# HOBSONS NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 32

April / May 2023











## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the April/May edition of Hobsons Community News. This edition is full of events and activities to keep you busy over the coming months, and project updates for your local area.

In this edition, we're making it easier for you to reduce waste! Claim your free environmentally friendly cleaning packs and support local cafes as part of the Huskee Swap initiative, details on page 3.

Don't miss the free events and activities for families this autumn. The Laverton Park Hop on Saturday 15 April will be a highlight, with face painting, giveaways and wildlife displays, details on page 5.

We also have a fabulous program for this year's Heritage Hobsons Bay Festival which runs from 17 to 30 April. The festival is a great opportunity to explore Hobsons Bay's iconic heritage sites and take a step back in time and imagine the past. Read the program highlights on page 4.

April and May are the perfect time to harvest olives. Kat Lavers from My Smart Garden gives us tips on how to grow olives in Hobsons Bay and how you can get involved in the olive workshops as part of Festival of Food. Read the interview on page 6.

Lastly, test your local knowledge with our trivia questions throughout the magazine and tell us what Hobsons Bay means to you by entering our writing competition on page 4.

Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP **Mayor of Hobsons Bay** 

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Council Meetings are held at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and live streamed starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 11 April

Tuesday 9 May

Tuesday 20 June

Tuesday 11 July

**Tuesday 8 August** 

Tuesday 12 September

For more information, visit

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ CouncilMeetings

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We wish to acknowledge the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands, rivers and coastal areas in Hobsons Bay. We recognise the First Peoples' relationship to this land and offer our respect to their Elders, past and present.

Cover image: St Eanswythe's leadlight windows in Altona, view page 4 for details.

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled stock using environmentally friendly inks.

## CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

#### **Cherry Lake Ward**



#### Mayor Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP

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#### Cr Daria Kellander

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#### Strand Ward



#### Cr Jonathon Marsden

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#### Cr Peter Hemphill

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#### Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

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#### Wetlands Ward



#### Deputy Mayor Cr Diana Grima

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#### Cr Matt Tyler

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#### Connect with Councillors on social media



Scan QR code for details

#### HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil

(C) instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC

n linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council



INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES
Your Council in your language

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES for a better future









#### LOVE IT? MEND IT!

Does your favourite jumper need some love? Council is running a series of free creative sewing and stitching workshops, where you'll learn how to extend the life of your clothes.

All skill levels are welcome to come and learn how to fix clothes and textiles instead of throwing them away.

Not only will you learn a great life skill that will save you money, but you'll be fighting fast fashion and reducing your environmental footprint.

The 'Upcycle in Style' series is the brainchild of Clare MacDonald, who pitched the project through Council's Pitch Your Project program.

Scan the QR code to register for one of our upcoming sessions at Newport Community Hub and Williamstown Library.



Scan the QR code to register



#### WASTELESS PLEDGE

Revamp your kitchen cleaning utensils with a free environmentally friendly cleaning pack when you pledge to waste less.

Kitchen sponges and scouring pads are made of plastic and harm the environment when they are manufactured and end up in landfill.

Council is making it easy to replace your synthetic, disposable kitchen products with sustainable kitchen items that are gentler on the environment, yet tougher on dishes!

Take a simple pledge to reduce your waste, and you'll receive a free Zero Waste Kitchen Bundle to help kick start your new waste-less habits.



Make the pledge and claim your free kitchen bundle.



#### **REWARDS PROGRAM** FOR REUSABLE CUPS

Reuse Rewards is coming to a café near you! Starting in May, Council is partnering with 10 local cafés to reward customers who bring their own coffee cup. Simply order your coffee in a reusable cup, pick up a Reuse Rewards card and start collecting stamps. Collect five stamps to get a free coffee!

Forgot your cup? Council is also funding participating cafés to establish a sustainable cup-swap system, which allows you to borrow a spare cup if you leave yours at home.

When you join Reuse Rewards you can:

- use your rewards card at any café in the network
- support your local café to reduce costs (those disposable cups aren't cheap)
- save money and the planet.



