

Spotswood and South Kingsville

Neighbourhood Profile



Hobsons Bay
CITY COUNCIL

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Spotswood and South Kingsville Neighbourhood Profile

Executive Summary

The Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood is bounded by New Street to the west and the Yarra River to the east. The north boundary is shared with the City of Maribyrnong. Starting at the western end, it follows the Westgate Freeway and Stony Creek before heading north into Hyde Street and then east into Francis Street. The southern boundary is formed by Blackshaws Road (starting at New Street) and on reaching Melbourne Road, it then follows a line to the coast, between Burleigh and High Streets.

The main land use zones are residential and industrial. Residential development is generally concentrated on the west side of the passenger rail line that runs north to south through the neighbourhood. Larger industrial areas are mainly to the east side of the rail line. The neighbourhood's residential development incorporates a mix of periods. Brick and weatherboard housing built between the 1940s and 60s is common, together with more recent infill development. There is also a small heritage precinct, with examples of housing constructed between 1890 and 1915.

Residents who participated in the consultation for this profile regularly mentioned the friendliness of the people as characteristic of the area. Knowing their neighbours gave them a sense of being welcomed and of belonging, something that newer residents said had been missing in places that they'd previously lived. One relative newcomer commented, "I love that I know my neighbours - that I can pop over and chat to them if I want to. I've never had that in the city before." Asked to describe what attracted them to the area one resident said, "We love living in the west and really like this area. You know when you're somewhere and it just feels right? I feel like that – it just works for me. It's not overly pretentious."

Population numbers

- At the 2006 Census, Spotswood and South Kingsville had almost 4,000 residents, a small increase on the 2001 population of 3,860.
- Over the next decade, growth is forecast to accelerate, with the neighbourhood expected to have an additional 1,567 residents by 2020.

Age structure

- Compared to the overall population of Hobsons Bay, Spotswood and South Kingsville has a slightly lower proportion of younger children, teenagers and residents aged 60-85 years. There is also a higher percentage of residents aged between 25 and 34 years, suggesting regeneration is starting to occur.
- All age groups up to 70 years are expected to increase over the next decade; however this increase is most noticeable among young and maturing families.

Overseas born residents

- Approximately 1,050 residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville were born overseas. This represents 26.4 per cent of the neighbourhood's total population. The main countries of birth were the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Italy.
- Sixty two per cent of overseas born residents speak a language other than English.

Residents needing assistance

- Estimates suggest that 735 residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville have a disability.
- The 2006 Census found that 130 (3.3 per cent) residents need help with one or more of the core activities involving self-care, communication and mobility.

Education

- There are two primary schools in the neighbourhood, one government and one Catholic. The closest secondary school is in Altona North.
- One in five of Spotswood and South Kingsville residents are enrolled in some form of education.
- Just over 47 per cent of the neighbourhood's residents have completed Year 12 or an equivalent which is approximately five per cent above the municipal rate.
- Among primary school aged children who participated in the consultations for this profile, most indicated they will be attending secondary schools in Hobsons Bay.

Employment

- Sixty two per cent of the Spotswood and South Kingsville population (aged 15 years and over) are in the labour force, above the Hobsons Bay participation rate of 59 per cent. In 2006, the neighbourhood's unemployment rate was similar to the municipal rate (5.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively).
- Of those who are employed, almost 66 percent have full-time work which is about three per cent above the municipal figure.
- The major industries to employ Spotswood and South Kingsville residents are: Manufacturing; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services; Retail; and Education and Training.

Income

- In 2006, Spotswood and South Kingsville had 1,906 residents (58 per cent) with below average weekly incomes, lower than the Hobsons Bay figure of 64 per cent. (The average weekly income in Victoria was \$815.40, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.)
- At the top end of the income scale, 7 per cent of the neighbourhood's residents had weekly incomes of \$1,600 and over, similar to the municipal rate.
- In addition, there were 1,197 residents (37 per cent) on very low individual incomes (less than \$400 per week), five per cent lower than the Hobson Bay figure.

Housing

- In 2006, there were 1,830 dwellings in Spotswood and South Kingsville. Just under two thirds were separate (detached) housing and close to a third were medium density.
- Almost 30 per cent of households fully owned their home, 30 per cent had a mortgage and a further 31 per cent were renting.
- Between 2001 and 2006, home ownership decreased by approximately 10 per cent, while the rate of home purchasers increased by around five per cent.

- 
- Residents spoke about rising house prices. Some talked about their children being unable to afford to buy a home in the neighbourhood, while several new residents said that they had been fortunate to buy when they did because prices had noticeably increased.

Transport

- In 2006, Spotswood and South Kingsville households owned a total of 1,696 cars which represents approximately one car per household and is in line with car ownership rates for Hobsons Bay.
- The main method used to travel to work used by Spotswood and South Kingsville residents was by car; 64 per cent either drove to work or were a passenger in a car. This was below the Hobsons Bay rate of 68 per cent.
- Residents of the neighbourhood had slightly higher rates of catching the train and cycling to work, compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole.

Future development proposed for the neighbourhood

- A new development is proposed at the corner of Melbourne Road and McLister Street. The application includes a mix of residential and retail uses.
- Options for several large residential developments have been flagged around the junction of Melbourne Road and the freight line.
- Preliminary investigations into the feasibility of developing a new recreational space at Riverside Park have commenced. The area is located at the south east corner of the neighbourhood.
- Works are being considered to upgrade the playground, barbeque and picnic area toilets (at the western end of the reserve), at McLean Reserve, Spotswood
- Renewal of the playground in Edward Reserve, South Kingsville is planned for 2011-2012 and will improve access.
- Traffic signals are planned for the intersection of The Avenue & Melbourne Rd.

DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken to ensure the information in this document is correct. However, Hobsons Bay City Council does not accept any liability to any person or organisation for the information (or the use of such information) provided in this document.

Spotswood and South Kingsville Neighbourhood Past, Current and Future Development



A. Introduction

The Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood is bounded by New Street to the west and the Yarra River to the east. The north boundary is shared with the City of Maribyrnong. Starting at the western end, it skirts the Westgate Freeway and Stony Creek before heading north into Hyde Street and then east into Francis Street. The southern boundary is formed by Blackshaws Road (starting at New Street); on reaching Melbourne Road, it then follows a line between Burleigh and High Streets.

Prior to council amalgamations in the mid 1990s, a section of South Kingsville was part of the former City of Footscray.

B. History and Development

Aboriginal History

Two large Aboriginal groups lived on the land surrounding Port Phillip Bay, prior to European settlement; the Bunerong and the Woiworung who were a part of the Kulin nation. Within these groups were sub-groups or clans, made up of 10-30 families. They were hunters and gatherers; some moved camp according to the availability of food while others settled in one location if they had access to reliable food sources.

There were two clans living in the Hobsons Bay area. One was the Yalukit-willam, who lived along a 5 kilometre wide strip at the top of Port Phillip Bay, which included Footscray and further on to Williamstown. The Yalukit-willam was part of the Bunerong tribe. The other was the Marin-balluk (part of the Woiworung) who lived in an area near Stony Creek and extending north as far as Sunbury. The areas along creek and around the Stony Creek Backwash were important sources of food such as eels, yabbies, fish and water birds.¹

European Settlement

Development in Spotswood and South Kingsville began around the mid 1800s. In the 1840s, John Stewart Spotswood purchased 119 acres and began a dairy farm. Soon after, Spotswood was responsible for starting up a punt service across the Yarra, near the mouth of Stony Creek. The Birmingham Estate, which comprised a large portion of what is now South Kingsville, was subdivided in the 1880s.

In the early years, bluestone played an important role in the neighbourhood's livelihood. Bluestone was quarried along the Stony Creek to construct buildings and bridges, paving for roads and for ships' ballast.

Spotswood Railway Station opened in 1878. Originally called Edom, the station was on the Williamstown rail line which began operating in the late 1850s. Edom Station was subsequently renamed Spottiswoode before finally becoming Spotswood station in 1905.



Source: National Archives of Australia, [Boy selling newspapers to the crew of locomotive, C15, at Spotswood, Victoria, ca. 1950]

Proximity to the rail line, and the port, resulted in a large number of rail related industries setting up in Spotswood and nearby Newport. One such business was the Semaphore Iron Works which was established in Spotswood 1878 and manufactured railway signals and equipment for the Victorian network. It was later known as McKenzie and Holland and part of the building still exists in Stephenson and Sutton Streets, South Kingsville. Railway workshops in Newport were completed in 1889 and were the largest industrial business in Victoria and a major employer of the neighbourhood's residents.



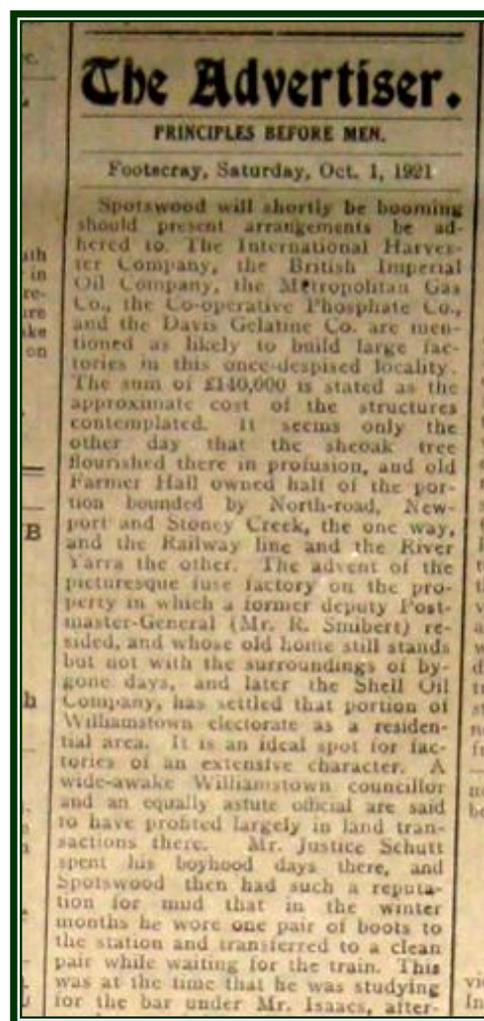
Image courtesy of Warren Judd ²

Also in 1889, the Victorian Export Canning Works opened on the east side of the railway line, manufacturing margarine and tinned meats for export to Great Britain. A year later, the Melbourne Glass Bottle Works relocated from South Melbourne, eventually employing up to 500 men. (The business is still operating at Spotswood as part of O-I Asia Pacific.)

The Spotswood Pumping Station opened in 1897. The pumping station was central to Melbourne's new sewerage system and pumped to the main sewer outfall near Millers Road at Brooklyn. It closed in 1965 when the Brooklyn Pumping Station was completed. The building has been classified by the National Trust of Australia and now forms part of Museum Victoria's Scienceworks complex.

Industrial activity continued to expand between the two world wars. The Amalgamated (railway) Workshops were built in the 1920s. Commonwealth Oil Refineries, which was Australia's first oil refinery and located on Kororoit Creek, installed a pipeline to storage tanks at Spotswood.

Residential development began appearing in the late 1800s. (There are remnants of housing from this period, particularly in streets on the east side of Melbourne Road and north of McLister Street.) After World War I, the Department of Repatriation built around 250 war service homes in Spotswood for ex-servicemen. However, it was not until after the Second World War that housing development in the neighbourhood gained momentum. During the 1950s, many migrants came to live and work in the neighbourhood.



Source: Footscray Historical Society

As the population increased, an adjunct school (of Williamstown Primary School) opened in a community hall in Robert Street in 1910. Spotswood Primary School relocated to its current site in Melbourne Road, following the construction of permanent school buildings, in 1914.³

Sometime later in 1954, St Margaret Mary's School was established in response to the neighbourhood's growing population of new migrants.⁴



Source: State Library Victoria, Spotswood State School (1940?)

C. The Current Environment

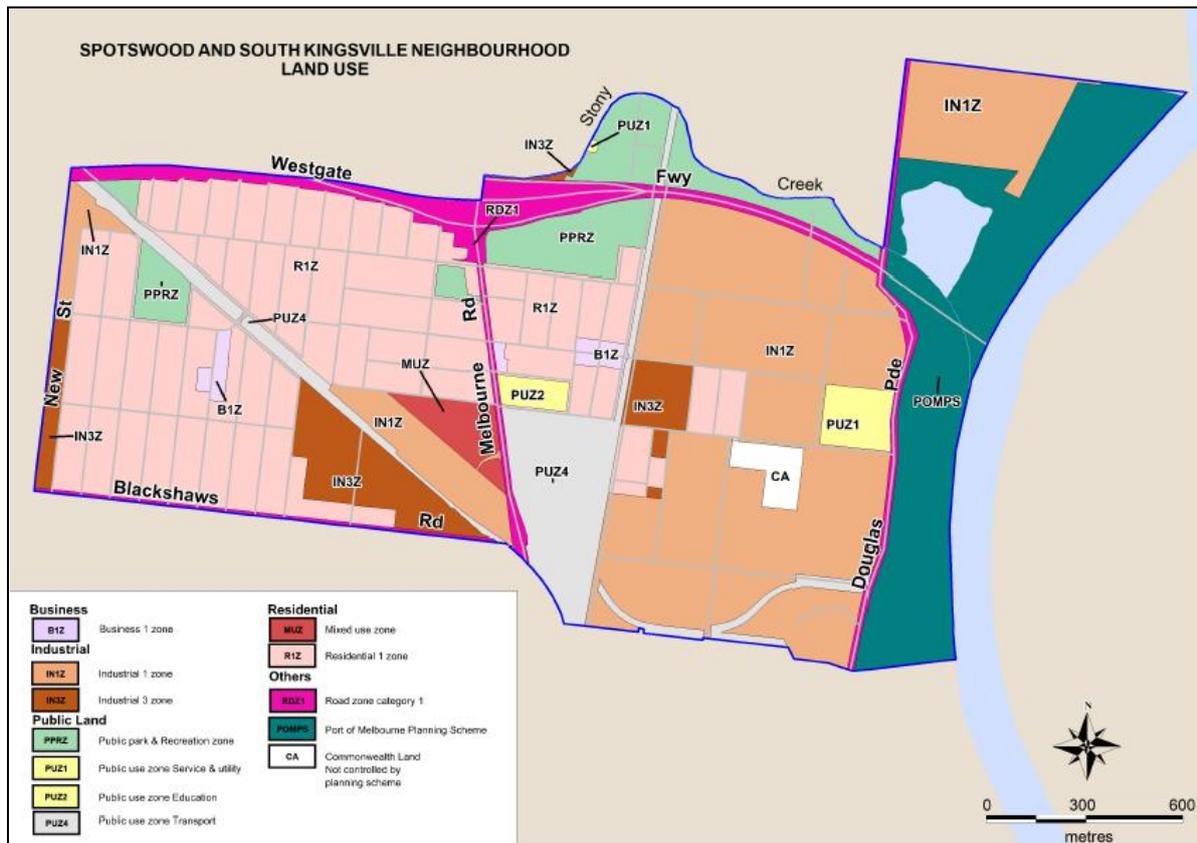
Land uses

The land uses in the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood are predominantly residential and industrial, with most of the industrial zones (IN1Z and IN3Z) located on the east side of the passenger rail line (PUZ4) and residential zones (R1Z) to the west of the line (refer to map below).

A slice of land designated for industrial use (INI1) cuts diagonally through the western side of the neighbourhood and is used for the freight line and the Pacific National workshops, an important national facility for locomotive maintenance.

Parts of industrial land (IN3Z) at the junction of Blackshaws Road and the freight line are used for industrial purposes. However this land, in conjunction with mixed use land (MUZ) on the north side of the freight line, has been identified as a potential site for residential redevelopment in the Council's Industrial Land Management Strategy (ILMS), 2008.

The map below also shows several Public Use Zones (PUZ1&2) where the Spotswood Primary School and Scienceworks Museum are located. In addition, there are several business zones which provide for strip shopping centres. The other main land use is public parks and recreation spaces (PPRZ). Most of these spaces are located to the east, on land near the Westgate Freeway.



Natural features

The Stony Creek Backwash is located at the north east corner of the neighbourhood, on the north side of the Westgate Bridge. It marks the point at which Stony Creek joins up with the Yarra River, before flowing into Hobsons Bay.

“The original form of the backwash has been dramatically altered and its size reduced by the realignment of the [Yarra] river, the construction of a causeway to carry Hyde Street through to Spotswood, filling of the sections west of Hyde St and on the northern edge and the creation of an embankment between the river and backwash for a railway siding. The construction of the West Gate Bridge has further altered the local landscape with the diversion of a section of the [Stony] creek, the creation of landfill on the south side of the creek, filling old ballast quarries and filling near the bank of the Yarra to provide access to the bridge pylons.”⁵



While much has changed at the backwash, there is a rare stand of White Mangroves (*Avicennia marina*) that was replanted after it was destroyed by an oil spill in the early 1980s. Many waterbirds feed and nest amongst the mangroves, including the Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) and the Great Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) which is a threatened species.⁶

Photo Source: Alama Gray © Stony Creek and Westgate Bridge⁷

Local landmarks

Westgate Bridge

The Westgate freeway and bridge, which opened in 1978, are a dominant physical presence along the neighbourhood's northern boundary. The history of the bridge is marked by tragedy. In 1970, while the bridge was being constructed, a large span collapsed, killing thirty-five workers. A memorial near the Stony Creek Backwash has been erected.

The bridge is a major transport route linking the western suburbs to central Melbourne and beyond. Due to the high numbers of vehicles that use the bridge daily, new lanes are currently being constructed to increase its carrying capacity.⁸



Scienceworks and the Melbourne Planetarium

Scienceworks comes under the umbrella of Museum Victoria and has a science and technology orientation. Along with the Melbourne Planetarium, it is located on the site of the



former Spotswood pumping station. As mentioned earlier the Pumping Station, built in the late nineteenth century, was part of Melbourne's first sewerage system and is an important industrial heritage site.

Scienceworks off provides visitors of all ages, particularly children, to actively engage in the exhibits while the planetarium has a simulated display of the night sky and information about the stars and planets.

Residential development

The neighbourhood's residential areas are shaped by a number of physical barriers, creating a number of small, separate areas. Firstly, busy Melbourne Road cuts the neighbourhood in half and is a major link to the Westgate Freeway and Bridge. The area to the east of Melbourne Road is divided by the passenger train line to the Melbourne CBD. In effect, the line separates the residential area from industry. To the west of Melbourne Road, a freight line divides South Kingsville and Spotswood.

Residential development in the neighbourhood incorporates a mix of periods. The Spotswood residential heritage precinct is identified in the Hobsons Bay Heritage Study (2006) and



includes streets bounded by Melbourne Road, Hudson Road, the railway line and The Avenue. Within this precinct, there are examples of housing that were constructed between “1890-1915 (Victorian cottages and villas and Edwardian bungalows), interspersed with some inter-war housing”.⁹



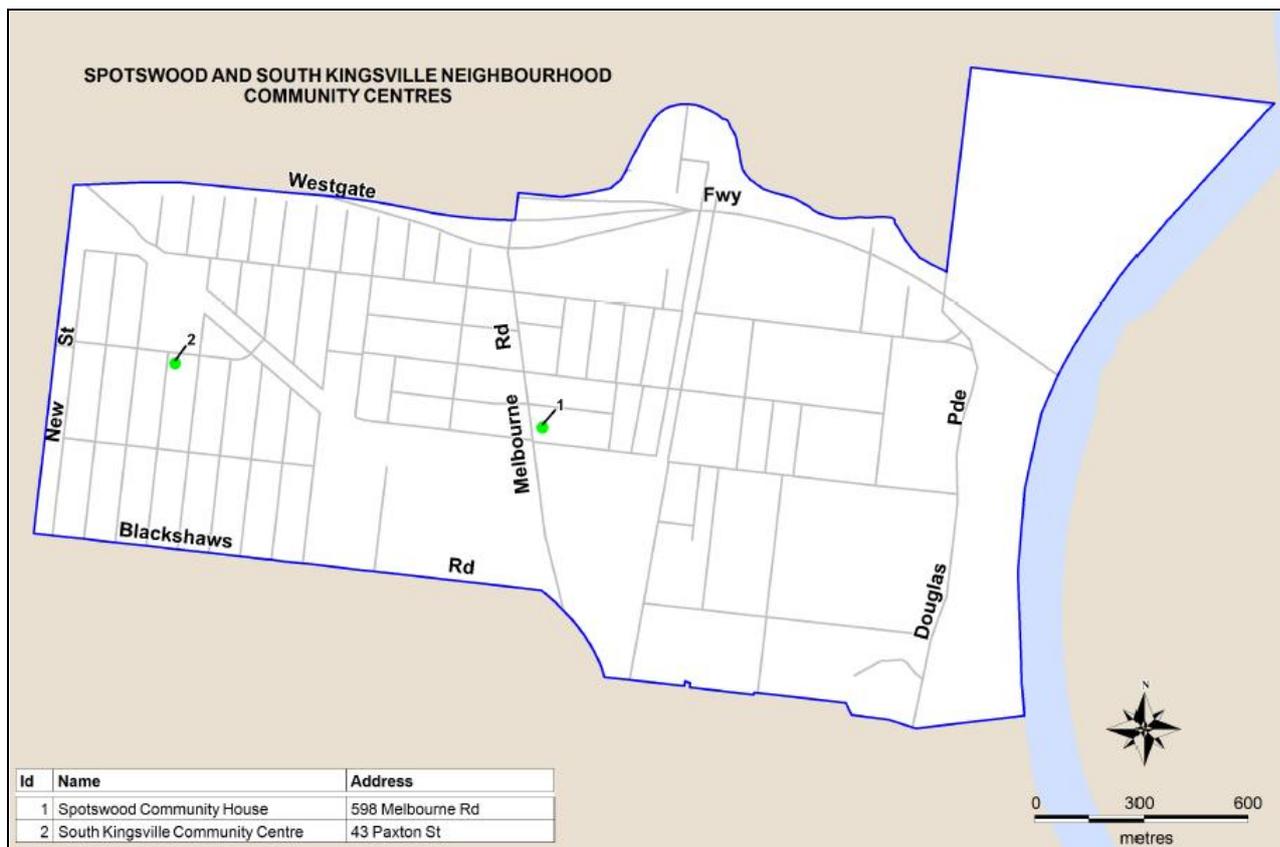
To the west of Melbourne Road, the house styles are varied. Brick and weatherboard housing built between the 1940s and 60s is common. Among the more recent infill development, there is an increasing amount of medium density housing, mostly townhouses.

Community Centres

The South Kingsville Community Centre is based in Paxton Street. The building is owned by the Hobsons Bay City Council and the centre is managed by a volunteer Committee of Management. Facilities at the centre include a large hall, conference area, dedicated information technology room and small meeting rooms which can be hired.

Services and programs at the centre include maternal and child health, a kindergarten, occasional childcare and a playgroup; senior citizens activities and volunteer support for people who are frail or have a disability; employment, social, educational and recreational programs; and information and referral services.

The Spotswood Community House is located on Melbourne Road. The community house provides a venue for local community and support groups and also offers a range of craft and leisure classes, fitness and wellbeing classes, activities for children as well as Men's Shed activities.



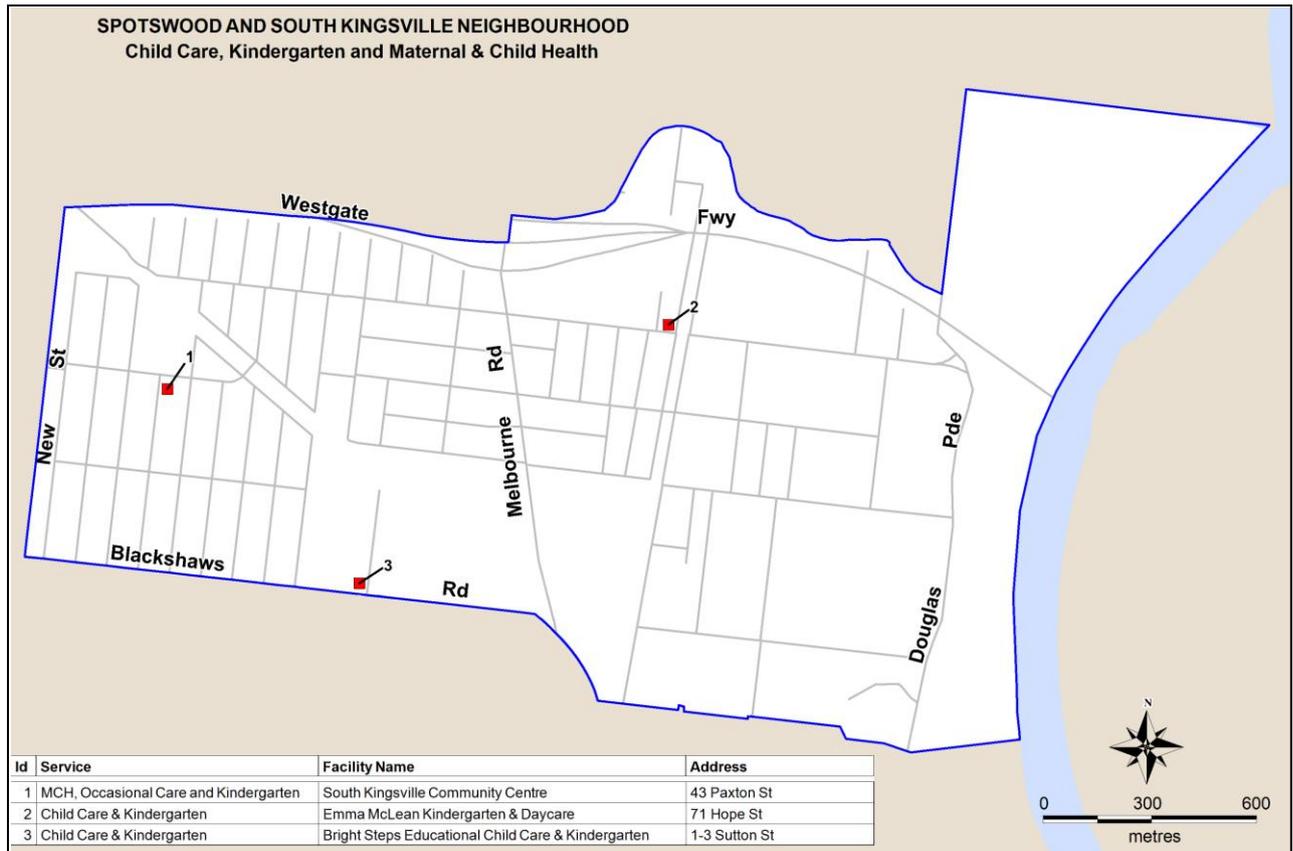
Children's services

There are three facilities in the neighbourhood which offer a range of children's services.

As mentioned, the South Kingsville Community Centre, in Paxton Street, South Kingsville, provides services and programs for infants and young children. Maternal and child health nurses are at the centre on Mondays and Wednesdays. Ten sessions of Occasional Care are offered per week, during school terms. Three and four year old kindergarten programs are also available.

Emma McLean Kindergarten and Daycare Inc. is located on the corner of Hope Street and The Avenue, Spotswood. Current programs include three and four year old kinder, together with occasional and long day care. The centre is community managed and the facility is Council owned.

Bright Steps Educational Childcare and Kindergarten is a private centre that provides long day care and kindergarten sessions for three and four year olds. The centre is on the corner of Blackshaws Road and Sutton Street, South Kingsville.

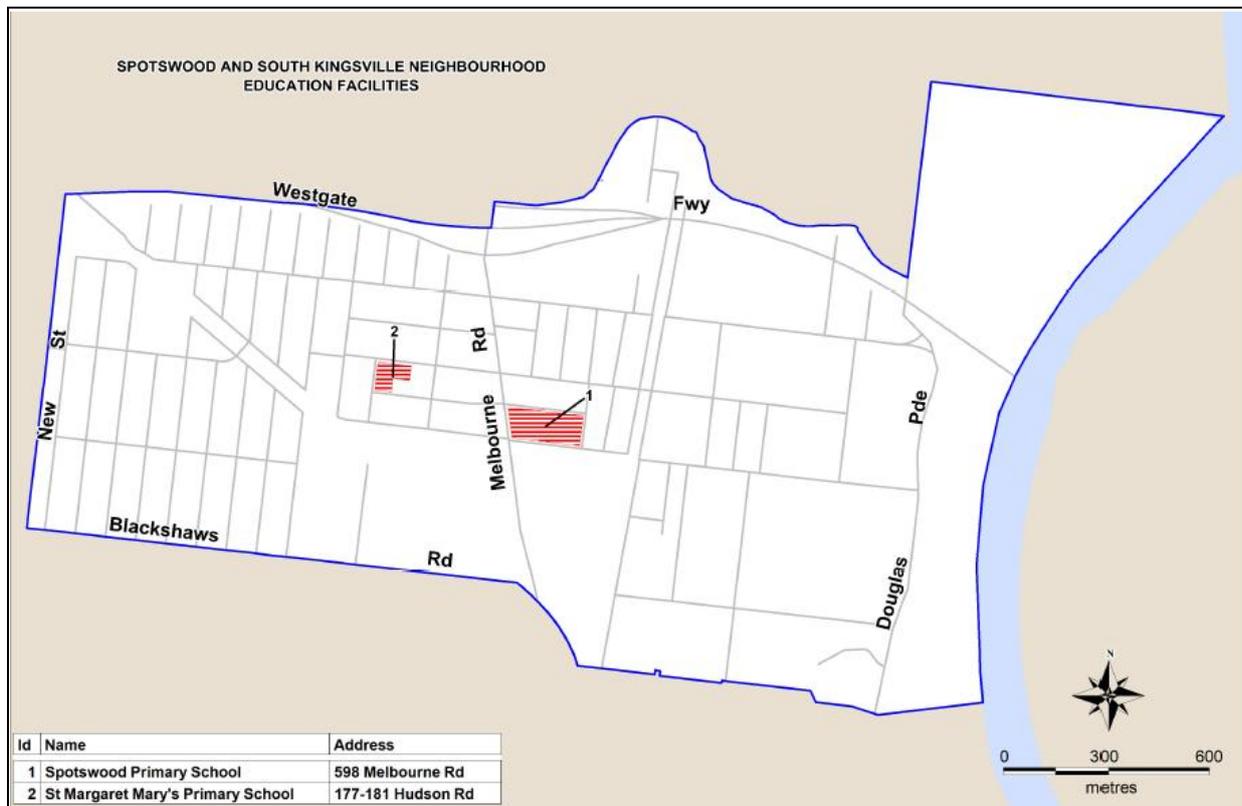


Schools

There are two primary schools in the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood. The Spotswood Primary School is located in Melbourne Road, Spotswood. As mentioned earlier, the school first opened in Robert Street before moving to its current site and is celebrating its centenary in 2010.

St. Margaret Mary’s school is located in Hudson Road, Spotswood. The school commenced operations in 1954.

The neighbourhood does not have a local secondary school. The nearest government schools are the Bayside junior campus in Millers Road, Altona North; the senior campus is in Blenheim Road, Newport.



Recreational facilities and reserves

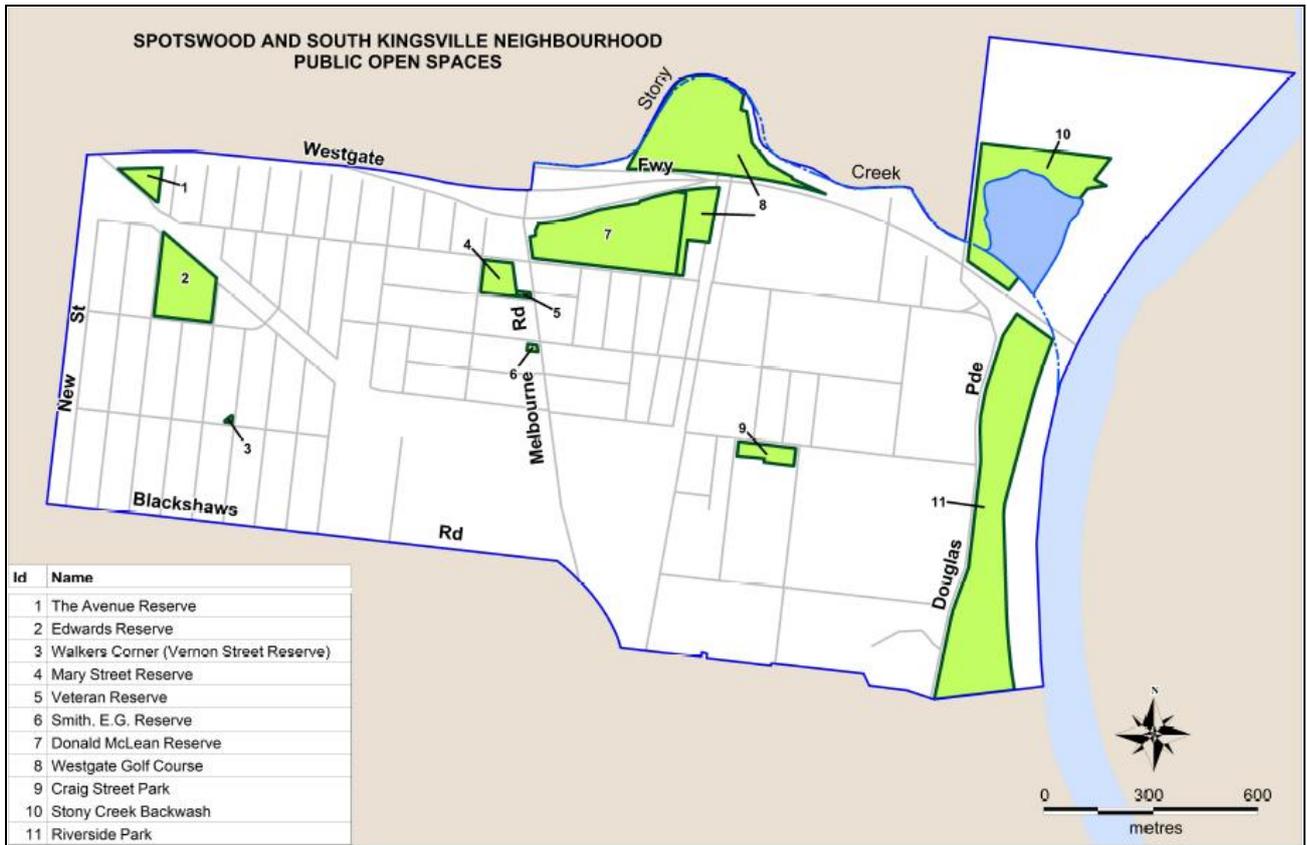
The main sporting spaces in Spotswood and South Kingsville are the Westgate Golf Club, Donald McLean Reserve and Edwards Reserve.

The Donald McLean Reserve, in The Avenue Spotswood, has two sporting ovals that are used for both cricket and football, together with cricket nets and club rooms. In addition, there are two plexipave tennis courts and a children's playground.

The Westgate golf course, adjacent to McLean Reserve, is a nine hole public course that sits across both the Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong municipalities. The course extends under the Westgate Freeway to Stony Creek where a footbridge provides access to the Maribyrnong fairways.

Edwards Reserve in Brunel Street, South Kingsville, has one oval that is used for soccer and cricket. The reserve also has clubrooms, cricket nets, a basketball key and a children's playground.

In addition to these larger spaces, there is a basketball half-court and children's playground in the Mary Street Reserve and a children's playground in Edwards Street Reserve.



Retail Centres

The neighbourhood has several local shopping strips. The main centres are in Vernon Street, South Kingsville and Hudson Road, Spotswood, along with a small group of shops in Melbourne Road.



Vernon Street has a range of shops including a mixed grocery, the Westgate Health Co-op, a pharmacy, several cafes and hairdressers, a laundrette and a gallery.

The Hudson Road shopping centre is located close to the railway station. Among the shops are a supermarket, newsagent, cafes and takeaway food shops and Westgate Health Support Services. There is also a small number of other service providers.

Four art works have recently been installed at the Hudson Street precinct. The 'Sciencewalk to Scienceworks' project was a joint initiative of the Council, Scienceworks and the Department of Transport. It is designed to visually improve the pedestrian experience and help visitors to navigate their way between the railway station and Scienceworks.

Doctors

There are two medical clinics located in the neighbourhood.

Westgate Health Co-op Ltd 19 Vernon Street South Kingsville	Dr Voola Furlanos Medical Clinic 603 Melbourne Road Spotswood
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Dentists

There is one dental practice operating at the Westgate Health Co-op in Vernon Street, South Kingsville

Pharmacies

The neighbourhood has one pharmacy in South Kingsville (Scown's Pharmacy) which is located at 17D Vernon Street, Kingsville South.

Local Newspapers

There are three local newspapers distributed in the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood – The Hobsons Bay Weekly, The Star and The Leader.

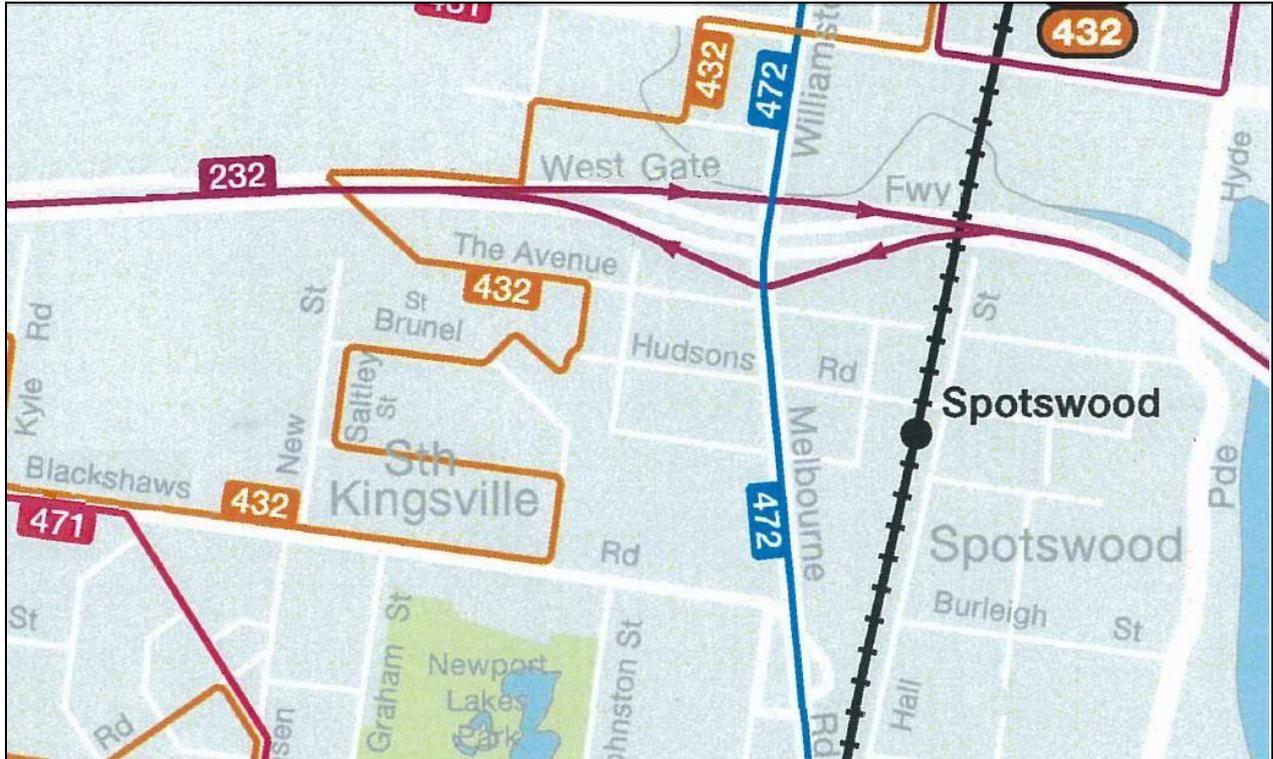
Public Transport

Residents in Spotswood and South Kingsville have access to the bus and rail network (see map below). Spotswood Railway Station is located at Hudson Road and passenger trains run to the Melbourne CBD and to Williamstown and Werribee.

The main bus routes are:

- 232 bus: runs along the Westgate freeway, starting at Altona North and running through the CBD before reaching Queen Victoria Market. The bus stops at the freeway off and on ramps at the Williamstown/Melbourne Road junction.
- 432 bus: runs between the Yarraville and Newport railway stations. On route, it passes through Spotswood and South Kingsville and also stops at Altona Gate shopping centre.
- 472 bus: starts at Williamstown Beach and runs through Williamstown shopping centre, Newport and Spotswood and then via Footscray and Ascot Vale before reaching Moonee Ponds.

The 471 bus follows a route that falls just outside the neighbourhood boundary. It runs between Williamstown Beach and Sunshine, via Newport and Altona North. The closest stop to the neighbourhood is at the corner of The Broadway and Blackshaws Road in Altona North.



D. What's Ahead for Spotswood and South Kingsville

Residential, commercial and industrial development

- A new development is proposed at the corner of Melbourne Road and McLister Street (refer to Site A on the map below). The application includes a mix of residential and retail uses.
- A proposal to rezone land bounded by Blackshaws Road, Sutton Street and the freight line (Site B) for residential use is currently with the Council. Housing estimates for the site suggest approximately 155 new dwellings. Adjacent land, bounded by Blackshaws Road and Stephenson and Sutton Streets (Site C), could potentially deliver a similar number of dwellings, subject to rezoning of the land.
- An area on the east side of Melbourne Road (Site D) has received planning approval to be used as an inland port (freight interchange) and is currently being developed.



Recreation

Preliminary investigations into the feasibility of developing a new recreational space at Riverside Park have commenced. The area is located at the south east corner of the neighbourhood and extends south into Newport. If developed, the park will provide active and recreational spaces.

The extension of the Federation Trail has received VicRoads funding; the trail sits between Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong municipalities. Commencing at Millers Road, Brooklyn, the route of the shared trail heads east along the edge of Spotswood and South Kingsville, following the Westgate Freeway and parts of Stony Creek. Construction has started and a number of crossings will link the trail to Hobsons Bay. Work on the extension is expected to be completed towards the end of 2010.

Proposed works at McLean Reserve, Spotswood are to upgrade the playground, barbeque and picnic area and the toilets at the western end of the reserve. The toilet block, near the football oval, will be closed.

A proposal to realign truck routes off the Westgate Freeway may have an impact will have an impact on the northern boundary of McLean Reserve. The Council will continue to liaise with VicRoads to minimize this impact.

The playground in Edward Reserve, South Kingsville is scheduled to be renewed in 2011-2012 and will improve access.

Street and traffic works

Through the Council's 'Vibrant Villages' initiative, improvements are planned for the Vernon Street shopping precinct in South Kingsville.

Traffic signals are planned for the intersection of The Avenue & Melbourne Rd. This is a major traffic black spot and the work is funded by VicRoads.



A proposal to realign truck routes on the Western Freeway may have an impact on the northern boundary of McLean Reserve and the Council will continue to liaise with VicRoads to minimize this impact.

References

- 1 Hobsons Bay City Council webpage
http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Page/page.asp?Page_Id=246&h=0#BM364
- 2 Image supplied by Mr Warren Judd, a long time resident of the neighbourhood
- 3 Information provided by Helen Penrose, local historian and author of a publication marking the Spotswood Primary School centenary.
- 4 Hobsons Bay Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History (2003)
http://www.hobsons.vic.gov.au/Files/Volume_1b_Thematic_Environmental_History.pdf
- 5 Vines G, 1992, Industrial Land and Wetlands
- 6 http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/1park_display.cfm?park=249
- 7 Photo of The Backwash and Westgate Bridge courtesy and Alarna Gray ©
- 8 <http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/exhibs/westgate/disaster.htm>
- 9 Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006
<http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/page/heritage.asp>

Acknowledgement

Hobsons Bay City Council would like to thank Warren Judd, Helen Penrose, Alarna Gray and members of the Footscray Historical Society for the information and support they provided.

Spotswood and South Kingsville Neighbourhood Data Profile

A. Population Characteristics

Population numbers

At the 2006 Census, Spotswood and South Kingsville had almost 4,000 residents, a small increase on the 2001 population of 3,860. The neighbourhood's residents represent five percent of the total population of Hobsons Bay.

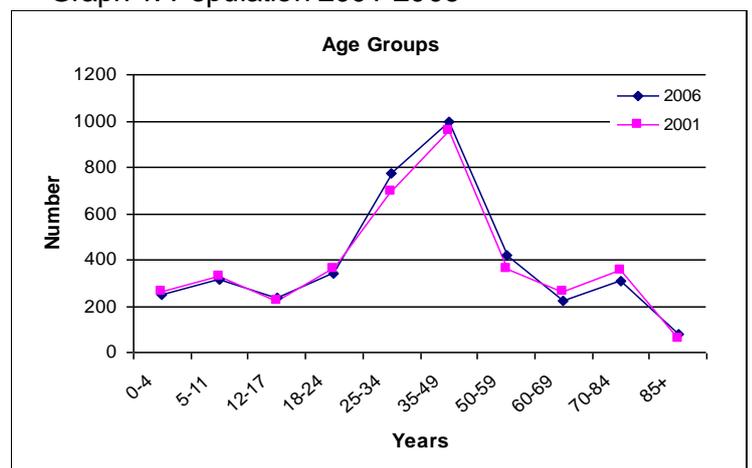
Between the 2001 and 2006 Census, there was a slight decline in the number of both younger and older residents. Those age groups that increased were aged between 25 and 60 years and 85 years and over.

This decline in the number of older residents suggests the neighbourhood is starting to enter a period of regeneration, as young families start to take up residence.

Table 1: Population numbers

Age	2006	2001	Change 2001-2006
0 to 4	248	262	-14
5 to 11	318	329	-11
12 to 17	239	220	19
18 to 24	341	360	-19
25 to 34	771	696	75
35 to 49	996	955	41
50 to 59	419	363	56
60 to 69	225	264	-39
70 to 84	311	354	-43
85 & over	76	57	19
Total	3,944	3,860	84

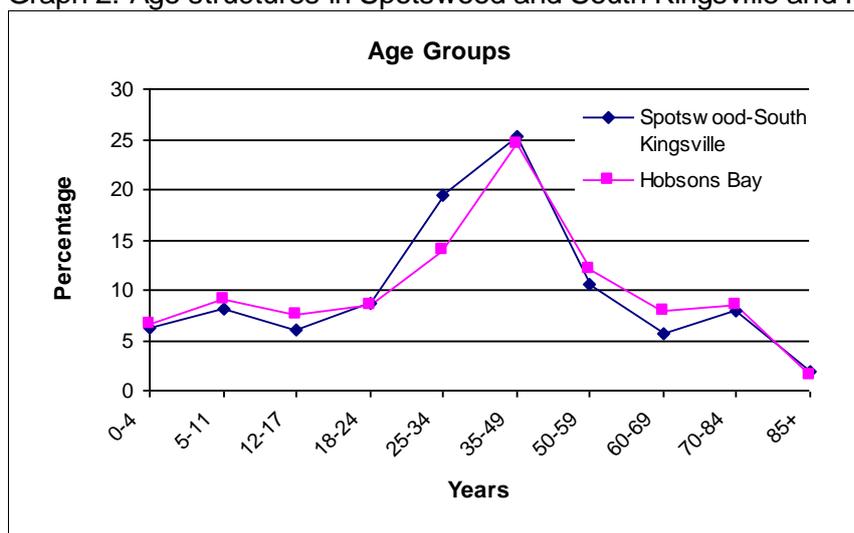
Graph 1: Population 2001-2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Compared to the overall population of Hobsons Bay, Spotswood and South Kingsville has a slightly lower proportion of younger children, teenagers and residents aged 60-85 years. What is noticeable in Graph 2 is the higher percentage of residents aged between 25 and 34 years. As previously mentioned, this suggests the neighbourhood is starting to regenerate and is attracting young singles, couples and families.

