



# DIVERCITY

April 2023



FROM THE  
CHAMBER



CITY NEWS



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SUSTAINABILITY



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## From the Chamber

It's always a big moment for Councillors when we release our annual draft Budget and Council Plan update for community feedback.

We've done our best to achieve a balanced and responsible 2023/24 Budget which acknowledges cost of living pressures for our ratepayers while still delivering the projects and services our community expects.

Our Divercity story gives further details about the proposed Budget and how you can have your say. We really do want to hear your views and every submission will be considered. So please reach out and let us know what you think.

You may remember Council resolutions requesting reviews and removals of pop-up bike lanes funded in our City by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). This followed members of our community identifying concerns about safety, amenity and aesthetic impacts.

DTP recently informed us that pop-up bike routes will be removed or adjusted across our City. We are seeking further clarification regarding its plans for permanent pop-up bike lane infrastructure on Marine Parade, a state-managed road, as we want to ensure the community is properly engaged on this development.

Reinstatement works will happen over the coming weeks and we are working with DTP to ensure the best result for our community. More information can be found on the [DTP website](#).

At our 19 April Council Meeting, we passed condolence motions for two residents who truly helped make our City a better place. A social justice campaigner and "people's priest", Father



Bob Maguire dedicated his life to standing up for the poor and marginalised. He called South Melbourne his home - physically, spiritually and socially - and we are far richer a community from that having occurred.

We also noted the sad passing of Sheila Quairney, U3A Port Phillip President and a highly valued member of our Council's Older Persons Advisory Committee. An interview with Sheila shortly before her unexpected death about her passion for U3A is fittingly in our Community Spirit section of this month's Divercity,

It was a great pleasure to attend an event last week marking the start of construction of the Port Phillip EcoCentre. We're very proud to be partnering with the Victorian Government to deliver a new EcoCentre that will be a leading example of environmentally sustainable design and increase this wonderful community resource's ability to deliver sustainability programs.

Finally, it's almost time to grab your popcorn and settle down for the always fabulous St Kilda Film Festival. Proudly presented by the City of Port Phillip, Australia's longest-running short film festival returns to the big screen from 1-12 June. The 2023 Festival includes an extensive short film selection across dazzling animation, terrifying horror and laugh-out-loud comedy, all of which will be revealed when the program drops at the end of the month. Stay tuned for further details!

Regards,

Cr Heather Cunsolo,

Mayor, City of Port Phillip



## Consultation open for Council Plan and Budget 2023/24

Consultation for our draft Council Plan and Budget 2023/24 is now open. We are seeking your feedback to ensure any changes to the Council Plan and Budget are done in collaboration with our community.

The Council Plan is our strategic roadmap that guides everything we do for our community. It provides a strong foundation for the continuing rollout of projects, services and initiatives that go to the heart of the health and wellbeing of our diverse community.

Every year we undertake a process of community engagement to make sure our community has their say on the plans for our City for the year ahead.

The items we're particularly seeking your feedback on for this year's Council Plan and Budget are:

- an increase to general rates of 2.8 per cent
- changes to our waste charges
- changes to the Cultural Development Fund
- changes to performance indicators
- proposed new and adjusted initiatives in our draft Council Plan.

## **Changes to your rates**

This year, the Victorian Government set the rates cap at 3.5 per cent. This means Council cannot raise rates beyond the 3.5 per cent cap. In recognition of cost-of-living pressures facing our community, we are proposing a rates increase of 2.8 per cent which is lower than the rates cap and well under the expected 4.5 per cent inflation rate.

While various options were considered, this proposal provides ongoing financial relief to our residents. This is because any future rate rise will be based off the lower 2.8 per cent figure rather than the full 3.5 per cent rates cap.

This is the first time we have proposed an increase below the rates cap since the Victorian Government introduced rates capping in 2016/17. The financial impact to our 2023/24 draft Budget of adopting a lower rate rise below the cap is approximately \$900,000. Over the next 10 years, the accumulated impact of lower rates will mean we collect \$11 million less in rates from our residents. Rather than funding this shortfall through service cuts, we will put less into our reserve fund as a buffer for known and unexpected challenges over the next decade.

We were able to provide a balanced and responsible Budget through extra income from revenue streams, including parking and investments.

## **Changes to waste charges**

### **What we've done**

This is Year Three of the Council Plan 2021-31 and includes the 2023/24 Budget.

Last year, we asked for your feedback on our new Rating Strategy and Waste Strategy, and introduced a Waste Charge to separate out waste costs from general rates.

We introduced a new Rating Strategy with the aim of establishing a fairer and simpler way to calculate rates. To achieve this, we shifted our rating system so it's based on the total market (sale) value of the land plus buildings and other improvements. We also introduced a new Waste Strategy (Don't Waste It! Waste Management Strategy 2022-25) to ensure we're delivering what our community wants – which is additional waste services, to cover more recycling services. The four waste streams we're rolling out cover general waste, general recycling (paper, metal, plastics), glass, and food organics and garden organics (FOGO).

Council endorsed the introduction of a \$176.20 Waste Charge with a tiered waste charge structure separated out from general rates, to cover additional costs for new services (FOGO and glass recycling) requested by our community and to address the increased costs of delivering current services.

The charge provides more transparency for ratepayers as it separates the cost of handling their waste out from their general rates. A separate collection charge of \$88.10 was applied to households eligible for a kerbside FOGO bin.

### **What we're proposing**

This year, we're proposing some changes to our waste charges.

The tiered waste charge we introduced in last year's Council Plan means that property owners who are eligible for a kerbside FOGO bin pay more for the convenience of having the kerbside service than those who are ineligible, who instead have access to communal drop-off services for FOGO.

With this user-pays model in mind, we're proposing a change to how we administer waste charges in line with our Rating Strategy objectives to provide a fair, equitable, efficient and simple to understand distribution of rates, that can manage the impact of change.

The cost of waste is increasing due to increases in the state landfill levy and increases in FOGO services. To meet these increasing costs, we propose to increase our default waste charge from \$176.20 to \$198.20. For homes using the kerbside FOGO collection service, this cost increase will be offset by a decrease in the cost of their FOGO bin.

### **Single-unit dwellings**

The first piece of significant work on the implementation of the Don't Waste It! strategy was the rollout of the kerbside FOGO service for single unit dwelling (for example a house or townhouse) where we delivered approximately 14,600 kerbside FOGO bins from January this year.

In last year's budget, owners of eligible single-unit dwellings were charged an additional \$88.10 for the convenience of kerbside FOGO collection. To ensure that we provide fair outcomes that reflect the different levels of service and cost between single-unit and multi-unit dwellings, we propose to keep this charge, but reduce it to \$66.00. This would bring the total cost of waste charges for eligible single-unit dwellings to \$264.20, which is an overall reduction of \$0.10 in your waste charges.

### **Multi-unit dwellings**

This year we're also continuing our FOGO rollout with services to be delivered to multi-unit dwellings (for example units or apartments) starting in mid-2023.

Unlike those living in single-unit dwellings, who have the convenience of a kerbside collection, multi-unit dwellings will be provided with a shared common service which is more like a communal service. We're proposing to fund this service from the default waste charge. This means we would not introduce a separate charge for FOGO collection for multi-unit dwellings.

This demonstrates our commitment to fairness and reflects the different levels of convenience and cost between single-unit and multi-unit dwellings.

### **Residential car park spaces and storage areas**

Previously, some apartment owners were charged a fee for their apartment, as well as an additional amount for their apartment's residential car park space or storage area. We are proposing to no longer charge this fee for car park spaces or storage areas that are tied to a dwelling.

### **Commercial car park spaces and storage areas**

We're proposing to remove the waste charge for commercial car park spaces\* or storage areas, and instead charge a small amount for incidental waste that may be generated through commercial activities.

\* This does not apply to commercial car park operators who will incur the default waste charge.

### **Changes to the Cultural Development Fund**

Last year, Council requested that a cost review be undertaken to identify options for ongoing

cost reductions.

The review was set up to provide evidence-based cost reduction options for Council to consider in the 2023/24 budget.

As part of this process, we are considering changes to our Cultural Development Fund (CDF) grants program. This program supports artists, arts and cultural organisations, and creative community projects in our City.

Currently, funding of up to \$12,000 is provided for each successful project. We awarded \$187,000 for a total of 18 successful projects in 2022.

As part of our review, we identified an opportunity to reduce CDF funding from 1 July 2023 by \$87,000, to a total budget of \$100,000.

### **Updates to Council's performance indicators**

Council indicators provide a snapshot of our annual performance. They are reviewed annually to ensure targets are realistic and that descriptions are clear. We have included additional indicators to further bolster our performance overview.

For 2023/24, the following indicators have been proposed:

Percentage of investment in fossil-free institutions

Street cleaning audit compliance

Number of Council Plan initiatives that are on track

Percentage of audit actions completed on time

Proportion of projects on track.

We're also proposing to remove the indicator Council decisions made at meetings open to the public as it has been shown to result in similar outcomes to the indicator Council decisions made at meetings closed to the public.

### **Initiatives added to the draft Council Plan**

We are seeking your feedback on six new initiatives we're proposing be added to the Council Plan:

Commercial Precincts Footpath Upgrades (part of the Footpath Renewal Program) – This is a \$500,000 a year program of renewals and upgrades of footpaths in and around high street areas, to support trading and pedestrian foot traffic. The program's first year will include a consultation, design, and minor beautification budget of \$100,000.

St Kilda Strategic Plan Implementation – \$380,000 to be allocated over four years to implement short-term recommendations of the plan, with a focus on actions that relate to strategic planning. \$100,000 has been included in 2023/24.

Footpath Trading Guidelines Review – \$80,000 to review and update Council's Footpath Trading Guidelines (2017) in line with the endorsement of the Outdoor Trading (dining) Policy in November 2022 and the current development of a new Local Law 2023.

Elwood Foreshore Facilities Development Stage two and three – new stages added to ensure future funding is allocated to the works identified in the masterplan.

South Melbourne Market Project Connect – A \$17 million investment over 10 years to futureproof the Market, ensuring it continues to provide a safe, enjoyable and accessible experience for the community. The program will connect and align with the renewal and compliance program of works already underway at the Market. This project will focus on improving public space around the Market, reduce congestion, improve visitor experience and provide increased connection with the precinct.

Conservation of South African War Memorial – \$268,000 for the conservation treatment of the memorial in Alfred Square St Kilda, which is protected under the Heritage Victoria Act 2017.

\$92,000 has been included in 2023/24 for investigation and design.

There are a range of new or adjusted initiatives that have been added to the draft Council Plan. You can read more about these initiatives here.

Let us know what you think about our draft Council Plan and Budget. Please visit our Have Your Say page to share your feedback before 18 May: Council Plan and Budget | Have Your Say Port Phillip.

All community feedback will be collated and presented to Council for consideration at the 7 June 2023 Council Meeting before the adoption of the updated Council Plan and Budget on 20 June 2023. Your feedback will help to inform Council's decision making.

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/consultation-is-open-for-council-plan-and-budget-2023-24>

[Find out more](#)



## Popping in to a Pop-up Conversation to help shape Port Phillip

Diversity popped in to a Pop-up Conversation in this third in an occasional series looking at a day in the life of Council Officers undertaking a range of services for our community.

Among the daily hustle and bustle of lively South Melbourne Market, a small team of Council Officers is busy chatting to locals, asking for feedback on Council projects, and listening to their thoughts and opinions on a variety of issues.

The famous South Melbourne Dim Sims aren't the only item on the menu today as several projects are up for discussion, including the draft Positive Ageing Policy, a proposed Local Laws review, a new Art and Culture Heritage Strategy and a collection point for food organics and garden organics (FOGO) kitchen caddies as part of the new FOGO recycling service rollout.

By joining the conversation, residents can play their part in shaping the future of their neighbourhood and City by providing valuable feedback to inform Council decisions.

“We understand that our community members are true experts with their lived experience,” Council’s Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Monique, says.

“The idea of the Pop-up Conversations is to meet people where they are at, and to engage people who may not necessarily seek out information on Council’s projects. We want to hear as many voices as we can.

“While we have subject matter experts internally at Council, we also need to understand what it’s like to live in a certain area and to use the different services and facilities available. That’s why we seek ideas and feedback from residents to help inform our projects.”

Engagement Advisor Alice scans the Market crowd, ready to chat with locals wanting to participate in the pop-up session. She is joined by Council Officers who are specialists in each project field and several Councillors ready to speak to residents to get a feel for community sentiment on each of the topics.

Behind them stand several large A-frame boards highlighting each project. They feature coloured sticky notes from residents who have jotted down their thoughts and stuck them to the boards.

“We try and make each Pop-up Conversation as visually appealing and interactive as possible,” Monique says.

“It might be something like voting on a topic by placing balls in different tubes representing a choice on a project, voting by using sticky dots or writing down ideas on post-it notes or postcards.”

After spotting a resident looking at the colourful boards, Alice introduces herself with a friendly smile.

The resident, Gisele from Port Melbourne, stops to ask a few questions about Council’s draft Positive Ageing Policy.

“I’m in the aged care sector and I was very interested to see what’s happening within the Council and in this area,” she said.

“I stopped by to see if I could learn a bit more and maybe do some more research of my own.”

Gisele is pleased to see Councillors and Council Officers out speaking to people in her community.

