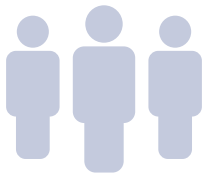


**An overview of**  
and our involvement in the





## Over arching Achievements

Creating and nurturing an enduring Port Phillip identity and community. Through CAPP's leadership, Port Phillip has emerged from a rocky beginning with an identity that reflects its diverse municipal and political history. The city is financially sound, providing the basis for future social and economic investments. It accommodates the affluent and the disadvantaged and is a local government leader in promoting social justice.

### A financially sustainable Council.

CAPP councillors have steered Council finances over the past two decades, ensuring that costs and rates are contained while enabling policy innovation and high quality service provision to flourish.

### Broadening and deepening community participation to advance local democracy.

This is reflected in the original Turn the Tide and related campaigns to broaden participation in elections and to win the right to vote for tenants; encouraging and supporting women to stand for Council, which changed forever the male dominated pattern of control in local government that had survived for over a century; and strong community involvement in the Council's strategic plans.

### Ensuring Port Phillip is a liveable and more sustainable municipality.

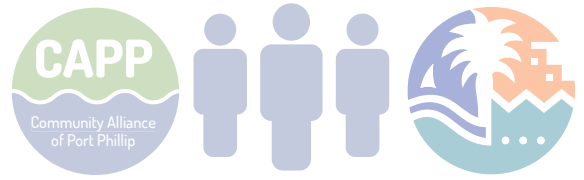
This is reflected in successful opposition to high rise/ Gold Coast style development in various hotspots such as St Kilda and Port and South Melbourne; high quality heritage studies and preservation controls; support for high quality public open spaces including the foreshore and waterways; growing public investment to reduce waste, reduce energy consumption and install renewable energy technologies.

### Decent community services for all residents, especially the most disadvantaged, to create economic and social opportunity.

This is reflected in decades of support and funding for low-income housing that has resulted in the City of Port Phillip and the its various community housing associations being recognized as operating Australia's largest and most successful municipally-generated social housing program. Due to the ongoing support of CAPP, Port Phillip hosts and supports an extraordinary range of high quality child care facilities – with greater accessibility and support for a strong community-based system of provision. Outreach services to migrant communities, outstanding home and community and community care services, among other initiatives, reflect the depth and range of community services in Port Phillip.

### Ensuring Port Phillip is a major cultural hub.

CAPP Councillors have led to way in ensuring Port Phillip is a major cultural hub supporting live music (retaining the Espy & many other venues); the visual arts (through Linden, Gasworks, provision of studio space, the Council collection, Rupert Bunny Foundation); literature & writing through a strong library network; & performance arts (through Theatreworks, Gasworks, St Kilda Film Festival etc.).



## An Historical Snapshot

### A Synopsis of the past 25 years.

In 1998 activists within the newly established City of Port Phillip came together under the banner of the Community Alliance of Port Phillip (or Citizens Across Port Phillip - CAPP). This followed several years of unelected Commissioner-controlled local government installed by the Kennett government following the amalgamation of the Cities of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda in 1994.

CAPP drew on many sources of community involvement and engaged people across a broad range of community issues across all regions of the new municipality. A strong influence derived from the legacy of the Turn The Tide (TTT) group which had led St Kilda initiatives in tenant representation, social housing, multiculturalism, and more sensitive planning controls, culture and the arts prior to the amalgamation.

Since CAPP's beginning it has mostly consisted of residents who are non-aligned in party politics but who believe in social justice, social diversity and environmental sustainability. In addition to its fundamentally non-party political character, it has included and welcomed like-minded members of the ALP, Democrats and the Australian Greens.

