services, and gathering information on current needs
- Stage two: involves engaging with food relief and social support agencies, people with lived experience and from First Nations communities as well as people experiencing homelessness (rough sleeping). This stage also includes an analysis of the findings and

a research report with recommendations about better models for food relief and integrating social support, so we can have the most beneficial impact.

- Stage three: this final stage will see the development of a preliminary report and a final report. These reports will contain recommendations for interventions based on evidence that has been gathered throughout the project.

Through each stage, we will gain a deeper understanding of the needs of people in our City experiencing food insecurity and how best connect them to those other important wrap around services.

Through our investigations, we will consider opportunities to better coordinate with partner organisations and councils to track demand and to improve collaborations and early interventions.

We will also be better equipped to link food relief to other connected services to help strengthen social connections and access to health services.

We will update you on the progress of this project as we continue to roll it out.

For more on the IMP project: <https://www.suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au/metropolitan-partnerships/inner-metro-partnership>

For more information on the project contact: [helpdeskcbi@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:helpdeskcbi@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

## Victorian Budget outcomes for Port Phillip

A range of measures benefitting our community were unveiled in the Victorian Budget 2023/24 in May.

These included election commitments made before the November 2022 election.



We welcome the following funding:

- \$1 million for the Port Melbourne Bowling club
- Planning money for the Middle Park Primary School
- \$250,000 for the Port Melbourne Surf Life Saving Club
- Continuation of the Westgate Punt ferry service across the Yarra River between Fishermans Bend and Spotswood
- \$1.5 million for Williamstown Road Pedestrian Works near the secondary college
- Fishermans Bend Primary School as part of a funding package, opening 2026
- Funding for upgrade to Green Space at Southbank
- Funding for The Alfred Hospital - women's health clinic
- \$100,000 for the Sacred Heart Mission in St Kilda
- Planning money for a Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in St Kilda
- A Neighbourhood Battery for the City of Port Phillip.

The Budget also featured state-wide announcements relevant to many residents including:

- The Best Start, Best Life: Pre Prep and Free Kinder Programs
- cheaper regional fares with them capped at metro prices
- the State Electricity Commission's reintroduction with an initial \$1 billion investment
- free pads and tampons in public places including courts, TAFES, libraries and train stations

- free registration for apprentices and tradies, rising from a previous 50 per cent discount to 100 per cent
- funding for the newest round of the \$250 Power Saving Bonus
- funding support for more nurses and midwives, strengthen nurse to patient ratios and improving public health service staffing levels.

Projects such as the Metro Tunnel will also benefit Port Phillip. The Budget delivers funding to prepare the Metro Tunnel for opening, including enabling works and facilities to support Metro Tunnel network integration and operations.

For small business, the Budget increases the payroll tax threshold from \$700,000 to \$900,000 from July next year, rising to \$1 million in 2025. The Government will also move to abolish stamp duty for commercial and industrial properties.

As a strong and vocal advocate for our community, we are considering applying for funding opportunities contained in the Budget including:

- \$35 million to support live music and community broadcasting including around 10,000 gigs, getting artists back on stage through grants for musicians to perform at live music venues as well as for music festivals, big and small
- \$23 million to expand the Major Events Fund, promoting Victoria's calendar of events and strengthening Victoria as a top location for major events
- \$8 million for the LGBTIQ+ Community Grants Program, which helps community organisations celebrate and connect LGBTIQ+ communities
- \$10 million to establish a Green Links fund to support revegetation along creeks, rivers, and waterways
- Funding to provide grants to existing kindergartens to buy new toys and equipment.

Our City is continuing to engage with the State Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor and Victorian Government ministers as we take advantage of the funding provided in the 2023-24 Budget and advocate for additional funding relevant to Port Phillip in the 2024-2025 Victorian Budget.

## Home Sweet Home: The Maternal and Child Health Centre has relocated

Our Maternal and Child Health Centre is trialling a new home at South Melbourne Primary School.

The Centre has moved from Koolin Ngal Children's Centre to the South Melbourne Primary School temporarily due to ongoing building issues.

