



DIVERCITY

December 2021



FROM THE
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



ARTS IN
FOCUS



SHAPE
OUR CITY



COMMUNITY
SPIRIT



WHAT'S ON

From the Chamber

It's a pleasure to be writing my first *Divercity* message to you at this exciting time for our City.

When elected as Mayor last month, I spoke about our focus on delivering the Council Plan and helping our community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While there's more to be done, it's encouraging to see our foreshore and shopping and entertainment precincts re-emerging post-lockdown for our community and visitors to enjoy.



Foreshore dining is again a popular choice and a Ferris wheel is an eye-catching temporary landmark at Catani Gardens. We are launching our Summer Sessions activations featuring fun and food for all ages across three Port Phillip sites and our much loved St Kilda Festival is returning in February.

The warmer weather brings more people to our City so our summer management program is well underway – you may have seen our distinctive Local Laws beach buggy cruising along the sand. This summer we are providing extra assistance to Victoria Police by hiring a mobile CCTV trailer to help them monitor locations where crowds can gather. The CCTV started off in Port Melbourne and I'm pleased to report that we have already received terrific feedback from residents about a reduction in hooning near Station Pier. The CCTV will be moving around our City and we are seeking a grant to buy a permanent unit.

I will be sharing more great outcomes for our community next year as many of our finalised strategies and plans start being implemented. While there are undeniably challenges ahead, there are also many opportunities as we reinvigorate, and in some cases reimagine, our City.

As always, we are keen to hear our community's views as we move into this key recovery phase. I have been out and about in "Mobile Mayor" mode and look forward to personally meeting more members of our diverse community or re-engaging with those I already know.

This month we feature the first in series of *Divercity* articles taking a look at a day in the life of our Council Officers. We'll be walking in their shoes – or in this case boots – as they go about

serving our community in very different roles.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season as we navigate the new 'COVID normal' together.

Regards,

Cr Marcus Pearl
Mayor, City of Port Phillip



Patrolling Port Phillip

This is the first in an occasional series looking at a day in the life of Council Officers undertaking a range of services for our community.

Diversity went on patrol with City Amenity Officers Richard and Darren. Tasked with keeping Port Phillip clean and safe for residents and visitors, they have learnt to expect the unexpected as they make their rounds each day.

It's 7 am and while Port Phillip is starting to stir, Richard and Darren's shift is already underway.

As their Local Laws ute heads to Acland Street, they are scanning streets and car parks to see if they need to call Council's Rapid Response Crew (RRC) to undertake quick clean-ups.

The visual checks also have a strong human element – Richard and Darren are familiar with the stories of several people experiencing homelessness and always offer to arrange help if it is needed.

As they swing through an empty St Kilda car park, they speak warmly about a rough sleeper they got to know there "who was the nicest guy". Now in housing, they hope he is rebuilding his life and won't return to the streets.

At St Kilda's Peanut Farm Reserve, dog owners are putting pooches through their paces while several early risers are working out with a personal trainer. Despite the warm weather, there's no need this morning for Richard and Darren to wake up illegal campers by rapping on their car and van windows.

The street, already swept by an early cleaning crew, is clear except for a small pile of rubbish on the road. Turning the ute around, Richard and Darren spot a woman who appears disorientated and is throwing rubbish around. When she doesn't respond to a concerned "are you alright love" and walks off, they call police to request a welfare check. The police soon arrive and drive off to find her.

Darren, who recently worked in Council's animal management section, darts off to talk to the owner of a dog trotting leash-free in an on-leash zone. Local laws officers have noticed rising incidents of bad dog (and owner) behaviour at parks and on the streets since the COVID-19 pandemic. "Even if dogs are allowed to be off-leash, they need to be under effective control but a lot of people choose to ignore this," Darren says.

"Iso pups" bought for companionship which haven't received training and large dogs barking from boredom in apartments are adding to the "paw" behaviour. Every shift, Richard and Darren will patrol a park and report breaches to animal management for follow up.

On their way to Fitzroy Street, Richard and Darren are trading wisecracks. "We like to have a joke with each other but this stops the moment we leave the car," Richard says.

They check on three rough sleepers, who always move off for the day when they wake up. A woman who has made a tidy shelter nearby has told Richard she will be going into permanent accommodation the next day.

Suddenly they see a man waving to them on Acland Street. It's Mark, who was doing it tough when they first met. Now employed and thriving, Mark still enjoys a quick word with the duo. "We just got chatting one day, they helped me pick up my self-esteem just by talking to me. They do good work and really make a difference."

The RRC is high pressure cleaning Acland Street when Richard and Darren catch up with them. They move down the street together as the RRC picks up rubbish by hand. While any personal items left behind by rough sleepers are tagged and kept for collection, rubbish is removed as part of the thorough street cleaning, aimed at keeping streets and footpaths clear and safe for pedestrians. People experiencing homelessness are not moved on by local laws officers. They are only asked to step away temporarily until the daily street cleaning is over.

Traders opening their shops or having a delicious breakfast outside nod hello as Richard and Darren pass by. "They're good guys and understand our role," Richard remarks before stopping for a quick chat.

