**Around the Bay – June**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

**Brooklyn Community Hall revamp**

Great news for the community - the Brooklyn Community Hall will soon be redeveloped into a more modern facility with new meeting rooms, a central foyer, updated hall, improved kitchen and toilet facilities, and an outdoor deck area. Council has responded to local community advocacy by developing a proposed concept design for the hall. The people of Brooklyn and beyond are invited to have their say on the design until **Sunday 14 June**. The proposed concept plan, a short video, artist’s impressions of the redeveloped hall and survey to provide feedback is available at [**participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-hall-redevelopment**](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-hall-redevelopment)**.**  Construction is anticipated to start in November 2020 with an estimated completion time of 10 months.

**Street theatre coming to Altona North and Brooklyn**

Illuminated angels, bandicoots, zebras and spontaneous art will visit Altona North and Brooklyn during July as part of Council’s Art Apart creative grants. The Art Apart program encourages artists and creative practitioners to deliver innovative and creative projects that engage the community of Hobsons Bay using a mix of digital, virtual or socially-distant modes of delivery. Roving performances by award winning theatre ensemble Born in a Taxi is one of the successful Art Apart applicants. To find out more about Art Apart, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Art-Apart**

**Strand Ward**

**Ferguson Street Level Crossing Removal Precinct Plan**

Council is inviting community feedback on its draft Ferguson Street Level Crossing Removal Precinct Plan, which seeks to address the known safety concerns and improve public space opportunities surrounding the North Williamstown Train Station.

Future work on the Victorian Government Level Crossing Removal Project’s (LXRP) Ferguson Street project presents an ideal opportunity to also redevelop the land around the station. The ideas for this work are presented in our draft plan, which would complement their project regardless of the design (ie rail over road or rail under road), and is yet to be determined by LXRP.

Once Council’s precinct plan is updated to reflect community feedback, Council will advocate to the Victorian Government for funding and partnership support to undertake the proposed precinct upgrades. State government funding and consideration for the Ferguson Street Precinct Upgrade is one of Council’s Advocacy Priorities for 2020. For more information and to have your say about safety issues in the precinct, and the draft plan design, visit [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ferguson-street-precinct-plan](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ferguson-street-precinct-plan)

**Edwards Reserve Play Space upgrade**

Improvement works to upgrade the play space at Edwards Street in South Kingsville have begun. The play space upgrade will include replacing the timber boardwalk structure, a new drinking fountain, improved natural shade in the play space, increased play opportunities in shaded areas and restoration works to existing timber sculptures. The play space will be closed to the public during the construction phase and is expected to reopen in July 2020. The rest of the reserve will remain open to the public. Please remember to adhere to current restrictions of 20 people only at outdoor gatherings. For more information, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Edwards-Street](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Edwards-Street)

**Wetlands Ward**

**Laverton Community Hub refresh**

While the doors to the Laverton Community Hub were closed during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the hub was refreshed with a new coat of paint and protective strip on the walls. On the technology front, the projectors and screens at the hub have been upgraded and wireless dongles have been installed. In preparation for the doors opening for booked essential service groups (by appointment only), the building has been deep cleaned. For information on Council services impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus) or see below.

**Interpretation signs at Truganina Park**

Five new interpretation signs have been recently installed at Truganina Park to provide visitors with interesting facts about flora and fauna found throughout the reserve. The new signs include information about the critically endangered Swift Parrot, the elusive Altona Skipper Butterfly and coastal saltmarshes*.* The signs will encourage visitors to further experience the less well-known spaces within the reserve. Funding for the Coastal Woodland and Altona Skipper Butterfly signs was provided through the State Government’s ‘Caring for our Local Environment’ grants program (CoLE). In addition to the new signs, some of the dirt tracks in the park have been upgraded to gravel paths. For more information on Council’s conservation activities, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Conservation](https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Conservation)

**General**

**Council Services open for business**

Council is pleased to announce the reopening of a number of services to the public, following the state government’s easing of restrictions throughout Victoria. In line with the latest advice, safety measures will remain in place to ensure the wellbeing of community members and Council staff**.**

**Customer Service**

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre in Altona is open from 11am to 2pm, Monday to Friday.

There is also a dedicated hour from 10am to 11am for the elderly, their carers and those requiring additional assistance.

Social distancing is in place and a maximum of 10 people at any one time in the Customer Service area.

Hand sanitising is required upon arrival, and those on site for 15 minutes or more must register their attendance.

Cashless payment options are preferred.

**Hobsons Bay Libraries**

Hobsons Bay Libraries are open from Monday to Friday, 2pm to 6pm, and on Saturdays from 10am to 1pm.

There will be a dedicated hour from 1pm to 2pm on weekdays for our vulnerable community members, their carers or those requiring additional assistance.

Concierge greeting, compulsory sign-in, hand sanitising and temperature checking are entry conditions.

Personal protective items are available upon request.

An adult must accompany children under 15.

**Community centres and Hubs**

Laverton Community Hub, Newport Community Hub, and Seabrook Community Centre are open for booked groups only.

Please check with other community centres for opening arrangements.

The Woods Street Art Space is open for regular user groups.

**Visitor Information Centre**

The Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre is scheduled to open on Monday 29 June.

**Meals on Wheels, Senior Citizens and Planned Activity Groups**

Meals on Wheels is continuing and Council is working on safely reopening shared Senior Citizens spaces and Planned Activity Groups.

**Maternal and Child Health and Youth Counselling**

Face-to-face maternal child health consultations and new parent groups have recommenced with social distancing and a maximum of 10 participants (10 parents, each with their infant).

Face-to-face youth counselling sessions have resumed.

**Community and commercial operators in Council facilities**

Groups of 20 people can train on outdoor sports fields for non-contact and non-competitive sport.

Indoor sporting activities remain prohibited until 11:59pm on 21 June.

Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre, Bayfit and South Pacific Health Club aim to open later this month.

For up-to-date information, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus)