

Annual Snapshot



From small things, big things grow: community plantings such as Garden City Reserve in Port Melbourne inspired even the youngest gardeners.



Givers receive: 2008 Civic Awards recognised volunteering by young and old. Civic award winners are long-term volunteers: back row (from left), Kate Long, John Gilchrist, Bill Bradshaw; front row, Siobhain Geaney, Ethel Semmens and Wendy Van Dort (Port Phillip Urban Fresh Food Network).



Century for women: St Kilda Town Hall was the setting for a creative celebration of Victorian women gaining the right to vote in 1908. The event featured The Art of Suff-Rage, a travelling exhibition of 100 ceramic suffragists.



Stolen but not confined: Kutcha Edwards at Confined: Indigenous Prisoner Art, an exhibition held during the Yalukit Wilam Ngargee: People Place Gathering.



Linking people: the free community bus service was expanded to connect more neighbourhoods, more often.



Weaving a connection: Kirsty Sword Gusmao, the former First Lady of Timor-Leste (East Timor) visited the Timor-Leste textile exhibition organised by Friends of Suai at the St Kilda Town Hall Gallery.



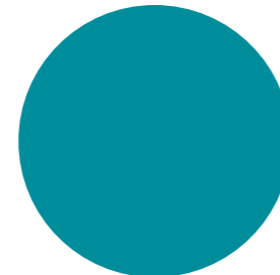
More spaces in more places: council contributed \$1.2 million to delivering children's services from four council managed centres, eight community managed centres, home-based care and vacation care for school aged children.



Better than Facebook: The Land of 1,000 Faces, an exhibition of over 1,000 self-portraits by young people, was the first exhibition at the new St Kilda Town Hall Gallery. Self-portraits came from local schools as well as schools in Obu, Port Phillip's Japanese sister city, and Suai, Port Phillip's friendship city in East Timor.



Green Crusaders: children got active about the environment during World Environment Day at the St Kilda Town Hall.



Sign of the times: 5,000 people, including many school students, spelt out their feelings on St Kilda Beach.



Page turner: Maura, the famous specialist reading consultant, provided personal reading programs using a unique human book-matching machine.



Different drum: Taiko drumming performance by community members of the delegation visiting Port Phillip from our Sister City of Obu in Japan.



Home for lunch: chef Guy Grossi and the HEAT team served up a very long lunch for the homeless as part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.



Holy trinity: Father Bob Maguire sought out parishioners of a different kind at the Pets in the City event at Park Towers.



Seven up: Port Phillip's councillors for 2008 – 2012 are (from left) Mayor Frank O'Connor, Cr Janet Bolitho, Cr Serge Thomann, Cr John Middleton, Cr Rachel Powning, Cr Judith Klepner and Cr Jane Touzeau.



Planning works: community members had their say at the Port Phillip Community Plan's first year report card forum.



Who gives: Port Phillip Gives makes giving time, money and goods easier. Visit the website to discover volunteer opportunities and more.



Port Phillip proud: the annual pride march received a blessing in disguise.



Army reserve: the legendary Rats of Tobruk had a reserve named in their honour – conveniently opposite the Rats HQ in South Melbourne.

Big day in St Kilda: crowds flocked to St Kilda even after the severe weather and devastating events of Black Saturday. A spontaneous collection for bushfire victims raised \$13,000 in hours. Later that evening The Angels faced up in sensational form to an excited crowd.





Share and care: amusing signs urged promenaders of all descriptions to be nice.



Recycled winners: a children's activity centre made out of recycled shipping containers in South Melbourne won the Australian Institute of Architects National Award for Small Project Architecture.



Linking more neighbours: the seniors register was expanded to include South Melbourne residents. The register helps link neighbours with seniors. It also helps the police with contact details in an emergency.



