

# EXPERIENCE



FY 23/24 Funding Recommendations

**Clarendon & Coventry Streets Business Association (CCSBA)**

# CCSBA Overview



- The Clarendon and Coventry Streets Business Association (CCSBA), was incorporated in December 2021, following Council Trader association seed funding
- The CCSBA are working for the collective benefit of our precinct by advocating and facilitating activities to improve visitation and economic activity
- We have 12 committee members who meet monthly
- Since established we have:-
  - Developed logo and branding for CCSBA
  - Established Website and Socials
  - Illuminated trees on Clarendon Street
  - Built relationships with key stakeholders, such as Australian Grand Prix, Porsche Australia, Swimming Australia and Department of Transport/Yarra Trams
  - Applied & were successful for Victorian Government funding of \$195k to refurbish Clarendon Street heritage verandas



# Support



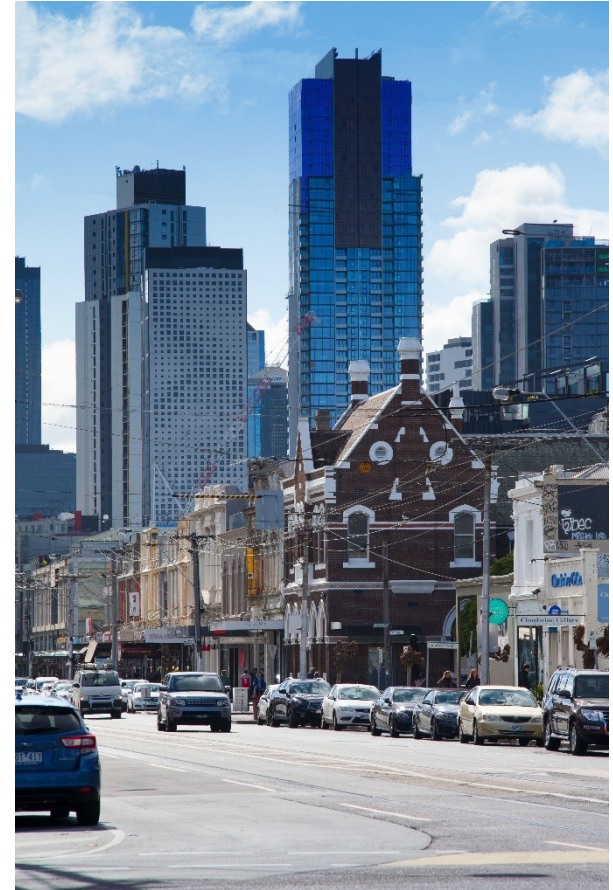
We are seeking support from Council for the FY23/24 budget in 3 areas:-

Item	Council Funding
Business Association Financial Injection	\$60,000
South Melbourne Porsches & Coffee Festival	\$20,000
An Outdoor banner program to support brand awareness, promotion and marketing, precinct & special events	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>

# Business Association Support

- Unlike other associations the CCSBA doesn't have a special rate
- We have recently implemented a voluntary annual membership model consisting of three tiers:
  - Small size businesses \$150
  - Medium size businesses \$400
  - Major commercial businesses \$1,250
- The membership recruitment commenced mid-December 2022 and CCSBA currently has 14 paid members
- We are seeking a one off financial injection to assist us in building our capacity for self-funding
- This funding will help will boost paid membership revenue and allow CCSBA to:
  - Deliver marketing, promotion, activation and events to drive visitation/economic impact
  - Resulting in wider trader engagement and securing more & repeat membership

**Budget request: \$60,000**





# South Melbourne Porsches & Coffee

- South Melbourne is the Gateway from the city to Albert Park
- As the host of the Grand Prix, the City of Port Phillip should leverage from this event
- What better way to celebrate, than an affiliation with one of the most preeminent sports car companies who also race on the Grand Prix weekend, Porsche.
- Engage the Australian Grand Prix and capitalise on its audience reach by hosting a car festival that would include a parade of special vehicles, accompanied by vendor stalls in our precinct
- To achieve long term success from these events, it would be beneficial to have a repetitive event that our High Street gets 'known' for. Setting an annual expectation with locals and tourists, an event to look forward to.



**Budget request: \$20,000**

# Outdoor Banner Program



- Humans are highly visual thinkers by nature. Approx. 65% of people primarily process information in a visual format.
- Banners are one of the most powerful tools a business can have in its advertising arsenal & is one of the most cost effective options
- Various banner types, eg., installed on poles or teardrop banners fixed to ground
- Benefits of Banners:-
  - Increase precinct visual appeal
  - Captivate Consumers
  - Create & Build Brand Awareness
  - Boost Visitation
  - Tailor messaging to promote events
  - Cost effective, a big return on Investment

**Budget request: \$75,000**



# Funding Recommendations



Below details the funding breakdown that CCSBA are requesting from Council for the FY23/24 budget:

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Council Funding</b>
Business Association Support	\$60,000
South Melbourne Porsches & Coffee	\$20,000
Outdoor Banner Program	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>

CBR-2023.002

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 6 February 2023 3:35 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Shakespeare Grove Main Drain Viewing Screens

. **[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments..**

Hi Louise, Tim and Robbie,

I hope this email finds you all well.

Together with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], we are proposing to replace four rather unsightly Melbourne Water fences located over the historic St. Kilda Main Drain

(now known as the Shakespeare Grove Main Drain):

- 2 at St. Kilda Road (1 in Canal ward + 1 in Lake Ward)
- 2 at Greeves Street (Lake Ward)

The proposal has in principle support from:

- St Kilda Historical Society
- Pakington Street Baptist Church
- St Kilda Gatehouse
- Port Phillip EcoCentre
- Melbourne Water - [REDACTED] | Senior Land & Waterways Planner (Social Outcomes), Land & Collaborative Planning
- Melbourne Water - [REDACTED] – Heritage Advisor (MCultHeritage) Heritage, Facilities & Buildings Services, Service Delivery Group

Given the current fences tell a tale of unsightly neglect, this looks to be a wonderful opportunity to recapture

historic views and beautify two neighbourhood streetscapes.

As a prerequisite to any forthcoming funding and design proposals Melbourne Water would like to see a proposed transfer of ownership of the new screens to a new authority:

*1. Melbourne Water will not take ownership or maintenance responsibility for the proposed fencing hence evidence form council or another authority accepting ownership and maintenance responsibility must be submitted.*

[REDACTED] | Asset Services | Melbourne Water

I hope that you can see the benefits of supporting this proposal (as attached) - and seek your advice in

furthering this project, with a view to council being associated with, and adopting the proposed four new viewing screens.

We would be very happy to meet onsite or over coffee at anytime convenient time.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



A photograph of a stone bridge over a waterway. The bridge has a semi-circular arch and is covered in graffiti. The waterway is a narrow channel with a stone bed and some vegetation. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

~SPRING TO SEA~

~WROUGHT IRON WINDOWS FOR ST KILDA'S MAIN WATERWAY ~

~ SHAKESPEARE GROVE MAIN DRAIN ~

A ST KILDA COMMUNITY PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH LOCAL WATERWAY VIEWS

MANAGED BY MELBOURNE WATER



~SPRING TO SEA~

**\*WROUGHT IRON WINDOWS FOR ST KILDA'S MAIN WATERWAY\***

THE ST KILDA MAIN DRAIN ~ SHAKESPEARE GROVE MAIN DRAIN

A ST KILDA COMMUNITY PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH LOCAL WATERWAY VIEWS

MANAGED BY MELBOURNE WATER

### INTRODUCTION:

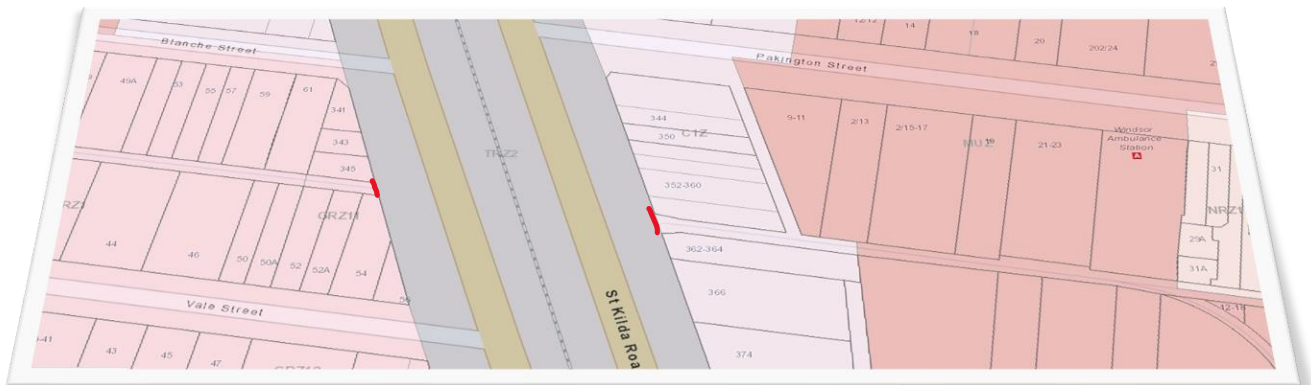
This is a community initiated proposal that seeks to reveal to the public eye a long lost topographical link to our pre-colonial environment. Once an ancient waterway, the St. Kilda Main Drain bore spring waters from just below the Melbourne Warp to the sea. Today, clear views of the channel will also allow us to see how our nascent municipality sought to safeguard early settlement in response to their calls for better conditions as early as 1858. This goldrush era drain remains an important lifesaving culvert and seaward conduit for spring, storm and floodwaters. Opening up the two proposed vistas gives the passer by an opportunity to momentarily pause and retreat from the burden of traffic and the business of the day, in the gentle enjoyment of nature and history's continual flow.



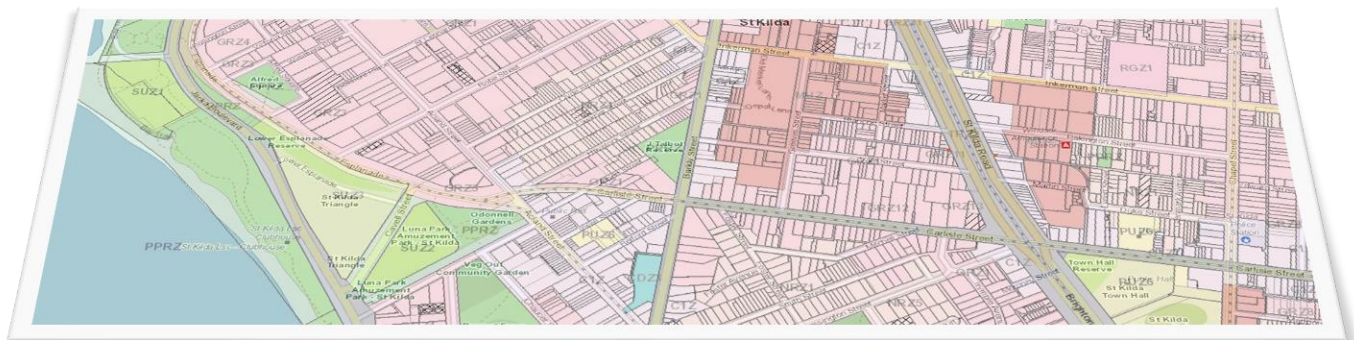
LOCATION:

St Kilda Main Drain on both sides of St Kilda Road, St Kilda, in the City of Port Phillip, between Pakington Street and Martin Street on the east and Blanche Street and Vale Street on the west side of St Kilda Road (see below).

WINDOW VIEWING SITES:



VicPlan street maps





Eastern side – boundary of 362 St Kilda Rd. with the drain. Current timber paling fence w.5840 x h.2510mm.



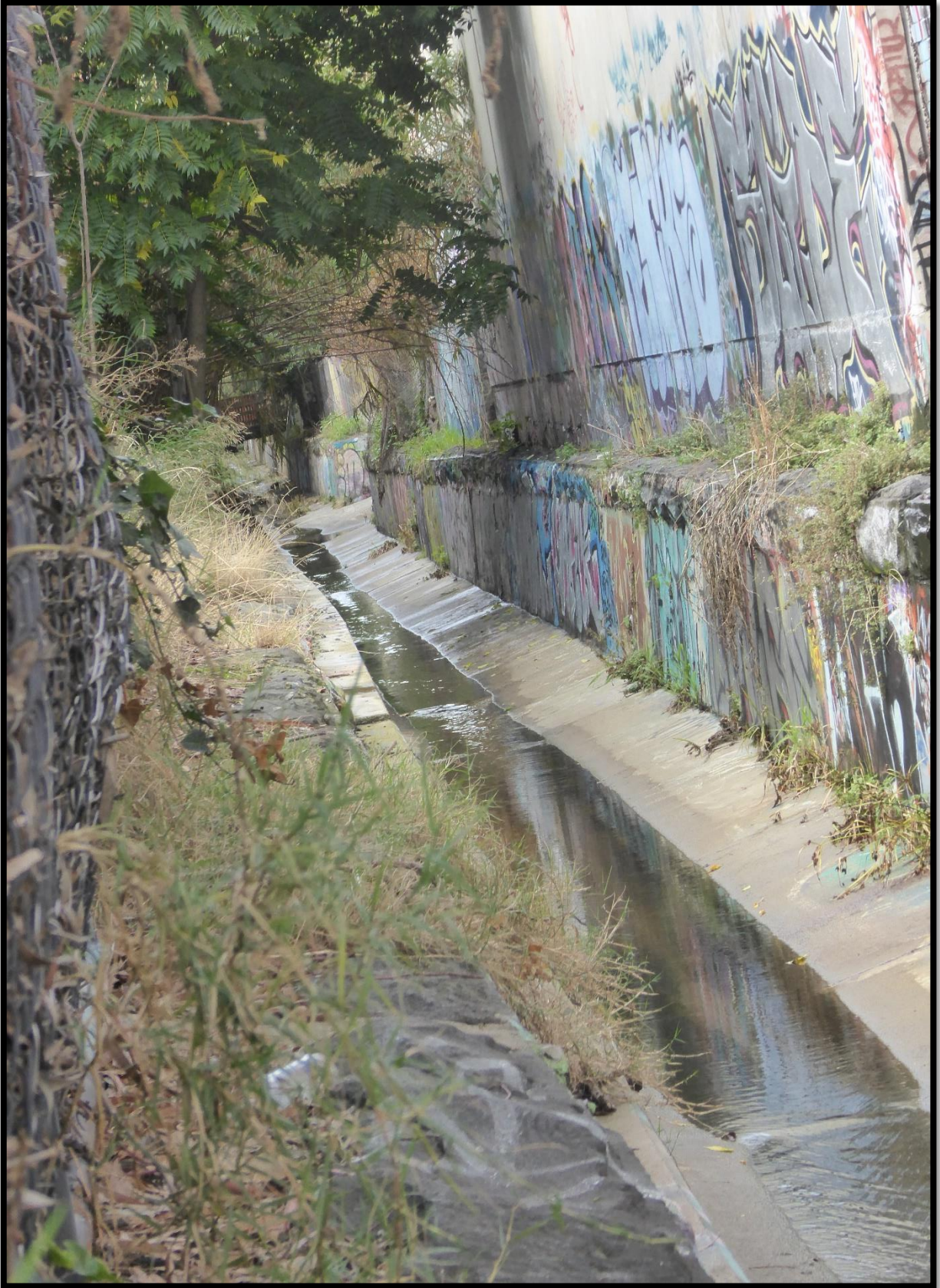
Current eastern view at ground level





Backside of St Kilda Road eastern fence





Longer view from the east towards St Kilda Road





View from the Lynott St. Bridge looking towards St Kilda Road





Western side – boundary of 345 St Kilda Rd. with the drain. Current timber paling fence w.4760 + corner return w.1200 x h.2470mm.





St Kilda Road west paling fence with 1200mm. corner side shown



LOCAL ART:



Martin St. Indigenous sub-station mural



Indigenous mural and dedication ceremony at Pakington St. Baptist Church 18 July 2019

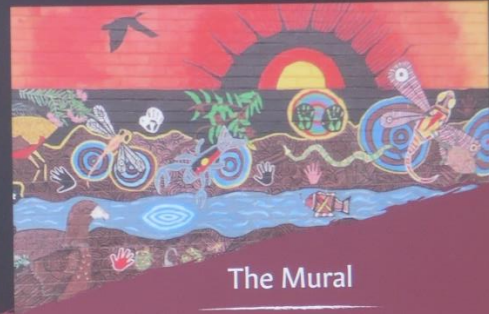




'Freshwater Dreaming' mural dedication plaque and associated Acknowledgement of Ownership of Lands and Waters



# SECRET CREEK



## Secret Creek Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Yalukit Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung people and their elders both past and present as the custodians of the land upon which we meet.

Over the rear fence of our church is a large uncovered drain. This drain is the remains of what once was a delightful stream running from higher ground where St Kilda Cemetery now stands to a wetland in the vicinity of this church and near the site of St Kilda Town Hall.

Right here, where we now stand, was once a place where Boon Wurrung people camped, communed, gathered food, shared their stories and slept. Their cathedral was the forest, their living water directly from the creek and the spirit pervasive as the wind.

## An Invitation

You are invited to walk down the lane to the Secret Creek and reflect on the land on which we stand. As you walk past the mural we encourage you to wonder at the culture of our first nations people and their respect for the land, it's flora and fauna.

## The Mural

Our church invited folk from Winja Ulupna and Galliamble (two local indigenous organisations) to paint a mural that reflects the creek as it was when our first peoples lived here. We feel honoured they agreed to do it, to have this beautiful art, giving recognition to the creek and our acknowledgement of country.

## Deeper River

As a church we acknowledge a spiritual dimension to our world. Living water is a theme for us. No wonder Secret Creek and the Mural are precious to us. We often sing this song Deeper River. We offer it as a prayer to you.

*There's a river running deep within the silence  
of our souls.  
Where the quenching healing waters carve their art.  
At its source a spring of living water surging and  
sustained.  
It's the voice of Jesus waiting for the listening  
of our hearts.  
When the living waters flow in us, when the living  
waters flow again  
They will carry us, they will wash us down, they will  
quench our thirst again.*

Design by Ramtin



PROPOSAL:

To remove existing hoarding that forms a physical and visual barrier to the St. Kilda Main Drain and install decorative wrought iron screens to frame views of the historic bluestone drain while safeguarding viewers.

The screen designs are to be based on natural and historic interpretations that will be open to local contributions; and it is envisaged that the wrought iron screens would be of a similar nature to the Blessington Street Garden Gates: being both extremely solid and aesthetically pleasing (see attachment1). A minimally decorative design approach is also being considered as a more suitable fit that does not seek to embellish the current view (see p.17).

The screens will be constructed to ensure the public's safe enjoyment of the views without encouraging trespass.

It is envisioned that the re-opening of these views will further allow for the original custodian descendants to reconnect with their geographic origins.



BACKGROUND:

The waterway was undoubtedly an important source of food and sustenance for the Bunwurung's local Yalukit Willam (the River People) clan.

The ancient waterway and drain has subsequently become the inspiration for two murals created by First Nations people - the Pakington Street Baptist Church Creek Mural and a smaller mural in Martin Street.

Construction of the St. Kilda Main Drain in 1861 was the result of earlier local community agitation for improved living conditions in the face of drainage dysfunction, drowning and disease. Early fears of flooding was and continues to be a major concern. As such the Main Drain constitutes a significant monument to our social endeavours.

The St. Kilda Main Drain appears to be the first major civil engineering project undertaken by the new municipality formed in 1857.

Over the course of the waterway's history it has provided a place of secluded refuge for the homeless, and also a surreptitious, though secure escape route for those hunted by the constabulary of days' past and present.





PURPOSE:

To help harness people's sense and understanding of place by revealing this historical bluestone waterway and its relationship to the local area's natural drainage: a place that is not only appreciated for its physical attributes, but also for its spiritual and rehabilitative powers.

These new observation locations may engage with the broader community's interest, understanding and awareness of Aboriginal connectedness to the land and its waterways, and so contribute to a more inclusive sense of community.

As increased notice is drawn to the Drain's bluestone pitchers and back-axed bluestone capping blocks, the natural and heritage-worthy basalt will promote the channels' connectedness to neighbouring laneways and streetscapes.

With the addition to existing viewing sites, such as the Lynott St. Bridge, people may visually follow and better understand the flow of our hidden heritage.

To provide additional context for the Pakington St. Baptist Church Aboriginal Creek Mural and other drainway art.

The view eastwards will provide for a valuable view of native flora in that of a significant Eucalypt currently obscured from public appreciation.

To visually enhance and remove portions of urban blight along St Kilda Road, a major pedestrian and vehicular thoroughfare.







Council laneway with significant gum tree on the bank of the Main Drain



AREAS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

The extent to which the metal viewing screens should be decorative as opposed to being purely functional given that the current views also look upon the somewhat degraded condition of the drain that includes graffiti, lots of concrete and weed covered capping stones. The contributors were inclined towards screens with minimal ornamentation should the condition of the sites allow for:

- general tidying up of the two sites
- possibility of minimal indigenous planting in or about the drain
- creating a native plantation by the council laneway gum tree

PROPOSAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Dr. Sophie Couchman, Historian  
Isaac Hermann, Local Historian  
David Brand, Architect

PROPOSAL SUPPORTERS:

St Kilda Historical Society  
St Kilda EcoCentre  
The St Kilda Baptist Church  
St Kilda Gatehouse

PENDING:

Cultural Heritage Reference Committee, City of PP

OTHER SITES: GREEVES STREET

Following independent discussions with the St Kilda Historical Society, the St Kilda EcoCentre, and the St Kilda Baptist Church, all three bodies suggested similar improvement to the two additional sites east and west at Greeves Street, which are currently screened with tall cyclone fencing.



VicPlan map including the suggested Greeves Street sites



Greeves Street East cyclone fence barrier and gate W.4000 x H.2110mm.



Greeves Street West cyclone fence barrier and gate W.4000 x H.2110mm.



REFERENCES:

<https://podtail.com/podcast/my-marvellous-melbourne/episode-13-st-kilda-main-drain/>

<https://sophiecouchman.com/portfolio/the-balaclava-flatites-and-an-historic-bluestone-drain/>

<https://vimeo.com/388397834/e0377d6fc7>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VTi7TEXvis>

<https://www.urban.com.au/news/vic/100488-from-molten-lava-to-cobbled-laneways-how-bluestone-shaped-melbourne-stephanie-trigg>

<https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/yshk1ahm/activating-laneways-strategy-copp-july-2011-adopted-22-august-2011.pdf>

[https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/eydixdls/heritage\\_kerbs\\_channels\\_and\\_laneways.pdf](https://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/media/eydixdls/heritage_kerbs_channels_and_laneways.pdf)

'A Fine and Private Place' by Brian Matthews, Picador, 2000



A Main Drain Angel



Attachment 1: Images of St Kilda Gardens' wrought iron gates for style reference

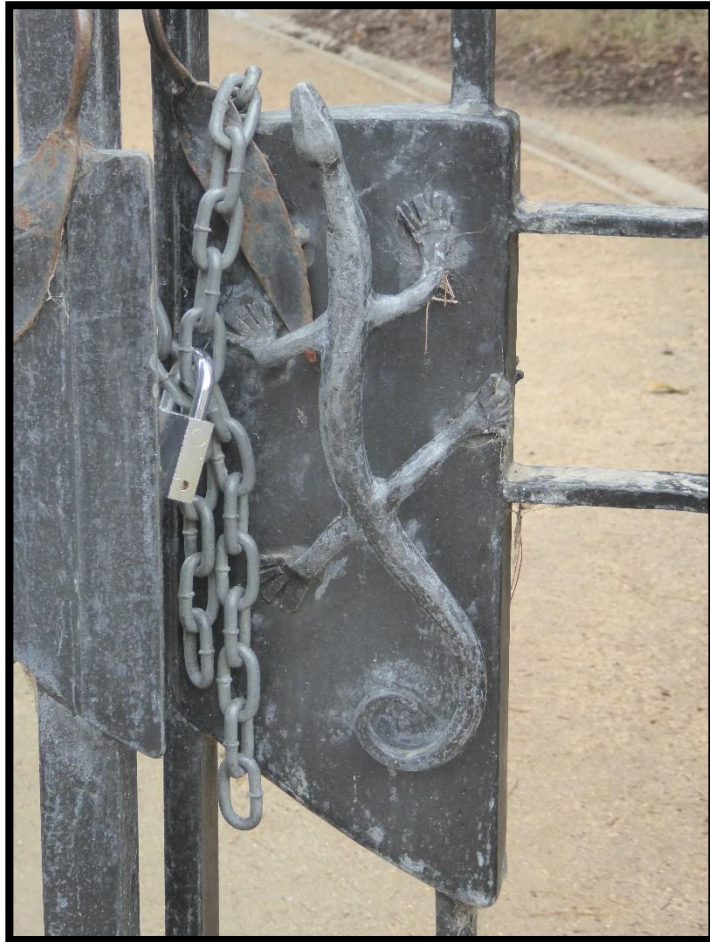


















CBR-2023.003

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent on:** Tuesday, January 17, 2023 5:08:04 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**CC:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Beacon Cove floating dock  
**Attachments:** previous letters.pdf (683.31 KB), piers.pdf (1.63 MB)

⚠ [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.⚠

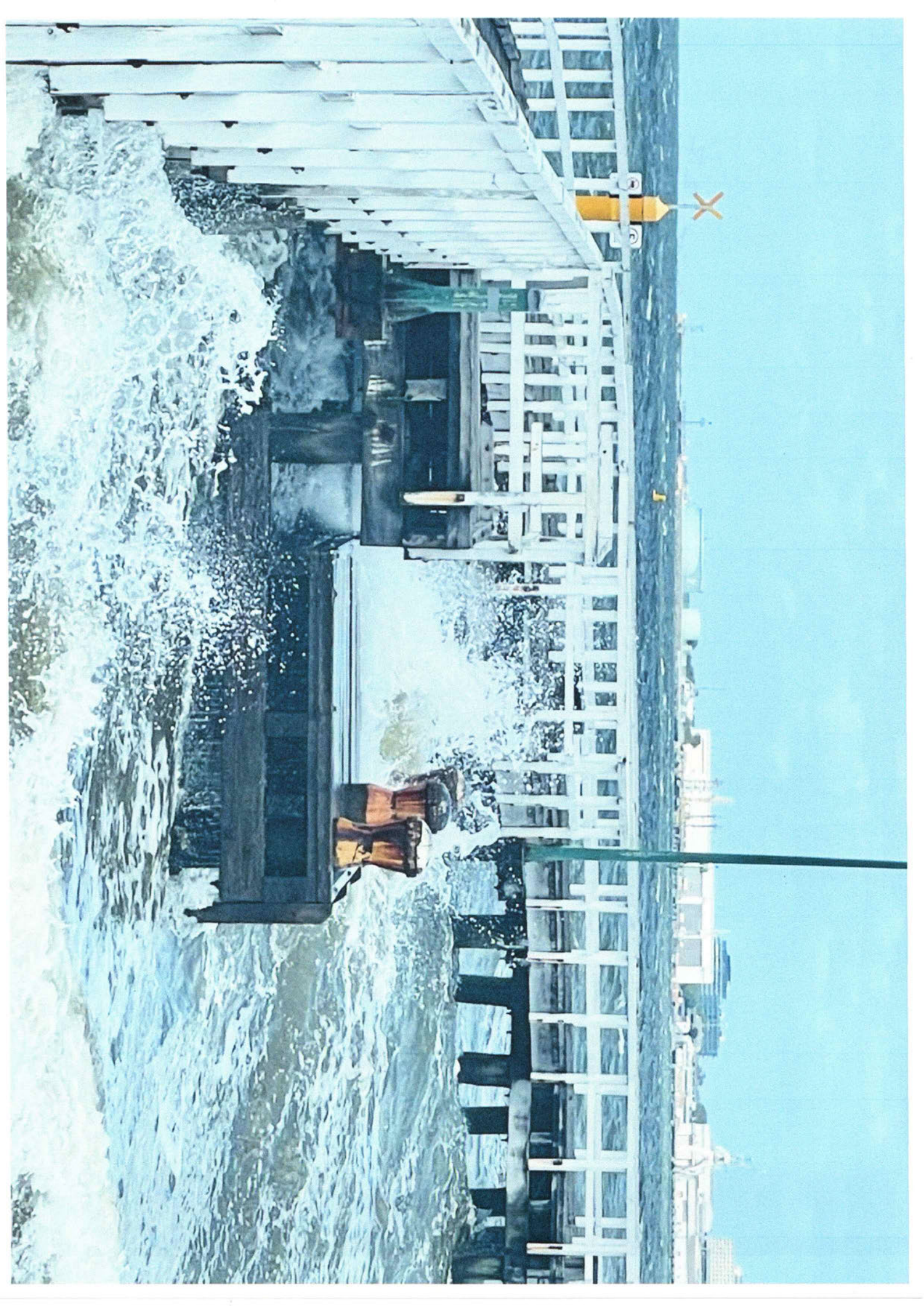
Attn: The Honourable Lord Mayor,  
Further to the correspondence attached ( previous letters).  
I am just following up on various correspondence relating to the proposed floating dock at Beacon Cove.  
At this time, I have heard noting from the council. I was verbally informed that a manager would be appointed to look at this project and discuss the various needs with the different groups. The Port Melbourne Yacht Club (PMYC) has not been approached at this time.  
I have attached some photos of Kerford Rd pier, and Lagoon pier in a storm. They are totally unsuitable for docking any craft in an emergency. The only protected safe anchorage is Beacon cove, but it is not suitable for small boats.  
As previously offered, I am happy to assist where I can on behalf of PMYC.  
Thank you  
*Warm Regards*

[REDACTED] . [REDACTED] )  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]











CBR-2023.004

19<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Councillor Marcus Pearl  
Mayor  
City Of Port Phillip

Dear Councillor Marcus Pearl,

Thankyou for your reply (File Ref: CBR-022) dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, to my letter to City of Port Phillip earlier in 2022.

I have lived in apt [REDACTED] for just over a year now. I walk my dog almost daily around the immediate neighbourhood bounded by St Kilda Road, Coventry Street, Park Street and Kings Way.

I continue to be appalled and disappointed by the human debris left on the pavements. Daily I see plastic, polystyrene, tissues, food wrappers. This morning the food rubbish from overflowing bins and discarded furniture in the laneway, west/east between Park St and Bank Street was beyond disgusting.

At times I have seen human faeces in laneways, used tampons and nappies.

I look around the streets and continue to see that the grass on nature strips is often unmown especially in front of the takeaway shops on Wells and Banks corner where there are patches of dirt that turn into mud after rains. The grass on Dorcas St between Wells and Kingsway on the North side is often soggy. I query if the drainage is adequate.

The trees on Wells, Park, Bank, Dorcas, Coventry have large root systems that are trip hazards.

Weeds grow from buildings on the foot paths and laneways.

Yes the population is dense in this area and there is a mass of residential towers that cast shadows and create wind tunnels. Wells Street is particularly a strong wind tunnel with wind blowing from the South.

The rubbish is collected but after some collections especially of hard rubbish I have seen broken glass, bricks, even a toilet left behind. Obviously, the rubbish collectors do not inspect the piles to see they have collected all.

This morning a neighbour said syringes were discarded out the front of her building in Bank Street!

Of course, rubbish is collected more frequently along St Kilda Road! Its akin to what and who matter – the face of our St Kilda Road, boulevard to the City, verses what is behind and out of sight.

If I had known of the ugliness and filth, I have described in this area prior to me buying I would not have moved into this building/area. I pay huge rates. I did not buy a slum for my neighbourhood. I am disappointed.

The area is ugly, and I repeat dirty. There are no shaded or attractive treed pockets, away from the wind blowing and rubbish, for people to sit, chat, meet; nowhere for dogs and there are many dogs in the area.

Soon new buildings will go up to block our view (Wells Street between Park and Bank). I ask you – do these proposed buildings address street connection – a people friendly area at street level that considers people and people movement, or will they be more ugly towers that cram in people and maximize revenue for the City of Port Phillip? Why cannot the City of Port Phillip purchase a block or several of land and make them people friendly zones instead of just cramming in another tower. You, the City of PP make a lot of money from this area! Surely you can give us something back. I think you call such areas 'Places for People' 'public realm zones'?

A new residential tower, Domain Tower in Bank Street, opened last week for new residents – one tree out front on the nature strip is dead – why has it not been replaced?

In our building the average age is 70 years. We do not want more bike tracks. We want garden areas that are maintained.

If, as you say, you have plans in your 2022-32 Strategy to provide such spaces a lot of our residents may not be alive to enjoy them. Do you put construction of towers as priority?

With additional towers/population what consideration have you made for the increase in cars wanting to drive through the area and/or park?

I received a reply from a City of Port Phillip arborist in response to my concern about tree roots – he asked for photos – If he knows this neighbourhood and trees, he does not need my photos. I found his reply lazy and distrustful. He would surely know what I meant!

Recently a notification 'have your say about dogs' came – I do not see a lot of dog faeces on pavements compared with human rubbish. I am not disturbed by barking dogs.

When I look around the streets, I consider the values of people who dump rubbish. I reply to myself that why ought litterers care the area looks as though no one cares!

I look forward to your reply of concern and action with dates, please.

I do not want a reply from an arborist who appears to not leave his desk.

Thankyou





**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** reply to CBR-022  
**Date:** Sunday, 19 February 2023 8:17:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Councillor Marcus Pearl.docx](#)

---

**[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.**

Dear Councillor Marcus Pearl,  
Thankyou for your reply to my concern about rubbish and a physically ugly environment.  
I regret my whinging however the situation has not changed. Please refer to my attached letter.  
Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 February 2023 12:27 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for Fitzroy Street

??? [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments.???

Hi Chris, Lauren and Andrew,

Firstly thank you for a great weekend for the area, with the return of the St Kilda Festival.

I have included a proposal developed by one of our traders which I would to be considered for the upcoming budget. Although final costings are yet to be finalised.

With further council investment with this proposal, we can build upon change already initiated by the murals commissioned on Little Fitzroy Street via the Love my Place grants. An area avoided by locals and visitors alike, the current CoPP investment has seen the area growing as a focal point for locals. With the creation of the Fitzroy Street Steps we shall see the area further enhanced. I am glade we have a couple of very active traders in this area which are helping build a new narrative for Fitzroy Street.

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Fitzroy Street Business Association

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



# REDEFINING GEORGE LANE & LITTLE GREY STREET LANE

CREATING A PURPOSEFUL VIBRANT ST KILDA LANEWAY PRECINCT



## THE AIM

Bring Life, Excitement and Vibrancy to an unused space. To create a 'place to be'. An ever changing green, arts and cultural space.

## THE BENEFITS

As seen in the Melb CBD COPP laneways should be international renowned for Street Art bringing Tourists.

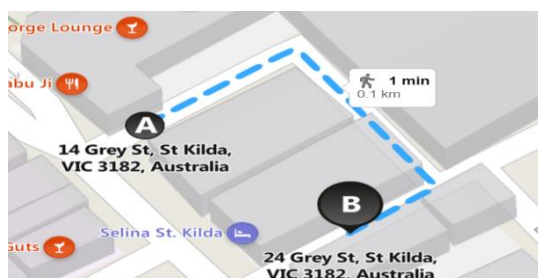
This project would further enhance councils' vision to make the space more sustainable and greener.

The reduction of graffiti and rubbish dumping.

The creation of a precinct for visitors and locals to enjoy.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

The horseshoe laneways from George Lane (entry from Grey Street) to Little Grey Street (exit Grey Street) are poorly maintained, disused and are a haven for drug use, rubbish dumping. Council has an opportunity to create a dynamic, green and exciting space for little cost that will transform the space from dreary and unused to a world class destination for visitors and locals alike.



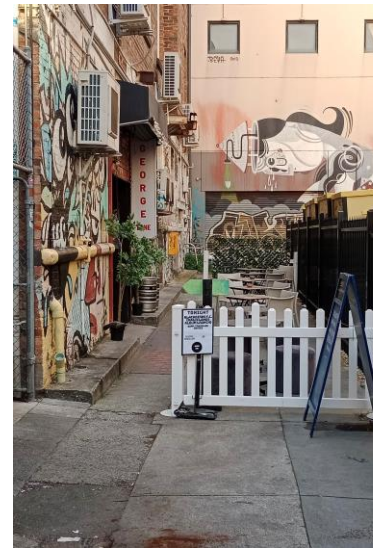


Since 2020 George Lane Live Music Venue has used the rear of George Lane for an outdoor activation. This activation has not affected any other traders, residents or the local community in a negative way it has completely changed the streetscape of the Lane from a dead dangerous area to a thriving, dynamic space when we are trading.

Specifically, the activation has.

1. Worked with COPP's vision to add to the Live Music ecosystem by creating a street front entrance to George Lane significantly changing the visual outlook of the lane from Grey / Fitzroy St.
2. Allowing the community to reconnect in a dedicated live music space.
3. Created a Hub for Live Music in the Grey / Fitzroy Street area.
4. Reduced significantly illegal rubbish dumping at the rear of the lane.
5. Reduced the impact of drug taking and dumping at the rear of the lane

As you can see the activation has lifted the space and created a sense of purpose to the rear of the lane.



When the activation is not in the site the lane is empty and is prone to illegal parking and dumping. George Lane the Venue has been granted a permit to continue to deliver the outdoor activation. The Next obvious step is to create a precinct in the laneways of George Lane & Little Grey.

## CREATING ART

Further assisting creating this space are murals that have been granted permission by COPP delivered by Colin Sheppard. One is on the corner of Little Grey & George Lane (The Birthday Party) and one on Little Grey and Grey Street (Renee). Already many people are taking photos and visiting.

Colin has been granted permission by the property owners to continue with more murals.

It would be ideal for the murals to continue around the entire horseshoe of the proposed precinct from George Lane to Little Grey. Thus, creating the walkable vibrant laneway. Other local Artists should also be invited to contribute to project with a St Kilda focus.

It is well known that the Melbourne Laneways are economically beneficial to all. This unique opportunity has so many benefits to St Kilda and specifically the Fitzroy St / Grey Street area.

Public art reflects and enriches our society and adds meaning to place and uniqueness to our communities. St Kilda have a long history of supporting public art through developer contributions, private and public commissions, street art and ephemeral projects.

The public art George Lane / Little Grey ST will create a new and unique way for people to engage in the experience of being outdoors and revitalise this public space and the built neighbourhood.





**THE WALL SPACE STILL AVAILABLE**

LITTLE GREY STREET

LOOKING FROM GREY ST TO GEORGE LANE



THE TOP OF THE HORSESHOE OF GEORGE LANE  
LOOKING TO LITTLE GREY STREET



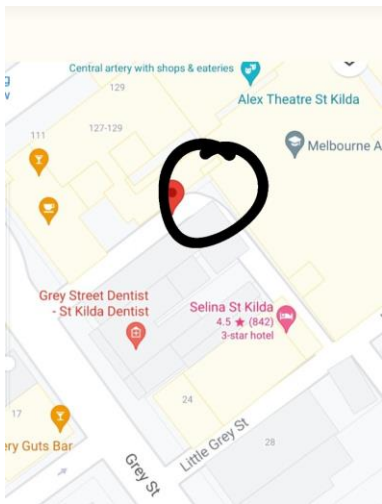
## THE HURDLES

### NOT MANY!

There is a need for quality maintenance and practical design given the challenges of the current urban environment.

1.

The link between the rear of George Lane and the top of George Lane as you can see by these images needs work as its currently unsafe, unpaved and dangerous. This area needs landscaping and paving to ensure it is safe, walkable and wheelchair accessible. This will be the biggest change along with the art to create the urban laneway feel.



Some concepts of what could be created in this space is a native garden with pergola, native planting with sleeper steps. Additional lighting would also be required. Estimated costs \$35 - \$45k



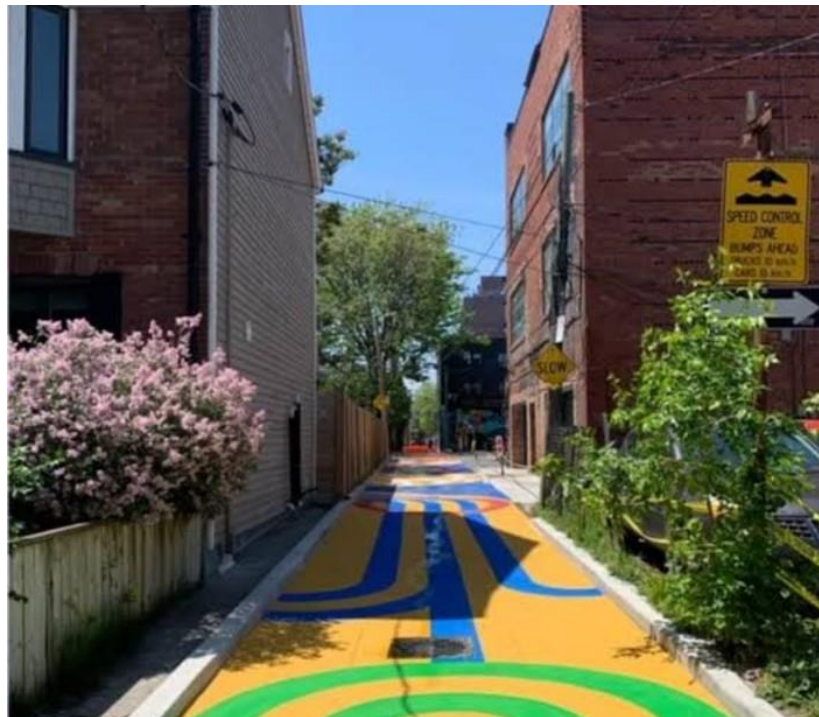


2.

A further ongoing budget to deliver the murals which we understand Colin has already been approved.

3.

Other Art installations including over head and treatment to the paved ground surfaces to create an eclectic feel. Images provided















**BCNA Submission to City of Port Phillip 2023-24 Planning and Budget cycle**

**Beacon Cove Neighbourhood Association Inc. (Registered Number A0012597Z)**

**PO Box 5042, Garden City, Vic 3207**

**President:** [REDACTED]

**Secretary:** [REDACTED]

The BCNA commends the following actions, in priority order, for funding and implementation by Council.

**1. Hoon driving and excessive motor vehicle noise**

BCNA thanks the Mayor, Councillors and Council staff for support and work with the community on the honing problem around Station Pier. We assert this is an ongoing concern across the City of Port Phillip and are aware of Council's advocacy to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). We note the recent CoPP confirmation that a raised crosswalk will be implemented at Waterfront Place and commend this as an important step to protect our residents. However, more work needs to be done to ensure enduring improvement across the City.

