**Around the Bay – May edition**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

**Help create a better GJ Hosken Reserve**

Council is developing an Open Space Development and Conservation Plan for GJ Hosken Reserve. We are interested in hearing your thoughts on improvements along this section of the Kororoit Creek including a new nature play space for children and the creation of a fenced dog off-leash area. Check out the draft concept plan and provide your feedback at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hoskenreserve** by 28 May.

**New play space at Crofts Reserve**

W.L.J. Crofts Reserve is getting a new local play space and we need your help to design it! We’re seeking community feedback on the types of equipment, furniture and landscaping you would like to see in the upgraded play space and surrounds. The play space is set to be ready early next year. For more information or to provide your feedback, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WLJcrofts** by 28 May. As always, we encourage feedback on our open space projects from our entire community - all ages and all abilities.

**HW Lee Reserve**

Works at HW Lee Reserve in Altona will commence in mid-May and be completed in June 2021. Key elements include park furniture to complement the foreshore location, landscaping, a new picnic shelter with barbecue and picnic settings and improved amenities including drinking fountain, bins and bike hoops. The final designs for the upgrade of Lee Reserve may be viewed at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/leereserve**

**Strand**

**New toilet blocks at Burgoyne Reserve**

Keep your eyes out for the new public toilet blocks in Burgoyne Reserve, Williamstown! Construction of this facility will commence in winter 2021, with works expected to take eight to 12 weeks. The existing public toilet block will be demolished and replaced with a new public toilet block containing two unisex units, one ambulant unit and one accessible unit. The new block has been designed in a well-lit area with public safety in mind. For details, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/BurgoyneReserve**

**Drop-in tech help**

Need some help with your new laptop, tablet or smartphone? Maybe you’d like some assistance navigating the latest apps and software? Come to Williamstown Library and the Library at the Newport Community Hub from 1.30pm to 2.30pm on Wednesdays in May to receive some friendly tech advice from students from Williamstown High School. Bring along your device and your questions and find out about basic computing and device skills, internet searching, creating email and social media accounts, downloading eAudiobooks and more! Visit **libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**Night Football at Fearon Reserve**

Come along to Fearon Reserve on Friday 14 May at 6.40pm to support the Williamstown CYMS Football Club’s Women’s Division 1 team in a trial night-time match. Check out the new improvements at the reserve including floodlighting, new change facilities and the electronic scoreboard.

**Wetlands**

**Free trees up for grabs!**

Come along to McCormack Park on World Environment Day (Saturday 5 June) from 10am-12pm for some family-friendly fun and to grab a free tree! Council is giving away free trees for Hobsons Bay residents as part of its ambitious Urban Forest Strategy to increase the city’s tree canopy to 30 per cent by 2040. There will be roving performers, a sausage sizzle and Council staff on-hand to provide handy planting advice. Keep an eye on Council’s website for updates.

**Laverton Schools Precinct traffic study**

Do you live in or drive through the Laverton Schools Precinct (between Bladin Street and the Princes Freeway)? We want to hear from you about traffic in your area. Council will be engaging with the local community to develop treatments to ease congestion and improve safety and connectivity for residents, commuters and the school community. Come chat to us at the Henderson Street Park on Saturday 15 May (1pm-3pm) or online at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/trafficlavertonschools**

**Block party – It’s a wrap!**

Thank you to everyone who helped make last month’s Block Party happen! It was a truly wonderful day. Highlights include the Recycled Wasteland fashion parade and exhibitions featuring work by Laverton P-12 College and Seabrook Primary School students. From giant bubbles to squirting creatures and hip-hop musical talent, the event offered something for everyone. For news on what’s happening at the Woods Street Arts Space follow   
**@woodsstreetarts** on Facebook

**General**

**Have your say on the proposed Budget**

The proposed Annual Budget 2021-22 is now open for community feedback until 23 May 2021. It includes $2 million in COVID recovery programs and ongoing rate and financial hardship relief, $63.491 million in capital works projects, and funding for over 100 vital community services. Provide your feedback online via **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/proposed-annual-budget-2021-22**

You can also visit the Participate website to find locations for budget roadshow sessions where you can provide your feedback in person, as well as ask questions.

**Northern Local Area Movement Plan**

Council is developing Local Area Movement Plans (LAMPs) for the northern area of Hobsons Bay (Brooklyn, Altona North, Spotswood, South Kingsville, Newport and Williamstown North) to improve the way our community travels through our city on roads, public transport, the cycling network and footpaths. The Northern LAMPs will deliver a five-year framework to guide Council’s infrastructure planning and implementation and assist with advocacy to state and federal governments to help maintain a safe, well connected, efficient and accessible transport network. For more information or to get involved in this exciting project go to **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/northernlamps**

**Draft Mobile Vendors policy**

The draft Mobile Vendors Policy will facilitate and manage the operation of both itinerant (roaming) vendors and stationary vendors (such as coffee vans, food trucks and flower stalls) that are regularly parked at parks and other public spaces. To balance the interests of all business owners, the draft policy considers the location and proximity of itinerant vendors to existing stationary vendors and ‘brick and mortar’ businesses. Check it out and share your thoughts at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/mobile-vendor-policy**

**National Volunteer Week**

Hobsons Bay volunteers are being recognised for their contributions to the community and celebrated in a touring photo exhibition as part of National Volunteer Week 2021. The exhibition features images of local volunteers alongside their stories about their volunteering journeys and how they are making an impact locally. The exhibition is at Louis Joel in Altona, then at Williamstown, South Kingsville and Laverton. Visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au** for dates and venues.

**A few reminders…**

Council is now accepting 2022 registrations for three and four-year-old sessional kindergarten. From 2022 Victorian children will have access to a minimum of five hours of funded three-year-old kinder and 15 hours of funded four-year-old kindergarten. Visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/kindergartens** to register online via our Central Registration System or download a kindergarten registration form. Health Care Card holders are eligible for free to low cost kindergarten fees.

Council’s Customer Service counter has relocated from the Altona Theatre back to the main entrance at the Altona Civic Centre at 115 Civic Parade and is open 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri. Our Customer Service team is looking forward to welcoming our community and customers back into our new space.