

Altona North - Brooklyn

Neighbourhood Profile

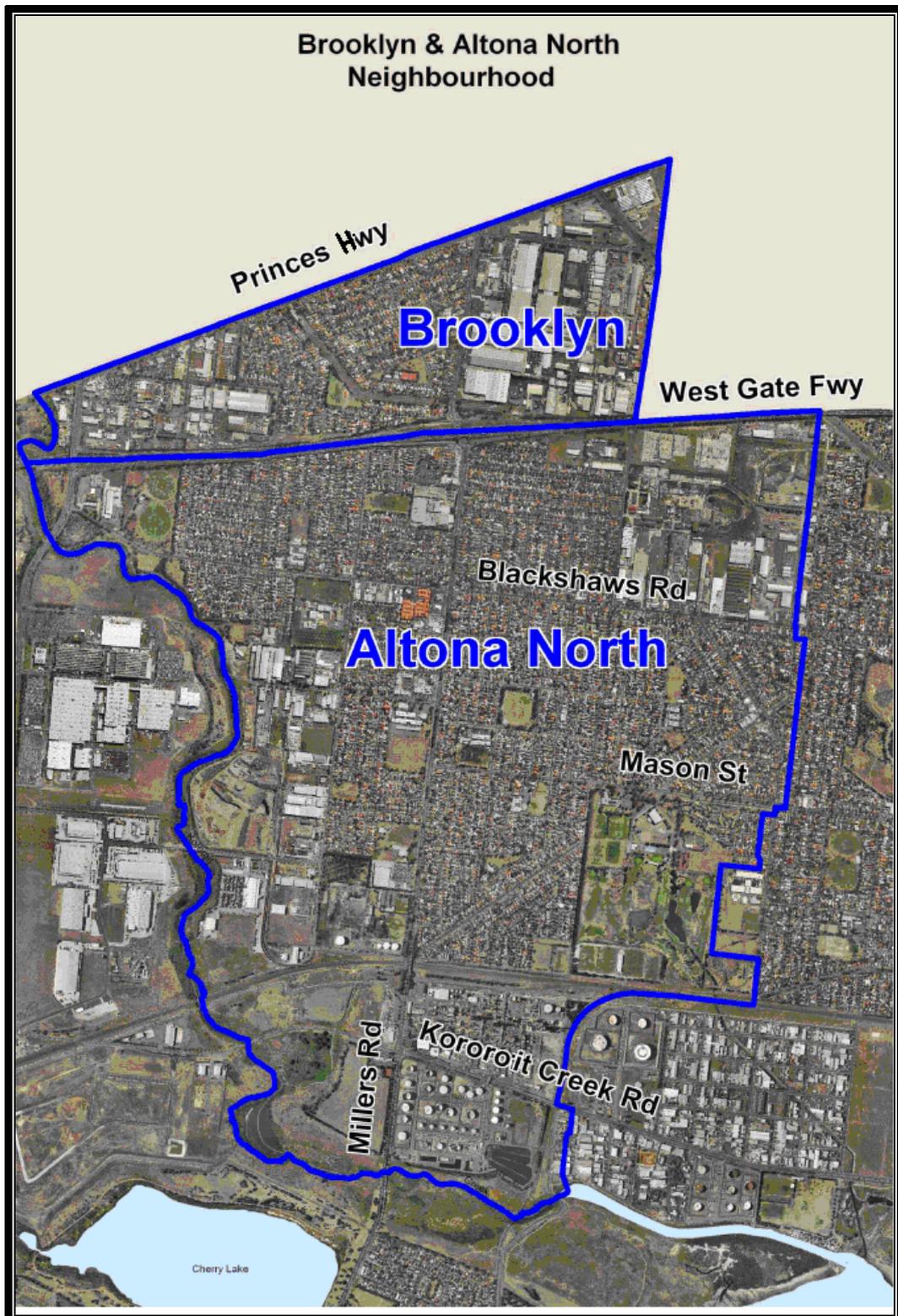




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The data profile was updated in 2015 and includes 2011 census data. Other sections in the profile have not been updated.

Altona North and Brooklyn Past, Current and Future Development



A. Introduction

The major boundaries of the Altona North and Brooklyn neighbourhood are the Princes highway to the north and Kororoit Creek to the west and south. The eastern edge is formed by a series of connecting roads including Churchill Street, Blenheim Road and Hansen and New Streets and Cemetery Road.

The area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. Major residential development dates from the 1950s, with much of the housing constructed during the 1960s and 1970s.