As he walks down Acland Street, Richard receives a call from a case worker who is concerned that a client hasn't come in to receive her medication. He is promising to look out for her when something catches his eye. The RRC has spotted a heavy shop awning swaying precariously after almost breaking off its brackets. Richard helps keep it steady while the RRC use a tool to wind it back up.

The shop is taped off to protect pedestrians and the RRC will keep bollards outside until the owner can be contacted to arrange repairs. "There's no job too big or small for the RRC, they just get on with it," Richard says, before accompanying them to St Kilda Library in Carlisle Street after receiving a report that rubbish and clothing has been left out the front.

In Carlisle Street, Richard spots the girl he was asked to look out for and calls the case worker. When Richard arrives at the library and sees the mess, he realises it is hers. How does he know? "I recognise the pink slippers." It's impossible to feel unaffected when he adds he usually knows who has been sleeping rough by what they leave behind. "I can tell from things like how they fold their blankets".

Back to Fitzroy Street and Richard and Darren continue their patrol on foot while the RRC

pressure cleans the street. There's a syringe pick-up in a nearby laneway and a mattress is tossed from a nature strip into the RRC truck.

When returning to the ute, a man Richard has spoken to before pulls him aside to say his support worker was supposed to meet him to sort out accommodation but hasn't turned up. Richard calls an outreach worker at another organisation who promises to arrange to have someone there in 10 minutes. The man's relief is palpable as he thanks Richard for his help. "I just needed someone to care," he says.

Darren gets a call from animal management asking if he can scan for a microchip on a dead cat handed in by a member of the public after being hit by a car. The cat is being kept in a special freezer which is sadly housing several other unidentified animals.

Darren runs the scanner thoroughly over the feline and is relieved when a microchip is detected. "I always want to try and provide some closure for the family," he says. Unfortunately, some of the cats are feral and have never had loving homes.

The pair swing by the St Kilda foreshore to check in with their local laws counterparts on beach patrol. It's past lunch-time and there is a family-friendly feel to the busy beach.

A trader has reported a beach-goer drinking from a glass bottle so Local Laws beach buggy driver Wayne stops to remind him of the permanent glass ban. A distinctive sight on the beach, the buggy easily cruises along the sand and up dunes. Council's annual summer management program is underway and the buggy is also rolled out to assist police patrols.

With their shift close to ending, Richard and Darren return to the St Kilda Town Hall to finish off paperwork. They say today has been relatively quiet.

Reflecting on their shift, it feels as if communication is as valuable as a regular visible presence on the streets and the extensive local knowledge they bring to the job.

"We will always ask if someone needs assistance. Sometime people will say they don't but then you have another chat and they start opening up a little," Richard says.

"It's all about engaging with people."

By the end of the shift ...

Police had performed a welfare check on the woman Darren and Richard were concerned about

The case worker found the girl and was able to check that she was safe and well

An outreach worker met with the man desperate to sort out accommodation

The cat's microchip registration details were checked but weren't current so the owner was unable to be contacted.



Summer fun at the foreshore

The sun is shining and our foreshore restaurants are back up and running.

You can sit on the beach and enjoy a drink from Beachcomber or visit the expanded Stokehouse when it opens in Rotary Park towards the end of the year.

The foreshore is the perfect place to catch up with friends, hang out with family or take that special someone. Sit on the beach and watch the sunset with fish and chips from Pontoon or take the kids down to the Skate Park at Marina Reserve and grab an ice cream along the way.

And until 27 March 2022, there's another big reason to visit St Kilda Beach.

Australia's largest portable Ferris wheel is delighting residents and visitors in Catani Gardens, right at the mouth of Fitzroy Street.

The Skyline Ferris Wheel is an awe-inspiring structure with 24 clear gondolas providing breathtaking views of St Kilda, Melbourne City, Port Phillip Bay and the You Yangs.

Enjoy Dine and Ride packages at a range of nearby St Kilda cafes, bars and restaurants and have a swim or relax on the sand before or after your ride.

The Skyline Ferris Wheel was designed and built in Holland with the latest in safety, engineering and technology. It features 9000 LED lights, which provide a spectacular light show in the evenings.

The Ferris Wheel is open every day, except Christmas Day, from 10 am - 9.30 pm.

Locals will save more than 30 per cent off ticket prices when they show proof of address at the ticket box:

Adult - \$8, normally \$12

Seniors - \$7, normally \$10

Gondola - \$28, normally \$40

For more information, visit the Skyline Attractions website:
<https://www.skylineattractions.com.au/>

City News

Council support for St Kilda Pier redevelopment

There will be even more reason for residents and visitors to enjoy the St Kilda foreshore when a new pier is completed by early 2024.

The Victorian Government funded and managed project, starting this summer, is a rebuild of the existing pier which is reaching the end of its 50-year design life.



The new structure will provide improved recreational space for more people to enjoy. It will feature public access out onto the bay, improved views of St Kilda and the City skyline, better protection and a viewing area for the Little Penguins, a wider disability compliant walkway, new toilets, tiered seating and preservation of the precinct's heritage features.

