

HOBSONS BAY

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPRING / EDITION 10



art
IN PUBLIC
PLACES

BEYOND THE GALLERY WALLS

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MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Spring is finally here. But while it's easy to get distracted by the flowers and new leaves on the trees, beneath the surface something far more interesting is going on. Trees are sharing nutrients and information in a complex system of coordination termed the Wood Wide Web. It is an analogy we can perhaps learn from. As a community, if we maximise the opportunities to work together, we can strengthen our connectedness and grow our sense of community well being.

This idea is one of the key notions behind the Compact of Mayors which we signed up to in June. The initiative from ICLEI - the International Council for Environmental Initiatives - is the world's largest cooperative effort among cities and local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. As part of our commitment, we will be benchmarking our performance to measure how well we are adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change, water management and greenhouse gas emissions.

Another important joint initiative coming up is the Community Leaders Forum on Youth Suicide Prevention, taking place on 4 September at The Substation, Newport. For this event, I'll be joining clinicians, policy makers, educators and others to discuss a coordinated approach for tackling youth suicide - the leading cause of death among Australia's young people. Similarly, in August I attended the Preventing Violence Together 2030 workshop where representatives from local government got together with community health services, primary care partnerships and response services to share strategies and knowledge for tackling family violence and violence against women.

In both these areas, and in many more across our community, I am struck by how many volunteers offer their time and expertise to make a difference. As a Council we want to do everything we can to foster volunteering. We have recently sought feedback on the draft Active Community Volunteering Strategy 2017, which outlines Council's roles and responsibilities in promoting and supporting volunteers and volunteering. We are also seeking feedback on our Integrated Transport Plan, a plan that sets the course towards a more integrated, innovative and equitable transport system, one of Council's advocacy platforms of highest priority to our residents. Both strategies are available to view at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Cr Sandra Wilson, Mayor of Hobsons Bay

BUSINESS AWARDS

Nominations have now closed for the 2017 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards and judges are busily poring over the entries across the ten categories.

The winners, along with the recipients of Business of the Year Award and Mayoral Award, will be announced at Council's gala dinner on Friday 20 October at the Williamstown Town Hall.

Tickets for the dinner are \$95 per person or \$900 for a table of ten, including a three course meal and drinks. Tickets are available at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/businessawards

IT'S TIME TO TALK BUDGET

Do you have an idea you'd like Council to fund in its 2018-19 budget or beyond? If so, come along to a *Time to Talk* information session to meet with your Councillors, present your idea or ask questions about the upcoming budget. Sessions take place between 6pm and 7.30pm on 2 October (Altona Meadows Library), 11 October (Altona Civic Centre), and 12 October (Newport Community Hub).

The budget consultation period will be running from 18 September to 8 December. For full details, visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Cover image: Hobsons Bay will turn into an open art gallery for September

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Your Council in your language

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THINGS ARE RAMPING UP

for local skateboarder Bailey Dyson

For high school student and Williamstown resident Bailey Dyson, skateboarding is a release. "It's given me an outlet to focus my energy," he says. "It's a place I can relax, forget about the world, and just focus on my skating."

The rewards from this focus have not gone unnoticed. Bailey recently picked up a sponsorship deal from Melbourne-based skateboarding company Howling Finch.

But skateboarding hasn't always been, as Bailey himself describes, his "true passion." It used to be just one of a number of hobbies until his skating enthusiasm was piqued by Council's Skate Development Officer Tony Hallam, a former professional skateboarder and respected name in the field. "He's a great mentor and friend – he's always positive and encourages me in my skating. He also ensures the facilities are maintained to the highest standard and everyone's given an opportunity to enjoy them."

These facilities include the skate parks in Cherry Lake, Altona and McCormack Park, Laverton, but Bailey's own favourite is Newport Skate Park on the corner of Douglas Parade and North Road. Council also runs a skate development program that includes competitions and regular clinics for both beginners and those that wish to improve their skateboarding skills and techniques. They're free and bookings aren't required.

"I love the buzz of learning new tricks, mastering old ones," he says. "I also like teaching other kids how to skate and pushing myself outside my comfort zone."