There are five primary schools in the area, together with two secondary colleges. Public transport consists of bus services, with the closest railway stations located at Newport and Altona.

B. History & Development

The Yalukit-willam Clan

The Aboriginal people who lived in what is now known as the City of Hobsons Bay are the Yalukit-willam, a name meaning 'river camp' or 'river dwellers'. The Yalukit-willam are associated with the coastal land at the head of Port Phillip that extends from the Werribee River, across Williamstown, Port Melbourne, St Kilda and Prahran.

In this area there were several clans, comprising one or two extended families. They were sometimes distinguished by names of their leading men; two Yalukit-willam leaders were Benbow and Derremart. (Derremart was identified in the historical records of the 1830s. His name has been used to name several streets in the western suburbs and also the Parish of Derrimut.)

The Yalukit-willam were semi nomadic hunter gatherers who camped close to permanent fresh water streams. Apart from the wildlife they caught, the women collected Murnong, a small plant with a tuber similar to a yam, which grew along the Kororoit Creek and covered the western plain. There was also an abundance of ducks and swans along the coastal and swamp areas and, in Stony and Kororoit Creeks, there were eels, yabbies and fish.

With European settlement, the grasslands which were traditionally used for hunting were fenced off for grazing and pastoral use; wildlife declined and Aboriginal camps were broken up.¹

European settlers

William Cherry migrated from Belfast in 1841. Soon after arriving he began farming in the Keilor area. By 1861, he owned 2,500 acres extending from Brooklyn down to Altona. Part of this landholding later passed to William's son James. It is believed that

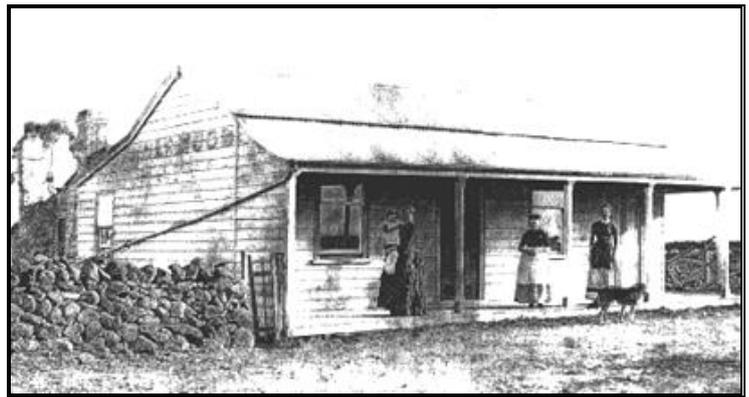


James's home, Brooklyn Lodge, gave name to the suburb.

In the late 1880s, a portion of Cherry's land in Brooklyn was leased for quarrying which was Hobsons Bay's first heavy industry. Some quarries were still operating in the City until the 1950s, including the site of Altona Gate shopping centre. An area, north of Barnes Road Bridge, was also a former quarry and is now used for landfill.²

Edward Blackshaw and Thomas Miller, whose names are still evident in the streets named after them, were farming in the area. Edward Blackshaw bought land in 1853 and his sons continued farming here till 1890. They had two hundred acres just south east of the Brooklyn Bridge on the Melbourne-Geelong Road which was later rebuilt. This bluestone bridge, which was constructed in 1889 and later altered in 1912, is located just south of the Princes Highway (Geelong Road), at the western tip of Brooklyn.

Thomas Miller bought farm land at the junction of what is now Millers Road and Geelong Road in about 1867. This photo, taken in the 1890s, shows several members of the Miller family on the verandah of the former Half Moon hotel which later became a post office.³ It is thought to be at the site where the Half Moon Caravan Park is now located.



Post World War II development

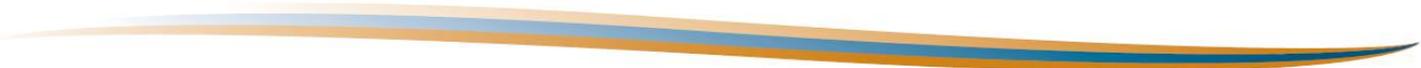
As residential and industrial areas developed, farms in Altona, Brooklyn and Laverton continued to supply the needs of the nearby population. There were still poultry farms at Brooklyn in the 1950s, even as suburban houses sprang up in the area⁵

After World War II, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons and assisted migrants came to Australia from Britain and Europe. Government hostels were set up in a number of places in Victoria. Brooklyn was the site for one such hostel, which closed in the early 1970s.

“The hostel straddled Francis Street and Millers Road, Brooklyn and was located near meat-processing works. It was said to have covered such a large area that it eventually stretched from the Half-Moon Caravan Park (cnr Millers Road and Francis Street) down to the Brooklyn Pumping Station. The hostel began in 14 wool stores, which were divided into flats, about 1300 in all.⁴

Photo: *A family moves into a flat at Brooklyn Commonwealth Hostel, Melbourne, Victoria* photographer, Don Edwards. Date : 1957⁵





Meat processing was an important employer in the municipality providing jobs for European migrants who brought the traditional methods of curing and preserving meat. The Thomas Borthwick and Sons abattoir was located in Francis Street, Brooklyn for many years. Gilbertson's also built their abattoir and meat processing plant at Altona North in 1951. Soon after the company added the Don's smallgoods section on a disused quarry site in Kyle Road, which is still operating.

The demands of World War II resulted in a chronic shortage of housing and building materials, all over Melbourne. Many houses were built by their owners, often while they camped in bungalows on the site. The Altona Cooperative Housing Society was launched in 1948 and the first of its houses were built at Brooklyn. It was not until the post-WWII that residential housing began to fill up Altona, Altona North, Laverton, Brooklyn, Spotswood and Kingsville South. ⁶

C: The Current Environment

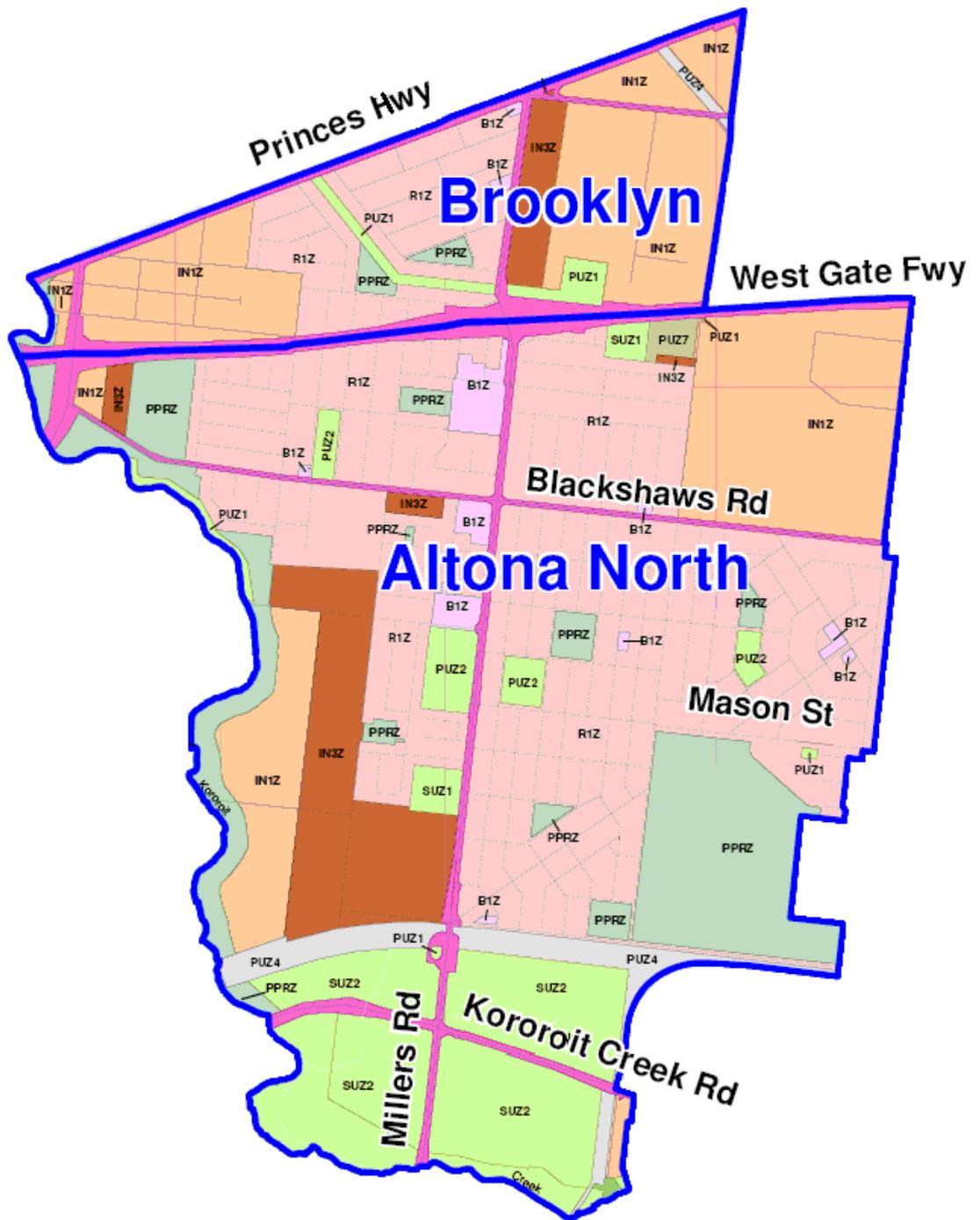
Land uses

The Brooklyn and Altona North area incorporates a mix of land uses, predominantly residential and industrial. As the zoning map below shows, these industrial sites are generally concentrated along the western boundary formed by Kororoit Creek and in the north east corner.

The area also has a number of business zones. The largest of these is located along the Millers Road spine and includes the Altona Gate shopping centre. In addition, there are a cluster of special use zones along Kororoit Creek Road, on the southern boundary. Uses on these sites are confined to the petrochemical industry.

There are also a number of public open spaces (PPRZ on the map), the largest being Paisley Park. It is located in the south east corner and provides a range of formal recreational opportunities, including a new leisure centre and pool.

Land use zones



Public Land

PPRZ Public Park Recreation Zone
