

WINTER/SPRING 2020 / EDITION 21



**Hobsons Bay
Business
has Heart**

CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY INFORMATION

YOUR BUDGET 2020-21

HOBSONSBAY CITY COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to our bumper winter/spring edition of the Hobsons Bay Community News. We have included important information on how essential Council services have adapted throughout the pandemic on page 4 and information about how Council is supporting the community and businesses through our third Community Support Package on page 7.

The Annual Budget 2020-21 and our Capital Works Program will be important contributors to support the local economy, providing a boost to local jobs during COVID-19 recovery as well as providing critical services and infrastructure for our community. Highlights can be found on page 9.

This edition is also brimming with heart-warming stories from our resilient community on pages 5 and 6, tales about creative residents bringing flair to iso life on page 8, and inspiring stories on how community groups have kept moving with the help of Council Grants on page 3.

As a community, we have had to adapt to a 'new normal'. This has increased isolation for some, and decreased it for others, as we increase our reliance on digital platforms to connect. I encourage everyone to use the services Council offers whether it is the virtual online Pilates class, keeping the kids entertained with online storytime or our school holiday program, virtual gardening workshops (page 13), or through Hobsons Bay Community has Heart (page 5).

Please look after yourselves mentally and physically, regularly touch base with friends and family, remember social distancing under government guidelines and be kind to each other.

Cr Colleen Gates
Mayor of Hobsons Bay



MAKE YOUR HARD RUBBISH DISAPPEAR

The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions have provided the perfect opportunity to declutter and reorganise your home and garden. All Hobsons Bay properties can book one free hard waste collection each financial year (1 July to 30 June). To book, call 1300 179 944. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hard-waste

Dumping rubbish is illegal and can be reported by calling **1300 EPA VIC**. Dumped rubbish can also be reported using the Snap Send Solve app (available on Apple and Android smartphones).

NEW AND IMPROVED LIBRARY APP

Library members can now access a new online catalogue and app. The 'Libraries Victoria' app is available for iOS and Android, and can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Once installed, simply log in with your Hobsons Bay Libraries membership details to search, reserve and renew items. New features include the ability to see your loan history and to link your family's accounts.

If you have any questions about the new catalogue or app, Hobsons Bay Libraries are here to help. Call **1300 462 542** between 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, or email library@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au



YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cherry Lake Ward

Altona, Altona North, Brooklyn, Seaholme



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Wetlands Ward

Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook



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HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES

AND RECORDED COUNCIL INFORMATION IN:

English	العربية	Ελληνικά
Italiano	ကဵုသးစိုဵု	Tiếng Việt
粵語	Македонски	普通话

Your Council in your language

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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GRANTS HELPING COMMUNITY RECOVER

In August, Council announced 162 successful applications to the Hobsons Bay Community Grants Program, sharing a total \$245,500 of funding, in a round that saw record interest from across the city as many groups address changing needs brought about by COVID-19. Thanks as always to Toyota Australia for its contribution. Council will continue to support the community through additional grants. Enjoy seeing some of the work our community is doing, supported by Hobsons Bay Community Grants.



Newport Fiddle and Folk Club

Newport Fiddle and Folk Club are merging the art of spoken word and songs with six podcasts of local and visiting storytellers and musicians. Produced by storyteller and author Jackie Kerin, the podcasts will each contain two stories, an item about Newport and end in a lullaby. The first episodes will be released in November at www.nffc.org.au

Newport Fiddle and Folk Club President Michael Stewart says the grant program provides a focus for the club and has unexpected outcomes including increased partnerships and strengthens the culture of the club.



Joseph's Corner

Non-profit organisation, Joseph's Corner, provides free counselling and support for families and friends of those living with alcohol and drug challenges. During the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), sessions are run by phone or FaceTime or online via Zoom or What's App. The organisation also holds free online courses for dealing with anxiety from COVID-19, stress relief and improving self-esteem. For information about upcoming courses or for support, please visit www.josephscorner.org.au or the Facebook page www.facebook.com/Merrijig



ParKanDo

The newly formed Parkinson's support group, ParKanDo, provides meaningful free online activities for members including 'Dance for Wellbeing and Parkinson's' run by a qualified registered teacher and monthly guest speakers. Launched in February 2020, the group has more than 50 members and had to quickly move their program online. With the help of Carers Victoria and Parkinson's Victoria members were introduced to Zoom and were provided with technical support.

One of ParKanDo's members, Lance, was diagnosed with Parkinson's just as COVID-19 hit. Engaging with ParKanDo and Parkinson's Victoria has provided much needed support and connection. Like the majority of ParKanDo's members, he hasn't met anyone face to face due to COVID-19 restrictions but looks forward to connecting with other members in person once the pandemic is over.

The group also aims to raise awareness of Parkinson's within the wider Hobsons Bay community and are holding an online community seminar in February 2021 to celebrate ParKanDo's first birthday. For more information about ParKanDo please email parkando.west@gmail.com



BUILDING A LIFELONG LOVE FOR BOOKS

All babies and toddlers in Hobsons Bay will receive a free Grow Your Reader book bag as part of a new initiative by Hobsons Bay Libraries.

The project, called *Grow Your Reader*, aims to encourage early literacy and language development through events and activities, and provide links to early years support services.

The book bags will be available through the Babies Love Books sessions and the two and three and a half year-old Maternal and Child Health check-ups.

Libraries will also run parenting support programs throughout the year, including monthly pre-natal, and early literacy information sessions.

For more information, visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 RECOVERY GRANTS

Council is investing in community recovery through investment in new grants this year, designing a program to respond to a range of needs and opportunities. Combined with the existing grants programs, almost \$1 million in grant funding will be made available this financial year to enable flexible and responsive support to the community. Grants will be announced on Council's website and Facebook page, when open, details will be available at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-services/Grants-funding

Cover image: Hobsons Bay Business has Heart

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

OUR SERVICES FOR YOU

With Stage 4 restrictions in place, Council has been committed to adapting essential services to meet the requirements of the state government and to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Like many organisations, Council has adapted its services in response to the pandemic.

We know the pandemic has resulted in a rapidly changing environment. At the time of print in late August, state and federal information was correct but may have changed by the time residents receive this newsletter. Please check www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus for the latest advice and visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/coronavirus for updates on Council services.

- **Our face to face Customer Service** at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre in Altona is closed until further notice. However, you may still contact customer service by phone on 1300 179 944 or by emailing customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au. Alternatively, you can live chat with one of our officers from the homepage of our website.
- **Kerbside rubbish and recycling collections** to households and businesses receiving Council's service will continue. Struggling with rubbish volumes? Order a larger or an extra rubbish bin. (Larger bins are free for eligible households until 30 June 2021.)
- **Immunisations** will continue, book at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/immunisation.
- **Meals on Wheels Food Services** will continue to deliver 'meals on wheels' to registered residents.
- A **'Community Connector'** program offering one-to-one assistance has been introduced to link people who are isolated or need additional support with local networks and agencies that can help with practical needs and social activities. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please email communityconnector@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
- **Maternal and Child Health (MCH)** will continue to have services delivered but this will be via phone and video, with 15 minute maximum face to face appointments for babies 0 to 8 weeks. All New Parent groups will be delivered online only until further advised.
- **Intake and assessment services** for older residents will continue to be delivered via skype or phone with limited face to face appointments as required.
- **Hobsons Bay UP (Youth Services)** will continue its youth counselling by skype or phone but will not proceed with face to face support services until further notice.
- **Planned Activity Group (PAG)**, Community Transport and Overnight Respite for older residents and residents with a disability will continue to be suspended until further notice, however the team will continue to closely monitor and support our clients with regular phone contact and activity packs.
- **Council managed community centres** Newport Community Hub, Laverton Community Hub and Seabrook Community Centres will remain closed to the public, except for essential public support services. A range of programs and activities continue to be available from home virtually, view page 12 for details.
- **Community consultation** While face to face meetings are not taking place, the community can still provide feedback on any current projects at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
- **Events** view page 11 for a range of online events.
- **Capital works program** All construction projects will be required to have a High Risk COVID Safe Plan in place and staff on site must wear PPE at all times. Construction is a permitted industry and the majority of projects will continue, however at reduced capacity in line with guidance provided from DHHS. While Council is working hard to have projects continue, unfortunately some works may be required to be temporarily shut down until stage restrictions are eased.



All libraries and chutes are closed. All items currently on loan have been extended until Monday 14 September, subject to government changes.

Library members can still access over 10,000 eBooks, 5,000 eAudiobooks, films, magazines, and a range of online resources at libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/collections. Our librarians will continue to deliver virtual programs and events including Stay at Home Storytime, Baby Bounce, Online Book Clubs and author talks, find out more at libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on

Children's programs

Join our online children's program and continue the connection between little ones and the librarians they know and love. New episodes are uploaded each week onto the Hobsons Bay Libraries YouTube channel.