The social aspect is important. "It's a good environment to meet new people and talk about an activity you're passionate about. If you visit the skateparks, you'll see a full range of people, from middle-aged skaters to young children – so I wouldn't say it attracts one type of person or promotes a particular lifestyle."

Any downsides? "I use a lot of band-aids," says Bailey, "and I wear out a lot of shoes and clothes."

So if this has got you in the mood and you don't mind a bit of wear and tear, then pack a few band-aids, grab your board and head outside. For more information on the clinics and the skate parks in the area, go to www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/skate



ALTONA EARLY YEARS HUB

Scheduled to open in January 2019, the Altona Early Years Hub will provide families with a state-of-the-art early years facility co-located on the site of the Altona P-9 College.

The facility's construction is anticipated to start in late 2017. The photo on the left shows an artist's impression of the finished design.

Services will include childcare and education (from birth to six years), kindergarten (both three year old,

and funded four year old), Maternal Child Health, early intervention services, community rooms and family support services.

Registrations for the 2019 program are now open. Families who wish to register for long day care, kindergarten and other programs should visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaEarlyYearsHub, or contact Council's Early Years team on 9932 1000 or via email: earlyyears@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au



Art in Public Places is a month-long event in September where art in Hobsons Bay moves beyond the walls of the gallery and out into the public sphere. Expect the unexpected, the unfamiliar in familiar places.

Art in Public Places is a month-long, multi venue celebration of art and ideas, in all their forms. You will discover artwork and artists from around the world and around the corner. Everyday locations such as parks, shops and car parks will become temporary exhibition spaces, and artists range from international innovators to local primary school children!

Art in Public Places reminds us of the importance of public space for its ability to host diverse social exchanges. This is the first time the event has been run biennially rather than annually, enabling a program of spectacular diversity. Below are some of the highlights. Look out for the full program available at www.artinpublicplaces.com.au

ARTISTS-IN-BUSINESS

September
Various locations

The artists-in-business program has been a feature of *Art in Public Places* since its inception over ten years ago. Walk past your favourite shop or café during September and you may double-take as familiar spaces are transformed by artistic endeavour. There'll be 18 local artists taking over 22 spaces – what better opportunity to explore the city?

BLOCKUMENTARY

28 September
Lohse Street Reserve, Laverton

Blockumentary is a short film which documents the transformation of Laverton's Woods and Lohse Streets, since the old Laverton Post Office was transformed into the thriving Woods Street Arts Space. This is a special screening of the film, including a full program of entertainment (and an open mic night!) and even a red carpet for the film's local stars.

GLOW

8 to 10 September
Commonwealth Reserve, Williamstown

Imagine if hundreds of little handmade creatures and a great big, glowing light took over the rotunda at Williamstown's Commonwealth Reserve. Now, imagine the children of Hobsons Bay were behind this transformation. This reflective, community-driven installation will be accompanied by *Born in a Taxi's* Illuminated Angels on Friday evening, and music on Saturday with Hoodoo Mayhem launching us into the Ugly Bug Ball.

LIGNITE

9 to 30 September
Harrington Square, Altona

Locals know Harrington Square in Altona as a great place for food and coffee. But did you know in 1906 a mining group sunk a small mineshaft where Harrington Square is today, extracting over 30,000 tons of brown coal in 13 years? The Wild Books Collective draws inspiration from this heritage and has created a response which is part-performance, part-installation, part environmental commentary, part-sensory experience.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2017–18

\$170,000

Brooklyn Reserve dog park

\$180,000

Edwards Reserve toilet
and open space upgrade

\$120,000

Roy Picone pavilion
accessible facilities

\$1.7M

Kororoit Creek Trail
stages 4 and 5

\$150,000

Blenheim Road
open space design

\$300,000

Hobsons Bay Coastal
Trail renewal

\$270,000

McCormack Park
footpath renewal

\$4.59M

Altona Early Years Hub

\$35,000

Altona Little Athletics
Club pavilion
improvements

\$500,000

Challis Street drainage
improvements

\$680,000

J T Gray Reserve
new pavilion

\$600,000

Williamstown Mechanics
Institute structure stabilisation

\$320,000

Skeleton Creek Trail
upgrade (Labassa Way
to Clarendon Court)