 PUZ1 Public Use Zone Service & Utility
 PUZ2 Public Use Zone Education
 PUZ4 Public Use Zone Transport

Residential

R1Z Residential 1 Zone

Business

B1Z Business 1 Zone

Industrial

IN1Z Industrial 1 Zone

IN3Z Industrial 3 Zone

Special Purpose

SUZ Special Use zone

Natural features

Kororoit Creek is the main natural feature in the area and runs along the western and southern boundaries. The creek is recognised as one of Melbourne's important waterways, and has a key role to play in the life of the city and the environment of the western region.

Prior to European settlement, River red gums and plains grasslands covered the area surrounding the creek. However since then, much of the creek valley has been degraded -modified with excess soil from adjoining land use and the negative impacts from weeds and pest animals.

In the vicinity of Dohertys Road, the creek valley is still relatively natural and has rock escarpments on both sides. The creek corridor provides habitat for fauna species including reptiles, frogs and a range of birds. The Urban Forest Reserve (just south of the Westgate Freeway) has a thick cover of mainly indigenous trees which were planted during the 1980's. In more recent times, the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek and the Council have been replanting the creek corridor with local native plants, downstream of the Westgate Freeway.⁷

Residential development

At a glance, much of the area's housing stock reflects the building styles common to 1960s and 70s. Housing types tend to be detached and single storey. Construction materials are a mix of weatherboard and brick veneer. There is evidence of some new development. The large size of residential blocks common to the area is attracting an increase in medium density development, with older houses being demolished and replaced with two storey unit developments.

The area's housing stock also incorporates just over 230 properties owned by the Department of Human Service. These are mainly located in Altona North and provide housing for people on low incomes.

In addition, the Half Moon Caravan Park which is located on the corner of Francis Street and Millers Road has onsite vans which are rented on a short term and semi-permanent basis.

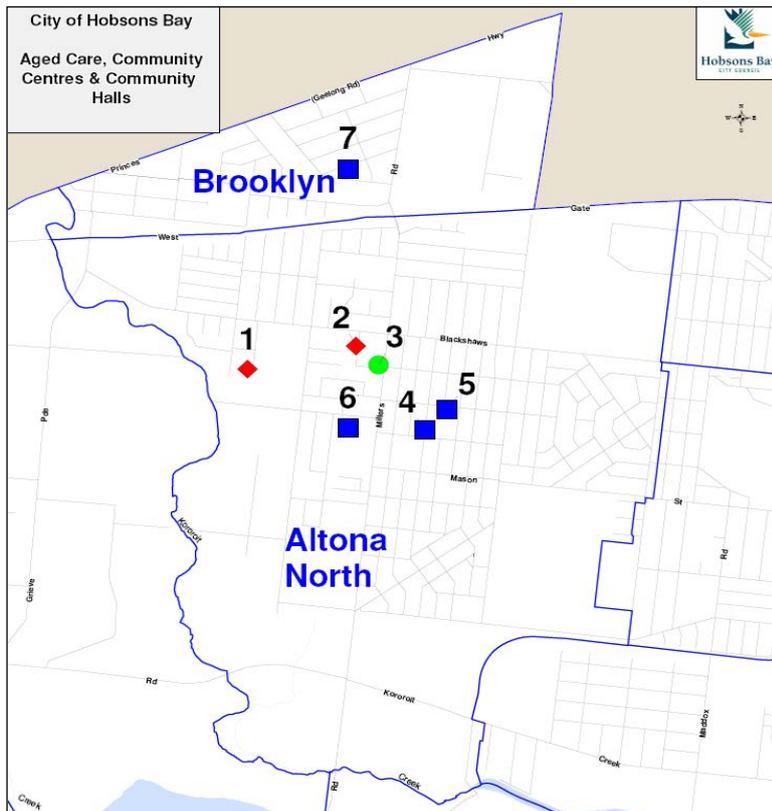
There are also two aged care facilities, both of which are located in Altona North. Between them, they provide 152 beds. (Refer to map below)

