

Street booze still off limits

Drop in alcohol-fuelled violence following ban

Jordy Atkinson

A 24-hour street drinking ban has worked to quell alcohol-fuelled violence in Port Phillip, police say.

The two-year trial ban, which came into effect last October, was put in place after more than 800 people along beleaguered Carlisle St signed a petition for a local law — which allowed street drinking between 9am and 8pm — to be scrapped.

A written agreement between police and the council meant police would urge offenders to tip out their drinks, rather than slap them with fines or arrest them.

Inspector Jason Kelly said the first year of the trial had netted “positive results”, including a reduction in complaints by traders and residents.



Port Phillip Inspector Jason Kelly and Mayor Bernadene Voss.

“We know this issue has been a concern for the local community and police been working closely with (the council) to prevent and minimise alcohol-related harm and address public order issues ... to ensure every person can enjoy our public areas safely and responsibly,” he said.

Mayor Berndane Voss said an evaluation report would be considered at the end of the trial.



Jill Sokol from the Elwood Love Our Street group.
Picture: Wayne Taylor



Working together to make a difference

JILL SOKOL

It’s exasperating that careless, unthinking or just plain selfish people trash our streets and parks.

We could all be justifiably angry about litter or feel overwhelmed that it seems an insurmountable problem, but Love Our Street members prefer to get active!

Locals meet once a month for an hour to get the garbage under control.

In Port Phillip, we have three groups — Elwood, Port Melbourne



and Ripponlea — with others across Melbourne.

Groups focus on litter hot spots: shopping centres, parks and business precincts.

One hour makes such a difference. LOS 3184 last year collected over 165kg of litter, including over 11,000 cigarette butts and thousands of plastic

fragments. With each collection we can confidently say “today, I gave our little penguins and dolphins a chance” and “we stopped that junk washing up on our beach”.

So, take a moment to pick up that coffee cup, straw or chip packet.

On bin day, collect anything that accidentally ends up in the gutter.

This is something each of us can do, wherever we are.

A little of your time can make a huge difference.

Contact: 3184-1@loveourstreet.com.au

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