**Around the Bay – March 2020**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

Apex Park works

Council will soon begin construction on the missing section of the seawall between Maidstone Street and the entry to Apex Park, Altona. At the same time, Council will also be upgrading the entry to Apex Park from the Esplanade, including the construction of a roundabout with native coastal plants, realignment of parking spots and pathways into Apex Park. These works are designed to remove congestion and improve traffic flow at the end of the Esplanade. For more information, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/apexparkentry** or call Council on 9932 1000.

Altona North Community Library turns 10!

Join us for Altona North Community Library’s big birthday bash on Saturday 21 March from 10am to 1pm (corner of Millers and McArthurs Roads). There’ll be face painting, children’s performances and activities, craft workshops supported by Bunnings, a book swap, hands-on coding with CoderDojo, free coffee (don’t forget your cup) and much more! For details, go to **libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/.** Continue the celebrations with an exhibition chronicling five decades of libraries in the area, beginning with Altona East Library in 1965, and taking us all the way up to present day. It’s on display at the Altona North branch until 13 April.

The Esplanade open to cars

The Altona Beach Precinct Trial wrapped up last week and The Esplanade is now fully open to car and bicycle traffic. From December to February, the section of the Esplanade between Pier and Bent Streets was turned into a pedestrian only zone with table tennis tables, beach shelters and other picnic tables. Thank you to everyone who contributed their feedback at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au** – we will evaluate the feedback and report back on the future of the pedestrian only zone

**Strand Ward**

Edwards Reserve Play Space renewal works

The much loved timber boardwalk at Edwards Reserve in South Kingsville will be fully replaced next month with works expected to take about six weeks. Fencing around the reserve will also be renewed. The playspace will be closed for the duration of works but access to the oval, sports pavilion, basketball court and public toilet will be unaffected. It’s a great opportunity to explore other great playspaces in the neighbourhood, such as RJ Cooper Reserve, Langshaws Reserve and Newport Lakes.

Armstrong Reserve Upgrade
Work has commenced on the upgrade of Armstrong Reserve in Newport. The first phase of works includes soil remediation, a fully reconstructed basketball/netball court, a picnic shelter, footpaths, seating, picnic setting, sculptures, soft landscaping including garden beds and mature trees and a new irrigation system. The entire reserve will be closed to the public during the construction phase and is expected to reopen in June 2020. In the meantime, give Jackson Reserve on John Liston Drive a go. For regular project updates, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/armstrongreserve

Improvements to Bayside College Williamstown campus

Works are under way to revamp the sports facilities at Bayside College Williamstown campus. Council has completed the installation of a new irrigation system on both ovals and constructed three new tennis courts. Works to the existing netball courts, including resurfacing and installation of new floodlighting will soon be complete. The project also includes an extension of the sports pavilion and new lighting.

**Wetlands**

Woods Street Arts Space pop-up business hub

Council has teamed up with the Western Business Accelerator and Centre of Excellence (BACE) to turn the Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton into a pop-up business hub from 16 to 19 March. In addition to the chance to co-work and network with other business professionals, the business hub will also offer an inspiring program of free business activities, mentoring sessions and masterclasses. For more information, visit **www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au**

Better places in Laverton

Laverton has been in the spotlight as the first suburb in Hobsons Bay to experience the Better Places model, a new approach to thinking about, designing and delivering projects. We want to hear your thoughts on what our community loves about Laverton, what makes it unique, what needs to change and what projects or ideas will help make Laverton a ‘better place’. Provide feedback online via **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au** or drop in to one of the consultation sessions listed on the page. To coincide with the consultation, keep an eye out for a photo exhibition celebrating the people of Laverton.

Woods Street Youth Arts Prize open

Calling all young creatives and artists! Young people aged 14-25 are invited to submit their artwork for the 2020 Woods Street Youth Art Prize. Accepted artworks include drawings, paintings, prints, photography, sculpture, film or even performance art pieces which respond to the theme of ‘A New Power-Finding a Voice’. Selected works will be on exhibition at the Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton from 23 to 24 May, with prizes announced at the opening night on Friday 22 May. Entries close 5pm Friday 24 April. Visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/youthartprize** to enter

**General**

**Recycling 2.0 – Green stream update**

Every person’s habits at home make a difference to the community’s recycling outcomes. One person’s rubbish in a recycling bin is everyone’s problem, as rubbish in just one bin can lead to the entire truckload going to landfill. On the other hand, if every person puts their food waste in the green bin, we can divert 8,000 tonnes from landfill every year and make compost for local farms.

While overall we are doing pretty well, our recycling partners at Veolia report that there is still rubbish, such as toasters, appliances and plastic bags coming through the food and garden waste stream.

There is an opportunity for every person to make a real difference to the environment, both locally and generally. This means a little extra effort at home to redirect your food waste into your food and garden green waste bin. Remember, your green bin is collected every week. You can wrap your food waste in a single sheet of newspaper (recycle this paper you’re reading now!) or paper towel. Putting meat, seafood or dairy scraps in the freezer and putting them out just before collection is a great way to avoid odour and potential pests. See **www.hobsonsbay.com.au/recycling** for tips on avoiding waste, and for factsheets detailing what can and cannot go in bins, available in 12 languages.

**Volunteer expo**

Local residents are encouraged to come along to the Hobsons Bay Volunteer Expo and learn about local volunteering opportunities. Council and Volunteer West will co-host the expo on Saturday 21 March at Logan Reserve in Altona between 1pm and 4pm. Also, keep an eye on Council’s Facebook page for a series of videos profiling the wonderful volunteers and organisations in our community