Graph 2: Age structures in Spotswood and South Kingsville and Hobsons Bay



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Family types

Table 2 provides an overview of the types of families living in the neighbourhood and comparative data for 2001 and 2006. Families with children under 15 years represent almost 40 per cent of all family groups and there has been a relatively large increase in the number of sole parent families with older children, over the 2001-2006 period.

In contrast to the overall population of Hobsons Bay, the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood has a lower proportion of couple families with children and a higher proportion of single parent families with children aged 15 years and over and couple only families.

Table 2: Family structure

	2006			2001			Change 2001- 2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Couples with children under 15 years	288	28.2	31.4	284	29.5	33.1	4
Couples with children 15 years and over	115	11.3	15.3	126	13.1	15.8	-11
<i>Total couples with children</i>	<i>403</i>	<i>39.5</i>	<i>46.7</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>42.6</i>	<i>48.9</i>	<i>-7</i>
One parent families with children under 15 years	79	7.7	8.5	85	8.8	8.3	-6
One parent families with children 15 years and over	115	11.3	8.9	74	7.7	7.5	41
<i>Total one parent families</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>35</i>
Couples without children	389	38.1	34.0	362	37.6	33.5	27
Other families	35	3.4	1.8	32	3.3	1.8	3
Total families	1,021	100	100	963	100	100	58

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Household types

Looking at the neighbourhood's household types, single family households are the dominant type, although they represent a much lower proportion of total households compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole (58.5 per cent and 67.1 per cent).

On the other hand, the neighbourhood has a higher proportion of lone person households. Spotswood and South Kingsville has five per cent more single person households (29.6 per cent and 24.6 per cent for Hobsons Bay). In addition, the neighbourhood has a slightly higher rate of group households.

Table 3: Household types

	2006			2001			Change 2001- 2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
One family households	988	58.5	67.1	939	57.2	68.7	49
Two or more family households	19	1.1	1.3	16	1	1.3	3
<i>Total family households</i>	<i>1,007</i>	<i>59.6</i>	<i>68.4</i>	<i>955</i>	<i>58.2</i>	<i>69.9</i>	<i>52</i>
Lone person households	501	29.6	24.6	502	30.6	23.6	-1
Group households	90	5.3	3.2	87	5.3	2.9	3
Other not classifiable households	92	5.4	3.8	97	5.9	3.5	-5
Total households	1,690	100	100	1,641	100	100	49

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Overseas born residents

Approximately 1,050 residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville were born overseas. This represents 26.4 per cent of the neighbourhood's total population, slightly below the municipal figure of 29.1 per cent.

The table below shows that a lower proportion of the neighbourhood's overseas born residents arrived before 1991, compared to the Hobsons Bay figure (62.1 per cent and 67.2 per cent respectively). In contrast, the neighbourhood has a higher proportion of residents who arrived after 2000 (20 per cent compared to the municipal rate of 14 per cent).

Table 4: Year of arrival in Australia

	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
2006	31	2.9	2.1
2005	51	4.9	3.1
2004	30	2.9	3.0
2003	49	4.7	2.3
2002	24	2.3	1.7
2001	24	2.3	1.8
1996 to 2000	93	8.8	8.0
1995 to 1991	40	3.8	6.0
Before 1991	653	62.1	67.2
Not stated	56	5.3	4.8
Total	1,051	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

The main countries of birth of the neighbourhood's overseas born residents are shown in Table 5. Generally, there is a reasonably strong similarity between the main birthplaces of these residents and the municipality in general, with a couple of exceptions. In Spotswood and South Kingsville, Poland and Croatia are among the main countries of birth, but are replaced by Malta and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (not shown in the table below) on the main countries of birth for Hobsons Bay.

The table also shows that the main changes in the neighbourhood between 2001 and 2006 have primarily been an increase in the number of residents born in the Philippines, New Zealand and the United Kingdom and a corresponding decrease of those born in Italy, the Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Lebanon.

Table 5: Main countries of birth

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
United Kingdom	151	3.8	4.7	136	3.5	5.1	15
New Zealand	95	2.4	1.9	72	1.9	1.8	23
Italy	88	2.2	2.3	116	3	2.6	-28
Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	70	1.8	1.1	85	2.2	1.5	-15
Greece	58	1.5	1.6	60	1.6	1.6	-2
Viet Nam	50	1.3	1.8	56	1.5	2.0	-6
Lebanon	46	1.2	1.2	56	1.5	1.2	-10
Philippines	46	1.2	1.3	18	0.5	1.3	28
Poland	35	0.9	0.5	33	0.9	0.6	2
Croatia	33	0.8	0.8	33	0.9	0.9	0

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Close to one in five of Spotswood and South Kingsville residents have a non-English speaking background. This is only slightly below the municipal figure.

Table 6: Non-English speaking background

	2006			Change 2001-2006 '000
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Non-English speaking backgrounds	768	19.4	21.5	-5
Main English speaking countries	277	7.0	7.6	32
Total overseas born	1,045	26.4	29.1	27
Australia	2,578	65.2	63.7	9
Not stated	329	8.3	7.2	74
Total	3,952	100	100	110

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Around 47 per cent of Spotswood and South Kingsville residents who were born overseas speak another language and are also proficient in English. A further 14.4 per cent who speak another language are either not proficient or speak no English. In addition, 37.6 per cent of residents speak English only. These figures are closely aligned with those for Hobsons Bay as a whole.

Table 7: Proficiency in English (overseas born persons aged 5 years and over)

Usual Residence data	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Speaks English only	391	37.6	37.5
Speaks another language and English well or very well	486	46.7	46.8
Speaks another language and English not well or not at all	150	14.4	14.8
Speaks another language and English - proficiency not stated	10	1.0	0.6
Not stated	4	0.4	0.3
Total	1,041	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

People with disabilities

The number of people in Australia who have a disability is based on the findings of the *Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers*, conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In partnership with the ABS, the National Disability Administrator (NDA) uses these findings to produce disability estimates for local government areas.

The most recent survey was in 2003 and the findings estimate that approximately 18.6% of the Hobsons Bay population has a disability (and are living in a private dwelling). Based on this figure, there are an estimated 735 residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville people who have a disability.

In addition to the 2003 survey data, the 2006 Census included a disability related question that asked whether help or supervision was required with one or more of the core activities of self-care, communication and mobility. It is important to note that these results do not reflect the true extent of disability in the community, as some people with disabilities may not require assistance. The Census findings were that 130 (3.3 per cent) of the neighbourhood's residents said they need help with a core activity, slightly below the rate for Hobsons Bay (4.4 per cent).

As might be expected, the table shows that the proportion of people needing assistance tends to increase as the population ages and this trend is evident across the municipality. Among residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville who need assistance, three quarters (97) are aged 55 years and older. Relative to the municipality as a whole, the neighbourhood has a very low proportion of residents under 35 years who require assistance.

Table 8: Core activity need for assistance

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
0 to 4 years	0	0.0	0.1
5 to 14 years	3	0.1	0.2
15 to 19 years	0	0.0	0.1
20 to 24 years	0	0.0	0.1
25 to 34 years	3	0.1	0.1
35 to 44 years	7	0.2	0.3
45 to 54 years	20	0.5	0.4
55 to 64 years	15	0.4	0.6
65 to 74 years	23	0.6	0.7
75 to 84 years	29	0.7	1.2
85 years and over	30	0.8	0.7
Total needing assistance	130	3.3	4.4
No need for assistance	3,500	88.6	89.4
Not stated	319	8.1	6.2
Total	3,949	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Participation in education

One in five of Spotswood and South Kingsville residents are enrolled in some form of education. This figure is only marginally below the municipal rate. However, it should be noted that the 'not stated' response rate to this Census question was two per cent higher than the municipal figure and had increased noticeably between 2001 and 2006.

Just over 11 per cent of the population are attending primary or secondary school which is three per cent lower than Hobsons Bay as a whole. This data reflects the fact that the neighbourhood has a lower proportion of under 18 year olds relative to Hobsons Bay (refer Graph 2). Between 2001 and 2006, primary school enrolments declined in numbers and as a proportion of the overall participation in education rates.

Post secondary data shows a higher proportion of Spotswood and South Kingsville residents are attending TAFE, university or other educational institutions (7.8 per cent compared to 5.8 per cent for Hobsons Bay). Comparing 2001 and 2006 data, the proportion of local residents enrolled in post secondary education rose slightly, while there was a slight decrease for Hobsons Bay as a whole.

Table 9: Education institute attending

	2006			2001		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Pre School	61	1.5	1.6	50	1.3	1.4
Primary	250	6.3	7.8	277	7.2	8.5
Secondary	180	4.6	6.2	170	4.4	6.1
TAFE	94	2.4	1.7	98	2.6	2.0
University	157	4.0	3.2	135	3.5	3.3
Other	56	1.4	0.9	43	1.1	0.9
Not Attending	2,738	69.4	70.2	2,836	74.0	72.4
Not Stated	408	10.3	8.3	225	5.9	5.2
Total	3,944	100	100	3,834	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Relative to Hobsons Bay, the neighbourhood has a higher proportion of residents who have completed Year 12. Just over 47 per cent of the area's residents aged 15 years and over have completed six years of secondary education or an equivalent, almost five per cent above the municipal rate.

Comparing school leaving rates between Years 8 and 11, the table below highlights that Spotswood and South Kingsville has a lower proportion of people leaving school early compared with the figures for Hobsons Bay.

Table 10: Highest level of schooling completed (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Year 8 or below	299	9.1	10.2
Year 9 or equivalent	188	5.7	7.1
Year 10 or equivalent	391	11.9	15.1
Year 11 or equivalent	410	12.5	13.1
Year 12 or equivalent	1,541	47.1	42.6
Did not go to school	62	1.9	1.8
Not Stated	382	11.7	10.2
Total	3,273	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Internet connected

Access to the internet, particularly broadband, is an important information tool that is used in all aspects of life. Lack of access is now considered to be a factor that can compound disadvantage, particularly in relation to education and social connections. Looking at the figure for the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood, 54.8 per cent of households are connected to the internet, slightly below the Hobsons Bay rate of 55.7 per cent. The figure for broadband connection in the neighbourhood and the municipality is similar.

Table 11: Type of internet connection

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Broadband connection	639	37.5	37.9
Dial-up connection	279	16.4	17.2
Other connection	14	0.8	0.6
Total internet connections	932	54.8	55.7
No internet connection	618	36.3	36.9
Internet connection not stated	152	8.9	7.3
Total households	1,702	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

B. Labour Force Characteristics

Labour force participation

The labour force participation rate refers to the proportion of the population aged 15 years and over who are employed or actively looking for work. Based on data collected at the 2006 Census, Spotswood and South Kingsville has slightly higher rates of residents who are in the labour force (62.5 per cent and 59.1 per cent of Hobsons Bay residents).

Of those residents who are employed, almost 66 percent have full-time work which is about three per cent above the municipal figure. Looking back to 2001, there has been a rise in the proportion of residents in the neighbourhood who have full time and part time jobs. In contrast, the rate of part-time work across the municipality has increased but full-time employment has remained unchanged.

Neighbourhood unemployment rates and those for the city are on par (5.5 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively).

Table 12: Employment status (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Employed full time	1,349	65.9	62.8	1,211	63.8	62.7	138
Employed part time	556	27.2	28.6	484	25.5	26.4	72
Employed not stated	29	1.4	2.8	54	2.8	3.1	-25
Total employed	1,934	94.5	94.1	1,749	92.1	92.2	185
Total unemployed	113	5.5	5.9	149	7.9	7.8	-36
Total labour force	2,047	100	100	1,898	100	100	149
Total in labour force	2,047	62.5	59.1	1,898	60.3	58.9	149
Total not in labour force	949	29.0	34.7	1,078	34.3	36.4	-129
Not stated	279	8.5	6.2	169	5.4	4.6	110
Total	3,275	100	100	3,145	100	100	130

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Employment sector

The major industries providing employment for the residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville in 2006 are:

- Manufacturing, and Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (9.4 per cent)
- Retail, and Health Care and Social Assistance (8.6 per cent)
- Education and Training (7.6 per cent)

Manufacturing, along with professional, scientific and technical services, heads the list as the largest industry employers of Spotswood and South Kingsville workers. However, Table 13 shows that a significantly lower proportion of the neighbourhood's workers are employed in manufacturing, compared to the municipal figure.

Table 13: Employment by Industry

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Manufacturing	183	9.4	14.0
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	183	9.4	7.4
Retail Trade	167	8.6	9.9
Health Care and Social Assistance	166	8.6	8.7
Education and Training	147	7.6	7.0
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	138	7.1	7.8
Construction	126	6.5	6.7
Public Administration and Safety	116	6.0	6.4
Accommodation and Food Services	114	5.9	5.4
Financial and Insurance Services	107	5.5	4.6
Wholesale Trade	102	5.3	5.1
Administrative and Support Services	94	4.8	3.9
Other Services	65	3.4	3.3
Arts and Recreation Services	60	3.1	1.9
Information Media and Telecommunications	58	3.0	2.6
Inadequately described or Not stated	51	2.6	2.8
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	32	1.7	1.5
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	21	1.1	0.7
Mining	6	0.3	0.2
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	3	0.2	0.2
Total	1,939	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Occupations

In general, the occupations of the local residents and those of Hobsons Bay are similar. Of the 1,900 residents of the neighbourhood who are employed, around 22 per cent work in professional occupations and a further 16.7 per cent are clerical and administrative workers, similar to the municipal trend.

A slightly higher proportion of Spotswood and South Kingsville workers are managers and a slightly lower proportion are technicians and trades workers, compared to Hobsons Bay workers.

Table 14: Occupations of employed persons

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Professionals	421	21.7	20.2
Clerical and Administrative Workers	324	16.7	16.8
Managers	258	13.3	11.8
Technicians and Trades Workers	253	13.0	14.1
Labourers	183	9.4	9.6
Sales Workers	165	8.5	9.1
Community and Personal Service Workers	148	7.6	7.9
Machinery Operators And Drivers	145	7.5	8.4
Inadequately described or Not stated	42	2.2	2.1
Total	1,939	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Unpaid work and volunteering

A new question on the 2006 Census acknowledged the significant contribution of voluntary and unpaid work to the economy and the community. The question addressed the unpaid work of caring for an aged person or a person with a long term illness or disability. It is important to note that there was a high non response rate to this question. Bearing this in mind, Table 15 indicates that 10.2 per cent (335 residents) are providing unpaid care. This figure is the same as the municipal rate.

It should be noted that a relatively high proportion of residents (12.5 per cent) provided no response to this question and therefore caution should be applied when interpreting the data.

Table 15: Provided unpaid care to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age (carers aged 15 years and over)

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Provided unpaid care	335	10.2	10.2
No unpaid care provided	2,529	77.3	79.9
Not stated	408	12.5	9.9
Total	3,272	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Another new question on the 2006 Census asked about voluntary work with an organisation or group. It should be noted that this question asks about volunteering with an organisation or group and does not consider those who volunteer informally. As a result, the figures may be an undercount. It should also be noted that a relatively high proportion of residents (11 per cent) did not respond to this question.

However, close to 500 residents (14.8 per cent) of the neighbourhood indicated they had volunteered with a group or organisation in the previous twelve months, which is similar to the Hobsons Bay figure of 14.1 per cent.

Table 16: Volunteering for an organisation or group

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Volunteer	484	14.8	14.1
Not a volunteer	2,429	74.2	76.4
Volunteer work not stated	359	11.0	9.5
Total	3,272	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

C. Financial Wellbeing

Income

According to monthly data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), at August 2006 (the point at which the 2006 Census was collected), the average weekly income in Victoria was \$815.40. (ABS, Cat 6302.0, Table 12B.)

Census data in the table below shows that 1,906 residents of Spotswood and South Kingsville (aged 15 years and over) have gross weekly incomes below \$800. This represents 58.2 per cent of the local population, lower than the Hobsons Bay figure of 64.3 per cent.

Analysis of the neighbourhood's residents on low incomes shows that there are 1,197 people (36.5 per cent) earning less than \$400 per week. This compares to the municipal figure of 41.7 per cent.

At the top end of the income scale, 6.5 per cent of the neighbourhood's residents have weekly incomes of \$1,600 and over, fairly similar to the municipal rate of 6 per cent.

Table 17: Gross weekly individual income (persons aged 15 years and over)

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
negative/nil income	201	6.1	7.7
\$1 to \$149	218	6.7	7.0
\$150 to \$249	417	12.7	15.3
\$250 to \$399	361	11.0	11.7
\$400 to \$599	399	12.2	12.3
\$600 to \$799	310	9.5	10.3
\$800 to \$999	314	9.6	8.5
\$1,000 to \$1,299	346	10.6	8.1
\$1,300 to \$1,599	162	4.9	4.2
\$1,600 to \$1,999	102	3.1	2.7
\$2,000 or more	110	3.4	3.3
not stated	335	10.2	9.0
Total	3,275	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Income quartiles

Due to the influences of economic change such as wage fluctuations and inflation, individual income groups are not comparable over time. However, using income quartiles allows a comparison of relative income-earning capacities. (These are calculated using the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD) individual income data.)

A comparison of 2001 and 2006 Census data shows a slight shift in the distribution across Spotswood and South Kingsville's income ranges. For example, the proportion of residents with incomes in the lowest and medium lowest quartiles both declined, particularly those in the medium lowest income quartile which resulted in increases in the upper two quartiles increased, particularly the highest quartile.

Within Hobsons Bay, the proportions in the all quartiles remained relatively stable over the same period.

Table 18: Individual income quartiles (persons aged 15 and over)

	2006			2001		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
Lowest group	637	21.9	25.3	706	24.4	25.9
Medium lowest	696	23.9	26.0	783	27.1	25.8
Medium highest	726	24.9	24.3	684	23.7	24.9
Highest group	851	29.2	24.3	717	24.8	23.3
Total	2,910	100	100	2,890	100	100

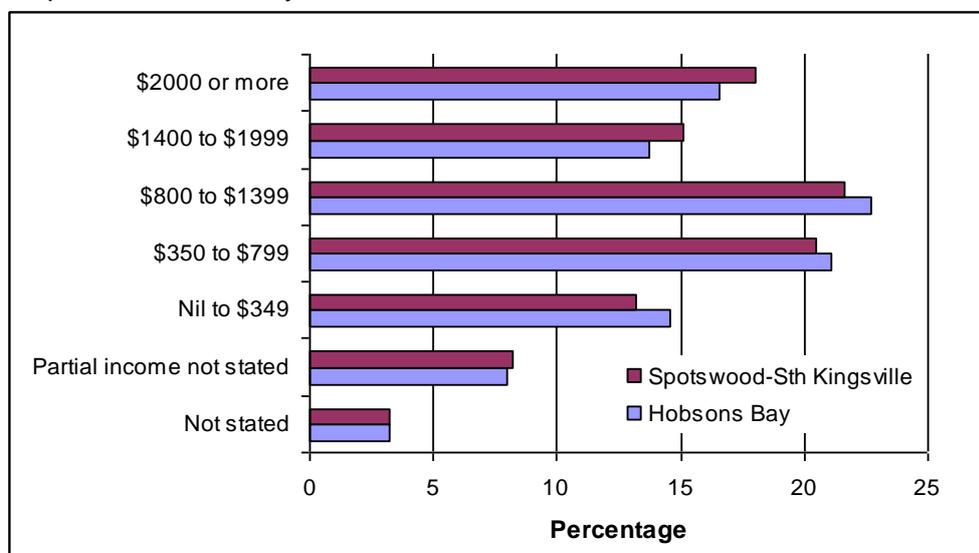
Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Household incomes

Spotswood and South Kingsville gross weekly household incomes are reasonably similar to those for the municipality with only a percentage or so difference either way. Spotswood and South Kingsville has a slightly lower proportion of households whose weekly incomes range is very low (up to \$349). They represent 13.2 per cent of the neighbourhood's total households compared to 14.6 per cent across Hobsons Bay. In addition, the neighbourhood has a slightly lower proportion of households with incomes in the ranges \$350 to \$799 and \$800 to \$1399.

On the other hand, Spotswood and South Kingsville has a slightly higher incidence of households with weekly incomes of \$1,400 and above, although again the percentage difference to Hobsons Bay is small.

Graph 3: Gross weekly household income



Source: ABS 2006 Census (Usual residence data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

In common with individual incomes, household incomes are not comparable over time because of the influences of economic change. As a result, the income quartile method is used here as it provides a method to compare changes in the income profile of a community.

Table 19 shows that between 2001 and 2006 the number of households in Spotswood and South Kingsville remained almost unchanged. However, over this time there were noticeable shifts in the proportion of households who had incomes at the top and bottom of the quartile

spectrum. Households in the lowest quartile declined from 31.8 per cent of households to 26 per cent, while those in the highest quartile increased from 19.3 per cent to 24.5 per cent.

These changes went against the Hobsons Bay trend for the same period which saw only minor changes within the quartiles.

Table 19: Household income quartiles

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Lowest group	369	26.0	27.8	451	31.8	27.8	-82
Medium lowest	354	24.9	25.3	363	25.6	25.8	-9
Medium highest	348	24.5	23.9	332	23.3	24.5	16
Highest group	348	24.5	22.9	275	19.3	21.9	73
Total	1,419	100	100	1,421	100	100	-2

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Centrelink payments and allowances

Centrelink data for small areas is available by postcode only. The data in the table below is for Postcode 3015 which in addition to Spotswood and South Kingsville includes Newport. (Refer to Appendix 1 for a map of the 3015 postcode area.)

The data in the table below refers to the number of people receiving payments as at March 2010. Of the 3,000 payments shown in Table 20 that are made, almost half (1,404) are Age Pensions. Just over 500 people are receiving a disability payment and a further 105 people receive a carer allowance.

In addition, Newstart allowances make up 13 per cent (395) of the listed payments, with Youth Allowances making up a further 8 per cent (249).

Table 20: Centrelink payments for Postcode 3015 (March Qtr 2010)

Age pension	1,404
Disability support pension	505
Newstart Allowance	395
Youth Allowance	249
Parenting Payment Single	163
Carer Payment	105
Parenting Payment Partnered	108
Austudy Payment	33
Total (not including sickness allowance)	2,962

Source: Centrelink (requested data)

SEIFA index of disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and other variables that reflect disadvantage. These are weighted to provide a single score which is one indication of the level of disadvantage in an area.

The Australian average score is set at 1,000. Scores below 1,000 represent greater disadvantage among the population and conversely scores above indicate less.

In 2006, the SEIFA disadvantage score for Spotswood and South Kingsville was 1004.4, slightly above the Hobsons Bay score of 997.8. This score places it above the Australian average and at the midpoint when compared with other neighbourhoods in the municipality.

Table 21: SEIFA disadvantage score

Laverton	884.5
Brooklyn	902.5
Altona North	910.6
Altona Meadows	984.1
Hobsons Bay City	997.8
Spotswood - South Kingsville	1004.5
Altona - Seaholme	1008
Newport West	1017.5
Seabrook	1036.2
Williamstown	1062.4
Williamstown North	1072.4
Newport East	1085.8

Source: ABS 2006 Census www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Gaming losses

Spotswood and South Kingsville residents, like others in Hobsons Bay, have access to and are affected by the provision of electronic gaming machines (EGMs). The municipality has ten gaming venues, with a total of 579 EGMs. Among the 79 local government areas (LGAs) in the state, Hobsons Bay is ranked 13th in relation to the highest number of gaming machines per adult and is ranked 16th in terms of losses per adult (VLGA gambling statistics).

There are no gaming venues located in Spotswood and South Kingsville, however there are two venues in the adjacent areas of Altona North and Newport and three in nearby Williamstown.

Information on the impact of gaming is only available for the whole of Hobsons Bay. In the year 2009/10, gaming machine losses totalled \$50 million or \$737 per adult which is slightly down on the previous year's figures.

Table 22: EGMs in Hobsons Bay and gambling losses

	Total	LGA Ranking Relative to Vic. municipalities
Venues: 2010	10	
EGMs: 2010	579	22
EGMs per 1,000 Adults: 2009/2010	8.6	13
EGM Gaming Losses 2009/2010	\$50m	24
Losses per Adult 2009/2010	\$737	16

Source: Victoria Local Governance Association

<http://www.vlga.org.au/Resources/Library/GamblingIndicatorsforLocalAreas.aspx>

D. Housing

Dwelling types

In 2006, there were 1,830 private dwellings in Spotswood and South Kingsville, an extra 55 on the previous 2001 figure. Just under two thirds (61.3 per cent) of the neighbourhood's housing stock is separate (detached) housing and close to a third is medium density.

Table 23 shows that since 2001 all of the growth in housing has been in medium density developments. An extra 128 medium density dwellings were added to the housing stock between 2001 and 2006, while the number of separate dwellings fell by 38.

Relative to the type of housing that can be found in Hobsons Bay generally, Spotswood and South Kingsville has approximately 10 to 11 per cent more medium density housing and 10 per cent less detached housing.

Seven per cent of the neighbourhoods housing stock was unoccupied at the 2006 Census; this was a slight decline on the 2001 figure of 7.8 per cent and brings it into line with the municipal rate.

Table 23: Private dwelling types

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Separate house	1,122	61.3	71.2	1,160	65.4	74.8	-38
Medium density	577	31.5	20.2	449	25.3	16.9	128
High density	0	0	1.0	0	0	1.1	0
Caravans, cabin, houseboat	3	0.2	0.3	0	0	0.4	3
Other	0	0	0.4	16	0.9	0.5	-16
Not stated	0	0	0	11	0.6	0.7	-11
TOTAL occupied private dwellings	1,702	93.0	93.1	1,636	92.2	94.3	66
TOTAL unoccupied dwellings	128	7.0	6.9	139	7.8	5.7	-11
TOTAL Dwellings	1,830	100	100	1,775	100	100	55

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

- a) 'Medium density' includes all semi-detached, row, terrace, townhouses and villa units, plus flats and apartments in blocks of 1 or 2 storeys, and flats attached to houses.
 (b) 'High density' includes flats and apartments in 3 storey and larger blocks.

State Government owned housing

According to data provided by the Department of Human Services, there are 37 properties in Spotswood and South Kingsville that are State Government owned. Twenty of these are medium density and 12 are separate or detached housing. The remaining properties consist of low rise flats.

Table 24 Public Housing

Low rise flat	Medium density	Semi-detached	Separate housing	Total
4	20	0	12	37

Source: Office of Housing (requested data)

Residential aged care facilities

There is no residential aged care facility located in the neighbourhood. There are however five facilities in neighbouring Altona North and Newport.

Building permits

Over the twelve month period 2009-2010, there were a total of 22 permits issued for new residential developments in Spotswood and South Kingsville. Three permits were for the construction of a single house, 16 permits were for dual occupancy developments, two permits for three unit developments and one for a five unit development.

Housing tenure

It is important to note that between 2001 and 2006, changes were made to the wording on the Census questionnaire regarding home ownership. "Fully Owned" in 2001 became "Owned Outright" in 2006, while "Being Purchased" became "Owned with a mortgage". This change in wording may have impacted on how people interpreted the question so a degree of caution should be used in any comparisons of the 2001 and 2006 Census data.

At the time of the 2006 Census, almost 30 per cent of households owned their home and a further 30 per cent were paying a mortgage. Among the 31 per cent of households who were renting, a small proportion (1.2 per cent) were renting government owned properties, while just on 29 per cent of households were renting from the private market.

Since 2001, home ownership had decreased by approximately 10 per cent, while the rate of home purchasers increased by almost five per cent. This suggests an influx of new residents.

Table 25: Housing tenure of households (occupied dwellings)

	2006			2001			Change 2001 to 2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Owned	508	29.8	36.1	653	39.5	44.5	-145
Being purchased	506	29.7	31.4	414	25.1	26.4	92
Renting - Govt	21	1.2	2.9	11	0.7	2.9	10
Renting - Other	493	28.9	21.4	433	26.2	18.6	60
Renting - Not stated	15	0.9	0.6	3	0.2	0.2	12
Renting - Total	529	31.1	24.9	447	27.1	21.8	82
Other tenure type	3	0.2	0.4	32	1.9	2.1	-29
Not stated	157	9.2	7.1	106	6.4	5.3	51
Total	1,703	100	100	1,652	100	100	51

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing Sales

Table 26 provides data on the monthly median sales price, which is the midpoint of houses sold in the suburbs of Spotswood and South Kingsville (NB: data is provided for each suburb). Please note that in some instances, data in the table is repeated across several months and this is because there were either no house sales or no updated data available.

Over the 12 months to August 2010, there were fluctuations in median house prices in the neighbourhood. Spotswood prices were generally higher than in South Kingsville and ranged from a recent low of \$485,500 (July/Aug) to a high of \$710,500 (Dec/Jan), which is a variance of \$225,000.

South Kingsville prices were similarly unsettled, with the lowest median price being \$450,000 (March/April) and a high of \$690,000 (May-August), which is a variance of 240,000.

Looking at Hobsons Bay's sales, the median house price ranged from \$465,000 (Sept) and \$610,000 (July), a variation of \$145,000.

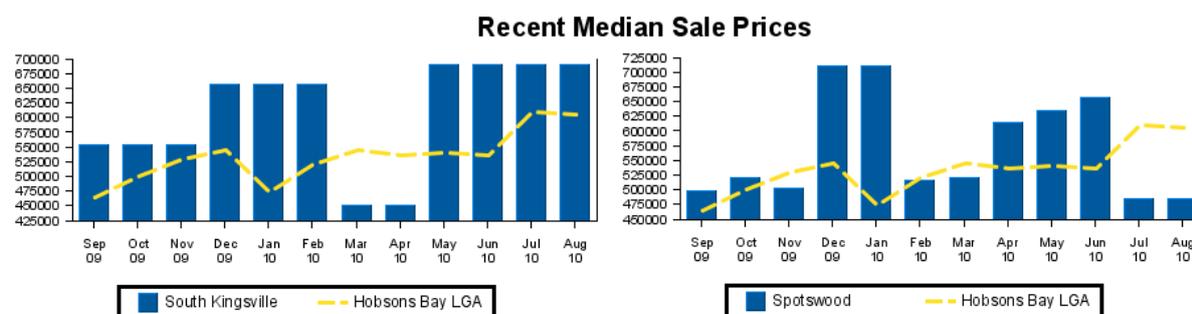
Table 26: Median house prices

	Spotswood	South Kingsville	Hobsons Bay
Aug-10	\$485,500	\$690,000	\$604,500
Jul-10	\$485,500	\$690,000	\$610,000
Jun-10	\$656,000	\$690,000	\$535,000
May-10	\$635,000	\$690,000	\$540,000
Apr-10	\$614,100	\$450,000	\$536,075
Mar-10	\$520,000	\$450,000	\$545,000
Feb-10	\$515,000	\$656,000	\$520,000
Jan-10	\$710,500	\$656,000	\$472,500
Dec-09	\$710,500	\$656,000	\$544,076
Nov-09	\$502,875	\$552,500	\$530,000
Oct-09	\$520,000	\$552,500	\$500,500
Sep-09	\$498,500	\$552,500	\$465,000

Source: RPdata (<http://reports.rpdata.com.au/>)

The graphs below highlights the variations in the median house price and shows that, apart from the March/April period, prices over the past 12 months were more even in South Kingsville, compared to Spotswood. South Kingsville's prices are generally trending up which is in line with prices across Hobsons Bay, although South Kingsville prices are higher. In comparison, there is no clear pattern in the Spotswood median house prices.

Graph 4: Median house prices



Source: RPdata (<http://reports.rpdata.com.au/>)

Housing loan repayments

As mentioned earlier, around 30 per cent (511) of the neighbourhood's households (had a mortgage, in 2006. The data shows that mortgage repayments tended to be higher in Spotswood and South Kingsville relative to the municipality. Just over 27 per cent of households had monthly repayments of \$2,000, whereas the comparative figure for Hobsons Bay was 20 per cent. In addition, approximately 55 per cent of households had monthly

payments of between \$1,200 and \$1,999, higher than the Hobsons Bay figure of 46.4 per cent.

Table 27: Monthly housing loan repayments (households)

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
\$1 to \$249	9	1.8	2.4
\$250 to \$399	6	1.2	2.3
\$400 to \$549	25	4.9	5.5
\$550 to \$749	31	6.1	6.7
\$750 to \$949	47	9.2	9.9
\$950 to \$1,199	50	9.8	12.5
\$1,200 to \$1,399	66	12.9	10.9
\$1,400 to \$1,599	39	7.6	8.8
\$1,600 to \$1,999	76	14.9	13.1
\$2,000 to \$2,999	102	20.0	13.6
\$3,000 and over	38	7.4	6.4
Not stated	22	4.3	7.9
Total	511	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Comparing changes to housing loan repayments over time is difficult due to the impact of economic change such as inflation and interest rates. However, housing loan repayment quartiles provide a method to standardise the data, enabling comparisons over time to be made. These quartiles are calculated using loan payment data for the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD).

Looking at changes in housing repayments between 2001 and 2006, there was an increase of 97 households with a mortgage in Spotswood and South Kingsville. Data in the table below indicates that most of the change occurred within the top two quartiles. Just over 30 per cent of the neighbourhood's households were in the highest quartile of payments, 3.5 per cent up on the 2001 figure of 27.6 per cent. At the same time there was a corresponding decrease in the proportion of households in the medium highest quartile. This change supports earlier evidence of increasing house prices in the area.

Table 28: Housing loan repayment quartiles

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Lowest group	111	22.7	27.4	85	21.8	25.7	26
Medium lowest	110	22.5	24.7	91	23.1	24.7	19
Medium highest	116	23.7	23.9	108	27.6	25.4	8
Highest group	152	31.1	24.0	108	27.6	24.2	44
Total	489	100	100	392	100	100	97

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing rents

There is no centralised data source for the average cost of housing rentals in a given area. However, a review of real estate listings for Spotswood and South Kingsville (October 2010) shows a wide variation in rental prices, depending on the type of the property.

Of the properties advertised over the month of October, most were townhouses and the majority were in Spotswood. They ranged between \$250 and \$450 per week, depending on the number of bedrooms. House rents were between \$380 and \$500 per week.

Rental payments

The data in Table 29 shows that slightly more than 60 per cent of households pay weekly rents below \$225 per week, below the Hobsons Bay figure of 68 per cent. A higher proportion of the neighbourhood's households pay between \$225 and \$449 per week, compared to households across the municipality (31.3 per cent and 25.2 per cent respectively).

Table 29: Weekly housing rental (households)

	2006		
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %
\$0 to \$49	9	1.7	3.7
\$50 to \$99	33	6.1	7.9
\$100 to \$139	99	18.3	9.2
\$140 to \$179	111	20.5	18.4
\$180 to \$224	80	14.8	28.8
\$225 to \$274	88	16.3	12.7
\$275 to \$349	72	13.3	8.4
\$350 to \$449	19	3.5	4.1
\$450 to \$549	0	0	1.2
\$550 and over	6	1.1	1.9
not stated	24	4.4	3.7
Total	541	100	100

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

As with mortgages, comparing rental payments over time is difficult because of the different economic environments and influences. As a result, a method using rental payment quartiles has been adopted as an effective way of comparing changes in the cost of renting. (Quartiles are calculated from the Melbourne Statistical Division rental payment data.)

Table 30 shows data on the number of households in the neighbourhood that were renters and the changes to the cost of their rent between 2001 and 2006. Looking at the 2001 quartiles, 67 per cent of households were in the two lowest rent quartiles. By 2006, this had declined to 58 per cent of households. On the other hand, the data shows there was a corresponding increase at the top end of the rent spectrum. Between 2001 and 2006, the percentage of households with rents in the highest quartile rose by almost 10 per cent.

Comparing the neighbourhood's rental data for 2001 and 2006 with that of Hobsons Bay shows the upward shifts, particularly in the highest quartile, went against the municipal trend where there was only a slight change.

Table 30: Housing rental payment quartiles

	2006			2001			Change 2001-2006
	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	Number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Lowest group	178	34.5	27.9	143	33.5	27.5	35
Medium lowest	121	23.5	30.5	143	33.5	28.8	-22
Medium highest	112	21.7	24.1	95	22.3	27.1	17
Highest group	105	20.3	17.5	46	10.7	16.6	59
Total	517	100	100	428	100	100	89

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Housing stress

Housing stress is linked to the percentage of a household's income that is required to cover rental or mortgage payments. One definition of stress is where housing payments account for 30 per cent or more of a household's gross income and this definition is used in the following analysis. Depending on the level of income, housing payments may put households under varying degrees of stress.

To measure housing stress and the extent of its impact across the municipality and its neighbourhoods, Hobsons Bay City Council commissioned *id consulting* to develop the data in Table 31. It provides an overview of Spotswood and South Kingsville's low and middle income households and the degree of their housing stress.

The table shows that among both renters and purchasers, the level of housing stress in Spotswood and South Kingsville is generally lower than that experienced by the municipality as a whole. Among low income households that are renting, one in five is experiencing housing stress, compared to one in four in Hobsons Bay. On the other hand, the level of housing stress among low income purchasers in Spotswood and South Kingsville is two per cent lower compared to Hobsons Bay.

Marginal housing stress among middle income purchasing households in both the neighbourhood and the municipality is less pronounced than for their low income counterparts. There is however a slightly higher level of marginal stress among Spotswood and South Kingsville middle income renters, compared to Hobsons Bay.

Table 31: Households experiencing housing stress (%)

	Low income		Middle income	
	Less than 30% of income spent on housing payments	30% or more of income spent on housing payments (<i>housing stress</i>)	Less than 30% of income spent on housing payments	30% or more of income spent on housing payments (<i>marginal housing stress</i>)
Mortgage				
Spotswood - South Kingsville	4%	8%	8%	4%
Hobsons Bay	7%	10%	11%	6%
Rent				
Spotswood - South Kingsville	8%	20%	14%	8%
Hobsons Bay	12%	24%	13%	5%

Source: ABS 2006 Census (data analysis by *id consulting*)

E. Transport

Car ownership

In 2006, Spotswood and South Kingsville households owned a total of 1,696 cars which represents approximately one car per household and is in line with car ownership for Hobsons Bay.

The table below shows that Hobsons Bay households are more likely to have two or more cars, whereas in Spotswood and South Kingsville there are higher proportions of car free and single car households.

Comparing 2001 and 2006 data, there was an overall increase of 59 vehicles in the neighbourhood which reflects a similar increase in the number of new households (refer Table 32). Over that time, both the number and percentage of households without a car decreased while two and three car households both increased. Across Hobsons Bay, there was little change.

Table 32: Car ownership (vehicles per household)

	2006			2001			Change 2001 to 2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
No vehicles	180	10.6	9.8	200	12.2	9.7	-20
1 vehicle	661	39.0	36.6	651	39.8	37.6	10
2 vehicles	523	30.8	34.1	498	30.4	34.5	25
3 vehicles or more	164	9.7	11.9	134	8.2	11.3	30
Not stated	168	9.9	7.6	154	9.4	6.8	14
Total	1,696	100.0	100.0	1,637	100.0	100.0	59

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

Journey to work

In 2006, the dominant method used by Spotswood and South Kingsville residents to travel to work was by car, with 64.4 per cent indicating they either drove to work or were a passenger in a car. This was below the Hobsons Bay rate of 68.1 per cent.

Residents of the neighbourhood had slightly higher rates of catching the train and cycling to work, compared to Hobsons Bay as a whole.

There was only minor change in the 2001 and 2006 Census findings, with a slight increase in train travel among residents of both Spotswood and South Kingsville and Hobsons Bay.

Table 33: Travel to work (includes multi-mode journeys)

	2006			2001			Change 2001 to 2006
	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	number	%	Hobsons Bay %	
Train	263	13.7	11.2	197	11.3	9.8	66
Bus	38	2.0	1.1	33	1.9	1.4	5
Tram or Ferry	3	0.2	0.1	0	0	0.1	3
Taxi	3	0.2	0.2	6	0.3	0.2	-3
Car - as driver	1,158	60.2	63.1	1,047	60.3	63.8	111
Car - as passenger	81	4.2	5.0	99	5.7	5.8	-18
Truck	16	0.8	0.8	18	1.0	1	-2
Motorbike	14	0.7	0.6	16	0.9	0.4	-2
Bicycle	33	1.7	1.1	25	1.4	0.9	8
Walked only	31	1.6	1.7	25	1.4	1.4	6
Other	18	0.9	0.7	24	1.4	0.8	-6
Worked at home	38	2.0	2.7	41	2.4	2.7	-3
Did not go to work	187	9.7	9.8	165	9.5	9.5	22
Not stated	41	2.1	2.0	41	2.4	2.2	0
Total	1,924	100	100	1,737	100	100	187

Source: ABS 2006 Census (Enumerated data) www.id.com.au/profile/Default.aspx?id=112

F. Population forecasts

Population

Population forecasts for Hobsons Bay and its neighbourhoods are based on the results of the 2006 Census and incorporate information such as new residential development, together with population trends related to births, deaths and internal and external migration etc. The forecasts were developed for the Council by *id consulting*.

As mentioned earlier, the population of the neighbourhood has been relatively stable, increasing by about two per cent between 2001 and 2006 (84 new residents). However, population forecasts indicate that growth is expected to accelerate over the next decade with the population increasing by more than a third. The area is expected to have an additional 1,567 residents by 2020.

A number of factors are at play in the future growth of Spotswood and South Kingsville. These include: underutilised or redundant industrial sites which have been identified by the Council as potential sites for residential development; potential residential redevelopment of former railway land; and continuing infill development that will increase in housing density.

Table 34: Population forecasts

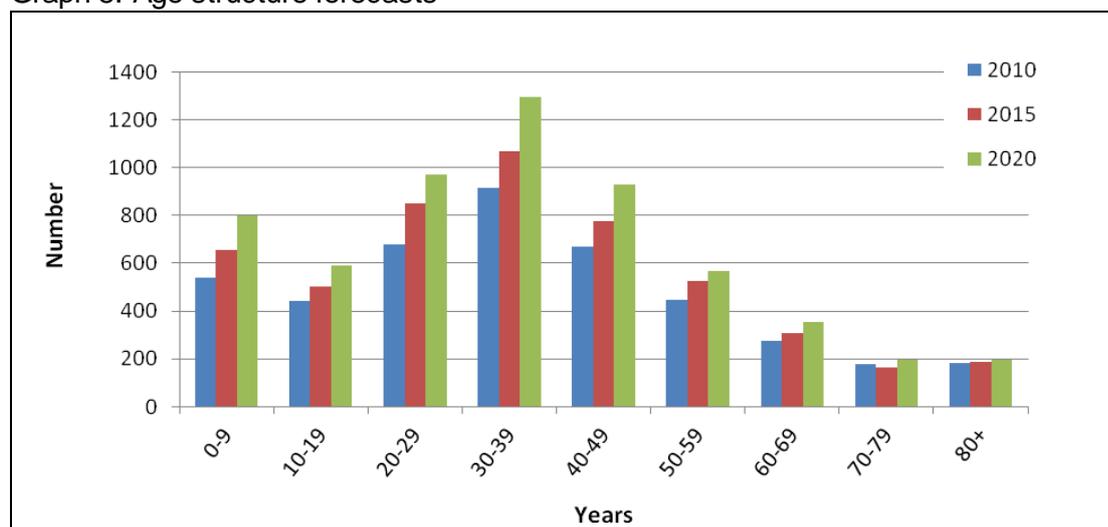
	2010	2015	2020	Change 2010 - 2020
Total population	4,325	5,044	5,892	1,567
Percentage change		↑17%	↑17%	

Source: id consulting, forecast data <http://forecast2.id.com.au/default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Age structure

Over the coming decade, the neighbourhood forecasts predict that all age groups up to 70 years are expected to increase. The most noticeable growth is anticipated among young and maturing family age groups.

Graph 5: Age structure forecasts



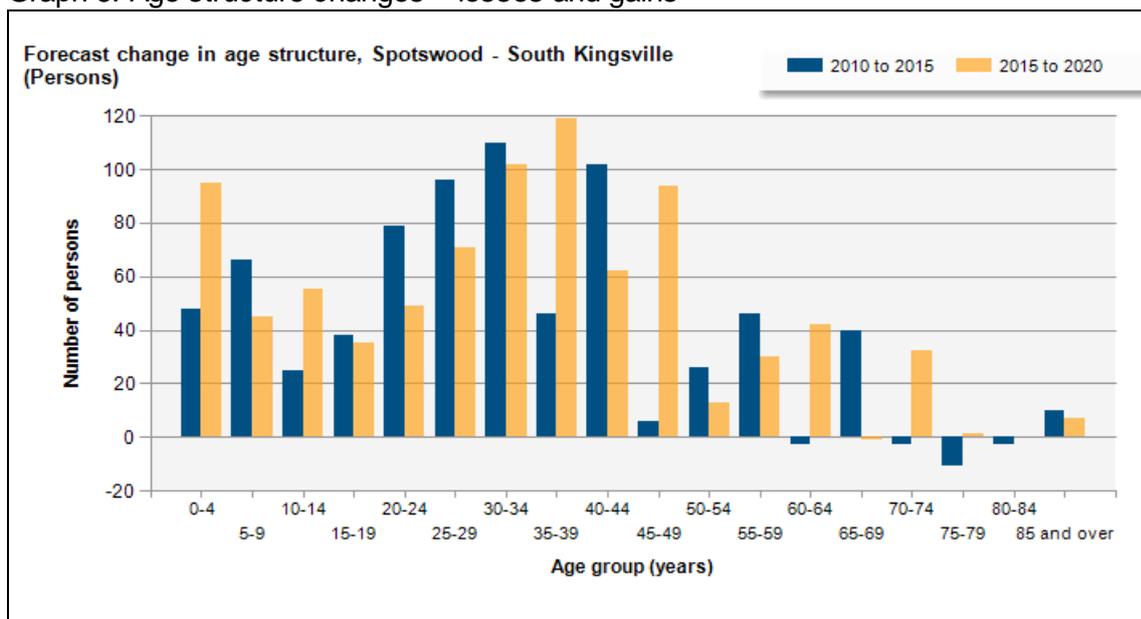
Source: id consulting, forecast data <http://forecast2.id.com.au/default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Graph 6 indicates where the future gains and losses within each age group are likely. Between 2010 and 2015, the largest growth is expected to be among those aged 20 to 34 years and 40 to 44 years. Looking to 2020, these age groups are likely to keep increasing, although not to the same extent.

As a result of the increase in the number of young couples attracted to the neighbourhood, a substantial lift in the number of young children aged 0-4 years is anticipated after 2015. The number of people aged 45 and 49 years is also likely to increase after 2015, suggesting that the younger families who arrived between 2010 and 2015 are expected to remain in the neighbourhood.

In the graph below, there is also evidence of ageing in place, particularly among the 55-59 age group which is expected to increase between 2010 and 2015. By 2015 to 2020, this group will be aged 60-64 years and the earlier increase in number is still apparent in the graph.

Graph 6: Age structure changes – losses and gains



Source: id consulting, forecast data <http://forecast2.id.com.au/default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Households

Along with an expected growth in the population, the number of households in Spotswood and South Kingsville is forecast increase by approximately 610, with dwelling numbers increasing by 640.

Against the municipal trend of decreasing household sizes, the average household size in the neighbourhood is expected to increase from 2.37 to 2.42 by 2020. This supports the prediction that these new households will be made up of younger families.

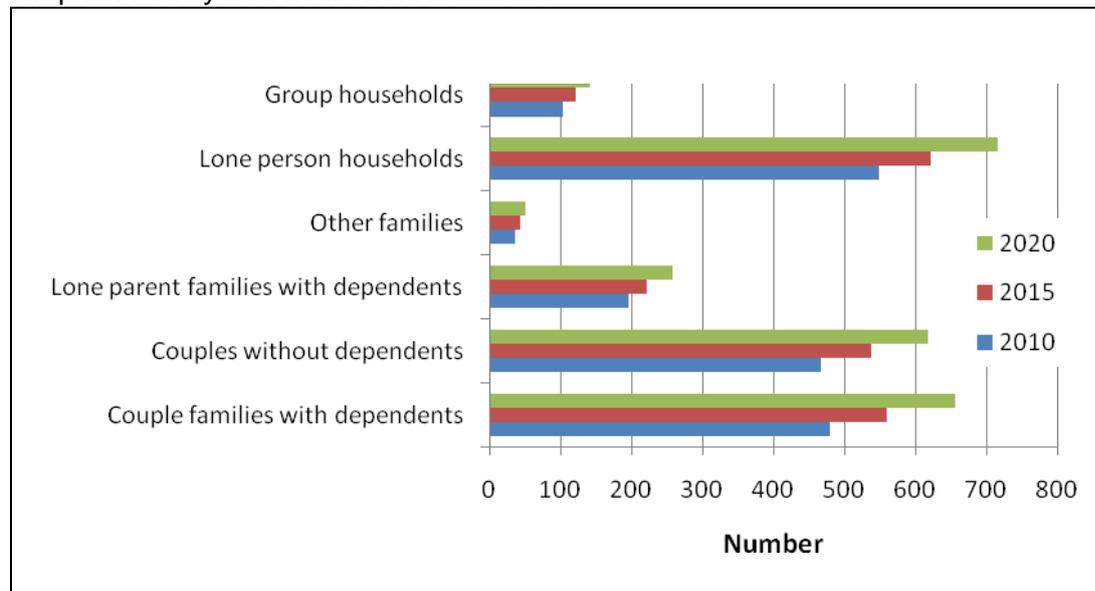
Table 35: Households and dwellings

	2010	2015	2020
Households	1,827	2,105	2,437
Dwellings	1,918	2,209	2,558
Average household size	2.37	2.40	2.42

Source: id consulting, forecast data <http://forecast2.id.com.au/default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Graph 7 indicates that over the next decade, all household types are forecast to increase. Lone person households are expected to remain the most common household type. Couple and lone parent families are both expected to increase, as are couples without dependents.

Graph 7: Family and household forecasts



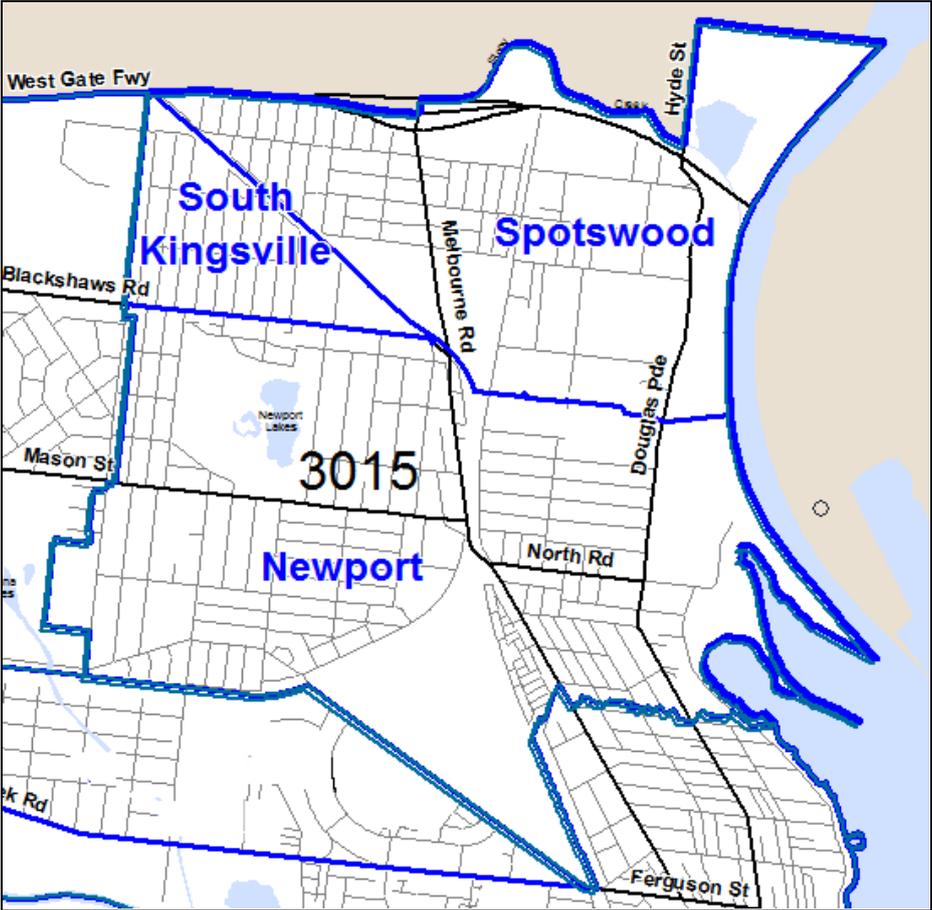
Source: id consulting, forecast data <http://forecast2.id.com.au/default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Please note:

All Census data used in this section of the profile has been collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and tailored by *id consulting* for Hobsons Bay City Council.

DISCLAIMER

Every care has been taken to ensure the information in this document is correct. However, Hobsons Bay City Council does not accept any liability to any person or organisation for the information (or the use of such information) provided in this document.





Spotswood and South Kingsville Consultations

A. Introduction

The Spotswood and South Kingsville Profile is intended to provide an overview of the history and development of the area, some data about the characteristics of residents and information about the types of services and facilities available in the neighbourhood.

However, none of this information can describe how people feel about Spotswood and South Kingsville as a place to live, visit or work. In order to gain a better understanding of these perspectives, a number of consultations took place in late 2010.

During the consultations, several long term residents also shared their memories of living and working in Spotswood and South Kingsville and some of their comments are included towards the end of this consultation section.

B. Methodology

The consultations methods used to develop this section included a mixture of focus groups and individual interviews.

In order to ensure a variety of views were heard, participants were drawn from a range of age groups. Each session lasted for approximately one hour.

Face to face interviews were conducted with two parents and a business owner. In addition, three focus groups were conducted involving:

- Two separate sessions with participants in activity groups at the South Kingsville Community Centre
- One session with Grades 5 and 6 students from Spotswood Primary School.

The questions used in the consultations are included in Appendix 1.

C. Summary

The following notes are a summary of the comments of the participants in the consultation and are framed around the questions that were asked.

How would you describe Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Overwhelmingly, the participants in the consultations spoke in positive terms about their neighbourhood. It became clear, particularly among the adults who were interviewed, that they see Spotswood and South Kingsville as two distinct and separate areas to which they have strong allegiances.

(The decision to combine Spotswood and South Kingsville into one neighbourhood profile was primarily taken because the populations in each suburb are relatively small.)

One participant talked about the history of the neighbourhood with its mix of housing and industrial areas and said, “It has got an old soul. It’s a bit of a funny little suburb. It’s not very big. It’s kind of just there. It’s a bit tucked away and no one really knows where it is.” This description of the neighbourhood as feeling undiscovered was also raised by another person who commented, “It feels like a little hidden gem I guess”.



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Chimney stack in Spotswood

The neighbourhood’s central location was commonly mentioned when people were asked to describe the area. “It’s kind of like living in suburbia but close to the city. You don’t feel constrained by the things about a city. It’s still really leafy and green, yet you’re still really close to everything.”

Spotswood and South Kingsville was described as an affordable place by several groups of people. A business owner, who had initially looked for premises in Yarraville, was forced to look further afield due to the high rents. “We chose this area because it was cheap. Despite the fact that the location wasn’t great our gut feeling and the timing felt right. We knew the street would time to get to where Yarraville was but you could see that it would happen because Yarraville had priced itself out of the market. There were great houses here with big blocks and so the whole demographic was changing.”

Affordability was also the term residents used when talking about why they had chosen to buy in the neighbourhood. “Price was a big factor. We started looking and, you know, you think you want to live in Williamstown but you can’t afford it so you come back a few suburbs.” However, people noted that recent rises in house prices were starting to have an effect on what had traditionally been a working class neighbourhood. “Because we keep our eye on the property market we’ve been to a few of auctions and you see people from the eastern suburbs and they’re selling a small two bedroom house and buying a four or three bedroom house in Spotswood. They realise it’s not bad here and they’re saving money.”

What makes it a good place to live and work?

A positive characteristic of Spotswood and South Kingsville that was regularly noted by participants in the consultation was the friendliness of the people. Knowing their neighbours gave people a sense of being welcomed and of belonging, something that newer residents said had been missing in places they had previously lived. One relative newcomer commented, “I love that I know my neighbours - that I can pop over and chat to them if I want to. I’ve never had that in the city before... [Being a new parent] I am around a lot more than I’ve ever been. I’m also at a bit of a different stage in my life because I’m not going out as much. So there’s more opportunity to meet the neighbours. There are other kids in the street which is also nice.” Long term residents appreciated the enduring friendships that began

when their now adult children attended Spotswood Primary School, many of which they had maintained.

The importance of being part of a community was also raised as something older people enjoyed about living in Spotswood and South Kingsville. As one resident put it, “The area is still a community even though the demographics have changed. Even now when anyone gets into trouble there is always someone there to help you.” This view was supported by a local business owner who laughingly said, “Everybody knows everybody here. There is no way that I could walk to the health centre without getting waylaid and having a ten minute conversation with someone. It’s not six degrees of separation – it’s three degrees”.

Perhaps not surprisingly, school was often central to how students at the Spotswood Primary School felt about the neighbourhood. The fact that they liked school had a big influence on how they felt about the area. The children liked the close proximity of home to school and that their friendships spilled across the two. “Everybody goes here, so you know everyone and school is fun”. Another benefit of living close to the school for one student was being able to stay in bed till the last minute! According to one student, “It’s good because the school is small so we get more opportunities, more events and the Western Bulldogs [football players] players come to our school”.

Living in a well located area was an important feature for adults. Some valued that they lived near the freeway and that it was “easy to get everywhere”. Others enjoyed that “it’s a quiet little area but still close to lots of exciting things – it has a lot to offer...it’s just a quick stroll to the main street where you have access to things like a grocery store. There’s everything that you could ever want in an emergency.” This view was confirmed by another resident who appreciated that “we’re close to the city, we’re close to the bay and we can get everywhere easily. Friends and family come from interstate and we’re close to the airport.”

In terms of the local character of Spotswood and South Kingsville, people talked positively about the history of the area and the “new cafes, new shops – it’s changing for the good. There’s lots of new young families. And I like the old industrial heritage that Spotswood and those surrounding suburbs bring. It’s got a working class history and I like that.”

Others enjoyed the their character of their immediate vicinity. In the words of one relatively new resident, “this house came up and one of the biggest appeals was that it’s across the road from a dog park and we have a dog... The streets are nice – there’s lots of trees. The houses are individual – they’re all different and there’s no estates. And that it’s quiet. With a baby, having a quiet street is important. There’s no way that I’d want to live close to a main street with kids.”



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student,
The Spotswood Tree

An older resident’s was very forthright in what she enjoyed about living in the neighbourhood. “It’s bloody brilliant, beautiful. I wouldn’t live anywhere else. I have trees planted all around [my house] and I just bought another one at the Spotswood Primary School fete. It’s like an English country garden and it was all planted by me. It’s all drought resistant. We don’t need Toorak ...I wouldn’t go anywhere else.”

What things do you do locally and what facilities do you use

When asked about the types of local services and facilities they use, it was very common for people to mention that they were lucky to be able to access most of what they needed locally. That said, 'local' sometimes extended a little beyond the neighbourhood into other parts of the municipality or in nearby Yarraville.

Almost all people who participated in the consultations mentioned using the Health Cooperative in South Kingsville. A new resident spoke about her experience when she first moved to the neighbourhood. "A friend told me there was a great health co-op here and that's how I got into it and it is fantastic the way the health co-op works. I had no difficulties getting an appointment when I was pregnant and my partner also goes there. Occasionally, I've had to wait to get a general appointment but in emergencies they are very accommodating." Older residents also acknowledged the good service they received. "If I'm not well and my daughter isn't available to take me, the doctor will visit me at home." However, a long term resident noted that the number of doctors in the area had declined and that "the doctors here are booked or have closed their books off".

Another health service used by a new parent was the Maternal and Child Health Centre in South Kingsville. "It's really nice being so close. The service is friendly and very professional staff. The MCH advised about a new playgroup starting and asked if I would like to come along. We still meet weekly – it's been a really good support actually." A number of people also mentioned that they have a local dentist, although for specialist services they tended to go to Williamstown.

In terms of shopping, most residents tended to go to other areas to do their larger weekly shopping and to buy clothing. Some people used the grocery shops in the neighbourhood but generally "only if I needed something, because it's a bit more expensive". Nevertheless, a local business owner observed that "about 75% [of customers] are local and lots of our business comes by word of mouth. That's another thing about being part of a real local community".



Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Hudson Road shopping precinct

People also patronised enjoyed the local cafes and liked the fact that more were opening. "Having all the new cafes popping up is quite good for us – in Yarraville, Williamstown and even now Spotswood." Children also mentioned the cafes with their parents.



Along with using the services of local hair dresser, one resident talked enthusiastically about doing sewing classes in South Kingsville which provided the opportunity to socialise. “In the class ... I learnt so much about the history of the street and who the neighbours are – it was really nice.”

Older residents valued having the community centre and spoke about the enjoyment of the opportunity it provided for them to have regular catch-ups. “I look forward to coming here every week. There’s people around my age and it’s company. I’m out of the house and have people to talk to. If the family says to me ‘what day do you want to go somewhere?’ I say any day but Wednesday - Wednesday’s booked. I just love it. I’ve been coming here for 20 years.” In addition, the Council library service has weekly visits the centre and which greatly assisted older residents, especially those that weren’t mobile.

Open spaces and parks, in the local area or nearby suburbs, were also widely used. One resident who lived opposite a large park said that it had been a factor in the decision to buy their house. “We’re big dog walkers and we use a lot of the outdoor facilities more than anything – the park across the road, Newport Lakes, the Williamstown dog beach, just walking the dog down to the cafe. We know all the dogs’ names in the neighbourhood although we might not know the owners’ names.”

McLean Reserve is the largest sportsground in the neighbourhood and is well used by children who play sports in cricket and football teams. They also use the reserve for informal play, to practice soccer. Some spoke about using the skate ramp, although they commented that it was in need of repair.

Adults who often worked full-time or were caring for young children spoke about having limited time to play sport. “We’ve been big in sporting clubs [in the past] but since moving to Melbourne it just hasn’t been a priority. My husband likes to play golf so he’s talking about joining a club. We are planning to join some clubs so we so we can actually start to connect with a wider network of people.”

As mentioned earlier, the consultations for this profile revealed people’s strong affiliations and loyalties and their sense of Spotswood and South Kingsville being two quite distinct areas. This was particularly evident among the adult participants when they were asked about local services and shops they used. If they lived in South Kingsville, the main reasons for visiting Spotswood centred on the cafes or socialising and the reverse applied if they lived in Spotswood. According to a South Kingsville resident “I don’t ever go shopping there [in Spotswood] so I wouldn’t say it’s a place I go. I catch the train there occasionally but it’s more likely if I’ve got someone to see there or we want to go to a cafe.”

What things do you regularly do outside the neighbourhood?

Involvement in sport and exercise were among the most common activities taking people outside the Spotswood and South Kingsville neighbourhood. The swimming pool in nearby Altona North was used by a cross section of children and adults. Quite a few used the municipal pool in Altona North, although said its popularity meant that it was very busy. “I use the pool a lot, at least once a week, mostly to take the baby. He does a swimming lesson there but I also use pool for own personal fitness. Normally it’s not too busy when the baby goes to classes but recently I went on a Saturday morning and I don’t think I’d ever do it again. It was chaotic but I guess it’s good that it’s so popular.” A similar view was expressed by another resident. “It already needs to be expanded; it’s already full. I mean it’s great that it gets used but by the time the kids have their swimming classes...it’s like they need another



pool out the back for lap swimming.” Several young children also used pools in Maribyrnong including the municipal pool at Highpoint and the pool at Victoria University.

There were only a couple of people who mentioned going to the beach and other bayside activities which was somewhat surprising given the proximity of the bay. “We use the beach but we tend to stay at the Newport end because the main beach gets so busy and we usually have the dog with us.” Others enjoyed the paths that skirt the bay. “We use a lot of the bike paths, especially around the warmies area. There’s a good bike trail and we use that a lot especially in summer, mostly just to ride rather than riding somewhere.”

Quite a few of the school children talked about the formal sports they are involved in outside the neighbourhood. Soccer was popular with both boys and girls, but particularly the girls who play for a Yarraville club. Other sports they participated in included hockey, also in Yarraville, athletics at the Newport Track and gymnastics in Footscray. One boy lamented the closure of squash courts in Altona North and of having to go to courts outside of Hobsons Bay.

Libraries were another service that people use in areas outside of Spotswood and South Kingsville, mainly Newport and Altona North. “I use the library heaps. I probably use Newport mostly to drop things off, but to choose things I use the new one at Altona North. But I’ve been to all of them.” One new parent who had previously worked full time said that although she and her partner had not used the local libraries “I value having them. It’s just that at this time in my life it’s not a priority [to use them] but I like the idea of being able to do things that are free”.

In some instances, people travelled to health services such as dentists that were close to work or in areas where they used to live. Older residents said that they used a number of the specialist services in Williamstown, especially the podiatrist. This was a service that was especially important among this age group and one that they said was in short supply.

In relation to shopping, people mostly went to Altona Gate and also Williamstown, Yarraville and the Circle in Altona North. One long time resident said about the Circle, “It’s got everything. It’s how here [South Kingsville] used to be. The only thing not there is a dress shop. Altona Gate has a bit more variety and clothing.” Older residents spoke about being picked up by their adult children and taken to shop, often at Altona Gate. “My daughter takes me there on a Friday – not only to shop but to chat to the old fogies!” Young people said they preferred to shop at Highpoint because it had a better range of goods, particularly clothing.

Entertainment was an activity that took children to other areas. They commonly went to see films at the Sun Theatre in Yarraville and a few went further afield to theatres at Highpoint and Sunshine, in order to see a film.

How do you get about the neighbourhood?

A broad range of transport options were used by Spotswood and South Kingsville residents, often depending on their life stage.

One older resident who was still very independent spoke about the different modes of transport she used. “I’ve got a little green mini and that takes me everywhere” although she had used the bus service. “I only used the local bus service when I had hip and knee surgery. The gentleman on the bus used to help me up and down”. Many older residents are car dependant, transported by their children or friends and sometimes taxis. Some discussed



their concern about the parking problems at places like Altona Gate, complaining that there are only three disability parking spaces. A separate but related parking concern was that “there’s no drop off points for the bus [Altona Gate] there so the senior citz bus can’t go there.”

A number of older residents who were generally intermittent users of public transport felt it did not cater to their needs. Some residents were no longer able to drive and they talked about problems when getting on and off the buses, especially those with mobility problems. Others had issues with the type of service on offer. “We have a huge bus and we don’t need it. I’d prefer a smaller bus that can come up and down the streets. They [streets] are too narrow and made worse by cars parked on the street.” They mentioned bus routes being indirect and taking too long. “The Altona Gate bus takes you on the scenic route. Also the connections are poor so people tend to walk”.

Older residents also walked regularly, to go shopping or just to get out and about. Despite having extremely limited eyesight, a very elderly woman said “I go for a walk every day. I’ve got my white stick...If you can get out it’s better than sitting home and feeling sorry for yourself.” But walking was not without its hazards and one person was concerned about the footpaths at the Spotswood shopping centre. “They put the pavers down and they’re dangerous. They’re not even and I fell on them.” Others said that in some streets the footpaths were only on one side which made it difficult for them, but that the standard of paths was generally okay.

The transport options used by younger adults varied. Speaking about a preference for car travel, one resident said, “I’m not really a big public transport user. I like the convenience of driving. Not sure if it’s because I grew up interstate and public transport wasn’t great there so using it is not a habit. But I value the fact that I live near the train and I have that option...If I worked in the city I’d use the train.” On the flip side, another person preferred to walk or ride where possible.” We walk to lots of places and it will be good when the new shopping centre (in Melbourne Road, Spotswood) opens so I can walk there rather than drive. We also have bikes so we often do the ride along Newport and into Willie.” The impact of having children had changed the travel patterns of one new parent who needed greater flexibility than public transport could provide. “I used to catch the train every single day [to work] but now that the baby gets dropped to childcare it’s too hard.”

When asked how they got to school and around the local area, children mostly walked and rode scooters and bikes. Only one student in a fairly large focus group said they came to school by car, “but only on wet days”. Despite the school being located on busy Melbourne Road, they were confident about navigating their way and crossed at the supervised traffic lights. However, they also indicated that they preferred to ride their bikes and scooters on the footpath when they were on busy roads.

Proximity to public transport was extremely important for people in the hospitality business. A South Kingsville owner commented that “if the Council said ‘you can have whatever you want’, I’d have a train station. Everyone [customers] rings us and asks ‘where’s the closest station?’ and it’s Spottie [railway station] and that’s quite a hike. The bus route has just been changed because Vernon St is a nightmare for parking – so public transport would be fabulous.”

What would make it a better place to live and work?

Some residents were keen for an increased number and range of shops in the neighbourhood. They did however note that things were starting to improve. “A local shopping strip would be nice in Spotswood and I think that’s starting to develop. I always complain that buying an onion on the way home from work is really difficult, although South Kingsville now has a little grocery shop in Vernon St which is really good...There’s an IGA around the corner but it doesn’t open till 8.30am so for people that work.... so we tend to shop in surrounding suburbs.”

While there are now a number of cafes spread across the neighbourhood’s two shopping precincts, some residents mentioned that they weren’t open at night. “There’s lots of cheap and cheerful places and lots of really good breakfast places and cafes. But the area lets itself down... So when people come to visit we don’t go out for dinner. I think that will start to improve, some of the local cafes will probably push that stuff to start happening. It would be nice to have a couple of local places that aren’t in Yarraville but Vernon Street is starting to become alive.”

On one hand people said they enjoyed the changes that were happening but were conscious of the impact of gentrification and the potential to lose what attracted people to live in the neighbourhood. “I guess it’s kind of a tricky one because I’d love to see the area bloom but I don’t want to lose the diversity and the nice kind of community feel that it has. So how you can do that? It’s a mystery to me. It’s still a bit undiscovered and very close to Melbourne so it won’t be undiscovered forever. It’s kind of what happened to Williamstown, it feels so different now and not as nice as it used to be.”

From a business perspective, one owner spoke about the challenges of running a business in an area that was off the beaten track. “It’s still hard work. We’d be doing three times as well if we were in Yarraville. There is no passing traffic here. You come here for a reason – you wouldn’t just know we were here. The best thing that could happen is if someone opened a couple of retail shops and a post office. This street would just never look back.” The neighbourhood’s parking limits were also seen to be a barrier for businesses such as cafes. “Unrestricted parking would be good – 2 hour parking is ridiculous down here.”

Busy roads and the freight and passenger rail lines contributed to the noise and physical disruption for residents. Some people were unhappy about the rise in the level of road traffic, particularly trucks. Children also expressed a dislike for the road traffic saying there were “too many cars going down Melbourne Road” and “lots of noisy trucks”. In addition, older residents felt that a proposed retail development on Melbourne Road, whilst likely to improve shopping, would increase traffic on already busy main roads and surrounding streets.

In relation to road traffic management, people mentioned a state government proposal to change truck access off Westgate Freeway that may impact on users of McLean Reserve. A regular user of the park commented that “the whole redevelopment of the Westgate Freeway is important for us because it will affect the park. While it won’t impact on us staying in the suburb, I just hope it won’t impact on the way we use the park and the way others use it.”

People also about the affect of the rail lines that separate the neighbourhood. Both children and adults mentioned the noise from the freight line, especially at night. People also talked about the frustration of manoeuvring around the physical barrier of the lines. “With the rail, there’s just two crossing spots and sometimes it can just get too hard. You know, you just



want to get to there but you've got to go all the way around [if the gates are closed]. In the words of one young student "having to wait for the trains to cross is annoying."

As mentioned earlier, most people spoke positively about their access to services in the neighbourhood. However, podiatrists are a specialist service that older people said was in short supply. Those who were relatively housebound talked about the difficulty of finding a podiatrist who made home visits.

Finding a childcare has been a concern for parents of young children. "Childcare has been a nightmare...we've been on a wait list at our preferred centre for about 10 months. It's been hard and can be really stressful. I'd like a childcare attached to a kinder if possible to help with the logistics of working." Another new parent who is planning to return to work commented that "childcare will be an interesting one because I've just started putting my name down. But there isn't really any in Spotswood so I've put my name down in Altona, Williamstown and Newport".

Children felt there was room for improvement at the neighbourhoods recreational reserves. Those who skated at the half pipe in McLean Reserve wanted it to be upgraded and preferably would like a new skate park. There were a number of issues raised by children about the municipal pool in Altona North, as mentioned earlier this was mainly to do with overcrowding. One student said that, "Bayfit is always packed". Others wanted the pool to have "things [for kids] to do – a water slide and diving board".

Several housing issues emerged during the consultation. There was concern about the type of new housing development in the neighbourhood was not uncommon. There was a general dislike among older residents about higher density housing and for them, more housing meant more traffic and a lack of parking. Some also spoke of the loss of the original houses and their replacement with units and town houses that "all look the same".

While some residents had mentioned that housing affordability had attracted them to the neighbourhood, there was a general feeling that this was changing. One newer resident commented that "the cost of housing has definitely gone up since we moved in. I wouldn't want to be buying now". Older residents spoke about their children having to move to find housing. "Our kids? There's none left here. Who could afford to buy here? So many did a massive exodus to Hoppers Crossing and now they're going to Point Cook."

More generally, there was mention that the overall appearance of the neighbourhood needed 'a lift'. "It's been a bit forgotten. It could have a bit more beautification. It's still got the edges of the forgotten suburb. Vernon St could be much better than it is. The general standard is a bit run down...but things are starting to change."

Do you plan to stay in Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Throughout the consultation, people expressed a strong sense of connection with Spotswood and South Kingsville. This was confirmed when people were asked if they planned to continue living or working in the neighbourhood for the foreseeable future.

One lifelong resident put it succinctly, "I think South Kingsville is great. I'll be leaving here in a box." An older resident said it depended on her capacity to care for herself at home. "If it came to the push, I would have to go to a home but would like that to be in the area. If I get too much for the kids that's what I want to happen but I'm still pretty independent. I want to do that for as long as I can."

A newer resident, having recently started a family, said that they planned to stay in the area although that may mean moving to a bigger house in a few years. “We love living in the west and really like this area. You know when you’re somewhere and it just feels right? I feel like that – it just works for me. It’s not overly pretentious.”

Reflecting on the future of their business, an owner said that they were committed to staying for at least another three years. With the business now established and benefiting from the recent influx of new residents, the owner commented about the “change that has the potential to expand the number of customers. But we need some more businesses to open here. They’ll be sorry if they don’t come in now because they’ll miss out.”



*Source: Spotswood Primary School Student
Industrial site in Spotswood*

Children also offered some interesting observations about the future. A number of them mentioned that their homes were being renovated or had recently been renovated, giving them a sense that their parents were not planning to move soon.

Most children indicated they would be going to local secondary schools. Several thought that they would probably be moving as they would be enrolled in schools that were some distance away.

Traffic emerged as an issue that might cause people to move. Quite a few were worried about increased traffic, particularly in relation to the Westgate Freeway. “The freeway changes will make a difference. In terms of access for trucks it will make a difference – no doubt about it. And I guess where we live, I know it’s a semi industrial area and it’s likely to change, but if it got more industrial or noticeably more trucks then I would think about moving further out for health reasons.”

Residents’ memories

The contributions of older residents to this consultation highlight the physical and environmental changes that have occurred in the area, with many of them having grown up in Spotswood and South Kingsville.

The spoke about what the area was like before the Westgate Bridge was built and how “Stony Creek used to be the divider between South Kingsville and Yarraville...and we had the punt across Stony Creek.”

People remembered playing down along Stony Creek and seeing platypuses in the water. For some families who were struggling to make ends meet, Stony Creek was a source of food. “We were very poor because dad was a very sick man after the WWI and he used to



take us eeling [at the creek]. He'd lay his big trench coat out and wrap us three little kids. He had a bell [on the line] and every time he got a bite the bell would ring and we'd get the eels and that would feed us."

(It is interesting to note that older residents were the only participants in the consultation who mentioned Stony Creek and the role it played in their daily lives.)

People remembered the collapse of the Westgate Bridge and about the worry for people they knew who were working on the bridge. Unable to comprehend what had happened, one resident recalled "I was there when the bridge fell down. I was at the gully trap shaving my legs! We heard this big bang and there was just one big ball of dust. The postman said 'the bridge has fallen down' and I said 'don't be stupid'."

They reflected on how they felt safe when they were growing up in the neighbourhood and that as a result they roam about freely. "I can honestly say we grew up on the streets around here. We walked the streets and knew everyone. We didn't have cars. In the summer we'd sit out the front and sing songs or play 'I Spy' and other games – people wouldn't know that now."

It's easy to forget how much the neighbourhood has changed and the observation of these residents provides wonderful insights into how Spotswood and South Kingsville used to be.

Acknowledgment

Hobsons Bay City Council would like to thank the students from Spotswood Primary School and other community members for making time to participate in this consultation.

Focus Group Questions

What's your connection with Spotswood and South Kingsville?

Local resident HB resident Work here Visitor

Other _____

1. If you were describing Spotswood and South Kingsville what are some of the area's distinctive features? (what makes it different to other places)

2. What are the things that make it a good place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- The facilities (eg parks, open space, leisure facilities)
- Access to shops; shops have what you need
- Access to services (doctors dentists etc, childcare/MCH, schools)
- Affordable housing
- Close to work
- Safe environment (walking about, after dark, in home)

3. What sort of activities do you do locally?

Prompts

- Member of club / group
- Play sport
- Socialise / meet with friends
- Volunteer
- Shop
- Work

4. What are some of the facilities you use in the local area?

Prompts

- Childcare/MCH/preschool/schools
- Sports/ recreation
- Neighbourhood
- Community centre/halls
- Seniors centre

5. What things do you regularly do outside the area eg in other parts of Hobsons Bay or beyond?

Prompts

- library
- shop
- go to school
- access services health
- Sport/leisure activities
- Catch up with friends / socialise



6. How do you normally get about the area?

Prompts

- public transport
- drive
- walk
- ride a bike)

Is it easy / safe to get about?

7. What would make it a better place to live / work / visit?

Prompts

- sport/leisure places
- meeting /socialising opportunities
- transport
- shops
- services
- safety
- work

8. Do you expect to still be living here in the next 5 years – if yes – how do you think your needs will change

- facilities
- services