**Around the Bay – 14 March**

Cherry Lake Ward Altona • Altona North • Brooklyn • Seaholme

**A H Ford Reserve update**

Hobsons Bay City Council recently hosted a community drop-in session at A H Ford Reserve in Altona West to gather the community’s ideas for the future use and improved development of the local community park. The park includes a playground, a full size cricket oval, seating, a number of mature shade trees and toilet block. There is still time to have your say on the plan for the reserve. Visit http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au to lodge your feedback until 30 March or fill in a survey at the reserve in a special marked mailbox. Feedback will assist Council in developing a concept plan for staged park improvements.

Life on a Plate

Hobsons Bay’s Life on a Plate (Recipes and Stories from Hobsons Bay) book will be launched on Saturday 17 March from 11.30am to 1pm at the Altona North Community Library, corner Millers and McArthurs Roads, Altona North. Thirty community members have shared their special recipes, resulting in this wonderful cookbook which will be enjoyed by the whole community. It features recipes from people of different ages, cultures, genders and generations including recipes from; Lebanon, Australia, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Burma, Malta, Germany, Italy, Vietnam, Macedonia, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Portugal, South America, Indonesia, Greece and Thailand. The Life on a Plate cookbook will be launched in conjunction with Cultural Diversity Week and will be available to purchase at all Hobsons Bay Libraries. For more information about Cultural Diversity Week activities, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Last call on Brooklyn Dog Park

There are two days remaining to have your say on the draft concept plan of the dog park at Brooklyn Reserve. The plan was drafted following extensive consultation and surveys. All feedback received has been incorporated into Council’s draft concept plan, which is now available at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au. If you have further comments on the draft plan, please email projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or contact Council on 9932 1000 by 16 March.

Strand Ward Newport • Spotswood • South Kingsville • Williamstown

Loft Reserve update

The southern oval and cricket net facility upgrade at Loft Reserve is now complete. The project has been a partnership between Council, the State Government, Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria. Temporary fencing will remain in place for 16 weeks to allow the new grassed surface to establish. The surface will be continually monitored and maintained by Council while the oval remains fenced off. We ask the community to please keep off the oval during this time to give the grass the best chance to grow.

Cultural Diversity Week

Every year in March, Cultural Diversity Week is celebrated across Victoria. Council is proud to deliver a week of fun and engaging cultural activities to encourage residents to come together, share aspects of their culture, faith and language and celebrate the benefits multiculturalism brings to our municipality. The program, which runs from 17 to 28 of March 2018, has something for everyone including; cultural games, native plant walks, food tastings, live performances, children’s activities and film screenings. Most of the events are free and family friendly. In Strand Ward, we welcome Manal Younus, a Naarm/Melbourne based freelance storyteller to spark thought and connect with those around her using poetry. Be inspired, moved and challenged as she shares her story as a Muslim with Eritrean origins living in Australia. The event is free but bookings are essential at http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au For more Cultural Diversity Week activities, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

ROAR - Samantha Lane

The AFLW season is well under way and with the Grand Final looming later this month, Hobsons Bay Libraries welcomes award-winning journalist and TV broadcaster Samantha Lane to de-brief and, most of all, acknowledge the incredible AFLW. Sam shares the real stories of this amazing league and its powerful players in her new book Roar, including insights, previously untold details behind AFLW’s birth and remarkable tales of a group of trailblazers. These are intimate stories from a band of pioneers who now have a league of their own. Come and hear her speak on Monday 26 March from 6.30pm to 7.45pm at the Newport Community Hub. Bookings: http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Wetlands Ward Altona Meadows • Laverton • Seabrook

Have your say on Aquatic Strategy

Council is working on an Aquatic Strategy for Hobsons Bay, to guide the development of our aquatic facilities for the next 10 years. We want to hear from you about the aquatic facilities you currently use and what you would like to see in the future. If you don’t use an aquatic facility, we would also like to know what the reasons or barriers are so we can help service our community better. Council owns two aquatic facilities: Bayfit Leisure Centre: Mason Street Altona North; and Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre: Jennings Street, Laverton. Furthermore, there is an outdoor pool at the Williamstown Swimming and Life Saving Club which will also be assessed as part of this project. There are three private aquatic facilities within Hobsons Bay, which are not included in this strategy. We would love to hear your thoughts on Hobsons Bay’s aquatic facilities whether you are a regular visitor of your local pool or not. Check out our survey at http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au by 9 April.

Aviation Road level crossing

The State Government has recently announced the design for the Aviation Road level crossing as a road-over-rail bridge. The Level Crossing Removal Authority is holding two drop-in community sessions to present renders, answer any questions and ask for feedback on certain design aspects. The sessions are on Saturday 17 March from 10am to 12pm and Saturday 24 March from 2pm to 4pm at the Laverton Community Hub. For details, visit yourlevelcrossing.vic.gov.au/aviation Feedback opens Friday 16 March 2018 and closes on Sunday 15 April.

Skeleton Creek Trail upgrade

Council is undertaking staged upgrade works to the Skeleton Creek Trail to improve safety and accessibility. Works involve upgrading the trail to a 3m wide concrete path between South Terrace and Labassa Way, Seabrook (Section 1) and Labassa Way to Clarendon Court, Seabrook (Section 2).The design has realigned the shared trail to meet the requirements for the one in 100 year flood zone. While works are being undertaken, the shared trail will be closed and a marked detour will be in place. The works for section 1 will start in April 2018 and will take about four weeks to complete, weather permitting. Work on Section 2 will commence immediately after Section 1 and will also take about four weeks. For details, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au holidays.

All Wards

**Event and festivals funding round open**

Council has a rich history of supporting arts, cultural, community, sporting, tourism and special interest events, contributing to experiences and opportunities across the city. Funding rounds are now open for Council’s Local Events and Festivals and Major Events Funds. Applications are open until 30 March for events taking place between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 across the city. The Local Events and Festivals Fund has up to $10,000 for events primarily attracting local audiences that enhance the quality of life of residents, celebrate local identity and culture and provide a range of community benefits including participation, wellbeing and community connections. The Major Events Fund has up to $25,000 for major events generating substantial community, tourism and economic outcomes, including visitation, and which increase the profile of the city. Short lead/small grants of up to $1,000 are also available. For details, please contact the Events Unit on 9932 1000 or email events@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

My Smart Garden

Council’s My Smart Garden program is gearing up for another year of helping residents grow their own food, shelter their home from the sun and wind, create homes for local wildlife, use water wisely and recycle wastes. Come along to the Winter Gardening workshop on Saturday 14 April from 10am to 1pm at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre or learn about Food Forests on Saturday 5 May at Seabrook Community Centre or take part in an edible garden working bee in Williamstown on Sunday 6 May. There are plenty more workshops to choose from, for details and to book, visit www.mysmartgarden.org.au