

HOBSONS BAY

COMMUNITY NEWS

WINTER / EDITION 9

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VOLUNTEERS, OUR
UNSUNG HEROES

HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the latest edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. Winter has arrived and while some trees have lost their leaves, others that have been newly planted are establishing roots. The centre-spread provides more information on our 2017 tree planting season. Plus, do you know of any trees in Hobsons Bay that have local or historical significance? We'd be keen to hear your suggestions (p.5).

June also means budget time. It is with great pride that Council recently released its draft 2017-18 Budget and Council Plan 2017-21, fully informed by Hobsons Bay 2030 community vision. Scheduled to be adopted on 27 June, the draft Budget, based on average rate increase of 2 per cent, will deliver capital works projects to the tune of \$35.13 million to improve our local infrastructure and provide more than 100 important community services. Highlights of the draft 2017-18 Budget include: \$7.257 million to be spent on local roads; \$4.167 million towards our footpaths and cycle trails, including stage three of the Kororoit Creek Shared Trail (p.3) and work on the Skeleton Creek Trail (p.7); \$7.968 million on our open space; and \$11.324 million on our buildings, including the Altona Early Years Centre and J K Grant Reserve Pavilion (p.7). I'm particularly interested in J K Grant Reserve Pavilion as its redevelopment will help accommodate the growth in community participation in sport, particularly amongst women and girls across our city.

In other news, there have been some big developments on several State Government projects that will impact on us in Hobsons Bay. There is information on the West Gate Tunnel Project on page six – and, given the Environment Effects Statement process will be the last chance we have, as a community, to shape this project, it is critical you submit feedback and have your voice involved. The State Government has also signed the contract for the Kororoit Creek Road grade separation and partial duplication of Altona Loop in early May. Plus, we are looking for interested community members to join Community Interest Groups for the proposed level crossing removals to come at Aviation Road, Laverton and Ferguson Street, Williamstown. EOLs for these groups close on 30 June and there are more details at www.hobsonsbay.vi.gov.au/LXR

Finally, I would just like to give a little plug to a topic that is very dear to my heart – National Tree Day. It takes place on Sunday 30 July, turn over a leaf for more information on page four!

Cr Sandra Wilson, Mayor of Hobsons Bay

HOBSONS BAY BIODIVERSITY

Stroll through Jawbone Reserve, Altona Coastal Park and across to 100 Steps. Not only is it a beautiful walk, you're passing through one of Australia's Key Biodiversity Areas – an area that is globally recognised as vital habitat for threatened plant and animal species.

Shorebirds such as sharp-tailed sandpipers, red-necked stints, curlew sandpipers and greenshanks feed here during the summer months before returning around April to their breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska. It's great to think we have such important biodiversity here in Hobsons Bay, so close to the CBD – but the population numbers for many of these shorebirds are declining.



Hence, sharing these areas responsibly becomes important. We've recently installed a new path at Altona Coastal Park to separate walkers, cyclists and dogs from important bird habitat. You may also notice information boards telling you more about the birds and local wildlife at Doug Grant Reserve, Altona Coastal Park and along Kororoit Creek and Skeleton Creek. Hopefully you will be inspired to get out and learn about our beautiful environment.

Cover image: Stages two and three of the Kororoit Creek Trail will be completed in time for National Tree Day on 30 July (see page 3 for more details)

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

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Brooklyn, Seaholme



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HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES

AND RECORDED COUNCIL INFORMATION IN:

English	العربية	Ελληνικά
Italiano	ကဵုသးစး	Tiếng Việt
粵語	Македонски	普通话

Your Council in your language

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KOROROIT CREEK TRAIL OPENS ON NATIONAL TREE DAY

On National Tree Day, on 30 July, Council and the local community will officially welcome Hobsons Bay newest addition - the Kororoit Creek Trail.

The soon to be completed stages two and three of the trail, measuring in at 2.5km, will run from Grieve Parade to Barnes Road in Altona North to deliver what will be a much loved community recreation space. This section of the trail will feature way finding signage, public toilets, picnic facilities, bicycle storage, lighting and drinking fountains.

And the most impressive feature of all? That is undoubtedly the series of eight public artworks, three metres tall each, created by renowned local artist Geoffrey Ricardo. The public art works, entitled *A strange trail of beasts, spirits and guardians*, will also be launched on 30 July. In the future, when stages one, four and five of the trail are complete, the section of the Kororoit Creek Trail in Hobsons Bay will span 7.5km from Geelong Road to Cherry Lake and Millers Road in Altona and will connect to the existing section of the Kororoit Creek Trail, which currently ends in Brooklyn. Once the Hobsons Bay section is complete, the entire Kororoit Creek Trail will enable

pedestrians and cyclists to ride from Caroline Springs to Altona, connecting to the Federation Trail in the north and Bay Trail in the south.

Council is committed to providing the community with accessible trail networks for cyclists and pedestrians to improve their health and wellbeing and has contributed funding to the construction of stages two and three of the Kororoit Creek Trail. Toyota is also to thank for their contribution of \$1.8 million to the project as part of their legacy to the city. Additionally, the Victorian Government provided \$650,000 towards the project and Melbourne Water has worked in partnership with Council to ensure the project is delivered according to the Kororoit Creek Master Plan. The West Gate Tunnel project preferred design includes the design and construction of the section of the trail from Brooklyn to Grieve Parade.

Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek have played a significant role in the area for the past 14 years, beautifying and preserving the creek environment by planting over 50,000 trees and organising volunteer clean up days. For more information on the Kororoit Creek Trail, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/sharedtrail



MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

With Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services celebrating 100 years in Victoria, it seems timely to remind you of Council's MCH service. What better way to ensure Hobsons Bay's littlest residents are growing and developing healthily while their parents are fully supported?

If you wish to make an appointment, please call Council's booking line on 9932 1300 from Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm. Open sessions are also available during school terms and a breastfeeding support service is run by appointment. MCH also arrange parents' groups for new parents. More info at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH



SEABROOK PLAYGROUP

There's a new playgroup in town. Located at the Seabrook Community Centre, the Hobsons Bay Family Day Care run playgroup has been a huge success so far with over 34 children attending each weekly session.

Council's Family Day Care service has operated for 41 years within the community of Hobsons Bay, even extending as far out as Point Cook and Williams Landing.

Council is always looking for educators so please contact Hobsons Bay Family Day Care on 9932 1527 if you are interested.

SEEING THE URBAN FOREST FOR THE TREES

Trees provide us with enormous benefits, ranging from shade to cleaner air, to carbon dioxide absorption, to a prettier streetscape.

They also create a wonderful sense of place – can you imagine Logan Reserve without the Moreton Bay figs? The Esplanade in Williamstown without the gothic Monterey cypresses? The Esplanade in Altona without the Norfolk Island pines? Or our coastal parks without the honey myrtles and she-oaks?

Over the next couple of pages you can find out what's happening this year across the Hobsons Bay urban forest. And if you don't know your honey myrtles from your crepe myrtles, or your yellow gums from your yellow boxes, you can find out more about our street trees at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/trees

1.

1. 2017 STREET TREE PLANTING PROGRAM

Council is branching out this year with some new plantings for Hobsons Bay. Natives such as grafted flowering gums and the native frangipani, and elegant exotics such as crepe myrtles, jacarandas and maples, are not yet common in Hobsons Bay but they should be suited to our local conditions.

In total, Council will be planting around 1,500 street trees between now and September. Information on species being planted can be found on Council's website.

2. CITIZEN GARDENING

The first couple of years for a street tree can often be make or break. Council makes every effort to ensure they establish well, but help is always welcome!

If we plant a tree in the naturestrip outside your house, we'll drop off a flyer that includes the name of the species and what you can do to help the tree to establish.

If you would like to help the tree to establish, watering it would be beneficial, especially during the warmer weather.

3. NATIONAL TREE DAY

National Tree Day is always a fun event in which people of all ages get together to plant trees in local parks and reserves. The first event is at Altona Coastal Park, beginning at 10am on Sunday 30 July.

Over 2,000 plants will be planted including chaffy saw-sedge for the Altona skipper butterfly.

Everyone is welcome. The second event is same day, same time, and run by the Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek at G J Hosken Reserve near Blackshaws Road, Altona North - celebrating the opening of the Kororoit Creek Trail (p.3).



4. NORFOLK ISLAND PINES, ALTONA

It is hard to imagine the Esplanade in Altona without thinking of the stately Norfolk Island pines that line the foreshore.

To complete the iconic avenue of trees Council will be planting some semi-mature pine trees, roughly five metres in height, and protecting them with fences until they are established.

The fences not only protect the trees from potential vandalism but also reduce the impact of wind so these trees can establish.

5. #favouritetrees

A number of you shared stories and photos of your #favouritetrees in #HobsonsBay on Facebook. Thank you to everyone who participated. Suggestions ranged from the enchanting shade of the *Taxodium distichum* in the Williamstown Botanic Gardens to the Aleppo pine in Apex Park, referred to by three generations of one family as the Grandpa Tree.

You can still share stories of your **#favouritetrees**. To find out more follow the weblink on page four. Other favourites included two sugar gums, a jacaranda at the back of Williamstown Library, a Monterey Cypress, and the Spottiswoode tree on the corner of Hudson Road and Forest Street, Spotswood.

6. SIGNIFICANT TREES

Hobsons Bay currently has two trees on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees, all in private gardens – a black achan pear and lily pilli tree.

Council is looking at other trees in Hobsons Bay that may be deserving of a nomination – do you know of any trees that are particularly impressive or rare, or may have historical significance? If you have a suggestion for a significant tree, please contact Council on 9932 1000. We can then work with the National Trust to assess whether a nomination is appropriate.

Unsung Heroes Of Hobsons Bay

Just about everywhere we look in our community, there are volunteers making things tick.

As part of National Volunteer Week in May, Council held an exhibition at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre to say thank you to our hardworking volunteers.

Htoo Htoo (right) is one such volunteer. After coming to Hobsons Bay as a refugee, she now works full time as a multicultural aide at Laverton P-12 College. Her dream is for members of her Karen community to be able to speak English, work hard and finish high school so they can help other people. So what makes people volunteer, and why should you do it? We asked a few locals who have volunteered for many years.



MARILYN OLLIFF

Marilyn Olliff moved to Williamstown eight years ago. She joined the Friends of Williamstown Wetlands and found it a good way to get to know her local community.

Marilyn has recently been involved in projects aimed at minimising our plastic footprint including the Wader Beach Litter Hotspots Project at Jawbone Reserve, and Boomerang Bags in which people can take their food shopping home in cloth bags (made from recycled plastic) on the promise they'll bring them back.

"A lot needs to be done so we can always do with more volunteers," Marilyn says. "It's a great way to meet people in your community, have fun, and make a positive difference."



JAN STEWART

Jan Stewart has volunteered for almost 30 years for Meals on Wheels. She's met a lot of fantastic people along the way. Sometimes she'll drop the meals off and it'll be a flying visit. Other times she'll stop for a natter. "For some people," Jan says, "you might be the only person they see the whole day."

Jan says a lot has changed in the last 30 years – before, the soup would be in polystyrene cups on metal trays and one sharp turn could mean soup going everywhere in the car! Nowadays it's a far slicker operation.

The idea of volunteering just seems to come naturally to Jan. As Jan says, "It doesn't hurt to help people in your community."



TONY CODD

Tony has been volunteering at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Williamstown for over 11 years. He has a love of history and has learnt a lot in his time there.

"It's a great place for meeting people," he says. "It's interesting chatting to visitors and finding out why they're visiting Hobsons Bay."

"I've made good friends while I've been here and it can be quite social," he says. "Outside of the time we're volunteering, we'll often go on trips to the pictures together."

Tony enjoys volunteering so much he doesn't stop at the VIC. He gives his time and fundraising skills to the Friends of Altona, Newport and Williamstown Libraries, and he's volunteered at Scienceworks for over 20 years.




WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

In March, the State Government announced the preferred design for the West Gate Tunnel Project and it presents a mixed bag for us locally. The Environment Effects Statement was released in May and this represents the last opportunity for the community to shape this important project. Council encourages everyone to try and understand this complex project and how it will impact on them. The

project team are running an information session at the Newport Community Hub on Monday 19 June at 5pm. Council encourages the community to make submissions on this important project. Lodge your feedback directly to the West Gate Tunnel Project before 10 July at westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au/ees Council will determine its detailed position at its next Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 June.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR WARD?

 More information can be found at
www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au



STRAND WARD

The renovation of the **Williamstown Town Hall precinct** will soon be complete with works on the town hall forecourt, carpark and Lenore Crescent under way. The existing forecourt will be demolished to make way for a new public space with seating, bike racks and landscaping to reflect the style of the restored town hall building. The 25 space car park will be resurfaced and Lenore Crescent will undergo rehabilitation works including road resurfacing, tree maintenance and the installation of an underground drainage system. The library and town hall will remain open for the duration of the renovation but the carpark will be closed.

Upgrades to the **Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail** are steaming ahead. The reconstruction will include a three metre wide concrete path from North Road to Ferguson Street and will be completed in three stages over the next three years. The first stage, from North Road to Mulholland Lane, has just been completed. The next stage will connect Mulholland Lane to Bronte Court with work happening in the 2017-18 financial year.

Lastly, Council expects to have all the necessary approvals to reconstruct the historic **Williamstown Beach Shelter** at Hatt Reserve in coming weeks. The shelter suffered structural damage during the October 2016 storms and has been closed ever since for safety reasons. It is anticipated works will begin mid-2017 ahead of the shelter reopening later in the year. Until this time the shelter will remain closed. Alternative picnic tables can be found in the Pinetum, in front of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens. For project updates visit www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/beachshelter



CHERRY LAKE WARD

Work has commenced on the installation of the log seat as part of the play space at **Brooklyn Reserve**. Nature play items to be included within the new space include rocks and logs that have been recycled from recent civil works or salvageable remnants of felled trees from storms. Funding for the works have come from the EPA's IES (Inspiring Environmental Solutions) Community Funding Program. Council applied for the grant and as part of the sentencing in December 2015, Council was awarded \$200,000 for the Brooklyn Reserve - Destination Play Space and Recreation Zone. Council contributed \$200,000 making the overall construction and maintenance budget \$400,000.

Work has begun on the major \$1.445 million upgrade to the sports pavilion at **J K Grant Reserve** that will see an improved social room, change facilities, storage area, and toilets. All things going to plan, the upgrade should be finished by October. The project has received a \$100,000 grant from the State Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and a \$25,000 contribution from AFL Victoria to promote the development of facilities to increase female participation in sports.

Works are under way on the **Correa Street pedestrian beach access** point in Altona to bring it in line with heights that meet predicted future sea level rises. The aim of the upgrade is to reduce the impacts of sea level rises and storm surge events. Works include a raised platform with an accessible ramp and stairs leading to the beach, and a viewing platform.



WETLANDS WARD

Over the next three years, Hobsons Bay City Council is upgrading sections of the **Skeleton Creek Trail**. Construction has begun creating connection or lead in trails to Ayr Street, Ascot Street South and Creek Waters Close. Following this, upgrade works to the trail will commence at South Terrace.

This will involve upgrading the existing track between Labassa Way and South Terrace to a three metre wide, fully accessible, concrete shared trail realigned outside the 1 in 100 year flood zone. The design has been developed to respect and celebrate the local flora and fauna within the creek corridor and connect the local community to the Hobsons Bay shared trail network. A map is available on Council's website to show the sections of path to be upgraded.

Although there was a slight delay due to the wet weather, the construction of a new road, roundabout, footpaths and fencing at **Bruce Comben Reserve** is now finished. Council worked closely with the Cooraminta Children's Centre and the tenant sporting clubs while the work was taking place to ensure disruption was kept to a minimum.

In other works news, Council began installing **solar panels** at the Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre and the Laverton Community Hub in May. The project, together with others at Altona North and Williamstown Libraries, will result in the installation of over 243kW of solar and a reduction of over 393 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, which is 17 per cent of 2265, the target in our adopted Target 2265 Plan. The installation will be complete by 30 June.

Do people say it's a pleasure to do business with you?