*Specifically, the BCNA requests:*

- *funding for the design and construction of a full width speed hump on the western side of the Waterfront Place circle, outside the Mr Hobson restaurant.*
- *reallocation of a council officer to participate in the Hoon Community Reference Group sponsored by Road Safety Victoria. A CoPP officer attended the first 2 meetings of that group but has not attended since. This will be important as the final report to the Minister nears completion.*
- *advocacy to the MAV to investigate the emerging introduction of acoustic cameras in overseas jurisdictions.*

**2. Waterfront Place Precinct**

The BCNA has been advocating for improvements to the Waterfront Place precinct for a number of years. The entire area is becoming increasingly shabby and forlorn, yet it remains a primary entry point for visitors to Victoria and this is through the City of Port Phillip. The BCNA has written to the State Government urging government leadership to review and plan for the area to improve functioning and amenity and we seek active CoPP support for this initiative.

In the near term, construction has started on the development at 103 Beach St and that, when completed, will enhance the area. However, the CoPP is responsible for areas around this site, and these will require careful planning and attention to achieve an optimum result. In particular, the council parking between this building and Beach St needs to be addressed.

*BCNA recommends proactive, co-operative, action by the City of Port Phillip with Ports Victoria, the Victorian Government, and lease holders in the area to improve this situation.*

**3. Additional beach cleaning and drain clearing at the head of Princes Street drain, Port Melbourne**

The BCNA continues an ongoing dialogue with Melbourne Water (MW) regarding the unsightly mouth of the Princes St drain where it opens into the Bay. In our latest meeting, MW informed us of options they had considered to address the issue, but determined the options were too costly without surety of success. Consequently, they informed us of discussions with the CoPP to ensure more timely cleaning of the drain mouth by the CoPP and ongoing removal of the sandbar that accumulates.

*BCNA requests additional beach cleaning be scheduled after major rain events in the catchment area for the Princes Street drain and that the drain mouth is kept clear so water does not pool on the beach.*

## BCNA Submission to City of Port Phillip 2023-24 Planning and Budget cycle

### 4. Off-leash areas for dogs

The laws and areas for dog visitation are becoming increasingly complex and the number of dogs in the City has significantly increased. Residents have complained that relevant laws are not enforced in some parks and on our beaches. Notably, Port Melbourne beach suffers from wandering dogs throughout the summer, as it is adjacent to the off-leash dog area near the Port Melbourne Yacht Club. This creates a dangerous situation for adults and children.

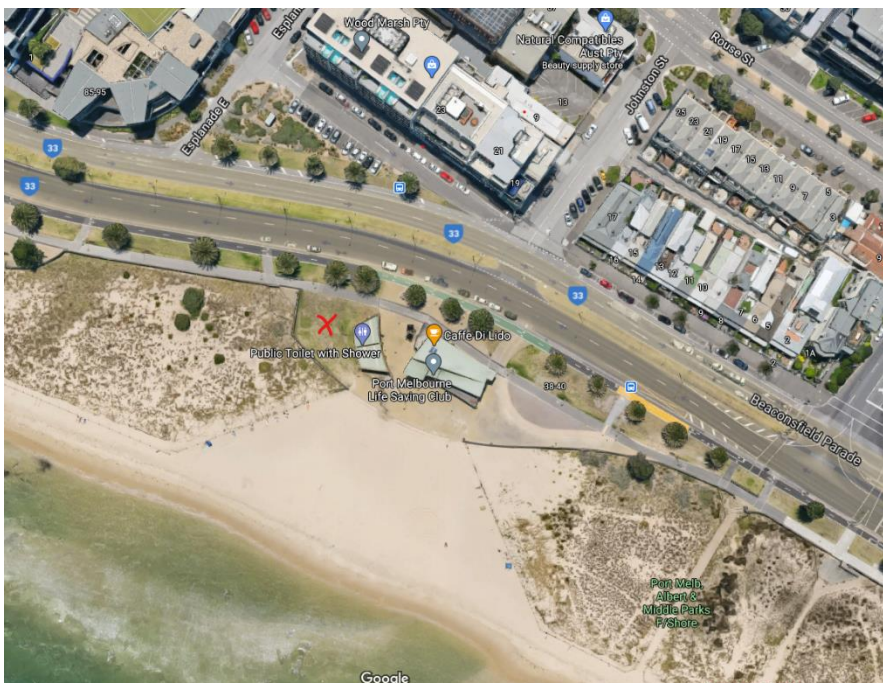
*BCNA requests Council increase signage and enforcement activities in areas where dogs are expected to be on leads. Regarding the beaches, we recommend signs on the beach clearly showing where dog areas start and finish.*

### 5. Proposal for a family reserve next to the Port Melbourne Lifesaving Clubhouse.

In 2019, the BCNA supported a proposal for this family reserve. We now resurrect the proposal, previously submitted, for a community picnic site and rest area next to the clubhouse.

Immediately to the west of the existing clubhouse (which is managed by the CoPP) are council toilets and change rooms. Behind the toilet building is a grassed area enclosed with a low bluestone fence, which segregates it from the beach. To the best of our knowledge, this is crown land under management by the CoPP.

The area in question is marked with a red X in the snip below. For many years, this area has sat unused and unloved, although it is prime beachfront. Prior to the Covid years, the CoPP had indicated that Bay Trail lighting would be installed in the area of the Port Melbourne Lifesaving clubhouse and further down the Bay. Some plans were in place to refurbish the area when the lighting finished. However, the lighting was not undertaken and the area has deteriorated again.



The BCNA now revitalises the proposal for community use of the area, subject to some relatively minor enhancement work by the City.

We believe the area would be ideal for a community picnic site with shade protection. To properly equip it, we suggest several tables and a cleanup sink, all under a shade sail stretched from the toilet block or with a



## BCNA Submission to City of Port Phillip 2023-24 Planning and Budget cycle

stand-alone roof and shelter. Further we suggest creating short meandering paths interwoven with grass and native plants.

There are numerous benefits to this idea.

- 1) This will address the lack of picnic areas along bayside. The closest is at Sandridge to the northwest and there is no on-beach picnic area between Sandridge and St Kilda.
- 2) A shade sail or roof will provide shade and allow families to enjoy the beach area but with protection from the sun.
- 3) Any picnic area should have an adjacent toilet and that is already in situ.
- 4) Parking is readily available along Beaconsfield Parade.
- 5) The site accommodates DDA access as there are no steps between this and the adjacent roadway.
- 6) Council rubbish collection is already servicing this area around the clubhouse.

The diagram following with BBQs was previously submitted, but it is renewed here to generate discussion. Our current proposal does not include BBQs, but suggest they not be discounted for the future.



### 6. Graffiti removal and prevention

Graffiti is a continuing problem in Beacon Cove and nearby areas.

*BCNA recommends that Council continue to devote sufficient resources to ensure the prompt removal of graffiti and for prevention programs.*

[End]

**CBR-2023.007**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 March 2023 3:10 PM

**To:** He [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Velodrome

⚠ [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments. ⚠

Hi!

I was just wondering if there are plans afoot for a velodrome similar to the one at Packer Park in Carnegie for the Port Phillip area?

Often cycling training includes interval training which requires a space where you don't have to worry about traffic.

Currently the closest velodromes are in Hawthorn (it's a poor quality) and Carnegie (17 kms away from my home).

Albert Park would be perfect for a Velodrome but I know this is Parks Vic land.

I look forward to your thoughts.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



CBR-2023.008

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, April 28, 2023 3:32 pm

**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Cc:** Tim Baxter - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** National Theatre - critical works costs update

**⚠ [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments. ⚠**

Dear Heather, Christina,

Thank you for taking the time this morning to meet with me at The National Theatre to discuss the jeopardy around the critical works at this historic venue for the City of Port Phillip.

This total project cost is \$800k; we have received a \$300k investment from Creative Victoria who understands how important it is that this heritage theatre receives the funding needed to keep this building safe.

The funds will repair the awning and prevent further water ingress and decay, and no more patchwork fixes.

We have raised a further \$350k over 2 years from philanthropic trusts and foundations.

We have a gap of \$150k and to retain the \$300k from Creative Victoria I need to move to contract with the builder. I do not have the comfort to do so until we have narrowed this funding gap.

The costs to the City Of Port Phillip (provided to my preferred builders, Abode Restoration) are:

**• Street occupation for occupying the space when we use the footpath \$25,000**

For every m2 of council space we use we are being asked to pay per day of use. We have allowed for 80 days of occupation of the council footpath.

- Permit application fees. \$900
- Asset protection bond \$12,500 - this amount is a little unknown and will be refunded to us once we complete the job.
- Report and consent \$287.50

I am asking the City of Port Phillip to waive the \$25,000 of fees.

If the City of Port Phillip confirms this can happen we will be able to move forward to contract with the builders. Once we move forward to contract, Creative Victoria will release the final \$100k of their \$300k investment.

There is no other organisation in the City of Port Phillip that offers all that we do. If there is anything that we can do for the City of Port Phillip in terms of a partnership I am very open to collaborating and discussing that e.g. offering our space for free for CoPP networking events, business events, or to members of the community-. providing areas of socialising and engagement for elderly community

Please let me know if there is any more information you require.

Best wishes and many thanks,

[REDACTED]

I cc in [REDACTED] who are aware to a certain extent of the critical works.

[REDACTED]

**National Theatre CEO**

[REDACTED]



**CBR-2023.009**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, 1 May 2023 11:56 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Port Melbourne Tennis Club - assistance with budget submission request for court Resurfacing

. **[External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments..**

To Port Melbourne Ward Councillors and Councillor Andrew Bond

I am emailing regarding Port Melbourne Tennis Club again. (Apologies for bombarding you with a second email so soon.)

We are presently planning to resurface the PMTC courts. Because of the significant amount of use by the 250 + members, we need to replace the uneven, worn surface on the 3 courts in the near future. We have investigated different builders and have settled on using E.T. Richards who have had a relationship with PMTC for a long time and know the property well.

Because the PMTC is a Council owned facility, we would anticipate that the Port Phillip Council would be looking to support this rebuild by contributing something towards the cost. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Sports and Recreation) has been corresponding with me and has advised that we can now proceed with a Budget Submission. It appears we are required to do this using the HaveYourSay page, but after examination of the process I am unsure that will work for this request. [REDACTED] has advised that we are looking at getting into Volume 3. However I can't easily respond to the website questions in a way which explains what PMTC is asking.

To put it simply, we are asking that a money amount be added in the budget towards the PMTC Courts Resurfacing project scheduled for this year. At this stage we have some funds saved for this work, but because it is Council Property a contribution from Council would be more than welcome.

The PMTC is over 130 years old. As the only tennis club in the Port Melbourne area, we are kept very busy catering for over 250 members of all ages and abilities. To continue being able to do this, we need to resurface the courts this year i.e. replace the existing En Tous Cas surface (which

is worn thin, uneven and is now slippery when wet) with a synthetic surface which will make it considerably easier for lots of use by our local community for a long time to come.

Your assistance to get PMTC in the 2023 Budget for any amount would be very much appreciated. Please email me with any questions you have about PMTC and the potential rebuild.

We have a courts sub-committee which is presently looking into what Council permits etc are needed for the work to proceed.

Regards [REDACTED] (Secretary PMTC)

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 February 2023 10:45 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Report of maintenance

⚠ [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments. ⚠

Hi Lauren,

I hope you are well. Do you have the report of the maintenance of this iconic fountain in St Kilda that is currently not working --

I contacted my client who may have contact to fix the



pump.



Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

T [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **Funding Request – waterfront Welcomers 2023/2024**

The Waterfront Welcomers Program has had a very successful 2022/2023 Season operating at Waterfront Place, Station Pier. The trained volunteers have provided passengers and crew information on Port Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip. This has provided the volunteers with a reason to be back at the Pier and helping anyone that approaches them. They have met 112 cruise ships and provided 1437 volunteer hours. We have taken on another 6 volunteers this season and they have been trained up to provide the great service that Waterfront Welcomers are renowned for. One of our new volunteers provided the following comment “ **I enjoyed my first year of volunteering at Station Pier as a Waterfront Welcomer. I particularly enjoyed the volunteers that I met whilst on my shifts. I certainly learnt on the job! I enjoyed volunteering and look forward to next season “**.

With Waterfront Place being revitalised to accommodate more businesses to act as a key gateway to Port Phillip while encouraging visitors to explore Port Melbourne and the wider Port Phillip Council area. This in turn boosts local social/cultural/economic activity.

The program involves over 50 volunteers and this season the volunteers have greeted over 9576 visitors.

Waterfront Welcomers was initiated by COPP in 2014 as a key part of the Council Waterfront Activation strategic initiative: To revitalise the precinct and encourage cruise ship passengers to remain in the Port Phillip Council area, energising and bringing economic & social benefit to the local communities.

Station Pier is the second major visitor gateway in Victoria (after Melbourne Airport) and has been the major gateway for over 100 cruise ships and 215,000 passengers a year to Melbourne & Port Phillip.

Prior to Waterfront Welcomers, an estimated 90-95% of those visitors didn't remain in Port Phillip, instead taking their tourist dollar directly to the CBD. Since the Welcomers was established, they have greeted up to 12,000 cruise ship visitors a year, and divert a high percentage of visitors greeted to the local area, contributing significant resources to the local economy.

A key benefit of the WW program is the ability to measure the impact that the program makes on the economy and social fabric of the community, as well as enhancing the positive reputation of Port Phillip. Surveys from cruise passengers after arriving home consistently rate WW and Station Pier one of the most highly regarded in the world due to the unique and satisfying welcome they receive. Many comments are received from the visitors and some of them are “You do this as volunteers, Best greeting in the World, Most friendly volunteers, You are so helpful etc “

WW Engages over 50+ older isolated residents in active volunteering, providing skills and increasing well-being, and civic pride. This promotes a positive attitude towards Port Phillip by domestic and international visitors and Southport Community Centre (SPCC) is well placed to manage Waterfront Welcomers.

SPCC has successfully managed the Waterfront Welcomers for a number of years and have developed a highly experienced and dedicated team of staff and volunteers.



We have developed excellent relationships with key stakeholders - City of Port Phillip, Port Melbourne Business Association, Port of Melbourne, Station Pier Management, Victorian Ports Corporation, PTV, Star Health and Port Melbourne Rotary.

SPCC 's experience, our local knowledge, and networks are assets used to make the Waterfront Welcomers program (WW) a success without the cost of developing additional systems and processes. Waterfront Welcomers has clear benefits for volunteers and is highly regarded by visitors who use the service.

Our proposal for the 2023/2024 Cruise Ship Season is to continue to facilitate the program with our 50+ volunteers and with Council supporting the program with funding of \$20,000 in the financial year of 2023/2024. The \$20,000 would be spent in the following manner:

Program Co-ordinator	\$12,000
Uniform replacement	\$ 2,000
Brochure Stands x 2	\$ 900
Uniform Dry Cleaning	\$ 600
In House Training	\$ 2,000
Volunteer Advertising	\$ 1,000
Volunteer recognition Event	\$ 1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>

For this we would operate the WW program for the Cruise Ship Season, recruit train and manage the 50+ volunteers to deliver over 1000 volunteer hours greeting in excess of 7,500 passengers and crew by greeting each Cruise Ship that arrives at Station Pier.

We would provide information to passengers to visit key sites within the Port Phillip Council area and in partnership with the Port Melbourne Business Assoc. support local businesses.

To have a successful program you need to start recruiting and training in July and August ready for the first cruise ship expected in September/October.

The volunteers are keen to see the program continue for the 2023/24 season.

**In summary the program will provide vibrancy to Station Pier, welcome and support visitors to the City of Port Phillip, allow volunteers to provide knowledge and experience of their local area which they love. Bring tourist \$\$'s and financial gain into the City of Port Phillip.**

Kind regards

[Redacted Signature]

Manager, Southport Community Centre

[Redacted Address Line 1]

[Redacted Address Line 2]



## **Older Persons Advisory Committee (OPAC)**

### **Submission to the 2023/2024 Council Budget**

OPAC is the key advisory Committee to Council providing advice, advocacy and feedback on issues that affect the health and wellbeing of older residents in the City of Port Phillip, including those raised by older residents.

The Council Plan 2021-31 Strategic Direction “Inclusive Port Phillip” states that ‘Council will partner with our Committee to ensure the diversity of our community’s experience is represented in decision making’.



On behalf of OPAC I would like to present to Council our submission for the Draft 2023/24 Council Budget. This has been considered in line with OPAC's Key Focus Areas outlined in the OPAC 2023 Action Plan and also under Council's Strategic Directives:

- Inclusive Port Phillip
- Liveable Port Phillip
- Sustainable Port Phillip
- Vibrant Port Phillip
- Well-Governed Port Phillip

We have split our submission into three areas:

1. Additional funding requested
2. No additional budget required
3. Minimal funding required

We look forward to Council's response to our submission.



Chair  
Older Persons Advisory Committee

## **Additional Funding Requested**

### **Community Bus**

We have heard from residents that remembering to book the Community Bus 24 hours beforehand has caused some to stop using the service. OPAC advocate for the Council to investigate the feasibility of the Community Bus providing a Hop On Hop Off service on South Melbourne Market Days (Wed, Fri) only and continue with the booking service on the other days.

As more residents use the service again, and become familiar with how it is working, we hope that this invaluable service for residents who don't drive or find it easy to move around Port Phillip without assistance will grow.

### **Diversity – hard copy to be posted if requested**

OPAC are happy that hard copies of Diversity are available in ASSIST offices and libraries. Diversity is an important method of communication to residents and needs to be accessible to all residents. The voices of residents living alone, with mobility issues, with low/no digital literacy, those with ESL and/or limited visitors to help them find relevant information is vital for diversity of feedback from a broad group of residents.

Unless you have registered on Council's website or are a regular visitor to the site, many residents do not know the issues Council is considering. Providing them with a hard copy of Diversity would assist. Diversity also spreads word of the amazing work Council is doing - in the space of housing and homelessness for example.

Given the reliance on community feedback via Have your Say, residents need notice of what issues are live and where they can provide their valuable feedback. The Neighbourhood pop-ups are advertised on the Have Your Say website but for those who don't or can't readily access this, they may not know when these public sessions take place.

We are not proposing a blanket mail out – but for those who request it, a copy be mailed. We understand the increased postage cost, but we note regular mail/letter box drops from Council occur when any number of local events (e.g. St Kilda Festival) may impact on residents and feel a small number of hard-copy Diversity will not be onerous.



## **Disabled Advisory Committee**

We note that the Accessibility Action Plan is currently open for review and OPAC will be making a submission including the need for a dedicated Advisory Committee. Although OPAC considers accessibility for older residents within our Annual Plan, other Advisory Committees may not (asked at the Joint Advisory Committee meeting March 21 2023).

## **No additional budget required (at this time)**

### **Positive Ageing Policy**

OPAC was extremely proud to be part of the development of Council's Positive Ageing Policy (currently in Draft). We look forward to providing further input to how this Policy will be implemented under the Strategic Directives. Feedback provided during Community consultation via Have Your Say was positive and agreed with OPAC's position that the policy is sound, but needs to be backed up with implementation.

In particular, one of OPAC's highest priorities is the continuation of Council Home Services. One of the five pillars of the Federal Government's Aged Care Reforms plan for aged care is home care, ageing in place. We are aware that funding will change and that Council has been seen to be providing a subsidised service which is seen as having an advantage over other market participants.

Bayside City Council has become an Aged Care Provider whilst other Councils have stepped away from providing home care services at all. OPAC is grateful that regular communication has been provided by Allison Kenwood and her team, and especially that a consultant (previously with Bayside City Council) has been appointed to consider this issue.

The safety and security of our all residents must be a priority in Inclusive and Liveable Port Phillip. And our older residents, currently around 1 in 5 of all residents over the age of 60, increased by over 18% in the last six years and will continue to grow in the future. (Statistics taken from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census as used in the Positive Ageing Policy).

We would like all Councillors to watch the [Bayside City Council meeting](#) held 15 March 2022 when the decision to become an Aged Care Provider was unanimously and passionately supported by all

Councillors. (The relevant discussion starts at 1 hr 38 mins in and goes for approximately 15 minutes).

## **Linking Neighbours & Community Services**

OPAC strongly supports the continuation of Linking Neighbours and Community Services under Liveable Port Phillip. There is a large cohort of older residents living alone (34%) and the ability to stay in touch with both Council and other residents ensures they live the best life they can.

## **Lowering the age for access to fee waiver for use of Council facilities**

We understand that the use of community facilities for residents over the age of 65 is currently waived where 65% of attendees are aged over 65 and living in CoPP. We request that the age be lowered to 60 in line with Positive Ageing Policy.

U3A is an important provider of lifelong learning to residents in the City of Port Phillip. U3A has no lower age limit and is open to everyone who is retired or semi-retired. Lowering the age to 60 would enable them to continue to provide free or low-cost programs to members who are by and large, CoPP residents.

The annual Seniors Festival is also an important time for not only Port Phillip residents, but for all older residents of particularly Melbourne, but also regional cities such as Geelong. We ask that the ongoing funding be secured.

## **Minimal funding required**

### **Continued certainty of funding for CoPP Libraries**

Council has been providing Digital Literacy classes through its Libraries. They are an important source of community information and also provide access to other Council services. Continued and increased provision of Digital Literacy classes would also improve Council's ability to communicate with its older residents.



In addition, climate change causes increased likelihood of heat stress which affects many older residents living in, or renting properties in Port Phillip. Limited income and/or mobility means they are less likely to be able to manage their environment and Libraries (and other Council properties) can be a refuge on hot days

### **Ageism Awareness Training to Council Leadership and staff (including Councillors)**

OPAC would like to ensure that Ageism Awareness training continues. These sessions commenced last year but we found that presenting via MS Teams in a hybrid format did not work well. Face to face sessions have recommenced but we ask that all managers be mandated to attend and to encourage their teams to do so. We understand this would come at a cost of one hour of the work day for each attendee, but Council has signed up to the Every Age Counts campaign, and we do not want the issue of ageism to be overlooked.

We also ask that all Executives and Councillors attend a session.

We believe they could be offered more broadly beyond Council employees to other CoPP residents/organisations using Council facilities/communication channels.

They are presented by OPAC with the invaluable support of our Council officers and we are very happy to present at the most convenient time.

### **Future Needs**

OPAC IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND STRONGLY FEEL THAT RESERVES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED EACH AND EVERY YEAR TO BUILD A MORE SUSTAINABLE COPP FOR ALL RESIDENTS.

LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee  
City of Port Phillip

5 May 2023

Council, City of Port Phillip  
Council Plan 2021-31  
Year 3 and Draft Budget 2023-24

**SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL**  
**2023-24 Budget Submission**  
**LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee**

**1. Context**

The City of Port Phillip (**City**) has a recognised history of supporting and celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, Intersex, Queer and Asexual (**LGBTIQA+**) members of its proud and vibrant communities.

Council endorsed the establishment of LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee (**Committee**) on 19 May 2021 as part of its ongoing commitment to members of City of Port Phillip's LGBTIQA+ communities. The Committee provides advice to Council on issues impacting LGBTIQA+ residents, visitors, businesses and will help steer the development and implementation of the Port Phillip LGBTIQA+ Action Plan.

On 15 March 2023, Council endorsed the draft of the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan to be released for community consultation.

**2. Why is the Committee making this submission?**

The 2021-31 Strategic Plan sets out five key strategic directions to deliver an inclusive, liveable, sustainable, vibrant, and well governed City. In order to achieve the outcomes that will deliver on these strategic themes, Council has committed to funding both major capital works that contribute to all of Council's strategic directions as well as operating expenditure across a four-year cycle.

A key term of reference for the Committee is to provide advice to Council on policies, strategies, plans, programs and services that might affect LGBTIQA+ communities. As any budget may impact LGBTIQA+ persons within the City, the Committee considers it part of its task to provide advice to Council about this draft policy.

**3. Connections with the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan**

The Committee emphasises that the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan acknowledges the very real struggles against disadvantage, inequality and discrimination experienced by LGBTIQA+



people. In supporting the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, Council is building on its strong history of championing and commitment to our diverse LGBTIQA+ communities.

This Budget Submission is made to support the Council to embed LGBTIQA+ inclusion in its roles as a service provider, leader, ally, consumer and in its workplace. This Budget Submission identifies ways in which the Council can work toward creating an inclusive city that is responsive to the diverse needs of LGBTIQA+ people.

#### 4. Key recommendations

##### 4.1 Staffing to support the LGBTIQA+ Action Plan

In leading the creation of the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, it is vital that the Council commits to its ongoing implementation. A number of strategies within the draft Action Plan rely on various teams within the City to support its implementation, including the Community Building and Inclusion team. Indeed, it appears that the Community Building and Inclusion team play a role either as lead, co-lead or support in 24 different strategies.

The Committee **recommends** the creation of new ongoing role(s) within the City of Port Phillip to assist the Community Building and Inclusion team implement the Action Plan.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$57,000 (plus costs) – at 0.5 EFT*

##### 4.2 Data collection

In the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, Focus area 3: Council as leader, seeks to ensure a safe, equitable and affirming place for LGBTIQA+ people and their families. One of the strategies to be adopted to achieve this outcome is improving data collection about our diverse LGBTIQA+ communities to inform Council decision-making about ways to advance equality and inclusion.

The collection of quality and robust data and evidence will help increase social inclusion and reduce stigma and discrimination in the lives of LGBTIQA+ people. Being counted will result in a more supporting and accepting societal environment that will act as a protective factor for the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQA+ people. The appropriate and meaningful collection of data will also enable Council to measure who is and is not accessing local services and where they are falling through the gaps.

Additionally, there is an important connection between intersectionality and accurate data collection. As an essential resource, data can support inclusive development. However, uncritical data practice may compound or perpetuate disadvantages and discrimination for people who are marginalised. Intersectional approaches to data, such as disaggregation, can address these issues by examining the multi-dimensionality of identity and its impacts to foster positive social transformation.

The Committee **recommends** that accurate data is collected which allows for an assessment about various LGBTIQA+ communities, and other minorities, within the City's population that permits assessments of matters pertinent to intersectionality.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$15-20,000*

Alternatively, it may be possible to add questions to the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. This may allow for the initial collection of data which might be assessed against other data collected in the same survey.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$2,000*

#### **4.3 Inclusive practice training**

The Committee's 2022-23 Budget Submission recommended that the Council fund LGBTIQA+ inclusive practice training for Executive and Senior Managers within the next 12 months. The Council's response (CBR-065) indicated that LGBTIQA+ training will be included in a broader Diversity & Inclusion Plan being developed as per Council's resolution of 19 May 2021. The Council's response also indicated that 'Inclusive Leadership' training was already in the Learning and Development Budget and program for 2022/23.

The Committee recommends that Council commit to:

- ongoing 'Inclusive Leadership' training for all Executive and Senior Managers for 2023-24.
- including LGBTIQA+ training for all staff in the Diversity & Inclusion Plan. Alternatively, the Committee recommends that the Council should agree to permitting staff take paid leave to attend such training as provided externally.

Additionally, the Committee recommends that Council consider recommending that attendance at, and mandatory training be included as part of the performance measurement matrix for a team, and as part of an individual employee's performance appraisal process.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$15,000*

#### **4.4 Rainbow business directory**

In the draft LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, Focus area 4: Council as consumer, seeks to ensure that local businesses and Council procurement activities promote LGBTIQA+ inclusion. One of the strategies to be adopted to achieve this outcome is increasing opportunities and expanding markets for LGBTIQA+ inclusive businesses.

To achieve this outcome, the Committee **recommends** the creation of a "Rainbow Business Directory" hosted online which collates information and contact details for wholly or partly owned and run business run by LGBTIQA+ communities in the City. This recommendation is low-cost, simple and would quickly support the promotion of supporting local rainbow businesses.

This recommendation may also be led by the City, Growth and Culture team.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$10,000*

#### 4.5 St Kilda business support

In our 2022-23 Budget Submission, the Committee recommended a Rainbow Traders and Business Forum to build the capacity of businesses and services to connect, innovate and collaborate. The Committee now suggests that this idea can be taken and expanded to the St Kilda business area, focusing on Fitzroy Street.

It is apparent that the St Kilda business area, including Fitzroy Street, needs revitalisation. Following the opening of the Victorian Pride Centre, this would seem an opportune moment for the Council to take steps to support local businesses.

The Committee **recommends** the Council host a local business forum of St Kilda business to:

- offer training to local businesses on LGBTIQA+ inclusive practice training;
- hear from local business about how to revitalise Fitzroy Street; and
- provide speakers and resources from the LGBTIQA+ communities, including the Victorian Pride Centre, about how to engage and attract our communities.

This local business forum would advance multiple interests, including supporting inclusive and welcoming business practices, better trade and foot traffic, and fostering a sense of community amongst the local traders.

This recommendation may also be led by the City, Growth and Culture team.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$10,000*

#### 4.6 Maintenance of the “Rainbow Road”

The Council should commit to maintaining the Rainbow Road on Jackson Street, including to take opportunities for a refresh throughout the year and to allow for adequate drying time.

*Estimated spend 2023/24: \$10,000*

### 5. Endorsement

The Chair of the LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee submits this proposal on behalf of the members of the Committee who have endorsed this submission.



Chair, LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee  
5 May 2023





## SUBMISSION TO PORT PHILLIP COUNCIL 2023-24 Budget Submission NCJWA Vic- Caring Mums Program

### Context

Caring Mums is a local initiative driven by the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia Victoria (NCJWA Vic) who's mission is to empower women at key points across the life cycle, advance the status of women and girls and promote social cohesion and human rights. NCJWA Vic is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all women, girls, and their families in the areas of health, family relationships, youth, seniors, and Gender Equity.

NCJWA do this through an integrated program of education and social action, Caring Mums is a confidential, home-based, non-denominational, free program providing emotional support to mothers of newborn babies and pregnant women. The Caring Mums program developed in response to an ever-growing awareness that women are often feeling very alone at a time that they most need to feel connected to and supported by others.

NCJWA work with new immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, single mums, women with mental and physical issues, family violence victims and women who don't fall into any specific category but just want someone outside of their inner circle with whom to talk.

The program's aim is for volunteers, all of whom are mothers themselves, to connect with a new mum and through the development of a secure, trusting relationship, become her mentor and emotional support. This occurs by reliably meeting the mum each week for up to a 12-month period.

### Why NCJWA Vic is making this submission?

Caring Mums began as a pilot in 2012 and has since proven its success in terms of delivery and high-quality service.

Caring Mum's has a history of working alongside the City of Port Phillip in keeping with its an Integrated Council Plan. New mothers being referred into the program by perinatal health professionals including maternal and child health nurses.

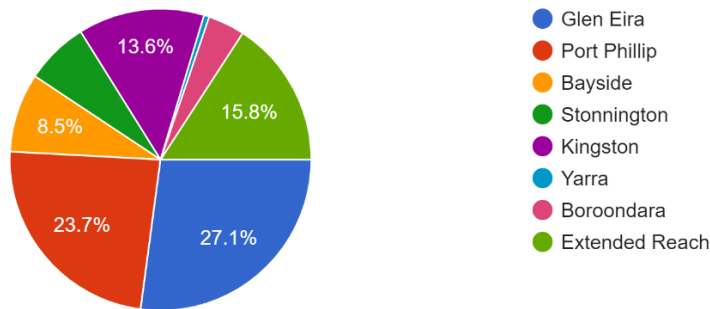
Between 2018 and 2021 the Caring Mums program partnered with the City of Port Philip through a 2 year funding deed. This agreement saw Council contributing \$27,500 (including GST) to program costs, indexed to meet the annual CPI for the term of the agreement.

The program was impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic and this subsequently impacted funding streams at the time of completion.

25% of our current participants reside in the City of Port Philip.

## Local Govt Area

177 responses



## What the Caring Mums program provides

The Caring Mums program is unique as evident by the personalised support, the non-clinical nature of the program, provision of home-based support, and by being inclusive in accepting all mothers into the program, including those who are not first-time mothers.

The program supports new mothers

- through strong connection with an emotionally supportive female role model
- to develop a stronger bond with her baby, allowing for secure attachments to be formed.
- to be empowered to parent with confidence.
- to feel less isolated and to know that there is someone there for them.
- in accessing their local community services and encouragement to attend Maternal Child Health Nurse appointments, doctor appointments, vaccinations, mothers' groups, which in turn impact their own self-care as well as their infants.

The program also supports women of retirement age, through their volunteer work, to contribute to their community and gaining a better sense of self-worth.

## Testimonial from participant

I am so grateful for the Caring Mums Program. Meeting Ann\* and meeting to her every week helped me stay sane through some very difficult times. Just knowing I had someone to talk to, to listen to me, to be present and non-judgemental, really made my transition into motherhood so much easier. I was hesitant to sign up at first as when pregnant, I couldn't manage the thought of anyone new around. However, once I had my son that quickly changed. I knew I couldn't do this alone. I'm still occasionally struggling with anxiety but Ann's perspective and positive attitude really had an impact on my outlook and day to day functioning as a new mum.

"It certainly met my expectations in that my Caring Mum was a supportive figure especially in the time that mattered most. She was my advocate when I was too sleep deprived and depressed and was my voice. In a nutshell, she saved me. I was in a really dark place and couldn't see my way out and then she appeared" Jess\* (Port Phillip resident)

\*Names have been changed for privacy

## Project costing and Budget request

The following table provides annual program costs for the delivery of the Caring Mum's Program.

Expenses	
Administration and overheads	\$9000
Equipment/infrastructure	\$4400
Salaries	\$130000
Marketing	\$2500
Program	\$21000
Training/Professional Development	\$4000
Travel	\$1000
	<b>\$171000</b>
<b>Annual funding contribution request for Port Phillip</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>

## Key Recommendations

NCJWA Vic requests that the City of Port Phillip, through the 2023-24 budget process:

- acknowledge the health and wellbeing benefits provided to new mothers through the Caring Mums program
- agree to reinstate the annual funding agreement of \$40,000 per annum to support the Caring Mum's program in the City



# Caring Mums

## Evaluation Report

February 2017

*Prepared by*



*for*

*National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) Inc*

*“I have been so well supported by my volunteer, who has been consistently caring, empathetic, nurturing and non-judgmental. She has listened, provided encouragement, and given me a safe space to explore my feelings and experiences. No one else has been able to provide this for me...”*

(Mum)

*“At the beginning they had no idea what to do, it was usually their first child, they had no support, no caring mothers around and by end of it they felt very comfortable with what they were doing with their babies, just the confidence.”*

(Volunteer)

*“From perinatal sector point of view Caring Mums is the essence of being a mother and valuing that, and that that requires support not just giving lip service. While there may be other challenges for the Mum, such as mental health or physical issues, ultimately you still need to parent and it values that by saying ‘I can help you and walk along side you’...it’s not in place of other things that may be helpful (such as services), but in addition.”*

(Key informant)

## Acknowledgements

The evaluators would like to acknowledge a number of people who facilitated the planning and conduct of the Caring Mums evaluation.

First, acknowledgement and thanks are extended to the mothers who participated in this evaluation. The experiences they shared in interviews and through the survey provided a rich story of the program.

Second, we express our thanks to the evaluation Advisory Group, which included Lee Ann Bassler (CEO) and Annette Sweet (Programs and Events Manager) from NCJWA (Vic) Inc, along with Caring Mums Program Coordinator Michelle Kornberg and particularly Gail Bousi (a volunteer 'caring mum') and Amber Wright (a mum and previous participant in the program). They provided support and guidance to the evaluation, access to the required program documents and data and a willingness to share their experiences and views of the program.

Third, the volunteers and the key informants (who primarily included referring and funding organisations), made themselves accessible for a focus group and interviews, and also were open in sharing their views and experiences of the program with evaluators.



## Table of Contents

<b>List of Appendices (separate document).....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Program Summary .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Evaluation Objectives.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Evaluation Approach .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Literature Review.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Evaluation Findings .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>48</b>

### **Attachment 1. Program Logic**

## **List of Appendices (separate document)**

**Monitoring and Evaluation Plan**

**Timeline**

**Information sheet for participants**

**Survey Questions**

**Consent form**

**Interview Questions**

**Summary of Existing Caring Mums Data on Mums**

**Summary of Existing Caring Mums Data on Volunteers**

**Pre and post program measures: Considerations for Caring Mums**

**Indicators or characteristics of effective mentoring programs**

**Evaluation Responsibilities**

**Consultant Contact Details**

**Full Summary of Survey Data (separate attachment)**

**Evaluation Quotes (separate attachment)**

## Glossary

Caring Mums	Caring Mums is a community program of the NCJWA (Victoria) Inc. Caring Mums is the subject of the current evaluation.
Mums/mothers	Mums and mothers refer to mothers who have received support through Caring Mums.
NCJWA (Victoria) Inc	National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) Inc.
Volunteer	Volunteers are mothers or grandmothers themselves, and provide regular support to mothers within Caring Mums.



## Executive Summary

### Introduction

Caring Mums is a Melbourne based community program established in 2011. It is a confidential, home-based, free-of-charge and non-denominational service that provides emotional support to mums of newborn babies and women during pregnancy from a wide range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. Caring Mums developed in response to the inadequate social and community supports in place for new mothers, as an innovative program that engages community volunteers to provide much needed support to new mothers in their own homes and communities.

This report describes an independent evaluation of Caring Mums, a community program of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) (NCJWA Vic).

### Evaluation Aim

The primary aim of the evaluation was to identify the short-term and intermediate outcomes of Caring Mums, particularly in relation to mother's health and wellbeing (mental health and sense of empowerment, as well as awareness and use of local support and services). It was also expected that the evaluation would provide insights about the value of the program and how it could be improved. Ultimately it was expected that by providing evidence of the program's outcomes to date via an independent evaluation, NCJWA (Vic) will be in a better position to secure the ongoing sustainability of the program.

### Evaluation Approach

A program logic was developed to guide the evaluation, and a review of published and grey literature was conducted to identify what other programs exist to support mothers and the indicators used to measure their success. An online survey with mums, interviews with mums and key informants, and a focus group with volunteers complemented an analysis of existing program data. The evaluation was overseen by an advisory committee.

### **Overview of Data Collection and Participants**

A range of qualitative and quantitative measures were used in order to address the key evaluation questions, these involved a range of stakeholders including:

- 51 mums who responded to a survey (48% response rate and 21% of the total participants over the life of the program; 25-49 yrs old; 41% Australian born)
  - Of these 6 mums were interviewed over the phone
- 1 focus group with 7 volunteers
- 8 interviews with key informants
- Existing Caring Mums data records since 2011
  - 235 mums (19-46 yrs old, 43% Australian born)
  - 88 volunteers (48 currently volunteering, 19 of whom have volunteered for over 4 yrs; 32-73 yrs old; 70% Australian born)

### **Program Impact and Value**

The vast majority of people involved in the evaluation (mums, volunteers, staff, and other stakeholders such as referral agencies) perceived the program extremely positively. The program has a high profile in the community and broader service sector and is considered an important service to support women in their transition to being a mother.

The key value of the program for mums is the emotional support provided at a time of immense change often when mothers are isolated and/or have little other support.

The evaluation has highlighted a parallel journey for the volunteers in the program, in relation to the positive outcomes they experienced themselves. As mothers and grandmothers themselves, the role of a 'Caring Mum' enabled them to share their experiences of mothering, to give back to their community and in turn this valued them as mothers (and mothering more generally).

The high retention rates of staff and volunteers, as well as the high response rate to the online survey with mums, are further indicators of the program value.

### **Mum's Perceived Impact of the Program**

Overall, survey participants agreed that Caring Mums had a positive impact:

- 92% strongly agreed that the program had been a positive experience
- 65% strongly agreed that the program reduced their levels of isolation
- 53% agreed that the program increased their use of local services and supports.

These findings were consistent with existing program data collected during closure and follow-up:

- When mothers completed the program, concerns for their own health and wellbeing were statistically reduced as compared to when they started.
- Of 75 responses recorded at closure, all but one indicated that their goals for the program were met, and often exceeded.
- At follow up, all but one of the 42 responses indicated that there had been ongoing impact.

Participation in the program results in better mental health and sense of empowerment for mums, as well as greater awareness and use of services. It also serves as a protective mechanism against future mental health issues. Specifically, for the mothers involved, the program resulted in:

- **Increased self-confidence** - through a trusting relationship with a trained volunteer mothers learned to trust themselves, their abilities as a mother and in turn felt more competent in their ability to meet their babies' needs and make their own decisions about parenting.
- **Reduced isolation, loneliness, and feelings of depression and anxiety** - mums felt that contact with their volunteer had provided social and psychological support, through regular home visits, that were directed by their needs and experiences. Mothers felt they were able to open up about their experiences of new motherhood and were appreciative of the regular social support and contact they received.
- A **sense of empowerment** as a mother and improved transition into motherhood – Caring Mums (via the volunteers) provided the conditions and beliefs that make it possible for mothers to be empowered - whether through role-modelling, practical information and support, imparting of information or reassurance. This empowerment was experienced as two-way; having mutual benefits for both volunteers and mothers (a form of relational empowerment).



Numerous stakeholders pointed to the preventative nature of the program. Volunteers in particular felt that supporting mothers prevented many of them from developing mental health issues or avoiding escalation of existing conditions. The potential of the program to work with mothers to provide a caring, supportive, trusting relationship was identified as particularly beneficial for vulnerable or at risk mothers (those who might otherwise fall through the cracks). For example, volunteers discussed mothers who had multiple births, those that did not have their family around, women experiencing domestic violence and those whose babies may be unwell, have a disability or in some cases have died.

One of the goals of Caring Mums is to empower mothers to be resourceful and assist them to find their own information and support. Fifty-three per cent of survey participants agreed that Caring Mums increased their use of local services and support. These services and resources included psychologists, maternal, child and health services, doctors, child care, playgroups, material aid and emergency relief services, mother-baby units, lactation services, early childhood providers and retail outlets that may provide products essential for caring for a baby or toddler.

#### **Perceived Value of the Program**

Overall, mums (survey participants) agreed that the program was valuable:

- 92% very satisfied with volunteer mum overall
- 69% very satisfied with support provided by Caring Mums staff
- 80% extremely likely (10/10) to recommend program to others.

This level of satisfaction concurs with responses from mothers at their program follow-up interview, all of whom (n=40) said they would recommend the program to other mothers.

On average, volunteers rated their satisfaction with volunteer training, supervision, matching process, and Caring Mums overall as 10 out of 10.

Caring Mums is further valued as an innovative, unique program that is meeting unmet needs and filling a service/support gap, in a way that complements existing services. This uniqueness was discussed in terms of the personalised support provided, the non-clinical nature of the program, providing home-based support, and by being inclusive in accepting all mothers into the program, including those who will have a baby older than one year at program completion.

Caring Mums was found to excel across a range of key indicators identified in the evidence base which include:

- Broad inclusion criteria
- Personal, responsive and timely intake process
- A considered matching process resulting in strong mother-volunteer relationships
- Comprehensive volunteer training, support and supervision
- Solid program infrastructure

This evaluation has generated evidence to indicate that the objectives of Caring Mums are not only being met, but are being exceeded. Lessons learned including implications for the future are discussed in the report.