\$300,000

Laverton Old School
improvements

\$25,000

Laverton Creek Queens
Street pedestrian
bridge concept design

\$250,000

G H Ransom Reserve
upgrade (incl. public toilets
& open space upgrade)

\$210,000

Skeleton Creek Trail
Seabrook path connections

\$165,000

Altona Sports Centre
extension design

\$2M

Foreshore improvements
including sand replacement
and drainage

BUDGET SUMMARY

Asset renewal continues to be the major focus of our \$34.32 million capital works program – and you'll notice considerable works are scheduled for vital infrastructure such as drains, roads and footpaths.

We have also set aside \$118 million for the over 100 valued services we provide - from libraries to events, disability services to local business development.

Have a look at the map above for some of the key projects scheduled for 2017–18.

\$11.41M

Sporting facilities and community buildings, including \$680,000 on the JT Gray Reserve pavilion and \$4.59 million on the Altona Early Years Hub

\$3.85M

Footpaths and cycle ways, including \$320,000 on the Skeleton Creek shared trail upgrade and \$200,000 on the Market/Jubilee Street shared pathway connection

\$6.68M

Road resurfacing and road rehabilitation, including \$600,000 on Charles Street, Williamstown and \$100,000 on Victoria Street, Altona Meadows

\$7.75M

Parks, foreshore, open space, streetscape and recreation and community facilities works, including \$1.4 million to replace sand along the Altona Foreshore

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSE

Alastair Kleine

This year marks two important anniversaries: 100 years of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services in Victoria and 50 years since the release of the Beatles' Sgt Pepper album. So, we've taken the final song of that album and applied it to MCH! The result? An insight into the average day of a MCH nurse. Over to you Alastair...

① 8.30AM

First up is Jayden and his mum. Jayden's two years old and seems pretty fit and healthy. I provide some advice on childcare options available in the local area because mum's planning to go back to work soon. I also remind mum about Jayden's vaccination schedule. By 10am, I've met with another two families. We generally try to schedule the older children in the mornings and the younger babies in the afternoons – it works best that way.

⌚ 10AM

A mum calls. She has concerns about her four-month old daughter's nappy rash. I ask her to come in for a quick check up later that day. This is followed by a meeting with six-day old Jade and her anxious first-time parents.

⌚ 11.45AM

An early lunch – and a chance to catch up on some paperwork. Afterwards I meet with Kim, the four-month old girl with nappy rash. She appears to have a mild fungal infection so I recommend an over-the-counter anti-fungal cream.

① 12.30PM

Next up is eight-week old Bao. There are some concerns he has put on slightly less weight than average over the past two visits so I provide mum with some options on supplementing her breastfeeding with a bottle of formula. We usually conduct health check-ups for new babies at two weeks, four weeks and eight weeks, and we also run a weekly drop in session which parents can attend without an appointment if they have concerns about their child's growth.



⌚ 1.30PM

Arriving back at the office, I see three-and-a-half-year old Cuc. A Vietnamese translator joins us to help mum fill in the enrolment forms for four year old kindergarten. Cuc's family are recent arrivals to Australia and are not familiar with the schooling system so I explain what needs to be done for enrolment to primary school.



⌚ 2PM

Today we're learning about baby massage at the parents' group session I facilitate. We usually have between five and 15 parents attending each group. They attend for the first six weeks and then, after that, it's up to the group whether they would like to continue catching up or not.

⌚ 4.30PM

After another two appointments, I finish the day with Mason, Lexi and mum Trish (pictured). Once a month I stay until 6.30pm to accommodate appointments with working parents, but today is just a regular day.

www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/MCH



A TALE OF THREE CITIES

Spring is traditionally a time of transformation, a time to try new things or cast your eyes to new perspectives. This has been the case with a fantastic project we've launched with our sister city Buloke Shire Council, working with secondary schools in both councils to foster opportunities for learning and sharing information.

