

## President's Report Port People Inc

Port Melbourne continues to flourish. It is vibrant, dynamic and liveable. But it is under stress. Our neighbourhood has almost become a victim of it's own success. It is fantastic to see so much of our public open spaces being enjoyed by so many at all hours of the day and night, every day of the week. With such high usage, increasing popularity and increasing urban density we need to make sure it doesn't break.

Let's be clear about what it is that binds us to this community and continues to draw others to want to be here. Let's celebrate but not abuse it. Let's build upon it but not burden it. Let's be guided by sustainability and not overwhelm its ability to cope.

Port Melbourne has much to offer it's residents and visitors. We have many things that others can only dream about. Features that are unique to us. Some of these things have become so intrinsic to our daily life that perhaps we take them for granted.

We have a community.

We have beaches.

We have large public open spaces.

We have a pier (or two)

We have restaurants

(We don't have a bookshop. Grrr)

We have public transport.

We have access to the sky.

Nurturing and respect is required to keep these things alive.

The key role of groups such as ours continues to be one of advocacy, reason and accountability. People, businesses and governments need clarity and certainty to prosper. As you've probably heard me say before, I still believe it's very much our job to "keep the bastards honest" whomever they may be.

I look forward to working with you to continue caring for our community.

Helen Kuchel

President

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