## **Recommendations**

1. Use the evaluation findings to consolidate, strengthen and extend the program reach
  - 1.1 Disseminate outcomes of the evaluation
  - 1.2 Identify and action suggested improvements to the program
  - 1.3 Strengthen program communication strategy
  - 1.4 Advocate for mums and for mothering to be more highly valued
2. Explore initiatives to promote program sustainability and expansion
  - 2.1 Secure core funding to maintain existing program
  - 2.2 Identify avenues for gaining additional funding
  - 2.3 Make the program scalable
  - 2.4 Support professional development of staff
3. Improve documentation, monitoring and evaluation of Caring Mums
  - 3.1 Improve evaluation capacity
  - 3.2 Consider conducting a cost analysis of the program
  - 3.3 Identify additional research and evaluation opportunities

## Introduction

This report describes an evaluation of Caring Mums of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Victoria) Inc (hereafter referred to as NCJWA (Vic)). The purpose of the evaluation was to independently assess the impact of Caring Mums. It was also expected that the findings from the evaluation would inform decisions about strategies to improve the reach and application of Caring Mums in the future.

## Program Summary

Caring Mums is a Melbourne based community program established in 2011. It is a confidential, home-based, free-of-charge and non-denominational service that provides emotional support to mums of newborn babies and women during pregnancy from a wide range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.

The ongoing roll out of Caring Mums has been dependent on funding from various sources including philanthropic organisations and local government. A total of \$213,200 in grant funding has been received since 2011, with a steady increase in funding obtained each subsequent year of the program.

Caring Mums developed in response to the inadequate social and community supports in place for new mothers, as an innovative program that engages community volunteers to provide much needed support to new mothers in their own homes and communities.

While pregnancy and motherhood are exciting times, it is normal for new mums to sometimes feel isolated, overwhelmed or unsupported. While these feelings are natural, not all mothers have support systems to help them manage. Many find the changing role that motherhood presents challenging.

‘Caring Mums’ are trained volunteers and mums themselves, who provide a shoulder to lean on. Although not health professionals, volunteers are dedicated to giving individual support to mums through weekly visits for up to the first twelve months of their baby’s life. The philosophy is based on attachment theory and the empowerment of women, enabling healthy and nurturing relationships. The program promotes linking mums to vital networks and resources within their own communities.

Since its inception, the program has been coordinated by family counsellor, parent educator, group facilitator and supervisor The Program Coordinator who trains the



volunteers and matches them with new mums.

As a program of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic), Caring Mums operates in Melbourne within the cities of Bayside, Glen Eira, Monash, Port Phillip, Kingston, Stonnington and Yarra. The program has its origins in Boston, USA as 'Visiting Moms' and in New South Wales as 'MUM FOR MUM'.

Caring Mums in Melbourne has never been the subject of an independent evaluation.

## Evaluation Objectives

The primary aim of the evaluation was to identify the short-term and intermediate outcomes of Caring Mums. It was also expected that the evaluation would provide insights about the value of the program and how it could be improved.

Ultimately it was expected that by providing evidence of the program's outcomes to date via an independent evaluation, NCJWA (Vic) will be in a better position to secure the ongoing sustainability of the program. The evaluation also aimed to increase the capacity of the organisation to continue to evaluate the program in the future.

The key evaluation questions identified by the Advisory Committee were:

1. To what extent has the program achieved its short-term and intermediate outcomes in relation to mothers' health and wellbeing:
  - a. Better mental health and sense of empowerment
  - b. Greater awareness and use (as appropriate) of local support and services?
2. To what extent is the program valued by key stakeholders (mums, volunteers, NCJWA Vic, funding bodies, service providers)?
3. What has been learned so far about the program? To what extent can the program be improved?

## Evaluation Approach

The method for this evaluation comprised the components as outlined below.

### **Advisory Committee**

Ongoing collaboration between the evaluation consultants and key stakeholders is fundamental to a successful evaluation. This evaluation process was run in conjunction with regular meetings of an advisory committee specifically established for the evaluation. Committee membership comprised Lee Ann Bassler (CEO), Annette Sweet (Programs and Events Manager), Michelle Kornberg (Program Coordinator), Gail Bousi (a volunteer 'caring mum') and Amber Wright (a mum and previous participant in the program), as well as the research consultants Harriet Radermacher and Emma Sampson.

The responsibilities of NCJWA (Vic) and the evaluators were made explicit at the outset as well as an agreed timeline (see Appendix).

### **Ethical Considerations**

Formal approval from an ethics committee was not required for this piece of work. However, both research consultants are committed to working with the utmost respect for all stakeholders. We are also members of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and as such work in accordance with the APS Code of Ethics. In relation to this evaluation, at the very least, all interviewees were fully briefed about the evaluation (verbally and via an information sheet – see Appendix), and demonstrated their understanding of the process by reading and signing a consent form (if interviewed face to face – see Appendix). Confidentiality was maintained where private information was given and was not used for any purpose other than that for which it was given. All data were de-identified in the advisory group meetings and reporting.

### **Program Logic**

A program logic was developed in collaboration with NCJWA (Vic) as a framework to guide the evaluation (see Attachment at the end of this report). This enabled the advisory committee to come to a common understanding about the short term, intermediate and long-term outcomes of the program. The key evaluation questions were identified during this process, as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan (see Appendix).

## Literature Review

A review of published and grey (e.g. government reports, organisation websites) literature was conducted to identify what other programs exist to support mothers and the associated indicators of success.

## Document Review and Analysis

A review and analysis of existing materials and data collected about the program by NCJWA (Vic) since its inception was conducted in order to establish some baseline information. These data have primarily been collected by the program coordinator and entered into a database with the assistance of a volunteer. Data were collected at intake, closure and a 3-month follow up.

At intake, mums complete an interview with the program coordinator. As part of this interview, mums are asked to respond to 12 questions on a rating scale from 0 (not at all) to 10 (to a large degree). Questions include levels of confidence about parenting role; feelings of anxiety, depression, isolation, safety and support; sleep deprivation and concerns about baby's health, own health, family member health, and finances (see Appendix for full list). Mums are asked the same questions at closure, as well as their feedback about how the program could be improved.

Based on existing data, 235 mums have been enrolled in Caring Mums since 2011 (see Appendix for a summary of the data). Excluding 2011 data when one mum was enrolled at the end of the year, an average of 47 mums were enrolled each subsequent year, ranging from 26 in 2012 to 61 in 2016. Mums ranged in age between 19 and 49 years (average 34 years). They resided in 35 different postcodes, and 43% were born in Australia<sup>1</sup>.

Since 2011, 88 women have submitted an expression of interest to volunteer as a 'caring mum' (see Appendix for a summary of the volunteer data). At the time of writing, 48 (55%) of these were currently volunteering, 19 (22%) discontinued for various reasons, 16 (18%) were in training, and 5 (6%) withdrew prior to training for personal reasons. They ranged in age between 32 and 73 years old (average 55 years), 86% were married, 36% were in paid work, 70% were born in Australia, and 80% had volunteered elsewhere in the past. Of the 67 volunteers who completed the 18-hour training package, they had been matched with a total of 203 mums since 2011, seeing up to 8 mums each. Of the 48 volunteers that were currently matched with mums, 23% became volunteers in 2011 (i.e. have been volunteering in the program for 5 years) and 17% became volunteers in 2012.

---

<sup>1</sup> 72% of Australians are born in Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016) which means that this program is serving a higher proportion of women born overseas.



## **Survey and Interviews with Mums**

All mothers who had taken part in the program since 2011, and for whom we had an email address, were invited to participate in an online survey.

The survey was designed with the key evaluation questions in mind and therefore aimed to retrieve information about the perceived impact of the program on mothers' health and wellbeing, the aspects of the program that were most valuable, and identify what could have been better (see Appendix for the Survey Questions). Some demographic information was also requested. It took about 10 minutes to complete, in the knowledge that mothers would be time poor.

Of 106 mums invited, 51 completed a survey (48% response rate). Of those who completed the survey, they were aged between 25 and 49 years, had participated in the program for between 4 and 12 months, resided in 30 different postcodes and 41% were born in Australia. While the majority (37%) of survey participants had joined the program in 2015, they represented all years of the program since 2011. Hence, the survey sample were generally representative of the full cohort of mums across the lifetime of the Program.

In addition to completing the survey, 23 participants offered to be interviewed over the phone. Of these, 6 mums were chosen who represented survey participants on a range of variables (age, year joined program, country of birth and overall satisfaction rating). Interviews took about 30 minutes.

## **Interviews with Key Informants**

A shortlist of key experts and stakeholders were identified by the advisory group who had a range of experiences and roles in relation to Caring Mums. The research consultants interviewed 8 people who represented a range of agencies including NCJWA (Vic), referral agencies, similar programs and local government. Interviews were conducted both over the phone and in person, and took between 30 and 90 minutes. The aim of the interview was to gather information about the strengths and weaknesses of the program and any aspects that could be improved (see Appendix for the Interview Questions).

## **Focus Group**

A focus group was conducted with volunteers, as part of an existing supervision session. Focus group participants were asked to complete a short information sheet which included demographic information and when they started volunteering in the program. The aim of the focus group was to gather information about the volunteers' experience of the program and its impact both for themselves as well as for the mothers (see Appendix for the Focus Group Questions).

Seven volunteers who took part in a regular supervision group agreed to take part in a focus group. All of them were aged in their 50s or 60s, and the majority (n=5) were born in Australia. In addition to English, 3 spoke Hebrew and 1 Yiddish. Two of them joined the program at the outset in 2011, 2 in 2013, and 3 in 2015. Between them, they had supported a total of 29 mums (ranging from 1 to 8 each, average 4 each).

### **Data Analysis and Reporting**

Existing program data, as well as survey responses and interview data were analysed and written up to specifically address the key evaluation questions. Both quantitative and qualitative data were analysed.

For the existing program data, descriptive statistics were used to create a summary of the mothers' characteristics. A one tail paired-samples t-test was conducted to compare levels of concerns for own health and wellbeing in mums (on 12 items) pre- and post- program at 95% confidence interval.

The survey data were analysed using descriptive statistics to identify percentage agreement with particular items. The qualitative comments were used to illustrate the quantitative findings.

A systematic approach to qualitative data analysis was employed. Largely, the analysis of qualitative data was iterative and undertaken concurrently with data collection during and following each interview/focus group. The evaluators conducted the focus group and some interviews together, with one evaluator taking the lead role in interviewing and the other evaluator taking extensive notes to supplement the interview recording. Between scheduled interviews the evaluators discussed emerging propositions and themes. These ideas were formally recorded in a separate file for later analysis.

After notes-based transcriptions of the audio files were completed for all interviews, analysis was then completed. This involved reviewing, coding and identifying themes within each data source and across data sources. The audio recordings were then selectively transcribed to identify some suitable quotes to illustrate the themes. A series of propositions based on the evidence was then summarised to identify variation and salient patterns under each key evaluation question. All data were de-identified as appropriate to retain participant anonymity.

## Literature Review

### **Needs and experiences of new mothers**

Pregnancy and the postnatal period is likely to be a period of mixed emotions for most mothers, with feelings ranging from joy and pleasure, to anger, sadness, loneliness and depression (Paris & Dubis, 2005). It is a period of significant transition and change, in terms of the intensity of the care required for looking after a newborn, social isolation, personal disconnection and identity change for mothers, as well as experiences of exhaustion, both physically and mentally, recovery from birth, and changes in relationships and family dynamics.

Many women find that pregnancy and/or having a baby is more challenging than they anticipated, and also experience a sense of isolation or disconnection. For others, symptoms of depression or anxiety may be triggered either during pregnancy or postpartum. It is estimated that up to 1 in 10 women experience antenatal depression, and more than 1 in 7 new mums experience postnatal depression each year in Australia, with postnatal anxiety thought to be as common (Deloitte Access Economics, 2012). The broader de-valuing of caring and specifically mothering contribute to further feelings of isolation.

Mothers and babies in disadvantaged circumstances (including those living in poverty, single and/or young mothers, recently arrived migrants and refugees, mothers living with a disability, or with a child who has a disability or mothers who don't have a mother alive or living close by) have been found to have poorer physical and mental health outcomes than other mothers and babies. They are also less likely to have direct family support or to access maternity and child health services (McLeish & Redshaw, 2015).

### **Relational theories and the experiences of new mothers**

Relational and cultural theory (Jordan, Kaplan, Miller, Stiver & Surrey, 1991) as well as other psychological theories that focus on relationships, place relational growth as central to women's sense of self and wellbeing. Such theoretical frameworks argue that an individual's psychological development occurs in the context of growth-fostering connections through the experience of being heard, seen and understood (Paris, et al., 2007). Based on these concepts, programs have developed which promote supportive, non-judgmental relationships, foster trust and build self-confidence in new mothers. With the experience of being cared for, supported, and nurtured through these changes, women are more able to care for their infants and develop a stronger sense of self identity.



## **Role of volunteer home visiting interventions to support new mothers**

Volunteer home visiting programs, also referred to as mentoring mothers or peer support programs for new mothers are based on relational theories and aim to offer an authentic relationship with a volunteer, in order to provide isolated and at-risk mothers with emotional and practical support, companionship, and role modelling (Paris et al, 2007).

The quality of the relationship (between volunteer and mother) is key to development of trust and provision of support, where volunteers have been found to offer shared lived experiences and consequently able to offer more authentic empathy and validation, than paid professionals (Mead & MacNeil, 2006).

By using techniques such as validation, affirmation, consistency and emotional and instrumental aid volunteers, via their relationship with mothers, enhance mothers' self-confidence in caring for their babies, reduce painful feelings associated with new motherhood and increase interpersonal connections. Allowing feelings of connectedness and being taken care of led to mothers feeling calmer, less alone and disconnected from others, a kind of relational empowerment (Paris & Dubus, 2005). Active listening, providing information and signposting to local services have further been found to be key ingredients of peer support programs for mothers, where flexibility to mothers needs and individuality of services are considered key (McLeish & Redshaw, 2015).

Evaluation research has shown both consistently high levels of satisfaction with the home visiting experience for both mothers and volunteers (Black & Kemp, 2004) and shown to increase maternal self-confidence, reduce maternal depression and strengthen the mother-baby bond (Visiting Moms Evaluation, 2012). They have the potential to improve physical outcomes for mothers and babies by increasing the uptake of maternal and child health services, and may improve emotional outcomes by forming relationships that reduce feelings of isolation and stress and increase feelings of empowerment and capability.

Volunteer or mentors particularly have the potential to connect with and give support to vulnerable and marginalised mothers, and to enable them to access services, in ways that complement the work of health professionals. The Visiting Moms evaluation (2012) found that while program participants showed a significant increase in maternal self-esteem and a significant decrease in maternal depression for those involved, the program was particularly effective for Latina mothers. Other programs have shown promise for improving safety and enhancing physical and mental wellbeing among mothers recovering from intimate partner violence (O'Brien, 2016).

### **Indicators of success**

While not all home visiting programs conceptualise the role of volunteer as ‘mentor’, the mentoring literature more broadly provides rich learning about what works in relationships between volunteers (mentors) and those they support (young people, mothers, employees etc). Learning from this literature, it appears that good intentions and a ready corps of volunteers are not enough to deliver an effective volunteer or mentoring program (Mentoring Australia, 2000). Success depends on both the success of the mentor-mentee relationship and the success of the structure and organisation of the mentoring program as a whole (see Appendix for an outline of the key indicators of an effective mentoring program).

Preliminary research further suggests that there are substantial differences in the success of mentoring programs based on the length of the relationship, the needs of the mentee, the frequency of the interaction, the quality of the relationship between mentor and mentee, and the organisation and structure of the program (Cavell, et al, 2009).

Mentoring mum programs require clear and transparent structures and processes that articulate the program model and the role of the Coordinator, good supervised reflective practice to promote thinking about the needs of the mothers and the volunteers and ongoing work to sustain positive working relationships with the community agencies with whom they interact.

Existing literature on the value of volunteer home visiting programs for new mothers and indicators of effective mentoring programs were used to guide the evaluation – specifically as a broad gauge to critically review the effectiveness of Caring Mums.

## Evaluation Findings

The findings are reported according to the key evaluation questions. These are the high-level questions that the evaluation was designed to answer and were jointly agreed upon at the beginning of the evaluation by the advisory group.

### **KEQ1. To what extent has the program achieved its short-term and intermediate outcomes in relation to mothers' health and wellbeing:**

- **Better mental health and sense of empowerment**
- **Greater awareness and use (as appropriate) of local support and services?**

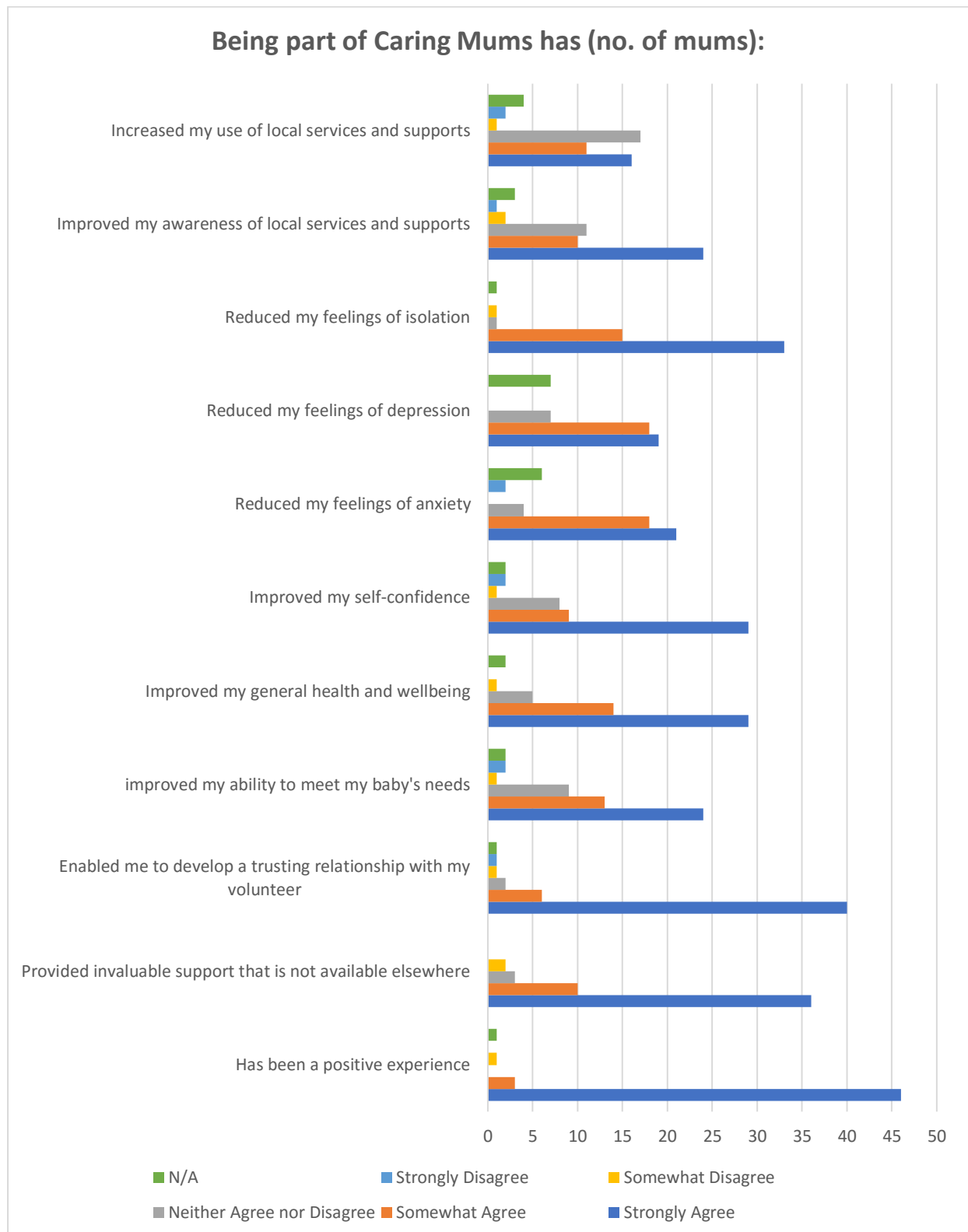
Overall, survey participants agreed that Caring Mums had a positive impact:

- 92% strongly agreed that the program had been a positive experience
- 65% strongly agreed that the program reduced their levels of isolation
- 53% agreed that the program increased their use of local services and supports; 6% disagreed.

While agreement was strong for all 11 statements, it varied somewhat in strength depending on the statement (See Figure 1). For example, there was no question that the program was a positive experience. However, agreement that the program increased use of local services was not as strong.



**Figure 1. Perceived impact of Caring Mums as rated by mums**



These findings were consistent with the existing data collected during intake, closure and follow-up.

A one tail paired-samples t-test was conducted to compare levels of concerns for own health and wellbeing in mums pre and post program at 95% confidence interval. There was a significant difference in the scores for pre (M=4.56, SD=11.23) and post (M=2.95, SD=6.39) program ( $p = 0.0005$ ). These results suggest that when mothers completed the program, levels of concerns for their own health and wellbeing were lower than when they started.

There was also a significant difference in the mums' sleep deprivation scores for pre (M=6.33, SD=6.89) and post (M=2.98, SD=5.89) program ( $p = 0.0002$ ). These results suggest that when mothers completed the program, their levels of sleep deprivation were reduced. This finding is perhaps to be expected given their babies would most likely be sleeping through the night.

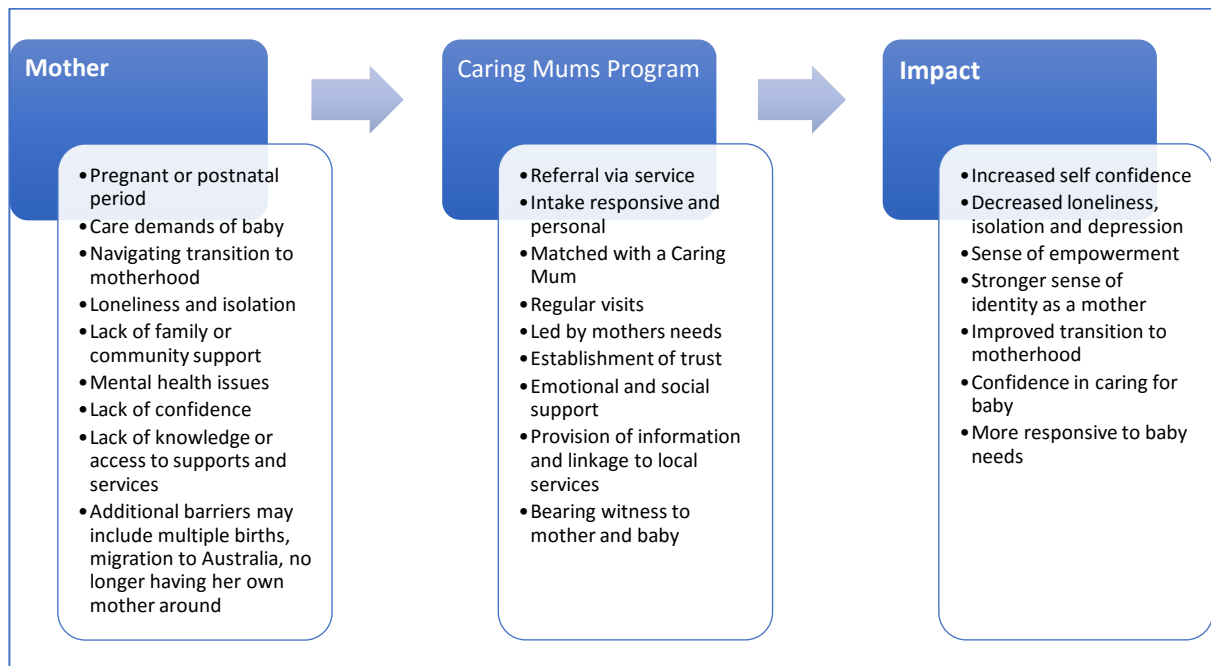
Although no statistical differences, a comparison between mean rating scores at intake and closure indicated change in a positive direction for all of the other 10 items (e.g. increased parenting confidence, reduced anxiety, feeling less stuck at home). Furthermore, the standard deviations for pre and post impact measurements reveal that mothers were more variable with respect to confidence about finances than to that of parenting.

Of 75 responses recorded at closure, all but one indicated that their goals for the program were met, and often exceeded. The only mother who stated that her goals weren't met indicated that she "needed physical help as well as emotional".

At follow up, 98% (41) of mums said that there had been ongoing impact, and all of them indicated that the relationship with their volunteer was extremely positive.

The key short term and intermediate outcomes for mothers who participate in the program are summarized in Figure 2. These outcomes will now be described in detail, illustrated with quotes.

**Figure 2. Summary of the key outcomes for mothers who participate in the program**





## Better mental health and sense of empowerment

Qualitative data (survey responses and interview data from mothers, volunteers and key informants) also provided overwhelming evidence about the positive impact of Caring Mums on mother's health and wellbeing.

Specifically, for the mothers involved, the program resulted in:

- **Increased self-confidence** - most mothers identified that through the establishment of a trusting relationship with a trained volunteer, who had experience as a mother but was also non-judgmental in their approach, they learned to trust themselves, their abilities as a mother and in turn felt more competent in their ability to meet their babies' needs and make their own decisions about parenting. Volunteers and key informants concurred, reporting observed changes in mothers' self-confidence and ability to meet the needs of their babies.

*"More confidence...and to have the OK, green light that what I'm feeling... just to have somebody [a 'Caring Mum'] to say that it's OK to feel like that. I mean if I ask my husband, how would he know how a woman feels?" (Mum)*

*"Having someone to talk through my worries and concerns helps rather than internalising it. Gives me confidence to make decisions about what is best for me and my baby." (Mum)*

*"Some, at the beginning, had no idea what to do – by end of it (the program) they felt very comfortable." (Volunteer)*

*"They (mums) learn a lot from having someone that potentially can role model that relationship, who's had children, and the way they behave with babies...a lot of mums haven't had this before (participating in the program) if they are isolated for different reasons, they may have been out of the family situation for a long time, or a volatile family situation, this is where Caring Mums come along. They are calm, non-judgmental, sometimes it is just that they are not in the realm of family, that the mum feels like she has got someone she can tell things and isn't going to be judged, it's not going to get back to anybody...Mum's have said that's been really helpful for them." (Key informant)*

- **Reduced isolation, loneliness, and feelings of depression and anxiety** - many mothers were referred to Caring Mums due to their isolation or experience of loneliness. For some, they had experiences of anxiety and depression or were at risk of developing these symptoms. Most mums felt that their contact with their volunteer had provided social and psychological support through regular home visits that were directed by their needs and experiences. Mothers felt they were able to open up about their experiences and feelings of new motherhood, and were appreciative of the regular social support and contact they received.

*“An amazing program that has enabled me to feel more secure, less isolated and less anxious about having my first baby.” (Mum)*

*“For me, it was very reassuring to think that I would have someone who would be like my own mother here, somebody who has been a mother before and very basic social support that we didn’t have at the time, with a demographic we wouldn’t have had contact with at the time.....” (Mum)*

*“It was a very positive experience. I suppose it came at a time where I really needed the support and probably was unaware of potentially how vulnerable I was.” (Mum)*

Numerous stakeholders pointed to the preventative nature of the program, where they felt that supporting mothers prevented many of them from developing mental health issues or avoiding escalation of existing conditions. In particular, the potential of the program to work with mothers to provide a caring, supportive, trusting relationship was seen to decrease loneliness, isolation and postnatal depression.

*“There is so much postnatal depression. If there were more of us out there it could stop a lot of that and hospitalisation spending and nip it in the bud.” (Volunteer)*

*“There is a real primary prevention aspect... certainly you hear from the MCH nurse how helpful that has been to have a volunteer to be involved and how it has probably helped the mum and it may have negated the need for a further referral to a family service organisation.” (Key informant)*

*“I can tell you that the resources we would need for the mothers we refer; it saves Mum’s from PND - not that all mothers would fall into that hole, but many would if this had not been available and the fact that there is someone available for that support.” (Key informant)*

- A **sense of empowerment** as a mother and improved transition into motherhood – Caring Mums (via the volunteers) provided the conditions and beliefs that make it possible for mothers to be empowered - whether through role-modelling, practical information and support, imparting of information or reassurance. Mothers experienced their volunteer as ‘empowering’, reporting greater psychological control over their circumstances.

*“She really empowered me at points to trust myself and trust in my mothering.” (Mum)*

*“It was her way of responding that made me secure and confident in my own choices to not question it, in a way that my mother wouldn’t be that subtle. She empowered me with her responses to trust my own instincts.” (Mum)*

*“She (volunteer) came up with really good tips that she did with her own twins, so she actually gave me a couple of ideas about how to set up certain things in the house. Having someone who has been there done that...She knew what kinds of things were practical for twins.” (Mum)*

Additionally, a form of relational empowerment was evident in the way in which both mothers, volunteers and key informants discussed how the program worked. Several mothers described their volunteers as ‘bearing witness’ to them, their babies and their experience of motherhood. This led to them feeling validated in their role as mothers. The encouragement, support and consistent engagement of the volunteer in the mothers’ lives assisted in mothers’ transition to motherhood and in the long term contributes to the mothers’ ability to relate to and care for her infant, with likely improvements for health and developmental outcomes of the babies involved. This empowerment was experienced as two-way, and having mutual benefits (as discussed below in relation to volunteers).

*“It can also help new mums with their transition to motherhood and understanding the various aspects of that and their changing role – whether that’s loss of old role or adaption to their new role, change in their relationships etc. It’s having someone to talk to about that.” (Key informant)*

*“I guess the other area is around basic mother craft skills – if the mother is a bit anxious about new role – bounce ideas from another mum what it was like for them, to see if this is normal.” (Key informant)*

*“She (volunteer) was a role model for me ...we had a lot in common, our personalities matched, I found out a lot about her personally, she’d give a lot of herself as well, rather than it be one sided, so you didn’t feel so alone about what issues you were having as a mum, or in life.”(Mum)*

***Particularly beneficial for vulnerable or at risk mothers***

The program was particularly beneficial for mothers who were vulnerable or at risk in some way. For example, volunteers identified that mothers who had multiple births, those that did not have their family around, women experiencing domestic violence and those whose babies may be unwell, have a disability or in some cases have died particularly benefited from Caring Mums.

*“For a lot of mums their parents are overseas, sometimes both sets of parents are overseas and this may be a contributor to their PND, it may also be that they are isolated...some people feel guilty if parents are overseas. Just having a motherly figure that they can predictably rely on, one part of their week is predictable. The most common is when their mother has died at some times in their lives. It’s confronting not having a mother at that time in their lives, especially when other mothers are catching up with their mums and their mothers are coming over and giving them a break.” (Key informant)*

*“One volunteer spoke about another volunteer whose mum was experiencing DV (domestic violence), and it was not safe, so she was able to connect mum by phone.” (Volunteer)*

*“Some areas are higher (need) than others for demand, for example there are more Indian families in Alma road, and English Mums in Port Melbourne.” (Key informant)*

Not every mum interviewed or surveyed conveyed positive experiences and change. However, in these cases it was generally due to reasons not related to the program.

*“I actually dropped out of the program as I found I had enough family support in the end. Originally when I made contact while I was pregnant, I did not have any family able to offer support.” (Mum)*

*“I didn't suffer depression so can't say it improved my feelings in that area. We didn't really discuss local services and supports that I can remember.” (Mum)*



### **Greater awareness and use (as appropriate) of local support and services**

One of the goals of Caring Mums is to empower mothers to be resourceful and assist them to find their own information and support.

#### ***Local support and service usage***

Sixty-seven per cent of mums (survey participants) agreed or strongly agreed that Caring Mums increased their awareness of local services and supports; 53% agreed or strongly agreed that it increased their use of local services and supports. While this agreement rating is high, it is relatively lower than the ratings for the other items indicating that this objective of the program was perhaps not being addressed as comprehensively as the other objectives. Of course, use of local services and supports is dependent upon individual need when required and it is quite possible that on account of being a recipient of the program a mother may have not felt the need for additional services and supports.

Ninety per cent of mothers surveyed also agreed or strongly agreed that the program had 'provided invaluable support that is not available elsewhere'. This could also explain the lower scores for accessing services and concurs with comments made by key informants that there is also a lack of appropriate services that meet many of the needs of new mothers.

It is however likely that those mothers at higher risk will require more services, so it important that information about services be provided to volunteers (to pass on to mothers), that the role of volunteers does not replace existing community supports and resources and there is scope to advocate for more services where these do not exist.

***The role Caring Mums plays in promoting service awareness and access***

Mothers identified that Caring Mums had played a role in raising their awareness about services and linking them into existing community resources. Services and resources identified included psychologists, maternal, child and health services, doctors, child care, playgroups, material aid and emergency relief services, mother-baby units, lactation services, early childhood providers and retail outlets that may provide products essential for caring for a baby or toddler.

As indicated by mothers, there were three ways in which the program assisted them to be aware of, and access services and resources. These included:

- Assisting them to identify their need for services and resources

*“Being new to Australia with a baby, it was difficult at first to identify basic resources that one might need (shopping, children’s programs, maternal health nurse, etc) and my volunteer did help meet these needs a great deal.” (Mum)*

- Providing information about how systems and services worked in the local area, and information about how to access them. Several mothers pointed out that information was provided in a supportive and non-judgmental way, in the context of the relationship, rather than more formally like in a professional setting.

*“She gave me a lot of resources which were helpful, that’s the other thing I got out of the relationship...it wasn’t a formal thing where she sent me resources or bringing me pamphlets, it would just come up in conversation and she’d say ‘oh there is this organisation and that organisation’ so it was very much tailored to what I needed at that time....just naturally if I expressed a need or curiosity or something simple like where to buy a highchair and she’d be really helpful.” (Mum)*

*“She connected me with a couple of things that I definitely used...the first thing that comes to my mind is childcare, it is very different here than where I come from and that is something that we discussed, including the wait list and she connected me with a couple of specific childcare places near my house which I wasn’t familiar with....” (Mum)*

- Supporting mothers in some situations to actually access services and resources

*“I joined a mothers group, based on the suggestion of my volunteer, and have subsequently developed a good relationship with one of the Mums.” (Mum)*

*“My Caring Mum drove me to mothers group when I wasn’t able to drive.” (Mum)*

*“We spoke about the website from the Royal Women’s Hospital, I can’t remember the page, but it’s got a list, all this information, when you need to ask questions, find out things. And she gave me a couple of videos she’s done herself about children.” (Mum)*

*“I went to (service name) and she thought that was a good mother and baby unit, so all these recommendations gave me another avenue to better myself, to get more help, because my baby wasn’t sleeping, and I wasn’t sleeping... I went and talked to a counsellor as well. She recommended go and see such and such, which I did. I was lucky that she had all this information.” (Mum)*

### ***Volunteer and key informant perspectives of awareness and use (as appropriate) of local support and services***

All volunteers and key informants discussed the importance of referral to other programs, resources and supports in the community. They found the ongoing training provided by Caring Mums to be very helpful in gaining updated information about the types of services that exist and that services were invited to be part of the training. Similarly, during the volunteer supervision sessions, information about useful referral points was shared between volunteers.

*“For the mothers, if the obstacle is getting out to mothers group, to have someone come to you, into your home and to play with your child and watch what to do and then accompany Mum to playgroup so they can safely (confidently) engage socially is important.” (Key informant)*

Some volunteers commented on the fact that some mothers did not engage with the program after the program formally ceased to support them. They agreed that not continuing engagement could be considered a positive outcome as they no longer needed support, but rather were confident to access other supports and link into other community resources as necessary.

*“Some mums cut off completely after the program, others stay in touch – both can be perceived as good outcomes.” (Volunteer)*

**KEQ2. To what extent is the program valued by key stakeholders (mums, volunteers, NCJWA (Vic), funding bodies, service providers)?**

Overall, there were extremely high levels of satisfaction with all elements of the program (more than 69% of survey participants were very satisfied on all items – see Figure 3):

- 46 (92%) very satisfied with My volunteer mum overall
- 39 (69%) very satisfied with Support provided by Caring Mums staff
- Only 1 person was dissatisfied with one item (how often met with volunteer)
- 38 (80%) extremely likely (10/10) to recommend program to others.

This concurs with responses from mothers at their follow-up interview, all of whom (n=40) said they would recommend the program to other mothers.

The majority of mums (survey participants) valued the program extremely highly:

*“This program was absolutely fantastic for me and I don't know how I could have coped without it.”*

*“I think this service is invaluable & amazing. Thank You for providing help to mums when they need it most. It's so comforting to know you have someone to talk to when you feel your most vulnerable and alone.”*

*“I am very grateful for this service and for the time my caring mum spends with me. Even outside our visits she stays in touch and offers tips and advice. I have close mum friends that are needing services like this in their area (north of the river) so I hope that one day the resources are available to grow to that area too.”*

*“I wish it could have been more than 1 year. I loved the program and I felt I wasn't alone.”*

*“No matter how much you read books to prepare yourself for a mum, you can never prepare yourself when the real thing happens...I think you need guidance.”*

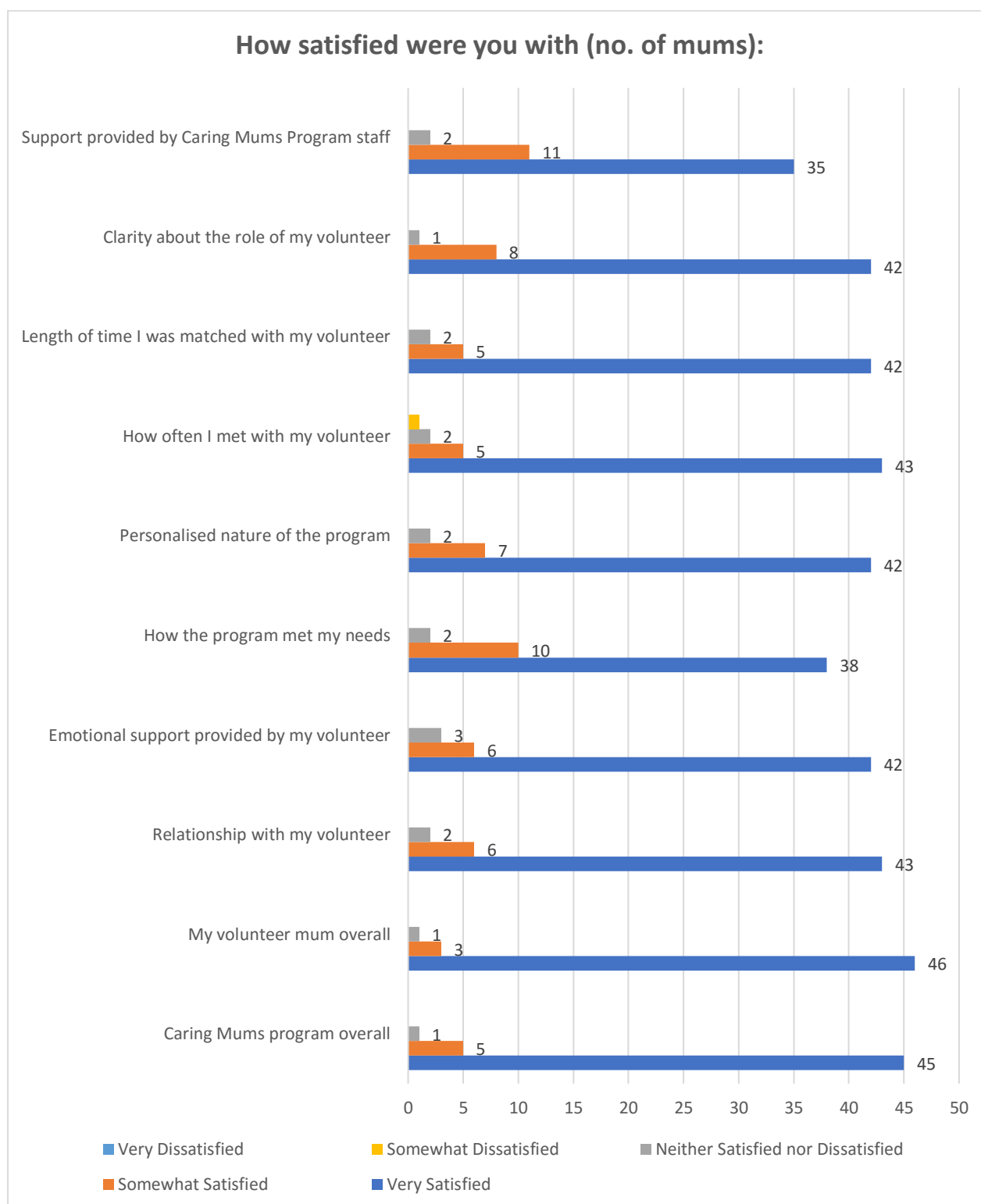


However, a few mums (survey participants) expressed some alternative views:

*“They provided support when required. However they never quite gave the emotional support that I required at the time. There was always a very clear boundary as to what they could give/help with and not. Boundaries are good but it also prevented me from establishing a stronger bond with my volunteer. I guess that is a good and bad thing at times when one is very low.”*

*“I didn't feel my caring mum and myself clicked. I felt that conversation was a little forced and awkward. Really I should have told someone, but at the same time it's awkward when you have met the person already and then you complain they aren't suitable. In the end we ended the meet ups early after only a couple of months, it did not benefit me and instead I felt more anxiety in the lead up to the meet with the caring mum volunteer. As a person, she was a nice person, however like I said, we were not suited well and it made meetups very strained rather than relaxed and helpful.”*

**Figure 3. Levels of satisfaction with the program as rated by mums**



### Valuing of Caring Mums by volunteers

On average volunteers rated their satisfaction with volunteer training, supervision, matching process, and Caring Mums overall as 10 out of 10. In relation to the most significant impact it had on themselves as individuals, most commonly reported was learning and the ability to help which generated a sense of fulfilment.

The evaluation has highlighted a 'parallel' journey for the volunteers in the program, in terms of the positive outcomes for themselves. As mothers and grandmothers, the role of a 'Caring Mum' enabled them to share their experiences of mothering, to give back to their community and in turn this valued them as mothers (and mothering more generally).

Volunteers thus described their experience of the program as "satisfying" and "rewarding", as it provided them an opportunity to "make a difference". Importantly their participation resulted in important transferable knowledge and skills, such as being non-judgmental in their own families and communities, learning how to better relate to their own grandchildren and children, which led to increased sense of self-esteem, confidence and self-learning.

*"I love what we do. Feel good after. Support we get is wonderful." (Volunteer)*

*"(I've) learnt not to be judgmental and how to think before you speak...learnt that to be empowering, that I must not fix it, but help them to fix it...It's a great training ground for grandparents!" (Volunteer)*

*"The things you get out of being involved you can relate to your own family, it gives you extra strings to your bow when you are back home with your own family..." (Volunteer)*

### Valuing of Caring Mums by key informants

More broadly, the program has a strong reputation among key local stakeholders and is highly valued as part of the local service infrastructure.