“I think it’s really important. The word ‘Council’ can be a negative term for some in the community, when you think about Council rates or parking fines, but I think this sort of community engagement is fantastic.”

Beside her, a Councillor is chatting with a resident about a new Art and Culture Heritage Strategy that is being developed. Meanwhile, Karen from Albert Park has spotted the table of free FOGO kitchen caddies, which have the same recognisable fluorescent green lids as her new kerbside FOGO bin.

Karen didn’t anticipate being able to pick up a FOGO caddy on her routine trip to the South Melbourne Market and now takes the opportunity to give her feedback to staff on the new waste service.

“Finally, I don’t have to put my food waste in landfill, so I’m very excited,” she says.

“I have a worm farm and a compost bin at home. But even then, the compost bin needs to rest, and I can fill it pretty quickly. I would still end up putting things in the waste and it’s frustrating.

Having a FOGO bin is great and it's a positive action."

A recent Pop-up Conversation in Elwood as part of our Neighbourhood Conversation program saw a record 78 caddies claimed as residents continue to play their part in diverting food and garden waste from landfill.

Karen grabs a caddy and familiarises herself with Council's ongoing consultations. She's glad to take this opportunity to chat with Councillors and have a say on matters in her neighbourhood without having to attend a Council Meeting.

"It's very convenient. Port Phillip is a decent sized Council, so going down to St Kilda and the offices there is not always convenient, so this is great," she says.

The Pop-up Conversations also provide an opportunity for residents to raise issues and discussions about anything happening in Port Phillip, allowing staff to keep an ear to the ground.

"It's important to have a presence in the community so that residents can come and talk to us about issues on their radar that we might not know about," Monique explains.

She hopes the pop-ups can help change perceptions held by some about how Council interacts with its community.

"My team is really passionate about working with residents and finding solutions that are beneficial to the community.

"I think there's sometimes a feeling among some residents that Council isn't always easily accessible but we're really making a concerted effort to get out and about and make sure people can get in touch with us."

Following the Pop-up Conversation at the Market, our Engagement Team will collate and analyse the feedback and data for an engagement report, complete with demographics, outlining who they spoke to and what was raised.

The report will then be shared with the public on our Council's Have Your Say website and informs the Officers' recommendations for Councillors to consider before making decisions in the Chamber.

Other forms of community engagement that might be used on projects include workshops - online and face to face, focus groups, community panel deliberations as well as interviews and surveys on our Have Your Say website.

The Engagement Team also works closely with Council's advisory committees, seeking advice from those who are representatives of various sectors of the community.

This Pop-up Conversation was just one in a series of Neighbourhood Conversations that are held at eight different neighbourhoods across Port Phillip, about three to four times a year.

Next time you're out in your community, look out for a Pop-up Conversation and be sure to say hi to a friendly Council Officer. Your feedback will help us shape a future Council project or policy.

To find out more about Pop-up Conversations and other opportunities to join the conversation on a range of projects, visit: [haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au](https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au)

## City News

### New EcoCentre on the way



Our Mayor Heather Cunsolo joined Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt, Member for Albert Park Nina Taylor and the EcoCentre team to mark construction starting soon for the new EcoCentre building redevelopment.

A new building will increase the EcoCentre's ability to deliver sustainability programs and provide a leading example of environmentally sustainable design.

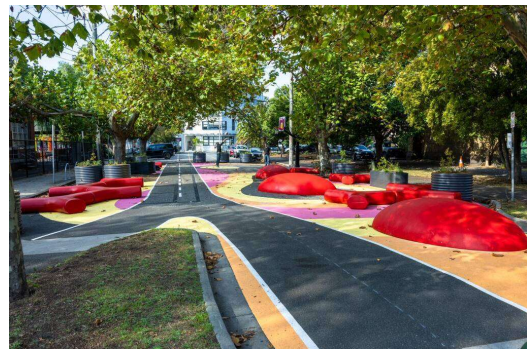


<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/projects-and-works/ecocentre-redevelopment>

## Pop in to Balaclava's new pop-up park

Dickens Street is now home to a new temporary pop-up park in a boost for public space in Balaclava.

We have transformed 10 underutilised parking spaces into a versatile public space which now features plantings, colourful artwork, bicycle racks, additional seating space and a basketball hoop.



The pop-up park has improved the look and feel of the area by adding colour and activity to the streetscape.

Creating and maintaining vibrant public spaces is an important role for Council in improving the health and wellbeing and social connection for people in our City.

Balaclava has the lowest amount of open space of all our neighbourhoods at five per cent.

This is significantly lower than the Port Phillip average of 17 per cent and it has been one of the larger historic gaps in our public space network.

The new park comes thanks to consultations and contributions from the nearby St Kilda Primary School.

## E-scooter trial extended

The Victorian Government announced the extension of Victoria's e-scooter trial for six months from April.

Changes to the trial now allow for privately owned e-scooters to be used under strict trial rules across Victoria.

Visit the VicRoads website to learn more about changes to the trial.



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

# Vale Father Bob Maguire

## Condolence statement by Port Phillip Council Mayor Heather Cunsolo:

Councillors were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Father Bob Maguire.

A social justice campaigner and "people's priest", Father Bob dedicated his life to standing up for the poor and marginalised.



He became Parish Priest at Saints Peter and Paul in South Melbourne in 1973 and was to stay there for nearly 40 years until he was finally forced into retirement in 2012. Father Bob's thoughts on arriving in South Melbourne are shared on his Foundation's website:

Upon arriving, I thought's I'd entered the Badlands, a place where refugees from life where gathering. Housing Commission flats brought a new cohort to the place, the South Melbourne Football Club was falling out of favour and the collapse of the Westgate Bridge a few years earlier set a pall over the people which would continue for a generation. I've got my work cut out for me, I told myself. Just the place for an enterprising priest.

Father Bob goes on to say that South Melbourne became his home, physically, spiritually, and socially and we are far richer a community from that having occurred.

Father Bob was known for his social justice work, providing food relief, social inclusion and educational support through his Albert Park and South Melbourne -based charity 'The Father Bob Foundation' of which he served as patron until recently.

As well as his Foundation and Parish, Father Bob was the patron of Dance World, a South Melbourne dance studio that offers a scholarship program in his name to provide children opportunities to learn dance; a past Chairman of Open Family and involved in the Emerald Hill Mission, having been an integral part of the establishment of both organisations.

Father Bob was known to many Councillors and Council Officers, past and present, and always had a keen interest in the welfare of the most vulnerable members of our community. When a junk food ban at our Adventure Playgrounds was implemented to assist children from disadvantaged backgrounds in receiving more nutritious foods, he fronted the media to defend the program.

Father Bob's faith and social justice work was balanced with a wicked sense of humour. He was described by his own charity foundation as part Billy Connolly, part Mother Theresa, part angry Old Testament prophet.

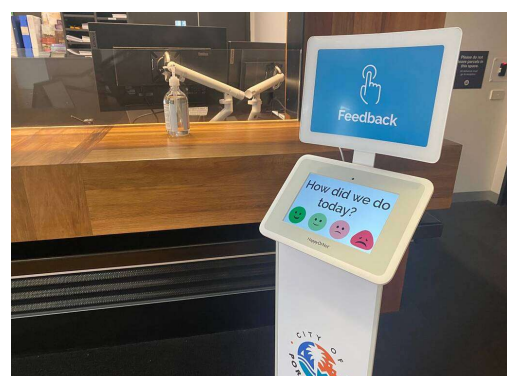
Father Bob was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1989 for his service to homeless youth and was named Victorian of the Year in 2011.

## Let us know how we're doing

We're deploying new customer feedback devices in our public buildings.

That means submitting your customer feedback is now just a click away with our new evaluation stands and QR codes.

These new devices aim to collect feedback about our services through an easy-to-use interface,



which asks customers to rate their experience on an emoji scale which ranges from a happy face emoji to a sad face emoji.

Users are also given the opportunity to provide additional feedback in the form of a comment, for when an emoji cannot say it all.

The stand devices are located at key locations, including at the St Kilda and Port Melbourne Town Hall service desks.

We will also be trialing QR codes at the St Kilda Botanical Gardens public toilets. If the QR code trial is successful, then we will be extending the trial to include additional public toilet locations.

The collection and evaluation of the feedback data will be an ongoing process and will help us to improve the services that we supply to our community so we can ensure we are providing a happy-face worthy experience to all.

## Help make a difference to your community

Applications are now open for two of our grant assessment committees.

We're looking to fill 12 community spots on two of our grant assessment committees. The committees include the Community Grants Assessment Panel Reference Committee and the Cultural Development Fund Reference Committee.



If you have experience working in the creative industries or a deep knowledge of local community organisations and an immense passion for contributing to creating a thriving and inclusive City of Port Phillip, then we need you.

You may be eligible to apply for one or both of our committees, you can learn more about each committee and how to apply below.

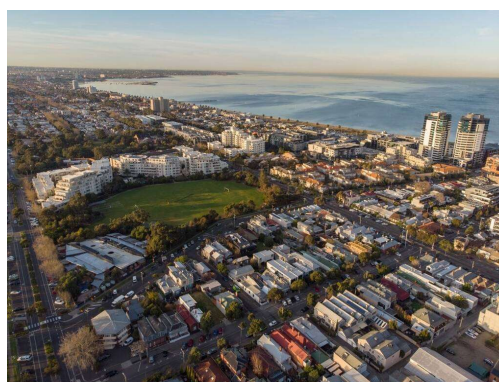
<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/committee-members-wanted-help-make-a-difference-to-your-community>

## Community Sentiment Survey

Victoria Police is asking all Victorians to share their community safety concerns, engagement preferences and experiences of local police.

Victoria Police will use the results of this community sentiment survey to inform its local safety plans and organisational priorities.

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/annual-victoria-police-community-sentiment-survey-2023>



## Delays to bin collection

A driver shortage has unfortunately affected our recycling collection contractor's weekly pick-up of some recycling bins.

This means you may experience a day or two's delay in your bins being picked up until the shortfall is resolved. We understand this is frustrating and apologise for any delays. Please leave your recycling bin out until it is collected.



Council's recycling collection contractor is working to address the driver shortage. In the meantime, their waste crews are working overtime (at no extra cost to our Council) to catch-up, including on Saturdays.

Garbage bin collections may also be affected.

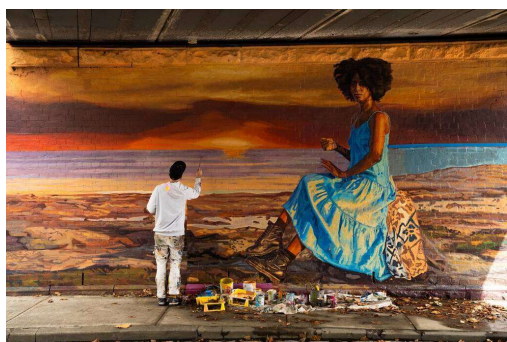
## Did you miss our last Council meeting?

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

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



## Arts in Focus

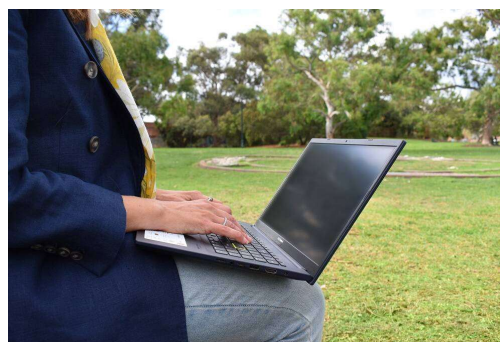


### New murals coming thanks to Urban Canvas

Six Melbourne inner-city councils are joining together to deter unsightly illegal graffiti by commissioning a series of vibrant street art murals on public spaces.

The Urban Canvas Mural Festival will see 30 artists each create a large-scale mural on some of Melbourne's most graffiti prone areas over 14 days.

The participating councils, Bayside,



### Calling all playwrights

Gasworks Script Lab (GSL) is an exciting creative development opportunity for new, emerging and established playwrights living in the City of Port Phillip.

Offered for the first time in 2023, this free, multi-stage program will begin with a series of writing workshops facilitated by experienced playwrights from Melbourne Writers Theatre.

Participants' scripts will then be further

Boroondara, Glen Eira, Kingston, Port Phillip and Stonnington, make up the Inner South Metro Mayors Forum (ISMMF).

The Mural Festival, launched on 17 April at a dedicated Festival Hub at 254 Carlisle Street, Balaclava, includes an art exhibition, art workshops, a youth mentoring program and an art apprenticeship program for 10 emerging street artists who are helping deliver some of the murals.

Each mural will represent the theme of Belong/Nugal (a Woi Wurrung translation – pronounced 'Naar-Gaw'). Community members are invited to gain a better understanding of street art culture by watching the artists at work in each local government area.

The Urban Canvas Mural Festival is a \$600,000 project funded by the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund, which aims to prevent graffiti vandalism through the installation of unique street art.

Visit: <http://www.urbancanvas.melbourne/>

developed in script sessions with a director and actors. The program will culminate in two Script Showcases, to be presented on stage to the public in October.

GSL is designed for participants of all skill levels – from writers/aspiring writers who have never written for the stage but are interested in exploring the craft of playwriting to experienced playwrights with production credits.

New playwrights will be guided to write a monologue or short play from scratch. Writers who have an existing script or work-in-progress they wish to further develop will be offered the dramaturgical support to do this.

All sessions will be held on-site at Gasworks Arts Park, with an online option also available. For more information, visit the [Gasworks Arts Park](#) website.

<https://www.gasworks.org.au/artist-opportunities/gasworks-script-lab>

## Help Shape our City



### Join the conversation on these projects:

- [Council Plan and Budget](#)
- [LGBTIQA+ Action Plan](#)
- [Accessibility Action Plan](#)
- [Port Phillip Housing Strategy](#)

### Have Your Say projects going live soon:

- Change of herbicide usage in parks and green spaces
- Gasworks Arts Park Playground upgrade
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Possible changes to basketball facilities at J Talbot Reserve, St Kilda
- Sol Green Reserve park and playspace upgrade

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

## Sustainability

### Port Phillip Pickers: Oil we're missing is you!

Did you know there are over 400 public olive trees in the City of Port Phillip?

The olives are just weeks away from ripening, and when they do, we need some enthusiastic volunteers to help us pick them all.

Last year we picked up to 250 kilograms of olives and pressed them into olive oil. This year we plan on picking five times that amount, around 1250 kilograms of olives.

The current harvest days are scheduled for Sunday 30 April and Sunday 21 May. Picking will start from 10 am and you are welcome to come for an hour or stay all day.



Olives will be picked from the trees, dropped onto sheets sitting below, sorted into crates and then loaded into the vehicles. Picking is a very social community activity, and you can chat or have some relaxing time to yourself. It's lots of fun. The more volunteers we have the more fruit we can pick!

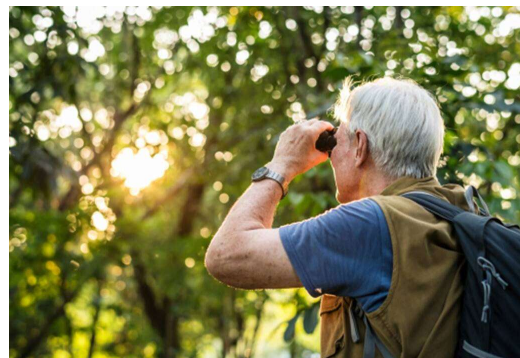
Keep your eye on the [Port Phillip Pickers](#) Facebook page for up to date activities including the weekday walks to survey the trees for fruit and to select the best picking areas.

For more information on how to get involved, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/council-services/sustainability-and-climate-change/port-phillip-pickers>

## Are you up for the City Nature Challenge?

This year the City of Port Phillip is teaming up with more than 20 councils across metropolitan Melbourne to represent Greater Melbourne on the global stage in the City Nature Challenge.

From Friday 28 April to Monday 1 May, people from around the world will compete to observe and record sounds and photos of wild plants and animals. Observations will be uploaded to the iNaturalist app and contribute to scientific research.



To get involved, simply:

- Download the free [iNaturalist app](#)
- Join the events in City of Port Phillip below or get out into parks, streets and backyards over the four days of the Challenge. Take photos or record sounds of wildlife, plants, insects and fungi anywhere in Port Phillip.
- Share your observations via the iNaturalist app.

For more information, visit: <https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/about-the-council/news-and-media/are-you-up-for-the-city-nature-challenge>

## Library Visit

### Graphic Novel Club

Review, recommend, and discuss all things graphic novels, comics, and manga with other

voracious readers in a fun and friendly environment - complete with drinks and snacks!

The Graphic Novel Club is for kids aged 8-12 to discuss what you've been reading, loving, hating, and waiting for. You'll also be able to share any graphic novels and comics you've created yourself, and there's an opportunity for drawing and art at the end of every session.



Located in the children's section at St Kilda Library on the third Wednesday of the month, and in the children's section at Emerald Hill Library on the fourth Wednesday. Sessions run from 4.15 pm to 5.30 pm.

<https://library.portphillip.vic.gov.au/what-s-on/graphic-novel-club>

## Community Spirit

### Age of Enlightenment

University of the Third Age Port Phillip (U3APP) is celebrating 20 years of providing classes and connection for community members to flex their minds and bodies.

**U3A Port Phillip President Sheila Quairney suddenly passed away in April, a few weeks after giving this interview. With the permission of her partner, Divercity is running this story as a tribute to her tireless efforts as a volunteer for organisations including U3A and her highly valued role as a member of our Council's Older Persons Advisory Committee. Our deepest sympathies go to Sheila's partner Brian, her family and her many friends.**



U3APP's 750 retired and semi-retired members have unlimited access to about 80 free courses and activities every week after paying a \$40 annual membership. The tutors and those members who keep the organisation running are all passionate volunteers who value the lifelong learning journey offered by their organisation.

Art, music, science, dancing, languages, health, exercise, current affairs, literature and well-being are just some of the courses which can be attended in person and via Zoom. There are also regular online seminars on thought-provoking topics which non-members can also dip into. The seminar on 15 April, Myanmar: Democracy in a complicated country, featured speaker Chris Lamb, a former Australian Ambassador to Myanmar.

President Sheila Quairney signed up as a member in 2019 after moving to Port Phillip from the UK.

"I wanted activities to keep me busy so I joined the choir." Before long, Sheila was a committee member, started teaching relaxation classes and is now enjoying her second year as President.

"Exercise classes are hugely popular as people want to stay fit and healthy as they age," she said.

"We really appreciate Council's support in providing access to their venues which helps us keep the membership fee affordable. With over 130 volunteers, including our tutors, U3A really is 'by members, for members'."

The Betty Day Community Centre in St Kilda has recently been added to the venues, which

Sheila hopes will draw more members from St Kilda and Elwood. U3A's Albert Park office at the Mary Kehoe Community Centre, Middle Park Library and the South Melbourne Community Centre are among the other venues.

Sheila said U3A was a social lifeline for many members, particularly those who felt isolated, during COVID-19 lockdowns

"We moved virtually all classes online very successfully – disproving the stereotype that older people are not able to cope with technology. We have a great IT team."

About a third of all classes can still be accessed online, including cryptic crosswords and Friday Film.

"The social aspect is very important. The classes provide opportunities to meet up in person and get to know each other, as do events like our monthly Happy Hour at a local pub," she said.

U3A Port Phillip is always keen to sign up tutors, members and volunteers. You don't need to be an experienced teacher, just have an enthusiasm for a topic or pastime.

There are many ways volunteers can lend a hand, including managing the course timetable, maintaining the website, sending the newsletter, organising catering or joining the committee of management.

Now is the perfect time to join with a 20th anniversary celebration being held on 17 May.

For more information, visit the U3A Port Phillip website at [www.u3app.org.au](http://www.u3app.org.au), email [u3app@u3app.org.au](mailto:u3app@u3app.org.au) or call the office on 9696 3495 between 9.30 am to 3.30 pm on weekdays.

## What's On



### Whisky Live

28 and 29 April, 2023  
9 Carlisle St, St Kilda

Whisky Live is Melbourne's premiere whisky sampling event, featuring high quality whiskies and spirits, all open under one roof for your tasting pleasure. Go along and learn while you taste.

Whisky Live showcases a large selection of high-quality whiskies, suitable for both the whisky lover and those new to whisky. Whiskies are presented by brand, with an



### St Kilda Film Festival

1-12 June 2023

Australia's longest-running short film festival is almost here!

Proudly presented by the City of Port Phillip, SKFF celebrates our national film industry by screening the best short films from accomplished and emerging filmmakers.

Screenings and special



### Selling Kabul

Red Stitch Actors' Theatre,  
Chapel Street, St Kilda

Kabul, 2013. The United States has just begun a major withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

On the eve of his son's birth, Taroon takes shelter with his sister, Afiya, and her husband, Jawid. Desperate to see his wife and baby, he must risk the lives of everyone he loves by venturing to the



expert there to inform, educate and offer samples. A quality spirits glass is supplied for you to keep and a printed Tasting Guide listing whiskies on tasting helps you make notes of the flavours and brands you best enjoy.

Classes will be held during your session. They will focus on special aspects of particular whiskies for some in-depth knowledge.

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

events are held at some of our City's most iconic venues including the Astor Theatre, The Espy, and the Palais Theatre, which will host the highly anticipated Opening Night celebration on Thursday, 1 June.

Full program and tickets on sale from Friday 28 April.

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

hospital.

Khoury's Pulitzer nominated drama powerfully portrays the humanity and courage of one Afghan family, and asks 'what would you do to save another person's life?'

An Australian premiere production by Red Stitch Actors' Theatre not to be missed.

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

To 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 सटीं 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 नि:शुल्क 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 poczytać 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)

Divercity является официальным общественным электронным бюллетенем района Порт Филлип.

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.

Suscríbase 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



**Cr Andrew Bond**  
0481 034 028



**Cr Robbie Nyaguy**  
0466 611 598



**Cr Christina Sirakoff**  
0435 419 930

## Canal Ward



**Cr Tim Baxter**  
0466 495 250



**Cr Rhonda Clark**  
0435 098 738



**Cr Louise Crawford**  
0466 514 643

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