- **Stay-at-home Storytime** Tuesday and Thursday morning
- **Baby Bounce** Wednesday morning
- **Creative Kids** Wednesday afternoon, from 4pm, children aged five to 12 will meet virtually to try their hands at a range of STEAM-based activities using household items.

Not a member? Sign up today Visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 testing

If you have symptoms of Coronavirus you should get tested (fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose and loss of sense of smell or taste). You must also isolate until you receive your test results. Visit www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19 or call 1800 675 398 for testing locations near you.

HOBSONS BAY COMMUNITY HAS HEART

#hobsonsbayhasheart

In these challenging times, Council is here to support the entire community

Hobsons Bay Community Has Heart mobilises community initiatives, expertise and goodwill through outreach and promotion. It is a community led recovery program that will provide volunteer opportunities for members to connect and contribute to COVID-19 relief for people in need.

As part of the initiative, **Community Connector** has been developed. At no cost, this service provides one-to-

one assistance to link people who are isolated or need additional support with local networks and agencies that can help with practical needs and social activities. Trained Council staff can help connect you with services who can help with:

- food hampers, pet food
- medications, nappies
- access to cleaning supplies and masks
- counselling, mental health and domestic violence support
- aged care, family services, library services

- social activities, employment and training information
- COVID-19 information in your language

If you would like some help, we would love to hear from you. Connect with us by email at communityconnector@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or phone us on 1300 179 944 or visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HobsonsBayCommunityHasHeart

Please remember to reach out to us, both now and into the future.

HOBSONS BAY BUSINESS HAS HEART



Business Recovery Program

Hobsons Bay businesses are invited to work together and apply for funding to encourage residents to return to local shops, promote local businesses and activate business precincts. Funds will be available to deliver projects and activities that support the recovery of businesses from the impacts of COVID-19.

A total of \$250,000 in grant funding is available.

For more information or to apply for a business grant, visit www.Hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HBBusinessHasHeart



Tough times can create better neighbours and we've certainly seen Hobsons Bay pull together as a community. Here are a couple of heart-warming examples.



- Local guitar restorer and business owner, Craig Watt, offered 15 guitars for residents to borrow and self-learn guitar during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Laverton Youth Foundation delivered goodie bags to young people in Hobsons Bay and Wyndham
- Creative rainbows and teddy bears poking out of windows and balconies gave a totally different meaning to hunting for rainbows and bear hunts



- Woods Street Art Space and Little Art Big Art offered free kids art kits
- Laverton Football Club provided groceries and hot meals to international students outside the Queen Victoria Market
- The Altona Meadows Community Association ran a Festive in July lights competition



- Outlets Co-Operative Neighbourhood House in Newport supported more than 50 families and individuals with food and material relief
- The Vietnamese Association in Hobsons Bay made over 4,000 masks for the community, including residents in Williamstown's Nelson Heights and Floyd Lodge public housing flats
- Laverton Community Integrated Services continued its work in crisis intervention and emergency relief, supporting people with prompt response food and support packages

**HOBSONS
BAY HAS
HEART**
#hobsonsbayhasheart

And that's just a few examples! All Hobsons Bay residents and businesses are invited to share messages, images and videos of positivity, resilience, community spirit and acts of kindness at www.facebook.com/hobsonsbayhasheart or use the hashtag #hobsonsbayhasheart

Instagram users are invited to share their image of beautiful things in Hobsons Bay by simply using the tag #HobsonsBayHasHeart

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2020

Council builds partnerships with state and federal government, and national, state, regional and local sectors to raise awareness and advocate for issues that sit outside of Council's control. Council has identified 13 advocacy priorities for 2020, three are highlighted below. To view all 13 advocacy priorities, please visit www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/Advocacy

Aviation Road Level Crossing Removal Project

The level crossing at Aviation Road, Laverton was removed in September 2019. Council has developed an Aviation Road Level Crossing Removal Precinct Plan hoping that the state government will include it in Stage 2 of the Aviation Road project.

The precinct plan aims to transform the area from a road-based traffic and public transport focus to one that will deliver a greater variety of community improvements. Ideas include a multi-use plaza space that can be used as an event space for the community (including bike storage, passive recreation spaces and seating, event stage/ screen), pedestrian and cyclist network connecting areas north and south of the rail line and to provide safe access to rail station and a greener attractive space to gather, relax and play.

Council will continue to liaise with LXP and the respective state government agencies to explore opportunities to partner on the delivery of the precinct plan.