For more information, visit



#### WASTE SERVICE DISRUPTIONS

If your bin has not been collected, please leave it out until it has been collected.

Thank you for your support and patience.

Our waste collection contractor has advised that there will be disruptions for some time due to a state-wide truck driver shortage.

We're doing everything we can to minimise inconvenience to our residents, including extra Saturday collections and asking drivers to prioritise collection of general waste and food/garden bins.



**Altona Gate Shopping Centre** opened on the 3 October 1977. What occupied the site before then?

See page 11 for the answer



## *our* Creative

#### HERITAGE HOBSONS BAY

#### 17 to 30 April

Celebrate Hobsons Bay's unique heritage and culture through a range of performances, exhibitions, tours, and virtual events as part of the National Trust's Australian Heritage Festival.

This year's festival invites us to explore places and heritage sites, and take a step back in time through storytelling and tours.

#### **Program highlights**

- See Williamstown's buildings in new light on a projection tour
- Go on a tour of Alfred Graving Dock, which was built between 1864-1873
- Hear a panel discussion on the growing fascination for ghost signs and palimpsests, delicate imagery of faded advertising on the brick walls of Hobsons Bay
- Admire St Eanswythe's leadlight windows in Altona, created by artist David Wright in 1979
- Enjoy the launch of the Hidden Histories documentary featuring residents of South Kingsville and Spotswood
- Visit Sea Flowers and Lake Stories on Cherry Lake and discover the history of the lake from marshland to car racetrack to being home to water birds and other small creatures. Join the special event on Saturday 22 April, 5 to 7pm for live music, local lake stories and a kayak performance.

Most events are free, to book visit



For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ heritagehobsonsbay or call the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre on 1300 179 944.



Tell us what Hobsons Bay means to you in 100 words or less for the chance to win a \$100 voucher for a local business of your choice. The winner will have their work published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. It could be a short story, poem or even a haiku!

View the terms and conditions and submit your written piece by Wednesday 3 May at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine





Reading on Altona Pier, Lily Hood

#### CONGRATULATIONS to Lily Hood

Lily won our photography competition 'What summer in Hobsons Bay means to you' in the February edition of Hobsons Bay Community News.



## LAVERTON PARK HOP

Saturday 15 April, 10.30am to 1.30pm

#### Check out Laverton's revamped parks as part of the Better Places Love Laverton Parks project

Six of the eight local parks in Laverton have been recently upgraded and the remaining two - Bruce Street and Cropley Crescent will be finished by the end of the year! Come along to the Laverton Park Hop and try out the new play equipment and picnic areas at each park. There will also be special activities and giveaways, including face painting, free kites and a coffee van for the parents!



The parks are walking distance to each other so you can visit two, three or all six! This is a one-day event to celebrate Love Laverton Parks as part of Better Places Laverton.

Start at any of the six parks, and there's no need to visit the parks in order!

For a map of the locations, visit





#### MAKE IT HAPPEN **GRANTS**

#### **Submissions close 2 May**

Council's Make it Happen Grants support community groups, sporting clubs and organisations to run events, projects and initiatives in Hobsons Bay.

Successful Make it Happen Grants include:

- 55th Finnish Festival
- · Seabreeze Quilters' Threads of Community Connection project
- Creating the meditative community mural at Altona Community Gardens
- Newport Power Netball Club's confident communication workshop
- Supporting Laverton Community Integrated Services to provide frozen meals for vulnerable members of our community.



Applications can be made for up to \$25,000 in support of community projects, programs, events or festivals. Toyota is also contributing \$30,000 to Make It Happen, and you can apply for up to \$1,500 for equipment and resources.

In total, more than \$500,000 will go back into our community to support their amazing work.

**Apply now** 





#### **HOBSONS BAY FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCES**

Council and our community maintain three friendship alliances, Buloke and Yarrabah in Australia, and Anjo in Japan.

#### **About Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire** and Hobsons Bay

Over the past 20 years, through the sharing of information, culture, and art, a strong and lasting friendship has been formed between Hobsons Bay and the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council in Queensland.

The Yarrabah Cultural Dancers have performed at events in Hobsons Bav and Council has exhibited artwork created by children from Yarrabah.

The friendship received a 'Strengthening Indigenous Communities' award at the National Awards for Local Government in 2005, a prize held with great pride by the two communities.

#### **About Yarrabah Shire**

Yarrabah is the traditional country of the Gunggandji and Yidinji people.

Yarrabah Shire is an independent Aboriginal community in north Queensland, about 50km by road from Cairns. The coastal area has a population of about 4,000 people and many small townships and settlements.

More information about Yarrabah is available at

#### www.yarrabah.qld.gov.au

For information about Hobsons Bay's sister cities, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au





Do you have an olive tree in your yard or are you considering growing olives? Kat Lavers, our permaculture designer and educator, from My Smart Garden, explains why olive trees are so popular in Hobsons Bay and how to harvest and prune olives.

#### Is it easy to grow olives in Hobsons Bay?

Olives grow very easily in Hobsons Bay because they are tolerant of drought, salt and most soil types. In fact, they're considered a weed in our grassland ecosystem and are spread by birds, so if you've got an olive tree in your backyard, it's important to net and harvest it to prevent spread.

#### When is the best time to harvest olives?

Green olives can be harvested as soon as a few olives on the tree turn purple, or you can wait longer for black olives which have a milder flavour and higher oil content. Olives bruise easily so handle gently. Usually olives are picked from April-May, but this year ripening may stretch into June due to the cooler season.

#### How is extra virgin olive oil made?

Extra virgin olive oil is produced from the first pressing of the olives at low temperature. It's the highest quality and richest flavoured oil. The olives are washed, pulped and pressed or spun to squeeze out the liquid. Finally, the olive oil floats to the surface. Ten kilograms of olives will produce one to two litres of oil.

#### How are olive trees pruned?

Olives fruit on the outside of their canopy where the leaves receive good sun. If unpruned, olives will grow further out of reach every year, so it's a good idea to prune after harvest. Many people create a donut shape which lets in sunlight and airflow. Leave some canopy over the trunk and branches as olives can become sunburnt, creating a wound prone to fungal rot.

#### How long do they live?

Olive trees live for hundreds of years, with some special trees living to more than a thousand years old. That's a lot of salad dressing!

#### How can I find out more?

Come along to the olive workshops in June as part of the Festival of Food. Details on the back page.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTING** AT A GLANCE

See how we're tracking on infrastructure upgrades and delivering services for our community with 10 publicly available dashboards on our website.

The dashboards allow residents to see how Council is delivering a huge breadth of services, from the types of trees going in the ground, our collective efforts to divert waste from landfill and the top 10 enquiries to customer service.

You can also search for the planning zone you live in, heritage and industrial overlays, your bin collection area and how to get in touch with your local Councillor.

#### View the dashboards at











## NHO LIVES in Hobsons Bay

Our social planning team has combed through the 2021 Census data to bring you localised facts about who makes up the rich fabric of our city!

people live in Hobsons Bay

Half of us are aged 2

26-59 years



speak a language other than English at home

The three largest ancestries in Hobsons Bay in 2021 were:



**Australian** 



The top three countries people born overseas were from:





New Zealand

of Hobsons Bay's population was born overseas, compared with **35.7%** in Greater Melbourne.

With residents coming from more than

different countries and speaking

different languages





people identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

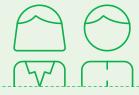
of households were made up of couples with children and

of us live alone (25.2%)









The top three industries that Hobsons Bay residents are employed in are:

Health care and social assistance

Professional, scientific and technical services

Construction



#### **DIGMAN RESERVE REVAMP**

Digman Reserve in Newport has a brandnew playground! The upgraded playground includes multi-age play equipment, spinning bowl, in-ground trampoline, and a basketball activity court and netball shooting circle. The play space was the last stage of the Digman Reserve Master Plan, which also included the new pavilion, redevelopment of east and west ovals including installing floodlights, a new car park at Douglas Parade, and reconstruction of the central and northwest car parks.

