**Around the Bay – March**

**Cherry Lake**

Play in Brooklyn

With COVID pausing most community events in 2020, three Brooklyn parks quietly re-opened to the public, with plenty of fun for our city’s little ones. Duane Reserve was dramatically transformed to include a new play space with an in-built trampoline, flying fox and climbing structure, as well as a fitness station, landscaping, new pathways and shelter. At Rowan Reserve, the play space was also upgraded with new swings, slides, balance logs, a shelter, landscaping and paths. Finally, Brooklyn Reserve has a new public toilet, connecting pathways through the reserve and surrounding streets, as well as additional landscaping. These improvements complement previous upgrades such as the dog off-leash park, new playground, shelter and barbecues. The former Frances Sullivan childcare facility has also been demolished, making way for the Brooklyn Community Hall Redevelopment. The upgrades were a partnership between Council and the state government as part of the West Gate Tunnel Project.

A.W. Langshaw Reserve upgrade

Further upgrades to one of Altona North’s favourite reserves will begin this month. A.W. Langshaw Reserve will be fitted out with outdoor gym equipment, a new shelter with barbecue and new paths around the reserve. The upgrade will take approximately four months to complete. The oval and playground will remain open.

Lee Reserve update

Works to upgrade Lee Reserve in Altona are expected to begin next month. The reserve will receive new landscaping, a shelter with barbecues and furniture. Visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/leereserve**

**Strand**

**Paine Reserve open for play**

The new play space at Paine Reserve has opened to rave reviews among our youngest residents. Featuring nature play, shaded seating and equipment suitable for all ages, the play space is just one element of the Paine Reserve Master Plan which will also include an amphitheatre, a multi-purpose stage/deck and large open lawn areas for recreational and social activities. A new fence surrounding Newport Bowls Club will be completed by mid-2021.

**Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville**

Do you like the idea of ‘streets for people’? Do you want to see a ‘tree-led’ approach to urban design? Would you like to see more pop-up community spaces? These are just some of the ideas which came out of the Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville draft place guide vision. Review the draft and have your say on the future of your community at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**. Feedback closes 2 April.

**Events happening around Strand**

The Substation will host Outer Space - a two-day celebration of arts, music, performance and workshops on Friday 12 March (6pm-10pm) and Saturday 13 March (3pm to midnight) at Paine Reserve, Newport and The Substation. More info: **thesubstation.org.au**

Enjoy a Feast of Shakespeare including abridged versions of Hamlet, Pericles, King Lear and The Tempest performed by OZACT in the magical surrounds of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens. Sunday 21 March 4pm-5pm. Visit **ozact.com** for tickets and info.

**Wetlands**

**Altona Sports Centre**

Stage 2 of the Altona Sports Centre is progressing well with the new indoor basketball complex starting to take shape. The roof, steel structure and precast panels have now been installed on the building. This extension to the Altona Sports Centre of four additional indoor courts is on schedule to be completed in July 2021.

**Woods Street Arts Space**

After an extended break, the Woods Street Arts Space is back with an exciting new program of events for people of all ages, abilities and inclinations. Some highlights include Polynesian music and dance classes, craft nights and Hungarian hand embroidery workshops. Visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/woodsstreetarts** for more info. Save the date – Block Party is returning to the Lohse and Woods precinct on 1 May. Details to be released soon.

**H.D Graham Reserve**

In preparation of a new sportsground at H.D Graham Reserve, works have begun on the west side of Andrew Park Drive. These works include the removal of 300mm of topsoil in preparation for the installation of the irrigation system. While soil testing has not detected any contamination, a temporary air quality monitoring station will be onsite for the duration of the works as a precaution. Visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hdgraham**

**Better Places Laverton**

As part of Council’s Better Places Laverton project, Council is planting about 550 trees in streets and reserves in Laverton this year, including Whittaker Avenue, Dick Murdoch, Frank Gibson and Beverly Anton reserves.

**General**

**Council Plan**

Do you have a passion for where you live and want to see it thrive? Is there a project or service you can see that will enhance your neighbourhood or a goal we can work towards together? Council has started planning for the 2021–25 Council Plan and we want to understand your priorities for the city over the next four years. Join a community ward workshop and share your great idea, project or improvement that you would like to see in Hobsons Bay.

* Cherry Lake Ward - Saturday 20 March, 10am to 12.30pm, Altona Civic Centre
* Strand Ward - Saturday 27 March, 10am to 12.30pm, Williamstown Town Hall
* Wetlands Ward - Saturday 27 March, 2.30pm to 5pm, Laverton Hub, Recreation Room

Your feedback will help refresh the 2030 Community Vision and develop the 2021–25 Council Plan. Visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/refreshing-community-vision-hobsons-bay

**Cultural Diversity Week**

The rich cultural heritage of Hobsons Bay will be on show from 15-27 March with a free program of activities to celebrate Cultural Diversity Week and Harmony Day. For the full schedule of events and activities, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/culturaldiversityweek

**Pass it on**

Do you have unwanted larger household items in good, reusable condition? Give them a second lease on life by bringing them to our resusables drop-off day. Local non-profit organisations and charities will distribute them to those in need. Saturday 13 March 8am-1pm, Toyota Car Park (Gate 4) 494 Grieve Parade, Altona North. For a full list of accepted items visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/PassItOn

**Valentine’s Day 2.0**

Let’s keep the love flowing for our local businesses by celebrating the Valentine’s Day we never had on Sunday 14 March. Visit hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/valentines20 for special offers from local eateries, shops and attractions.

**Waste and recycling kerbside service review**

Look out for feedback opportunities in the coming weeks on Council’s waste and recycling system via a community survey. Watch this space for more information. hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling

**Coastal and Marine Management Plan**

Who doesn’t love Hobsons Bay’s iconic coastline! From beaches, ports and mangroves to wetlands, piers and shared trails, our coast is something we want to protect well into the future. Keep an eye on participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ to see how you can have your say.