For details, visit www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/LevelCrossingRemovalProjects

Queen Street Bridge Campaign

Council is pitching the state government for a \$1.5 million allocation to fund a trail bridge over Laverton Creek. Through 2020, the Victorian Government delivered the Queen Street Bridge Strengthening project which connects the east and west of Hobsons Bay across the Laverton Creek. However, despite more than 1,000 signatures from Hobsons Bay residents to the state government in 2019, the project did not include a provision for cyclists and pedestrians. Pedestrians and cyclists travelling along Queen Street risk their safety crossing the existing bridge, which is used by 19,250 vehicles each day. Council has produced designs for a shared trail bridge that is 60 metres long and 3.5 metres wide, with lighting.

To add your voice to the campaign, visit www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/Queenstreetbridge

Ferguson Street Level Crossing Removal Project

Based on community feedback, Council has developed a Ferguson Street Precinct Plan which was endorsed by Council at the August Ordinary Council Meeting. Council will advocate to the state government for funding and partnership support to undertake the proposed precinct upgrades, which would complement the Level Crossing Removal Project's (LXRP) Ferguson Street project. The Precinct Plan takes into consideration existing site features and proposed infrastructure including heritage, cycling and pedestrian connections and land management.

For more information, please visit participate.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/ferguson-street-precinct-plan



YOUR BUDGET 2020-21

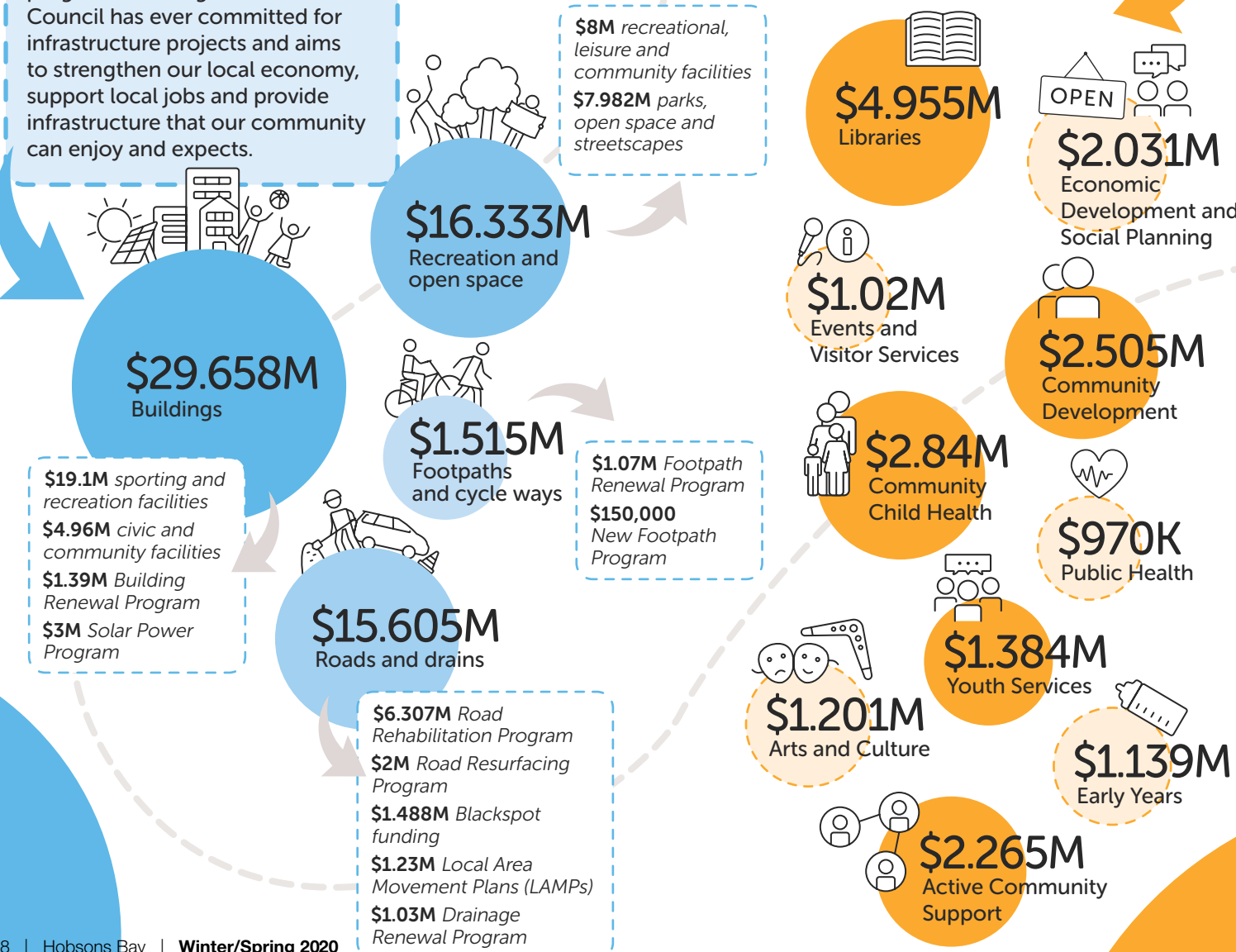
BUILDING A STRONG, RESILIENT HOBSONS BAY COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

Council's Budget 2020-21 was developed during a global pandemic, requiring rapid response to emerging challenges and the adaptation of our services on many occasions. An extension of time to complete the budget enabled us to work with the community to proactively meet the needs of our residents and businesses.

The budget has been reshaped to deliver a COVID-19 response that includes \$2.2 million in rate relief, ongoing delivery of essential services, upscaling of grants, increased capital works, a revised Hardship Policy and financial assistance through a third Community Support Package.

Capital Works

The \$67.566 million capital works program is the highest investment Council has ever committed for infrastructure projects and aims to strengthen our local economy, support local jobs and provide infrastructure that our community can enjoy and expects.



Community involvement

A big thank you to community members who were involved in the budget process from the Pitch Your Idea consultation process in late 2019, to the Portfolio Advisory Committees, Interagency members, young people and the newly established Hobsons Bay Business Roundtable who played a significant role in shaping our Community Support Packages.

Community services

Council has remained committed to maintaining essential services and support but has needed to adapt in order to meet state and federal government requirements. Our COVID-19 response budget will include ongoing delivery of more than 100 vital community services including:

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PACKAGE 3

In addition to the \$2.2 million rate adjustment, Council's third Community Support Package is worth \$3 million and has been compiled as a direct result of community consultation. The package will directly assist the community and businesses as they rebuild and recover from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Community and local business recovery

- rebates for the 2020-21 food registration, public health fees and footpath trading permit fees
- extending the waiver of paid parking in Nelson Place until 31 December 2020 (customers of businesses located at Williamstown Beach will also be provided dedicated permits for free parking during this period)
- rent relief in Council owned property
- town planning rebates
- Business Precinct Support Campaign (see page 4 for Business Grant details)

Financial relief for business

- a program to support local connections
- incentives to use Council venues including the Williamstown Town Hall and Altona Theatre
- waiver of summer sports ground rentals
- strategic planning support for sports clubs to resume training and competition
- sports pavilion cleaning program
- 'loan to own' iPads program at the libraries
- COVID-19 Recovery Grants program worth \$500,000 has been added to Council's existing Annual Community Grants Programs, totalling \$1 million in grant funding available for the community
- residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19 will receive an adjustment on their rates. The adjustment is automatic and no additional paperwork is required

Financial support available for Hobsons Bay residents and businesses

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has impacted everyone in many different ways. In addition to receiving an automatic adjustment to rates notices, Council has reviewed and refreshed the Financial Hardship Policy and developed a COVID-19 Financial Assistance Policy to support Hobsons Bay residents and businesses impacted by the pandemic.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and can no longer pay your Council rates, interest on outstanding rates or Council fees and charges for your home, business, sporting club/association or community group, you can apply for financial assistance.

- Complete the Request for Financial Assistance Application online via Council's website www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance
- Customer service can provide confidential assistance to complete the application. Residents wanting assistance in their first language can call Councils Language Line on 9932 1212 and ask to speak with an interpreter.

To view the Financial Hardship Policy and for more information on how to apply, including a one page flyer that has been translated into 15 languages, please visit www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance

PITCH YOUR Idea

2021-22 OPEN SOON

Council's budget consultation and engagement begins each year with Pitch Your Idea. Residents, community groups, sporting associations, businesses and organisations can put forward an idea to be funded in next year's annual budget via Participate Hobsons Bay. Pitch Your Idea is opening soon, watch this space!

participate.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Capital Works Program

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Council has continued to move ahead delivering infrastructure projects on the ground in line with government guidelines.

As a large employer in Hobsons Bay, one of the ways we can help the community is by strategically targeting infrastructure projects that generate decent jobs quickly. The Capital Works Program also aims to close the gap on ageing assets and keep up with community demand for new infrastructure.

