**Around the Bay December**

December 14

**Strand Ward**

**The Outside Gallery exhibition now open**

Head down to The Outside Gallery in Newport to view the latest exhibition by Seaholme artist Kerrie Gottliebsen. Located in Paine Reserve, next to the Newport Community Hub and Newport Bowls Club, the exhibition titled *Greetings from Hobsons Bay* features a mix of digital illustrations and photography showcasing lesser-known destinations and much-loved industrial and natural landmarks. The vintage-influenced designs evoke pride, curiosity and nostalgia for Melbourne’s western suburbs and will be exhibited until February 2023.

**Burgoyne Reserve public toilet**

The new public toilet block at Burgoyne Reserve in Williamstown is complete. Located on the waterfront, it includes two unisex, one ambulant and an accessible toilet, and has been designed with public safety in mind.

**Newport Lakes arboretum upgrade**

The Newport Lakes arboretum has been revamped with arboricultural works on the tree collection, new mulch and path improvements. The arboretum, located between Pavey Park and the north-west plain of Newport Lakes Reserve, is a small and cultivated garden featuring rare species of plants. Please note that dogs must be on-leash in this area.

**New Year's Eve road closures**

Please note there will be road closures in Williamstown on New Year's Eve along The Strand and Ferguson Place. For details, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/roads](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/roads)

**Cherry Lake**

**New art installation**

Altona’s GH Ransom Reserve has an exciting new temporary artwork by local artist Carlos Almenar Diaz. Titled *A visual journey in chromatic rhythms*, the public art is inspired by native flora in Hobsons Bay, the wildflowers of the western volcanic plains, and the wetlands’ saltmarshes. As part of the project, local primary school students took part in workshops to create their own pieces which were exhibited at the Newport Community Hub and Woods Street Arts Space. The project is supported through Council’s creative industries Community Support Package - New Art Stream.

**Hosken Reserve dog off-leash area open**

Hobsons Bay’s newest dog off-leash area is open! The fenced off area for dogs to run around off-leash is part of the Hosken Reserve redevelopment in Altona North. Upgrades onsite also include a new adventure playground, fitness equipment, multi-use court with a basketball hoop, BBQ area, shelter and footpath networks. The project was jointly funded by Council and the West Gate Neighbourhood Fund through the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek.

**Pier Street reopens**

Pier Street, Altona, has reopened to traffic following the streetscape upgrade. The new and improved street includes widened footpaths on both sides of Pier Street and a newly upgraded Weaver Reserve. The finishing touches will be completed early next year including street furniture and new trees. The new access to the Weaver Reserve car park is via Bent Street.

**Wetlands**

**Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre facelift**

Our much-loved Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre is closing from 23 December 2022 for a refurbishment. The current building, which is accessed by more than 30,000 visitors each year, and is over 17 years old, requires major refurbishment to modernise the building, allowing us to plan for some exciting new initiatives, including a new purpose-built children’s area, mixed-use events space, and our first Centre of Excellence focusing on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). The project has been made possible thanks to funding from the Victorian Government as part of the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.

**Pop-up Council+ library coming to Altona Meadows**

While the Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre is closed, you will be able to collect reserves, return items, use a public PC and ask questions about Council services at our Council+ Pop-Up Library site at Central Square Shopping Centre in Altona Meadows, opening in January 2023.

**Aviation Road shopping square revamp**

Draft concept plans to upgrade the Aviation Road shopping square in Laverton are available for feedback. As part of the Better Places Laverton program, project outcomes include enhanced streetscaping, improved road safety and prioritising pedestrians. The draft concept plans build on community feedback from earlier this year. Have your say at partici-pate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/aviation-road-masterplan

**General**

**Festive Toy Drive**

The annual Festive Toy Drive is back again this year and is your chance to support those in the Hobsons Bay community who are struggling the most. You can participate by donating new and unwrapped toys at all five Hobsons Bay Libraries until Friday 16 December. Donated toys will go to West Welcome Wagon.

**Festive opening hours**

All library and Council+ sites (including Civic Centre) will close at 12pm on Friday 23 December 2022 and will reopen on Wednesday 4 January 2023 to welcome back our community members in the new year. Library chutes will remain open during this closed festive period, for returns.

**Bin collections will continue throughout the festive season**

Waste and recycling truck drivers will continue to collect your residential bins as per the usual schedule, everyday including public holidays. Please leave your bin out before 6am on the day of collection or the evening before to ensure it’s emptied.

**Hobsons Bay youth summer jobs initiative**

Are you a young person looking for a summer job? Council’s Youth Services and Economic Development Team have joined forces to identify some great work opportunities for young people (aged 15 years+) at local businesses over the holidays. To find out more and apply, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/summerjobsinitiative](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/summerjobsinitiative)

**Pitch Your Project**

Do you have a great idea for a community project for Hobsons Bay? We’re looking for projects that will spark joy and inspire. Something that will create an even better Hobsons Bay.

Up to $50,000 is available for each selected project, with your idea delivered by Council’s team. Submissions close 23 January 2023. To submit an idea, [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/pitch-your-project-2023-24](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/pitch-your-project-2023-24)

**Economic Development Strategy – have your say**

Council is updating the Hobsons Bay Economic Development Strategy (EDS) to create a positive economic environment for businesses and people who visit, live and work in Hobsons Bay. The new EDS will identify opportunities to better support local businesses and grow and diversify the Hobsons Bay economy. Residents and local businesses can provide feedback at www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Do-Business/Economic-Development-Strategy.

**Tree giveaways**

This year, Council has given away over 3,150 trees to residents to plant in their gardens. These trees will make a fantastic contribution to increasing the canopy cover (shade) in our city. Council will continue to hold tree giveaways next year when the cooler weather sets in after summer. To keep up to date on future giveaways, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/TreeGiveaways](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/TreeGiveaways)