BOBSONS NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 34

Aug / Sept 2023





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the August/September edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. In this edition we feature details on what's in Council's 2023-24 budget for you and our community.

The budget balances the delivery of our essential community services and city shaping infrastructure projects, while considering cost-of-living pressures for ratepayers. Read the budget highlights on pages 6 and 7.

With spring just around the corner, it's the perfect time to get back into the garden. Our My Smart Garden educator Kat Lavers provides excellent tips to get you started on page 3.

Nominations are open for the Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards. These awards celebrate and recognise businesses that play a vital role in our community and to our economy, details on page 5.

We meet two volunteers in this edition read how Myly has grown the Hobsons Bay Vietnamese Association from 10 members to close to 188 members on page 9, and how Ann values volunteering at the Friends of Altona Library on page 10.

You can also read about how Council is building an urban forest and increasing our tree canopy on page 11. One of Council's arborists, Andrew Fox, shares why it's important to plant more trees and the best trees for home gardens.

And, if you have a young artist in the family, we have a drawing competition on page 4 with two prizes up for grabs!

Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP

Mayor of Hobsons Bay

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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

All Council Meetings are held at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and live streamed starting at 7pm. If you would like to attend in person, please register online as seating is limited.

Tuesday 8 August

Tuesday 12 September

Tuesday 10 October

Friday 10 November (election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)

Tuesday 14 November

Tuesday 12 December

For more information and to register, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ CouncilMeetings

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Cover image: Aerial image from Altona

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

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cherry Lake Ward



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Connect with Councillors on social media



Scan QR code for details

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www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

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



INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES Your Council in your language

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

for a better future





GARDENING FOR HEALTH, COMMUNITY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Connect to nature and the present moment with the help of My Smart Garden – a free program teaching residents how to grow a beautiful and productive garden. It could be a few pots on a rental balcony or a larger suburban backyard.

"You can learn about gardening by Googling, but when you attend a workshop it's an educative experience that engages the five senses," said Jenny from Newport, who has attended several My Smart Garden workshops.

"As well as connecting with nature, the beauty is that you share produce, knowledge and conversation. You think you're just going to go and garden, but you're not. You're going to meet people that you wouldn't normally meet."



ENDLESS SALAD FROM A FEW **SOUARE METRES**

With warm soil and sunny days starting to return, now is the perfect time to get growing, explains Council's My Smart Garden educator, Kat Lavers.

"Many leafy greens are easy to grow, tolerant of part shade and super productive in small spaces and pots. You might be surprised how little space is required," said Kat.

"It's an easy way to save money on your grocery bill while still eating lots of healthy salads, and you tend to waste less when they are picked fresh from the garden.

"Plus, getting leafy greens from the farm to your kitchen without wilting uses a lot of energy and fossil fuels for packaging and transport."

Danny, a participant in Council's My Smart Garden program, produces a salad a day from his 4m-squared balcony garden.

Former Altona residents Rabea and Steve grew 50kg of produce in a year in their small rental courtyard in pots.



"The secrets to success are lots of compost and maintaining a 'damp sponge' moisture in the root zone," said Kat.

"It's also best to skip lettuce and English spinach and go for easier to grow plants with a long harvest like rocket, mizuna and silverbeet."

Want more tips? Sign up for the My Smart Garden monthly newsletter and visit the website to check out upcoming events www.mysmartgarden.org.au



HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTING YOU?

We've partnered with Sustainability Victoria to run a localised survey on the opportunities and barriers for our community to live more sustainably.

The survey is anonymous and only takes a few minutes and the results will help us better tailor our environment and sustainability programs and services to meet your needs.

Find out more







What's the largest lizard you might see in Hobsons Bay?

See page 11 for the answer



OUR CREATIVE



ARTISTS IN THE WEST EXTEND THEIR PRACTICE AT WUNDER GYM

Twenty-four artists from Melbourne's west will be exhibited at the 2023 Melbourne Fringe Festival thanks to a partnership between Hobsons Bay, Wyndham City Council and Wunder Gym.

Selected artists will take part in Wunder Gym's Recollection arts program and be coached and mentored by Melbourne artist Elvis Richardson.

Elvis is known for her profound exploration of everyday life by collecting and curating objects and imagery. Her latest exhibit *Settlement* and the Gatekeepers was commissioned by the National Gallery of Victoria.

Through Wunder Gym's program each artist will respond to found objects to craft inclusive and empathetic artworks that aim to contribute to a more optimistic world.

The artworks will be exhibited at the Laneway Gallery at Woods Street Art Space in Laverton and Wyndham City's gallery, The Annex, during the Melbourne Fringe Festival from 3 to 22 October.

Wunder Gym founder Annette Wagner said the partnership was now in its second year and was quickly becoming a highlight for western artists.

"Our mentor, Elvis Richardson, brings an enormous wealth of knowledge and experience," she said.

Annette founded Wunder Gym in 2019 to fill a gap in opportunities for artistic development, exhibition outcomes and creative community connections, which many artists experience after leaving formal study.

"The Wunder Gym is a place where creativity, curiosity and community meet," she said.

"I am inspired each and every time I see that Wunder Gym has successfully re-engaged participants with their artistic ambition and helped build their creative confidence."

Wunder Gym is an independent arts program partnering with Council's Creative Exchange Lab.



Find out more



Draw your favourite playground or fun spot to play in Hobsons Bay for the chance to win one of two \$50 vouchers for a local business of your choice.

Two vouchers up for grabs:

- Under 12 prize
- Young person (12 to 25) prize

The winners will be published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay Community News.

Upload a photo of your artwork by Wednesday 6 September at hobsonsbay. vic.gov.au/magazine





Walking Man sculpture at night Bladin Street, Laverton

CONGRATULATIONS to Sarah Dowling

Sarah won our Hobsons Bay Hidden Treasures photography competition in the June/July edition of Hobsons Bay Community News.

To find more public art and hidden treasures in Hobsons Bay, download the Experience Hobsons Bay app







NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Local businesses make a tremendous contribution to both our community and economy. If you know an outstanding local business, nominate them for an award by Sunday 27 August.

2023 CATEGORIES



Creating social change and diversity



Excellence in customer experience



Excellence in sustainability and circular economy



Mayoral award service to the community



Home based business



New/start-up business (up to 2 years old)



Excellence in innovation

MEET OUR 2021 WINNERS



MAMA MOVEMENT - FAYE TAN

New/Start-up Business Award

"Winning the Hobsons Bay New/ Start-up Business Award was a real turning point for us as a business. It gave us the confidence to go for bigger national awards."



ECO LAUNDRY - ILCH MICKOVSKI

Excellence in Sustainability Award

"Winning the Excellence in Sustainability Award provided evidence that we were doing things right. As a business, we're always trying to improve, so while the recognition was great, it was even more valuable to receive constructive feedback from the judges."



PELVIC HEALTH - ALEXANDRA LOPES

Excellence in Customer Experience Award

"The Hobsons Bay Business Awards are a great opportunity for any business to stop and reflect, and celebrate what you achieved, but also to look at what vou can do better."



SELF DEFENCE HUB - ANDRE CONATE

Creating Social Change Award

"The visibility of winning the award meant there were more eyes on us and our cause. I'm so passionate about empowering people, and women in particular, it was just really great to have an organisation recognise that and really spur us on."



SEAWORKS - GLENN JONES

Pivoting During COVID-19 Award

"The business award process makes you have a good hard look at your business and what you can do going forward. The award made people think a little bit differently about what Seaworks could offer; we've held fantastic events and have new tenants, which has been an amazing addition to our business."





YOUR 2023-24

Council's Annual Budget 2023-24 delivers a \$65 million capital works program and funds more than 100 essential and valued community services.

The budget also responds to the cost-of-living pressures being felt by ratepayers, with an average rate increase of less than one per cent for residential properties.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and need rate relief, you can apply for financial assistance at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance

PITCH YOUR PROJECT

Sixteen community-generated ideas have been funded in the 2023-24 budget as part of Pitch Your Project. Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas. The projects will be delivered by Council this financial year.

- Family friendly gigs
- Public art projects
- Hobsons Bay tourist bus
- Celebrating First **Nations art**
- Lights on Nelson
- Coffee at the Homestead in Seabrook
- Cloth nappy rebate and education
- Lunar New Year celebration
- Roving entertainment
- Actively ageing
- Grow your own vegetable patch
- Rubbish dating
- Integrated playgroup at **Hobsons Bay** Libraries
- Conversations and social connections
- Urban forage
- Protecting our grasslands.

To read more about the projects, visit







Bruce Comben Reserve southern area construction and design of the Western Aquatic and Early Years Centre in Altona Meadows

\$4.71M

HC Kim Reserve pavilion and sports field upgrades in Seaholme

\$3.23M

Dennis Reserve multipurpose community facility and car park in Williamstown

S1.6M

Better Places Laverton initiatives, including the McCormack Park bridge and road construction and cycling infrastructure upgrades on Railway Avenue

CAPITAL WORKS



\$11.9M sporting and recreational facilities **\$4.5M** environmental sustainability initiatives

\$4.6M community centres

\$2.1M building renewal program



\$12.1M parks, open space and streetscapes \$2M recreational, leisure and community facilities \$1.1M bridges



\$1.22M

Altona Meadows STEAM Centre of Excellence Hub build (total cost of the multi-year project: \$2.72M)

\$920,000

Leo Hoffman Reserve upgrade in

\$600,000

Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre stage 1, including temporary facilities, café, and walking paths

\$500,000

Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre renewal and maintenance works

\$450,000

Williamstown Mechanics Institute cottage refurbishment







COMMUNITY services



Community learning and customer service centres



Community support



Early years



Community child health



Community development includes \$1.13M in community grants



Youth services





BUILDING A BETTER CITY



W.L.J CROFTS RESERVE **PLAYGROUND**

The final piece of the W.L.J Crofts Reserve Improvement Plan is now complete with the new playground open! Altona North's newest playground features nature play areas, equipment for all ages, a sandpit, seating and landscaping.

The southern landscaping and overflow car park will be finished in August.

Earlier completed works as part of the improvement plan included a new combined pavilion to house the Williamstown Superules Football Club, Western Jets Football Club, Altona North Cricket Club and Agility Dog Club of Victoria; redevelopment of ovals 2 and 3; new cricket practice nets; and a new car park.

The multi-year improvement plan was a partnership between Council and the Victorian Government through the West Gate Tunnel Project.

GREENING POCKET PARKS

Four of Laverton's smallest parks have had a makeover with more trees, footpaths and seating.

Thirty trees have been planted in Jamison Street Reserve, Tyguin Street Reserve. Williams Road Reserve and Alma Avenue Reserve

The new trees in the small pockets of open space will help boost our urban forest canopy and cool the residential streets on hot days.

The tree plantings and works are part of Love Laverton Parks, a Better Places Laverton initiative delivered by Council.

Earlier this year, we celebrated six of the eight local community park upgrades with the Laverton Park Hop. The remaining two parks to be upgraded - Bruce Street and Cropley Crescent – will be finished by the end of the year!

For more info, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic. gov.au/LoveLavertonParks

IMPROVED BIKE RIDING IN WILLIAMSTOWN

It is now safer to ride a bike along Victoria Street in Williamstown thanks to the completed bicycle improvement program.

The works involved new fully accessible pedestrian refuges, footpath replacement, pavement repairs, asphalt resurfacing and lastly, line marking.

Following community consultation and feedback, final designs were amended to ensure the best and safest outcomes possible for all road users.

Victoria Street links the Williamstown North train station with the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail and Williamstown Beach, and the residential section of Williamstown with the two secondary schools.

Over in Cecil Street, the road has been rehabilitated from Parker Street through to Kanowna Street with road reconstruction, a new footpath, new kerb and channel works, and asphalt resurfacing.



VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM

This year the Australian community will be called upon to cast their vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum.