Providing a path for GREEN alternatives

Council is leading the way with green technology and initiatives.



Enabling electric vehicles

Following a successful 12 month trial in Altona, electric vehicle charging stations will be installed in two additional locations in Hobsons Bay. Residents and visitors can now use the Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Laverton Community Hub and Altona Civic Centre, with a charger installed in the near future at Nelson Place in Williamstown.

The initiative aims to support the adoption of new transport technologies and reduce carbon emissions in line with Council's target to achieve zero net emissions by 2030.

To use the charging stations, residents and visitors will need to download and register using the Chargefox app. For more information about the trial, please visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/sustainabletransport



Altona Sports Centre extension

Altona Sports Centre Extension Project Stage 1 has been completed which includes a new carpark to the south and new outdoor netball courts, tree planting and stormwater basin. Stage 2 Design has been finalised and initial construction work has begun. The extension, scheduled to be completed in May 2021, will include four additional indoor courts, change room facilities, office space and café facilities. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSportsCentre



Creating a solar network

Council is building a virtual solar network which will be able to transfer power from one Council building to another across the municipality. As part of the program, solar panels will be installed on over 40 council buildings, resulting in a reduction of annual emissions of approximately 4,000 tonnes. Through linking the buildings to form a virtual energy network, power generated from one facility for example Laverton Community Hub, will be able to be shared with another Council building for example, the Altona Library. This innovative and exciting initiative brings huge environmental benefits, significant cost saving for Council and potential benefits for the building's occupants and the broader community. For details, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/solar



Apex Park Seawall

The new 40m long seawall has been constructed at the Apex Park Entry on Esplanade, Altona. Under the existing ground section on the sea side, the wall goes another 3m deep (check out the photo). The works also included the construction of a turning bay and the realignment of existing parking bays. New traffic islands have been installed at Maidstone Street and the Esplanade in Altona.

Armstrong Reserve

When restrictions are eased, Newport residents are in for a treat at Armstrong Reserve with a full upgrade of the basketball court, new play equipment, picnic shelter, soft landscaping, new garden beds and planting of trees, new irrigation system and sculptures crafted by a Victorian-based chainsaw artist. For details, visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/armstrong-reserve-park-upgrade

What's happening in your ward?



Cherry Lake Ward

Altona Beach Precinct is being revamped to improve parking, beach access, realign the shared trail, revitalise Weaver Reserve, consider partial closure of the Esplanade and raise the seawall to mitigate climate change. **The Pier Street stage four** concept plans are currently open for feedback. To have your say visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/altonabeachprecinct-1 Feedback on the other elements of the Altona Beach Precinct are currently closed.

Designs are also being finalised for rebuilding the **Altona Pier** by Parks Victoria following community consultation. Based on community feedback, Parks Victoria will update the design options and select the preferred option in late 2020. For more information, please visit engage.vic.gov.au/altona-pier-design-options

The final design for the **Brooklyn Community Hall** has been completed and is available on Participate Hobsons Bay. At this stage, construction is scheduled to begin in November 2020. The revamped modern hall will feature new meeting rooms, a central foyer, updated hall, improved kitchen and toilet facilities, and an outdoor deck area. For more information, please visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-hall-redevelopment

Work is progressing well on the full reserve upgrade to **A.H. Ford Reserve** in Altona. New lighting and an irrigation system has been installed, and additional play equipment is scheduled to be installed late September, pending the end of Stage 4 Restrictions. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/FordReserve

Strand Ward

Work is progressing on the **Fearon Reserve upgrade** in Williamstown. The western facing veranda on the Lacrosse Pavilion has been restored to include its original design from 1929 and the social room floor has been refurbished. Works to the Harsley Pavilion, including new storage facilities and unisex umpire amenities have recently been completed. As part of the works onsite, the public toilets will also be replaced. In the interim, temporary toilet facilities are available. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/FearonReserve

Works are continuing to upgrade **Donald McLean Reserve** in Spotswood as part of the West Gate Tunnel Open Space Enhancement Program, in partnership with the state government. Oval 1 and 2 have been upgraded and fencing and shelters have been installed for the multipurpose courts. Construction on the new W H Couch Pavilion will commence in September following demolition works. For more information, please visit, www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/DonaldMcLean

Works are progressing well on the new batting cage at **Greenwich Reserve**, thanks to a successful community budget submission to last year's Pitch Your Idea and state government funds through the Stronger Communities Grant program. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/GreenwichBattingCage

