**Around the Bay – 8 September**

**Cherry Lake Ward**

**Kororoit Creek Shared Trail viewing platform**

Construction of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail viewing platform is complete. The structure was open to the public last month and is being well received. The platform, in GJ Hosken Reserve at Altona North, consists of a 265 square metre deck and provides a vantage point for visitors to the creek and wetlands. It looks over Kororoit Creek, with seating and picnic facilities, safety rails and landscaping. The platform connects to the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail and the deck is constructed from recycled timber and recycled plastic. Visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/KororoitCreekReserve**

**Altona Tennis Club upgrade**

The refurbishment of the Altona Tennis Club has hit a major milestone with the new synthetic courts being laid. The project, which is co-funded by Council and the state government, will include five new classic clay courts and six red porous courts complete with new fencing, irrigation and LED lighting. Once complete, the new courts will be available for use by the general public through the book-a-court system. The project is scheduled for completion in November 2021.

**Brooklyn tennis courts renewal**

The resurfacing of the Brooklyn tennis courts is under way with the warmer weather. Combined with the patching works undertaken earlier this year, these courts will be ready for use late September (subject to COVID restrictions).

**Strand Ward**

**Newport Lawn Bowls Club new fence**

Council is replacing the east, west and north boundary fences of the Newport Lawn Bowls Club, as the last piece of the Paine Reserve upgrade. The fencing on the east boundary along Market Street and the west boundary opposite the Newport Community Hub and carpark will be replaced first. An artistic mural, known as the ‘Puzzle Fence’ will then be installed along the northern boundary, alongside Paine Reserve. Access to the reserve via Mason Street will be maintained throughout the project. Works are expected to be complete by 3 December, COVID restrictions dependent. For details, vis**it www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/PaineReserve**

**Donald McLean Reserve update**

Construction works on the cricket nets at Donald McLean Reserve have commenced. The works include nine turf wickets and four synthetic wickets. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of October, with part of the project including the turf wickets due to be completed by the end of September. Work is also progressing on the upgrade to WH Couch Pavilion, which will complement work already completed at the reserve, including the installation of floodlighting, irrigation and turf works on Ovals 1 and 2. Details: **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/donaldmclean**

**Williamstown traffic improvements**

Road safety improvements around the Williamstown Primary School precinct are continuing. The works include improved footpaths, raised zebra crossings and traffic calming to improve safety. Works will continue over the coming month, with some elements already delivered, including the raised zebra crossing and road hump at the Giffard Street, Hanmer Street and Electra Street intersection.

**Wetlands Ward**

**Take care of Skeleton Creek and Cheetham Wetlands birdlife**

We love our local birdlife so it’s important we don’t give them food that is bad for them. Bread and other processed food contain preservatives and chemicals which are not present in a wild bird’s natural diet and can lead to serious health problems. Feeding wild birds changes their physical and behavioural development and it causes problems with water quality. Also, it causes the birds to become dependent on artificial food sources and makes them more vulnerable to predators, as well as attracting and supporting feral birds, rodents, and pest fish. Love our native birds, but don’t love them to death. Visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ConservationReserves**

**Seabrook Street Library in demand for Book Week**

The Seabrook Street Library at the Seabrook Community Centre is a busy place. The street library is one of more than 30 across Hobsons Bay that operate under the motto, ‘Share a book, take a book, leave a book’. Seabrook Community Centre has responded to numerous requests for a street library, including a submission to Council’s Pitch Your Idea program. Since its installation, the street library has been restocked many times over, most recently with children’s books for Book Week. To find your nearest street library, go to **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/StreetLibraries**.

**Still time to have your say on parks plans**

Don’t forget to have your say on the Love Laverton Parks program and McCormack Park Master Plan. The submission periods have been extended to 30 September. For more information, go to **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

**General**

**Protect your kids, your neighbours, local businesses and yourselves**

Getting on top of COVID means doing things that are hard for everyone. A heartfelt thanks to the Hobsons Bay community for playing its part in getting on top of this outbreak. We need to keep going!

If you have been to an exposure site, or have symptoms, get tested and isolate until you have the results.

If you need to isolate or quarantine there’s lots of help available to get you through it. You may be eligible for a $450 payment to stay home and isolate after getting tested (or getting your kids tested) or the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment if you receive a positive result and must quarantine.

Getting vaccinated reduces the spread and impact of COVID and protects our health system. A vaccine surge centre has been set up at the Altona Badminton Centre to run immunisation sessions by appointment.

Chat to your local GP, or for information on support services, a list of local testing sites and vaccination information, visit **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Coronavirus**

**Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards**

The biennial Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards have opened for nominations. The awards will recognise achievement in five categories; Excellence in Customer Experience, Creating Social Change, Excellence in Sustainability, New Start Up Business, and Pivoting During COVID-19. While they may look different this time due to the usual gala ceremony being held online due to COVID restrictions, the 2021 awards take on a special significance because of the difficult times local businesses are currently navigating. Nominations are open until 11pm Sunday, 3 October, via the online applications form at **www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/awards**. The awards will be presented online on Thursday, 11 November.

**Solar on a roll for Hobsons Bay**

The Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, Newport Community Hub and the Mesh Mash building in Laverton are the latest Council-owned community facilities to host their new ‘solar system’, joining over 40 local buildings to be fitted out with solar panels as part of Council’s large scale Virtual Power and solar panel roll out. The rooftop panels will generate renewable energy required onsite, and surplus green power will be moved to other sites within the system reducing Council’s reliance on the power grid. Once all installation sites are complete in the coming months, the system will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by almost 4,000 tonnes per year, which is the equivalent of taking almost 600 homes off the grid.