*"The support provided through the Council (funding) implies it is a program worthy of support." (Key informant)*

*"I would recommend Caring Mums to anyone. In an ideal world CM program would be as routine as mothers groups - to establish this model in each local community to support all mothers that require it." (Key informant)*

*"It is well regarded in the service sector and among like programs." (Key informant)*

In particular, it is valued in the following ways:

- A valued program within the organisation – NCJWA (Vic)

*“(NCJWA) enjoys a higher profile in the community (because of Caring Mums). The program feeds into the organisational vision for making a better place for all women. The vision for interfaith is realised through Caring Mums. (It has also) brought younger people into the organisation and provided an opportunity to realise organisational values. It is the largest and most spoken about program (within the organisation).” (Key informant)*

- As an innovative, unique program that is meeting unmet needs and filling a service/support gap, in a way that complements existing services. This uniqueness was discussed in terms of the personalised support provided, the non-clinical nature of the program, providing home-based support, and by being inclusive in accepting all mothers into the program, including those who have a baby older than one year.

*“Thank goodness there is an agency that I can refer to, not a government agency or connections when there’s a whole lot of other issues going on, when it’s just isolation.” (Key informant)*

*“Keeping volunteers involved in families beyond 1 year (for example if they were referred to the program at 6 months of age, the program continues to support them until their baby is 18 months, a year from commencement) as we have found in some of our vulnerable families is that other professional services are starting to withdraw at 12-month mark, and MCH visits stretch out further.” (Key informant)*

*“By being an absolutely appropriate first stop resource, it’s amazing. If you told me suddenly that Caring Mums would have to fold, I’d be devastated...it is just invaluable the kind of service it offers, there is nothing else like it, I can say there’s different types of psychologists, but it’s not like there’s Caring Mums and then another like service.” (Key informant)*

*“The value of the program is that it targets all women, not just vulnerable groups. It is inclusive – don’t want to lose core program.” (Key informant)*



- Valuing volunteers and volunteering - Volunteering plays a key role in community strengthening – meeting new people, feeling like part of the community (belonging) and having connection with those who they might not otherwise. The program is highly valued in its ability to recruit, train, support and retain volunteers, and in the rewarding experience it provides for those who volunteer

*“Volunteers often come to the program having had an experience where they have felt isolated and alone and it has been tricky for them to seek help and through their journey of someone helping them they felt recovered and connected so this is a driving force – they give back and instill hope and get to say you are not alone”* (Key informant)

*“Meaningful connection to the community – particularly CM’s works with strong focus on bringing the volunteers together regularly, so it is as much for them as it is for Mums that there is a sense of community.”* (Key informant)

*“There is great value in learning about each other (among volunteers), and being able to ask questions about each other’s backgrounds. Everyone is enriched; it’s an exchange of cultures. Breaking down barriers.”* (Key informant)

*“Caring mums is an important concept – programs that meet the needs of the community need to come from the community, to think that you can understand the needs without that... that’s how they started because there was a need – it continues to reflect the community need and now it’s widened.”* (Key informant)

- Valuing mothers and mothering - Both Caring Mums and key informants spoke about the program as valuing mothers and mothering more broadly, particularly beyond the confines of clinical categories. As mothers and grandmothers themselves, the role of a ‘Caring Mum’ further enabled volunteers to share their experiences of mothering, to give back to their community and in turn this valued them as mothers also (and mothering more generally).

*“Having someone to say ‘you are a great mum doing best as you can’....it’s not all about symptoms.”* (Key informant)

*“From perinatal sector point of view – CM’s is the essence of being a mother and valuing that and that that requires support not just giving lip service, while there may be other challenges (for the Mum, such as mental health or physical) ultimately you still need to parent and it values that by saying ‘I can help you and walk alongside you’....it’s not in place of other things that may be helpful (services), but in addition.”* (Key informant)

### KEQ3. What has been learned so far about the program? To what extent can the program be improved?

Table 1 outlines what has been learned so far about Caring Mums. These learnings are based on evidence obtained during the evaluation from all data sources, and align with the effective characteristics or indicators of success identified in the mentoring literature above (see Appendix for full list of characteristics of effective mentoring programs).

**Table 1. Key learnings about Caring Mums**

Learning	Description	Evidence (data sources)
Eligibility criteria for inclusion to the program is broad and the program is well understood by referring agencies	Criteria for inclusion into the program remains broad to ensure that all mothers can participate, while particularly focusing on mothers who are lonely, isolated or at risk of mental health issues	<i>Referral depends on the Mum's vulnerability, sometimes they are just lonely. They may be lonely, isolated, family may be overseas, personality, not so confident - working in this area over many years you have a gut feel for who may need some extra support. (Key informant)</i>  <i>Keeping volunteers involved in some families where the child is over 1 year old (is helpful) as we have found that for some of our vulnerable families other professional services are starting to withdraw at 12 month mark, and MCH visits stretch out further. (Key informant)</i>
Intake is personal, responsive and timely	Contact is made immediately with prospective mum via a phone call, then home visit to ascertain appropriateness for program. Volunteer then follows up 3-4 days later.	<i>It is so well run, the fact that when you refer someone to the program and you say they will be contacted within a few days, and they are makes me feel very credible. Some psychologists have a two week waiting list, but the Program Coordinator contacts them within a couple of days, it makes you think it is happening, they are going to be matched. (Key informant)</i>
Matching is a considered process using experience of what works in relationships of this nature	The match (and subsequent relationship) is driven by needs of mother. Matching is based on a good knowledge of the mother and experiences of mothering more generally and a good	<i>The fact the women trained and chosen all have to be mothers is important - they have experience and you need that (for the role). (Key informant)</i>  <i>The Program Coordinator see's the mothers privately each referral, goes and interviews them so she can match up someone that is suitable, anyone that I have referred have never had a person/problem, always been a good match. (Key</i>

Learning	Description	Evidence (data sources)
	<p>knowledge of the volunteers facilitates strong awareness about what would make a good match</p>	<p>Informant)</p> <p><i>The skill is in match that the Program Coordinator makes – she opens doors, opportunities and potential to manage other things, what this does is that it provides enough safety as you are coming into the home – don't want mothers to clean and pretend or front or mask... this is a really big challenge for new mothers and something that CM's (The Program Coordinator) do really well.</i> (Key Informant)</p>
<p>Strong volunteer training, support and supervision component - thorough, ongoing and responsive</p>	<p>Volunteers complete orientation and initial training (18 hours) followed by ongoing, training that is responsive to issues arising during volunteering and fortnightly supervision and support sessions</p>	<p><i>What has really struck me about the program is that the Program Coordinator seems to have really great structures and procedures (for ensuring the psychological safety for both volunteers and families) – and supervision – I see it in action and the way in which there is a consistency about the program.</i> (Key informant)</p>
<p>There are several core components of the program that are linked to its effectiveness</p>	<p>Duration of the program/support - regularity of contact is key, including every week for a year</p> <p>Home visiting component essential</p> <p>Local is important and that it is a community response</p>	<p><i>They get the reliability, knowing someone is there every week for them.</i> (Key informant)</p> <p><i>We can talk about a lot of other things (referral to services/supports), but they often can't (or won't) get there...that it is home visiting is important.</i> (Key informant)</p> <p><i>Benefits of Caring Mums is that it draws from the local area in which they service so lovely fit...so the supervision and groups there is high attendance and community involvement ...</i> (Key informant)</p>

Learning	Description	Evidence (data sources)
<p>The relationship between mother and volunteer is key</p>	<p>That the volunteer is a person/volunteer/community member and not a professional is important and the voluntary nature part of this is also highlighted as key to the program's success.</p>	<p><i>We know that the social connection is going to be addressed through Caring Mums's – we can make referrals and provide medical and psychological referrals but we are a phone service and not personal. CM's facilitate a relationship, there is a person there, in the home of the Mum, where they are looking into eyes of baby, doing something that no-one else may do, and yet that relationship is crucial we feel there is a great sense of relief that someone is there fulfilling this important role. (Key informant)</i></p> <p><i>Sometimes Mum's just need another person not a professional (Key informant)</i></p> <p><i>Shame and stigma can be overcome if (mothers) are being supported by members of the local community, as mothering the mother, it really models great – walks the talk. (Key informant)</i></p>
<p>Importance of program infrastructure, particularly coordinator</p>	<p>An organisation that supports the program, is aligned to its aims, values and objectives, as well as a program coordinator that is passionate, experienced and works well with all stakeholders is key to an effective program.</p>	<p><i>Just a note on the Program Coordinator – she is an absolute passionate powerhouse in driving the program...she is very passionate and it is a credit to her that she has been able to get this started up and runs it so well – I would envisage that these programs could be coordinated by another person but she is very impressive in the way she has done it. (Key informant)</i></p> <p><i>The Program Coordinator is a really passionate advocate for new parents. (Key informant)</i></p>



## Suggestions for Improvements

A summary of suggestions made by mums, volunteers and key informants for strengthening the program included <sup>2</sup>:

- Better promotion and advertising to raise awareness of the program and facilitate better access to those in need
- Option to extend program duration as required (e.g. for mums with multiples, pre-birth). Several mums would have preferred the program to continue beyond a year and some commented that it would have been helpful to be linked into the program during pregnancy
- Opportunity to connect and network with other mums in the program<sup>3</sup>
- Extend to other geographic regions or target groups (e.g., those who have experienced family violence)
- Clarify and review boundaries of program (e.g. relationship outside of program times, practical support) to enable a more flexible delivery
- Ensure evaluation completed routinely and by someone other than the volunteer (to complete process).

---

<sup>2</sup> Some of the suggestions for improvement did not reflect an awareness of the program history or functioning (e.g., pregnant mothers are eligible for the service)

<sup>3</sup> A playgroup was set up by NCJWA (Vic) in response to this demand but there was a low uptake and it was not pursued.

### **Suggestions for program improvements**

Analysis of feedback from closure interviews revealed that the most common suggestion for improvement was for a program with a longer duration. This was followed by a request for more networking opportunities with other mums, and the need for greater promotion of the program to build community awareness about its existence.

*“I thought it would be nice to have the opportunity to meet with the other mums that are possibly in similar situations...something a bit more casual, like meet up at a park, more social to foster relationships between mums. It relates to giving mums the tools to build relationships from that program, to take on to that time when they are no longer working with the volunteer.” (Mum)*

*“It would be so good to see that model to function in a similar way in other locations. For example, I’ve got psychologists in most municipalities, when we all meet and they hear about caring Mums they are chomping at the bits as they’d like to have it where they are....I don’t know of any other service that does what Caring Mums do. I know PANDA used to have a home visiting service but the funding got cut. (Key informant)*

## Conclusion

This evaluation has generated evidence to indicate that the objectives of Caring Mums are not only being met, but are being exceeded.

Caring Mums is clearly valued by a wide range of stakeholders, and evidence indicates that participation in the program results in better mental health and sense of empowerment for mums, as well as greater awareness and use of services. It also serves as a protective mechanism against future mental health issues.

Caring Mums was found to excel across a range of key indicators identified in the evidence base which include:

- Broad inclusion criteria
- Personal, responsive and timely intake process
- A considered matching process resulting in strong mother-volunteer relationships
- Comprehensive volunteer training, support and supervision
- Solid program infrastructure

A key strength of the program is its structure, but also its flexibility to respond appropriately in a person-centred way. While it may have had particularly good outcomes for mothers who are more isolated and disadvantaged, its strength is also in its inclusivity and rejection of a solely clinical focus.

Another stand out was the quality of training and supervision provided for volunteers which is integral to the success of such programs. The extremely high retention rate of volunteers is testament to the great value volunteers derive from being involved – not only the satisfaction of helping someone in need, but also in relation to opportunities to support their own personal development.

Given the value of the program, it is essential for NCJWA (Vic) to explore ways to secure ongoing funding. Furthermore, it is a program that is only currently available to mothers in a specific geographic area, and opportunities for it to be extended to other regions should be investigated.

This evaluation has confirmed that the transition to motherhood for many women can be both a rewarding and difficult journey, particularly for those women without family support. Having a supportive, empathic relationship, a companion and a role model can be critical to manage such a major transition and support the ongoing health and wellbeing of mothers and their babies.

## Recommendations

### 1. Use the evaluation findings to consolidate, strengthen and extend the program reach

#### 1.1 Disseminate outcomes of the evaluation

***It is recommended*** that the outcomes documented in the evaluation be shared more broadly among key stakeholders, local decision makers, funding bodies and local communities to highlight the benefit of the program and which core components are linked to such outcomes.

#### 1.2 Identify and action suggested improvements to the program

***It is recommended*** that the core components of Caring Mums be retained as these have been effective in meeting the program needs. To build on these, it is recommended that:

- The program coordinator role be supported and sustainable, including exploring options for providing additional paid or voluntary support
- Strengthening the community capacity building potential of the program by facilitating opportunities for mothers to come together, to broaden the diversity of volunteers and mothers, and identify scope for previous program recipients (mums) to volunteer when they are eligible (no longer have infants).

#### 1.3 Strengthen program communication strategy

***It is recommended*** that NCJWA (Vic) strengthen its existing communication strategy to incorporate key messages about current program and vision for future directions. The communication strategy will need to be tailored to address information requirements of both internal and external audiences. Highlighting program outcomes in terms of:

- Preventative health benefits for mothers, babies and the broader community
- Capacity to impact on vulnerable or at risk mothers
- The program's strong theoretical underpinnings
- Impact and contribution of volunteers in the program
- Potential to support culturally and linguistically diverse mothers and other



vulnerable groups, such as survivors of family violence.

In particular, continue to tell the powerful personal story of the program, via anecdotes, photos and snapshots. The appointment of a program ambassador could provide an effective vehicle to convey these key messages to external audiences, as well as raise the profile of the program.

#### 1.4 Advocate for mums and for mothering to be more highly valued

**It is recommended** that NCJWA (Vic) informs government and society more broadly about the experience of mothers to challenge prevailing community stereotypes and expectations. Greater identification and understanding of the needs of mothers, and gender equality more broadly, may increase the perceived value of Caring Mums.

## **2. Explore initiatives to promote program sustainability and expansion**

### 2.1 Secure core funding to maintain existing program

**It is recommended** that existing funding be sustained so that costs to cover a program coordinator, program support, volunteer training and support and other core expenses is retained.

### 2.2 Identify avenues for gaining additional funding

**It is recommended** that innovative funding models are explored to ensure program sustainability and expansion. Social enterprise models could be explored here. For example, consider formalising the Caring Mums model as a costed service or offer training in components of the program to other service providers (e.g., volunteer recruitment and support, identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable mothers). Such models may also include the development of partnerships with other organisations (e.g. PANDA, Sisterworks).

### 2.3 Make the program scalable

There is widespread agreement about the value of Caring Mums and the potential to service other local areas and/or specific communities. **It is recommended** that expansion into

additional communities is explored. For example, seeking broader funds to expand into other communities, so that it sets up formal partnerships with other existing services so that Caring Mums is offered as a complementary service that is delivered alongside other services (e.g. explore the option of it being an 'add-on' service offered via Maternal Child and Health services or in partnership with existing migrant resource or settlement services, as well as in areas of high need such as interface (outer suburban areas) or regional communities). This process should consider retaining the core components of what makes Caring Mums effective (e.g., the local flavour or the program, personal nature of the support, responsiveness to mothers' needs and strong volunteer intake, support and supervision).

#### 2.4 Support professional development of staff

**It is recommended** that opportunities to support the ongoing professional development of existing staff are explored (e.g. a Churchill Scholarship). Enabling staff members to exchange knowledge with similar international initiatives has the potential to promote the ongoing sustainability and growth of the program.

### **3. Improve documentation, monitoring and evaluation of Caring Mums**

#### 3.1 Improve evaluation capacity

**It is recommended** that existing monitoring and documentation be reviewed and refined according to the key evaluation findings. In particular, it is recommended to improve organisational evaluation capacity via:

- the implementation of a more effective and efficient data entry/management system (possibly employ an external consultant to set up and provide training to use a software program)
- the review of existing data collection processes informed by evidence/evaluation findings to determine the appropriateness of existing pre and post measures (see Appendix for pre and post program measures)
- the use of demographic and program data to understand how the program is being implemented and to better tailor the program to different target audiences
- staff evaluation skills development.

### 3.2 Consider conducting a cost analysis of the program

Stakeholders value Caring Mums highly as a program that is perceived to deliver good value. **It is recommended** that a Return on Investment/Cost analysis/Economic evaluation be conducted to document this economic value. This could involve engagement of a health economist to put a dollar value to health cost averted in terms of mothers and the financial contribution made (saved) by volunteer contributions.

### 3.3 Identify additional research and evaluation opportunities

There is scope for and many associated benefits in facilitating additional research and evaluation opportunities, which could include:

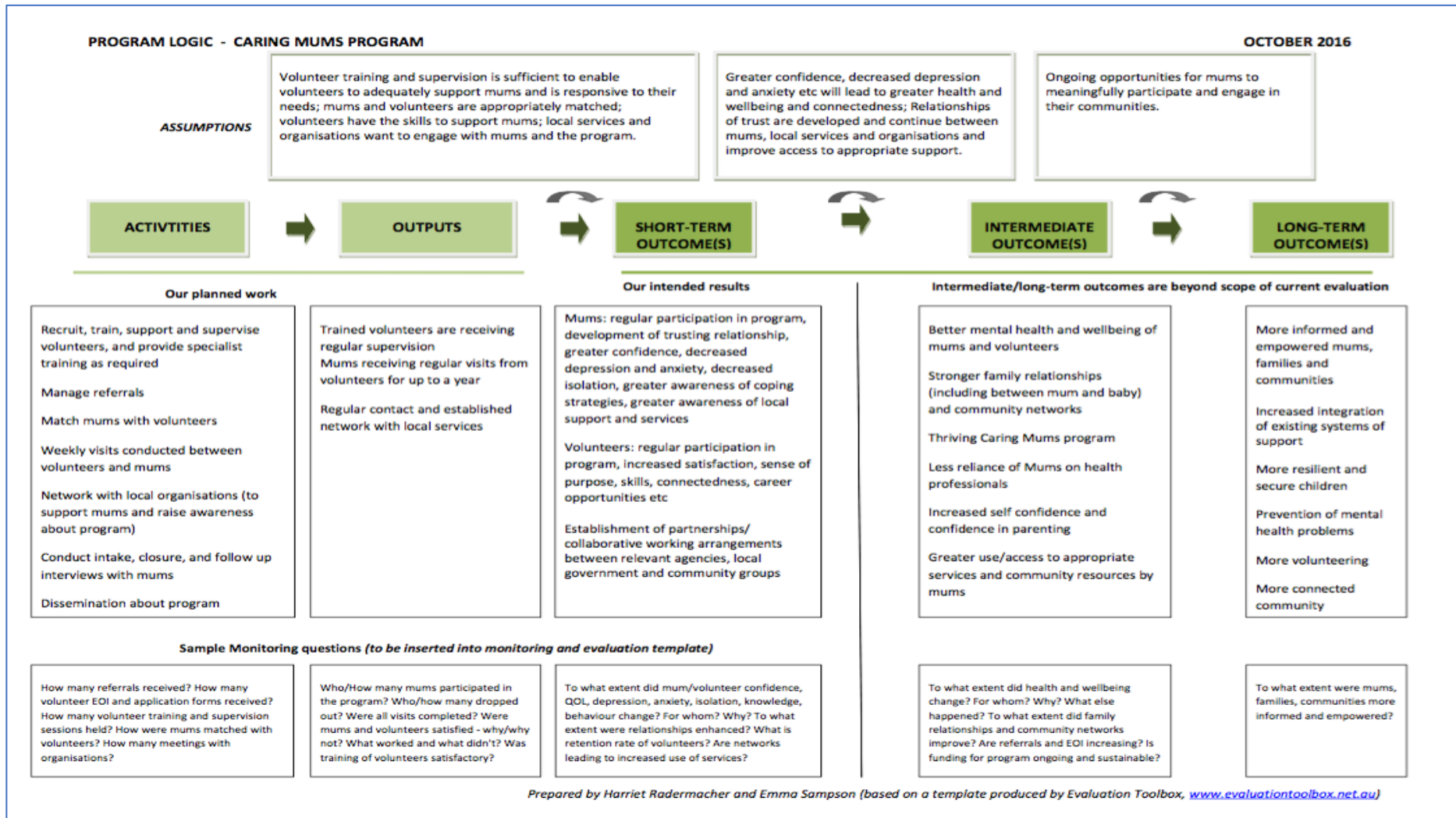
- Cross data analysis e.g. how outcomes vary by satisfaction with match
- Internships for university students to undertake a variety of roles (e.g. analyse existing data around service usage and satisfaction, media and marketing)
- Partner with a university department to apply for funding via an Australian Research Council Linkage grant
- Research to inform a marketing strategy to change the perception that NCJWA (Vic) only serves the Jewish community.

## References

- Black, M., & Kemp, L. (2004). *Volunteer home visiting: A systematic review of evaluations*. Sydney, AUS: Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation, University of New South Wales. Retrieved from <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/CPHCEWeb.nsf/page/Reports>
- Cavell, T., DuBois, D., Karcher, M., Keller, T., & Rhodes, J. (2009). *Strengthening mentoring opportunities for at-risk youth*. Retrieved from [http://www.mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring\\_1233.pdf](http://www.mentoring.org/downloads/mentoring_1233.pdf)
- Deloitte Access Economics (2012). *Cost of Perinatal Depression in Australia. Post and Antenatal Depression Association*. Accessed at: [http://www.panda.org.au/images/stories/PDFs/PANDA\\_Exec\\_Summ\\_Deloitte\\_Web.pdf](http://www.panda.org.au/images/stories/PDFs/PANDA_Exec_Summ_Deloitte_Web.pdf)
- Jewish Family and Children's Services (2010). *The Lauren and Mark Rubin Visiting Moms Program: Program Assessment*. Author: Massachusetts.
- Jordan, J. V., Kaplan, A. G., Miller, J. B., Stiver I. P., & Surrey, J. S. (1991). *Women's growth in connection: Writings from the Stone Center*. New York: Guilford Press.
- McLeish, J. & Redshaw, M. (2015). Peer support during pregnancy and early parenthood: a qualitative study of models and perceptions. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 15:257.
- Mead S. & MacNeil C. (2006). Peer Support: What Makes It Unique? *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 10 (2): 29-37.
- Mentoring Australia (2000). Mentoring: Benchmarks for Effective and Responsible Mentoring Programs. <http://www.mentoring-australia.org/benchmark.htm>
- O'Brien, C. (2016). An Angel at Your Table: Mentoring and domestic violence recovery. *The Australian Community Psychologist*, Volume 28 (1): 59-78.
- Paris, R. & Dubus, N. (2005). Staying Connected While Nurturing an Infant: A Challenge of New Motherhood. *Family Relations*, 54 (January 2005): 72–83.
- Paris, R., Gemborys, M. K., Kaufman, P. H., & Whitehill, D. (2007). Reaching Isolated New Mothers: Insights from a Home Visiting Program Using Paraprofessionals. *Families in Society*, Volume 88 (4). 616-626.



# Attachment 1. Program Logic



[Redacted]

Thursday, 11 May 2023 2:57 PM

**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Community Budget Submission - FY24

**⚠ [External Email] Please be cautious before clicking on any links or attachments. ⚠**

Hello,

Our group of residents along Argyle Street, **Safer Greener Argyle Precinct**, would like to make a Community Budget Submission for this year's budget consultation. We are making this submission to this Council Plan and Budget Year 3 process as advised by your colleague Jennifer Witheridge.

Below are the basic project details. We will also plan to speak at the 7 June Council Meeting.

### **Safer Green Argyle - Investment in Liveability**

This project relates to a few of the eight key long-term challenges in the Council Plan 2021-31. However, the two key challenges it addresses are:

1. "Getting around our dense inner City of Port Phillip" and,
2. "Climate change and the environment", in particular reducing the urban heat island effect with effective greenscaping (Greening Port Phillip)

Argyle Street in St Kilda has degraded narrow and unsafe footpaths, lack of effective greenscaping (including dead or dying trees), and no effective traffic calming or pedestrian protection or walkability infrastructure. We currently have very poor street conditions, with speeding at up to 70 km/hour down our street as cars (from commuting non-residents) cut across St Kilda Road to Chapel Street to beat traffic (or vice versa). Residents are primarily families with young children, elderly, and/or disabled. Despite the Council encouraging active transport, especially to schools, it is not safe for kids to ride bikes either in the street (due to high traffic volume and speed) or on the footpath (too narrow, sloping and degraded) on Argyle.

We see other postcodes receiving significant investment in greenscaping and safe walking infrastructure, but we have been ignored for over 20 years despite repeated requests for attention (see more detail below).

### **Request for funding in this year's budget (FY24) as priority**

We request urgent funding to make up for decades of missed investment in our precinct. It is unconscionable to have such vulnerable road users (children walking, parents prams, elderly with walkers in social housing) at risk from speeding cars, and lack of greenscaping.

Costings below subject to Council estimates

- Mud map concept \$20,000-\$30,000 (or Council do to in house)
- Detailed design \$50,000-\$100,000
- Community engagement and consultation \$25,000-\$50,000
- Trees and Revegetation \$50,000-\$100,000

- Construction /infrastructure works \$250,000-\$500,000
- Plus Marriott St Park upgrade \$250,000 (so long as not taking away funding from Argyle st)

### **Lack of action for over 20 years**

In 2012-2014, Argyle Street residents formally raised the issues with Council, requesting change and Council's action to improve the streetscape of Argyle St precinct. We also inspected the entire Argyle street between 2012-2014 with 4-5 Council representatives (infrastructure, assets and tree team). At the time, a few of the Council representatives agreed (off record):

1. Council had not made any improvements (streetscape or vegetation) since 2000-2002 and Argyle St was desperate for greening and improvement
2. Wrong plant species and vegetation had been planted in Argyle S, other vegetation, plants and trees are better suited to Argyle St Precinct
3. Several safety hazards raised, people and residents are at risk of being killed or injured unless council take action. Note continues to be several near misses, nearly on daily/weekly basis.
4. The existing speed humps were not suitable and would never be installed nowadays, there are better options for managing traffic.
5. Council needed to go away and budget for CAPEX to make the improvements

Sadly we've followed Council up several times to no avail. Furthermore, since 2012-2014 when we formally raised our concerns and request, there has been a complete lack of action, lack of will, \$0 budgeting, or any action by Council.

**Over 20 years of no investment in our street, while we see other (wealthier) postcodes receiving significant funding is unacceptable.**

Please advise as to next steps for ensuring that appropriate budget is put aside to make Argyle Street safer and greener for residents.

Warm regards,



Safer Greener Argyle Precinct



# PORT PHILLIP EMERGENCY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

## **Submission on the City of Phillip Draft Council Plan & Budget 2021-2031 Year 3 (2023-2024)**

---

PECAN wishes to address the following areas in our submission:

1. 2.8% rate increase: failure to go to the rate cap is flawed
2. The challenge of responding to the Council Plan & Budget for 2023/24 when the Act & Adapt Review and the Climate Emergency Action Plan are not finalised
3. Projects and spending on sustainability
  - a. Green Line
  - b. The EcoCentre and community education for a better climate
  - c. Stormwater harvesting projects
  - d. Elster Creek/Yalukit Willam Reserve
  - e. Tree planting and greening
  - f. Active transport: bike lanes and more
  - g. Land acquisition for Public Open Space
  - h. EV infrastructure
  - i. Waste and FOGO charge changes
  - j. Community assets
  - k. Community engagement and awareness raising
  - l. Community Emissions
4. Recommendations for re-configuring how Sustainability is presented in the Plan & Budget
5. Questions
6. Opposition to the proposed cut of \$87,000 to the Cultural Development Fund – Projects
7. Opposition to changes to Council's commitment to redevelop St Kilda Library



## 1. The 2.8% rate increase: failure to go to the rate cap is flawed

The proposal by Council for a rate increase lower than the rate cap is contradicted by a series of statements and arguments in the three volumes of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2031 Year Three, and Budget 2023-24. We argue that the proposal is flawed based on the logic of these documents and accompanying papers, the requirements of sound public administration, and with special reference to the Climate Emergency.

The Draft Plan acknowledges that Council will face many challenges that require strong financial leadership. These include likely cost increases above rates capping, "as pressure on other revenue sources combine with key service and construction costs growing quicker than the cap".

In the section "Future-proofing our growing city" in Vol 1, it is noted that the City "is constantly evolving: population and households change, economy and local business shifts, climate change and strong development pressure continues". While the population declined in 2021 as a short-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is noted that the Federal Government forecasts "a return to higher growth rates from 2022-23 onwards as overseas migration recommences".

These pressures are further reflected under the heading Financial Challenges (Volume 1 p80), which notes the need to increase investment to respond to growth, ageing assets and climate change.

In the section "Climate change and renewing community assets" (Vol 2, pp17-18) the wide range of assets owned and controlled by Council is noted. This section then states that:

The written down value of our fixed assets is \$3.6 billion and is largely the product of investment by prior generations of residents. Consistent with the trend across the local government sector, *we are facing escalating costs to maintain and renew our ageing asset base*. Much of the City is only one to three metres above sea level and therefore vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Flooding of coastal properties and public amenities, storm damage to infrastructure and beach erosion are examples of climate change impacts. *To mitigate this, upgrades and renewal of assets will need to be designed and built to suit. This means additional costs.*

This Plan reflects increasing renewals expenditure due to an expanding asset base, and cost escalation for delivering renewals and mitigating against the impacts of climate change. A major focus is continued improvements to our asset planning and management capability. *Insufficient investment in asset renewal will result in assets deteriorating much faster than necessary, adding costs in the long run and potentially compromising service levels.* (emphasis added)

The Plan notes that without action, the 10-year Financial Plan forecasts a cumulative \$76 million funding gap due to rate capping, which it is suggested will be met by a

series of efficiency measures in the coming years<sup>1</sup>. However, even if these efficiency measures can be effectively implemented, this still does not take into account the potential financial pressures arising from the need to increase investments arising from climate change and other demands.

Under these circumstances, acknowledged and documented in the budget papers, it is hard to comprehend why Council is proposing “a rates increase of 2.8 per cent – lower than the Victorian Government’s 3.5 per cent rates cap and well under the expected 4.5 per cent inflation rate”.

The rationale for this is twofold: firstly, as stated on the website: “unexpected extra income from revenue streams, including parking and investments, helped put us in a position to provide a balanced and responsible Budget”; and secondly, that this “unexpected surplus” should be used to respond to the cost-of-living pressures faced by residents across the City. While perhaps a well-meaning gesture by Council, this argument is flawed in multiple respects.

First, as noted on Council’s website, this will mean around \$11m less going to Council reserve funds “as a buffer for known and unexpected challenges over the next decade”. Recent experience suggests that Council must be prepared for unexpected challenges: in 2019, no-one expected a global pandemic, a war in Ukraine or the extent of the inflation challenge now being experienced.

Second, the benefit to individual residents will be minimal and will only be received by those residents who are ratepayers (or who are not residents but are absentee landlords), meaning that the 49% of residents who are renters receive no benefit at all. This benefit can be contrasted with investment in, for example, ecosystem services, such as green open space and trees<sup>2</sup>. Over time, these investments benefit the whole community, including future generations. They cannot be achieved by individuals (although the community can certainly contribute) and they reflect exactly the role that local government is best placed to play, as against other levels of government.

Third, it contradicts the statement noted above that climate change will require increased investment. While we acknowledge the steps Council is taking to reduce emissions and recognise that the budget is being set in advance of the finalisation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, the funds allocated across the various proposed responses to climate mitigation and adaptation needs, appear considerably less than

---

<sup>1</sup> “Over the period of the financial plan, we will target the delivery of efficiency savings equivalent to 1 per cent of operating expenditure (less depreciation) per annum. This is expected to reduce our cost base by a cumulative \$76 million over the 10-year period and will be key to addressing the rates cap challenge of the same amount”. Paper 13.2, Meeting of the Port Phillip City Council 19 April 2023

<sup>2</sup> The average dollar equivalent of some of the goods and services provided by trees on street verges have been estimated to exceed \$250 per tree per year due to pollution mitigation and the amelioration of climate extremes. The amenity value of street trees has also been estimated at an average of over \$10,000 per tree (this is the value of the loss of amenity if a tree is removed), and up to an average of \$25,000 or more, for larger, rarer and more visible trees. Source: Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (2020) *Social, Economic and Environmental Values of Street Trees in the Urban Environment*, ACT Government, Canberra.

we believe will be necessary. We do not know what climate impacts we will see in five years' time, or what resources Council will need to find to address such impacts, alongside other unexpected demands on Council finances.

But we do know that the strategies that need to be implemented based on current science, take time to be put in place or to achieve the changes that are needed. These strategies – all acknowledged in Council documents and which are anticipated for inclusion in the forthcoming Climate Emergency Action Plan – include decarbonisation, extensive community engagement, large scale tree planting, greening of the at-risk areas of the municipality, acquiring areas for open space, improving permeability, retrofitting low-income housing, preparing responses to coastal hazards, implementing water sensitive urban design.

This means that ramped-up investment and front-end project management therefore is needed now, as the benefits and protections provided will take a number of years to be realised. While Council argues that “no services will be cut” as a result of the planned rates decision, this does not address the opportunity cost of failing to make the larger investments needed now to mitigate climate related impacts into the future.

We commend Council for including “Climate change and the environment” as one of the eight major challenges the City is facing. However, in general, while many of the right words about sustainability and climate change are in the draft Plan, and there are many proposed measures that we support in their intent (see below), because the Climate Emergency Action Plan is not yet available, there is in many cases insufficient detail to meaningfully comment on the budget contents that relate to sustainability.

What is also missing in the Plan is any real sense of urgency or prioritisation of climate related actions and investment in the Budget, and this is further undermined by the proposal for the lower rate cap, as it suggests that there is not an urgent need for additional resources now or in the future for the measures that are needed. Given information readily available from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and other reputable sources pointing to the increasing need for urgent action, and the increasing understanding of the costs involved to take the necessary actions (and the costs of inaction), we believe that this considerably weakens the perception that Council is taking its Climate responsibilities seriously, consistent with its obligations under the Act.

In many areas of environmental sustainability, new investments under the draft plan - such as \$640,000 to enhance urban forests<sup>3</sup>, or \$100,000 to continue the update of the Greening Port Phillip Strategy 2010 - provide funding for measures that start from a very low baseline. For example, Council indicators show tree canopy cover has only increased from 19% in 2015/16<sup>4</sup> to 19.2% in 2021/22. There has been no

---

<sup>3</sup> Shown in Vol 3 as Greening Port Phillip Program

<sup>4</sup> Council Annual Report 2017/18; target for 2017/18 given in this report was 20%; Council Plan 2021-31 Volume 3 / Year 2 June 2022, p61, shows cover remained 19% for 2018/19. An increase of 0.2 percentage

improvement in the percentage of the municipality within a safe walking distance of open space since 2018/19. Additional trees planted in 2018/19 was 1,325 and 322 in 2021/22. The target for net tree increase on Council land is shown as not applicable for 2020-21 and 2021-22, and only a 0.5% increase for 2023-24. While we acknowledge the impact of COVID-19, we note that this did not impact other indicators requiring outdoor work<sup>5</sup>.

## **2. The challenge of responding to the Council Plan & Budget for 2023/24 when the Act & Adapt Review and the Climate Emergency Action Plan are not finalised**

With release for community consultation of the Act & Adapt Review and the new Climate Emergency Action Plan now scheduled for July, PECAN notes that the Council Plan & Budget is unable to specify new actions still to be approved to address the climate emergency. We note the inclusion of \$340,000 in 23/24, \$140,000 in 24/25 and \$28,000 in 25/26 for Act & Adapt implementation, which is welcome, but what these funds will be used for is as yet unknown. With quarterly reviews of the Budget, we would expect that these proposed amounts will be substantially increased once the Climate Emergency Action Plan and the Act & Adapt Review are finalised and approved in September 2023.

PECAN is pleased to see that the updated Act & Adapt Strategy and the new Climate Emergency Action Plan are designated as one of Council's 3-4 'transformational' strategic priorities in the Updates to Strategic Direction Initiatives in the Updates to Council Plan document, and also that Volume 1 pp 36-38 includes a summary of Council activities that address the climate emergency. PECAN welcomes Council sharpening its focus on actions to address the climate emergency.

## **3 Projects and spending on sustainability**

### **3 a. Green Line**

PECAN is pleased to see the funding allocations in 23/24 and 24/25 for the Green Line and we look forward to the further development of the Green Line in coming years. We are supportive of using the existing Green Line funding to undertake the design phase for the Port Phillip section of the Green Line, and look forward to the first stage of greening works – most likely Raglan Street – to be delivered in the next budget. PECAN supports these amendments to the funding allocation and description revision and Council's phased approach to the Green Line implementation.

---

points over 6 years is manifestly unacceptable. The Act and Adapt target for 2027/28 is a 10% increase on the 19% baseline, ie 21%; it is hard to see with such a low level of ambition, and such a low rate of year on year improvement how CoPP could achieve anything like the 40% target for 2040 set by councils such as the City of Melbourne.

<sup>5</sup> For example, ovals mowed (hectares per week) was 14 in 2018/19 and 14 in 2021/22; reserves and gardens maintained (hectares per week) was 177.6 in 2018/19 and the same in 2021/22. More playground inspections were conducted in 2021/22 than in 2018/19.



### **3 b. The EcoCentre and community education for a better climate**

Funding commitments for the re-development of the EcoCentre in 23/24 and the recent commencement of construction of the new EcoCentre are wholeheartedly supported, as are the amounts provided in recurrent funding for operations and community education activities.

We are aware that negotiations are under way regarding the length of a future lease for the EcoCentre and recurrent funding will be reviewed at the end of their current contract later this year. In light of:

- the fantastic climate and environment education work done by the EcoCentre in our community,
- the wonderful, expanded facilities to be realised on completion of the new building, and
- the potential for the EcoCentre to partner with Council in future community education efforts, for example, to encourage community emissions reduction,

PECAN recommends that Council provide the longest possible lease of 21 years for the EcoCentre, and an increase to recurrent funding for expansion of its community education programs to mobilise the community to take action on the climate emergency. Importantly, with a long lease and increased recurrent funding, the EcoCentre will be better able to leverage philanthropic and other funding to maximise Council's ongoing investment. With ongoing Council recurrent annual funding, EcoCentre has leveraged additional annual revenue of approx 70% from non-Council sources.

### **3 c. Stormwater harvesting projects**

PECAN is pleased to see funding allocated to the stormwater harvesting program and the Catani Gardens irrigation project and we look forward to the reduction in potable water usage that will result if stormwater can be harvested from the Shakespeare and Fitzroy Street main drains to water the nearby foreshore areas, including Catani Gardens.

### **3 d. Elster Creek Catchment/Yalukit Willam Reserve**

\$600,000 is allocated in 24/25 and this is a welcome Council contribution for the Reserve and to improve flood mitigation in Elwood, although it is not clear why there is no allocation in 23/24.

### **3 e. Tree Planting and Greening**

The level of tree planting has been falling significantly each year since 2019/20 (Vol 3, p63) and, as noted earlier, only 322 trees were planted in 21/22, down from 1337 in 2019/20; and, according to Council indicators, only a marginal increase in canopy cover (footnote 4). This is very concerning given widespread recognition of the need to increase tree canopy cover, as well as understorey planting, to mitigate against urban heat island effects.

In addition, the Plan notes an additional \$450,000 per annum has been added to Council's program for the delivery of "engineered solutions for non-compliant tree spans around electrical lines". We understand this is leading to the removal of many mature trees across the municipality (although the number of trees being

removed is not clear). Hence current tree-planting numbers do not accurately reflect an aggregate increase in tree numbers as some trees are being actively removed.

PECAN recommends a major acceleration of action be taken in 23/24 to reverse this downturn and progressively increase tree planting significantly in coming years.

To this end we also recommend Council urgently reviews the use being made of our roads so that they can support more trees and alternative transport (see below). This is a broad traffic management issue requiring new thinking and investment in innovation – it will not be solved under business as usual.

### **3 f. Open Space**

PECAN strongly recommends Council increases and accelerates investment in acquiring land for public green open space in the areas which are so disadvantaged in comparison to the rest of the municipality and which fall significantly short of international standards for access to green open space. .

### **3 g. Active Transport: bike lanes and more**

PECAN recommends that Council improve mobility throughout the city, including bike paths, walking/pedestrian access, public transport, and ride share/car sharing, by:

- Increasing investment in infrastructure supporting low-impact transport modes (e.g. separated bike lanes, widening footpaths and prioritising bike lanes);
- Ensuring interconnected transport to support low-impact modes (within and outside the municipality); and
- Actively seeking state and federal government grant funds to increase low-carbon mobility infrastructure investment.

The *Council Plan* [Vol 1, page 44] states that “We will work towards our four-year objectives”, including that “The City is well-connected and easy to move around with options for sustainable and accessible transport”. On the contrary: there has been very little action towards achieving that objective.

#### ***Sustainable travel: walking***

We support the funding allocated to the Footpath Renewal Program and the Pedestrian Infrastructure Program. These are important Council responsibilities supporting a walkable city.

We do not support the shift of the Park St bike lane onto the footpath: this will degrade the user experience for both people walking and on bikes. We recommend the original, on road plan be built.

#### ***Sustainable travel: bikes and micro-mobility***

There is a *notably insufficient* amount of funding allocated for the flagship sustainable transport program, the bike network from the Integrated Transport Plan. This planned the construction of 11 safe bike routes in the decade 2018-2028. To date, only the Garden City Route has been delivered by Council. Two

others, Moray St and St Kilda Rd separated lanes have been wholly or partially delivered by State Government. The Kerferd Rd – Albert Rd bike route will be funded by state government, and so should be prioritised for support by Council as a revenue-neutral way to achieve Council goals.

Planning is currently underway on Inkerman St and Park St routes. The proposed budget (in \$,000) is:

<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-2028</b>
95	1537	250	8,350	500

This is consistent with delaying the construction of the Inkerman Street route a full two years (to 2026-27, instead of 2024-25 as originally planned). The funding of \$500,000 yearly post-2026 is manifestly inadequate to deliver the remaining ITS plan. Instead, we recommend the bike infrastructure program be funded as follows:

<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>
500	8537	500	3,000	3,000
Covering detailed design and consultation of Inkerman St Safe Travel Corridor, as well as initiating planning for further routes	Construction of Inkerman Safe Travel Corridor and Park St streetscape improvements	Further detailed planning for remaining bicycle network routes	Design and construction of remaining bicycle network routes	Design and construction of remaining bicycle network routes

### **3 h. EV infrastructure**

Council committed \$300,000 over four years (2020/21-2023/24) to deliver a Community Electric Vehicle Charging Program.

The uptake of EVs should be supported, and this is useful for residents who do not have off-street parking. To date, this program seems to have only resulted in 2 free EV chargers (on the roof of South Melbourne Market): this seems a poor return on investment. It would be more effective to support commercial providers to install charging stations that are accessible by the community (at market rates) via reverse auctions or similar strategies. These could be targeted towards areas that are under-served at present– which is most of the municipality except Port Melbourne.