Digman Reserve is a large open space area for Newport residents, located along Douglas Parade, Hobson Street and Home Road. It is the home to local cricket and soccer clubs and a popular destination for dog walking and other informal activities.

#### **FORESHORE SHARED PATH**

Bike riders and pedestrians are enjoying the widened shared path from Webb Street to Pier Street in Altona. Works in this area also included aligning and raising the seawall from Sargood Street to Webb Street. Increasing the height of the seawall safeguards the shared path, foreshore, and nearby properties from the expected effects of climate change.

The shared path and seawall upgrade project was completed in partnership with the Victorian Government.

#### SAFER ROADS IN LAVERTON

Maher Road and Aviation Road in Laverton are now safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The shared user path on Maher Road provides the missing link for pedestrians by connecting Bladin Street to Aircraft Train Station and the pedestrian path.

Additional works included two raised crossing points over Maher Road and one raised crossing over Bladin Street to provide safer access to the shared user path.

The works stem from the Better Places Laverton Place Guide and have received funding from the state and federal governments.

The existing pedestrian crossing on Aviation Road also will soon be upgraded to a raised crossing to reduce speeds and improve safety for pedestrians.













Council regularly seeks feedback on the projects, policies and programs we are developing. Your feedback will help refine designs, modify services and ensure policies reflect the needs and wants of the community.

#### **CURRENT OPEN** CONSULTATIONS

- Creative City 2030
- Better Places Seabrook and Altona Meadows – provide your feedback on the draft projects until 15 April
- Greening Brooklyn

#### Coming soon

- Submissions open for Council's annual budget for 2023-24
- Biodiversity strategy

#### Your Budget 2023-24

Council delivers more than 100 services for the community and invests in infrastructure through our strong capital works program. Each year, Council develops an annual budget and invites community feedback. Sign up for our Participate email updates to be informed when you can have your say.

> Scan QR code to have your say





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers are the backbone of our community. This edition we'll meet Rosemary, who has been helping our older residents for more than two decades.

#### **ROSEMARY, SECRETARY OF ALTONA NORTH SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE**

Rosemary has volunteered at the Altona North Senior Citizens Centre for 25 years. She jokes that she is 'part of the building.'

For Rosemary, volunteering keeps her happy and useful. She loves meeting new people and describes the centre as a great place full of friendly and caring people.

Throughout the week the Altona North Senior Citizens Centre is a hub of activity with tai chi, indoor bowls and bingo, and diverse groups using the space including the Greek group, Italian group, Polish group, Macedonian group and the Seabreeze Quilters.

Rosemary herself runs the tai chi, indoor bowls and bingo. After each activity, everyone gets together for afternoon tea. Rosemary also invites anyone who doesn't want to take part in the activities to come to the centre, have a cuppa, a chat and meet members.

If this isn't enough, Rosemary also knits cute octopuses for premature babies which are delivered to a local hospital.





#### NATURE FOR HEALTH **AND WELLBEING**

#### A new innovative environmental program is coming to Hobsons Bay!

The program, Nature for Health and Wellbeing, is free to all Hobsons Bay residents and will include a range of activities such as nature walks, nature journalling, digital art, storytelling, forest bathing, meditation, local plant, animal and ecosystem knowledge and more.

The program has been developed in partnership between Hobsons Bay Libraries, Hobsons Bay conservation rangers and the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre.

Events kick off in April and will culminate in an exhibition at the Wings to Wellness celebration held by the Hobsons Bay Wetland Centre annually in October.

This is a great opportunity to connect with our magnificent coastline and wetlands.

#### All sessions are free, to book visit

This program is possible thanks to the Libraries for Health and Wellbeing Innovation Grant, awarded by the State Library of Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria.

#### **MORE COUNCIL+ LOCATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

Council+ services are now available at the Seabrook Community Centre and Laverton Community Hub. The Council+ experience brings together our library and customer services.

Council+ is also located at Williamstown, Altona North, Altona Meadows Pop-Up Library and at the Civic Centre in Altona.

Head to your nearest Council+ service centre and find out how you can conveniently access any of the Council services you require.

Find nearest site





## DIDYOU KNOW...

#### You can now pay for pet registration at any Council+ site

Pet registration renewals are due by 10 April and all cats and dogs over the age of three months must be registered with Council.

Microchipping and registering your pet play a big role in getting your pet home safely if they become lost.

For more information on pet registrations, visit





## OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE





Calling all passionate, aspiring young leaders - join the Young Ambassadors Group to meet like-minded young people, connect with Council and creative positive change within your community.

The Young Ambassadors Group is a space to connect, gain key leadership skills, and advocate on behalf of other young people in Hobsons Bay.

It's a free program for people aged 16 to 25 who live, work, study or have a connection to Hobsons Bay.

The Young Ambassadors meet on Tuesdays, 4.30pm to 6pm at the Newport Community Hub (150m away from Newport Railway Station).



To apply, visit





#### **WESTSIDE** FRFF7A

Interested in music and event management? Westside FReeZA is seeking new committee members to help create events for our community.

The committee meets every Wednesday during school terms from 4.30pm to 6pm at Newport Community Hub.

This is a great opportunity for people aged 12 to 25 to lead, learn and connect through hands-on experience to plan and stage live events and workshops in the local community.

Key events this year have included:

- Midsumma Westside
- Block Party
- Open Mic Nights

It's all about young people creating events for young people.



To sign up, visit





#### YOUTH SUPPORT **SERVICES**

Hobsons Bay Youth Services provides a range of free and confidential support services for people aged 12 to 25 (and their parents) who live, work, or study in Hobsons Bay.

**Counselling** – 12 counselling sessions are offered at the Newport Community Hub, at schools within Hobsons Bay or via outreach at a safe location of choice.

Practical help - Case management and support services provide individual support, for example, accessing Services Australia, linking into employment or education opportunities, getting their learners permit, and accessing health or mental health services.

Support for parents – Our popular sixsession parent program, Tuning into Teens, supports parents to raise emotionally intelligent teens. On our website, there are also helpful parenting resources.



For more information, or to register for these services, visit











## WHAT'S ON





#### **ARTS ATYOUR DOORSTEP**

#### **Sparrows of Kabul**

**Thursday 26 April, 7.30pm** *Altona Theatre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona* 

An extraordinary song-cycle on Australia's 20-year involvement in Afghanistan.

#### Sounds of Silent: screening Buster Keaton in Steamboat Bill Jr

Thursday 18 May, 7.30pm Old Laverton School Corner of Kiora Street and Cameron Avenue, Altona Meadows.

Five-piece band, Sounds of Silent, will recreate the cinema experience of the silent movie era by playing along to Buster Keaton's *Steamboat Bill Jr.* 

### For more information and to book



#### **FESTIVAL OF FOOD**

Free workshops featuring music, tradition, food and culture.

## Learn about pickles and kimchi + produce swap party

**Sunday 30 April, 1 to 3pm** *Altona Community Garden, Altona* 

### Olives to oil festival + olive pruning demonstration

**Sunday 4 June, 12 to 3pm** *Newport Community Hub, Newport* 

## Olive preserving demonstration + olive oil collection

**Sunday 18 June, 12 to 3pm** *Newport Community Hub, Newport* 

#### THE SNAILTRAIL

## **Wednesday 10 May to Sunday 14 May** *Free performances*

Follow the Snail Trail and join a giant hairy snail on an epic journey along the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail.

Kinetic Theatre will delight audiences and bring wonder to the area's uniqueness and beauty, and the stories that make up its history.

This free performance is part of Council's New Art Community Support Package.

For details, visit



#### **VOLUNTEER EXPO**

#### Saturday 20 May 11am to 2pm

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, Altona

Interested in volunteering? Come along to our Volunteer Expo and explore a great range of volunteering opportunities. Find out new ways that you can participate in your community. Meet community and volunteer-run groups and organisations and hear from guest speakers. Plus, there will be wellbeing information, programs and activities, and live music.

#### For more information, visit



#### NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

**27 May to 3 June**Be a voice for generations.
Act today for a reconciled tomorrow.

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.