HOBSONS BAY
COMMUNITY NEWS
AUTUMN / EDITION 8

BROOKLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT
(see page 7 for more details)

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

FILMING IN HOBSONS BAY
MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR
Hello and welcome to the first edition of Hobsons Bay Community News for 2017.

Summer is a time of relaxation and reinvigoration and Council has been focused on providing both through events at our cherished open spaces. Crowds have gathered to enjoy our free music festivals, community get-togethers and outdoor movie sessions to celebrate all that makes Hobsons Bay a great place to live and visit. And there’s more to come! Cultural Diversity Week will be taking place between 18 and 26 March and I highly recommend you check out the brochure on our website. Activities and events will include cultural games, songs, food tasting, a film screening and a special Mandarin bi-lingual story time – all to celebrate our rich cultural diversity.

We know how valued our natural environment is in Hobsons Bay and we all know how it has been impacted by our over-dependence on plastics. Hence, the campaign to ‘say no to plastic bags.’ Instead of using them when out shopping, look for community-made Boomerang Bags – (although, as the name suggests, please remember to return them!). At the other end of plastics use, we have had the rollout of flexible plastics recycling which means we can divert a whole range of plastic bags and packaging from landfill by putting them in our yellow recycling bins. You can read about it on page 6.

A project that has been close to my heart is the Mesh Mash print design studio for young people based a few doors down from the Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton. An initiative from my 2014 Mayoral Program, it’s great to see young people accessing screen printing, marketing and product development workshops, learning skills for employability and contributing to the growth of a sustainable social enterprise. For more details, email arts@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Finally, the street tree planting season will soon be upon us. Taking place between April and September, 1400 trees will be planted to add to the over 90,000 trees we have already along our streets and in our parks. We’re branching out this year, planting species that may not be quite so familiar to Hobsons Bay but are well suited to local conditions (including Ginkos, native frangipani, and illawarra flame tree), and no longer planting the species that have proven less suitable.

Cr Sandra Wilson, Mayor of Hobsons Bay
IS DON... AND NOW TO DECIDE... IS GOOD?

The site, known alternatively as the Don Smallgoods site or Precinct 15, is approximately half the size of Melbourne’s CBD and bordered by Kyle Road, Blackshaws Road, New Street and the West Gate Freeway. Council has recently received an application to rezone the site to allow for other uses such as residential development, commercial, retail and parkland.

Working with the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) the current landowners have submitted an application that proposes 66ha of parkland (including several parks), a small town centre, and approximately 3,000 new homes and apartments housing approximately 7,000 new residents in Hobsons Bay.

The proposal brings with it a number of benefits including the removal of heavy industrial uses from the site, increased housing choice for the area’s future and existing residents, new community facilities, and a town centre. However it will also have impacts on existing residents that must be considered.

Council has asked the Minister for Planning for approval to undertake a planning scheme amendment. As part of an amendment, Council will place the proposal on public exhibition so the community can get involved. Community input is an important part of this process and Council will be seeking feedback on all aspects including, density, height limits, transport and noise. If the Minister approves Council’s request to undertake a planning scheme amendment then the community consultation process can begin.

To register, please go to participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ and select ‘Precinct 15 (Former Dons Site), Altona North.’ You can also phone Council’s Strategic Development Team on 9932 1000 for more information.

IT’S NOW EASIER BEING GREEN

Considering environmental upgrades for your business or commercial building? Council offers a number of programs to help you through the process.

For a start, Council and Sustainability Victoria can assist with energy assessments to help businesses identify projects that can increase environmental efficiencies.

Council can also assist with subsidies and selecting quality products at competitive prices, for example through the Light$mart program. Council is expanding our services in this area in 2017 so watch this space!

Council also offers Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUAs) to help commercial building owners invest in infrastructure to improve environmental performance without the heavy start-up costs.

An EUA is a financing agreement between a building owner, a bank and Council that facilitates a building upgrade to improve environmental performance. Once approved, a lender provides finance to the building owner, Council then collects repayments through the rates system and returns the property charge to the lender. No upfront capital is required. For more information visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/eua or phone Council on 9932 1000.

PARTICIPATE HOBSONS BAY

With a number of strategies going out for exhibition over the next couple of months, you’ll have plenty of opportunity to engage with some of the work Council is doing.

First up there’s our Biodiversity Strategy. This will be looking at how we can ensure our plants and animals and their ecosystems remain healthy over time, particularly in response to threats such as weeds, pest animals and climate change. We are also in the process of drafting how the New Residential Zones will be allocated across the municipality - a process that is being informed by the preparation of a Housing Strategy and a new Neighbourhood Character Study and Activity Centre Strategy. Over the next couple of months, you’ll be able to view these strategies and the draft New Residential Zones map on our Participate Hobsons Bay webpage - participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/

Keep an eye out on Council’s website, Facebook and Twitter for regular updates.
Our newest citizens came from a range of different countries including Brazil, Colombia, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

Earlier that morning, our 2017 Citizens of the Year (pictured top left) had stood up and accepted their awards.

Our Young Citizen of the Year, Nikolina Mabic, said she had come a long way from being a seven year old diagnosed with anxiety. She once endured an entire plane journey without her feet touching the floor, worried that if she did, the plane would crash. Nikolina is now a 22-year old film producer and mental health advocate.

Her debut film, *The First Giant Hurdle*, explores anxiety and the importance of confronting and overcoming that first immediate hurdle. The trailer can be viewed on YouTube and the film itself will be released later this year. She has also launched *Spare Capacity* – a website and workshop program that helps people to care for their own wellbeing.

Citizen of the Year Ralph Humphries can point to an impressive history of volunteering work. He is a founding member of the Friends of Williamstown Wetlands (FOWW) and for 11 years he collected food donations from the community for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. You may have seen him singing along with the Newport Choir or you may have read one of his newsletters for the Williamstown Sailing Club or FOWW. Ralph has also served as the Secretary of Hobsons Bay University of the Third Age for 20 years. He currently tutors Italian as well as performing a range of secretarial duties.

It was a packed house at the Williamstown Town Hall on 26 January. One by one, Hobsons Bay’s newest citizens – 118 in total – came to the front of the hall to shake hands and receive their Australian citizenship certificate.

PROJECTS TAKE FLIGHT
THANKS TO ENVIRO GRANTS

When members of BirdLife Australia talk about migrants they’re usually referring to stints, sharp-tailed sandpipers or godwits. But not so with the group’s latest project. Two specially tailored workshops are taking place in Hobsons Bay over the next few months to teach recent migrants to Hobsons Bay about bird and wetland conservation. The benefits are reciprocal – the participants will learn about the local environment, while Birdlife Australia will engage a new group of people to help as Citizen Scientists (a term describing the great work members of the community make towards research and data collection).

These workshops were possible thanks to a grant of $2,000 from Council’s 2016 Environment Grants program. The good news is that the new program is open now for applications – you have until 19 May to submit. For more information visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/EnvironmentalGrants2017

To find out more about the BirdLife Australia workshops, please visit www.birdlife.org.au

Photo: purple swamphen (taken by Andrew Silcocks)
Ever settled down to watch television and instantly recognised a building in the background, a local shop or a familiar landscape?

With Council issuing 85 filming permits during 2016, chances are pretty high that you have seen a landmark from Hobsons Bay in a movie, television show or advertisement.

Hobsons Bay is a hotbed of filming action. The variety in our streetscapes, including heritage, post-war suburban, new and traditional homes make for great backdrops for film makers. While our waterfront location, proximity to good beaches, parklands, as well as city and industrial views all help set the perfect scene.

Council works closely with location managers to mitigate filming impacts and ensure there is clear communication and consent between film makers, our residents and businesses. We also support student film makers by providing advice and support as needed and waiving filming fees.

Filming directly benefits the local economy through expenditure with businesses and provides work for the many skilled film industry professionals based in the western suburbs. It also lifts community pride to know that our streets are being promoted through film.

You may not have noticed but it snowed for a few weeks in Williamstown in 2006. They were filming *Where the Wild Things Are* and a Williamstown crescent substituted for American suburbia. The two-storey weatherboard house (photo below) had been built according to an American design so the deceit was not unbelievable. And when main character Max ends up sailing across an ocean, he sets out from nearby Newport Lakes. Another American film, *Charlotte’s Web*, was filmed down the road at Nelson Place and Commonwealth Reserve.

Australian films have also taken advantage of Hobsons Bay. Watch the film *Oddball* and you may notice Williamstown Town Hall and St Mary’s Church, Cecil Street in the background. *The Dressmaker* includes location work at St Stephen’s Church in Williamstown. And when, in *Animal Kingdom*, Joel Edgerton leaves his house to confront the policeman who will eventually shoot him, the street he walks down is in Altona Meadows.

Murder and mystery is not unfamiliar to Hobsons Bay. You may have seen Phryne Fisher dress up as a magician’s assistant to catch the killer in *Blood and Circuses* (an episode of Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries). In reality she would have been greeting dogwalkers, cyclists and birdos as the carnival was filmed at Doug Grant Reserve, Altona. And while Carl Williams was shot in real life in a reserve in Gladstone Park, in the *Underbelly* series he was shot beneath the pines of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens.

On a more recent note, scenes from the *Winners and Losers* TV series were filmed in Bolton Street, Spotswood and Junction Street, Newport. And both *Newton’s Law* and Zoe Foster Blake’s *The Wrong Girl* were filmed in various locations in Altona. For the former, Josephine Newton’s legal practice was located on Railway Street South (photo above) while the latter featured scenes shot near the pier. Other series in which you may notice familiar backgrounds include *Wentworth*, *The Dr Blake Mysteries*, *Jack Irish* and *HBO Series The Hunter*.

Hobsons Bay is also a popular location for commercials, with The Strand and Battery Road often featuring in car commercials. And *The BBQ Movie*, the upcoming Shane Jacobson and Magda Szubanski film, is set in the western suburbs with filming taking place recently in Williamstown and Altona.
RECYCLING
Recycling is collected from your yellow-lidded bin every two weeks. To find out which weeks, an area by area calendar is available on Council’s website.

- glass and plastic bottles
- jars and containers
- milk and juice cartons (including tetra paks)
- newspapers
- pots and pans
- plastic toys
- aerosol, aluminium & steel cans
- cardboard

- crockery
- polystyrene
- nappies
- food
- plant waste

FLEXIBLE PLASTICS
You can now collect your flexible plastics in the one plastic bag, tie it up, and put it in your recycling bin. Hobsons Bay is proud to be one of the first councils in Victoria to be offering this recycling service.

- plastic shopping bags
- cling wrap
- zip lock bags
- bubble wrap
- grocery packaging such as bread bags

- silver foil lined wrappers (i.e. chocolate, ice cream or chip wrappers)

HARD WASTE
Residents can get one free on-demand hard waste collection each financial year. Bookings must be made by 12pm Friday the week before you want your hard waste collected. Call 9932 1000 to book.

- furniture
- mattresses
- electronic waste
- glass
- scrap metal
- branches
- white goods

- building, fencing or renovation materials
- chemicals
- gas bottles

GREEN WASTE
Council collects plant waste in the green-lidded bins every fortnight (on the weeks we’re not collecting your recycling) – and turn it into compost.

Don’t have a green-lidded bin? Call 9932 1000 or download an application form from the website if you need one. A small charge applies.

- grass clippings
- weeds
- leaves
- small branches

- plant pots
- large logs
- sand, soil and dirt

TOXIC CHEMICALS
Fertilisers, ammonia-based cleaners and pool chemicals can be disposed of at the Detox Your Home event on 27 May in Altona. Register at www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Household paint, batteries and compact fluorescent lights can be disposed of throughout the year at Melton Recycling Facility or Brimbank Resource Recovery Centre. For more information visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/services-and-advice/households

Paint can also be recycled through the national Paintback service. For a site near you, visit www.paintback.com.au

LIGHTING RECYCLING
Council also offers a used lighting recycling service from Bunnings, Altona and Simmers Hardware, Williamstown. For more information visit Council’s website.

ELECTRONIC WASTE
Mobiles, computers and televisions often contain harmful materials. So how best to dispose of them? Council hosts an electronic waste recycling event – the next one is on 18 November. But for the rest of the year there are other drop-off sites – for more information visit www.recyclingnearyou.com.au

Any questions?
Phone: 9932 1000
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR WARD?

STRAND WARD

WILLIAMSTOWN SEWER PROJECT
Melbourne Water is upgrading the sewer between Pasco Street in Williamstown and Scienceworks in Spotswood (pictured). Works started in early 2017 and are expected to take around 18 months to complete. These works are essential to ensuring the reliability of sewage service for the next 50 years. For more information, visit www.melbournewater.com.au/williamstownsewer

WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH SHELTER
The Williamstown Beach Shelter suffered structural damage during the October 2016 storms and has been closed since then for safety reasons. The shelter is the last remaining feature of the Williamstown Esplanade when it was first developed 120 years ago and is of historical significance in the Esplanade Foreshore Heritage Precinct. Following consultation with residents and community groups, Council will be dismantling and rebuilding the shelter to its original form. It is anticipated works will be completed by mid-2017. For updates visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/beachshelter

DIGMAN RESERVE
Following a recent online survey on the usability of Digman Reserve, Council will be hosting a drop in session on 22 March between 4.30pm and 7.30pm. See www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au for more information.

CHERRY LAKE WARD

BROOKLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT
The Brooklyn Neighbourhood Project (pictured) has been an exciting opportunity to activate Brooklyn, bring a sense of community and fun to the local area, and help transform underutilised land into much loved community spaces. An enthusiastic group of residents has been meeting to organise these projects. In January, the group launched a temporary dog off-leash park at Brooklyn Reserve and the installation of art in the laneway at 31A Cypress Avenue. The two initiatives will run until the end of March. To get involved, call 9932 1000.

ALTONA BEACH LOCKERS
Good news for beachgoers - Council has partnered with Victoria Police, Altona Village Traders Association and Altona Lifesaving Club to provide lockers for beachgoers to store their personal belongings while they have fun at Altona beach.

Lockers are available for hire from the Norfolk Café (139 Esplanade, Altona) from 8am to 7.30pm, seven days a week for a $5 fee. Customers will be given a waterproof wristband which they can use to access their lockers whenever they wish. You will need a driver’s license or other form of identification to hire a locker.

For more information contact Council on 9932 1000 or visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/beachlockers

WETLANDS WARD

SKELETON CREEK SHARED TRAIL
Design has started on the Clarendon Court to Labassa Way and Point Cook Road to Clarendon Court sections of the Skeleton Creek Trail. The shared trail along the southern side has come to the end of its lifespan and needs to be replaced. Its replacement will result in a realignment that will take the trail out of the one in 10 year flood zone and provide a safe and well-connected shared trail network. Construction will occur this year. In the meantime you’ll notice some new signage along the trail (pictured). The nine signs, a result of a collaboration between Council and the Friends of Skeleton Creek, tell you all about the area’s nature from the damselflies to the mayflies, the reed warblers to the rhizomes.

BRUCE COMBEN RESERVE
Work is progressing on the new road, roundabout, footpaths, fencing and pedestrian crossing at Bruce Comben Reserve. These current works are expected to be completed by mid-April and there is signage onsite to inform reserve users of the works. These works follow the park’s recent upgrade which includes a revamped pavilion, new lighting and improved paths. Plus, the car park upgrade to nearby Cooraminta Kindergarten is expected to be finished by the end of April.
Cost: FREE

prizes and the book cubby. games and a colouring competition with the whole family including face painting, the world. There will be entertainment for Arts at Your Doorstep presents…

www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au

enjoying music and food from around the world. Get to know your neighbours while enjoying music and food from around the world. There will be entertainment for the whole family including face painting, games and a colouring competition with prizes and the book cubby.

Cost: FREE

2017 SEASON
The ‘Arts At Your Doorstep’ performing arts program brings the best of Australian theatre to Hobsons Bay from 31 March to 27 October. Check out the full program and book tickets at www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au

Arts At Your Doorstep presents…

Cultural Diversity Week
Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 March
Join us for a week of fun and free cultural activities in Hobsons Bay from 18 to 26 March 2017. The program has something to offer for everyone. Come along, meet your neighbours, talk about your culture and have fun. Pick up your program from libraries and community centres or visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Altona North Neighbour Day
Sunday 19 March 2017 11am to 2pm
RJ Cooper Reserve
Maltese Association Hall
21–31 Collins Ave, Altona North
Altona North residents are invited to come along and celebrate Altona North Neighbour Day at RJ Cooper Reserve. Get to know your neighbours while enjoying music and food from around the world. There will be entertainment for the whole family including face painting, games and a colouring competition with prizes and the book cubby.