Library, community centres and halls

The Altona North Library is located on the corner of Millers and McArthurs Roads. It also includes community meeting spaces.

The Walker Close Community Centre is located on the corner of Millers Road and Walker Close in Altona North. The Centre is owned by Hobsons Bay City Council and is operated by a Board of Management. It offers a broad range of programs and activities. It also has rooms for hire and is used by community groups for the delivery of services.

There are two Council owned halls in the area. Brooklyn Community Hall is located in Cypress Ave and Altona North Community Hall on the corner of Cresser St and Fifth Ave. Both halls are available for hire by the community.



Id	Service	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Aged Care	Hobsons Bay Nursing Centre	28-30 Rymill Ct	Altona North
2	Aged Care	Marina Residential Aged Care	385-389 Blackshaws Rd	Altona North
3	Community Centre	Walker Close Community Centre	180 Millers Rd	Altona North
4	Community Hall	Altona North Community hall	cnr Cresser Sts & Fifth Ave	Altona North
5	Community Hall	Altona North Youth hall	67 Marion St	Altona North
6	Community Hall	Bayside Secondary College	Millers Rd	Altona North
7	Community Hall	Brooklyn community hall	Cypress Ave	Brooklyn

Facilities by Service	
	Aged Care (2)
	Community Centre (1)
	Community Hall (4)

Children's services

Since this profile was first published there have been a number of changes to childcare centres. The map below has not been updated however the text has been edited to include name changes and centre closures.

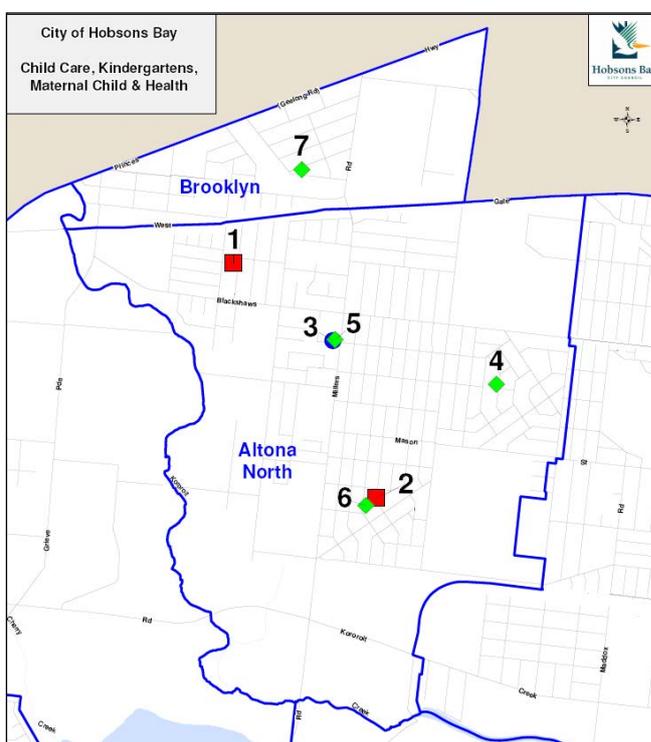
There are a number of services in the area for infants and children. Among these services is Maternal Child and Health which is delivered at the Walker Close Community Centre, in Millers Road.

Altona North and Brooklyn also has four childcare centres. One Tree Altona North Children's Service in Fifth Avenue is a Council owned, privately operated facility. The three other centres include Bright Steps in Misten Street, Early Learners in Millers Road and Head Start and Head Start and Early Learning Centre, corner of Grieve Parade and Dohertys Road.

In addition, there are two kindergartens in the area. The Altona North Early Childhood Centre in Ronald Avenue is a Council owned facility. The building is leased by Yooralla and is one of only three in Melbourne to offer a kindergarten program for 3 and 4 year olds, including those with special needs. A range of programs and support for children with disabilities and their carers are also available.