South Melbourne Primary School provides education for Preps to Grade 6, as well as housing the City of Port Phillip's Barring Djinnang Kindergarten. The school was redeveloped in 2018 and offers state of the art facilities.

The new location makes it easier for the Maternal and Child Health Centre to collaborate with the school and kindergarten and therefore easier for parents to navigate early education for their children.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre will be relocated to the ground floor of the primary school, which will be easy for families to access via the entry ramp on Ferrars Street.

There will be two nurses available for consultation from Monday to Friday each week. Our



registered nurses offer support, advice and guidance to parents and can link families into childcare, new parents' groups, and a suite of other services through City of Port Phillip's Universal Maternal and Child Health program.

Some of the specialised groups that the City of Port Phillip run include therapeutic parents' groups, outreach child assessments at kindergarten, sleep and settling support and starting solids information sessions.

Our nurses also have the knowledge and experience to deal with all aspects of child and family health and wellbeing such as breastfeeding, nutrition, home safety, immunisation and more.

It's truly a 'one stop shop' for families from birth up to school years.

We look forward to welcoming local families to our new Maternal and Child Health facility at South Melbourne Primary School.

## Did you miss our last Council meeting?

Read our Council meeting recap to catch up on what you missed from the 21 June meeting and watch the livestream of the event.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/council-meeting-catchup-21-june-2023>



## Arts in Focus



### Urban Canvas Mural Festival's artistic legacy

The Urban Canvas Mural Festival has been beautifying our City since it launched on 17 April.

The festival saw six inner-city councils commission 30 artists to create large-scale murals on some of Melbourne's most graffiti prone areas.

We opened with a traditional Bunurong



### Explore Port Phillip these school holidays and win

Looking for something to do these school holidays? Want to win a heap of prizes? Then get out and explore our neighbourhoods these school holidays!

Even in the chilly weather, our local areas are perfect for little explorers to get out and discover something new.

Rug up and find some fun filled adventures



smoking ceremony at our dedicated Festival Hub on Carlisle Street with over 100 attendees, artists and councillors. Our program included an art exhibition, workshops, a youth mentoring program and an art apprenticeship program.

The hub was open for four weeks showcasing our artists' work in an interactive space and providing festival information to the more than 300 visitors a day.

Our exhibition space activated a vacant space and hosted talks and workshops to give our community a chance to learn and hear from local artists. Over the two weeks it was open, the exhibition saw 210 visitors a day and showcased 36 artworks.

The stars of the show were our murals enlivening our public spaces and providing an instant sense of place and pride in our community's heritage, culture and history.

Each mural incorporates the theme of Belong/Nugal (a Woi Wurrung translation – pronounced 'Naar-Gaw') and acts as a creative approach to graffiti management and deterring vandalism.

The results have made a stunning visual impact on our City with artworks installed in locations across Port Phillip.

to keep imaginations running wild with one of our three different scavenger hunts for kids to complete.

Track down Port Phillip's stunning penguin art installations on the Penguin Fun Explorer Trail and visit the historic Linden New Art Gallert and Gasworks Arts Park on the Arty Farty Explorer Trail.

There are three prize packs on offer with some great prizes, including: TheatreWorks vouchers, books from Readings and Grumpy Swimmer, Luna Park vouchers and much more.

Learn more and download your scavenger hunt forms. Forms can also be collected from one of our libraries or ASSIST customer service counters.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/explore-port-phillip-these-school-holidays>

The school holiday fun continues with our Middle Years and Youth Services team hosting a range of other fun events for the school holiday period.

Visit our Middle Years and Youth Services page and enjoy youth friendly activities across Port Phillip these winter school holidays.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/family-youth-and-children/middle-years-and-youth-services>

## Help Shape our City



### Join the conversation on these projects

#### A plan for our public toilets

We've developed a draft Public Toilet Plan to guide how we deliver public toilets over the next 10 years across the City. Share your ideas to ensure our public toilet network meets your needs. Provide your [feedback](#) by 12 July.

## Supporting Economic Growth

We have prepared a draft Spatial Economic and Employment Framework (SEEF) with a vision, objectives and directions to help shape economic and employment activity across our City over the next 20 years. We want to hear from the community on whether we've missed anything. Join the [conversation](#) by 17 July.

### Learn more about the community feedback we received on the following projects

- [Council Plan and Budget](#)
- [St Kilda Live Music Precinct Policy](#)
- [Dogs in Our Parks and Beaches](#)
- [New Local Laws](#)
- [Sandridge Bay Trail Safety Upgrade](#)
- [Ludwig Stamer Reserve play space upgrade, South Melbourne](#)
- [Little Page St Reserve, Albert Park](#)

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

## Sustainability

### Be a Sustainable Leader

Applications for the Environmental Leadership Course are now open.

Enrol in this free 10-week course to gain the skills to lead your own sustainability action project with a focus on individual growth in a team-based environment.



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

## Library Visit

### Bush Animal Workshop with Aunty Bronwyn

Join Gunditjmara artist and Master Weaver Aunty Bronwyn Razem for a Bush Animal weaving workshop on 4 July.

Inspired by the [Tjanpi Desert Weavers](#), Aunty Bronwyn will teach you how to sculpture hay with wool to create a Bush Animal with real personality.



Enjoy a light-hearted workshop with a good laugh about all the funky creatures that are being created.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/winter-holiday-program-bush-animal-workshop-at->

st-kilda

# Community Spirit

## Community Chest opens up again for grants

The South Melbourne Community Chest (SMCC) Op Shop's latest round of community grants opens in July for local organisations across Port Phillip.

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



Last year the SMCC celebrated both a record number of grantees and funding.

SMCC President Gary Hutchens said Op Shop volunteers are looking forward to delivering more grants to deserving community groups this year.

"It gives you perspective on all the great organisations we have in Port Phillip and the dedication they have to their local communities. There's a lot of really wonderful people in this City," Hutchens said.

The Sunday Suppers Welfare Program, run by the St Silas and St Anselm's – Parish of the Parks, was one of last year's grant recipients.

The weekly program provides a hot meal to about 70 people every Sunday as well as emergency food relief parcels each month.

"We've been supporting the Sunday Suppers Welfare Program for a number of years now. We're very pleased because it's a program that's well worth supporting," Mr Hutchens said.

Last year, SMCC also provided funding to Emerald Hill Mission students to receive additional educational support and to buy new books.

Emerald Hill Mission's education program supports students through high school education or trade apprenticeship, achieving an impressive 93 per cent graduation rate.

Other SMCC grant recipients for 2022 included:

- Rotary Port Phillip: to assist its work creating backpacks with 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.

Our Council proudly supports the Community Chest by leasing the Op Shop property at a peppercorn rent.

Applications for South Melbourne Community Chest grants open on Monday 3 July and close on Monday 7 August.

For more information, visit the South Melbourne Community Chest website or send a request via email to [smccgrants@gmail.com](mailto:smccgrants@gmail.com)

## What's On



### Melbourne Cabaret Festival

4 - 9 July

Melbourne Cabaret Festival is bringing back the dazzle to Acland Street's MEMO Music Hall with a jam-packed program.

There's something for everyone with sultry jazz, musical interpretations of poetry and life, queer stories with a musical twist, as well as poignant tales and vulnerability shared through song.

There'll be performances to get the party started, piano ballads and singalongs, songs from beloved TV shows and a bit of rock n roll thrown in for good measure.

For more information, visit the [Melbourne Cabaret Festival](#) website.



### NAIDOC Week in Port Phillip

2 - 9 July

NAIDOC Week is a great opportunity for people from all walks of life to celebrate and support our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Head to the South Melbourne Market to catch a fantastic line-up of local musicians performing live to round out the week of celebrations across Port Phillip.

Performers include Olivia Cromarty, Darren Clinch and Monica Weightman.

For more information, visit the [South Melbourne Market](#) website.

Keep an eye on our [NAIDOC Week](#) page for more upcoming NAIDOC themed celebrations.



