**Around the Bay – December 2019**

**Cherry Lake**

Laverton Creek Spit now a dog-free zone

To better protect the nesting and feeding ground of the precious birdlife along the Laverton Creek Spit Conservation Zone at Doug Grant Reserve in Altona, Council has declared it a dog free zone and will install fencing along the beach in the coming months, following consultation with the community. Dog walkers can continue to enjoy the dog off-lead zone within the fenced area but the installation of the fencing will help demarcate this highly valued conservation zone. For details, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LavertonConservationSpit**

Altona Beach Precinct pedestrian zone

A table tennis table, basketball hoop, games, street furniture, umbrellas and colourful beach box shelters are all part of the Altona Beach Precinct once again this summer, following positive community feedback from last year’s trial. The Esplanade, from Bent Street to Pier Street, will be closed to cars until 28 February to create a safer environment for pedestrians, reduce dangerous driving and support Council and police surveillance. Road detours will be in place and cyclists are required to either dismount at the pedestrian safe zone, follow the road detours or use the shared trail along the beachfront at low speeds. For more information, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaBeachPrecinct**

Funding for local sports facilities

Council has awarded a contract for a new pavilion and ground renovation, as well as floodlighting, cricket nets, new multi-purpose courts for tennis and netball, playgrounds, pathways and landscaping at WLJ Crofts Reserve in Altona North. For details, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/localsportsfunding**

**Strand**

Digman Reserve Masterplan
Work has commenced on rolling out the Digman Reserve Master Plan with the redevelopment of the eastern oval, including the installation of floodlighting. Future works to implement the master plan include increased car parking, a new pavilion, a playground upgrade and redevelopment of the western oval. The works will be carried out over the next three years. For details, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Digman

Donald McLean Reserve update

The Donald McLean Reserve Improvement Plan is becoming a reality with the contract awarded to design and construct a new pavilion, as well as new cricket practice nets, an upgraded sportsground to optimise the playable area for the northern grounds, floodlighting, pathways, upgraded play area and car park. As part of the West Gate Tunnel Project, the state government has contributed $4.5 million to upgrade local sportsgrounds. Donald McLean Reserve services the Spotswood Cricket Club, Spotswood Football Club and Westgate Golf Club which, combined, have in excess of 620 active participants. For more information, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/DonaldMcLean**

Visit the Creative Technology Hub

The Creative Technology Hub at Seaworks Maritime Precinct (82 Nelson Place, Williamstown) is now open for a series of taster workshops and drop-in sessions before its formal opening in early 2020. Featuring a 3D printer, laser cutter, green screen and the latest in creative technologies, this new makerspace provides visitors and program participants, aged 13 and above, with opportunities to experience new technologies. For details, visit **libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**Wetlands**

Introducing Curlew Community Park...

It’s time to celebrate in Laverton! Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and sun at the official launch of your brand new park - Curlew Community Park, located between Epsom and Fitzroy Streets. Bring your family, friends and neighbours to join in the celebration at 2pm this Saturday 14 December, featuring plenty of local food and entertainment for all! The park is packed full of play equipment, barbecue and picnic facilities, basketball hoop, ping-pong table, a pump track, landscaping and paths. The park will also feature interpretive signage paying tribute to Mrs Lesley Ould (OAM), Mrs Anne Knight (OAM), Mr Des Rowan (deceased) and Mr Peter Nash (deceased), four individuals with significant connection to Laverton. For details, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/curlew**

Seabrook residents – Have your say

Seabrook Boulevard, Shane Avenue and surrounding streets have seen an increase in traffic issues, largely due to motorists avoiding peak hour congestion on Point Cook Road. Council is calling on residents to help us identify the traffic hotspots in the area and look at possible solutions. To get involved, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au** or attend the drop-in session at Seabrook Community Centre, 15 Truganina Avenue, this Thursday 12 December, 6pm to 8pm.

School holidays at the library

Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre is the place to be this school holidays. Join the PS4 Grand Slam on Monday 13 January, enjoy mad science with Ada Twist on Wednesday 15 January or get up close to snakes and other native wildlife on Friday 17 January. For details, go to **libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**General**

**Recycling and waste update**

Council is proud to introduce our new and improved kerbside waste and recycling service in early February 2020 to recover more resources, diverting them from landfill where they create harmful greenhouse gases. Glass, paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, garden and food waste, will all be recycled to create useful products, moving Hobsons Bay towards a more sustainable and circular economy. From early February 2020, Council will introduce a four bin system, including bins for food and garden waste (collected weekly), glass recycling (collected every four weeks), household waste (collected fortnightly) and recycling for paper, cardboard, some plastics and metals (collected fortnightly). New bins will be delivered to households in January including a glass recycling bin with a purple lid, a kitchen caddy for food waste and a food and garden waste bin with a light green lid for households who don’t have one. Please use your existing bins until early February 2020. Further information will be sent to all households regarding these changes. For more information, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling**

**Accessible Beaches open for summer**

Council’s Accessible Beaches Program is open for summer with complementary beach wheelchairs available for hire at both Altona and Williamstown Beaches on weekends in December and February and seven days a week in January. In addition to the beach wheelchairs, accessible beach matting is available at Altona and Williamstown Beaches throughout the year. Beach lockers and an accessible change facility with a hoist and full-sized change table are also available at Altona Beach. For beach wheelchair bookings, contact Council’s Social Planning Team on 9932 1000 or **socialplanning@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**Summer events**

Celebrate the holiday season with the whole family with Christmas activities, Carols by Candlelight, and much more around the city. Visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/christmasevents** for all the times and locations. The fun continues in January with free outdoor movies and live music by the water with Council’s Summer Sounds and Movies by the Bay programs. For a full schedule of events, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/celebratesummer**