Home on the Hill: Sputnik Russian TV is one of the community groups now at home in the South Melbourne Town Hall. Sputnik crew members Gregory Vaisman, Anna Vaisman and Kate Danova are pictured in their new office with Mayor Frank O'Connor.



Style after dark: a night market with great food and local fashion was trialled at the South Melbourne Market.



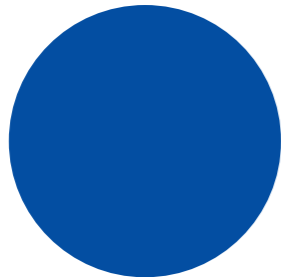
Solar seaside: a billion-to-one scale model of the solar system became a permanent feature on our foreshore. Starting with the Sun near St Kilda Marina, the planets stretch along the foreshore until tiny Pluto in Port Melbourne.



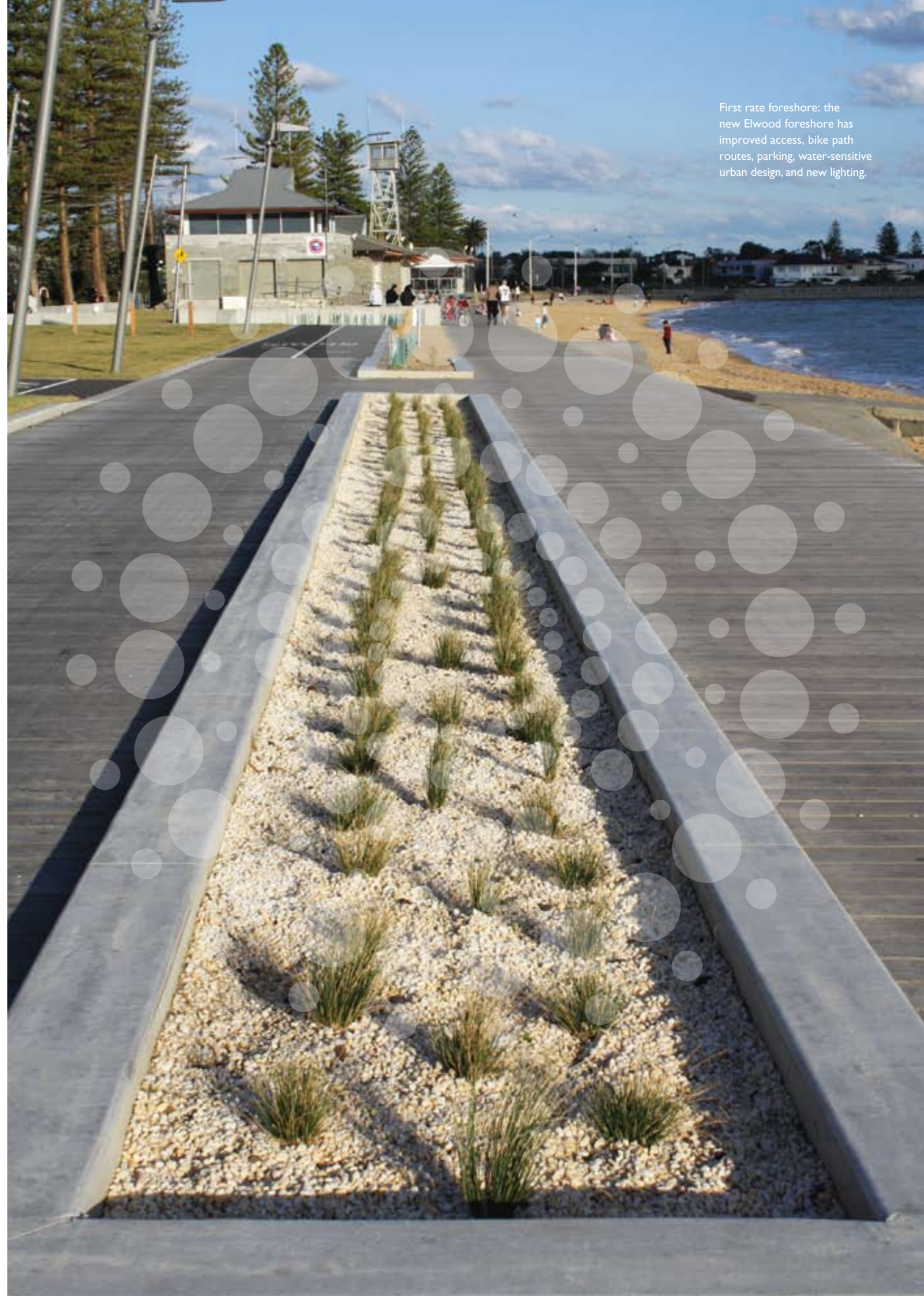
Half the sky: over 250 women packed into the South Melbourne Town Hall for an inspirational and informative high tea to celebrate International Women's Day in March.



Boardwalk by the bay: the first stage of the St Kilda promenade upgrade was launched in September. With wide paths and magnificent boardwalks, the promenade is popular for both strolling and rolling – and taking in the view.



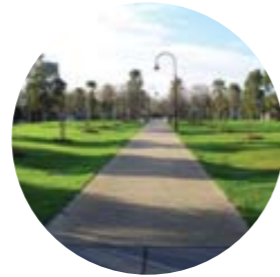
Plenty to smile about: Albert Park / Middle Park received an award for being the friendliest neighbourhood according to a 'smiles-per-hour' study. Pictured are Nancy Price, Jo Woods, Loryn Clarke, Wendy Patton, Teresa Warren and Estell Carew. Nancy is holding the 'Community Pulse Outstanding Smile Spy Award' and the perpetual plaque is the '2008 Friendliest Neighbourhood Award'.



First rate foreshore: the new Elwood foreshore has improved access, bike path routes, parking, water-sensitive urban design, and new lighting.



Community crop: Veg Out Community Gardens celebrated a decade with a big dress-up party and a new gate.



Green beacon: landscaping upgrades around Beacon Cove saw the planting of 275 trees (with 83 removed), installation of 16,000m² of turf and 10,000 new plants.



Catani capers: this innovative children's play equipment is now a feature of the majestic Catani Gardens thanks to grant funding from state and commonwealth governments.



Sparks luminous: Valerie Sparks, recipient of the second Rupert Bunny Fellowship, was the first artist-in-residence at the Alliance Française. Luminist, her exhibition of massive digitally enhanced photographs, re-imagined local landmarks in vivid hyper-real detail.



Celebration of a generation: Seniors' Week in Port Phillip was celebrated with a festival of events and activities ranging from cabaret to Brahms, trugo to tea, writing to trivia. Lesley Grant and Colin Jones were two of the seniors' writing competition winners. The other winners were Patricia Ryan and Bev Kermond.



Portraits of friendship: Grade 5 – 6 students at St Kilda Primary School sent self-portraits to students in Suai, East Timor, as a gesture of friendship.



Health check a shot in the arm: 2,800 inspections by Environmental Health Officers of the city's 1,200 food outlets have helped lift the food safety compliance to a record high level. 9,072 vaccines were administered to 3,093 clients at 70 community immunisation sessions.



Business matters: over 450 local business people celebrated business excellence in Port Phillip at the 2008 Citi Power Port Phillip Business Excellence Awards Gala at St Kilda Town Hall.



Emergency gift: the council presented two new vehicles to the St Kilda SES. The two trucks, a 4x4 Toyota HiLux and Isuzu truck, replaced vehicles that were 'old enough to vote'.



Park ping pong: West St Kilda residents used a Small Poppy Neighbourhood Grant to put a ping pong table in their local park.



Out of the ashes: Numburindi Dancers, a renowned dance troupe from East Arnhem Land, danced on St Kilda Beach in a goodwill gesture to help with the healing of land and people after the devastating bushfires.