Cost: FREE

The Tribe presented by Urban Theatre Projects
Thursday 30 March, Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April
Live from a backyard in Newport – check website for further information
Based on Michael Mohammed Ahmad’s award-winning novel, The Tribe is an open invitation to listen to an Arab-Australian story from our backyard, in our backyards. It’s a story of a family from a small Muslim Sect who fled to Australia from Lebanon before the civil war, told by a young boy.

Bookings and info: www.thesubstation.org.au
Adult $35 Conc./Group (10+) $25 School groups <$30

National Heritage Festival
Tuesday 18 April to Sunday 21 May
With a full program of history tours, exhibitions, memorials and more, the National Trust Heritage Festival will take you back in time. The 2017 Australian Heritage Festival theme is Having a Voice. Communities are invited to tell their stories through different voices, in stories and song. Our shared heritage is rich with voices from many cultures – Having a Voice is about taking time to stop and listen to stories from every corner of our society.

Write by the Bay 2017
Calling all creative writers from prep to year 12. Along with the poetry and short story categories, the revamped library writing prize for prep to year 12 includes a songwriting category for the first time.

Enter for a chance to win cash prizes and publication. The competition closes on 18 April. Visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au for more information.

Block Party
Sunday 30 April 11am to 4pm
Market stalls, live music, free art workshops in and around the Woods Streets Arts Space, Lohse and Woods Streets, Laverton.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/woodsstreearts
THANK YOU FOR FILLING IN OUR SURVEY. DON’T FORGET TO FOLD AND SEAL IT AND POP IT IN THE POST.

This survey is also available online at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

If you would like to be kept informed about the results of this survey, please provide your preferred method of communication below.

Contact details:
Phone: ____________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Postal Address: ____________________________________

Please detach the form and fold as shown here, then return free of charge via the post by: 31/03/2017

Step 1. Fold the form so the postage face is on the outside
Step 2. Place sticky tape over the edges as shown
Step 3. Drop into your local post box

No stamp required if posted in Australia

Hobsons Bay City Council
Civic Centre
Reply Paid 21
ALTONA VIC 3018

Hobsons Bay is located at the north western end of Port Phillip Bay and is home to the suburbs of Altona, Altona Meadows, Altona North, Brooklyn, Laverton, Newport, Seabrook, Seaholme, South Kingsville, Spotswood, Williamstown and Williamstown North.
Tell us how you would like to hear about Council news!

You told us in the Hobsons Bay 2030 Community Vision that you want an improvement in the communication you receive from Council. Filling in this quick survey will help us do exactly that by providing you with the Council information you want - in the way you want it.

1. What is your postcode?

2. What is your age bracket? (please tick)

< 25  25-35  35-45  45-55  55-65  65 >

3. What language do you speak and read at home?

4. What types of Council information would you like to receive? Tick all topics you are interested in.

- Local events and arts
- Waste and recycling collection services
- Community Centres
- Sport and recreation
- Animals and pets management
- Children and Family Services
- GLBTIQ
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Permits and town planning
- Employment at Council
- Volunteerism, community projects and community grants
- How to get involved and have your say on Council’s strategies and projects
- Tourism and places to visit in HobsonsBay
- Libraries
- Parks and gardens
- Environment and nature conservation
- Infrastructure improvements (i.e. roads, footpaths, etc)
- Home care, disability and respite services
- Multiculturalism
- History and heritage
- Rates and other payments
- Business in the City of Hobsons Bay
- Your Councillors
- Other please specify

5. Do you regularly read this quarterly newsletter ‘Hobsons Bay Community News’ that is delivered to your home? (please tick)

- Yes
- No
- Don’t know

6. How often would you like to receive our newsletter? (please tick)

- Every two months
- Quarterly
- Twice a year
- Other

7. Do you have any suggestions on ways Hobsons Bay City Council can improve its communications in any way?

8. Please tick all the boxes below that are relevant to you.

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<th>Communication tool</th>
<th>I like to receive info this way</th>
<th>I receive the right amount this way</th>
<th>I would like to receive more info this way</th>
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<td>Council’s quarterly newsletter</td>
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9. What other ways would you like to receive Council information?

- Instagram
- Video content
- Blog stories about the people of Hobsons Bay
- Community notice boards at main city intersections
- Snapchat
- Flyers and posters