Our Council is partnering with Parks Victoria to fund additional works to complement the rebuild. We have provided \$2.2 million for improvements including connecting the pier to Jacka Boulevard and the foreshore promenade, creating a safer and more welcoming entrance point.

Council funded works also include:

- Upgrading the Bay Trail between the pier and Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron, ensuring the finish and character is in line with the rest of the foreshore promenade
- Increasing green public space adjacent to the pier through redesigning the Sea Baths car park entry and creating a safe bus drop off point.

Design work is about to begin and we will consult with our community about these works in 2022.

Throughout construction, protection will be in place for the Mirka Mora artwork near the pier and the promenade will remain open for bike riders and pedestrians. Access will also be retained to the St Kilda Sea Baths car park and the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron.

We will continue to advocate to the Victorian Government, and seek funding support, to install the permanent bay access for people with a disability to enter the water via a ramp near the pier, which was included in the concept plans for this project.

For more information about the pier redevelopment, go to: <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/melbourne-region/st-kilda-pier-redevelopment>

Announcing our upcoming Communal Food Organics hub locations

Last month, we announced the extension of the Communal Food Organic Hubs trial until January 2023 as well as the addition of three new hubs across the City.



We are delighted to announce the location of are three new hubs will be at:

- Walter Reserve, Port Melbourne
- Clarke Reserve, Elwood
- Hewison Reserve, East St Kilda.

Since May 2021, we've diverted over 28 tonnes of food organics material from landfill which is a testament to our community's commitment to sustainability and contributing to a greener City. Our new hubs will give our residents wider access to our communal hub service as we hope to divert even more food organic material from landfill.

We anticipate the new sites will be installed and ready to use from January 2022, which will give us a total of six communal food organic hubs across Port Phillip.

Our existing hubs are located at:

- HR Johnson Reserve, St Kilda West
- Lagoon Reserve, Port Melbourne
- Rats of Tobruk Reserve, Albert Park.

These locations will continue to serve the surrounding areas.

St Kilda Junction receives a makeover

The "Gateway to St Kilda" has received a splash of colour after a graffiti jam reinvigorated the area.

Seventy-five artists came together in November to repaint the 1500 square metres of the Junction tram stop, including subway walls and road sidings to make the area more appealing for locals and visitors.



The artwork was commissioned under the theme of 'Welcome to St Kilda', creating a sense of place and pride.

The St Kilda Junction Mural Project is also aimed at reducing graffiti, as studies suggest vandals are less likely to graffiti public spaces featuring art out of respect for the artists.

Usually, councils can't remove graffiti or touch assets owned by the Victorian Government and third parties, such as utilities suppliers and transport providers.

Under this partnership with Yarra Trams and VicRoads, however, Council's efforts to deter graffiti have been strengthened through this artwork created on third-party public assets, with the funding for the project secured via the Department of Treasury.

The project's head artist, Paul from Urban Enhancement, said each section of St Kilda Junction features a different colour as artists were given their own individual space to work.

"A tram stopped before and the driver said to me, 'I drive through here every day and it was really ugly, now it looks beautiful, thank you so much'. We've been getting that response from people of all ages, coming through on their bikes or pushing a pram."

The St Kilda Junction Mural Project was undertaken following strong interest from the community, led by St Kilda Junction Area Action Group (JAAG).

Stay in the know for no FOMO

Keen to know what's on around town? Port Phillip's *What's On St Kilda* website has had a makeover and now includes what's on in ALL of our neighbourhoods.



It's your one-stop-shop for all the info you need about what's happening in the inner-south of Melbourne. Think of it as your new and improved handy guide for all upcoming events and things to do in Port Phillip.

[What's On St Kilda & Surrounds](#) is designed to give visitors the lowdown on all things southside, and for locals it's a great way to discover something new and exciting and (even better) find out what's on close to home.

From gigs in St Kilda, theatre in Albert Park and Middle Park, bread and bagels in Balaclava and Ripponlea, beach life in Elwood, fish and chips in Port Melbourne, the best shopping in South Melbourne, and more – [What's On St Kilda & Surrounds](#) has got you covered.

And to make life even easier, we'll be rounding up the best-of-the-best for you in a new What's On newsletter, launching soon. Keen to know more? Check out our new What's On website and sign up to subscribe to the newsletter, for all the latest news about What's On in St Kilda and surrounds.

For more information, visit: <https://whatsonstkilda.com/>

Start Now

Now is the time to kickstart your business idea thanks to the Start, Now 2022 Pre-Accelerator Program.

Start, Now.

Pre-Accelerator Program

Now was created by founders for founders to help hopeful entrepreneurs on their journey to starting a successful business or start-up.

Over the last five years Now has supported hundreds of independent Australians make the leap in turning their business idea into their reality. From mumpreneurs to serial founders, the program has allowed many people to pursue their dreams and transform their careers.

The team at Now created a course called Start, Now 2022 Pre-Accelerator Program to help those who have potential business ideas to turn it into a fully-fledged start-up through a nine-week program.

Thomas Anbeek, one of Now's four co-founders, said he and his three business partners are heavily involved in the Pre-Accelerator Program. Mr Anbeek explained the benefits of the program, which comes free for the first 400 Victorian founders thanks to funding from Launch Vic.

"Often what we see in first-time business owners is that they might struggle to figure out where to start," he said.

"Here, we have all started our own businesses, we can share a lot of the mistakes that we made along the way to prevent our participants from making those same mistakes and allow them to be more clever about navigating starting a business.

"It's something which can be very lonely, it's something that as an entrepreneur you can often be doing by yourself. You don't have a boss that you can go to for advice, you might not even have a co-founder or co-worker that you can go to for help and support.

“And that’s one of the big things the program can offer in a community of like-minded individuals who are going through the program at the same time as you and are trying to take that leap,” Mr Anbeek said.

Mr Anbeek shared a few examples of start-ups that had been initiated and supported through Now’s work.

Feex – A platform that connects homeowners to tradies and handymen. The entire platform works based on video where the user uploads a video of an issue they are experiencing or a potential renovation opportunity to receive potential quotes and enquiries for the job.

Nextround – An employee reward program that provides employees a small budget of \$5-\$10 that they can use to reward their co-workers. Employees who worked on a project together that went well can say thank you through the platform by buying them a coffee or another similar gesture.

Oss – A start-up that aims to give you ownership of all your data. For all the information you have put out on the internet and social media profiles over the years, Oss wants to ensure users have one digital platform that showcases all that data and its ownership.

Applications to the Pre-Accelerator Program close on 31 January, 2022.

For more information about Now and the Start, Now 2022 Pre-Accelerator Program, visit their website: <https://nowdoit.com.au/>

Festive start for Elwood Village Traders Association

Christmas trading is in full swing in Elwood as the newly incorporated business association encourages the Port Phillip community to think local. The Elwood Village Traders Association (EVTA) recently launched its Christmas campaign, which included an Elwood Twilight Shopping night, providing shoppers with late-night access to businesses and a chat with Santa.



EVTA President Denise Cox says this is just the beginning as Elwood businesses get into full swing after lockdown.

“We want to get people into Elwood, shopping in our high street and making sure those traders that haven’t had the opportunity to trade over the last 18 months are supported,” Denise said.

EVTA was among three associations to receive \$20,000 in seed funding from our Council from the reallocation of funds from the cancelled 2021 St Kilda Festival.

“We’ve always had a traders association, but it hadn’t been incorporated since 2012,” she said.

“The seed funding has allowed us to reincorporate the Association and make it active again.

“This means we can now apply for more grants from the Victorian Government and Council. It’s also enabled us to complete street beautification works including putting fairy lights and signage up in the streets and welcome roundabouts at the main entry points to the Elwood Village shopping strip.”

Denise runs the Baker’s Delight on Ormond Road. She said witnessing panic buying at the height of the COVID-19 lockdowns led traders to look at how they could further support their own community.

“Elwood is unique, we’re a close-knit village and that was really highlighted throughout the pandemic in how the community looked after each other. If people were struggling, they’d reach out and, as traders, we would offer them assistance,” she said.

“We’re still doing that now. There was one local childcare centre where families had to go into isolation, so we collaborated with Odyssey and Elwood Bathers to provide meals to affected families, for the time they were in isolation.”

“I’ve now got a group of Elwood locals who volunteer their time who pick up crates of bread each day and they drop it off at locations including halfway houses and the St Kilda Mission.”

EVTA is encouraging shoppers to share pictures of their delicious meals, go-to coffee spots and their new favourite clothing from local retail shops by using the hashtag - LoveLocal_Elwood.

Residents can also support Elwood businesses online by visiting the [Elwood Village Traders Association](#) website, which acts as a portal to many businesses on the Elwood strip.

For more information on other business groups and trader associations in the municipality, visit Council’s Business Associations and Groups page:

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/business-in-port-phillip/start-or-buy-a-business/business-associations-and-groups>

Bring the fun back outdoors this summer with Live Love Local Summer Sessions

After nearly two years of varying levels of COVID-19 restrictions, our City is thriving again.

Our local traders have re-opened their doors and our wonderful community is enjoying a revival in the art, culture, food and fun that Port Phillip is famous for.

To celebrate the diverse and vibrant City we all love, we are introducing a program of free outdoor entertainment and activities that everyone across the City can enjoy and that will continue throughout the summer.

We’re delighted to introduce Live Love Local Summer Sessions, a series of free pop-up events that bring entertainment, life and colour back into some of our public spaces in Port Phillip.

Summer Sessions has something for everyone’s taste from face painting to live music to a footy inflatables program.

Our events will energise and bring the community together in our public spaces, while increasing pedestrian foot traffic and economic activity in our neighbourhoods to provide a boost for our local traders.

We plan to host six fortnightly events over 12 weeks at selected locations across Cleve Gardens in St Kilda, Burnett Grey Gardens in Ripponlea and Town Hall Reserve in South Melbourne.

The Summer Sessions program embraces our post-lockdown freedoms while supporting a COVID-safe re-opening. All events are outdoors, bringing our community together, and driving foot-traffic to outdoor areas while supporting our local traders.



The diversity of our events reflects the diversity of our community. Whether you're enjoying me-time or family time or catching up with friends, Summer Sessions has something for you.

for more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/arts-and-entertainment/summer-sessions-live-love-local>

Celebrate Sustainably in Port Phillip this Holiday Season

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The holiday season is here, and we've come up with some great ideas to help you celebrate sustainably in the City of Port Phillip.

The gift-giving and entertaining season is often associated with an increase in consumption and creating waste but celebrating sustainably doesn't take away the joy of the season. In fact, as well as reducing your environmental footprint, the ideas listed here could bring more meaning, connection, creativity and lasting memories to your celebrations.



From hiring party packs from Port Phillip's toy libraries or newly-opened Elwood Kitchen Library to shopping locally at the iconic South Melbourne and St Kilda Esplanade Markets and gifting loved ones unforgettable experiences within our City, there's endless inspiration for your most wonderful (and sustainable) holiday season yet.

Six ways to celebrate sustainably in Port Phillip this holiday season:

Check out the newly-opened [Elwood Kitchen Library](#).

The Elwood Kitchen Library is a non-profit, volunteer run lending library stocking small to medium-sized kitchen appliances, cookware, bakeware, cookbooks and zero waste party and entertainment packs. Through annual membership, Elwood Kitchen Library provides its members with access to hundreds of items in their inventory, helping members entertain family and friends, fulfil their culinary dreams and live more sustainably this holiday season and beyond.

Gift certificates are available by clicking on the gift icon at the top of their website.

Gift a dining or entertainment experience

After nearly two years in and out of lockdowns, there couldn't be a better time to gift a loved one a voucher or take them out to one of Port Phillip's fantastic restaurants, bars, pubs, cafes and cake shops. For the theatre and art lover, you can also purchase a gift voucher from a number of local theatres, music venues and galleries, such as [Red Stitch Actors' Theatre](#), [Gasworks Arts Park](#) and [Memo Music Hall](#). Contact your favourite local venues and see if they offer gift vouchers too.

Not only will you be supporting our local traders and entertainment venues who have done it tough over the past couple of years, but memorable experiences and a night off cooking and the couch are what many of us and our loved ones will be craving after much time spent at home this year.

Additionally, you won't be purchasing a physical present that has the potential to end up in landfill. It's a win all around.

Gift a membership to one of [Port Phillip's Toy Libraries](#)

We've got a present idea for families with children that will bring maximum joy with the minimum impact on the planet. A membership to one of our City's toy libraries provides 12 months of full-on fun. You can purchase a membership as a birthday or festive season gift (hint, hint grandparents). Party packs are also available for hire, which are perfect for home entertaining.

Special deal: The [Elwood Toy Library](#) has a promotional offer until 17 December 2021 with yearly memberships from only \$85 (limited time only offer, normally \$100).

The libraries are a not-for-profit community resource that lend toys, games, puzzles, costumes, sporting equipment and ride-on toys.

Don't miss the action at [St Kilda Esplanade Market](#)

In its idyllic beachside location, the St Kilda Esplanade Market is an icon of St Kilda and Melbourne. A renowned art and craft makers' haven, the market has been a destination of choice for those seeking unique handmade and authentic Australian products since 1970. This holiday season, say no to wait times, freight fees, excessive packaging and emissions by choosing to shop locally. Find a range of arts, crafts and original creations to take home every Sunday from 10 am.

Plus, Santa is coming! Round up your family and friends and be sure to visit the markets on 12 and 19 December to meet Santa and his elf, experience the stilt walking Christmas fairy and enjoy the Christmas band.

Plan a visit to the [South Melbourne Market](#)

Sustainability is at the heart of South Melbourne Market.

Tips for a sustainable visit to the market this holiday season:

- Bring your reusable cups and containers. All traders at the Market accept BYO containers as long as they are clean, dry and suitable for the product being sold. You can use these for your meat, spices, baking materials and takeaway food and coffee.
- Stop by a pop-up stall that creates sustainable decorations. [Timeless Pieces](#) create wreaths, trees and other decorations using repurposed/recycled materials along with natural materials.
- Catch the tram or ride your bike to the market. There is plenty of bike parking, including for cargo bikes.
- If you drive an electric vehicle, you can use the charging stations in the carpark above the market.
- Some sustainable traders to keep in mind while you're shopping include
- The Fish Shoppe - ethically sourced seafood
- The Soap Shop - BYO bottles to refill your cleaning products and explore their range of locally made soaps. The owner even wraps Christmas gifts in old Melways and sheet music.
- Freckly Ollie - handmade children's clothing using cotton and linen offcuts.

Borrow your essential summer reads from [your local library](#)

After disruptions due to lockdowns, we are pleased to announce that [all our library branches are open to the public](#) from 2 pm to 6 pm Monday to Friday, as well as weekend hours that vary from branch to branch. This is perfect timing with the holidays allowing a little extra time for the things we love like reading. Before purchasing a book that you'll perhaps read once, why not check out our [Library Catalogue](#) and borrow it instead?

Additionally, we have a range of cute Christmas books for kids that'll help families bring some cheer into your home in the lead up to the big day.

Get outside and [explore the City](#)

Last but not least, we have 353 hectares of public open space available for your leisure in the City of Port Phillip this summer to enjoy with your loved ones. You'll be spoilt for choice with 11 kilometres of foreshore, 51 play spaces to discover and 15 sports grounds. Whether it's playing a friendly game of team sport with friends, enjoying a family picnic, lazing on the beach or bike riding along the foreshore, there is no better (or more sustainable) gift than spending quality time together this holiday season.

For more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/celebrate-sustainably-in-port-phillip-this-holiday-season>

Celebrating inclusion and belonging in Port Phillip

Nothing says Port Phillip like celebrating creativity. And that's exactly what we did for this year's International Day of People with Disability on Friday 3 December.

Through our Community Stories on Film campaign, we called on people with disability, families, carers and advocates with a connection to the City of Port Phillip to contribute an original short film focusing on the theme of inclusion and belonging in Port Phillip. Our community didn't disappoint! We featured two filmmakers who went above and beyond: Heidi Everett and City of Voices.



Filmmaker Profile: Heidi Everett

Heidi submitted *Qualia*, a powerful film that follows three people across space and time within the public psychiatric system. Jess Cochran, Maggie Toko and Xavier Gouault give powerful statements that step beyond medical definitions of mental health and show why it's important to incorporate authenticity in the healing process. Heidi was inspired to make *Qualia* by the need to show the realities of being in a psychiatric ward from diverse perspectives.

"It's important society sees what it's like being in these places from more people who aren't white, abled or academically resourced. I also want this film to show the tools to build better dignified supports are already there; power-holders just need to widen the concept of mental health," she said.

Heidi channels her passion for the arts into a disabled-led arts not-for-profit called Schizy Inc, making sure films like this and similar creative projects get made.

"I live and work on Wurrundjeri Country. My family is from Wales, so I am visiting with respect. I love nature and wanted to be a Ranger, but my life turned tricky, so the arts became my home. Because of this, I consider myself blessed! Happy are those who seek to understand rather than be understood."

Watch [Qualia](#) and share on your socials and amongst your community.

Filmmaker Profile: The City of Voices

City of Voices (CoV) is an inclusive theatre company operating for almost 30 years in Port Phillip as a program of Community Centre. Its mission is to give all people, regardless of age, ability or socio-economic status, the opportunity to engage in the creative arts.

COV submitted *We Keep Coming Back Like a Song*, a joyous film that celebrates community, friendship and togetherness through difficult times. The power of connection through 2020-21 COVID-19 lockdowns inspired CoV to make the film:

"During Melbourne's 2020-21 lockdowns, we were unable to meet in person, and our weekly workshops moved online. Yet, every week, we kept coming back to our screens to talk and create together - it was as if the COVID-19 pandemic gave us a renewed appreciation for what

it was we loved about City of Voices, which made us reflect on the question of "What keeps us coming back every week?"

We Keep Coming Back Like a Song brings together the spirit of inclusiveness and recognises the importance of prioritising community and connection.

"Our film is about why we keep coming back to City of Voices every week. It is a celebration of our love for our group and for each other. Participants share their personal stories and memories of the group's value in their lives, as well as all the individual rituals - putting on shoes, finding keys, heading out the door - that formed part of our City of Voices experience in pre-pandemic times."

Watch [We Keep Coming Back Like a Song](#) and share on your socials and amongst your community.

We are now accepting ongoing submissions for creative contributions from people with disability, families, carers and advocates with a connection to the City of Port Phillip

For more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/celebrating-inclusion-and-belonging-in-port-phillip>

Mobile CCTV trailer to drive down hooning complaints

A trial mobile CCTV trailer is being deployed across Port Phillip to help drive down complaints about hoon drivers.

The CCTV trailer has been temporarily moved to St Kilda after doing a stint in Port Melbourne, near Station Pier.



Early feedback includes one resident telling us this is the "first time that I have been able to sleep all night without the noise of hoons".

Victoria Police has also reported receiving fewer calls from the Port Melbourne community about hoons.

Hoon driving can attract large numbers of spectators and has become more frequent in St Kilda and Port Melbourne. The excessive speed and dangerous driving not only compromises the safety of bystanders, it also impacts residential amenity and community safety.

At the 3 November meeting, Council resolved to hire and trial a mobile CCTV unit for six months to gather feedback from the community and Victoria Police about the effectiveness of the device.

The mobile CCTV trailer, delivered in late November, will be trialled at various locations across our City to address hoon driving, anti-social behaviour and to respond to emergency management incidents.

Our Council is waiting to hear whether a grant application to the Australian Government's Safer Communities Fund – Infrastructure Grants – to buy a mobile CCTV trailer has been successful.

Victoria Police is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the mobile CCTV camera including ownership of the footage.

This summer, police will install tactical cameras at Station Pier, trial a Mobile Processing Unit Van with CCTV capability at Station Pier and deploy mobile speed cameras to Beaconsfield Parade and Pier Road.

Council officers are investigating requests made in an anti-hooping petition presented at the 8 December Council Meeting. A report will be considered in March next year.



Arts in Focus



A Vision for the future

Young Victorian artists have a new platform for their artwork thanks to Council's Vision 2.0 Youth Magazine.

Port Phillip's youth committee, Vision FReeZA, released its second annual magazine on 5 December, highlighting the works of many up-and-coming artists.

The theme of the issue is 'Future Vision', with the aim of showcasing how young creatives are envisioning the uncertain days ahead and the potential futures they may help create.

FReeZA member Frances Waite said she



Art of Respect

Large decals across Port Phillip used art to convey the urgent need to prevent gender-based violence.

With the support of a small grant from Respect Victoria, Council commissioned four artists to create works to raise awareness and start conversations in the Port Phillip community about respect.

The decals featured the artists' designs along with a QR code providing more information about them and the campaign. The decals were located at five locations during the 16 Days of Activism: Acland Plaza, the St Kilda foreshore (Shakespeare Grove), the South Melbourne Life Saving

felt passionate about helping to create the magazine.

“We want to create a few opportunities for younger artists, who don’t have access to gallery spaces or gig events as an option to share their work,” she said.

“We want it to be a special experience for them and for it to be something that they could put on their resumes.”

Copies of Vision 2.0 are now available from QBD Emporium, St Kilda Library, Knox City Library, Metropolis Bookshop (CBD) and Port Melbourne Library.

Read more:
<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/a-vision-for-the-future>

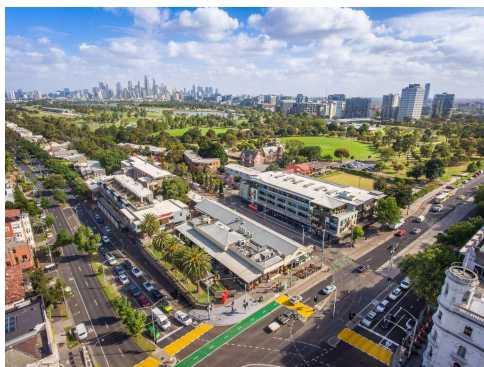
Club and near the Port Melbourne and Elwood Life Saving Clubs.

The Art of Respect initiative coincided with the United Nation’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign that happens annually between 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

For more information, visit:
<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/raising-awareness-of-gender-based-violence-through-the-art-of-respect>

Picture: *For Our Girls* by Qing Zhang.

Help Shape our City



Join the conversation

Time’s almost up for you to register your interest in being part of some deeper conversations in the new year around challenges and opportunities we’re considering as we continue planning for the future of this great City.

Sign up by 23 December 2021 and we’ll round back with you early in the new year with more details.



We want your feedback

You can still provide feedback on a number of projects over the summer break, including a proposed site plan for Elwood Foreshore, guidelines for nature strips and more.

Help shape...

Nature Strip Guidelines – consultation extended

We’ve listened to you and extended this consultation until 13 February 2022 – check out the Have Your Say page for more details.

Proposal to sell three Council properties

Find out more about Council’s proposal to sell three properties currently operating as childcare centres, and make a submission to this proposal.

Elwood Foreshore Site Plan

We want your feedback on a proposed site plan to enhance Elwood Foreshore and ensure it remains a natural, high-quality public place.

JL Murphy Reserve community pitch upgrade

Find out more about our plans to support the current and future use of the Reserve by upgrading Community Pitch 3 to a synthetic surface and installing new lighting.

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

Community Spirit

Caring for mums

The Caring Mums program is on a mission to help ensure no woman is alone as she travels on her journey through motherhood.

The National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (NCJWA) provides emotional support and reassurance during a time of change for all mothers through its Caring Mums program.



Ray Javen has been a volunteer with the program since its inception nearly 10 years ago.

“Caring Mums are trained, volunteer mothers, who provide ongoing, unconditional and non-judgmental support for all mothers, but typically those during the first year of their baby’s life,” she said.

“The most common issues some mothers are faced with are isolation, loneliness, lack of support or self-confidence and cultural differences. We see mothers from all kinds of diverse backgrounds, including those who are seeking asylum or may be facing physical or mental health issues.

“It takes a village to raise a child and the Caring Mums program becomes that village as we’re there to hold their hand during the first year of motherhood and support them.

In 2017, Ray was paired with Lara Wittels, who reached out for support following the birth of her second child, Kylee.

“I think my baby was four or five days old when I was told I could be paired up with someone who would work well with me. Ray arrived about a week or two later and it was amazing,” Lara said.

“She would come for about two hours once a week and the first thing she would do is check in on me as a mum. We would sit, have a cup of coffee and just chat. She’s a great listener and I could call her any time between our visits.”

Ray and Lara maintain a close bond to this day, a testament to the Caring Mums program.

The Caring Mums program became even more important when parents were separated from their support network of loved ones due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

New volunteers are being sought to further support mothers.

“This is something that gives you the greatest satisfaction in seeing a mother go through

metamorphosis, like seeing a caterpillar turn into a beautiful butterfly,” Ray said.

“You see these mums that become empowered, they become confident and reassured, they’re ready to take on the world.”

The Caring Mums program is a free, confidential, non-denominational service that is welcoming of all new mothers in the City of Port Phillip and other surrounding council areas.

For more information about the program, volunteering opportunities and an upcoming information evening on 9 February, visit the NCJWA’s Caring Mums page.

Breaking down the barriers to beach access

Floating wheelchairs and accessible matting are back at our beautiful St Kilda and Port Melbourne beaches under the annual summer Beach Access Program.



Our free program aims to break down barriers preventing people with disability from enjoying a day at the beach and has been strongly supported by the Port Melbourne and St Kilda Life Saving Clubs and Life Saving Victoria since 2017.

Port Melbourne Life Saving Club executive committee member Paul Mapley said the club’s volunteers are often touched by how much happiness the program is providing for residents and visitors.

“When you see someone in the wheelchair enjoying being in the water, sometimes for the first time in their life, you can get a bit damp behind your sunglasses,” Paul said.

The matting has provided even wider access than first anticipated as it is proving popular with older people, including some not using mobility aids, and parents who can bring their prams with them when they go down to the shoreline to keep an eye on their children.

“I had one man tell me he hadn’t been able to get to the water’s edge for years and now he loves going there with his grandchildren,” he said.

“There is a real feeling of inclusion which has enabled our beach to grow as a great destination for everyone.”

The wheelchairs and matting are used in the flag zone patrolled by life savers. Club volunteers are on hand to teach carers how to use the wheelchairs if it is their first dip.

Beach Access Program (November 2021 to April 2022)

Accessible Beach Matting

Available every day, except 4.30 am - 10.30 am on Tuesdays when beach cleaning is underway. No bookings required.

Mobi-Chair beach wheelchairs

St Kilda Life Saving Club

Location: 34 Jacka Boulevard, St Kilda

Available: Saturday and Sunday during patrol times, 12 pm – 5 pm, 1.5 hour booking limit

Bookings essential: visit portphillip.vic.gov.au/accessible-beaches or phone 03 9209 6777

Port Melbourne Life Saving Club

Location: 38 Beaconsfield Parade, Port Melbourne

Available: Monday to Sunday during patrol times, 12 pm - 5 pm, 1.5 hour booking limit

Weekend bookings are essential: visit <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/beaches-parks-and-playgrounds/accessible-beaches> or phone 03 9209 6777

Mid-week bookings: phone on the day 9646 8773 (patrol tower) or book ahead via <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/explore-the-city/beaches-parks-and-playgrounds/accessible-beaches>

Changing Places

The St Kilda Life Saving Club includes a Victorian Government funded Changing Places facility. This facility has a height-adjustable, adult-sized changing bench, tracking hoist system and space for two people in a safe and clean environment.

An individual or carer wanting to use the St Kilda facility must have a Master Locksmiths Access Key (MLAK) which provides 24/7 access for people with a disability. Eligibility is restricted to those who have written authority from a doctor, disability organisation or community health centre. To purchase an MLAK, contact the Master Locksmiths Association on 1800 819 775.

What's On



The Comedy of Errors

3 – 19 December
3 pm and 7 pm

Melbourne Shakespeare Company returns to the St Kilda Botanical Gardens with their original musical adaptation of Shakespeare's funniest farce The Comedy of Errors.

Returning with this larger than life, laugh out loud musical comedy, Melbourne Shakespeare Company brings a star-studded creative team including direction from Ben Adams, original choreography from John



Christmas Decoration Competition

1 – 19 December

South Melbourne Market is calling on the community to vote for the best dressed market stall this festive season.

Pick up an entry form at the market, visit the participating traders and vote for your top three decorated stalls, then place your entry form in the competition box.

Just by casting your vote you will go in the draw to win one of three deluxe Christmas Hampers valued at \$500.

Competition runs from 1-19



Albert Park Annual Book Fair

Saturday 18 December
8 am – 5 pm

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

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

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

Reed and Musical
Direction from Benjamin
Colley, The Comedy of
Errors is guaranteed to
delight audiences young
and old.

December. Three winners will
be drawn on Monday 20
December with prizes
available for collection at the
market before Christmas.

Entry is free.

Your Councillors

Gateway Ward



Cr Heather Cunsolo
0466 227 014



Cr Peter Martin
0435 390 821



Cr Marcus Pearl
0466 448 272

Lake Ward



Cr Andrew Bond
0481 034 028



Cr Katherine Copsey
0466 478 949



Cr Christina Sirakoff
0435 419 930

Canal Ward



Cr Tim Baxter
0466 495 250



Cr Rhonda Clark
0435 098 738



Cr Louise Crawford
0466 514 643

You are receiving this email because you subscribed to Divercity magazine mailing list.

Want to change your details? [Update your details.](#)

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Accessibility](#)



This email was sent by City of Port Phillip, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, VIC 3182, Australia to divercity@portphillip.vic.gov.au

[Unsubscribe](#)