Altona Gate Kindergarten is located at the Walker Close Community Centre. The building is also owned by Council and managed by a community based Committee of Management.

NB Eastona Kindergarten in Altona North and Frances Sullivan Kindergarten in Brooklyn are no longer operating.

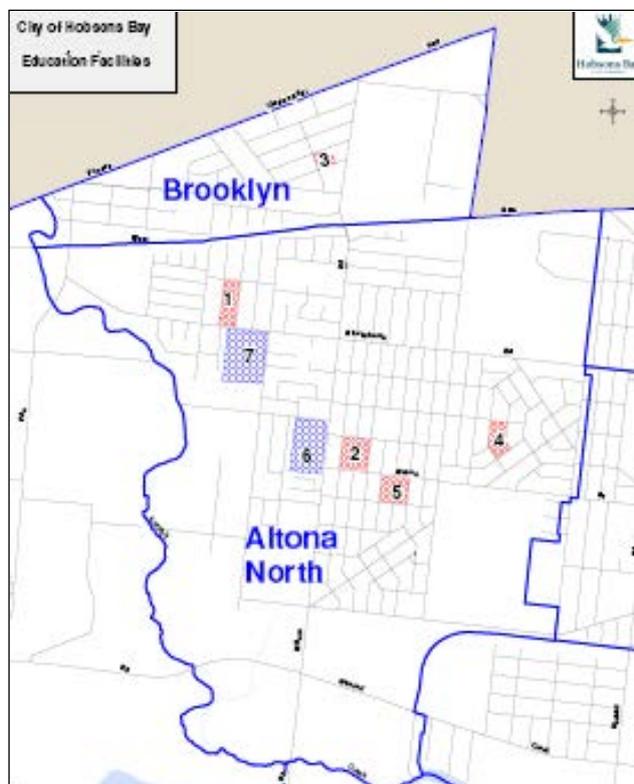


No	Service	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Child Care	ABC Altona North	37 Misten Ave	Altona North
2	Child Care	Altona North Child Care Centre	10 Fifth Ave	Altona North
3	Maternal Child & Health	Altona North Maternal & Child Health Centre	180-184 Millers Rd	Altona North
4	Kindergarten	Eastona Kindergarten	13 Collins Avenue	Altona North
5	Kindergarten	Altona Gate Kindergarten	80 Walker Close	Altona
6	Kindergarten	Altona North Early Childhood Centre	30 Ronald Avenue	Altona North
7	Kindergarten	Frances Sullivan Kindergarten	35 Nolan Avenue	Brooklyn

Facilities map	
■	Child Care (2)
◆	Kindergarten (4)
●	Maternal Child & Health (1)

Schools

There are four primary schools operating in Altona North and Brooklyn. Three of these are government schools –Altona Gate and Altona North. There are also two primary schools operated by the Catholic Church - St. Leo the Great and Annunciation. The Eastona Primary School is no longer operating.



The area has two secondary schools. Bayside Secondary College is a state government school for Year 7 to 9 students. Students then transfer across to Bayside senior campus in Newport West, to complete Years 10 and 12. (Refer to a later section on what’s ahead for the area for information on the redevelopment of the secondary college.

The second secondary school is St Pauls Catholic College, a single sex school for boys.

Id	School_Type	Name	Address	Suburb
1	Primary	Altona Gate Primary School	430-436 Blackshaws Rd (cnr Misten Av)	Altona North
2	Primary	Altona North Primary School	37-51 Gresser St	Altona North
3	Primary	Annunciation Catholic School	4-14 Nolan Av	Brooklyn
4	Primary	Eastona Primary School	1-19 Collins Av	Altona North
5	Primary	St Leo the Great Primary School	Mason St (cnr Fourth Av)	Altona North
6	Secondary	Bayside Secondary College (Altona North Campus)	McArthur Rd (cnr Millers Road)	Altona North
7	Secondary	St Paul's Catholic College	Chambers Rd (cnr Blackshaws Rd)	Altona North

Education Facilities

- Primary (5)
- Secondary (2)

Recreational facilities and open space

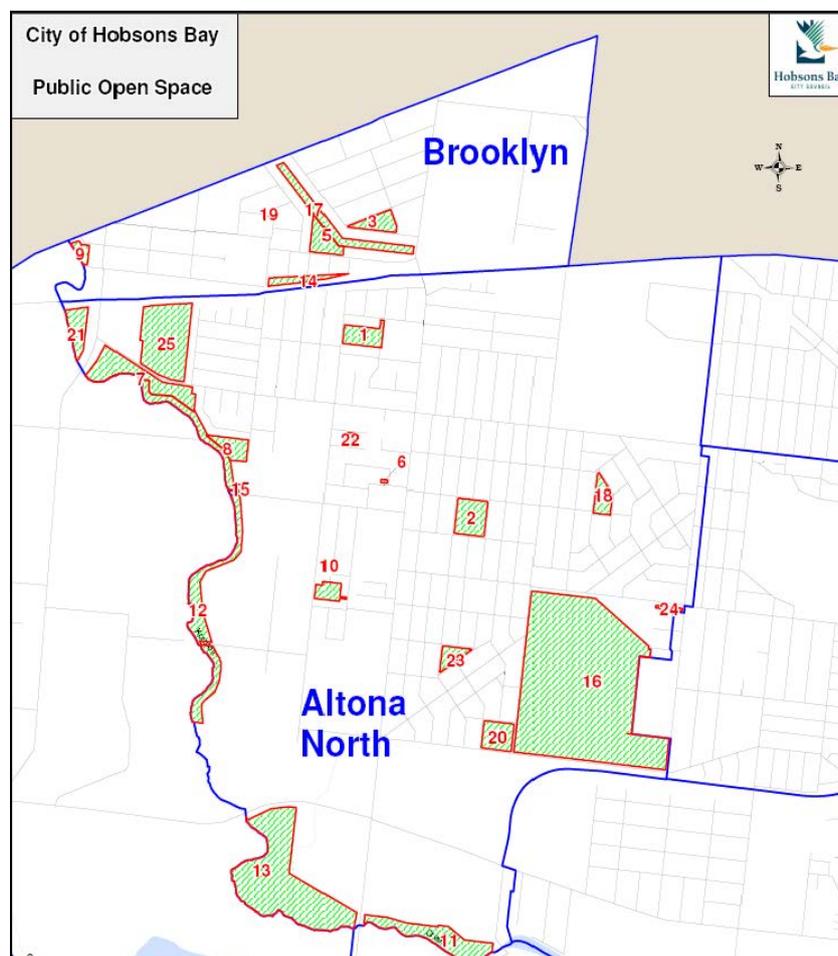
The Federation Trail shared path extends between Millers Road, Brooklyn and the Werribee River, Werribee. The trail was opened in 2006 and forms part of the Metropolitan Transit Network. The trail is off road and there are traffic lights at any busy road crossings.

There are two reserves in Brooklyn. Duane Reserve has a soccer field, pavilion and playground. Nearby, Brooklyn Reserve has several tennis courts (state funding will see two courts resurfaced to hard-courts in 2008) and a clubroom, a ½ basketball court and a children’s playground.



Several large reserves are located in Altona North. Crofts Reserve at the western end of Blackshaws Rd has several ovals, cricket nets and clubrooms. To the east on Mason Street, Paisley Park offers a large range of sports facilities including: lacrosse and soccer fields; a golf club and driving range; bowling greens; and a badminton facility. In addition, it is home to the newly opened Bayfit Leisure Centre which includes an indoor pool and gymnasium.

Also in Altona North is Langshaws Reserve. The reserve is located in Cresser St and has a sports oval and small pavilion.



Id	Site_name
1	A.W. Bond Reserve
2	A.W. Langshaws Reserve
3	Brooklyn Reserve
5	D.N. Duane Reserve
6	Duke Street Reserve
7	G.J. Hosken Reserve
8	Harris Reserve
9	Historical Bridge Reserve
10	J.J. Ginifer Reserve
11	Kororoit Creek Floodway
12	Kororoit Creek Reserve
13	Kororoit Creek Reserve
14	Lynch Road Reserve
15	McArthurs Road Reserve
16	Paisley Park
17	Pipeline Res
18	R.J. Cooper Reserve
19	Rowan Avenue Reserve
20	S.J. Clement Reserve
21	Urban Forest
22	V.L. Hearn Reserve
23	W.J. Irwin Reserve
24	W.L. Floyd Reserve
25	W.L.J. Crofts Reserve

Retail centres

As mentioned earlier, the main commercial centre in Altona North and Brooklyn is located along Millers Road. Altona Gate is a free-standing shopping centre, situated just south of the Westgate Freeway. It is one of the three largest shopping centres in Hobsons Bay and offers a comprehensive range of retail outlets. The shopping centre was built in 1977 and among its main anchor stores are Kmart, Coles and Safeway, together with an additional 83 specialty stores.

The area also has several other retail centres. Borrack Square shopping centre is just off Millers Roads in McArthurs Road and the Circle shopping centre which is bounded by Stapley Crescent and the Circle. Both shopping centres have a variety of commercial and retail premises, including supermarkets, banks and post offices, fresh foods stores, pharmacies and newsagencies.

Several smaller shopping strips are located in Misten Street and Second Avenue.

Doctors

The area is serviced by four medical clinics. Three are located in Altona North and one surgery is in Brooklyn. Bulkbilling is not generally available, with the exception of Centrelink pension and healthcare card holders.

Blackshaws Road Medical Centre 350 Blackshaws Road Altona North	Millers Road Clinic 245 Millers Road Altona North
The Circle Surgery Unit 2/174 Millers Road Altona North	Dr Appan's Surgery 44 Millers Road Brooklyn

Dentists

The area has two dental surgeries; both are located in Millers Road North Altona.

Dr J Robertson Dental Surgery 173 Millers Rd Altona North	Dr P Zafiropoulos 109 Millers Rd Altona North
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Pharmacies

Altona North and Brooklyn residents have access to five pharmacies.

Altona Gate Pharmacy Shop G7 Altona Gate Shopping Centre, Altona North	Altona North Pharmacy 310A Blackshaws Rd Altona North
Chemist Warehouse 174 -178 Millers Rd Altona North	Circle Pharmacy 53 The Circle Altona North
Valda Slavinskis Pharmacy 25 Borrack Square Altona North	

Public Transport

The public transport system in Altona North and Brooklyn is limited to buses. The closest railway connections are at Newport and Altona.

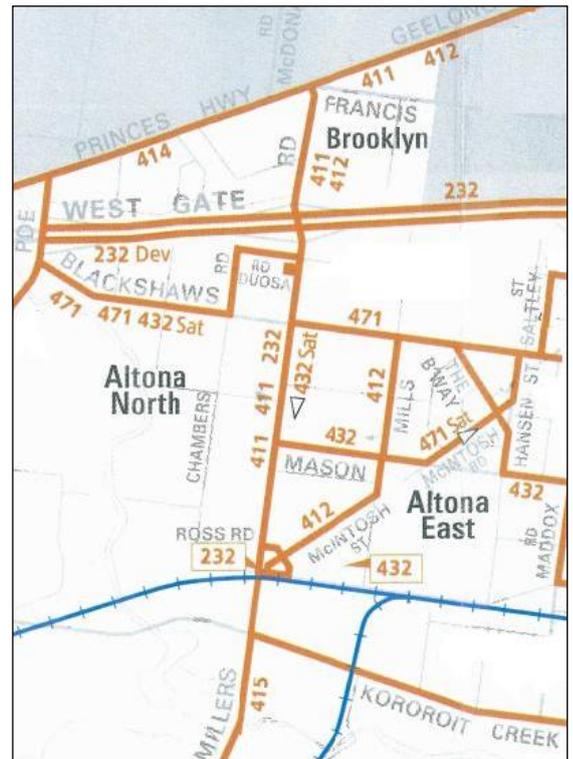
The 411 and 412 bus routes link the area to Footscray, Altona Meadows and Laverton.

Buses on the 432 route provide a connection to the Newport railway station.

The 471 route provides a service to Sunshine and Williamstown.

Route 232 passes through the area and on to the Queen Victoria Market in the city.

In most instances, there are no buses through the area on weekdays after 8pm, the exception being the 232 and 471 routes which stop at around 9pm. The weekend timetables generally run no later than 6pm. The exception is the 471 route where recent changes to the timetable have extended the service from 8am to 9pm on Saturdays and 9am to 9pm on Sundays



What's ahead for Altona North and Brooklyn



Residential development

The major change for the neighbourhood is the proposed new residential development on land bounded by Blackshaws and Kyle Roads and New Street. A section of this land includes the former Don Smallgoods. The site could potentially add around 3,000 new dwellings and increase the population by more than 7,000 new residents.



References

¹ Clark I (2001) The First People of the City of Hobsons Bay, Hobsons Bay City Council

² Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, 2006

³ The Advertiser (1965) *Our Brooklyn Stories*, 19 March 1965

⁴ Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, 2003

www.hobsons.vic.gov.au/Files/Volume_1b_Thematic_Environmental_History.pdf

National Archives of Australia

⁵ National Archives of Australia

www.pictureaustralia.org/apps/pictureaustralia?term1=Brooklyn+Commonwealth+Hostel&Submit=search&action=PASearch&attribute1=any+field&mode=search

⁶ Hobsons Bay Heritage Study (2003) op cit

⁷ Kororoit Creek Masterplan (2006) Hobsons Bay City Council

⁸ Dept of Infrastructure, State Government Victoria

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