**Around the Bay – February 2022**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

**Out and About – Better Places Brooklyn and Altona North**

Live music, food trucks and kids’ activities are coming to Brooklyn and Altona North for Out and About - two big days of family-fun on Friday 4 March, 5pm to 9pm at Paisley Park, Altona North and Saturday 5 March, 11am to 3pm at Brooklyn Reserve. Save the date and register for the free event at **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/OutandAbout**

**CoastSnap – Citizen Science project**

A new CoastSnap photo post is being installed at Altona Beach near Correa Street over the coming weeks. The post will enable visitors to take photos with their phones to help track changes to our coast. The project will help Council monitor changes to the shoreline including the conservation area looking towards the mouth of Laverton Creek. Visit **www.coastsnap.com** to download the CoastSnap app and participate.

**Improving road safety in Harrington Street**

Following community requests and on-site assessment, the existing rubber speed cushions on Harrington Street will be upgraded to three sets of asphalt speed cushions, between Karingal Street and Grieve Parade. Works are scheduled for late-February to early-March.

**Strand Ward**

**Williamstown Activity Centre toilets**

Works have kicked off to build new toilets at Burgoyne Reserve at Williamstown’s water edge with the existing public toilet block demolished. Temporary fencing has been placed around the work site and temporary toilets are onsite for the public to use. It is anticipated the new toilets will take approximately eight weeks to construct.

**Dennis Reserve multipurpose facility**

Have your say on the plans for the new multipurpose facility at Dennis Reserve and nominate a name for the facility. The concept plans have been developed in consultation with existing users of the Williamstown Seniors Building, the Williamstown Central Tennis Club and three independent community members. Feedback closes Thursday 3 March. Ask a question at the online drop-in session on Monday 21 February between 6.30pm and 8pm. For more information, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/dennis**

**Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework**

Keep an eye out for the Williamstown Maritime Precinct Framework which the state government is expected to release soon. The draft framework is available on the Department of Transport website and the final document will build on feedback from the community. For details, visit **engage.vic.gov.au/williamstown-maritime-precinct**

**Wetlands Ward**

**Love Laverton Parks**

Works to revamp Dick Murdoch Reserve, Beverly Anton Reserve, Henderson Street Reserve and Bladin Street Reserve will kick off soon. Bladin Street will receive a fresh coat of paint on the play equipment and Henderson Street Reserve will receive a full park upgrade. Dick Murdoch Reserve will get a 40m-long flying fox, new playground and garden beds. Beverly Anton Reserve will be transformed with new garden beds, new seating and more trees throughout the reserve. The memorial will also be restored. Recently completed parks in Laverton include Frank Gibson Reserve (pictured) and Whittaker Avenue. For more information, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**Seabrook traffic improvements**

As part of the Safe Travel to Schools Program traffic calming works along Canonbury Circle have been completed. These works involved installation of raised platforms at the intersections of Canonbury Circle and Finnbarr Way, Tintern Court, Cintra Court and Glenelg Way.

**HD Graham Reserve upgrade**

Work on developing the HD Graham Reserve Sports Facility in Altona Meadows is progressing well. The irrigation and sportsground are nearly complete, and construction of the sports pavilion commenced late last year and is expected to be completed in September 2022. HD Graham is the gateway to Truganina Park, the 100 Steps of Federation and the Cheetham Wetlands. Visit [**www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HDGraham**](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HDGraham)

**General**

**Make It Happen!**

The Make it Happen - Hobsons Bay Recovery and Reconnection grants program provides funding to support our community to ‘make things happen’ as we learn about and adapt to the impacts experienced in our city as a result of COVID-19. Applications are open until 18 May, with monthly assessment dates. To find out more, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/grants**

**Habitat Gardens**

Calling all green thumbs! Our popular Hobsons Bay Habitat Gardens program is running again in 2022. Habitat Gardens provides Hobsons Bay residents with the opportunity to learn about the importance of using native plants in their gardens and how they can support our local wildlife. The program includes presentations from habitat gardeners, design and feedback sessions, as well as free native plants. Visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/habitatgardens**

**Last chance for Community Pitch**

Submissions close for Community Pitch on Wednesday 20 February. Funding of up to $50,000 is available for each idea and a total of $600,000 is available. Ideas can solve a problem for your local area or be initiatives that bring people together. To submit an idea, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/community-pitch-202223**

**Financially impacted by COVID-19?**

Residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19 can apply for a 25 per cent reduction of their 2021–22 rates (maximum $10,000) until the budget allocation is exhausted or 30 June 2022. For eligibility criteria and to apply visit, **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance**

**Keeping trees healthy in summer months**

Council’s arboriculture team and tree planting contractors are busy providing additional water to our recently planted trees, to help get them through summer. The mulch that is placed around the base of each new planting helps retain moisture and also provides insulation to the trees’ root systems. The majority of tree planting occurs during the cooler autumn/winter period, to give our new trees time to establish before winter. Find out more about our Urban Forest Strategy at **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UrbanForestStrategy**

**Recycling initiatives for all residents**

*Detox your home -* Safely rid your home of everyday household chemicals such as weed killer, cleaning products, old cooking oil and cosmetics at the Detox your Home event this Saturday 12 February, 9am to 1pm, at Council’s Operations Centre in Sugargum Drive, Altona. Simply register, then load your vehicle with your chemicals and drive through for contactless collection.

*Compost bins -* Don’t miss your chance to get up to 50 per cent off at-home composting systems. You can now choose from six different at-home composting products with free delivery, until 28 February 2022.

*Join the FOGO paper bag trial* - If you haven’t already, join the thousands of Hobsons Bay households trialling paper bags to contain their food waste. Council will provide a six-month supply of paper bags free of charge to all registered households to help recycle food scraps.

For information on recycling initiatives and how you can get involved, please visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Recycling**