



NEWSLETTER – September 2013

What is happening about the rates?

You may remember that last year residents were shocked at their rates. As a result, a meeting was held with Council in November. Members of PPI have followed this up and presented a submission to Council highly critical of the rates methodology and the budget process. See our Website www.portpeople.org.au for the full story.

In view of recent sales in Garden City and their impact on the valuation scheduled for January 2014, PPI is looking into ways of preventing Garden City residents paying an unfair proportion of rate revenue for the 2013/14 and later years.

PPI has called on Council to hold the rates at their 2012-13 level until a thorough review of both the rates methodology and the budget process has been completed. Disappointingly Council's response to our submissions has failed to address our concerns, avoiding most of the issues raised.

Copies of PPI's submission and the Council response are available from the 'Latest News' page of the PPI website at <http://www.portpeople.org.au>

If you think your valuation is wrong, you can obtain an objection form by contacting the Council's Valuation Dept on 92096733. You have two months from the date on your rates notice to object. If you

need help with your objection, contact our Treasurer Rowan Groves on 9646 3687. A pro forma letter objecting to the rates increase is also available to download from our website.

Do you want public toilets at Garden City Reserve?

Council has updated its Public Toilet Strategy for the municipality. The previous plan (2007-11) resulted in the completion of two projects—public toilets at Middle Park Beach (cost: \$500,763) and Sandridge Beach (for \$417,930)—and the upgrade of those at Marina Reserve St.Kilda.



When nature calls

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Port People Inc. meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm at the Sandridge Community Centre (Trugo Club). Please join us.

PORT PEOPLE INC

The new implementation plan for 2013-2023 includes four 'High Priority' projects in Port Melbourne:

- Bay Street, Waterfront Place and Garden City Reserve—provision of central accessible facilities, and
- Port Melbourne Tennis Club (Morris Reserve)—upgrade, relocate or closure to be investigated.

Feasibility studies are planned. However, no community consultation processes are described in the Strategy.

Make your views known now

If you have a view on these issues, contact the City of Port Phillip's Assist line (92096777) or online. And please tell us, because Port People would like to know whether you support the building of public toilets in Garden City Reserve. [contact us@portpeople.org.au](mailto:contact_us@portpeople.org.au)

What's happening with the foreshore and Waterfront Place?

The Urban Design Framework (UDF) is a strategy being developed by Council to guide changes in areas designated 'public realm' in and around the Port Melbourne waterfront. After the release of the first UDF strategy, in response to concerns expressed by Port Melbourne residents, a second consultation is being held with the design guidelines for the privately owned 1-7 Waterfront place taken out of the UDF process.

The former gym/childcare centre at 1-7 Waterfront Place is presently the subject of hearings at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the Supreme Court. The developers are applying to remove the covenants, allowing them to

demolish existing buildings and build a high-rise, densely-built complex. The Council has released Design Guidelines which will allow a development to a maximum of 10 storeys on the site.

Along with other local community groups, we believe Council's Guidelines contradict prevailing community view and we support retaining the existing covenants. These do not allow changes to the built form on the site unless agreed to by the covenant holders and the community. It should be noted that the existing complex was government subsidised as a community recreational centre.

If you would like to know more about this, visit our website at www.portpeople.org.au. Let Council know your views; write to strategicplanning@portphillip.vic.gov.au

What's happening about proposed Ferrars St. school?

The first meeting of the Planning Committee for the new school occurred early August. It included senior DEECD officials, Council representatives, Dept. of Transport & Infrastructure officials and, importantly, two Community Representatives.

The meeting was very positive about the importance of community input and, given the small site, the need to be both collaborative and creative.

If you have ideas about any aspect of the new school, please become involved in the community consultations that will take place. You may reach Community Representative Marie Walters at ferrarsstreet@gmail.com. To learn more about the work of *Two Schools* Now visit www.twoschoolsnow.com

Some good news

A New Commemorative plaque for Garden City Reserve

Lois Daley's communiqués with Council regarding a commemorative plaque for the park have paid off. An historian has worked with Lois to develop the text and a plaque similar to the one in Cleve Gardens will be installed