As part of the **Williamstown Botanic Gardens Master Plan**, new signage has been installed at the entrance to the Williamstown Botanic Gardens to give visitors clear guidelines to follow. When restrictions have eased, enjoy one of Hobsons Bay's quiet retreats and read the new historical interpretation signs. For more information, please visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WilliamstownBotanicGardens

Wetlands Ward

A big thank you to the community for providing feedback on the **Better Places Laverton** project. Using the feedback, the Place Guide, which will soon be presented to Council for endorsement, aims to achieve a cleaner, greener and more connected community which celebrates Laverton's character and creates a more vibrant place. Visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/better-places-laverton

The **Lan Avenue** foot bridge across Skeleton Creek will be replaced to lift out of the flood zone and provide a safe off-road alternative for people accessing Seabrook and Altona Meadows. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed due to Stage 4 restrictions and supply issues as a result of the pandemic. While we would have liked to have had the new bridge in place by now, rest assured, this project is a high priority and it will be completed as soon as possible. For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LanAvenueBridge

Once the restrictions have eased, residents can enjoy the **Homestead Run Reserve** playground upgrade which includes a basket-seat swing set, trampoline, nature-play elements and climbing net structure. The playground upgrades are the final stage of works following installation of fitness stations and basketball and netball hoops and upgraded lighting. Visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HomesteadRun

Thank you to the community who provided feedback on the draft **Bruce Comben Reserve Master Plan**. All feedback is being reviewed to help inform an update to the master plan. Visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brucecomben

REIMAGINING OUR CREATIVITY

Hobsons Bay is proud to be a creative city and during these times of isolation, we have truly appreciated that our arts community has adapted and responded for the benefit of us all.

Thanks go to the organisers of the Williamstown Literary Festival which brought a stellar line up together and the Newport Folk Festival with its weekend of live streamed music, which garnered great audiences, clocking over 10,000 views. Open House Melbourne gave us a virtual view of the Australian Islamic Centre, The Substation, the Williamstown Town Hall and Modscape in Brooklyn. The annual Altona Beach Film Festival moved to an online film fiesta, to continue to celebrate our local story tellers.

Council's Art Apart grants provided artists and creative practitioners who live or work in Hobsons Bay the opportunity to bring their work to the wider community using a mix of digital, virtual or socially-distant modes of delivery. Thanks to Martin Case, Born In A Taxi, the Long Gallery in Newport, first up, and Felix Palmerson, David Murphy, Judith van Daalen, Alison Peake, Monique Grbec for works to enliven our digital world, or an appropriate space near you soon.

Art & Industry Festival returns in 2020 online and in the West from 20 to 29 November - celebrating our past, designing our future. For program updates, visit www.artandindustryfestival.com.au

Keep up to date with the latest local arts and culture online events, programs and opportunities by subscribing to the Hobsons Bay arts and culture eNewsletter at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or following Creative City Hobsons Bay on Facebook: www.facebook.com/creativecityhobsonsbay



Since the Coronavirus lockdowns, Councils around Victoria are reporting an increase in rubbish being dumped in public places, of people putting their rubbish in neighbours' recycling bins or leaving their dog's 'deposits' for others to clean up.

We know there are also many heart-warming stories. Our community's many kindnesses range from neighbourhood WhatsApp groups banding together to do shopping runs, offering books or household items after a clean-out or leaving chalk messages of positivity for others to find on their daily exercise.

These are difficult times, let's look after each other and nurture a fair, happy, healthy and sustainable Hobsons Bay. If you need help, you can reach out via Community Connector (see pages 5).

Please don't be That Person.

RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

Every single one of us, has the power to reduce racism and its impacts in Hobsons Bay.

As a Council, we're committed to raising awareness of racism and how it impacts people, local businesses and the community. We support the people of Hobsons Bay to prevent and reduce racism and to seek help when it does occur.

**Racism. It Stops
With Me. COVID-19
doesn't discriminate,
I don't discriminate.**

We have partnered with trainers Polykala to provide two free online workshops in September and October 2020 for community members to learn skills for taking safe and constructive action when witnessing racism.

For more information and to express your interest, email commdev@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or call 9932 1638.

Visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Racism-It-Stops-With-Me

WHAT'S ON?

ONLINE LIBRARY EVENTS

While the library doors have been closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, a range of online workshops, activities and early year's programs such as Baby Bounce and Stay at home Storytime are being offered online. All events are free however, bookings are required.