Our relationship with Buloke is one of three longstanding sister city friendships for Hobsons Bay. Our friendship with Anjo in Japan is now 29 years old and has blossomed like the spring blooms of the city's famous cherry trees. Over the years, there have been several exchanges organised by the Hobsons Bay International Friendship Association. The most recent was a student exchange between Hobsons Bay and Anjo in July.

Our third sister city Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council could not be more different than Anjo. It's cassowary country with white sandy beaches surrounded by lush, verdant rainforest - and despite having a population of only 2,000 people, it's rich with ideas and creativity. One of its artists Elverina Johnson has just been awarded the prize of NAIDOC artist of the year. Our sister cities provide great opportunities for learning and looking at things differently, and you can find out more at www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/sistercities

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR WARD?



STRAND WARD

Town Hall forecourt

The Williamstown Town Hall carpark and forecourt project is progressing well. The carpark has now been fully resurfaced and work has begun on the rehabilitation of Lenore Crescent. During this time, the Town Hall carpark will remain closed to the general public and used as overflow for Lenore Crescent residents whose street parking may be limited while the works are occurring. The heritage fountain in the forecourt of the Williamstown Town Hall has been taken offsite for conservation and restoration. It will be returned once forecourt works are complete.

Challis Street drainage

Installation of a new drainage system in Challis Street, Newport (pictured) has commenced steadily northwards from Railway Parade. These works won't affect Challis Street shops which will remain open the whole time. The Challis Street stormwater drain represents the backbone of the drainage network in this section of Newport. When complete, all tributary drains will flow into the Melbourne Water Challis Street Main Drain that runs at the bottom of Challis Street adjacent to the railway.

Changing Places at Bayfit

Council is proud to announce that a *Changing Places* accessible change facility at Bayfit Leisure Centre is now open. *Changing Places* are larger than normal toilets with full-sized height adjustable change tables and ceiling hoists to specifically cater to the needs of people with a disability who cannot use regular accessible toilets. The addition of this facility will complement Bayfit's other accessible facilities including aquatic wheelchairs.



CHERRY LAKE WARD

Brooklyn Reserve upgrade

It's been a year in the making but the results are worth it – there is nothing reserved about the Brooklyn Reserve makeover (pictured)! It began with an upgrade to the car park, followed by the laying of a new loop path around the existing play and barbecue area. A koala, echidna, wombat and other animals took residence – in sculpture form anyway – and a beautifully carved log seat was installed while the sandpit was finished. Perhaps the piece de resistance however is the Eagle's Lair – all six metres of it – a climbing frame that caters for a wide range of climbing abilities. There's also an outdoor gym so you can bench press, or work on your lat pulls and torso twists. Freshly planted grevilleas and hebe hedges will attract the native birds while shade will be provided by the red flowering gums and native frangipanis.

Weaver Reserve toilets upgrade

Relief is in store for beachgoers and Pier Street shoppers with Council refurbishing the public toilets at Weaver Reserve in the coming months. The toilets, located near the Altona Lifesaving Club, are popular facilities for beachgoers, esplanade walkers, and people enjoying the delights of Pier Street. The new design includes upgrades to the toilets, in addition to one fully accessible toilet featuring an adult change table and hoist rail. Improvements will also be made to the air flow and lighting into the toilets – and cold water, outdoor showers and hand wash basins will be installed just outside the facility for community members accessing the beach. The upgrade is scheduled for completion in time for the summer beach season.



WETLANDS WARD

Heritage street signs

Council is unveiling its latest round of heritage street signs (pictured), pointing the way towards a greater understanding of the history of Hobsons Bay.

The signs give a glimpse into the history of the city, showcasing important figures and community members from our past. Bladin Street, Lohse Street and Maher Road will have their stories told thanks to the signs and detailed research into the people behind our most known roads and streets.

Did you know Bladin Street was named after Francis Masson Bladin, Air Vice Marshal in the Royal Australian Air Force and United States Silver Star recipient for action seen in WWII?

If you would like to find out more about the signs, please visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagesigns

H D Graham Reserve car park

Works are kicking off to improve the existing gravel car park at H D Graham Reserve. The works will include the installation of stormwater drainage, new bus parking, and capacity to hold 100 cars. This car park will service the skate park and BMX track, the public tennis courts, and act as an overflow for the Altona Sports Centre.

Summary of other works

Accessibility is the name of the game in Altona Meadows with about 100m of new footpaths being installed in Queen Street, while the clock tower in Aviation Road is now fully operational on all four of its faces, thanks to the Rotary Club of Laverton funding the clock's restoration over recent months.



Spring into life

Spring is here and Hobsons Bay will soon have a spring in its step with the annual *Spring into Life* program launching on 18 September, a jam-packed program of fun and interesting activities at a range of great community organisations. The program has something to offer everyone from fitness classes, to kids and adult craft activities.

Try to get in early to avoid missing out. For a full calendar of events go to www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/springintolife

Here are just two of the highlights:

The Urban Farmer **Wednesday 20 September** **6.30pm to 7.45pm** Altona Library

While you may only have a balcony, courtyard, backyard or just a window ledge, it's still possible to grow your own food and create a Garden of Eden. Permaculture, organic gardening and horticultural expert Justin Calverley – famous for the 3RRR show *Dirty Deeds* – will be on hand to show you how. Bookings are required for this free event: phone 1300 462 542 or email libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Spring Dance **Thursday 21 September** **10am to 2pm** Walker Close Community Centre, Altona North

This seniors' dance is a chance to make some new friends while listening to the songs of yesteryear mixed with some easy listening tunes from today. Some will want to find their groove on the dancefloor, others in the comfortable seating. Light refreshments will be provided.

FOOD FOR FINES

Overdue fines? A can of food will be fine!

For one month, money will grow on trees – or at least it will do if you have a library fine. As part of Hobsons Bay's *Food for Fines* program, libraries are accepting food such as tinned meat, fruit and vegetables as payment for overdue charges. From Monday 13 November until Sunday 10 December, library members with overdue materials will be able to donate one food item to pay up to \$10 in overdue charges, with no limit on how much you can pay.

R U OK? Day **Thursday 14 September** **10am to 12pm** Laverton Community Hub

Zumba, henna, massage, face painting... these are just some of the activities at this morning tea for *R U OK? Day*. The national day has been running annually since 2009, and seeks to inspire regular and meaningful conversations among those in our communities who may be struggling with the challenges of life. Bookings are required. Please call 8368 0100 or email LavertonCommunityHub@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Reinventing Middle Age **Monday 9 October** **2.30pm to 3.30pm** Newport Community Hub

There is a new middle age – and it begins at 50! With people living and working longer, Australians aged between 50 and 75 are contributing to society in truly interesting and inspirational ways. In this afternoon talk, Patricia and Don Edgar will share insights gleaned from writing their recently released book *Peak: Reinventing Middle Age*. For more details: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB.

Diwali Festival of Lights Craft **Monday 16 October** **4pm to 5pm** Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre

Come for an afternoon of light entertainment to celebrate Diwali, an ancient Hindu festival which signifies the triumph of light. Come dressed in your traditional Indian costume for this joyous celebration featuring Diwali inspired craft activities for five to 12 year olds. For more details: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB.

Children's Week Picnic **Wednesday 25 October 2017** **10am to 1pm** Logan Reserve, Altona

Pack your picnic, bring your friends and settle in for the tenth annual Children's Week Picnic. As well as the ever-popular animal farm, there'll be face painting, dancing, smiling, laughing, chatting... and plenty of live entertainment.

Arts at your Doorstep presents **Lovely Lady Lump** **Friday 27 October** **7.30pm to 9.30pm** Williamstown Town Hall

A night of hilarious, poignant and frank theatre. Sit back as acclaimed Melbourne comic Lana Schwarcz begins her award-winning show: "Let me start by telling you I'm ok. I'm just in a small situation involving a pesky cancer tumour in my left nork, but I'm not dying and I'm the luckiest person in the entire world." Tickets: \$30 adults, \$20 concessions. Bookings: www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au



Be in the draw to win one of the western suburbs' biggest art prizes. We're looking for entries from prep to Year 12 students who live or study in Hobsons Bay. Any medium is permitted – the artwork just needs to be inspired by your favourite book. You have until Saturday 7 October to enter *Drawn by the Bay*. For more details: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB.