**Around the Bay - 8 August 2018**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

Kororoit Creek Shared Trail viewing platform

Council has received a request from the community to name the viewing platform along the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail that is currently under construction. The Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek has requested Geoff Mitchelmore and his work along the creek be recognised. Council is seeking community feedback on the proposed naming of this viewing platform. To have your say, visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ Community feedback is welcome until Friday 17 August.

Permablitz Altona!

Council’s My Smart Garden program is inviting the community to transform an Altona backyard into a productive permaculture garden that will grow food for community organisations! This hands-on event will include mini-workshops, a delicious lunch and plenty of festivities. It is on Sunday 9 September from 10am to 4pm (location details will be provided upon booking). The event is free but bookings are essential. To book, and for details, visit www.mysmartgarden.org.au

A.H. Ford Reserve

Following engagement with the local community in March, Council has developed a concept plan for A.H. Ford Reserve. Council’s plan addresses the features the community values in the park, such as the playground being in a similar location, retaining the cricket oval and goal posts, the development of an open picnic shelter seating area, the inclusion of a circuit path and access through to Belmar Avenue. In addition, Council has identified approximate locations for the development of a community garden. Council is holding a second community drop-in session at the reserve on Saturday 18 August from 10am to 12pm to talk through the concept plan and the proposed community garden. Come along and discuss your ideas and questions about the concept plan. Enjoy a coffee on us (BYO cup), meet your neighbours, and offer your suggestions. For details, visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/

**Strand Ward**

Mayoral Walk at Newport Lake

Discover the hidden gem of Newport Lakes Reserve and learn about the native flora and fauna with Mayor Councillor Angela Altair on Saturday 11 August at 10am. As part of Cr Altair’s Mayoral Program, Council in partnership with Friends of Newport Lakes, invites the community on a guided walking tour through Newport Lakes Reserve. Council’s conservation rangers will be available to answer questions about the local wildlife. Tea and coffee will be provided. Meet at the Newport Lakes carpark off Mason Street. Register at ranger@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Have your say on the future of Newport

Council has released its draft Newport Structure Plan to guide planning and future development for the area and now the community can have its say. The draft plan aims to ensure Newport maintains its village charm while still encouraging the right growth and supporting the local economy. The draft Newport Structure Plan will help Council in allocating future funding, providing community services, as well as issuing future planning permits. It is important to get it right, particularly when it comes to identifying potential opportunities and improvements in the area. Council is inviting the community to have its say at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/draft-newport-structure-plan or visit a Hobsons Bay Libraries branch to access a Participate touch point. All feedback must be received by 5pm on Friday 24 August.

Fact vs fiction

Does science influence, inspire and shape science fiction or does science fiction influence, inspire and shape science? To celebrate National Science Week, Hobsons Bay Libraries is hosting renowned science fiction author Isobelle Carmody and CSIRO Senior Economic Adviser Dr Katherine Wynn to share their very different perspectives, from art and science, at the Newport Community Hub on Wednesday 15 August, 6.15pm to 7.30pm. The event is free to attend but registrations are required. For more information and for registrations, visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Wetlands Ward**

**Funding win for affordable housing**

Council is a step closer to potentially delivering its first affordable housing project in Laverton thanks to a successful State Government grant. Council will receive $140,000 as part of the Social Housing Investment Planning Grant Program to go towards a feasibility study of an affordable housing project at Epsom Street, Laverton. Over the next 12 months, Council will engage experts to further investigate how best to deliver this project for the benefit of our community. Housing is a key issue for our community and providing affordable options is one of Council’s commitments under the Hobsons Bay Affordable Housing Policy Statement. Council will continue to advocate to the State and Federal Governments to provide more social housing, and to put in reforms to enable local councils, developers and housing associations to increase affordable housing in our community.

Woods Street Arts Space

Woods Street Arts Space’s forthcoming spring program, includes children’s creative workshops and an exciting Melbourne Fringe Festival collaboration in September just for kids. Programs are either low cost or free. Check the Facebook page for the latest events www.facebook.com/woodsstreetarts or pick up a brochure from the Civic Centre, available through August.

Park upgrades

Three parks in Altona Meadows and Laverton – Tatman, R.K. Richards and Woods St Reserves – are complete and ready to enjoy. Tatman Reserve in Altona Meadows has new footpath connections around the play space, a new shelter and barbecue area. R.K. Richards Reserve in Altona Meadows has new play equipment, a pedestrian path, landscaping and furniture. In Laverton, Woods Street Reserve has a new playground area and picnic tables. The three reserves were included in Council’s 2017–18 Open Space Upgrades. Thank you for your patience during works. For details, visit www.hobsonsbay/vic.gov.au/parkupgrades

**General**

**A Fairer Hobsons Bay for all**

Council is integrating five of its existing social policies to develop one policy that will support a range of population groups in having a stronger voice, making ‘A fairer Hobsons Bay for all’. In developing this over-arching policy Council wants to hear the community’s ideas about breaking down barriers due to age, ability, cultural background, ethnicity, First Peoples status, gender or sexuality. The new policy will identify the common barriers experienced by many population groups, the group’s specific needs, and explore how we can create a community that is supportive and inclusive of all. Have your say at one of three forums on:

* Monday 27 August from 6pm to 8.30pm at the Newport Community Hub, 13 Mason Street
* Wednesday 29 August from 6pm to 8.30pm at the Laverton Community Hub, 95 Railway Avenue
* Thursday 30 August from 10am to 12.30pm at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, 5 Sargood Street, Altona

Registrations are essential and can made at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au. There is also an online survey available on Participate Hobsons Bay for those who can’t attend a forum. It closes Friday 7 September. For more details, please call 9932 1000.

**Communities that Care**

Are you aged between 12 and 17? Would you like to be a part of a discussion group to share your views on the major health and social problems affecting young people living in the community? Communities That Care (CTC) is a group that includes Council’s UP Youth Services, Communities That Care Ltd. and a range of local health, youth and community organisations that aim to promote the healthy development of local young people, by reducing common health and social problems. Join a group conversation on 15 August from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Newport Community Hub. Register your interest at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

**Small Business Festival 2018**

Presented by Small Business Victoria, the Small Business Fetival runs from 1 to 31 August and provides small businesses with the opportunity to exchange ideas, access free or low-cost information and establish valuable professional networks. Two local businesses are hosting events as part of the festival. Local recruitment agency Flexi Personnel is running ‘Recruitment for SMEs’ in Laverton on Monday 13 and Monday 20 August and FAB Marketing is hosting ‘Digital Marketing Simplified’ at the Newport Community Hub on Thursday 23 August. Council is a proud supporter of the festival. Details: festival.business.vic.gov.au