To book, please visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

GOOD BUGS AND BAD BUGS IN THE GARDEN

**Wednesday 9 September,
6.15pm to 7.45pm**

Delve into the amazing world of pollinators and other beneficial insects and learn how to strike a balance between the desirable and undesirable insects in your veggie patch.

TINY ARTISTS ONLINE

**Every Monday
9.30am to 10am**

Little ones are invited to join a virtual art class designed for one to five-year-olds.

LET'S TALK BOOKS

**Wednesday 16 September
10.30am to 11.30am**

Let's talk books has gone online so we can keep on talking about the books we love, we hate and challenge us. Share your latest book, ideas and stories.

NOVEL SATURDAYS ONLINE

**Saturday 19 September
1.30pm to 3.30pm**

An informal writing group for new and novice writers.

THE WEST GATE BRIDGE COLLAPSE: 50 YEARS ON

**Tuesday 6 October
6.30pm to 7.30pm**

Join us in conversation with Tommy Watson and Danny Gardiner of the West Gate Bridge Memorial Committee as we talk about the collapse of the West Gate Bridge 50 years on.

CHILDREN'S WEEK 2020

Children's Week is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements and rights of children from 25 October to 1 November. All events in Hobsons Bay are free for families with children aged from birth to 12 years and online. A calendar of activities will be available early October 2020 from www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ChildrensWeek2020

ONLINE GROUP EXERCISE CLASSES

Laverton Community Hub and Newport Community Hub are offering free online classes. Try Zumba, Yoga, Pilates, Line Dancing or Craft classes at home which are normally run from the Laverton Community Hub or Newport Community Hub.

For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LavertonCommunityHub or www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/NewportCommunityHub

VIRTUAL SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Monday 21 September to
Saturday 3 October**

Hobsons Bay Libraries is back with another action-packed virtual school holiday program! Get up-close to the inner workings of a busy bee hive, get hands-on with art lessons designed to kick-start your creative mind, and discover more about recycling and growing your own little garden at home.

We're also going exploring in our own neighbourhood these school holidays with a Spring Scavenger Hunt! Join the adventure and complete 10 challenges for your chance at winning one of 10x \$50 Book + Paper vouchers!

Hobsons Bay Libraries will be offering special take-home craft and activity kits this spring school holidays and we will post accompanying instructional videos created by your favourite Librarians to be watched whenever you like from home.

For full information and booking details visit the Hobsons Bay Libraries website libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

MY SMART GARDEN

A free program for all Hobsons Bay residents that will help you grow food, shelter your home from the sun and wind, create homes for local wildlife, use water wisely and recycle wastes. Sign up for the newsletter and book online events via the website mysmartgarden.org.au

Know Your Soils

**Sunday 13 September
10am to 12.30pm**

Getting to know your garden soil is an important step towards healthy plants and delicious produce. Learn the basics of what constitutes soil, and how to improve it, simple techniques to identify soil structure, learn how to test and amend soil pH, meet some of the soil life only visible under a microscope, tips for dealing with poor soils, and strategies for boosting soil health.

Propagation

**Sunday 13 September
2pm to 4.30pm**

Fill your garden with amazing edible and useful plants for low or no cost, and grow your own gifts in time for the festive season! In this hands-on workshop you'll learn all the secrets of propagating plants from seed, cuttings and division.

Food Gardening Online Q&A

**Wednesday 11 November
7pm to 8.30pm**

What do I do about aphids? Why are the leaves on my plant turning yellow? Am I watering enough or too much? Join some of Melbourne's expert food gardeners for a special live online Q&A. Presenters will share some photos and videos of what's happening in their patches, then answer questions.

HOBSONS BAY UP

Hobsons Bay UP, Council's youth team are hosting a range of online workshops, activities and events as part of the spring school holidays program (19 September to 4 October) for young people aged between 12 and 25 who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay.

For more information visit, www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UP





HOBSONS BAY WORKING FOR VICTORIA

CREATING A LEGACY

Accelerating critical infrastructure projects and community programs and providing job opportunities in a difficult climate for immediate and long-term benefit to the people of Hobsons Bay.

Council has been recruiting up to 134 people in six-month roles, thanks to funding from the state government's Working for Victoria initiative.

The program delivers projects across a range of areas, including:

- environment and biodiversity
- infrastructure maintenance
- business and community support
- communications and engagement
- community services
- digital and business transformation and technology
- recovery and support

For more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WorkingforVictoria