\$50,000 annually is to be allocated for Community EV charging over the coming three years and we assume this is to support the ongoing trial of permits for kerbside charging for residents with no off-street charging options. We understand few residents have taken up the option to date (due to the installation costs involved?).

### **3 i. Waste and FOGO charge changes**

PECAN supports the proposed changes and looks forward to the FOGO rollout to multi-unit dwellings in the second half of the year.

### **3 j. Community assets**

PECAN commends Council for its vision for asset management: “as trusted stewards of Council’s assets on behalf of our community, we will ensure our assets enable the delivery of agreed services that our community values and are sustainable for current and future generations”. We also note that the Plan states that while soft assets such as trees and vegetation “are accounted for and included in financial budgets only, soft assets will be a future enhancement in our asset models”.

We strongly support the Council moving to an approach whereby environmental infrastructure assets are afforded equal attention and weighting as is given to “hard” assets such as buildings and roads; “delivery of agreed services” should include ecosystem services. This would be consistent with moves to embrace natural capital accounting and the international System of Environmental-Economic Accounting at other levels of government (e.g. <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/accounting-for-the-environment>; <https://eea.environment.gov.au/about/what-eea>) and the call by the United Nations to regain our balance with nature, treating ecosystems as a primary asset for securing our collective well-being (<https://highleveladvisoryboard.org/new-blueprint-calls-for-reinvigorated-global-governance/>).

### **3 k. Community Education and awareness raising**

In our last three Budget responses we have requested some quite modest actions by Council to highlight and display the sustainability measures it has put in place - Solar on numbers of its facilities – the St Kilda Town Hall, South



Melbourne Market, other smaller building assets used by and visible to the community, and the Stormwater harvesting facility in Alma Park.

Measures of this kind are important in enlarging community understanding and awareness of what can be done in local communities to mitigate and develop some resilience to the climate crisis, and to show that this is not just the responsibility of the Federal or State Governments, but one which needs to be engaged with locally and which in fact the LGA requires.

Council sustainability actions should be designed with two faces: one the practical measure, the other, the communication to the community of that measure. This communication would be preferable at the site of the measure, briefly pointing to the significance of the measure as a specific response to the relevant aspect of the climate and environmental crisis.

PECAN recommends that Council appropriately resources the promotion of CoPP's sustainability initiatives at key public locations, such as St Kilda Town Hall, South Melbourne Market, Alma Park Stormwater Harvesting Facilities and so on.

### **3 I. Community emissions**

Emissions from the residential, commercial and industrial sectors are currently around 1.5m tonnes annually and both the Commonwealth and State governments are providing funding which is directed towards their reduction, through solar uptake, energy upgrades, community batteries and replacement of gas appliances and processes with electric alternatives. Over the last two years Council has worked with Melbourne and Yarra Councils in pursuing renewable energy opportunities for residents who are renting or living in apartments. There are also opportunities to assist large commercial and industrial users towards PPAs, resulting in more uptake of renewable energy. We recommend that Council addresses this whole area more directly and systematically in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, and particularly that energy upgrades are provided to a significant number of vulnerable households – 100 in the first year – and that Council's efforts are more strongly focused towards large energy users in the commercial and residential sectors.

## **4. Recommendations for re-configuring how Sustainability is presented in the Plan & Budget**

We recommend that in future iterations of the Plan and Budget, Council give consideration to reconfiguring the elements of the Strategic Directions of Liveable Port Phillip and Sustainable Port Phillip. For example, the following programs under Sustainability contribute little to environmental sustainability but may contribute significantly to "liveability"; the total funding for sustainability is skewed by their inclusion.

- increased investment in street cleaning, litter bins and equipment to improve amenity and responsiveness and investigate opportunities for further improvements to service delivery, including greater use of technology
- a new Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan that will provide the framework for public safety management within the municipality including the development of the CCTV Public Space Policy

Equally, some components of what are included in Open Space and Transport could be grouped with Sustainability.

We would also recommend that environmental infrastructure assets be afforded equal attention as is given to “hard” assets such as buildings and roads. This would be consistent with moves to embrace natural capital accounting and the international System of Environmental-Economic Accounting at other levels of government (eg . <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/accounting-for-the-environment>; <https://eea.environment.gov.au/about/what-eea>) and the call by the United Nations to regain our balance with nature, treating ecosystems as a primary asset for securing our collective well-being (<https://highleveladvisoryboard.org/new-blueprint-calls-for-reinvigorated-global-governance/>).

## 5. Questions

- a. What is the breakdown of the WSUD program spending each year: is it all for raingardens? (Vol 3, p 64) How are these WSUD initiatives spread across the different neighbourhoods throughout Port Phillip?
- b. We note that amounts for the Act and Adapt Strategy implementation are given variously as “an additional \$390,000 across 3 years” in Vol 1; and \$340,000 (2023/24), with \$140,000 (2024/25) and \$28000 (2025/26) in vol 3 (ie \$508,000 total over 3 years). Which is correct?

## 6. Opposition to the proposed cut of \$87,000 to the Cultural Development Fund – Project

PECAN urges Council to withdraw its proposal to cut \$87,000 from the Cultural Development Fund – Projects. Local artists are among those most affected by cost-of-living pressures and the range of projects funded through the Projects stream demonstrates significant local value to our whole community. At a time of significant economic and climate insecurity, we need local cultural and creative activity more than ever. Support the arts, reverse this funding cut.

## 7. St Kilda Library redevelopment

PECAN urges Council to reconsider the disappointing removal of funding for the planned redevelopment of St Kilda Library. We believe this is counter to previous commitments based on extensive community consultation, and also constitutes a failure of Council’s asset management obligations. This short sighted move by Council, when funding is clearly available, fails to recognise the benefits of the St

Kilda Library's role as a vital community hub and to realise the opportunities and importance of investment in spaces and new information technologies accessible to the community. Proceeding with the redevelopment of the Library as previously planned would recognise that it is a key community resource and focus for community engagement (as seen with Docklands Library and other contemporary libraries). Council has an opportunity to strengthen and improve this important community asset, rather than letting it decline.

We have stressed the importance of community engagement in the process of addressing climate change. St Kilda Library could be used by Council as a venue for information and exhibitions on sustainability and climate change. We would urge Council to consider its network of libraries in this respect. They should be seen as a valuable resource in providing information on all of Council's Sustainability actions, together with opportunities for information exchange and development, including measuring and communicating compliance with the various measures referred to in this submission.

**PECAN Co-ordinating Group**

**THEATRE WORKS: BUDGET SUBMISSION 2023 TO CITY OF PORT PHILLIP****1. Context**

Theatre Works ([theatreworks.org.au](http://theatreworks.org.au)) is one of the hardest working arts organisations in the City of Port Phillip's arts and culture portfolio and delivers outstanding return on investment. For over forty-three years Theatre Works has contributed to the artistic and cultural vibrancy of the CoPP.

Annually, Theatre Works champions independent and emerging theatre making and supports more than 500 artists to creatively explore, develop and present a mix of popular and cutting-edge live performances. Last year we presented 44 productions, had 15 world premieres, staged 299 performances and welcomed more than 27,000 visitors.

Theatre Works has an annual operating budget of approx. \$1.2m. It receives \$147k from Creative Victoria, \$26k from CoPP and the remainder is raised through ticket sales, café income and donations. Theatre Works is grateful for City of Port Phillip's annual support through the multi-year key arts organisation funding, this enables us to enrich CoPP's status as a city of cultural opportunity through our artistic and educational program.

In addition to producing an extensive independent theatre season Theatre Works is invested in capacity building to ensure its long-term sustainability and contribution to theatre-making in Australia.

**2. Future Redevelopment of Acland Street venue**

In recognition of the vital role Theatre Works plays, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria have allocated \$1,100,000 to help refurbish our theatre and ensure it continues to be a creative hub and cultural destination for theatre makers, audiences, and the community.

The funds are earmarked for restoration and refurbishing the historic 1914 Parish Hall, which has been our home since 1986, making it more user-friendly, OH&S compliant and practical. Our priority will be to provide more accessible facilities for actors and audiences, restore the roof, improve soundproofing and replace the dilapidated backstage annex with a modern purpose-built backstage complex so we can stay and prosper in St Kilda.

None of the grant can be used for general running expenses and so our future fundraising efforts are even more important to ensure we can operate during the planned renovations and make further improvements to our facilities. Theatre Works' goal is to use the government funds as the basis for further investing, empowering and supporting artists of all experience, identity, background and aspiration to make ambitious works that reflect, redefine or re-imagine contemporary Australia and contemporary Australian theatrical practice.



# THEATRE WORKS

## Redevelopment Outcomes:

- A fully refurbished and modernized theatre
- Improved accessibility for actors and audiences
- A new purpose-built backstage area, prop and set workshop and rehearsal space.
- Preservation of the building's heritage significance
- Improved facilities to support artists creating ambitious works that reflect contemporary Australia and theatrical practice.
- Improved facilities for educational purposes
- Strengthened community ties through increased engagement, programming and accessibility.
- Focus on additional funds raising to support ongoing operations, improve touring and further improvements to facilities.

## **3. Budget Request to City of Port Phillip**

This request for funding of \$40,450 to Theatre Works is for the May 2023 City of Port Phillip budget submission. This is 50% of the cost to install a new lighting grid to augment the organisation's redevelopment and future in our Acland Street location.

With the increase in the cost of building post-COVID our redevelopment budget is stretched, and certain aspects will need to be modified or curtailed. An important component we can no longer afford is a new lighting grid.

We are therefore requesting a one-off grant from CoPP to fund the purchase of a new state of the art lighting grid. The new motorized grid is both safer and faster – and it will dramatically upgrade technical facilities and assist Theatre Works do its job better and more efficiently:

- Time and cost savings by reducing the labor hours for each show – quantified by 44 productions annually reduction of 6 hours lighting installation providing a saving of \$10,560 annually.
- Production efficiency by gaining 6 hours of valuable technical and dress rehearsal time to improve the quality of each production.  
Total cost of the new lighting facility is \$80,900.00.

## **WHY SUPPORT THEATRE WORKS ?**

1. Delivering artistic excellence and creative experimentation in the City of Port Phillip  
*Theatre Works is “an independent theatre hub of great vigour and vision” - (Cameron Woodhead, The Age).*

Theatre Works supports visionary artists, nurtures the development of ideas, and provides space for bold artistic adventures. In recent years, Theatre Works has developed a strong reputation for bridging the gap between the independent and professional performing arts sectors, enabling emerging artists to transition into the professional arena. Our artistic programs are truly innovative, the first of their kind in Australia, and are now replicated by many other organisations.

# THEATRE WORKS

## **Theatre Works 2022 Impact:**

- 44 Productions (Acland and Inkerman Street venues)
- 299 Performances
- 28 World Premiers
- 545 Artists Employed
- 7 Festival HUBS (Fringe, Midsummer etc.)
- 17 Greenroom Award Nominations
- 27,957 Visitors
- 80% of attendees are from outside CoPP

Our strategic advantage lies in the practical implementation of theatre skills. Art-form development initiatives such as Radical Acts Festival, First Stories Festival, She Writes Collective and the Associate Artists Program support the development of the future arts and culture leaders of the state and country.

## **2. Profiling the City of Port Phillip**

Artists (local and interstate) choose to locate their development and presentations at Theatre Works, in the City of Port Phillip (rather than Cities of Melbourne, Yarra or Darebin) because of the support we provide and the exposure we enable.

The state touring and international collaboration we provide results in the export of CoPP artistic products to other states and other countries. This has the added benefit of connecting the local community with global artistic endeavours and ensuring that the CoPP's performing arts product remains connected to international performance best practice, including the diversification of voices on our stages.

A large proportion of our audiences (80%) are from outside CoPP and this brings with it additional economic and tourism benefits for local traders.

## **3. Engaging City of Port Phillip community**

Theatre Works delivers highly innovative audience development programs. This includes opportunities for audiences to engage in free question and answer sessions and forum style events. We extend the theatre experience beyond one single performance, presenting the most cutting- edge theatre that inspires conversation on a local and national level.

We retain a loyal audience and acquire new audiences Through diverse genres and art form programming and targeted marketing strategies. This includes presenting works that appeal to a broad community – including culturally and linguistically diverse audiences, people with disabilities and LGBTI+ audiences.

Theatre Works also focuses on engaging young people, the next generation of audiences and arts and cultural leaders, through its education programs, including provision of professionally written education resources, workshops and events.

Our Black Box Café, established in 2020, is open six days a week (7am – 1.30pm). It provides employment for actors and has become a meeting place for the local

# THEATRE WORKS

community. It is also used to promote Theatre Works program, sell tickets and engage the community in an ongoing conversation about the value of the arts and theatre in our lives.

## **4. Partnerships & Economic Benefit to City of Port Phillip**

Theatre Works engages with Acland Street and Fitzroy Street businesses. We partner with Quest St Kilda (accommodation); Belle Real Estate St Kilda (corporate partner) and the Acland Street Traders Association.

Theatre Works has financial and in-kind partnership support from a mix of government, corporate and philanthropic partners including Australian College of the Arts, Besen Family Foundation, Victorian Women's Trust, Hocking Stuart, Cloudwine, Mountain Goat and Playing Foundation.

The stimulation of economic activity through these partnerships and its Program showcases St Kilda as one of Victoria's most important arts and cultural destinations and results in increased tourism and patronage to the area, in turn contributing to the local economy. Theatre Works economic return on investment to CoPP is measured at just over \$2 Million per annum contributing to the post covid recovery of businesses in the Acland & Fitzroy Street areas.

All these factors cement Theatre Works' place as an important contributor to the arts and culture of Australia, firmly located in the City of Port Phillip. We look to the City of Port Phillip to support Theatre Works as part of its cultural and event strategy plans and future budgets.

## **6. How Theatre Works meets council criteria.**

By supporting Theatre Works, the City of Port Phillip will be able to meet two of its key criteria in the Arts & Policy plan, namely it will: *'maintain the proportion of the population who agree Port Phillip has a culture of creativity, learning and physical activity'* (p.26) and provide a *'number of grants...to arts and cultural programs'* (p.26).

We hope the City of Port Phillip recognizes the value of supporting Theatre Works and considers our budget submission for the 2023-24 budget.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, [REDACTED], if you have any further questions.

We look forward to discussing this proposal with you at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Theatre Works Limited

[REDACTED] (Executive Director)

[REDACTED] (Deputy Chair, Chair Redevelopment Committee)

ANNUAL REPORT

# THEATRE WORKS 2022





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Theatre Works respectfully acknowledge First People's sovereignty and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and storytelling by Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We pay our respects to the many clans and language groups in Victoria, to their elders past and present, and acknowledge the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal peoples.

Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.

## 4. Introduction 6. The Numbers - 2022 8. Associate Artists Program 10. She Writes Collective 12. Finances 14. Season 2022

- 14. Shakespeare Aliens
- 15. Whitenoise: 12 Ghosts
- 16. SLUTNIK™
- 17. Betty
- 18. First Stories Festival
- 19. Phantasmagoria
- 20. Radical Acts Festival
- 21. The Darkening Sky
- 22. Former Gifted Child
- 23. No Ball Games Allowed
- 24. Spot
- 25. Not Today
- 26. A Hundred Words For Snow
- 27. The Human Voice
- 28. The View From Up Here
- 29. Owl and the Albatross
- 30. 5 Stars
- 31. Caligula
- 32. The Marvellous Life of Carlo Gatti
- 33. MEDEA: Out of the Mouths of Babes
- 34. Iphis
- 35. Senser
- 36. The Last Lighthouse Keeper
- 37. Whalebone
- 38. Unsorted
- 39. You're a Catch! Why Are You Single?
- 40. Hysterica
- 41. A Play About Ivy, That is Really About June
- 42. Everyman & His Dog
- 43. This Is Where We Live
- 44. On The Rise
- 45. Princess Truffles
- 46. Mykonos Explodes!
- 47. My Mum Died & I Wanna Sing About It
- 48. How To Be a Person When the World is Ending
- 49. The Dream Room
- 50. How Long is a Piece of String?

- 51. The Beep Test
- 52. Day After Terrible Day
- 53. Low
- 54. The Mentor
- 55. Little Eyolf
- 56. St Kilda Big Lost Band
- 57. The Eleventh Annual Mama Alto Holiday Special

## 58. Blackbox Cafe & Bar 59. Explosives Factory 60. Our Supporters 61. Our Partners 62. Staff & Board

Cover Image: **MEDEA: Out of the Mouths of Babes**  
Dir. by Steven Mitchell Wright (2022)  
Photo by: Morgan Roberts

Image: **SENSER** by Brittanie Shipway (2022)  
Photo by: Daniel Rabin



# INTRODUCTION

Dear friends, supporters, and partners of Theatre Works,

As we look back on a truly transformative year for Theatre Works, we are filled with immense gratitude and inspiration. In 2022, we not only upheld our mission to be an artistic home and destination for the ambitious, the new, and the distinguished, but we also reinforced our commitment to our core values of Artist over Art, Empowering Risk, Creative Freedom, Sustainable Practice, Health, and Diversity and Anti-Racism. These values served as the foundation upon which we built a year of groundbreaking achievements.

We are delighted to share the remarkable success of our BY THEATRE WORKS program, which made a powerful debut with critically acclaimed productions such as *The Human Voice* and *MEDEA: Out of the Mouths of Babes* – the latter becoming our highest-achieving show in terms of box office sales and attendance. Our diverse range of festivals, including Mullet Festival, Midsumma Festival, Fringe Festival, Radical Acts Festival, Little Legend Children's Festival, and the inaugural First Stories Festival, an initiative led by First Nations artists, showcased our dedication to diverse storytelling and representation, and inclusive training and development pathways.

Through our partnerships with numerous companies, such as Burning House, Neylon and Peele, The Danger Ensemble, Lyric Opera, The Voice in my Hands, Bullet Heart Club, and Victorian Theatre Company, we demonstrated our unwavering commitment to nurturing and showcasing independent theatre.

Despite the ongoing challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic early in the year, our resilient community produced an impressive 44 productions, earning 17 Green Room Award nominations for the 2022 season and winning five awards for our 2021 season. Our artist development programs, *She Writes* and the Associate Artists Program, continued to flourish, supporting the dreams and aspirations of the next generation of theatre-makers.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our new partners and the initiation of our philanthropy programs, such as CollArts, our Transformers Program, and the Guardian Angels. We also acknowledge the generous \$1 million in funding from the Victorian Government for capital works, which will allow us to redevelop the Acland St site. This year, we welcomed Kristen Smith as our new board chair, marking a new chapter of visionary leadership.

As we look towards the future, we are excited to further elevate our BY THEATRE WORKS program and our Artist Development and Education Program. We will continue seeking new partners and enhancing our philanthropic efforts. With plans for the redevelopment of our site well underway, we anticipate beginning the execution of these projects in early 2024.

Thank you for being part of our journey in 2022. Your unwavering support empowers Theatre Works to be the Australian epicentre of independent theatre and independent theatre-makers, investing in, empowering, and supporting artists of all experience, identity, background, and aspiration.

Together, let us continue to push the boundaries of content, form, and scale, creating ambitious works that reflect, redefine, and reimagine contemporary Australia and contemporary Australian theatrical practice.

With heartfelt gratitude and optimism,

Dianne Toulson  
Executive Director and Creative Producer  
Theatre Works





# THEATRE WORKS

## THE NUMBERS - SEASON 2022

**44** PRODUCTIONS

**299** PERFORMANCES

**545** PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

**28,937** VISITORS

**\$2,025,590** ESTIMATED  
ECONOMIC IMPACT  
TO THE CITY OF PORT  
PHILLIP

**6** FESTIVAL PARTNERS

**17** AWARD NOMINATIONS

**48** ARTISTS MENTORED

**143** DONORS

**25,756** SOCIAL  
MEDIA FOLLOWERS

**917** SCHOOL  
STUDENTS





# ASSOCIATE ARTISTS PROGRAM

The Theatre Works Associate Artist Program is a unique program that provides invaluable opportunity and support for early career and mid-career artists. This program offers a rare chance for directors, makers, and creative producers in Australia to develop their skills and practices under mentorship and with access to guest experts from a diverse range of industry professionals including Sonya Soares, Ian Pidd, Stephen Nicolazzo, Penny Harpham, Dr Margi Brown Ash, Dr Alethea Beetson, Tom Dickins, Dianne Toulson, Eleanor Howlett and many more.

It was a great honour to work so closely and get to know the talented participants in the 2022 Associate Artists program: Alex Joy, Belle Hansen, Fleur Murphy, George Lazaris, Katie Rowe, and Peta Coy.

They had the opportunity to work closely with established theatre-makers and engage in their artistic process, all while receiving comprehensive support and mentorship in the form of masterclasses, workshops, Q and As, and practical units on a variety of industry topics such as producing, grants writing, budgets, financial models, touring, marketing, safe collaboration, mental health and PR.

Initiatives like the Theatre Works Associate Artist Program is crucial for the growth and development of the Australian theatre ecology. These opportunities provide emerging artists with the tools and connections they need to succeed in the professional industry, ultimately leading to a more vibrant and diverse theatre scene. By investing in the future of theatre in Australia, we can ensure a thriving and dynamic ecosystem for generations to come. We at Theatre Works look forward to seeing the work these artists go out and do in the sector, and their lasting impact on our culture.

## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

*As an emerging artist, moments that make you feel heard are a pretty powerful sign that things are moving in the right direction. For me the creative development showcase was just that. The Theatre Works Associate Artists Program has led me to feel validated, seen and understood in my practice. I have been empowered to run a room and have come to decide how I want to present creative work in the future. I was able to connect to the industry and tell my stories through workshopping new material that is incredibly personal in a safe and supported way. I feel as if I am taking steps at carving space for myself within an industry which I've always wanted to belong in.*

**- Alex Joy (2022 Associate Artist)**

*There have been many graduate programs, internships, initiatives, grant rounds; however, none have suited and applied to the myriad of skills required to be a creative producer. I am very grateful to the Theatre Works Associate Artist Program for making space to acknowledge the complexity of theatre-making and for teaching me some of the most invaluable lessons I've learned along my producing journey.*

*A program like this, which is so wide-varied and focuses on all aspects of theatre-making, from budgeting, programming, financial planning, marketing, touring, publicity, and grant writing, has been invaluable for my career. I am now a full-time producer in Sydney, and I will forever be grateful to Theatre Works for being so supportive of producing practice.*

**- Katie Rowe (2022 Associate Artist)**

*As an Associate Artist at Theatre Works I found a community and home for artistic risk-taking, where I could experiment in new forms and work with peers to bolster my artistic practise. Through intensive learning sessions held across six months I have been able to understand how to build a sustainable, healthy and fulfilling independent theatre practise, including beginning relationships with a wide range of mentors across the industry. In the Associate Artists Showcase I was supported with funds and space to explore ideas which interest me and put into practice what I have learned across the program, and in my Industry Internship I have been able to observe and learn from a production being made by professional artists, coming to understand how different production processes can be run. This program has pushed me as an artist, helping me build a plan for a sustainable path forward and encouraging me to trust my instincts and make work which speaks to the community around me.*

**- George Lazaris (2022 Associate Artist)**



# SHE WRITES

## COLLECTIVE

The She Writes Collective is our writing program established in 2020 for emerging female-identifying and non-binary playwrights, offering support networks and professional development to generate the next wave of performance writing.

Our second cohort of 19 writers commenced in 2022 and include a cross section of gender diverse, culturally diverse new playwrights across a range of age groups and abilities, at varying stages in their playwriting practices and writing for various styles of performance. We work on an idea-to-page-to-stage process where writers bring an idea they wish to craft into a play, then develop the play over two years.

Theatre Works partners with both organisations and guest artists throughout the program. Partners include the National Theatre, Melbourne Actors Guild, Victorian College of the Arts graduates of Dramaturgy, as well as independent dramaturges, actively collaborating on bringing new scripts to life. Industry guests have included Jane Bodie, Hannie Rayson, Michele Lee, Patricia Cornelius, Van Badham, Anchuli Felicia King, Jennifer Medway and Vanessa Bates.

This program was made possible with the generous support of our She Writes Giving Circle, City of Port Philip, Besen Foundation, Malcom Robertson Foundation, Creative Victoria and Palais Theatre.

To join our Giving Circle and support the She Writes playwrights with the gift of philanthropy contact our literary manager via [literary@theatreworks.org.au](mailto:literary@theatreworks.org.au)



## PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

*"Without programs like this one, which help to forge connections and build talent, we will not be able to achieve equal representation on stages."*

**- Emma Gibson (She Writes Alumni)**

*"Radical Acts exemplifies the creativity and impressive reach Theatre Works have been able to achieve for their She Writes collective. She Writes is unique in the sessions offered during Radical Acts."*

**- Michelle Lee (She Writes Alumni)**

*"Politics Aside was a play that originated as one simple idea from a generative writing workshop Vivian Nguyen attended as part of the She Writes program. From the perspective as dramaturge engaged independent of the She Writes program I had a unique opportunity to observe the program from outside of it. The nurturing and structure provided to Vivian during that year enabled her to write a full draft of a new play. Yet the journey is not as clear cut as that.*

*The ongoing connectedness of the program allowed Vivian the creative freedom to play with ideas behind the text, to listen to passages read aloud with other writers, to discuss the complexities of her research and any grappings of form and story, and ultimately contributed to the building of a company of actors and artists to bring the play to life in its early days through the Radical Acts play festival."*

**- Morgan Rose (She Writes Dramaturg)**



# FINANCES

## FINANCIAL YEAR 2022 (JAN 1 - DEC 31, 2022)

### CUMULATIVE TOTALS

In the calendar year 2022, Theatre Works experienced an increase in overall income to \$1,221,222.84, compared to \$1,114,567 in 2021. The organization's expenses also rose to \$1,191,873.62 in 2022, up from \$1,028,968 in 2021. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Theatre Works has shown a steady increase in income and expenses since 2019, demonstrating resilience and adaptability.

### INCOME

#### Ongoing Income Sources:

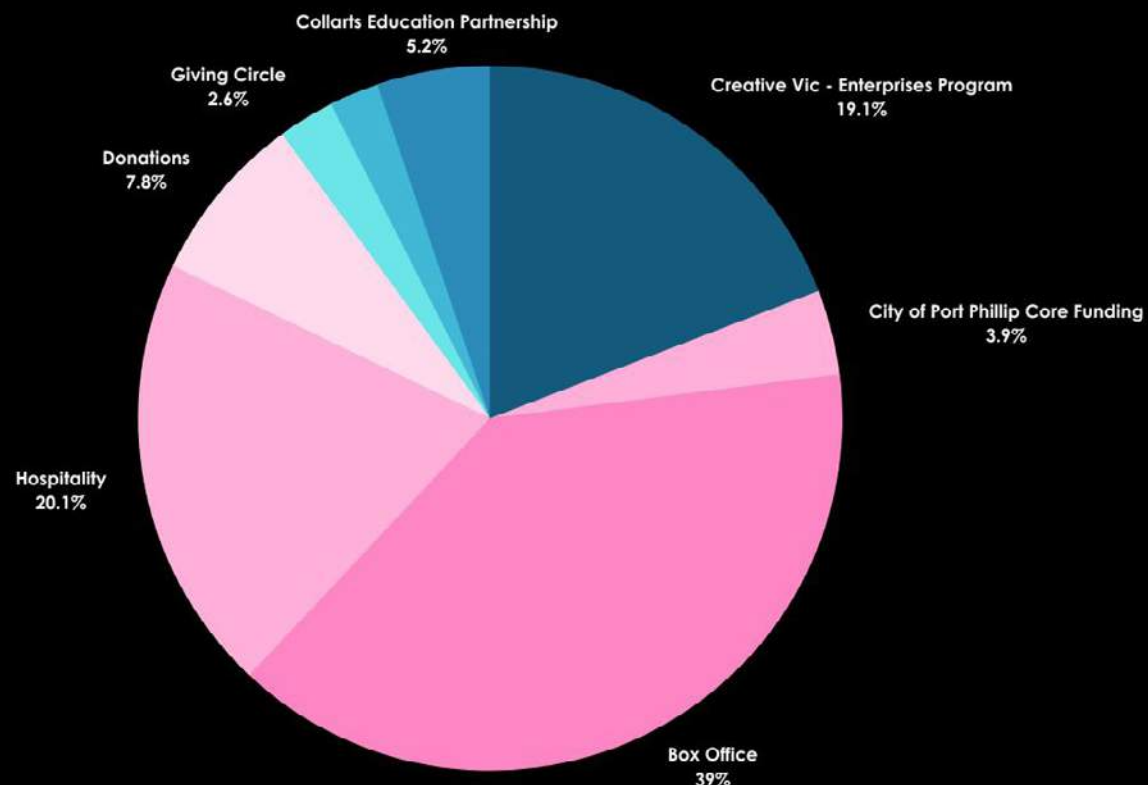
Theatre Works continued to receive consistent income from various sources in 2022, including:

- Creative Vic - Enterprises Program: \$147,000
- City Of Port Phillip Core Funding: \$30,000
- Box Office: \$300,000
- Hospitality: \$155,000
- Donations: \$60,000
- Giving Circle: \$20,000

#### New Income Sources:

During the financial year, Theatre Works secured new income sources, such as:

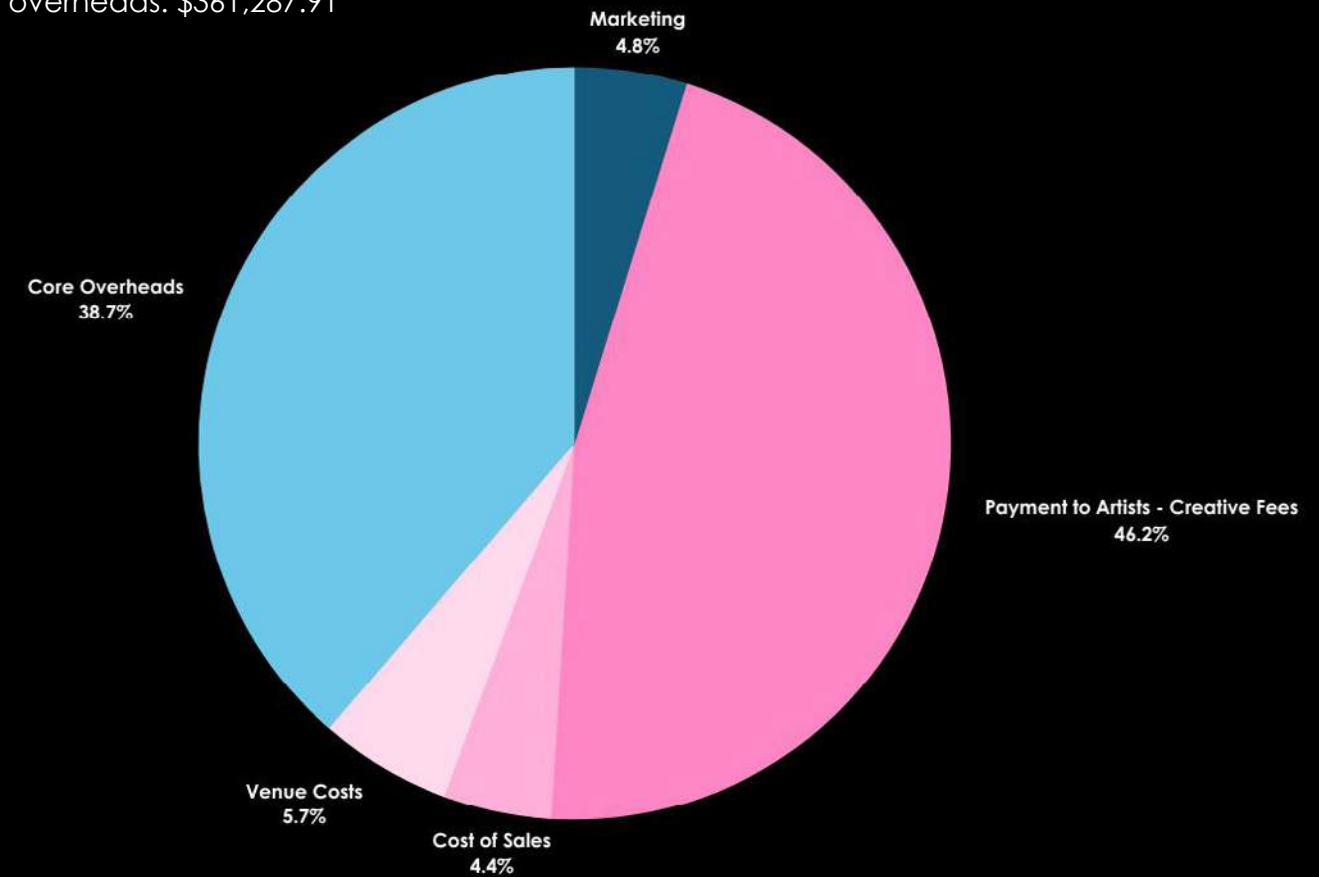
- Guardian Angels Giving Circle: \$17,500
- Collarts Education Partnership: \$30,000



### EXPENSES

Theatre Works' expenses in 2022 were allocated across various categories, including:

- Marketing: \$45,045
- Payment to artists Creative Fees: \$431,320
- Cost of sales: \$40,995
- Travel: \$2,425
- Venue Costs: \$53,087
- Core overheads: \$361,287.91



### EQUITY AND RESERVES POSITION

Theatre Works' equity position improved in 2022, with end-of-year equity reaching \$205,739.11, up from \$176,276 in 2021. This improvement can be attributed to the Creative Victoria Sustaining Creative Organisations funding, which has provided a buffer against the ongoing challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Theatre Works' reserves are primarily maintained through the Creative Victoria funding, ensuring solvency during anticipated COVID-19 disruptions and potential reductions in box office income and future grant opportunities.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS AND CHALLENGES

Theatre Works is grateful for the support of new partners and the initiation of philanthropy programs, such as CollArts, Transformers Program, and the Guardian Angels. Additionally, the Victorian Government has generously granted \$1 million in funding for capital works, enabling the redevelopment of the Acland St site.

### FUTURE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Theatre Works plans to utilize the \$1,100,000 allocation from the Victorian Government to refurbish the historic 1914 Parish Hall, making it more user-friendly, OH&S compliant, and practical. Priorities include improving accessibility for actors and audiences, restoring the roof, enhancing soundproofing, and replacing the backstage annex with a modern, purpose-built area. These developments will generate economic benefits for St Kilda, including job creation, increased tourism, and improved property values, positively impacting the local economy and community.



# SHAKESPEARE ALIENS

BY KEITH GOW & ROB LLOYD | PRESENTED BY ROB LLOYD PRODUCTIONS

11 - 15 JAN | THEATRE WORKS

*"Ingenious design enlivens the visual humour... the homage to the film benefits greatly from excellent puppet construction, atmospheric sound and visual projections."*

- The Age

*"Lovingly put together, and recalls the craft and ingenuity of the film's original effects."*

- TimeOut Melbourne

**DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY**

Rob Lloyd

**WRITTEN BY**

Keith Gow

**PROPS AND PUPPETS BY**

Donna Prince

**STARRING**

Cassandra Hart, Elysia Janssen, Danny Mcginlay, Brad Allen, Rik Brown, Zac Rose, Lore Burns, Seon Williams And Corey Glamuzina

**PUPPETEERS**

Pete Davidson, Allannah Sarafin And Paris Balla

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 535**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 15**

**PROGRAMMING: MULLET FESTIVAL**



# WHITENOISE: 12 GHOSTS

BY KATHLEEN MARY FALLON & MARYANNE LYNCH

14 - 16 JAN | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Kathleen Mary Fallon – award-winning novelist, playwright, screenwriter, librettist and academic – also has that Brechtian ability in her performances here both to play and comment on her characters at the same time. "*

- Stage Whispers

**WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY**

Kathleen Mary Fallon

**PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY**

Maryanne Lynch

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 78**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 3**

**PROGRAMMING: MULLET FESTIVAL**

Photo by: Miguel Rios





# SLUTNIK™

BY FLICK

1 - 5 FEB | THEATRE WORKS

*"The all-woman cast delivered an upbeat, joyous performance, and it was a real pleasure to see a sex-positive show revelling in the minutia of queer female culture."*

- ArtsHub

*"SLUTNIK™ is quite possibly one of the strangest live performances I have ever watched, and I loved every second of it."*

- RMITV

*"Flick's work is bold, unapologetic, and exactly the type of theatre we need more of on Australian stages."*

- Theatre Travels

**WRITTEN BY**

Flick

**DIRECTED BY**

Tansy Gorman

**DRAMATURGY BY**

Enya Daly

**SOUND DESIGN BY**

Danni A. Esposito

**SET DESIGN BY**

Caitlin Johnston

**CAST INCLUDES**

Vitoria Hronopoulos, Olivia Mcleod, Anastassia Krstevska, Jett Chudleigh, Veronica Pena Negrette, Myfanwy Hocking, and Molly Mechen

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 593**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 12**

**PROGRAMMING: MIDSUMMA FESTIVAL**



# BETTY

BY JULES ALLEN

16 - 26 FEB | THEATRE WORKS

*"An in-depth and intimate mother/daughter tale that deftly balances grief and love... The performances by Jules Allen (as Lucy) and Sally McKenzie (as Rose) are near flawless."*

- ArtsHub

*"Betty takes its audience on a journey like no other. The story is meticulously refined and crafted; the script is unapologetic, candid and incredibly humorous. The tension between both characters is incredibly powerful, with Mackenzie and Allen having formed a remarkably dynamic duo"*

- Milkbar Magazine

**WRITTEN AND CREATED BY**

Jules Allen

**DIRECTED BY**

Iain Sinclair

**PERFORMED BY**

Jules Allen and Sally Mckenzie

**DRAMATURGY BY**

Iain Sinclair

**PRODUCTION DESIGN**

Claudia Mirabello

**SOUND DESIGN**

Danni A Esposito

**ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER**

Tallulah Gordon

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Emma Lockhart-Wilson

**STAGE MANAGER**

Ashleigh Walwyn

**PRODUCER**

Lauren Bennett

**PUBLICITY BY**

Eleanor Howlett (Sassy Red Pr)

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 510**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 11**

**PROGRAMMING: 2021 REPROGRAM**

Photo by: Cameron Grant





# FIRST STORIES FESTIVAL

LED BY BRITTANIE SHIPWAY

28 FEB - 7 MAR | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

The week-long inaugural program in 2022 empowered emerging First Nations writers to find their voice in their own way.

Each of the 5 selected writers brought a dream project to work on throughout the week, with the opportunity to share with the group, get dramaturgical advice for their piece, and explore new methods to inspire their writing practice. Participating writers (including regional and interstate). Participants were paid MEAA rates for their time.

**LED BY**  
 Brittanie Shipway  
**2022 ARTISTS**  
 Bryan Andy  
 Nicola Ingram  
 Erica Brennan  
 Jade Lomas-Ronan  
 Neville Williams Boney  
**2022 MENTORS**  
 Uncle Jack Charles  
 Jane Harrison  
 Kamarra Bell-Wykes  
 Mitch Tambo  
**PRODUCED BY**  
 Lauren Bennett

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 12**  
**PROGRAMMING: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Photo by: Cameron Grant



# PHANTASMAGORIA

BY BERNADETTE TRENCH-THIEDEMAN

2 - 12 MAR | THEATRE WORKS

*"One of the most creative and mind challenging works I have seen... I was particularly impressed by the intensity in Trench-Thiedeman's performance. She displays strength and vulnerability as a woman trying to come to terms with her past."*

- **The Blurb**

*"Phantasmagoria offers a refreshingly novel and innovative approach to the perennial theme of family secrets – truth, lies and the space in between."*

- **BeMelbourne**

**WRITTEN AND CREATED BY**  
 Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman  
**DIRECTED BY**  
 Cathy Hunt  
**PERFORMERS / DEVISORS**  
 Meg Dunn, Elnaz Sheshgelani, Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman & Yuchen Wang  
**DRAMATURG**  
 Emilie Collyer  
**ARTWORK, PUPPETRY DESIGN & ANIMATION**  
 Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman  
**SOUND DESIGN**  
 Justin Gardam & Marlon Grunden  
**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
 Giovanna Yate Gonzalez  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
 Tamsin Otway  
**OPERATOR**  
 Renata Zanini-Sassani  
**ADDITIONAL SOUND DESIGN/ COMPOSITIONS**  
 Claire Deak  
**DIRECTING ATTACHMENT**  
 Bronte Charlotte

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 471**  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 15**  
**PROGRAMMING: 2020 REPROGRAM**

Photo by: Cameron Grant





# RADICAL ACTS FESTIVAL

BY THE SHE WRITES COLLECTIVE

5 - 6 MAR | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

8 plays in 8 hours / 9 writers / 6 directors / 15 actors in 38 roles

1 weekend of free public readings / Playwrights in-conversation

Radical Acts Festival Readings allowed audiences to dive into each writer's mind as they discuss intimately the radical act of playwriting, why they do it, how they go about it, and the unique genesis for each of their works in a series of dialogues to accompany the readings.

**WRITERS**  
 Vivian Nguyen, Bumpy Favell, Caitlin Doyle-Markwick, Emma Gibson, Vanessa O'Neill, Laura Collins, India Alessandra, Lauren Anderson & Meegan May  
**DIRECTORS**

Katy Maudlin, Alanah Guiry, Briony Dunn, Stephanie Ghajar, Krystalla Pearce

**DRAMATURGES**  
 Morgan Rose, Brooke Fairley, Jane Bodie, Noemie Huttner-Koros, Meta Cohen

**STAGE MANAGER**  
 Kym Davies

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 117**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 44**

**PROGRAMMING: DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**



# THE DARKENING SKY

BY RICHARD MURPHET | PRESENTED BY VICTORIAN THEATRE COMPANY

17 - 26 MAR | THEATRE WORKS

*"Written by Murphet with the brutal beauty of a poet's tongue...a thrilling neo-noir mystery. There is enough majesty and mystery here that allows you to lose yourself in the swirling eddies of The Darkening Sky's ominous storm."*

- TimeOut Melbourne

*"Spanning seven decades and set across several well-known inner Melbourne suburbs, The Darkening Sky is a refreshing new piece of Australian theatre on many levels. It's exciting to have a play that the audience can connect to geographically, and actors whose voices and phrases mimic those of your own."*

- ArtsHub

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY**  
 Richard Murphet  
**SET AND COSTUME DESIGN**  
 Eloise Kent  
**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
 Kris Chainey  
**COMPOSER, SOUND DESIGN, INSTRUMENTALIST**  
 Adrian Montana

**FILM DESIGNER AND CINEMATOGRAPHER**  
 Jak Scanlon

**PERFORMED BY**  
 Matthew Connell, Tom Dent, Edwina Wren, Anthea Davis, Brian Lipson, Rebekah Hill, Adam Pierzchalski, Mark Tregonning & Tony Reck

**Stage Manager**  
 Rain Shadrach  
**Produced By**  
 Lauren Bennett & Samara Barr  
**PUBLICITY BY**  
 Eleanor Howlett (Sassy Red Pr)

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 638**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 19**

**PROGRAMMING: 2021 REPROGRAM**

Photo by: Chelsea Neate





# FORMER GIFTED CHILD

BY ASHTON TURNER

30 MAR - 2 APR | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

FORMER GIFTED CHILD is a brand-new one-woman cabaret with an original score that examines our idea of success through the eyes of someone who was once destined for it.

