**Around the Bay 21 February**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

Altona • Altona North • Brooklyn • Seaholme

**A H Ford Reserve**

A H Ford Reserve is an important neighbourhood park that caters for the north-western residential pocket of Altona. The park includes a playground, a full size cricket oval, seating, a number of mature shade trees and toilet block. Following the closure and demolition of the kindergarten previously located on the site, Council committed to an upgrade of the site to make it a more usable space for the community to enjoy. We want to hear from you! Council is conducting a survey to gather the community’s ideas for the future use and improved development of the local community park. The survey is available at <http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au> or at the reserve in a special marked mailbox. Feedback will assist Council in developing a concept plan for staged park improvements. Council is hosting a community drop in session on Saturday 3 March from 10am to 12pm at the reserve at 14 Lindwood Avenue, Altona. For details, contact on 9932 1131 or projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Brooklyn dog park**

The results of Council’s two month consultation period on a dog park in Brooklyn are in. More than 100 responses were received with 74 per cent of respondents saying they would use a dog park at Brooklyn Reserve. Areas for dogs to run, separate spaces for smaller dogs, shade and dog drinking fountains rated as the most important features of a dog park. Eighty per cent of respondents preferred the area on the corner of Cypress Avenue and Heather Avenue as the site of the new dog park. 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 at projects@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or contact Council on 9932 1000 by 16 March.

**Altona/Seaholme Foreshore**

Come along and learn about the Altona/Seaholme Foreshore works at Council’s drop-in community information session this Saturday, 24 February from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Weaver Reserve, at the corner of Pier Street and Esplanade. Council is investing $2.3 million into the Altona / Seaholme foreshore works this financial year to upgrade beach access points and protect our foreshore. Some aspects of project design are open for feedback. Visit <http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au> for details and to tell us what you think by 28 February.

**Second Avenue upgrade**

Work on the Second Avenue shopping strip in Altona North is well under way. Work to lower the gas main is complete and attention has moved to the west side of the street with new driveways, footpaths and kerbs and channels constructed. Next month the east side of the street will be upgraded with a new footpath in front of the shops, new drainage and street furniture installed. The project will improve traffic movements and parking, accessibility and enhance the streetscape and is expected to be complete by May. Don’t forget to shop local – all your favourite shops on Second Ave are still open through the works!

**Strand Ward**

Newport • Spotswood • South Kingsville • Williamstown

**Coastal Trail upgrade**

Council’s Coastal Trail reconstruction project will widen the trail to a three metre wide concrete path, commencing at the Warmies Boat Ramp in Newport to the Newport Power Station. To ensure public safety during construction, temporary fencing will be erected. Please avoid any fenced areas and follow the temporary detour that will be in place. The works began last week and will take approximately three weeks to complete, weather permitting. For details, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/sharedtrails](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/sharedtrails)

**Going solar at the Hub**

The Newport Community Hub will have solar panels installed this month as part of Council’s commitment to zero net emissions through its Target-2265. Following works to Altona Library last year, Council is installing solar panels at several buildings, including Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre, Altona North Community Library, Laverton Hub and Williamstown Library.

**Eat Drink Westside**

Offering 30 decadent and delicious events as part of the 2018 Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, you will be spoilt for choice with what’s on offer at Eat Drink Westside. The program includes a picnic on the back lawn at Spotswood’s Quazi Design, a coffee tasting at Williamstown’s Kodama Coffee, a beer and cheese night at Spotswood’s Hudsons Road Wine and Beer or enjoy an express lunch at a discounted price at Williamstown’s Hellenic Hotel. For details, visit [www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au](http://www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au)

**Digman Reserve master plan**

Council has adopted the master plan for Digman Reserve following extensive public consultation. More than 620 people downloaded a copy of the master plan, with 66 per cent of respondents being either excited or satisfied about Council’s plan for the reserve. The final plan reflects the needs of Digman Reserve’s users, as well as those who visit the reserve for more passive activities. It is also hoped the upgrades will help address some of the demand for sport and recreation facilities within the city. For more information, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

**Quick Response Grants open**

Council is inviting groups with ideas for projects that improve the Hobsons Bay community to apply for funding of up to $5,000 through the 2018 Quick Response Grants program. Applications close 12 April but applicants are advised to apply early as submissions will close once funds are exhausted. The grants are a chance for groups to apply for funding for unexpected projects that do not fit within the Community Grants Program. For more, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

**Wetlands Ward**

Altona Meadows • Laverton • Seabrook

**Level crossing removal**

Council has considered the preliminary design options for the proposed level crossing removal at Aviation Road, Laverton that were presented by the Level Crossing Removal Authority in late 2017. Council will request to the LXRA that the designs adhere to the Council’s Level Crossing Removal Principles and Guidelines. Council has also requested the Level Crossing Removal Authority address the community’s concerns regarding the visual amenity, impacts and safe access for pedestrians and cyclists. This includes:

* inclusion of a ramp under the rail line for access north and south and onto the Aircraft Station platform
* upgrade to the existing at-grade pedestrian crossing near Balmoral Ave
* seek input from interested community groups on suitable design themes, images and interpretation options that reflect the local history, values and identity for the final design.

Planning and design for this crossing has been brought forward by LXRA with construction now likely to commence in late 2018. For more information on the Aviation Road level crossing, visit the LXRA website at <http://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au>

**Point Cook Road**

Council will also write to the State Government requesting that funding be provided in the 2018 State budget for the Point Cook Road/Princes Freeway interchange upgrade and for an upgrade of the Aircraft Station and surrounds and that these projects be coordinated with the proposed level crossing removal at Aviation Road, Laverton to provide a significantly superior outcome for the precinct.

**Reserves upgrade update**

Tenders are now out for the upgrades of Tatman Reserve, Altona Meadows, Woods Street Reserve, Laverton, RK Richards Reserve and Altona Meadows. Work is scheduled to start in mid April. To view each of the concept designs, visit <http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au>

**Woods Street Arts Space**

The latest program of events and workshops at Woods Street Arts Space is now available. Take part in workshops for children, music and dance sessions, ceramics, school holiday programs, public art projects and community activities. It’s an action packed schedule, check it out at [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)