### Raw Beginnings

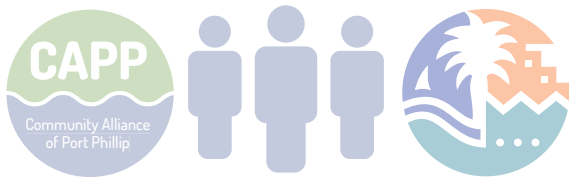
In the 1970s and 80s a number of progressive St Kilda councillors including Helen Halliday – the first female Councillor in St Kilda; Mary-Lou Jelbart – the founder of the St Kilda Film Festival and the main arts Festival; Elaine Miller, Brian Slattery and Tony Della Porta began to change the face of St Kilda and sowed the seeds for the next twenty years of government in St Kilda.

This activism took place alongside a long tradition of working class solidarity in Port Melbourne and the constant development and service issues in South Melbourne.

South Melbourne pioneered many welfare and community innovations, including the first social worker employed in local government; the development of the Meals on Wheels program and the establishment of an extensive, accessible library network. There were fierce campaigns on heritage issues, including the fight over Lanark Terrace, and various State Government proposals for freeways that would have carved up much of Albert Park.

Port Melbourne had established its own electrical energy supply company; provided outstanding support to local sport and recreational clubs; and was a fierce advocate of The Borough and its values, as the Cain Labor Government soon realized. It too faced major development pressure through de-industrialisation in the 1970s and 1980s and the re-zoning of Beacon Cove. Like St Kilda, Port Melbourne was impacted by the loss of heavy rail and replacement with light rail in 1987.

During both the 70s and 80s the gentrification pressures in Port Melbourne and South Melbourne resulted in a number of divisive disputes over planning and amenity issues. Residents began to demand more of their local governments. And a new generation of Councillors, including John Thwaites; Frank O'Connor; Perce White; Brenda Bedford; Lyn Allison and others came to the fore.



## St Kilda's Turn the Tide movement

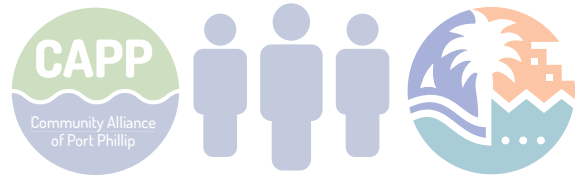
1982 John Cain was elected Premier and reformed local government by abolishing the property-only franchise, which meant house/unit tenants, could, for the first time, participate in elections and shape their local Council.

There was a big move by the tenants' union and the St Kilda Community Group to get tenants enrolled to vote and put pressure on local MPs to introduce a better deal for tenants. The 'St Kilda Shout' tenants rights newspaper was established. Turn the Tide was formed to help promote tenants' rights and to build an electoral alliance with emerging local concerns about development and planning issues in St Kilda. Council's housing officer, Jack Downey, was the first TTT Councillor elected in 1985, followed by John Broderick in 1986.

New electoral boundaries for the 1987 election resulted in a spill of all 12 Councillor positions. A fierce and era-defining election campaign ensued, which was a wrestle for the future direction of the municipality. New groups such as Save St Kilda emerged. The result was a strong progressive council, led by Elaine Miller as Mayor, Mary Lou Jelbart, Melanie Eagle, Brian Slattery and three TTT Councillors - Les Rosenblatt, Jack Downey, and John Broderick - along with Norma Walker and Liberals John Callanan, Keith MacGregor, Maggie Niall, and Bernie Costigan - some of whom supported the progressive direction of the new council.

### The key achievements between 1987 and 1990 in St Kilda were:

- Dealing swiftly with the CEO, Brian Jones, and his refusal to follow direction from the new Council. He was sacked and a new CEO appointed.
- Terminating the tourist development proposal for the St Kilda Harbour Marina;
- Rates funding to support investment in local social housing projects and the purchase of the Upper Esplanade Earl's Court site to house aged low-income residents.
- New foreshore area height controls (3 stories except for strip between Espy and Robe) on Marine and Beaconsfield parade and other major local planning scheme amendments and opposition to the Mandalay and Espy hotel high-rise development proposals
- Securing Council's commitment to the St Kilda Film Festival and the arts.
- Heritage measures including the ground breaking 20th Century Architecture study.
- Salvos and Windana drug rehab facilities established against fierce resident opposition.
- Council's finances were brought under control and surplus Budgets were established to sustain future social investments.



## Another Tidal wave

This core group of progressives was supplemented during annual elections between 1987 and 1993 by TTT councillors including Robyn Batten; John Cribbes; Peter Holland; Gina Fiske; John Enticott; John Spierings; Mary Bartlett; Karen Gregory and allies such as Julia Murray and Tim Costello, who was the last Mayor of St Kilda, 1993-94.

### Between 1990 and 1994 this second wave of activists:

- Began the re-generation of Fitzroy Street icons including the George, Majestic and Waldorf hotels.
- Rebuilt the St Kilda Town Hall and Library precinct.
- Initiated the St Kilda Environmental Plan with ground breaking benchmarks for recycling and water/energy efficiency.
- Embedded multiculturalism across Council programs and services.
- Refreshed Acland Street with a major landscaping project.
- Defended street workers and Kooris from assaults and victimization.
- Initiated resource sharing between South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and St Kilda to thwart the Kennett Government's local government reforms and its planned assault on local democracy.

### Jeff Kennett's council reforms 1994

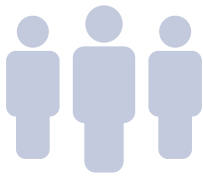
Jeff Kennett amalgamated over 270 Victorian Local Government authorities into 79 municipalities and sacked democratically elected councilors across the state.

The Cities of St Kilda, Port Melbourne and South Melbourne were forcibly amalgamated to form the City of Port Phillip, despite more than 12000 written objections and a massive NO vote from residents in all three municipalities in the state's only referendum on the issue.

Over thirty democratically elected local Councillors in South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and St Kilda were sacked and three Commissioners (Des Clark and two others) appointed in secret by the Kennett government to administer the new council. Major changes to the Local Government Act boosting the powers of CEO and reducing individual and collective powers of elected Councillors were also introduced.

TOPP (The Other Port Phillip) Council was initiated by residents from all three former municipalities - in retrospect this was the forerunner of CAPP. Outbreaks of civil disobedience occurred including the burning of rate notices from the Commissioners; marches on libraries; and protests at child care centres in opposition to service cuts.

Save Albert Park ran a sophisticated, formidable campaign against the conversion of the Park into a part-time racetrack, with the loss of sporting facilities and passive recreation, the huge and on-going costs to Victorian taxpayers and the impact on local residents and traders. People across Port Phillip, but especially in South Melbourne, were drawn to the campaign which ignited debate about open space and the use of public land in Victoria and the secretive nature of many Government deals with the private sector. Save Albert Park and its activists played a crucial role in the formation of CAPP, with SAP convenor, Carolyn Hutchens, being one of the first CAPP candidates in 1999.



## Democracy returns and Port Phillip re-boots

Following amalgamation, the end of commissioners and elections for a new Council, between 1996 and 1999 the new Council focused on:

- Re-establishing democratic institutions and governance including appointing a new CEO
- Developing a sustainable financial base following the loss of South Melbourne rate revenue and land as a result of revised boundaries.
- Restoration of the social housing program.
- The fight over the Lonsdale development in Port Melbourne
- State Government plans for Gateway to the Bay and high rise nodes in Port Melbourne and St Kilda
- An unprecedented community battle for the Espy Hotel in the face of a 26 storey planning proposal.
- A high profile and community-based campaign over the future use of the South Melbourne Town Hall, and the consequences of the Kennett Government/Commissioner lease to ANAM.
- State Govt privatization of the St Kilda Station site.
- Opposition to the Grand Prix in Albert Park.

### Councillors:

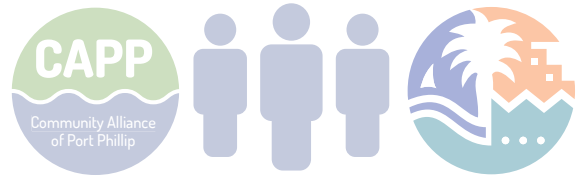
Ludwig Stamer (Ind.),  
Pat Brown (Lib/Nat),  
Liana Thompson (ALP)  
Liz Johnstone (Ind.),  
Dick Gross (ALP),  
Freda Erlich (TTT);  
Christine Haag (TTT).

The new Council in some measure reflected the political traditions that had characterized the former Cities of Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda.

During the mid and late 1990s much time was spent resisting (or accommodating where possible) the Kennett Government agenda on development, planning and services, which had major implications for Port Phillip.

The period of the Commissioners led to many local campaigns on planning and community services. While there had been dialogue and some joint action across campaigns, there was not as yet a common platform to bring together community activism on planning and the various site specific, high rise development campaigns; heritage issues; child care access and affordability; the future of Albert Park and the Grand Prix; transport and parking concerns; environmental issues including coastal and marine issues; climate change; open space; bio-diversity; waste and energy efficiency issues. If you had a concern, Port Phillip had a group for it.

It was not till the next term of the Council that CAPP emerged as a force capable of bringing together activists and citizens across Port Phillip.



## CAPP gears up

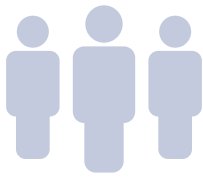
CAPP was formed to contest the 1999 Port Phillip elections and included residents from all three former municipalities.

### The key issues between 1999 and 2004 included:

- Getting affordable and accessible child care services on an even keel
- Responding to State Government support for street prostitution law reform and community concerns
- The future of the Grand Prix.
- Urban Design Framework for the St Kilda foreshore and the commencement of the planning process for the St Kilda Triangle site
- South Melbourne. Central planning framework commenced
- Search for a new site for the SouthPort nursing home
- Resolving the future of the Espy Hotel site.

### Councillors:

Darren Ray (CAPP – also an ALP member),  
Dick Gross (ALP – and later a CAPP member),  
Julian Hill (ALP – also a CAPP member);  
Liz Johnstone (Ind.),  
Carolyn Hutchens (CAPP),  
David Brand (CAPP),  
John Lewisohn (Ind. – to 2002);  
Peter Logan (Ind. – from 2002).



## A Council under siege

The key issues between 2004–2008 included:

- Triangle site development proposal, furore and attendant community protests. CAPP Councilors Sait and Klepner were only the Councillors to vote against the Triangle development.
- Scandals concerning Council's management and payments to consultants - Ombudsman investigations into Council management issues.
- Skate park planning and site location issues that resulted in major community divisions.
- South Melbourne Central planning framework finalized following extensive strategic planning and community consultation
- Extensive strategic planning and discussion with key stakeholders on the future site for the SouthPort nursing home.
- Elwood foreshore redevelopment.
- Major Port Melbourne foreshore infrastructure upgrades.
- Investment in new child care and pre-school facilities.
- State Government plans for Port Melbourne piers and the Webb dock and impacts on residents.

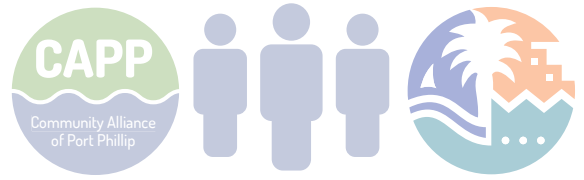
Port Phillip, like other inner Melbourne local governments, had to deal with a persistent housing price boom that squeezed tenants and low-income earners. Traffic congestion and parking issues escalated. Education/schooling/child care pressures also built.

Politically, Unchain St Kilda was formed in response to the Triangle proposal and governance issues. Darren Ray, Dick Gross and Janet Bolitho resigned from CAPP; Janet Cribbes joined CAPP and later resigned. Greens electoral support rose as climate change issues came to the fore, nationally and locally.

### Councillors:

Judith Klepner (CAPP – also an ALP member);  
Darren Ray (ALP – formerly a CAPP member);  
Janet Bolitho (ALP – also a CAPP member);  
Janet Cribbes (Ind. – later joins CAPP and resigns);  
Dick Gross (ALP – formerly a CAPP member);  
Peter Logan (Ind.); Karen Sait (CAPP).





## Stability and good governance

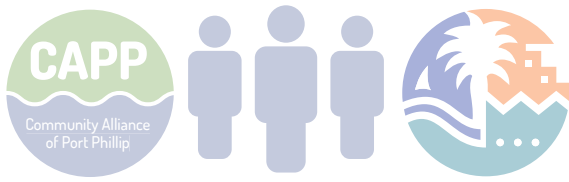
Despite a strong showing by UnChain candidates in the 2008 elections, CAPP held more positions on Council. CAPP actively opposed Dick Gross in the 2008 elections, endorsing Les Rosenblatt to run against him. Council's term is devoted to restoring stability and improved governance following the tumult of 2004-08.

### The key achievements/issues between 2008-2012 included:

- Significant improvements in governance, partly in response to the Ombudsman's report but also as part of the new Council's commitment to openness and transparency.
- Appointment of new CEO (Kay Rundle) and new senior management team.
- New 4 year Council Plan based on 4 pillars of governance, climate change, diversity and livability.
- Triangle contract revoked and renewal of Triangle planning process.
- Skate park site resolved – and committed to Elwood/ St Kilda foreshore.
- Fitzroy St traffic and landscaping improvements, bike paths improvements
- Very significant commitments to climate change goals and targets matched with increased staffing, community input, policy development and program budgets,
- Emerald Hill cultural precinct and building design (library) scoping and planning.
- Major South Melbourne market infrastructure upgrade.

### Councillors:

John Middleton (Greens);  
Judith Klepner (CAPP – also an ALP member);  
Rachel Powning (CAPP – also an ALP member);  
Frank O'Connor (CAPP); Janet Bolitho (ALP);  
Jane Touzeau (UnChain);  
Serge Thomann (Unchain).



## Reflections on the 2012 Election campaign

The 2012 election campaign was hard-fought with contests in all Wards. CAPP presented a dynamic program to electors that reflected our core policy values and members and supporters campaigned for five candidates across the seven Wards. Three CAPP candidates were elected, including Amanda Stevens, the current Mayor.

The five CAPP candidates were Pablo Salina in Point Ormond, Gerry McLoughlin in Carlisle, Bernadene Voss in Sandridge, Anita Horvath in Emerald Hill, and Amanda Stevens in Albert Park.

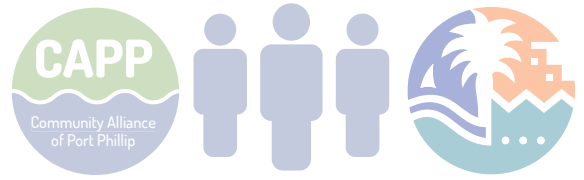
All worked hard and were strongly supported by community activists, candidate networks, friends and associates. All were standing for the first time and each sought to build on the substantial achievements of their predecessors. Frank O'Connor, Judith Klepner and Rachel Powning in particular were generous and untiring in their support, as were current and former members of the CAPP Executive and many others.

Sadly, Gerry and Pablo polled well but did not get over the line in their wards. As for Bernadene, Anita, and Amanda, all CAPP members and supporters are committed to helping them manage the enormous workload and political pressures that they face every day.

There is a terrific opportunity to engage with our community on the planning and social justice issues facing Port Phillip and to re-affirm CAPP's role as a genuinely inclusive platform for progressive politics and governance in Port Phillip.

## Since 1996, the Mayors of Port Phillip have been:

- Liana Thompson 1996-1997
- Christine Häag 1997-1998
- Dick Gross 1998-2000
- Julian Hill 2000-2002
- Darren Ray 2002-2003
- Liz Johnstone 2003 - 2004
- Dick Gross 2004 - 2004
- Darren Ray 2004 - 2005
- Janet Bolitho 2005 - 2007
- Janet Cribbes 2007-2008
- Frank O'Connor 2008 - 2010
- Rachel Powning 2010 - 2012
- Amanda Stevens 2012-



## The Purposes of CAPP

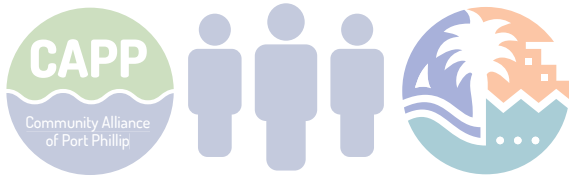
The Community Alliance of Port Phillip (CAPP) was formed in 1998 – it is a Port Phillip wide network of residents campaigning for a strong, democratic and progressive local government and community, based on the following principles:

### Representation and Governance

- Representative and participatory local government characterised by openness, accessibility and transparency.
- Ensuring that Councillors have the capacity to fulfil a genuinely representative role, and that advisory and participatory structures enable an active role of residents in the governance of Port Phillip.
- Enhancing and valuing voluntary contributions, community organisations, the strengthening of civil society, and the cultural richness of Port Phillip.
- Leadership in community participation, strategic planning and advocacy to other levels of government and accountability to the community.
- Strategic alliances with other governments and agencies, and community organisations elsewhere in Victoria and Australia, and when necessary challenging state and federal government policies.
- CAPP will be both politically independent from, and will cooperate with, other associations and supportive political parties to further the objectives and policies of the Association.

### Justice and Equity

- Respect for the culture and heritage of indigenous Australians and engagement with the local indigenous community as participants in decision-making.
- Community development and service provision respecting ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity compatible with human rights and equality of opportunity.
- Delivery of co-operative, accountable and responsive community services, informed by social justice principles, prioritising need over capacity to pay and minimising user pay pricing practices.
- Direct provision and continuous enhancement by Council of human services including child care, aged care, maternal and child health centres, and libraries.
- All residents, including the homeless and people engaged in sex work, have a right to feel safe and be safe on the streets and in the community.



## Environment and Transport

- Recognition of climate change as the greatest threat facing the global environment must inform city development and planning, including management of the coastline, vegetation and biodiversity, and buildings and infrastructure.
- Sustained protection of all open space within the municipality and continued opposition to the conduct of the Grand Prix in Albert Park.
- Architecturally excellent residential, commercial and infrastructure planning and development consistent with social access and affordability and environmental sustainability, and retention of significant social and built heritage.
- Exploration of policy and legal options, and continued campaigning, to ensure appropriate use of the Triangle site.
- Extension and more efficient delivery of public transport for residents and visitors to ease congestion, improve environmental sustainability and all-round livability.
- Comprehensive municipal programs for reducing, reusing and recycling commercial and residential waste. Innovative water retention and recycling programs and exemplary management to address water level and flow issues.

## Housing

- Publicly-funded community and social housing, and affordable mixed housing development incentives and other policies to relieve accommodation pressures and social exclusion and disadvantage.
- Focus on the energy sustainability issues confronting the 60% of the city's population living in apartments.

## Economic and Cultural Development

- Municipal economic development which promotes local employment across all socioeconomic groups with particular support for the disadvantaged and maintains a balance between commercial, industrial and residential interests.
- Sustaining and building on Port Phillip's vitality as a metropolitan, state and national centre for artistic creativity.

Authorised by Brenda Forbath  
on behalf of Community Alliance of Port Phillip  
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