

Newsletter – 1 September 2019



New subscribers/ members of RoPP, Inc.

Thank you to all of the new members who have joined RoPP and for the encouraging emails. The response to our recent letterbox campaign to heighten awareness of the high spending and rates in the City of Port Phillip has been terrific. Thank you for responding and commenting, we shall publish some excerpts on our Facebook page to encourage further comment.

Did you know that you can dispute your property valuation?

Some of our members have successfully disputed their property valuations and have received rate reductions. If you want to object to your property valuation please refer to the link below.

<http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/valuations.htm>

The best evidence for disputing your property value is to obtain recent sales information for similar properties near your house/ apartment. You may be able to get this information at a real estate agent.

Your comments are welcome

We are getting many encouraging emails like the two below:

“Rates charged by our council are ridiculously high for the services we are provided, the size of our land parcels and the area generally. Rates per square foot are likely to be the highest in Australia. Money is being spent on over the top road markings etc which is not necessary. If you cannot ride a bike without all the signs then you shouldn't be there Councillors should be there to serve us not us being here to serve them”.

“Thanks for your continuing good work. Next year must see a revamped council following the elections. We live in a typical Beacon Cove 3-bedroom Townhouse. New rates are \$2,883.30 – up 6.8% on last year and 13.9% over the last 2 years. Net Annual Value has not increased, but the Rate has. I would have thought the NAV should have decreased as well as the Rate”.

“Thank you so much for starting RoPP. I have felt so helpless with the outrageous rates in Middle Park and feel intimidated by the faceless bureaucracy and arrogance of the Port Phillip Council whenever you try to engage them. Please keep up this campaign, I support you”.

Business Owners

Retail and commercial properties have been hit with massive increase, one of our members own a business in South Melbourne and his rates increased by 13.8% If you are a business owner and want to help us develop a plan to communicate to business property owners in City of Port Phillip, please contact us at mail@ropp.com.au

Have your rates decreased?

Please note that any decrease in rates was purely due to significant falls in property values. Indeed 75% of CoPP Councillors voted* to increase overall rates collected by the maximum allowable amount, 2.5%, under the "rate cap" constraint imposed by the State Government.

CoPP's *Council Plan 2017-27* paints this constraint as the "Rate capping challenge". CoPP is so intent on spending as much of your money as possible, that this document reveals that they are actively considering borrowing more money and using up reserves to fund their high spending agenda.

Refer to Updated Council Plan 2017-27, page 3-172 of http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/default/ICP_2017-27_COUNCIL%20PLAN_year%203_Section%203-web.pdf

* 19 June. For: Crs Baxter, Brand, Copsey, Crawford, Gross and Simic. Against: Crs Bond and Pearl. Absent: Cr Voss.

We have a RoPP Facebook group

Please join our Ratepayers of Port Phillip Facebook group (see link below) and get involved in our conversation about rates, wasteful spending and mismanagement of assets.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RoPPh/>

We also suggest that you follow the City of Port Phillip Facebook page (see link) and post comments about how you feel about your rates, wasteful spending and mismanagement of assets.

<https://www.facebook.com/cityofportphillip/>

How can you help us and yourself?

Please pass this email to FIVE of your friends, neighbours and business owners who are ratepayers or residents in the City of Port Phillip and encourage them to join up. Our

subscriber/membership list is private and confidential but you need to be on our list to receive regular Newsletters.

If you would like to be involved in our activities please let us know. We are looking for people to assist with:

- Communications, newsletters;
- Social media and public relations;
- Speak at Council meetings on behalf of RoPP;
- Donate to RoPP.

Your donations help fund our activities such as maintaining the website, printing of materials to promote further memberships, holding meetings and electing new Councillors who support our objectives. Please go to our website to make your donations: <https://ropp.org.au/>

Your support is vital in being able to bring these issues to the attention of fellow ratepayers and to make the necessary changes within the Council to reduce your rates.