If so, then nominate your company for the 2017 Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards. From home-based businesses and start-ups, to manufacturing and logistics companies, the business awards bring together the best local businesses to celebrate their successes and accomplishments. Winners will be announced at a special Gala awards ceremony on 20 October. More information here: www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/businessawards



Sons of the West

Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm

Newport Community Hub

Thursdays 7pm to 9pm

Laverton Community Hub

The Western Bulldogs' *Sons of the West* is a FREE men's health program for men aged 18 and over living, working and recreating in Victoria's west. Come along on either a Tuesday or Thursday to have some fun whilst making new friends and boosting your physical health. Season ends 27 July.

Williamstown Literary Festival

Saturday 17 June to Sunday 18 June

Williamstown Town Hall

This year's theme for Melbourne's intimate, suburban literary festival is **Food For Thought**. Join us as we discover books, ideas and conversations that can nourish us, and great authors who can provide 'food for thought' through their wonderful writing. Guests include Markus Zusak, A S Patric, Bruce Pascoe, Clementine Ford, Les Twentyman and Claire Saxby. The full program is here: www.willylitfest.org.au

Community grants

Applications for Hobsons Bay Community Grants 2018 are now open. Local community organisations and groups can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for activities and projects that meet a community need and address Council priorities. Applications close 2 August. For further information visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-grants

The Refugee Advocate - 'With Courage Let Us All Combine'

Thursday 22 June, 6pm to 8pm

Newport Community Hub

Inspiring advocates share their story in making a positive contribution to the lives of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Ann Morrow from Hobsons Bay Refugee Network joins us as

Master of Ceremonies with freelance journalist Michael Green, Brigidine Sister Brigid Arthur and Lindy Marlow from Cohealth. This Refugee Week event also acknowledges local asylum seeker and refugee organisations who will offer information about making a difference to the lives of refugees in our own backyard. Bookings: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB

Multicultural Fashion Parade

hosted by Hobsons Bay Settlement Network

Friday 23 June, 10am to 1pm

Laverton Community Hub

Join us in celebrating Refugee Week with a fashion parade that showcases the diversity of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Hobsons Bay. You are invited to wear your national costume or traditional dress or bring a photo, share your story and add to our cultural display. Free event.

For more information contact Laverton Community Hub on 8368 0100 or lavertoncommunityhub@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

A walk to discover WWI medal recipients of Williamstown North

Saturday 24 June 12.45pm to 2pm

Meet at Williamstown Library

With the outbreak of WWI many locals took up the call to enlist. As part of the Writing the War exhibition you are invited to come explore the streets of Williamstown North and visit the places where some of our own lived when they joined up for the army. Brian Haynes from the Williamstown Historical Society will lead the walk. Bookings: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB

Newport Folk Festival

Friday 30 June to Sunday 2 July

Newport Bowls Club. *Come & Play*

This year there'll be country ballads and rollicking foot stomper songs

from Moosejaw Rifle Club, feel-good acoustic soul and roots from the Brouhaha, virtuoso blues from veteran Nick Charles, and heart-wrenching harmonies from NSW-born Ayleen O'Hanlon. Check out her youtube video with the lovely George the cat! Tickets are available here: newportfolkfestival.org.au/tickets.html

NAIDOC Week flag raising

Tuesday 4 July, midday

Altona Civic Centre

NAIDOC Week, held in the first full week of July, is a time to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements and is an opportunity to recognise the contributions that Indigenous Australians make to our country and our society. Everyone is welcome to the flag raising.

Drawn by the Bay

Opens 7 August

Be in the 'draw' to win your share of over \$1000 worth of cash and other prizes including having your work published by Hobsons Bay Libraries. Young illustrators (prep to year 12) are invited to enter their original artwork, using any medium and inspired by a book of their choice, into the competition.

Details: libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 HOB LIB

COMMUNITY SURVEY ☒

In the previous edition we asked you to fill out a survey advising us how you'd like to hear Council news in the future. We received an excellent response. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill in a survey. Your suggestions are extremely useful, and the responses will help us plan our future communication. In the coming weeks, the results will be posted on participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Keep up to date with news and events in Hobsons Bay. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

 twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC  facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil