**Around the Bay – 11 July**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

**Altona Early Years Hub info session**

Work at the Altona Early Years Hub is progressing well and the hub is on schedule to open in January 2019. The hub will offer long day care, kindergarten, maternal child health, playgroups and early intervention services. Hobsons Bay families are invited to a drop-in information session on Thursday 2 August, any time between 4pm and 6pm, at Altona P-9 College – Junior Building on Grieve Parade. Find out about the services, construction updates and enrol. Tours of the hub are on Monday 6 August between 10am and 3pm. The hub is still a construction area so places are limited. To book a tour, contact Council’s Early Years Team, phone 9932 1000 or email earlyyearsinbox@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Cherry Lake fitness stations**

Council is installing fitness equipment at Cherry Lake, Altona, as part of a pilot program to include outdoor fitness stations at parks and reserves. The new equipment will be available to use from August and is suitable for a range of fitness levels. The equipment is being installed at three locations – near the playground, at the east of the Fresno Street carpark and at the end of Sugargum Drive. For details, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/fitness. Until December, Council will collect feedback to help guide decisions about future fitness stations. Go to http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Altona Library refurbishment**

Altona Library is undergoing a refurbishment from late July until the end of September. From 23 July to 5 August there will be no library service in Altona as the entry area and meeting room space is upgraded. A smaller, temporary library will operate from the Altona Library community meeting room from Monday 6 August until work is complete. Toddler’s Wriggle and Read and preschool Story Time will temporarily relocate to the Community Meeting Space at the Altona Theatre at 115 Civic Parade. The library will reopen on Saturday 6 October with a family-friendly celebration. For more information, visit http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Strand Ward**

**Newport Structure Plan info session**

Over the past few years Council has been developing a structure plan for Newport, a long-term vision for land use changes, public spaces and buildings. The vision for Newport is to ensure new development reinforces the village scale and heritage, supports economic growth and improves accessibility. Council is now seeking community feedback on the draft Newport Structure Plan. Visit http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/projects/newport-structure-plan. Council is also hosting two drop-in information sessions at the Newport Community Hub, 13 Mason Street, Newport on Thursday, 19 July from 4pm to 7pm and Saturday 28 July from 10am to 1pm.

**Creative Tech Hub**

A hands-on, tech-savvy and interactive hub, made from shipping containers, will be created on the old Williamstown docks at Seaworks Maritime Precinct. The Creative Technology Hub is an exciting collaboration between Hobsons Bay Libraries and the Seaworks Foundation. Funded by Gandel Philanthropy and the State Government’s Living Libraries Fund, with founding project partner contributions from Toyota, Raeco, AVJennings, Tribus and Here Studio, the hub will provide new and engaging learning opportunities in creative technologies, foster experimentation, innovation, and exploration through design thinking and project-based learning. It is expected that the shipping containers will arrive early September 2018 onwards with an official Big Bang launch being planned for 2019.

**Town Hall restoration works**

Major restoration works to the Williamstown Town Hall are complete. The restoration has conserved the building’s original heritage aspects and will ensure the town hall can be enjoyed for many years to come. The restoration has been so impressive, the architects involved received a gold award at the 2018 Melbourne Design Awards. The project has also included refurbishment of the western carpark, the forecourt and Lenore Crescent road reconstruction.

**Wetlands**

**Pipeline Reserve solar lighting**

New solar lighting will be installed at Pipeline Reserve, Seabrook between Point Cook Road and Shane Avenue. The improved lighting will make the shared path safer for pedestrians, cyclists and families using the playground.

**Epsom Street**

Work is progressing on developing the former Laverton Primary School site on Epsom Street into a public open space with Council preparing to release the draft concept plan for the site in August. The draft concept plan has been developed with strong community consultation and we will need more feedback to ensure we are heading in the right direction. Two drop-in sessions to discuss the draft concept plan will be on Saturday 28 July from 2pm to 4pm onsite at Epsom Street and Wednesday 1 August from 7pm to 8.30pm at the Laverton Community Hub. Keep an eye on Council’s website, or register for updates, at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/epsomstreet

**Homestead Run Reserve**

Council is continually improving local parks and playgrounds. As part of our minor parks upgrades, Council is hosting a drop-in session on Saturday 11 August between 2pm and 4pm at Homestead Run Reserve, Truganina Avenue, Seabrook to speak to the community about improvements they would like to see at the reserve. So come along and have a chat.

**Carinza Reserve works complete**

Footpath improvement works in Carinza Reserve, Seabrook are now complete. The works have incorporated the reserve into the Skeleton Creek shared trail network to ensure a better flow for cyclists and walkers, while providing better access to the playground and views of the creek.

**General**

**Creative City - Hobsons Bay Arts and Culture Plan 2018-22**

Council has released the draft Creative City Hobsons Bay Arts and Culture Plan 2018-22 for public exhibition. The draft plan was developed using community ideas, gathered through a number of consultation workshops, meetings and a survey. The draft plan will guide Council’s investment in the arts and deliver social benefits for residents and visitors alike. It will be delivered through six program areas: Our Creative City; Creative Spaces and Places; Cultural Festivals and Events; Communities and Cultural Development; Telling Our Stories – First Nations History and Post-Colonial Heritage and Partnerships; and Advocacy and Capacity Building. Have your say on the draft plan at https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture-plan until 27 July 2018.

**National Tree Day**

Over 2,600 indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses will be planted for National Tree Day on Sunday 29 July between 10am and 1pm at Altona Coastal Park. Hobsons Bay residents, friends and family are invited to get their hands dirty and take part in the conservation project while learning about native flora and fauna and helping the environment. There will also be roving entertainment by nature loving performers and educators, The Connies, and a free barbecue lunch and coffee cart. Meet at Altona Coastal Park, Altona Road, Seaholme. Please wear suitable clothing and foot wear. Gloves, tools, equipment, watering cans and drinking water will be provided. To RSVP, please email ranger@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Startups receive kick start**

Hobsons Bay will share in $270,000 of funding through the State Government’s LaunchVic Program. #StartWest, an initiative between Wyndham, Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Hobsons Bay will encourage and educate the West’s booming startup businesses and local entrepreneurs sector. The year-long program of events will include a series of meet ups, masterclasses and a mentoring program, culminating in the #StartWest Festival. The #StartWest program will officially be launched at The Substation in Newport on Wednesday 25 July from 6pm to 8pm. To register your interest for the event, and to find out more about #StartWest, email business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or call Council’s Economic Development unit on 9932 1000.