Join writer/performer Ashton Turner for an intricate weaving of story and song into a performance that is clever, quirky, and candid.

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY  
Ashton Turner

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 129

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 1

PROGRAMMING: COMEDY FESTIVAL



# NO BALL GAMES ALLOWED

BY KRISTEN SMYTH | PRESENTED BY BULLET HEART CLUB

31 MAR - 9 APR | THEATRE WORKS

*"If you are looking for a sincere and honest piece of theatre, then is the show for you... Honest, raw, and very confronting in all the right ways."*

- **Lilithia Reviews**

*"A storytelling formula that is beautifully dense and thought provoking to an extent rarely available to Australian audiences."*

- **ArtsHub**

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Independent Theatre)

- **Best Lighting Design** - Katie Sfetkidis
- **Best Set & Costume Design** - Bethany J Fellows

WRITTEN BY

Kristen Smyth

DIRECTED BY

Kitan Petkovski

PERFORMED BY

Kristen Smyth & Mia Tuco

COMPOSITIONS BY

Robert Downie & Rachel Lewindon

SET AND COSTUMES BY

Bethany J Fellows

LIGHTING DESIGN BY

Katie Sfetkidis

LIGHTING ASSOCIATE

Harrie Hogan

STAGE MANAGER

Tamsin Otway

FILM BY

Pat Coyle & Kristen Smyth

CO-PRODUCED BY

Lauren Bennett

PRODUCTION OPERATION BY

Tom Ray

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 332

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 15

Photo by: Cameron Grant





# SPOT

BY FABIO MOTTA

5 - 15 APR | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Fabio is a remarkably talented artist. He works his craft to the fullest in this show... The brilliantly written script includes stories, songs, Shakespearean style repartee and a myriad of distinctive characters."*

*"Fabio is able to interchange characters with faultless precision, both vocally and physically. Timing is everything in this show and Fabio is a master of comic timing."*  
- Melbourne Observer

**CREATED AND PERFORMED BY**  
Fabio Motta  
**ORIGINALLY CO-DEvised & WRITTEN BY**  
John Tummino + Fabio Motta  
**MOVEMENT DIRECTION BY**  
Zya Kane  
**DEVELOPED AND MENTORED BY**  
Giovanni Fusetti  
**MUSIC BY**  
Munro Melano  
**PUBLICITY BY**  
Sassy Red Pr

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 282**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 7**

**PROGRAMMING: COMEDY FESTIVAL**

Photo by: Angel Leggas



# NOT TODAY

BY ALLY MORGAN | PRESENTED BY ROGUE PROJECTS

19 - 30 APR | THEATRE WORKS

*"Wholly original... a call to arms to continue fighting for climate justice day to day and a cathartic reminder of what connects us."*  
- Theatre People

*"We could feel that we were watching something truly special... quite unrelated to extreme weather events, we can expect Morgan to make some big waves in the near future."*  
- Australian Arts Review

**WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY**  
Ally Morgan  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Miranda Middleton  
**PRODUCED BY**  
Robbi James For Rogue Projects  
**PRODUCTION DESIGN BY**  
Grace Deacon  
**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**  
Aron Murray  
**ORCHESTRATION BY**  
Oliver Beard & Maddy Mallis  
**SOUND DESIGN/ ENGINEER**  
Marlon Grunden  
**TRACK MASTERING BY**  
Julia Goyen  
**DRAMATURGY BY**  
Brittanie Shipway  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
Eve Norris

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Cabaret)

- **Best Writing** - Ally Morgan

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 395**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 14**

**PROGRAMMING: COMEDY FESTIVAL**

Photo by: Cameron Grant





# A HUNDRED WORDS FOR SNOW

BY TATTY HENNESSY | PRESENTED BY GAVIN ROACH

2 - 7 MAY | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"A slickly performed solo show...Pattison is impressive, nimble, and focused, drawing out a tale with special appeal for a teenage audience."*  
- The Age

*"Eddie Pattison is a highly talented performer who can hold an audience in the palm of their hand."*  
- Stage Whispers

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Independent Theatre)

- **Best Performer** - Eddie Pattison

**WRITTEN BY**  
Tatty Hennessy  
**DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY**  
Gavin Roach  
**PERFORMED BY**  
Eddie Pattison  
**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**  
Spencer Herd  
**OUND DESIGN BY**  
Connor Ross  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
Andrew Hughes  
**PUBLICITY BY**  
Sassy Red Pr

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 119  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 8

Photo by: Cameron Grant



# THE HUMAN VOICE

BY JEAN COCTEAU | A THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION

4 - 14 MAY | THEATRE WORKS

*"Jean Cocteau's 1930 monodrama The Human Voice has never moved me until now."*  
- The Age

*"Such a consummate and courageous performer; Montgomery Griffith is riveting. Her exceptional capacity for vulnerability as a performer is displayed throughout."*  
- Stage Whispers

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Independent Theatre)

- **Best Performer** - Jane Montgomery Griffiths

**WRITTEN BY**  
Jean Cocteau  
**TRANSLATION & DRAMATURGY BY**  
Iris Gaillard  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Briony Dunn  
**PERFORMED BY**  
Jane Montgomery Griffiths  
**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**  
Niklas Pajanti  
**SOUND DESIGN BY**  
Darrin Verhagen  
**COSTUME AND SET DESIGN BY**  
Hahnie Goldfinch  
**PUBLICITY BY**  
Sassy Red Pr

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 495  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 9  
**PROGRAMMING:** A THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION

Photo by: Jodie Hutchinson





# THE VIEW FROM UP HERE

BY FIONA SPITZKOWSKI | PRESENTED BY THE VOICE IN MY HANDS

18 - 28 MAY | THEATRE WORKS

*"Art is not made in a vacuum and an artist who has the brave ingenuity to build their piece around a moment in time especially with the continuous evolution of our community's emotional zeitgeist deserves to be lauded."*

- Theatre People

*"'The View From Up Here' is a thought provoking production that visits themes of life and rebirth taking place after a devastating fire, which I found uplifting, raw, and beautiful."*

- Lilithia Reviews

#### WRITTEN AND CREATED BY

Fiona Spitzkowsky

#### DIRECTED BY

Julian Dibley-Hall

#### PERFORMED BY

John Marc Desengano, Brigid Gallacher, Chanella Macri & Emily Tomlins

#### PRODUCTION DESIGN

James Lew & Claudia Mirabello

#### LIGHTING DESIGN

Jason Crick

#### SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSITION

Jess Keeffe

#### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Harriet Wallace-Mead

#### DRAMATURGY

Liv Satchell

#### FIGHT COORDINATOR

Josh Bell

#### STAGE MANAGER

Ashleigh Walwyn

#### PRODUCER

Hot Mess Productions

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 482

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 16

PROGRAMMING: 2021 REPROGRAM

Photo by: Theresa Harrison



# OWL AND THE ALBATROSS

BY PARIS BALLA

1 - 4 JUNE | THEATRE WORKS  
SEASON CUT SHORT BY COVID-19

*"Owl and the Albatross is a beautifully moving piece of theatre that is funny, heartbreaking and hopeful all at once. It is exciting to think that VCE students will be learning about and unpacking it!"*

*"Writer Paris Balla and their Co-director Sarah Branton spoke on opening night about hoping young queer audiences will be able to see to see themselves in way they haven't before on the stage. With the show being a part of the VCE playlist this year, I think that their aspirations will be realised."*

- Theatre Travels

#### DIRECTORS

Sarah Branton & Paris Balla

#### WRITER

Paris Balla

#### LIGHTING DESIGN

Kyra Ryan

#### SOUND DESIGN

Callum Cheah

#### SET DESIGN

Paris Balla & Sarah Branton

#### SET CONSTRUCTION

Tiernan Maclaren

#### PUPPET DESIGN & FABRICATION

Jason Lehane

#### STAGE MANAGEMENT

Jemma Law

#### PRODUCER

Ryan Hamilton

#### OPERATOR

Caitlin Begg

#### EDUCATION NOTES

Tara Daniel

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 298

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 17

PROGRAMMING: VCE PLAYLIST 2022





# 5 STARS

BY JAKE STEWART | PRESENTED BY KISSING BOOTH

14 - 25 JUN | THEATRE WORKS

*"Stewart and Beasley might not be a match in romance, but as partners in performance they make a charismatic duo... Stewart writes with a fresh and authentic voice and possesses a precise and original gift for metaphor. It's soul-baring and deeply felt in a way that secures the extrusions of humour to hard-won insight."*

- The Age

**WRITTEN BY**

Jake Stewart

**ADAPTED BY**

Dominic Weintraub, Jake Stewart,  
& Joel Beasley

**STARRING**

Joel Beasley & Jake Stewart

**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**

Harrie Hogan

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 360**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 9**



# CALIGULA

BY ALBERT CAMUS | PRESENTED BY BURNING HOUSE

13 - 23 JUL | THEATRE WORKS

*"I have seen a lot of theatre but never anything like this! This outstanding production is worthy enough to be taken to L.A., New York, or the West End; a special experience that both assaults and touches our hearts in an execution of logic and emancipation from being human."*

- TAGG

*"Caligula is bold, ballsy, and off the charts. Presented by Burning House, this is a production jam-packed with daring choices."*

- Theatre Matters

*"Truly an ambitious and original adaptation."*

- Theatre Travels

**DIRECTED AND CO-PRODUCED BY**

Robert Johnson

**CO-PRODUCER**

Jessica Johnson

**SET DESIGN BY**

Riley Tapp

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

Tim Bonser

**DRAMATURGY**

Lore Burns

**COMPOSITION**

Claire Healy

**COSTUME DESIGN**

Riley Tapp & Robert Johnson

**ASSISTANT DESIGN**

Bridie Turner

**HAIR & MAKE UP DESIGN**

Rachel Snape

**STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Ishana Girsh & Acacia Nettleton

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 685**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 24**

**PROGRAMMING: 2020 REPROGRAM**

Photo by: Jack Dixon-Gunn





# THE MARVELLOUS LIFE OF CARLO GATTI

BY CASSANDRA-ELLI YIANNACOU | PRESENTED BY WILDEFANG PRODUCTIONS

3 - 13 AUG | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"The Marvellous Life of Carlo Gatti' is a must-see new production from Theatre Works, a beautiful, touching and thought-provoking piece that will leave you elated by the magic of human connection. A dark comedy that should be seen by all lovers of new theatre."*

- Beat Magazine

*"Yiannacou has written a powerful play. The Marvellous Life of Carlo Gatti is a beautiful piece of art."*

- Lilithia Reviews

**PLAYWRIGHT**  
Cassandra-Elli Yiannacou  
**DIRECTOR**  
Chris Hosking  
**PERFORMED BY**  
Shamita Siva, El Kiley and  
Connor Dariol  
**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
MANAGER AND DRAMATURGE**  
Dr. Laura Hartnell  
**CO-DRAMATURGE**  
Glenn Saunders

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 228**  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 9**

Photo by: Sarah J Clarke



# MEDEA: OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

DIRECTED BY STEVEN MITCHELL WRIGHT | A THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION

2 - 20 AUG | THEATRE WORKS

*"After the chilling but inevitable finale... the audience is stunned and silent. We have catharsis. A most impressive achievement from all concerned."*

- Stage Whispers

*"The way additional media was used throughout the performance to enhance the storytelling is a true wonder... another layer of what makes this production so unique."*

- Lilithia Reviews

*"Unmissable, sizzling theatre, the likes of which is scarce."*

- The Blurb

**DIRECTOR**  
Steven Mitchell Wright  
**WRITING CONTRIBUTIONS BY**  
Chris Beckey, Steven Mitchell Wright &  
Ian Johnson with Belle Hansen, Enya  
Daly & ensemble  
**CAST**  
Paolo Bartolomei, Emily Joy, Willow Sizer  
**VIDEO ARTIST**  
Chris Bennett, Underground Media  
**DESIGNER**  
Hahnie Goldfinch  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER**  
Ben Hughes  
**SOUND COMPOSITION**  
Rachel Lewindon  
**STAGE & PRODUCTION MANAGER**  
Holly Anderson  
**TECH MANAGER**  
Tom Ray  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**  
Belle Hansen

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 1575**  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 26**

**PROGRAMMING: VCE PLAYLIST 2022 + A THEATRE WORKS PRODUCTION**

Photo by: Morgan Roberts





# IPHIS

MUSIC BY ELENA KATS-CHERNIN LIBRETTO BY RICHARD TOOP AFTER OVID'S METAMORPHOSES  
PRESENTED BY LYRIC OPERA

26 AUG - 3 SEP | THEATRE WORKS

*"Iphis makes it easy for people to get excited over opera. Bold & inventive, it leaves its audience with plenty to think about & plenty to appreciate."*  
- My Melbourne Arts

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Opera)

- **Best Production**
- **Best Musical Achievement** - Patrick Burns (Composer)
- **Best Design** - Brynna Lowen (Set & Design)
- **Best Lead Role** - Douglas Kelly
- **Best Supporting Role** - Breanna Stuart
- **Best Supporting Role** - Nicole Wallace

**DIRECTOR**  
Katy Maudlin  
**CONDUCTOR**  
Patrick Burns  
**DESIGN**  
Brynna Lowen  
**LIGHTING**  
Richard Vabre  
**PERFORMED BY**  
Morgan Carter  
Douglas Kelly  
Nicole Wallace  
Timothy Daly  
Troy Castle  
Breanna Stuart

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 466  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 28

Photo by: Darren Gill



# SENSER

BY BRITTANIE SHIPWAY

7 - 17 SEP | THEATRE WORKS

*"Creative and fun... This cabaret performance encompasses everything you want: a creative script with laughter, singing, dancing and an impeccable cast."*  
- Milkbar Magazine

*"Senser is guaranteed to make you think, and above all, surprise you at every turn."*  
- Lillithia Reviews

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Independent Theatre)

- **Best Lighting Design** - Aron Murray

**WRITTEN BY**  
Brittanie Shipway  
**DIRECTION & CHOREOGRAPHY BY**  
Miranda Middleton  
**CAST**  
Luisa Scrofani  
Adam Noviello  
**SET AND COSTUME DESIGN**  
Grace Deacon  
**COMPOSITIONS**  
Jess Newman  
**SOUND DESIGN**  
David Youings  
**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
Aron Murray  
**STAGE & PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**  
Andrew Hughes  
**DRAMATURGY**  
Miranda Middleton  
Briony Dunn

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 506  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 14

Photo by: Daniel Rabin





# THE LAST LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

BY KATIE REEVE | PRESENTED BY BLACK HOLE THEATRE

20 - 24 SEP | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Fabulous!! A beautiful, heart-warming tale. Gorgeous puppets & set. What an amazing immersive, fun, engaging first theatre experience for my nearly 3 year-old!!! Loved this so much."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

*"Very entertaining. The audience interaction was very engaging, my boys had a great time getting involved in the show."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

**WRITTEN BY**  
Katie Reeve  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Nancy Black  
**DESIGNED BY**  
Hamish Fletcher  
**MUSIC AND LYRICS BY**  
Darren Clark  
**PUPPETEERS**  
Lily Fish  
Kaira Hacheft  
**SHOW OPERATOR**  
Hannah Willoughby

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 146

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 8

**PROGRAMMING:** LITTLE LEGENDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL

Photo by: Cameron Grant



# WHALEBONE

BY JENS ALTHEIMER

22 - 24 SEP | THEATRE WORKS

*"Loved it, my daughter found it incredibly evocative and educational. She kept talking about it for hours trying to put in words what she has learnt."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

*"Funny and touching, a great production for young and old alike."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

**DEvised AND PERFORMED BY**  
Jens Altheimer

**GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Independent Theatre)**

- **Best Set & Costume Design** - Jens Altheimer

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 167

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 1

**PROGRAMMING:** LITTLE LEGENDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL





# UNSORTED

BY WESLEY MIDDLETON

27 SEP - 1 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"Loved it. I identified with a couple of the characters and wish I'd seen something like this as a child."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

*"Fantastic concept. Engaging cast. Excellent fun costumes and props."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

*"A thought provoking show. I liked the idea of encouraging kids to be themselves which is why I took my daughter."*

- Post-Show Audience Survey

**PLAYWRIGHT**

Wesley Middleton

**DIRECTION**

Tara Daniel

**COSTUME**

Gunshy (Kathryn Jamieson), Sarah Naylor & Tara Daniel

**PROPS**

Danny Cisco

**SOUND DESIGN**

Jacinta Anderson

**LIGHTING**

Persephone Waxman

**PERFORMED BY**

Artemis Munoz

Opal Onyx

Maddie Roberts

Mikaela Innes

Scott Sneddon

Caito Zacharias



# YOU'RE A CATCH! WHY ARE YOU SINGLE?

BY SARAH WYNEN

4 - 8 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"A superbly made musical work that seamlessly blends spoken word, song and dance to explore what it means to search for meaningful connection in the modern world."*

- Theatre Travels

*"Beautifully written with songs to suit, sound and lighting is perfectly executed and you will not miss a word of the monologues. Seriously, this show is a must see! It's been a long time since such raucous involuntary laughter escaped my belly."*

- Weekend Notes

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY**

Sarah Wynen

**DIRECTED AND**

**CHOREOGRAPHED BY**

Simon McWilliam

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 218**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 14**

**PROGRAMMING: LITTLE LEGENDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE FESTIVAL**

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 223**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 10**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**





# HYSTERICA

BY CHRISTINE CROYDEN, CHRISTINE DAVEY, DUNCAN ESLER AND MEGAN J RIEDL

4 - 8 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"In Melbourne Fringe show, HYSTERICA, Actors Tess Parker and Mary Steuten deliver a piece of historical revisionism through monologue to tell the stories of four extraordinary women. Parker and Steuten put on thought-provoking performances that made me want to find out more about the characters they inhabited."*

- Theatre Travels

**WRITTEN BY**

Christine Croyden  
Megan J Riedl  
Duncan Esler  
Christine Davey

**DIRECTED BY**

Graci Lynch  
Megan J Riedl  
Christine Davey

**PERFORMED BY**

Tess Parker and Mary Steuten



# A PLAY ABOUT IVY, THAT IS REALLY ABOUT JUNE

BY OLIVE WEEKS | PRESENTED BY FLICKFLICKCITY

5 - 8 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"Weeks successfully produces a snapshot of life as a lost 20 something-year old, recreated onstage. The writing style is highly poetic... set and costume design is superb... dynamic lighting design... eclectic soundscape."*

- Theatre Travels

**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY**

Olive Weeks

**PRODUCED BY**

FlickFlickCity

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 93**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 9**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 547**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 4**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**





# EVERYMAN & HIS DOG

BY RON ELISHA

5 - 8 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Elegant, spare... compelling; we hang on every word."*

- Stage Whispers

**WRITER**

Ron Elisha

**DIRECTOR**

Denny Lawrence

**CAST**

Dennis Coard

**DESIGNER**

Ady Chisholm



# THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE

BY VIVIENNE WALSH | PRESENTED BY FEET FIRST COLLECTIVE

11 - 14 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"An excellent production, is innovative, exciting, and well worth seeing."*

- Stage Whispers

*"This is Where We Live is complex and tense... compelling viewing, and the story and performances will stay with me for a while."*

- ArtsHub

**CAST**

Lauren Beeton & Samuel Addison  
**Producer, Director & Movement**

**Coach**

Teresa Izzard

**DESIGNER**

Samuel Addison

**DRAMATURG AND VOCAL**

**PERFORMANCE COACH**

Donald Woodburn

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER AND SOUND**

**DESIGNER**

Lauren Beeton

**LIGHTING DESIGNER**

Dylan Dorotich

**PHOTOGRAPHER, VIDEOGRAPHER,**

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND SOUND**

**EDITOR**

John Congear

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 201

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 6

**PROGRAMMING:** VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE:** 79

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION:** 5

**PROGRAMMING:** MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL





# ON THE RISE

BY OSCAR JENKIN & JULIAN SMITH-GARD

10 - 14 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"On The Rise leaps into all-singin', all-dancin' revolutionary fervour with a musical fantasy that manages to interweave the righteous roar of the mob with a smattering of nuanced reflection on human failings. If that sounds like a rich brew and a lot of fun, it is."*

- Theatre Matters

**PRODUCER/VOCAL DIRECTOR**  
Liv Jackson  
**DIRECTOR**  
Maddi Sullivan  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR/WRITER**  
Julian Smith-Gard  
**ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR/  
WRITER**  
Oscar Jenkin  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
Loretta Costa  
**CHOREOGRAPHY**  
Ella Clarke  
**PUBLICITY**  
Kai Clews  
**SOUND DESIGNER**  
Daniel Gigliotti  
**LIGHTING**  
Josh Gardner  
**COSTUME**  
Samira Reason

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 598**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 39**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**



# PRINCESS TRUFFLES

BY BRITTANIE SHIPWAY

10 - 15 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

Princess Truffles wakes in her tower. Today is her 1425th day of waiting for her prince, and she's starting to think he may never arrive.

What's to become of a 46 year old princess who's never kissed so much as a frog? Whose hair is too thin to work as a rope ladder? And whose feet are too wide to fit into most accommodating glass slipper?

Luckily, today Truffles has an audience to help her answer these questions, while trying to woo potential suitors with song and seductive dancing. Will this be the night she finds her prince?

**PERFORMED BY**  
Alice Daly  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Fabio Motta  
**WRITTEN BY**  
Alice Daly  
co-devised with Fabio Motta

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 109**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 5**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**





# MYKONOS EXPLODES!

BY RICHIE HALLAL

11 - 14 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

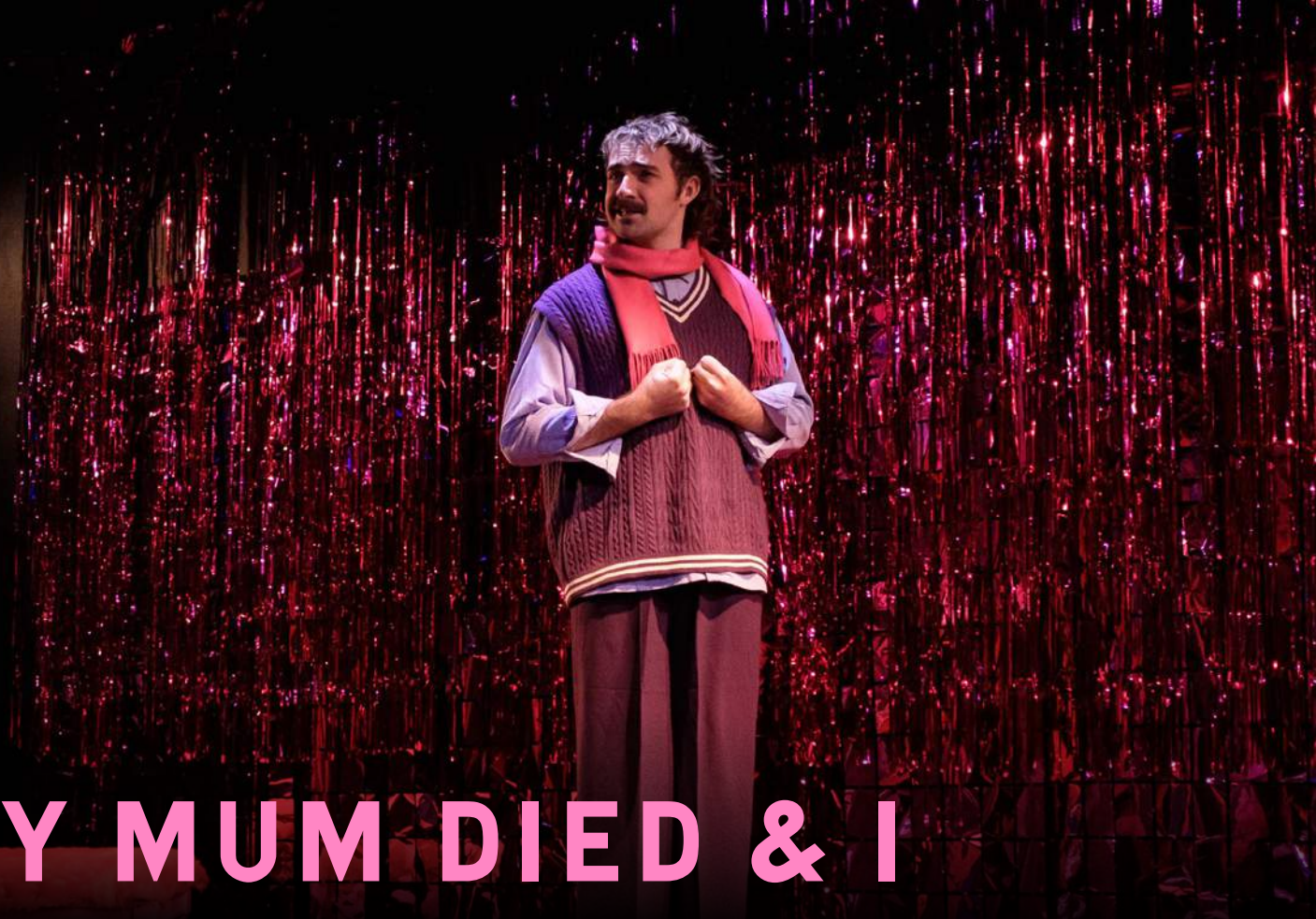
Acclaimed clown and theatre maker Richie Hallal brings his newest show, a wild ride into what happens when a clown loses his mind.

A rawcus comedy about a clown in the throes of a breakdown. A rampage of a show and an experiment in complicitè.

**MYKONOS EXPLODES!** questions the mind-bending truth of reality using a shopping trolley, a box of water and a stack of dynamite! Truly an experience not to be missed.

PERFORMED AND DEvised BY  
Richie Hallal

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 94  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 2  
PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL



# MY MUM DIED & I WANNA SING ABOUT IT

BY JACK FRANCIS WEST

15 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

**MY MUM DIED & I WANNA SING ABOUT IT** is a silly, charming and self-indulgent shit-show that was cheaper to write than going to therapy. Combining comedy, tragedy, theatre, cabaret and general stream of consciousness, it is an autobiographical exploration of the realisations and experiences surrounding death, the relationship between parent and child, and the nuance of grief.

WRITTEN, PERFORMED AND  
CO-DIRECTED BY  
Jack Francis West  
DIRECTED AND PRODUCED BY  
Lincoln Gidney

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 72  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 3  
PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL





# HOW TO BE A PERSON WHEN THE WORLD IS ENDING

BY MYFANWY HOCKING | PRESENTED BY FLICKFLICKCITY

18 - 22 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

*"The excellent cast and the intelligence of the writing and playing are unmistakable... How To Be a Person is certainly a real achievement in a very difficult form."*

- Stage Whispers

**WRITTEN BY**

Myfanwy Hocking

**DIRECTED BY**

Meg Dunn

**PERFORMED BY**

Meg Dunn

Myfanwy Hocking

Henry Kelly

Sebastian Li

Miela Anich

Lachie Gough

**PRODUCED BY**

Flick Flick City

**SOUND DESIGN**

Danni A. Esposito

**STAGE MANAGEMENT**

Sunny Youngsmith

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 323**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 10**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**

Photo by: Jack Dixon Gunn



# THE DREAM ROOM

BY RACHEL NAPARSTEK

19 - 20 OCT | THEATRE WORKS

Rachel's **THE DREAM ROOM** is a semi-autobiographical musical featuring original music and lyrics. The performances on the 19th and 20th October were staged readings of Rachel's show.

Inspired by the isolation that Rach felt during the extended covid lockdowns, Rachel wrote this musical to explain how she felt to the outside world when her daily joys were extinguished.

**WRITTEN, DIRECTED &**

**PERFORMED BY**

Rachel Naparstek

**MENTORED & PERFORMED BY**

Alice Albon

Issie Hart

**DESIGN**

Jessica Glaser

**DIRECTING CONSULTANT**

Alanah Guiry

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 110**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 6**

**PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL**

Photo by: Cameron Grant





# HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?

BY KEIR AITKEN | PRESENTED BY LIVE WITNESS THEATRE

18 - 23 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Attending this play is an opportunity to engage in an expressive, innovative meditation on life... This fusion of movement, mime, stories and song is a well woven performance."*

- Stage Whispers

CREATED AND PERFORMED BY  
Keir Aitken

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 103

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 8

PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL



# THE BEEP TEST

BY NEYLON AND PEELE

18 - 22 OCT | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"The Beep Test is a fantastic example of when a shared vision flawlessly comes together. Neylon & Peele may be relatively new to the performing arts but this is definitely a duo destined for big things."*

- My Melbourne Arts

## GREEN ROOM NOMINATIONS (Musical Theatre)

- **Best New Australian Music Theatre Writing** - Conor Neylon & Jackson Peele
- **Best Ensemble**
- **Best Direction** - Jackson Peele
- **Best Supporting Role** - Josh Reckless

**DIRECTOR, BOOK & LYRICS**

Jackson Peele

**MUSIC DIRECTOR, MUSIC & LYRICS, MUSIC**

Conor Neylon

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Alice Fittock

**STAGE MANAGER**

Will Barker

**LIGHTING DESIGN**

Gabriel Bethune

**VISUAL DESIGN**

Francis Cao

**CAST**

Lachie Hewson, Josh Reckless, Sara Reed, Jack Keen, Jo Jabalde, Lauren Cheok, Benjamin Barker

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 418

ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 14

PROGRAMMING: MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL





# DAY AFTER TERRIBLE DAY

BY THE DANGER ENSEMBLE

1 - 12 NOV | THEATRE WORKS

*"a sensory experience that will move anyone who has ever loved and lost... Director/designer Steven Mitchell Wright and his team of performers/divisors have utilised the space in an extraordinary way"*  
- Australian Stage

*"A haunting, beautiful and mesmerising promenade theatre experience... To say that Day After Terrible Day is astounding is an understatement."*  
- Milkbar Magazine

*"The acting and writing is passionate and poetic, full of nostalgia, longing and yearning. Confronting, eerie, heartbreaking."*  
- The Plus Ones

**DIRECTOR/DESIGNER**  
Steven Mitchell Wright  
**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
Ben Hughes  
**PERFORMERS AND DEVISORS**  
Chris Beckey  
Eidann Glover  
Deborah Leiser-Moore  
Polly Sará  
**CREATIVE ASSOCIATE/UNDERSTUDY**  
Peta Coy  
**DIRECTING SECONDMENT**  
George Lazaris

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 341**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 16**

**PROGRAMMING: 2021 REPROGRAM**

Photo by: Morgan Roberts



# LOW

BY DANIEL KEENE | PRESENTED BY VICTORIAN THEATRE COMPANY

8 - 12 NOV | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"Keene wrote Low in 1990. More than 30 years on it stands up well... I was suitably impressed by the talent involved in this production."*  
- The Blurb

*"Veronica Thomas is a revelation in her role as strung-out Emma. She carries nearly every scene, capably ricocheting like Lady Macbeth between turned-on ambition and convoluted caution."*  
- Theatre Travels

**CAST**  
Matthew Connell  
Veronica Thomas  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Jennifer Dean  
**STAGE MANAGED BY**  
Harry Dowling  
**COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN BY**  
Thomas Kunz  
**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**  
Kris Chainey  
**SET & COSTUME DESIGN BY**  
Chelsea Neate  
**PRODUCED BY**  
Matthew Connell  
**MARKETING MANAGER**  
Tanith Facey

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 205**

**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 9**

Photo by: Chelsea Neate





# THE MENTOR

BY JOSHUA WHITE | PRESENTED BY BRAVO ARTS

16 - 26 NOV | THEATRE WORKS

*"The Mentor is a classic example of what happens when you give two strong performers such a riveting and dramatic script. This is a total theatre masterclass."*

- **Lilithia Reviews**

*"Joshua White's deftness with dialogue, dramatic structure and character development is impressive for a first script."*

- **Limelight Magazine**

*"Playwright Joshua White's new work The Mentor is an intriguing and deft two-hander that tackles the tricky topic of ageism in the acting world."*

- **Australian Stage**

**PLAYWRIGHT**  
Joshua White  
**DIRECTED BY**  
Christian Cavallo  
**PERFORMED BY**  
Amanda Muggleton  
Connor Morel  
**DRAMATURGY BY**  
Iain Sinclair  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTION BY**  
Cameron Steens  
**PRODUCTION DESIGN BY**  
Casey Harper-Wood  
**LIGHTING DESIGN BY**  
Jason Bovaird  
**SOUND DESIGN BY**  
Justin Gardam  
**STAGE MANAGER**  
Ashleigh Walwyn  
**PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE**  
Charlotte Crowley  
**PUBLICITY BY**  
Sassy Red Pr

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 367**  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 13**

Photo by: Lucinda Goodwin



# LITTLE EYOLF

BY HENRIK IBSEN | PRESENTED BY BURNING HOUSE

2 - 10 DEC | EXPLOSIVES FACTORY

*"A brave new take on a brilliant Ibsen play."*  
- **Theatre Travels**

*"The title role is crucial, however, as nine-year-old Eyolf makes a significant contribution to the dialogue early on. So the fact that this play has even been attempted, and a child actor with the requisite talent cast, make this production directed by Robert Johnson a remarkable achievement."*

- **Limelight**

**PRODUCERS**  
Jessica Johnson  
Elisa Armstrong  
Robert Johnson  
**DIRECTOR**  
Robert Johnson  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER**  
Bridie Turner  
**LIGHTING DESIGN**  
Tim Bonser  
**STARRING**  
Elisa Armstrong  
Liliana Dalton  
Ioanna Gagani  
Damien Harrison  
Zac Steedman  
Alexander Tomisich

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 229**  
**ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 11**

Photo by: Jack Dixon Gunn





# ST KILDA BIG LOST BAND

SPONSORED BY ACLAND STREET TRADERS ASSOCIATION

10 DEC | O'DONNELL GARDENS, ST KILDA

Over two week-long visits to Theatre Works the key creatives recruited a 75 strong team of mostly young people – who ranged from absolute beginners to young guns – and rehearsed up a set of songs.

One day before the gig at O'Donnell Gardens the touring band members arrived and the whole band attended an epic rehearsal in the biggest band you've ever seen!

PRODUCED / DIRECTED BY  
Ian Pidd

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 250  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 35



# THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MAMA ALTO HOLIDAY SPECIAL

BY MAMA ALTO

17 DEC | THEATRE WORKS

Jazz singer and cabaret artiste Mama Alto presented the Eleventh Annual Mama Alto Holiday Special. A beloved yearly tradition, this Yuletide soiree of vintage holiday Christmas song fosters togetherness at a time when many can feel isolated - a silly season balm for the soul.

PRESENTED AND PERFORMED BY  
Mama Alto

AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 64  
ARTIST PARTICIPATION: 2





THEATRE WORKS'  
**BLACKBOX**  
CAFE & BAR

Since its opening in 2021 the Black Box Cafe, Bar and Outdoor Stage has become a daily go to for members of the St Kilda community and a buzzing hub for artists to meet, work and connect with an operational theatre. Across the year the outdoor stage is activated with live music and events from markets to gardens, a truly community-focused space.

Open 6 days a week, the cafe has high quality barista made coffee and sweet treats to pair with it. And for those looking for a little night life, the bar is open to the general public (not just for theatre goers!) The perfect destination to sit and have a drink with friends and colleagues.

Blackbox is also available for events, celebrations, concerts and anything your heart can dream of.

**CAFE VISITORS: 15,231**

**COFFEES: 13,743**

**CAKES: 497**



**EXPLOSIVES FACTORY**

The 2022 Explosives Factory season went off with a bang! Pun intended.

Our inaugural year at Explosives Factory boasted 15 full seasons, numerous creative & professional developments and thousands of patrons experiencing the bold program of works.

A space once used to manufacture fireworks, the Explosives Factory is just as much a part of St Kilda history as Theatre Works itself. Explosives Factory is a versatile workshop, studio and development space complete with accommodation, a bathroom and kitchen facilities.

This space is also home of our residency program **RADAR** (Regional Artist Development and Accommodation Residencies) and provides year-round rehearsal space for our partnering artists.

**ARTISTS WHO USED EF FOR REHEARSALS / WORKSHOPS: 972**

**ARTISTS WHO USED EF FOR ACCOMODATION: 23**

**AUDIENCE ATTENDANCE: 2,551**

**31 PHOTO/VIDEO SHOOTS: 31**

Image: Associate Artist Development Showcase (2022)  
Photo by: Daniel Rabin



# OUR SUPPORTERS

## VANGUARD DONORS

### AMBASSADOR | \$5,000+

Abraham & Helen James Family Foundation  
Jane Hansen - Hansen Little Foundation

### CITIZENS | \$2,500+

Michael Nossal & Jo Porter

### GUARDIAN ANGELS\* | \$2,500

Diana Georgeff & Michael Georgeff  
Helen Gannon & Michael Gannon  
Jane Badler-Hains & Stephen Hains  
Jane Nelson & Roger Nelson  
John Betts & Robert Buckingham  
Susan Renouf  
Anonymous

### SHE WRITES GIVING CIRCLE\*\* | \$2,000

Dianne Toulson  
Lorraine Little  
Rosemary Walls

### CHAMPION | \$1,000+

Adam Krongold  
Alison Richards  
Annie Bourke  
Geoffrey Conaghan and Mathew Erbs  
James McCaughey  
Michael Lawrence  
Michael Kingston  
Roger Hatten  
Rosemary Walls  
Tim Wildash

### ADVOCATE | \$500+

Ann Byrne  
Angelo Delsante  
Charles Hackman  
Debbie Dadon AM  
Dianne Toulson  
Julie and Michael Landvogt  
Keith Oderberg  
Liz Schell  
Lorraine Little  
Melissa McShane  
Nancy Black  
Tom Buchan  
Vic Zbar & Pamela Macklin  
Vivienne Halat

### SUPPORTER | \$100+

Alida Milani  
Alison Bell  
Alyson Campbell  
Andrew Walker  
Ann Tonks  
Anne Donegan

Anne Gasko  
Antony Zajicek  
Bryan North  
Cath Taylor  
Catherine Collins  
Catriona Sinclair  
Chantal Marks  
Christopher Chaundy  
Christopher Reed  
Claire Stonier Kipen  
David Hanna  
Dianne Ellis  
Dina Mann  
Don King  
Dr Anne Marshall  
Edwina Wren  
Eleanor Mackie  
Elizabeth Luscombe  
Fiona Mahony  
Fiona Patten  
Fiona Menzies  
Gail Veal  
Graeme Robinson  
Greg Day  
Gregory and Alice Erdstein  
Foulcher  
Holly Austin  
Houston Ash  
Imogen Sturni  
Isla Carboon  
Jaklene Vukasinovic  
Jane Cameron  
Jane Kent  
Jason Craig  
Jenny Ryssenbeek  
Jeremy Press  
Jesse Gerner  
Jessica Luu  
Joanna Baevski  
Joanne Woods  
Joanne Holo  
Johanna Verberne  
John Corkish  
John Allen  
John Betts  
Josephine Daly  
Julia Butler  
Julian Dibley-Hall  
Julie Copeland  
Karen Cosson  
Kate Foord  
Kaylene O'Neill  
Kim Ho  
Kristine Whorlow AM  
Leonie Dodds

Lester Johnson  
Linda Herd  
Linda Thompson  
Louise Odwyer  
Lyll Brooks  
Lynne Burgess  
Maja Amanita  
Marian Anderson  
Marina Farnan  
Matylda Jaworski  
Megan Zerafa  
Melanie Etchell  
Meredith Sussex  
Merryn Anstee  
Michael Pearce  
Michael Lidiker  
Michael Smith  
Michael Anthony Lee  
Michele Lee  
Ness Harwood  
Nicole Beyer  
Olivia Satchell  
Peta Murray  
Peta Downes  
Peter Tedford  
Peter Spitzkowsky  
Peter Winspur  
Phil Haeusler  
Richard Watts  
Richard Zimmermann  
Rino del Zoppo  
Robert Buckingham  
Rodney Charls  
Roger Hodgman  
Ros Willett  
Rosaria Forlano  
Rose Capp  
Roslyn Varley  
Scott Tunaley  
Serge Thomann  
Snowe Li  
Steve Brown  
Sylvia Voigt  
Tanya Gerstle  
Thomas Wright  
Tom Gutteridge  
Tony Ayres  
Tricia Wheelahan  
Turi Hollis  
Vanessa O'Neill  
Wendy Lasica  
Zoltan Kiss

*\*Supporting the 2022 Associate Artists Program*

*\*\*Supporting the 2022-23 She Writes Collective Program*

# PARTNERS & SPONSORS

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS



## EDUCATION PARTNER

**COLLARTS**

## SHE WRITES PARTNERS



## TICKETING PARTNER

**eventbrite**

## PUBLICITY PARTNER



## CORPORATE SPONSOR

**belle**  
PROPERTY

## BEER PARTNER



## WINE PARTNER



## SOUND/AV PARTNER

**OAKLANDS**  
PRODUCTIONS

## LIGHTING PARTNER



## DISTRIBUTION PARTNER



## USHERING PARTNER

**THE NATIONAL THEATRE**  
MELBOURNE

## DIGITAL MARKETING PARTNER

**TWISK | THIS WEEK IN ST KILDA**

## PRESENTATION PARTNER





# TEAM THEATRE WORKS

The Board of Theatre Works provides robust governance in an adaptable, agile, competitively challenging environment. Representing diversity of views and skills, artistic connections, and networks, our Board supports art and creation that continues to surprise and experiment and navigates uncharted pathways for independent and maker artists.

## BOARD



**KRISTEN SMYTH**  
(she/her)  
Chair - Political /  
Policy / Creative



**SHARON LACY**  
(she/her)  
Legal / Governance



**LAUREN O'DWYER**  
(she/her)  
Policy / Inclusion /  
Organisational



**ROBERT BUCKINGHAM**  
(he/him)  
Philanthropy / Venue  
Redevelopment



**CHICHI NWOKOCHA**  
(she/her)  
Philanthropy /  
Fundraising / Inclusion



**LYALL BROOKS**  
(he/him)  
Education / Touring /  
Producing

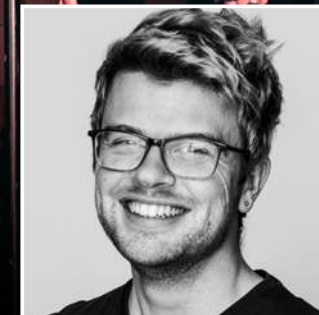


**LAUREN BENNETT**  
(she/her)  
Education / Secretarial /  
Producing

## STAFF



**DIANNE TOULSON**  
(she/her)  
Executive Director /  
Creative Producer



**ADAM GARDNER**  
(he/him)  
Box Office / Marketing  
/ Graphic Design



**STEVEN MITCHELL  
WRIGHT**  
(he/him)  
Artistic Associate



**ANNE HENDERSON**  
(she/her)  
Finance Administrator



**BRIONY DUNN**  
(she/her)  
Literary Development  
Manager



**KITÁN PETKOVSKI**  
(he/him)  
Creative Associate



**TOM RAY**  
(he/him)  
Venue Operations  
Manager



**BELLE HANSEN**  
(she/her)  
Associate Producer



**ALANAH GUIRY**  
(she/her)  
Access and Inclusion  
Coordinator







# Theatre Works

## **THEATRE WORKS**

14 Acland Street, St Kilda VIC 3182  
Australia

[PO Box 1205 St Kilda South 3182]

Bookings: (03) 9534 3388

Office: (03) 9534 4879

**[THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU](http://THEATREWORKS.ORG.AU)**



## DOABLE GALLERY

*Creativity takes courage. – HENRI MATISSE*

### THE OPPORTUNITY

A naming rights partnership in a Social Enterprise Art Gallery, supported by HousingFirst and run by residents of community housing. Our Gallery will feature mixed media works created exclusively by residents of social housing and host a range of revenue generating activities, exhibitions, workshops, and events that connect people of social housing, the broader community, and commercial partners.

As a result of the 2022 Annual HousingFirst Exhibition debrief, a group of resident artists and the HousingFirst Community Development team have explored the prospect of opening a gallery of resident's work, supported by HousingFirst and established, curated and run by our residents.

The operation will be managed and run by resident volunteers with experience in art & art curation. All proceeds from works sold will go directly to the creators. Our Gallery will deliver an income stream through activities such as venue hire and private exhibitions which will be invested back into Gallery operations.

It is our goal to develop a business model for a sustainable social enterprise Resident Gallery that can be replicated across other suitable HousingFirst developments to provide opportunities for work experience and income for our residents.

We wish to create a safe space where residents can come together to acquire business and creative skills, build relationships, and make connections. The Gallery will create meaningful employment and work experience pathways for people facing disadvantage and complex barriers to economic participation by gradually building capacity; developing pathways to the open labour market through contributor traineeships; work experience placements and volunteering opportunities.

Importantly, the Gallery provides an interface with the broader community, offering insight into the lived experience of those in social housing, helping to remove stigma and contributing to the social inclusion of our residents.

### THE PARTNERSHIP

The Gallery offers our Impact Partners a chance to invest in the creative expression of our most disadvantaged, to promote individual wellbeing and to create a range of social outcomes such as building community cohesion and contributing to our collective cultural and economic strength.

As **Doable Gallery** Partner can engage in brand building on values of creativity, innovation and community engagement and deliver creative and meaningful interactions with clients and staff. Benefits include innovative corporate branding, content collaborations, unique client entertainment and networking activities, and development of inspiring training and corporate volunteering incentives for staff.

Our Impact Partner has access to the Gallery space for private or corporate events. Support of **Doable Gallery** will also include sponsorship of the Opening Night of the 2023 Annual HousingFirst



Art Exhibition.

**Recognition includes:**

- Participation in the Tenth Annual Housing First Art Exhibition
- Special tours & private viewings
- Gallery wall text
- All invitations to exhibition events
- Gallery & Exhibition brochure, film, and merchandise (if applicable)
- All media activities and press materials including sponsor statement with logo in press kit
- Gallery advertisements
- Gallery web page

We are open to discussing tailoring benefits and recognition to your needs.

**THE HISTORY**

The HousingFirst Resident Artist Collective has mounted an Annual Group Exhibition each year for the past 10 years, mentoring participants for 6 months prior to Exhibition. Since forming in 2013 the Collective has exhibited at Galleries such as BrightSpace, Gasworks, Laneway Arts Space and Modern Eureka. Multiple individual artists have gone on to host Solo Exhibitions.

To date, more than 250 HousingFirst residents have been engaged in the Collective Exhibition, from emerging to established artists. More than \$60,000 in sales has been generated across the 10 years to directly benefit residents. These Exhibitions have been an opportunity for artists to share their stories with the broader community, reducing the stigma surrounding those living in community housing.

**THE PILOT**

2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the Housing First Annual Art Exhibition. We propose running a gallery for 12 months to test the model with a view to permanency in our own developments. This period will include the hosting of the Tenth Annual HousingFirst Art Exhibition.

It is our goal to develop a business model for a sustainable social enterprise Resident Gallery that can be replicated across other suitable HousingFirst developments to provide opportunities for work experience, employment, skills development, and income for our residents.

The **Doable Gallery** has been offered a rent subsidised space (\$1250 pcm) in Fitzroy St, St Kilda for a period of 12 months as part of the Renew Fitzroy St program. We would like to commit to this space & open our Gallery. You can view the property here -

<https://www.realcommercial.com.au/leased/property-7-fitzroy-street-st-kilda-vic-3182-502622438>

**THE ASK**

HousingFirst and **Doable Gallery** is seeking a \$60,000 Impact Investment Partner to open its art gallery in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda from March 2023 to March 2024 - Operating hours: Tuesday to Sunday – 11am – 6pm

The funding will be dedicated to gallery rental, fit out costs, art supplies, and marketing expenses. There will also be funding dedicated to twelve months of working capital. The breakdown of 12 months of funding is below:

<b>Income</b>	
HF Contribution Cash	\$10,000
Sponsorship	\$60,000
Exhibition Entry Fees	\$4,000
Venue Hire	\$4,000
Membership	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$79,500</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Rent	\$15,000
Administration (HF in-kind)	-\$30,000
Utilities	\$3,000
Art supplies	\$12,000
Working Capital 12 months	\$36,000
Fit Out	\$5,000
Signage	\$3,000
Marketing	\$6,000
Events	\$10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

# Reminder

99a Carlisle Street  
 St Kilda VIC 3182  
 ASSIST 03 9209 6777  
[portphillip.vic.gov.au](http://portphillip.vic.gov.au)



JL MURPHY PAVILION COMMITTEE INC

Treasurer: [REDACTED]

Account number	222255
Date	10-Feb-2023

<i>Invoice Date</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Invoice No</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
21-Oct-2021	20-Nov-2021	3184	Loan repayment 2/16	3,125.00
1-Dec-2022	31-Dec-2022	22497	SGE contribution towards kitchen equipment including the cool room - L	3,125.00
1-Mar-2022	31-Mar-2022	8803	Loan repayment 4/16	3,125.00
1-Jun-2022	1-Jul-2022	13125	SGE contribution towards kitchen equipment including the cool room - L	3,125.00
1-Sep-2022	1-Oct-2022	18272	SGE contribution towards kitchen equipment including the cool room - L	3,125.00
5-Dec-2021	4-Jan-2022	4920	Loan repayment 3/16	3,125.00
				18,750.00

Council records indicate that the above accounts are overdue  
 Please refer to the original notices for details on payment options  
 Kindly disregard this notice if payment has already been made  
 Should you have any further queries, please contact ASSIST on 9209 6777



Port Melbourne Yacht Club

-----

Over the past 130 years Port Melbourne Yacht Club has been a prominent feature of the foreshore providing a gateway to the bay. The Club was established by volunteers and that tradition and spirit still holds true today. PMYC volunteers rebuilt the iconic Club you see today after the 1990 fire that destroyed our ancient Clubhouse. Over the last few years PMYC put a lot of effort into preparing a "vision" for the future of the Club, engaging a leading architect. To progress the first stage of this vision, PMYC met with Council, our local State and Federal Members of Parliament, various departments (Sports and Recreation, Fishermans Bend, DEWLP, Parks Vic) to introduce the project and to get a "sponsor" as well as initial funding. We also started communication with local community groups such as the Port Melbourne Business Association and Port Melbourne Historical Society, Beacon Cove Residents Association, local Albert Park College and the new Fishermans Bend Schools and others).

If this project proceeded it would eliminate our existing dinghy shed which is a steel framed structure built in the early 60's.

This structure is in poor condition. It has a corrugated asbestos roof and the side wall facing the beach is badly corroded as is some of the other internal steelwork. Footings to the structure are provided by driven timber piles. The external piles are badly decayed. The internal piles to the main columns were reinforced 15-20 years ago with a concrete cap.

Currently, the shed houses a number of our members boats but also all of our training boats for our sailing school. The sailing school program we run has been overbooked for the last 3-4 years with very high interest from the local community. We see the shed and cover it provides as being important for the amenity and ability to run these courses.

Our intent is to prepare a design and then contract to refurbish or replace this structure.

The timeframe for this work is to complete by end 2024.

The estimated cost for this work is in the order of \$300,000 for refurbishment which should extend the life of the structure by approximately 30-50 years.

#### Funding

The Club funds are growing steadily however we have had to purchase a new (second-hand) rescue boat recently, (\$65k), and we will need to set aside funds for the replacement of the air-conditioning units to the site that are at end of life in this same period, (\$150-200k). Our current funds stand at \$200k.

At this stage we do not see that we can cover the funding required to accomplish both the AC replacement as well as the shed replacement without some assistance from Council.

#### Conclusion

We manage important community infrastructure where the City of Port Phillip is our landlord. We request CoPP consider if they would be able to assist with a contribution in the order of \$150,000 (which would cover the roof replacement cost), to assist in this work.

Other information:

1. A proposed schedule for the work is attached. This shows work to be completed by end 2024 with permits, design and tendering to be completed this year.
2. A sketch of the existing structure is attached for your information along with a site plan.
3. A draft Scope of Work is attached for your information. This is to be edited to the final design.
4. We have included a quote received re sheeting replacement below but replacement would also require renewing the steel purlins hence the request for extra over funding.

Quote re asbestos roof replacement from ACR Roofing 2 Sept 2021:

"On 2 Sep 2021, at 11:42 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Nice to chat – budget costs for the asbestos roof to be removed and replaced in Colorbond is around \$45K Plus GST

This is a quite an accurate budget for you to reference

[REDACTED]

ACR Roofing Pty Ltd | PO Box 329, Moorabbin VIC 3189

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# PORT MELBOURNE YACHT CLUB

**SCOPE OF WORK No: 200-PMYC-001**

## REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

**Storage Shed**

Prepared by:

Revision	A	B		
Date	11/12/15	6/3/18		
Prepared by	PCL	PCL		
Checked by				
Contracts approved				
Design approved				
Project authorised				
Client approved				



---

## Contents

<b>1. GENERAL.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Scope of Work	1
1.2 Work Included	1
1.3 Work Not Included	1
1.4 Plant Limits	2
1.5 Location	2
1.6 Areas Available to the Contractor	2
1.7 Contractor's Facilities	2
1.8 Site Services	2
1.9 Equipment	2
1.10 Hours of Work at Site	2
1.11 Existing Facilities	3
1.12 Packing and Transport	3
1.13 Owner Supplied Equipment	3
1.14 Drawings, Data and Manuals	3
1.15 Plant and Labour on Hourly Rates	3
1.16 Geotechnical Information	3
<b>1.17 Inspection of Existing Piles</b>	<b>3</b>
1.18 Pollution and Spillage	3
1.19 Disposal of Rubbish	4
1.20 Quality Requirements	4
1.21 Site Description	4
<b>2. HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Safety Management	4
2.2 Safety Plans, Working Rules and Method Statements	4
2.3 Safety Personnel	5
2.4 Safety Training	5
2.5 Safety Meetings	5
<b>3. CODES AND STANDARDS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Codes	5
3.2 Owner Standards	5
<b>4. STORAGE SHED AREA.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES	6
5.2 DEMOLITION	6
5.2.1 Piles	6
5.2.2 Cladding	6
5.3 SET OUT AND SURVEY	6
5.4 PILING	6
5.4.1 General	6
5.4.2 Piles	7
5.5 CONCRETE	7
5.5.1 General	7
5.5.2 Use of Concrete	7
5.6 STEELWORK	7
5.6.1 General	7
5.6.2 Use of Steel	7
5.6.3 Erection Method and Equipment	7
5.6.4 Bolting	8
5.7 ARCHITECTURAL	8
5.7.1 General	8
5.8 ELECTRICAL WORK	8
5.8.1 General	8
5.9 PIPING AND SERVICES	8

---

5.9.1	General	8
<b>6.</b>	<b>COMMISSIONING .....</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1	General	8
6.2	Responsibility for Commissioning	8
6.3	Commissioning Programs	8
6.4	Owners Supplied Equipment	9
6.5	Piling Check	9
6.6	Electrical Check	9
6.7	Piping Check	9
6.8	Acceptance of Works	9
<b>7.</b>	<b>PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	General	9
7.2	Access Date to Contractor	9
7.3	Access Dates for Others	10

## **1. GENERAL**

### **1.1 Scope of Work**

The scope of work includes removal and replacement of roof and wall sheeting, removal and replacement of structural supports and the checking and removal and replacement of piles, beams and floor decking (as required) to the Boat Storage Shed for Port Melbourne Yacht Club Inc. (PMYC) Refurbishment Project at 38 Beach St Port Melbourne in accordance with the documents comprising the Contract..

The Contractor shall carry out detail design, preparation of shop drawings and supply all labour, materials, (except Principal supplied materials), tools, supervision, quality assurance, packing transportation, insurance during manufacture and transportation, offloading at Site, supplies, equipment, consumables, testing and commissioning) necessary to complete the Works including all permitting required to occupy the site.

### **1.2 Work Included**

The Works shall include but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- Removal and disposal to licenced site of existing corrugated asbestos sheeting
- Removal of end wall sheeting (Bay St end)
- Removal of side wall sheeting (facing beach)
- Removal of corroded purlins and girts.
- Removal and replacement/modification of existing trusses including eaves extension and corrosion protection. (Note supply of new fabricated trusses (Contractor design) may be offered in lieu of refurbishment of existing).
- Checking of under floor piles for signs of deterioration and recommendation to the Owner of replacement requirements
- Removal of piles, beams and decking as agreed for replacement
- Installation of new piles
- Installation of new beams and decking (reuse of beams/decking if possible)
- Corrosion protection of existing main columns.
- Installation of modified trusses
- Installation of new purlins and girts
- Installation of new roof and wall sheeting
- Temporary support of any services running past the work areas and reinstatement of same on completion
- The supply, fabrication, painting and erection of all miscellaneous material, minor parts and components, supports, and other such items whether or not the items are indicated on the Drawings or in the Specification, where it is clearly the intention that they should be supplied or where they are obviously required and necessary to complete and commission the Works herein specified.
- All materials and works are to be suitable for a 50 year design life.
- Works and Access permits from City of Port Phillip and Parks Victoria.
- Approval of traffic management plan from City of Port Phillip.
- Safety barricading for Works.
- Clean up and restitution as required on demobilisation.

### **1.3 Work Not Included**

- Piles beneath the existing open storage area and hardstand areas.
- The Principal will be responsible for obtaining the following Permits:
  - Parks Victoria – Works Permit
  - Department Environment Water Land and Planning – Coastal Management Plan Work Permit
  - City of Port Phillip – Building Work Permit



## **1.4 Plant Limits**

The details of the limits of the scope of work covered by this Contract are as follows:

- The area contained within the “Boat Storage Shed” area as defined by the drawings.
- Note the works exclude
  - existing change rooms.
  - “lean to” area west of the main columns.

## **1.5 Location**

The Site is located on 38 Beach St., Port Melbourne

## **1.6 Areas Available to the Contractor**

If the Contractor intends to utilise any of the public beach area, the Contractor is to obtain permission from City of Port Phillip for appropriate access, storage and lay down areas and barricading requirements.

Prior to the issue of a Certificate of Practical Completion the Contractor shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Principals Representative, have removed all waste, debris and temporary works from the Site.

## **1.7 Contractor's Facilities**

The Contractor prior to mobilising construction equipment and erecting facilities at the Site, shall supply to the Principals Representative detailed information of all offices, warehouses, amenities, temporary structures, machinery, construction equipment and all other facilities to be erected or brought onto to the Site. Such information shall include the capabilities of all lifting and operating equipment.

## **1.8 Site Services**

The Principal will make available a 240V single phase power outlet and potable water outlet. The Contractor shall provide all other on site services required including 3Ph power, construction water and sanitation and any other services required. The proposed details of such services shall be submitted to the Principals Representative for approval. The site services shall be maintained to the satisfaction of the Principals Representative.

## **1.9 Equipment**

The plant and equipment used in the course of this Contract shall be in good order, be regularly and well maintained and have a high percentage of operating availability.

The Owners Representative reserves the right to inspect any item of plant and equipment before and during the course of the Works and to direct the Contractor to remove from the Site any plant and equipment which is poorly or incorrectly maintained or of an unsafe nature or has a percentage of unavailability or level of efficiency not conforming with reasonable requirements. Replacement of plant and equipment so removed will be at the Contractor's cost.

## **1.10 Hours of Work at Site**

The facilities are used by Club members on a regular basis during the Sailing Season for planned Saturday sailing and at other times at the members' discretion.

There is also a commercial catering/function centre operating year round. Timing of the Works will need to accommodate this.

The Principals Representative's hours of work on the Project will normally be:

*Monday to Saturday (inclusive) - 06.30 to 17.00.*

Should the Contractor require to work outside these hours, the Contractor shall submit a request in writing to the Principals Representative not later than noon on any day and at least 24 hours in advance of the requested changed hours, stating the reason and working hours required.

### **1.11 Existing Facilities**

The Contractor's personnel shall not operate any valves, switches or existing plant or equipment without prior written approval of the Owners Representative.

### **1.12 Packing and Transport**

The Contractor shall pack and transport goods to Site in accordance with good practice.

### **1.13 Owner Supplied Equipment**

Nil

### **1.14 Drawings, Data and Manuals**

The Contractor shall supply and deliver to the Principals Representative free of cost all drawings and installation survey data etc. as appropriate.

### **1.15 Plant and Labour on Hourly Rates**

Where, pursuant to this Contract and as directed in writing by the Owners Representative, plant and labour are employed at hourly rates, the Contractor shall not later than noon on the next working day after such plant or labour is utilised, deliver to the Owners Representative for verification, duplicate copies of daily timesheets recording the amount of plant and labour so utilised and full details of the work performed.

The timesheets for plant shall also show for each plant item, the Schedule F item number, plant item description, start and stop times when the plant is operating, time charged against normal operating rate or standby rate and the activity on which the plant item was engaged.

After verification, the Owners Representative will return one copy of each timesheet either approved or modified.

The Contractor shall forward copies of countersigned timesheets with progress certificates for payment.

### **1.16 Geotechnical Information**

A geotechnical investigation of the Site has been undertaken by GEOTESTA on behalf of the Principal. The Geotechnical Report dated 12 July 2017 is included as Appendix J. The Contractor shall review and bring to the attention of the Principal any concerns Contractor may have regarding the interpretations and conclusions made from the information given in Appendix J.

### **1.17 Inspection of Existing Piles**

An inspection of the existing piles has been undertaken by .....on behalf of the Owner. Condition information for each pile has been presented in Appendix J. The Contractor shall be responsible for all interpretations and conclusions that it may make from the information given in Appendix J. The Contractor shall undertake any other investigations and determinations that it may require.

### **1.18 Pollution and Spillage**

Without limiting the Contractor's obligations under the Contract, it shall be the Contractor's responsibility to investigate and comply with all applicable laws, regulations and rules relating to pollution and contamination with particular regard to the water, waste water or other fluids discharging off the Site, airborne dust and noise which could cause a hazard to others, or a nuisance to adjacent properties. The Owners Representative may require the Contractor to take additional steps to reduce these hazards and any such work shall be at the Contractor's cost.

During erection and pre-commissioning, spillage of any type whatsoever including lubricating oil, hydraulic oil and any other material shall be immediately removed and disposed of and the area cleaned as directed by the Owners Representative. Any further fouling of the plant occurring as a result of such spillage not being removed immediately by the Contractor shall be made good by the Contractor.

### **1.19 Disposal of Rubbish**

All rubbish and debris on Site shall be removed by the Contractor to suitable and approved disposal sites.

### **1.20 Quality Requirements**

The Contractor shall perform the Works in compliance with the quality assurance requirements of AS/NZS ISO9001. The quality system specified is complementary to and is not an alternative to the technical requirements of the Specification.

Any sub-contracted work must be undertaken in compliance with the same quality assurance requirement as stated above unless a variation is agreed by the Owners Representative prior to the Date of Award.

### **1.21 Site Description**

The current site consists of two main structures surrounded by either decking on piles or hardstand/grassed areas for boat storage. The main structure which is the Clubhouse and Function Centre are in good condition and are not part of the Works. The refurbishment of the piling and deck areas external to the boat storage shed is to be under a separate contract.

## **2. HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

### **2.1 Safety Management**

Industrial health and safety of the highest standard is required of the Contractor and its subcontractors. Safety must form an integral part of the line management control of the Works on site. Job safety analysis worksheets shall be submitted by the Contractor to the Owner's for approval, for each work item.

The Contractor has full responsibility for the management of health and safety on the site, and shall coordinate the activities of its sub-contractors to ensure that the requirements of the Contract are satisfied and compliant with all aspects of health and safety legislation and the establishment and maintenance at all times of a safe and healthy environment.

The Owners Representative reserves the right to audit the management and control of health and safety on the Site any time.

The contractor shall cooperate with the auditor appointed by the Owners Representative and shall make available to the auditor such information records and access to places of work as required by the auditor in pursuance of the audit.

The Contractor shall bring the requirements of the Contract to the attention of its sub-contractors.

### **2.2 Safety Plans, Working Rules and Method Statements**

The Contractor shall prepare a general Site Safety Policy, and working rules including method statements for all activities, which must be submitted to the Owner prior to commencement of work on Site.



### **2.3 Safety Personnel**

The Contractor shall appoint a full-time Site Safety Officer/Adviser to coordinate the safety activities of its own and sub-contractors activities.

Details of the proposed appointment together with curriculum vitae shall be submitted to the Owners Representative before work commences on Site.

### **2.4 Safety Training**

The Contractor and its sub-contractors shall ensure that their employees shall not commence work on Site unless they have been familiarised with the appropriate safety rules.

The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that the required specific activity training, e.g. scaffolders, crane driver, has been carried out, as agreed between the Owners Representative and the Contractor.

The training process is open to audit by the Owners Representative.

### **2.5 Safety Meetings**

The Contractor shall establish and chair weekly Site safety meeting, which Contractor management representatives and safety officers shall attend.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss, coordinate and resolve all safety matters of concern on Site and examine current and future activities to ensure a consistently high standard of health and safety on Site.

The Contractor shall be responsible for collating accident statistics, relating to the Site and Works thereon and these should be considered and reviewed at the meeting.

The Contractor shall bring to the meetings attention for comment and action, any reports arising from audits undertaken by the Owners Representative.

The Owners Representative reserves the right to observe the proceedings at Site safety meetings.

## **3. CODES AND STANDARDS**

### **3.1 Codes**

All work completed by the Contractor shall comply with the latest issues of all relevant standards, regulations, codes and statutory requirements in accordance with the following:

- All relevant Australian Standards
- All applicable Statutory Regulations and Acts of Parliament.

### **3.2 Owner Standards**

The work to be performed, all materials and workmanship shall conform to the Specifications, Datasheets and Drawings as listed in the Appendices.

## **4. STORAGE SHED AREA**

The Storage Shed is used for the storage of member's sailing boats and miscellaneous gear used in the management of club activities. There are also two small workshops one located inside the main structure and the other accessed externally. There are male and female change rooms and disabled toilet facilities. A racking system is used within the building to increase the storage capacity. Lighting and small power outlets are placed throughout the building and a security system is installed. Fresh and tank water hose systems are provided.

All loose materials, racking and boats will be removed prior to the Contractor commencing works.

Due to the significant location of this structure (at the end of Bay St) the completed refurbishment of the building will incorporate additional "architectural" features to improve its appeal. These improvements basically consist of a new end wall arrangement facing Bay St and extended eaves to the South side which will provide shade to beachgoers.

## **5. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 TEMPORARY STRUCTURES**

The Contractor shall be responsible for identifying the requirements for and location of all temporary structures, platforms, access ladders, stair handrails and guardrails that are required to be provided for the safe implementation of the proposed works.

The structures shall be in accordance with applicable "Standards Australia" standards and State of VIC Regulations.

The Contractor shall submit to the Owners Presentative for approval, 5 days prior to fabrication, general arrangement drawings, details, checked structural calculations and welding procedures, for each identifiable temporary structure.

Unless otherwise advised and/or directed, the Contractor shall design, supply, fabricate and erect all temporary structures, to the approval of the Owners Representative and the cost of each temporary structure shall be separately identified in the Contract Schedule.

The Contractor shall allow for the removal of all temporary structures, at the completion of the Works.

### **5.2 DEMOLITION**

#### **5.2.1 Piles**

An audit/inspection of the existing piling has been undertaken. Piles which are to be replaced are shown on the drawings.

The demolition of these piles is to be undertaken such that new piles are able to be driven at the same locations wherever possible.

Where piles are unable to be extracted in full they will be cut off a minimum of 300mm below existing seabed level.

#### **5.2.2 Cladding**

The existing roof cladding is corrugated asbestos. Appropriate work methods will be employed to safely remove the materials and clean up the building interior so that asbestos particles are not dislodged and become a health hazard to workers or the general public.

Prior to commencement of work, Client approval and a Worksafe Authority to proceed based on the Contractors safety plan and work statement will be required.

### **5.3 SET OUT AND SURVEY**

The Contractor will establish survey benchmarks to ensure that the completed structure is installed at the correct elevation as shown on the drawings and is level.

### **5.4 PILING**

#### **5.4.1 General**

The work to be performed, all materials and workmanship shall conform to this Specification, the Appendices, the Drawings and the following Australian Standards:

## AS2159 Piling Design and Installation

### 5.4.2 Piles

New piles are to be installed wherever possible at the locations shown on the drawings. The Contractor will not install a new pile in a location different than shown on the drawings. Any requirement to move piles from these positions is to be approved by the Principals Representative.

The Contractor will maintain detailed driving records, final survey data and load testing records for each pile.

## 5.5 CONCRETE

### 5.5.1 General

The work to be performed, all materials and workmanship shall conform to this Specification, the Appendices, the Drawings and the following Australian Standards:

AS3600 Concrete Structures

### 5.5.2 Use of Concrete

It is not intended that concrete works will need to be undertaken. If a need arises for such work the Contractor shall inform the Principals Representative prior to commencement. Due to the location of the works, any concrete used shall be appropriate to the conditions – this will require the use of minimum 45MPa strength and appropriate admixtures to combat the aggressive environment.

## 5.6 STEELWORK

### 5.6.1 General

The work to be performed, all materials and workmanship shall conform to this Specification, the Appendices, the Drawings and the following Australian Standards:

AS4100 Steel Structures

### 5.6.2 Use of Steel

All steel fabrication will be surface protected by heavy hot dipped galvanising. The main columns to the building (sloping) are to be grit blasted and painted in-situ with the specified painting system. Below floor steel is to be wrapped in “Denso” tape.

Trusses are to be either refurbished and modified or replaced with new steel framing. Painting systems are to be as specified.

New purlins and girts are to be heavy hot dip galvanised modified Zed sections (lower lip to be turned down rather than up).

### 5.6.3 Erection Method and Equipment

In accordance with the provisions of Appendix F, the Contractor shall submit to the Owners Representative details of the equipment and methods it proposes to use in the erection of the steelwork. The methods and equipment shall be subject to the approval of the Owners Representative, but the Contractor shall remain wholly responsible for the adequacy and safety of the work.

The Contractor shall be responsible for the stability of the structure at all stages of erection.



#### 5.6.4 Bolting

All bolts shall be heavy hot dip galvanised M16, 20 or M30 Grade 4.6S for under deck bolting. The exposed ends of all bolts and nuts are to be the "Denso" coated/wrapped for corrosion protection.

All handrail bolts shall be Stainless Steel Grade 316 16mm diameter minimum.

### **5.7 ARCHITECTURAL**

#### 5.7.1 General

The work to be performed, all materials and workmanship shall conform to this Specification, the Appendices, the Drawings.

The timber work shall generally consist of the decking timbers, handrail, plinth boards and steps.

Stainless steel posts railing and wires are to be used where shown. Minimum marine Grade 316.

All roof and wall cladding is to be Australian sourced Colourbond sheeting and fastened with approved stainless screws with rubber grommets to eliminate cathodic action between the sheeting and screw.

Similarly ridge capping and flashings and guttering will be to a similar standard. .

### **5.8 ELECTRICAL WORK**

#### 5.8.1 General

Existing cabling and conduit and Light and Power outlets are distributed throughout the building. Where necessary these services are to be removed and reinstalled after works are completed or temporarily supported where safe to do so.

### **5.9 PIPING AND SERVICES**

#### 5.9.1 General

Washdown, potable and HWS piping services and outlets are distributed throughout the building. Where necessary these services are to be removed and reinstalled after works are completed or temporarily supported where safe to do so.

## **6. COMMISSIONING**

### **6.1 General**

Commissioning includes testing of the new piles to ensure load capacity has been achieved as well as the recommissioning of all services.

### **6.2 Responsibility for Commissioning**

The Contractor shall have overall responsibility to the Owners Representative for the execution, co-ordination and supervision of all commissioning work and for carrying out all test work and procedures deemed necessary by-the Owners Representative to prove the safety, quality and satisfactory performance of the Works.

### **6.3 Commissioning Programs**

The Contractor shall submit to the Owners Representative for approval a program detailing the sequence and operations for all testing work and procedures necessary to complete the Works.

**6.4 Owners Supplied Equipment**

Not Applicable

**6.5 Piling Check**

All pile driving records shall be submitted showing that the required depths have been achieved and positions tolerances met. Where load testing is performed records of such tests are to be presented to the Principals Representative.

**6.6 Electrical Check**

Before commissioning, the Contractor shall carry out a wiring continuity and earthing check to ensure that all cabling is undamaged and has been correctly installed.

**6.7 Piping Check**

Before commissioning, the Contractor shall carry out a piping check to ensure that all pipework has been correctly installed. Filling of lines and leak checks are to be performed.

**6.8 Acceptance of Works**

Practical Completion or the complete construction state is when the facility is deemed to be ready for handover to commissioning. The Owner's Representative will verify this readiness and issue a Certificate of Practical Completion when:

- All statutory authorities have inspected and accepted the Works as complying with the permits
- All or any separable portion of a plant area has been constructed in accordance with the specifications and design.
- All pile driving records have been submitted showing that the required depths have been achieved.
- All pile load tests are submitted.
- Survey records are submitted that show compliance with the lease area on the permits.
- All construction tests that are required by project specifications and standards have been performed successfully to verify the quality and integrity of the installed commodities and equipment.
- All flushing of pipes has been completed if it has been dismantled during construction
- All cabling tests have been completed.
- All punch list items completed.

**7. PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION****7.1 General**

The nature of the work involves close co-ordination of activities between the Contractor, the Principals Representative, and others at Site. In addition to those dates identified in the Agreement, the Contractor shall base its plans on the dates stated in Clauses 10.2 and 10.3.

**7.2 Access Date to Contractor**

Description	Access Date
1* Mobilisation	
2 Principal Supplied Material delivery	
3	

--	--	--

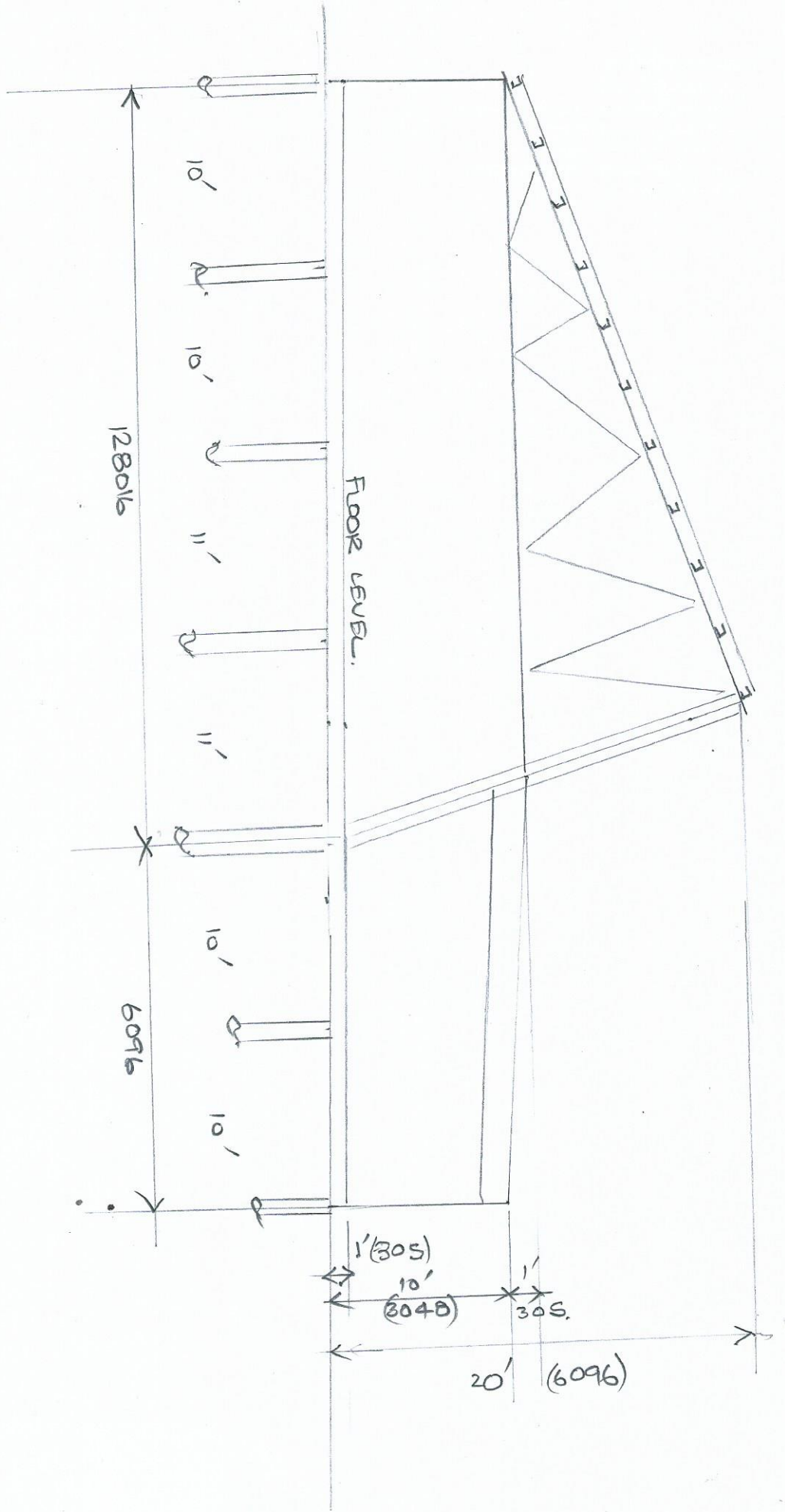
**7.3 Access Dates for Others**

In addition to the Stage Completion Dates stated in the Agreement, the Contractor shall ensure completion of the following work to allow access by others.

Not Applicable







EXISTING BOAT STORAGE  
SECTION.

1:100  
DRG PMYC-200-001 A







TBM  
E. 318565.825  
N. 5809563.202  
RL 2.716 Chart

TBM  
E. 318503.529  
N. 5809515.634  
RL 3.348 Chart

Ref. No.	Date	Notes
1	21/10/2008	For Information Only

Datum  
Horizontal: MGA 94 Zone 55  
Level : Chart Datum (AHD +0.524)  
Vide South Melbourne PM255 (RL 3.064 AHD)

Designed -  
Survey - Gertzel  
Original Size - A1  
Drawn - Gertzel DS  
Scale - 1:250

**Gertzel Survey**  
R.E. & L.M. GERTZEL PTY. LTD.  
INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA ABN 28 005 396 985  
10 Timmis Avenue Cheltenham 3192  
Telephone (03) 9589 7255 Fax (03) 9589 7569

Form S114 Revision 3 03/06/2008

Port Melbourne Yacht Club  
Feature & Level Survey  
File - C:\Dropbox (Gertzel)\6422\_AW Maritima\642241\_portmelb\_chart.ppt  
Sheet No.



April 27, 2023

## PORT PHILLIP BICYCLE USERS GROUP SUBMISSION ON CITY OF PORT PHILLIP COUNCIL BUDGET 2023

**About us:** The Port Phillip Bicycle User Group (PP BUG) is a member-based group supporting cycling in our local community. Our goal is for cycling to be an attractive option for 8 to 80+ year olds— whether for fun, fitness or transport.

It's important for everyone in our community to access and enjoy our streets. That means joining up the missing links in our walking and cycling networks with more footpaths and bike lanes.

### **Budget requests.**

- Prioritise construction of the Inkerman St Safe Travel corridor for 2024, rather than deferring until 2026.
- Allocate \$7M to constructing the Inkerman St Safe Travel corridor in 2024 (this level of funding would cover all Options canvassed in the May 2021 report).
- Allocate \$2M towards planning and consultation of the remaining Integrated Transport Strategy safe cycling routes.

### Bike infrastructure

In its *Move Connect Live* (MCL) Integrated Transport Strategy (2018-2028), CoPP planned a strategic network of safe, separated bike lanes to be built over a decade. However, now, in 2023, the only delivered routes are the Garden City route, a separated bicycle lane along the northern half of Moray Street, and the St Kilda Rd bike lanes up to the Junction. The last two were delivered by State government. Council is yet to deliver on the other routes. We are significantly behind schedule. In the Draft Budget documents, it is proposed that the next route (Inkerman St) should have construction further deferred until 2026. This is unacceptable.

To deliver on the MCL plan, **funding needs to be allocated towards planning and construction of the remaining protected bike routes.** These include Moray Street (south end); Inkerman St; Sandringham Line/ Westbury St – Ripponlea to Windsor; Dickens St - Balaclava to St Kilda Beach; Acland St / Mitford St / Beach St - Fitzroy St to Elwood Beach; Tennyson St/ Blessington St - Elwood to St Kilda Beach; Byron St/ Glen Eira Rd - Ripponlea to Elwood.



Google streetview of Kerferd Rd, illustrating why unprotected bike lanes are not safe or attractive.

With the current construction of the separated bike lanes on St Kilda Rd, a protected bike lane on Inkerman St will enable residents to *reach* those lanes safely and continue on towards the city. Council has already undertaken significant design work on the Inkerman route: the next step is to allocate the budget to construct them. We request that the budget allocated covers all the options on the table— while a cheaper option (Option 3) is available, this is a false economy, with council figures indicating Option 3 may attract half the ridership, while also missing out on substantial safety benefits of Options 1 and 2.

#### The climate emergency

In 2019, CoPP declared a climate emergency. Council has estimated that transport is responsible for 16% of our city's emissions, the second-largest sector. It is also the fastest-growing. Reducing transport emissions is crucial in averting catastrophic climate change. Building safe cycling infrastructure is a proven, cost-effective method of enabling active, climate friendly transport, at a scale that can make a difference.

Council is responsible for the provision of safe cycling routes on its roads. All studies show that building such infrastructure is also a net positive across non-climate related measures including congestion, retail profitability, resident health (both by increasing activity levels and reducing air pollution), and mental health.

Council needs to take action, not continue with empty talk.

██████████  
for Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group  
██████████



CBR-2023.052



18 May 2023

## Port Phillip EcoCentre Submission RE: DRAFT Council Plan and Budget 2023-24

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the DRAFT Council Plan and Budget 2023-24 ('the Plan'). As Council and community face continued challenges and upheaval in the wake of the global pandemic, community-led organisations are well-positioned to provide a nimble, reliable and significant contribution to the resilience of our municipality.

Mitigation, preparedness for and response to climate change and extreme weather are public benefits to all who live, work and play in Port Phillip. Council's investment in sustainability initiatives is valid and valued. We commend that Volume 1 (p36-38) includes a summary of Council activities that address the climate emergency.

This submission provides key comments on Council's plan and budgets for climate, sustainability and environment, however we note that our feedback is limited by the sequence of consecutive consultations (interrelated, costed climate strategies released *after* the Council Plan and Budget) i.e. the Draft Plan presents an incomplete picture for assessing environmental commitments.


### 1. Thank you for the Council funding partnership for the Port Phillip EcoCentre redevelopment and core operations.

The Port Phillip EcoCentre is proud of the strong productive partnership between the City of Port Phillip ('CoPP') and our organisation. The EcoCentre was initially established by Council and community in partnership, and this partnership continues through a Funding Agreement and the use of a Council building at peppercorn rent. EcoCentre programs and outcomes align with the Council Plan and contribute directly to the achievement of Port Phillip's Strategic Directions.

Together we are committed to activating community-led environment sustainability projects and to achieving valuable outcomes for the community and the environment. The EcoCentre is a hub where diverse people come together to care for the places we all love, and Council's support underpins this work and is highly valued.

The EcoCentre team leverages Council's core support to bring additional financial, social, volunteering and environmental benefits to the Port Phillip Community. In 2023-24, it is forecast that we will attract a further 75% funding (through grants, philanthropy, and fee-for-service activities) to complement Council's seed funding to educate and activate environmental care. We are able to work strategically across silos and at ecosystem scale, for local benefits.

The community is thrilled for the construction starting for the new Net Zero EcoCentre, jointly funded by City of Port Phillip and the Victorian Government as well as a \$200k pledge from the EcoCentre. At a time when Australians are increasingly seeking ways to connect and create tangible change, the EcoCentre hub will better equip our team, volunteers and networks to scale up community leadership for the climate, health and economic challenges ahead.

 (03) 9534 0670

 info@ecocentre.com

 38 Blessington St, St Kilda VIC 3182

 EcoCentre.com

ABN 66 852 809 680

The EcoCentre acknowledges the Kulin Nations, including the Yalukut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung language group, traditional owners of the land on which we are located. We pay respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other First Nations and Elder members of our multicultural community.



## 2. Community expect local government leadership, robust action and increased investment in climate emergency response, nature education, biodiversity protection, climate-friendly transport and Climate Positive Design.

Newly published research<sup>1</sup> shows “Australians still identify traditional services to property as the most important for local councils to provide. However, there’s a growing appreciation that a more diverse array of socially oriented services are important as well.” Respondents suggested that:

- governments should advocate for the needs of the local community (93%)
- reflect local community values (93%),
- deliver services that contribute to a healthier and fairer society (91%),
- actively shape local community identity and culture (86%), and
- be a place where national issues can be debated by the local community (83%)

This represents a contemporary shift from a focus on *property* to the importance of *people*.

Asked about how important it is for local governments to act in response to climate change, respondents supported council action in:

- engaging in climate change issues (80% overall agree)
- achieving net zero emissions and 100% renewable energy (79% overall agree)
- lobbying state and federal governments for climate action (79% overall agree)

Locally, City of Port Phillip community have been clear and consistent in expressing concern for the environment and urge Council action. The follow excerpts come from recent reports from the Hearing of Submissions for Port Phillip Budget:

- 2022 Officer report: “The key themes from the submissions are: • Climate Emergency Action Plan • Green Line • Open Spaces - Tree Canopy • Open Spaces • Sustainability Programs • Reduce Emissions” (*ie all key themes were environment and climate*)
- 2021 Officer report: “2.3 The key themes from submissions relate to: ... 2.3.2 Support for the Port Phillip EcoCentre and its programs (51 submissions).” And “Main service themes: 4.3.2 Public space (100 submissions)... 4.3.3 Sustainability (89 submissions)... There were also many calls for more actions to address the climate emergency and several requests for reduction of community and Council emissions.”
- 2019 Officer report: “2.3 The key themes coming out of the submissions relate to: ... 2.3.2 Support for EcoCentre programs (68 submissions)”

It logically follows that community have high expectations of upcoming strategies, plans and associated budget allocations including:

- Act and Adapt Strategy renewal
- Climate Emergency Action Plan
- Greening Port Phillip / Urban Forest Strategy renewal
- EcoCentre funding agreement.

Currently the Plan primarily includes a high degree of Business As Usual (BAU) allocations for sustainability and related matters. Absent is any real sense of urgency or prioritisation of climate-related actions and investment in the Budget, with no indications for a practical plan of

---

<sup>1</sup> *The changing role of local government in Australia: national survey findings*, February 2023, M. Chou, R. Busbridge, S. Rutledge-Prior. Retrieved from: <https://apo.org.au/node/321483>



additional resources now or in the future for the measures that are needed despite the appropriate acknowledgement that, “Climate change is a continuing challenge that requires investment in our assets, changing how we deliver our services and working with our community and partners.” (volume 2, p6)

We encourage Council to adopt Climate Positive Design principles, as advocated and outlined by the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects<sup>2</sup> for “the achievement of climate positive outcomes, extending the current approach of carbon neutral outcomes” in the public realm. “Climate positive design is not just ‘net zero’. It’s taking steps to directly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and draw down CO2 from the atmosphere.” (v1, p20)

### **3. Accounting for green and blue infrastructure, coasts/beaches and biodiversity**

The character, health and economy of our city benefit from parklands, flora, fauna and healthy waterways/coasts. *Ecosystem services* are defined as the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human well-being, and have an impact on our survival, quality of life and culture. In Port Phillip this includes basic benefits like breathable air, clean water, and cool neighbourhoods (supported by the healthy bay and local vegetation). There are also cultural and economic benefits, for example from the iconic St Kilda Little Penguins.

Under *Biodiversity 2037*, Victorian Government currently aims to “Embed consideration of natural capital into decision making across the whole of government, and support industries to do the same.”<sup>3</sup> At Port Phillip, “Soft assets such as trees and vegetation... that have been acquired over many years are included in Councils asset registers, however only Infrastructure assets have been included in our current asset plans and modelling.” Volume 2, p35

Given this, how has the challenge of *Climate change and renewing community assets* (Volume 2, p17-18) taken green and blue soft assets into account in preparing forward budget allocations? We are keen to see both critical maintenance/upgrades as well as enhancements, such as increased tree and understorey planting and suitable ‘cool refuges’ during extreme heat events.

While we are pleased to note \$640k per annum allocated to Greening Port Phillip, we would like to understand the net effect of greening plans (i.e. new vegetation planted annually, less tree removal) and anticipate that a fixed investment per annum will be insufficient to beneficially increase the city’s green density and biodiversity. The EcoCentre looks forward to supporting the new urban forest strategy, and considering how to increase biodiverse private realm plantings alongside public realm greening.

We support the Council moving to an approach whereby environmental infrastructure “green/blue” assets are afforded equal attention and weighting as is given to hard/grey assets such as buildings and roads; and believe that “delivery of agreed services” should include protecting ecosystem services that make Port Phillip liveable, sustainable and vibrant.

As part of redeveloping the EcoCentre, the City of Port Phillip, EcoCentre and Integral Group completed a Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) to identify and reduce climate change risks for the redeveloped site across its lifespan to 2070. The report applies the framework outlined in the AS5334:2013 Climate Change for Settlements and Infrastructure – A Risk Based Approach. We

---

<sup>2</sup> Climate Positive Design (October 2022), Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/51255/Biodiversity-2037-Summary.pdf](https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/51255/Biodiversity-2037-Summary.pdf)





would like to see CAPs included in the Council Plan as part of asset renewals/management. While the CAP we completed was for a built infrastructure project, a similar analysis may be of use for sites with potential major greening investments. The CAP methodically considers site-specific risks such as temperature, sea, wind, precipitation, drought, floods, etc and identifies relevant climate adaptation recommendations.

#### **4. Please include intention to lease for 'up to 21 year' Lease Term for the 55A Blessington Street (Volume 2, p90) in the St Kilda Botanic Gardens.**

The CoPP and the Victorian Government have agreed on rebuilding and jointly funding the EcoCentre, on land reserved under the Crown Land Reserves Act and managed by the CoPP.

The EcoCentre has requested a 21-year lease in the new centre. The EcoCentre considers that it is fair and legitimate for Port Phillip EcoCentre to be granted a 21-year lease under CoPP policy and the Crown Land Reserves Act.

- The law (sec 17D Crown Lands Reserves Act 1978) allows for a lease for a “specific term of not more than 21 years” for any purpose approved by the responsible minister.
- CoPP policy as set out in its City of Port Phillip Property Policy (‘Property Policy’) (para 2.5) states that “all leases will typically have terms of up to five years”. The policy also states that Council may negotiate a non-standard term lease in exceptional circumstances including where “the use is linked to a specific tenant and the tenant has a history of delivering good outcomes for the community”. The Property Policy stipulates as one of its two primary policy objectives: “To support ... social, environmental, cultural opportunities and benefits... by leasing or licencing .....to Community Organisations”.
- Further, the Property Policy states that one of the underlying objectives of the Council’s asset management is community benefit: “Use of Council assets and leverage off Council’s facilities will maximise defined community benefits where possible, with any associated discounted rent and other financial or in-kind support be clearly linked to the benefits to be delivered to the local community and alignment with the Council Plan.”
- The circumstances justify CoPP negotiating a non-standard lease as contemplated by the Property Policy when two conditions are met. The intended use is “linked to a specific tenant” (condition 1) and a proven “history of delivering good outcomes for the community” (condition 2). The EcoCentre strongly demonstrates both conditions.

The EcoCentre maintains that a 21-year lease is more advantageous to CoPP and the community than a shorter lease, by fulfilling the objective of the Property Policy to leverage off Council facilities in ways that maximise defined community benefit (page 4 Objectives). There is legitimate community expectation that EcoCentre work and services will be available over the longer term, with the concomitant need for stable, long-term accommodation.

Critically, the security of a 21-year lease would enable the EcoCentre to more strategically plan, and would significantly enhance prospects of fundraising, particularly from philanthropic sectors, hence leveraging off State Government and Council capital investment to maximise community benefits for education, volunteering, practical environmental action and wellbeing.

To allow for negotiation of a 21-year lease (pending approval processes), the Council Plan and Budget needs to note Intent to Lease for up to a 21 year term, in Volume 2, p90.



## 5. Explicitly integrate the Climate Emergency into Financial Challenges as well as Emergency Management.

Increasing floods, heat waves, eroding beaches and other climate-related stressors are likely to place financial pressure on local governments. Preparedness for communities and services, maintaining infrastructure and emergency response will require both ongoing and responsive expenditures.

Port Phillip currently lacks public information on cool refuges (spaces to stay safe and cool during extreme heat waves) or emergency refuge sites and routes.

Under which Strategic Direction/service is extreme weather literacy and preparedness funded? How are climate and extreme weather factored into the municipal emergency management budget, which has no capital allocation and modest operational rises approximately +3-4% operating budget year-on-year? The only indicated adjustment is a mention of potential needs for bollards or CCTV (but nothing about climate and extreme weather).

Per Volume 2, p61:

### Municipal emergency management

The value we provide:

1. Operational and strategic emergency management services across preparedness, response and recovery.

Spend	2023/24 (\$,000s)	2024/25 (\$,000s)	2025/26 (\$,000s)	2026/27 (\$,000s)
Operational	497	514	530	546
Capital	-	-	-	-

## 6. Food and Garden Organics – education about waste management

As a long-time community compost hub, the EcoCentre is excited for the second phase of rollout of Food and Garden Organics collection, to multi-unit dwellings.

Will Council support residents of multi-unit dwellings to swap out one or more landfill bins as part of this transition? (The end goal is not more total volume of bins, but diverting food and garden waste from the landfill through a substitute bin.)

As part of this rollout, Council must plan for comprehensive education and engagement. What is the proposed education model for existing residents, and other key stakeholders given the proportion of visitors or fixed-term residents in Port Phillip especially in multi-unit dwellings? How might the Port Phillip EcoCentre provide support services?

*“Providing a FOGO service is a community-wide behaviour change program. It requires well planned community engagement and education, with long lead times to ensure success.”*

- Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Introducing a kerbside food and garden organics collection service - A guide for local government, MWRRG 2018



## 7. Valuing, enhancing and monitoring biodiversity

We commend the specification of biodiversity within the Sustainability service:

“Sustainability - The value we provide:

1. Improve the sustainability of our City and respond to the Climate Emergency by reducing carbon emissions, water use and waste generation, increasing trees, vegetation and biodiversity, improving water quality and ensuring we are adapting and resilient to the impacts of climate change, including flooding and heat.”

However, we note that references to practical activities regarding biodiversity are missing, and request that one or more of Council’s environmental and/or asset management strategies incorporate indicators and targets relating to native plants and animals into their action plans. We commend small projects in recent years such as the Danks Street biolink and the Bothwell Street woody meadow, and welcome more such initiatives across the municipality.

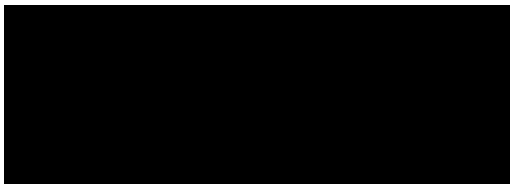
Port Phillip’s natural heritage and iconic species are part of its character. Nature contributes to community wellbeing and to local economies, for example with visitors to the St Kilda penguins, Yalukit Willam Nature Reserve and Westgate Park often extending their visit to local Port Phillip traders.

### Concluding remarks

This was the first year in memory that it was required to create an account to provide feedback on the Plan. While we appreciate the aim of preventing duplicate submissions entered in bad faith, any extraneous steps for residents to give feedback potentially reduces the number of good faith voices participating in this important civic conversation. We encourage Council to analyse the number of unique visitors to the Have Your Say page vs the number of submissions received, i.e. assess did the registration wall discourage community from actually having their say.

Thank you in advance, Councillors and Council Officers, for providing information to better understand the proposed commitments of the Council Plan and Budget. The EcoCentre looks forward to continued collaboration with City of Port Phillip and our community for an inclusive, liveable, sustainable and vibrant city.

Sincerely,



Executive Officer





CBR-2023.054



Council Plan & Budget, 2023/24

Hello Councillors

My submission is in support of an increase of our rates to meet the modest cap of 3.5% allowed in the legislation in the CoPP 2023/24 Budget.

The proposed lesser rate movement will fall short of inflation, and the budget papers indicate that the compounding impact will be at a loss to CoPP of \$11m over the next 10 years.

As I wrote last year, Port Phillip Council has had a worthy record of support for its community in the provision of excellent services and infrastructure which might well be at risk, in the absence of increasing the budget as far as we are able to meet inflation.

The decrease in real income (that is allowing for inflation) that will result from the proposal means that it is hard to see how services cannot be reduced over the future, how we can meet necessary wage increases for Council staff, or how our city's important asset base can be maintained, renewed and increased as costs inevitably increase. Geelong Council has recently been on the record with their challenge of 130% escalation in the costs of capital projects. The budget papers demonstrate the projected population increase coming our way with infill development and Fishermans Bend, and CoPP will need to plan for significant commitments to expanded community services and infrastructure spend with this population expansion.

Rate relief measures already in place can continue to assist those under genuine pressure.

I know that as Councillors you must be proud of the excellent services Council provides, enhancing the quality of life of local residents and visitors, young and old, and, from this ratepayer's perspective, ensuring the city's day to day and long term liveability, vouchsafing the value of property in the area by keeping it a desirable place to live.

However, the ongoing sadly limited hours of ASSIST counter support to the northern/north western end of the city of merely 12 hours per week (12 -4 on 3 days only) at Port Melbourne Town Hall, does not demonstrate that Council is equally committed to a responsive relationship with all residents and businesses. South Melbourne Town Hall has been unavailable for an extensive period and other locations and better hours should be provided.

Tree planting during 2022/23 has been most disappointing. Fewer than 350 trees will not deliver the kind of increase in canopy that would vouchsafe the increased mitigation the community will be calling for with the impact of climate change.

Other impacts of projected extreme weather events and climate change are likely to cost CoPP more, whether in enhancement to drains, road and foreshore and other infrastructure repairs, enhancement of insulation and modernisation of energy supply, waste management and insurance.

The Council review into all programs to see where cuts could be made to services and programs has resulted in one proposed cut: to the Cultural Development Fund. A trivial sum in the overall budget which will send a message to local artists that Council is walking away from its aspirations to encourage and support local art and artists. The review demonstrated that we need to keep our programs and build upon them.

Finally, I am concerned to read that there may be a change to the proposed reinstatement of Gasworks Park, and the envisaged date of 2024 for completion is ambiguous: does this mean 2024 calendar year or the 2024/5 financial year? The lack of mention of the Gasworks Playground in the Albert Park/Middle Park projects list is also worrying. These projects have been decades coming.

Please look back on what motivated you to be on Council: to support the community, to make Port Phillip an even better place to live. Many are hoping that you would prefer to be remembered for your contributions to enhancing the city, rather than how Port Phillip became a lesser place on your watch.

Kind regards

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Albert Park



# Life Saving Victoria

Area Lifesaving Manager  
(Central Region)



# Services – City of Port Phillip



# Overview of Lifesaving Services – City of Port Phillip

## LSV Beach Patrol

- 5 Volunteer Lifesaving Clubs
  - Sandridge LSC
  - Port Melbourne LSC
  - South Melbourne LSC
  - St Kilda LSC
  - Elwood LSC
- Volunteer Patrols conducted on Weekends & Public Holidays
- Season 2022/23 : Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 22 – April 23<sup>rd</sup> 23
- 1 Paid Lifeguard Site
  - Mid-week Patrols supporting volunteer operations
    - St Kilda Beach  
Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 – Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2023

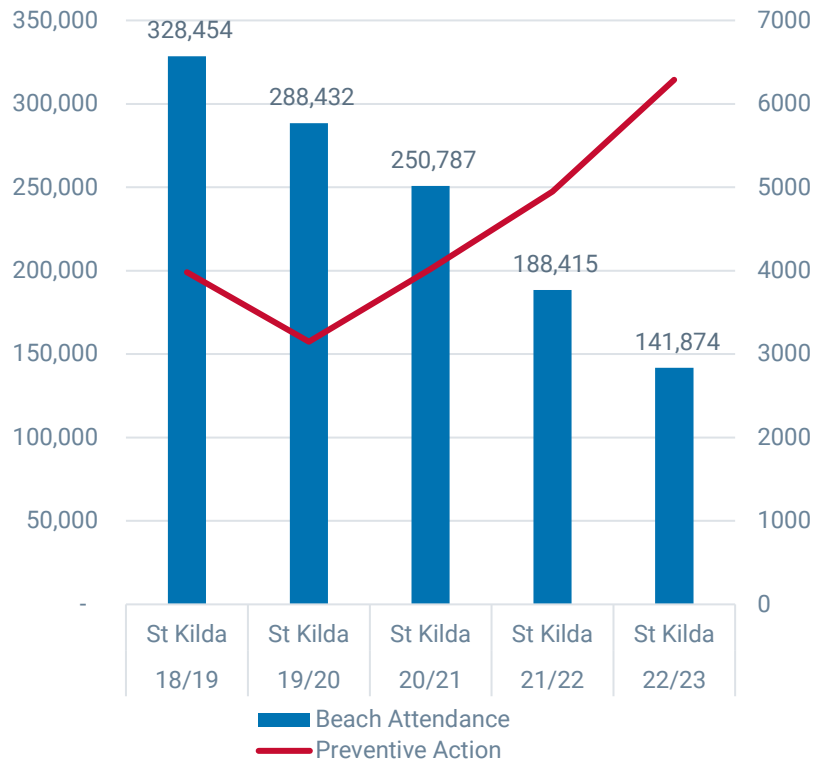
## LSV State Services

- Services supporting beach operations in City of Port Phillip include
  - Westpac Lifesaver Helicopter Service
    - Lifesaver 30 ; SAR Aircraft
    - Lifesaver 31 ; Aerial Intel Aircraft
  - Central LSV RPAS (Drone) Service (Metro Melb)
  - Port Phillip RWC (jetski) Service (covering Hobsons Bay + Port Phillip)
  - LSV Communications (Dispatch) Centre



# St Kilda Beach – Statistical Analysis

St Kilda Beach Attendance & Preventative Action



## Lifesaving Services Statistics

### Beach Attendance

- Observed beach attendance by lifesavers
- Different to statewide trend, this has somewhat declined at St Kilda beach in recent years, potentially in accordance with combination of wetter / poorer weather recently & reduced international tourism unique to St Kilda through the COVID summers 20/21 & 21/22

### Preventative Actions

- The “work rate” of lifesavers on the beach in providing water safety education and in mitigation of aquatic risks
- Has steadily increased in recent years

# St Kilda Beach – Incident & Rescue Date

Medical		Search & Rescue / Marine Incident		Other	
ALLERGIC REACTION	1	ASSIST EXTERNAL AGENCY	3	EMLO DEPLOYMENT	1
BREATHING PROBLEMS	2	BROKEN DOWN VESSEL	7	EQUIPMENT DEPLOYMENT	1
CHEST PAIN	1	CAPSIZED VESSEL	1	GENERIC ANIMAL INCIDENT	1
DISLOCATION	1	MARINE INCIDENT - NO INJURY	1	OTHER INCIDENT	2
FRACTURE	1	MISSING PERSON - LAND	4	PROBLEM VESSEL	18
LACERATION	2	MISSING PERSON - WATER	5	REQUEST FOR POLICE	15
OTHER MEDICAL INCIDENT	2	OTHER VESSEL INCIDENT	4	PLANNED DEMONSTRATION IN VICINITY OF STK	1
RASH	1	RECOVERED FROM WATER	1		
RESUSCITATION	1	RESCUE (IN WATER) - CONDITION UNKNOWN	7		
SEIZURE	3				
SERIOUS BLEEDING	1				
SPRAIN-STRAIN	1				
SUSPECTED SPINAL INJURY	3				
UNCONSCIOUS/ FAINTING	5				

## Incident & Rescue date

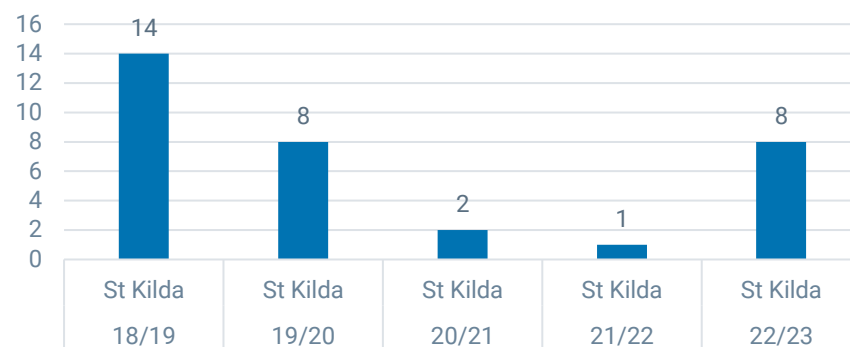
### Incidents

- Taskings or response to medical, marine, SAR or Other incidents
- Incident response is particularly frequent for St Kilda Lifesavers and Lifeguards

### Rescues

- Rescues performed by lifesavers / lifeguards on patrol

## St Kilda Beach Rescues



# LG Site Cost Model

23/24 Forecast based off Current Service								Hourly Rate	60		
Site	Paid Lifeguard Days							Total LG Days	Labour Cost	Equipment	Total
	Shoulder Period (14/11-25/12)		Peak Period (26/12-26/01)		Shoulder Period (27/01-17/02)						
	Days	No of Guards	Days	No of Guards	Days	No of Guards					
St Kilda	30	2	24	3	20	2	172	\$ 84,624	\$ 9,770	\$ 94,394	
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>172</b>	<b>\$ 84,624</b>	<b>\$ 9,770</b>	<b>\$ 94,394</b>	

## Current Lifeguard site :

- Peak summer holiday period, continuing into February
- Complements Volunteer Beach Patrols
- 2 lifeguards is minimum service model
- Rate is all encompassing of ; training, EM support, management, overheads, wages ;  
-> real cost to deliver service



# Cost Models

## Service and Cost Summary

Period	Total Cost	Allocation to Stakeholders		
		Basis	LM/ LGA	LSV and/or State Gov
2018/19	\$ 83,222	Varied	\$ -	\$ 83,222
2019/20	\$ 85,356	Varied	\$ -	\$ 85,356
2020/21	\$ 87,544	Varied	\$ -	\$ 87,544
2021/22	\$ 89,789	Varied	\$ -	\$ 89,789
2022/23	\$ 92,091	Varied	\$ -	\$ 92,091
<b>2023/24</b>	<b>\$ 94,394</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>TBC</b>
2024/25	\$ 96,753	50%	\$ 48,377	\$ 48,377
2025/26	\$ 99,172	50%	\$ 49,586	\$ 49,586

## Considerations:

- Assess service delivery model & days required
- Risk based approach, considering location risk relative to other locations
- Stakeholder perspectives
- What does the cost model look like ongoing?
  - Potential 50/50 allocation?
  - IGEM review considerations to be assessed late 2023

# Questions?

Contact Info:

[Redacted]

Area Lifesaving Manager  
(Central Region)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

General Manager – Lifesaving  
Services

[Redacted]

CBR-2023.058

## CITY OF PORT PHILLIP BUDGET SUBMISSION

### Budget request #1

*To set the rate at 3.5% as per the State Government cap.*

Proposing a rate increase of 2.8 %, less than the state rate cap of 3.5%, is financially irresponsible.

In putting forward a proposal for a 2.8% rate increase, the Council does not exercise its powers and duties as set out in the Local Government Act as follows:

- Priority is to be given to achieving the best possible outcomes for the municipal community, **including future generations.**

The 2.8% proposed increase also fails the obligation to manage the current **and future liabilities** of the Council.

Costs are increasing across the board, and construction cost increases will impact Council's delivery of capital works projects. Council will be at the forefront of responding to a range of stresses relating to climate change. Calls on Council services to support those in need will only increase in this time of high inflation and growing income inequality.

Any expenditure of Council funds should be directed at the widest possible benefit. Projects that deliver multiple benefits should be prioritised.

The present rate will leave subsequent Councils unable to look after their assets and respond to emerging community needs.

It will leave well considered strategies and policies, forged through extensive consultation, to be delayed or shelved. This is not good governance.

### Budget request #2

*Customer service to be available at Port Melbourne Town Hall five days a week, 8.30 to 5.00*

We note that customer service hours at St Kilda are **8.30 to 5.00, five days a week**. In Port Melbourne the customer service hours are 4 hours on 3 non consecutive days of the week - **12.00 to 4.00 pm Monday, Tuesday and Friday**.

The hours at Port Melbourne are woefully inadequate. Many people using the service are elderly, have limited mobility and do not drive. They cannot get to St Kilda. On days when the service is not open, frustrated people wander around the Town Hall looking for the service. When the counter is open, people have to queue for a long time as the processes, for parking permit in particular, take quite some time. There is nowhere for people to sit (again, elderly) leading people to sit on the stairs. Frustrated ratepayers leave, only to come back and repeat the same frustrating experience. The present arrangements create undue stress for the staff who nevertheless maintain exemplary respect and courtesy.

Customer service is many people's most direct interaction with Council. If it is negative, it translates into a negative perception of Council in general.





The Council's services should be **equitable** across the municipality. With significant growth anticipated in Fishermans Bend, particularly in the Montague precinct, it is unacceptable that such inadequate services are provided at the northern end of the municipality.



*No one home at Port Melbourne*

### **Budget request #3**

*Do not cut \$80k from the Cultural Development Fund*

The City of Port Phillip's vibrant arts and culture scene is a precious legacy from many decades of deep commitment and sustained investment. It is as much part of the infrastructure of the city as the roads and footpaths, and requires continuous investment, support and cultivation.

Each work or project funded through the CDF has a ripple effect through its audience. Artists, in ways many and various ways, delight, provoke and challenge.

Grants to artists and small arts organisations are the most economical possible way of supporting the arts since artists always give back so much more than the small amount of grant monies through the CDF.

Cutting the Cultural Develop Fund by \$80k is a foolish and false economy.

## Budget request #4

### Active Transport

- *Allocate \$2M towards planning and consultation of the remaining Integrated Transport Strategy safe cycling routes*
- *Prioritise construction of the Inkerman St Safe Travel corridor for **2024***

Temporary bike infrastructure has been removed from the streets of Port Phillip. In objecting to the temporary infrastructure, the Council maintained that it still supported bike riding, but the temporary bike lanes had not been an effective way of achieving this objective.

We are now looking to the Council to invest in well designed, thoughtfully implemented, protected bike lanes as per the *Move Connect Live* Strategy to demonstrate their stated commitment to the projects nominated in it.





## **Submission in response to the City of Port Phillip's Draft Council Plan & Budget 23/24**

### **Restricting the rate rise to 2.8 per cent amounts to intergenerational theft of community resources needed to secure our city's future**

The 23/24 draft Budget papers state that the impact of adopting a rate rise of 2.8 percent for Port Phillip, rather than the statewide rate cap of 3.5 per cent, is some \$900,000. In a Budget of more than \$248 million.

This may be small beer or as they say in Canberra, an accounting error.

But for Port Phillip, taking this step will not just be an error, it will be dangerous and reckless.

The Budget papers show that the accumulated impact over 10 years will be \$11 million less in rates collected. This arises from imposing a tighter cap on the pool of rates on which any future rate increases can be based. The effect will be felt in both the short-term – Council's ability to meet legitimate wage increases and to fund services at current levels will come under intense pressure – and the longer term as the compounding effect over time of lower potential rate income reduces reserves that would otherwise be available to meet the infrastructure needs of the municipality.

The impact is proposed to be funded by reductions in planned investments in the following Council Reserves:

- \$2.5 million in the Strategic Property Reserve
- \$2 million in the Asset Renewal Reserve
- \$2 million in the Municipal Growth Reserve

and by the \$4.4 million in 'savings' from not going ahead with the earlier proposed rate rebate in 23/24.

### **What's at Stake**

This proposal, if finally agreed, places greater responsibility for funding the infrastructure and services that the municipality needs over time on to future generations. The reduced revenue to Council resulting from this measure will hamper Council's ability to invest what is needed to serve the *whole* community into the future.



**This is not sound finance: rather, it is reducing reserves for future needs in order to provide a marginal benefit to some residents now. In doing so, Council is engaging in a form of inter-generational theft.**

We note the comments made by the Essential Services Commission (ESC) in providing its Advice to the Victorian Government concerning the 2023/24 rate cap:

*A rate cap that is lower than the CPI forecast may be beneficial for ratepayers in the short term. However, a lower rate cap could deepen financial sustainability issues for councils, which would ultimately be borne by ratepayers and the community in the long term. Further, even with a 4 per cent rate cap, it is worth acknowledging that some councils are likely to see a continued impact on financial viability in the current economic environment.*

The Commission, after analysing the best available data, concluded:

*Based on our engagement with stakeholders and analysis we consider that four key observations have informed our rate cap advice: • Council cash reserves are decreasing. • Council costs have increased at a slower rate than inflation during 2021–22, but at a higher rate than the current rate cap of 1.75 per cent. • Construction costs are rising. • Expected future wage increases will increase council costs in the future.*

As a result, the Commission recommended a rate cap rise consistent with CPI, which in November 2022 was estimated to be 4 per cent per annum.

The Victorian Government subsequently set a rate cap for Councils 0.5 per cent below the ESC's recommendation. The Minister for Local Government in announcing her decision said it was made, '**taking into account cost of living pressures facing rate payers**'. (our emphasis)

Given the ESC's advice and warning, and the Victorian Government's rationale which takes into account cost of living pressures, **Council's proposal is dangerous. It is 1.2 per cent below the safety level recommended by the ESC.**

In this proposal Councillors are inviting us to expose future ratepayers to greater costs and responsibilities while jeopardising the City of Port Phillip's capacity to continue current levels of service provision. Councillors are gambling on both the present and the future.

***Progressive Port Phillip opposes the proposed 2.8 per cent rise in rates, supporting instead a rise that goes to the rate cap of 3.5 per cent.***

Challenges that Council faces include:

- Inflation is currently predicted to be even higher in 23/24 than estimated by the ESC, adding significant supply chain and employee cost pressures. Councillors cannot guarantee, given the level of inflation, that existing social, community, waste, parks and gardens services and its roads, foot and bike paths services will not be cut with a reduced rate increase;
- Ageing Council-owned community assets, such as maternal and child health centres, early childhood education and care centres, libraries, arts and cultural hubs and spaces, community centres across the municipality, aged care service centres and others require much needed injections of funds for maintenance and refurbishment for the benefit of residents now and into the future. As one example, Council is proposing (without community consultation) to defer a major upgrade of St Kilda Library, which serves the St Kilda, Elwood and East Kilda communities – passing the buck to a future generation;
- There will be likely, but unknown levels of Council expenditure required due to increased population and community need in Fishermans Bend precincts in coming years. It should be noted that these costs are likely be greater due to the reckless way Planning Minister Matthew Guy rezoned this area in 2012;
- Serious under-investment in social housing and failure to partner with the Victorian Government’s Big Build is resulting in an unprecedented rental and affordable housing crisis in Port Phillip that is pricing out many residents and reducing the diversity of our community; and
- The huge challenges of addressing climate change given Port Phillip’s vulnerability to flooding (especially Port Melbourne, Fishermans Bend, St Kilda and Elwood) due to sea level rise and extreme weather events, urban heat island effects in areas such as East Kilda, and the urgency of reducing community emissions. These all require immediate and ongoing investment for the benefit of us all. Council still does not have an agreed response to the climate emergency it declared in September 2019.

Council is choosing not to address these challenges in this draft Budget.

## **Equity**

Instead, it is proposing to put money into the pockets of individual property owners, some of whom are affected by cost-of-living pressures but many of whom are not, taking into account the general rise in property values in recent years..

Meanwhile, those in most need, especially the 49 per cent of households in Port Phillip who are renting, will share in none of the benefits accruing to individual property owners arising from Council’s proposal. Rather, Council will help further subsidise absentee investor landlords who have enjoyed unprecedented increases in their asset values since the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Councillors proposed assistance to property owners is not well targeted and due to the property rating system, will chiefly benefit those with the most expensive properties.

The table on the following page shows both how the individual ratepayers who benefit most are those owning the most expensive properties, but also that the overall benefit of not going to the rate cap of 3.5% in 23/24 is small – in the examples shown, ranging from \$9 off the yearly rate bill for owners of \$750,000 properties, to \$120 for those owning \$10 million properties. Yet this proposed reduction in the rate rise to 2.8% instead of 3.5%, robs the 23/24 budget of \$900,000 that could have been invested in whole of community infrastructure, community services or strong action on climate change, to name just a few possibilities. And over the next decade the impact of this proposal means \$11 million less for Council to invest for the common good of our community.

**Table. Range of returns to ratepayers of a 2.8% rate rise**

Property value	Rates paid with a 2.8% rise @ 0.001694 in the dollar	Rates paid with a 3.5% rise @ 0.001706 in the dollar	'Saving' to the property owner from a 2.8% rise, rather than a 3.5% rise
\$10,000,000	\$16,940	\$17,060	\$120
\$5,000,000	\$8,470	\$8,530	\$60
\$2,500,000	\$4,235	\$4,265	\$30
\$2,000,000	\$3388	\$3412	\$24
\$1,500,000	\$2541	\$2,559	\$18
\$1,000,000	\$1694	\$1706	\$12
\$750,000	\$1270.50	\$1279.50	\$9

Source: the rate in the dollar figures used in this table are those published in the draft Budget papers.

**We cannot help but think that the proposal by councillors is so utterly cynical as to give back to some of the wealthiest landowners in the nation on the basis of cost-of-living relief, but not use \$900k to reduce fees for aged care services, childcare and many others – people really doing it tough. And the ultimate objective it serves is to permanently reduce the size of Council itself.**



The proposal is a rejection of the equity and social justice vision that Council so proudly proclaims, viz:

***Our commitment to social justice and equity***

*As a public authority, Council is bound by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 to ensure **basic human rights are a priority for present and future governments.***

*The Council Plan drives this commitment to **ensure that the rights of all people are considered in a fair and equitable way.** Council recognises that the intersection between different types of inequality and discrimination can amplify disadvantage for particular people and will strive to address barriers for those experiencing marginalisation, discrimination, and disadvantage based on their circumstances, identity, or other attributes. Council's commitment to social justice ensures that all people:*

- can have the opportunity to become involved in political and civic processes*
- are treated with respect and in turn treat others with respect*
- **have access to resources and services they need.** (Vol 1, p 11, our emphases)*

Councillors would be in a better position to propose this draft Budget if they had delivered on the last Budget.

As it stands, many apartment block households have not received FOGO services despite paying a municipal waste charge since January this year. The rate and service charge changes introduced in 2022/23 hugely benefitted high end property owners and have not delivered improved waste and recycling services for many people living in apartments. The promised new and improved waste, composting and recycling services remain problematic for many in the municipality.

**Use of Council's Reserves**

Councillors are proposing to reduce the value of the following reserves over the longer term, viz:

- \$2.5 million in the Strategic Property Reserve
- \$2 million in the Asset Renewal Reserve
- \$2 million in the Municipal Growth Reserve

They may argue that contrary to ESC reckoning for local government in Victoria, reserves are increasing rather decreasing in Port Phillip.

Our point is that regardless of this argument, specific reserves (as opposed to general cash reserves intended for operational purposes) are built for a purpose: to enable the Council to be a responsible steward for the community. This is a not radical idea; it is in fact a conservative principle.

The three reserves that are proposed to be reduced over time are intended to:

- secure the best outcome for the community on key strategic sites across the municipality – enabling our Council to help determine the shape and character of this place
- revitalise physical, social and cultural assets that the community has invested in over many years and which bring benefit to local and visitors – ensuring these assets remain valuable, usable and important spaces for the community
- provide for growing residential density, service and infrastructure needs as Council and the Victorian Government approve more developments – supporting a liveable, attractive place into the future.

Few metropolitan Councils are under the same urban demands as Port Phillip. Indeed, Fishermans Bend is promoted by Council and the Victorian Government as the largest urban redevelopment project in Australia. But Council is proposing to cut its capacity to help shape and respond to this opportunity,

The deployment of reserves to projects should be subject to rigorous analysis.

There is already a long list that deserve consideration for strategic investment over time that Council has identified:

- the level of tree canopy and future climate change needs;
- the vulnerability of current social and cultural infrastructure and the need for renewal across many facilities;
- failing footpaths and the need for more and safer bike paths as cycling becomes a major transport mode;
- more open space in underserved areas such as East St Kilda; and
- the need to renew and revitalise key commercial districts and shopping centres such as Clarendon Street, Bay Street, Carlisle Street, Acland Street and Fitzroy Street.

The decision on the St Kilda Library is particularly notable. The draft Budget reveals that funding for the redevelopment of the St Kilda Library has been quietly put aside.

When it was opened in 1973 the \$1 million library was widely praised as being the finest in Australia. Its stunning design, air-conditioning and photocopier were all remarked on and it was the first municipal library to open on Sundays. There has been only one substantial refurbishment in fifty years and the building and its interior as showing the signs of rapid ageing. Meanwhile other local governments are viewing their libraries as a means of engaging and informing communities, especially residents struggling with the digital age. New libraries in the CBD, Docklands, Bayside, Geelong and Broadmeadows are functional and attractive, providing facilities that are state of the art, including internet and resource materials, collaborative work spaces, spaces which connect indoor and outdoor areas and much more.

In 2016, Council stated that, "the St Kilda Library has had no major investment to increase floorspace in recent years and at many times of the day is operating at high capacity." In 2021 the Council Budget and Plan included an \$11M investment plan for the St Kilda Library Redevelopment due in 2026.

That promise to the community has been broken. Instead, a Library Facilities Improvement Program is proposed: 'the St Kilda Library Redevelopment has been broadened to cover all library facilities and spread out over the life of the 10-year plan. A library facilities improvement plan will guide the future expenditure. In the interim this will fund minor refurbishment and replacement of furniture.' Regrettably, the improvement plan has not yet been prepared.

The St Kilda Library serves St Kilda, St Kilda East, St Kilda West, Elwood, Balaclava, St Kilda Road and Ripponlea or 65,000 residents (ie. 63 per cent of Port Phillip's population) These localities have the least open space, the highest number of renters, the highest proportion of flat occupants and populations in most need of the services provided by a Library.

This is not about pitting one group of residents against another, despite how attractive that may be to some. It is about good planning, excellence in service delivery and true engagement of people in the community. Council's decision-making has been poor, lacking community consultation and transparency. Library services will be in demand in Fishermans bend and other fast growing areas of the municipality. Failure to prioritise, to plan and build the strategic reserves needed for library services into the future is a cost that will be felt over many years by residents

### **The Councillor Calculus**

It is difficult not to conclude that this proposed Budget is an intensely political document, intended to parley internal Council dynamics rather than advance the long-term wellbeing of people and the municipality. It is not based in sound finance and economics or a clear-sighted examination of the future. It looks like a rough and pragmatic compromise to maintain power alliances between Councillors rather than a thoughtful, coherent, evidence-based approach to the needs of the present and the future.



Over the last two years some councillors have called for a rate freeze or a rate rebate. To resolve this call, council initiated a costly series of service reviews which examined in depth, across more than twenty service areas, whether there was waste or whether cuts could be made. After engaging external consultants and thousands of hours of staff time at ratepayer expense, the Cost Review could not find any significant areas for savings.

Except for a pet project of some councillors: investment in the arts and culture. Not because these programs lacked merit or impact but because some councillors desperately needed some virtue signalling to their constituency. Artists, historians, audiences and the community will suffer if plans for a reduced Cultural Development Fund (from \$187k per annum to \$100k) proceed. Some councillors constantly seek to invoke a small scale 'cultural war'. It is their bread and butter. We hope a majority of councillors see where this comes from, its venality and its negative consequences. We wholeheartedly support the arts and cultural communities in opposing these cuts.

Local government is not a corporation with shareholders.

It continuously gives back to residents through its services and infrastructure, physical, social and cultural. Its mission and purpose are funded by many: residential and commercial property owners through their rates; tenants through their rents; state and federal governments through grants; car users through parking charges and users of services through fees and there are even more stakeholders.

They all contribute to the idea and presence of community. Local government is a fulcrum for community, not just an everyday service provider akin to a supermarket or a marketable brand. Its legitimacy and authenticity come from the community and in turn, local government should nurture and grow local community relationships and trust.

It is fundamentally wrong to privilege the most advantaged rate payers with the greatest reduction in their contribution to the long-term future of municipal services and community in the way Councillors propose. Even more so, it is wrong to expect a future generation or a future Council to pick up the tab for this largesse.

It does not meet the community challenges ahead, only some of the internal Council political ones. It does little for fraying community assets, the housing crisis, the climate emergency, users of Council services and nearly half of the households in Port Phillip: renters.

It is not responsible or justifiable except as an expedient political document.

***Progressive Port Phillip opposes the proposed 2.8 per cent rise in rates, supporting instead a rise that goes to the rate cap of 3.5 per cent.***

## Submission on the City of Port Phillip Draft Budget 2023/2024 and Council Plan 2021- 2031

### Introduction

Port Phillip Community Group (PPCG) welcomes City of Port Phillip (CoPP) council's continuing investment and commitment to community services outlined in the Draft Budget 2022 – 2023 as part of its Inclusive Port Phillip strategy.

### Draft Budget 2022 – 2023 Inclusive Port Phillip

#### Community Programs and facilities- \$608,000

PPCG receives funding from CoPP for its core program, through a 3-year multi-year funding agreement. The draft Budget Papers allocation in Vol 3 (page 29) allocates an amount of \$608,000 for PPCG. The deed for the period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2025, states the annual funding as \$698,049 (inc GST) calculated as \$634,590 per annum plus \$63,459,459 GST. We request that the allocation in the draft budget reflects the multi-year deed.

The demand for our core services continues to increase with a greater number of people from broader socio-economic groups needing assistance. This is a result of the cost-of-living pressures and financial hardships being experienced by residents across all wards as demonstrated by the data published by ACOSS. Overall, in the City of Port Phillip 16.8% were low-income households (earning less than \$800 per week) in 2021. A total of 8,871 people were low-income households who are most likely living on or below the poverty line with very little disposable income for goods and services.

#### Social Meals- \$104,000 (State and Federal funding via local government)

We understand that the Social Meals program is subject to eligibility resolution yet to be confirmed with Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). We are pleased that the Officers are continuing to negotiate an additional \$104,000 to be brokered to PPCG for provision of access and inclusion activities under the HACC-PYP and CHSP program.

The Social Meals program is run in partnership with St Kilda Community Housing, South Port Community Housing Group and Housing First, and has been supported by the City of Port Phillip through short term funding per annum. Both housing partners have provided letters of support which are attached to this submission. The Social Meals program embodies a strong community development and social inclusion ethos, bringing together community members in a volunteer capacity, fostering a sense of belonging and connection across socio economic divides. Additional meals are provided on request to housing providers on a fee for service basis.

#### Share the Food program, confirmation of the 40k grant

Share the Food started as a joint initiative between council and PPCG during COVID, distributing food to impacted households. This program is currently being assessed as part of a food security research project with Sustain, University of Melbourne and DFFH.

Continuation of this program is contingent on an unallocated amount of \$40,000 in the budget to be distributed through the SmartyGrants platform to PPCG. An additional \$60,000 is included in the draft budget for PPCG to cover rental support for the Share the Food Port Melbourne warehouse where donated fresh produce is stored prior to distribution to up to fifteen local community organisations using volunteers from the community.

PPCG has been supporting residents of Port Phillip for 50 years and has grown into a leading wrap around support service providing, material aid, social outings, financial counselling, information referral service and education to people at risk of homelessness in the City of Port Phillip. PPCG provides services to more than 20,000 people in any one year, to better connect to their community, achieve their goals, and build better lives. PPCG provides these services by leveraging a volunteer workforce and in partnership with over 15 other organisations across the City of Port Phillip.

**Prepared By:**

████████████████████

Executive Officer

Port Philip Community Group

May 2023