### Club Soda

30 June & 1 July

Gasworks Theatre is playing host to Club Soda, a dark and surreal cabaret speak-easy spiked with circus, dance, magic and a twisted mix of comedy...

In Club Soda, Mr Sandman will lead you down the rabbit hole into a surreal and magical speak-easy, serving up a cocktail of secret ingredients, shaken over ice, poured into the Collins glass of your mind, garnished with a lime wheel and topped with soda for the soul.

Club Soda promises a bubbly, refreshing critical mass of entertainment, with more than a few twists and surprises throughout!

For more information, visit our What's On [website](#).

Το Divercity είναι το επίσημο ηλεκτρονικό κοινοτικό ενημερωτικό δελτίο του Δήμου Port Phillip. Επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα Νέων και Μέσων Ενημέρωσης του Δήμου και επιλέξτε τη λειτουργία 'μετάφραση' ['translate'] στο επάνω μέρος για να διαβάσετε ιστορίες στο Divercity στην γλώσσα προτίμησής σας.  
Εγγραφείτε δωρεάν για να παίρνετε το Divercity στα εισερχόμενα του email σας και να ενημερώνεστε για τα νέα της Πόλης και του Δήμου σας στη διεύθυνση [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Divercity सटीम ऑफ पोर्ट फलिपि का आधिकारिक सामुदायिक ई-न्यूज़लेटर है। काउंसिलि के समाचार और मीडिया वेबपेज पर जाएँ और अपनी पसंदीदा भाषा में Divercity कहानियाँ पढ़ने के लिए पेज के शीर्ष पर अनुवाद सुविधा चुनें। अपने ईमेल इनबॉक्स में Divercity प्राप्त करने के लिए नःशुलक साइन अप करें और वेबसाइट [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au) पर अपने शहर और काउंसिलि के बारे में समाचारों से अवगत रहें।

Divercity to oficjalny środowiskowy biuletyn informacyjny City of Port Phillip. Odwiedź stronę internetową News and Media City of Port Phillip i wybierz preferowany przez siebie język w funkcji Translate w górnej części strony, by przeczytać różne doniesienia Divercity. Zarejestruj się za darmo, by otrzymywać Divercity drogą mailową i być na bieżąco w sprawach dotyczących twojego City oraz Council na stronie [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

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Посетите веб-страницу Муниципалитета, называемую Новости и СМИ, и выберите модуль перевода наверху, чтобы прочесть статьи в Divercity на вашем языке.  
Подпишитесь на бесплатную рассылку Divercity по электронной почте, чтобы получать последние новости по вашему району и муниципалитету по адресу [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

Divercity 是菲利普港市的官方社区电子新闻通讯。  
访问市政府的新闻及媒体网页，在顶部选择翻译功能，您便能用中文阅读 Divercity 里面的故事。  
免费注册用电子邮件接收 Divercity，上网跟进本市和市政府的新闻，网址：[portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)。

Divercity es el boletín de noticias electrónico oficial de la comunidad de City of Port Phillip. Visite la página de Noticias y Medios de Comunicación (News and Media) del ayuntamiento y use la función "Translate" ("Traducir") en la parte superior del menú para leer las historias de Divercity en el idioma de su elección.  
Suscríbese de manera gratuita para recibir Divercity directamente en su buzón de correo electrónico y manténgase al tanto de las noticias de City of Port Phillip y su ayuntamiento en [portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)

## Your Councillors

### Gateway Ward



**Mayor Heather Cunsolo**  
0466 227 014



**Cr Peter Martin**  
0435 390 821



**Cr Marcus Pearl**  
0466 448 272

## Lake Ward

This email was sent by City of Port Phillip, 99a Carrisle Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182, Australia to [divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Andrew Bond**  
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**Cr Robbie Nyaguy**  
0466 611 598

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**Cr Christina Sirakoff**  
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## Canal Ward



**Cr Tim Baxter**  
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**Cr Rhonda Clark**  
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**Cr Louise Crawford**  
0466 514 643

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