At its June meeting, Council voted to support the Yes vote and help our community to become informed about the referendum.

Mayor of Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council and Referendum Engagement representative Ross Andrews tells us why the Voice to Parliament is important for his community. Yarrabah is a sister city of Hobsons Bay.

"This year is a very important year for First Nations people across the country. We're trying to embark on constitutional recognition for our people," he said.

"It's a very important issue that is very close to many First Nations peoples' hearts on how we can best bring about change for our communities. We want

to create a better health and future for our kids and the next generation.

"The Voice to Parliament for Yarrabah would mean a lot because I know that we need other voices out there that can magnify our issues.

"It can only enhance and amplify the voices that are coming from the grassroots community who have been asking for their voices to be heard for many, many years.

"We think the Voice to Parliament has potential to make real practical change to improve the quality of life in our communities."

Read more about Council's suppo for the Voice to Parliament



All community consultations are featured on our Participate Hobsons Bay website. Sign up to become a member and don't miss an opportunity to help shape where you live.

HAVEYOUR SAYON OUR DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT

Research estimates there is currently a shortfall of more than 1,400 affordable housing dwellings in Hobsons Bay.

Our Draft Affordable Housing Policy Statement aims to guide our ongoing efforts to increase the supply of affordable housing in Hobsons Bay. Your feedback will be used to further update the draft policy statement, before it is presented to Council for adoption.

For more information and to have your say by Monday 28 **August visit**





Applications Open

HOBSONS BAY 2024 STUDENT EXCHANGE TO JAPAN

Hobsons Bay secondary students, aged 14 to 17, can apply to take part in the annual student exchange with Hobsons Bay sister city Anjo in Japan.

The sister city relationship with Anjo stretches back to 1988 and more than 200 students have participated in the exchange.

The exchange involves the family hosting a Japanese student for 10 days during the 2024 term two school holidays and then the student visiting Anjo for two weeks in July/August 2024.

For information visit hbifa.org.au

Applications close 28 December 2023





What is the most participated sport in Hobsons Bay?

See page 11 for the answer

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers are the backbone of our community; their time and skills contribute to making a difference in community centres, sporting clubs, community groups, community services, and environmental sustainability.

In this edition we meet Myly Nguyen, who founded the Hobsons Bay Vietnamese Association.

MYLY, PRESIDENT OF THE **HOBSONS BAY VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATION**

Myly founded the Hobsons Bay Vietnamese Association in 2017 and has watched the group grow from 10 initial members to 188 members.

The group meets monthly in Altona and Altona North, and anyone who lives in Hobsons Bay and loves being social is welcome.

The association is involved in everything from promoting cultural events, organising mental health programs, social outings, helping senior members to live independently, and developing professional leadership training programs for young members.

Myly's vision is to build a sense of local identity and solidarity to facilitate common understandings, values, and traditions.

Myly loves how the association is 100 per cent volunteer based, inclusive and culturally diverse.

"Volunteering is an excellent way to meet and interact with people. It makes me feel connected to the place where I have been living since 1985 and also benefits my personal health and wellbeing," said Myly.

For more information, email vietnameseinhobsonsbay@ gmail.com or visit





MEET LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS ANN AND ANGELA

Ann Nicol has volunteered with the Friends of Altona Library (FOAL) for 25 years. Angela Bishop is the president of the friends group and has volunteered for four years.

The friends group is a non-profit organisation that supports the libraries by donating funds raised from book sales.

Ann, how did you become a member?

I was invited to join the FOAL group by my long-time friend Margaret Broeks. I have been with the group ever since because I think it is a valuable service to the community, and because the people involved, both library staff and volunteers, are great to work with.

What do you like most about volunteering?

I enjoy being a volunteer because I get a chance to be more involved with my community. The more people who are involved the better for our community.

I was recently at the Volunteer Expo held at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre and was overwhelmed at how many vibrant and diverse groups operate in our area. I also love to meet people and learn new skills, so I find that being a member of FOAL is very satisfying and regularly provides new challenges.

What's the most interesting item that someone has donated to the friends group?

On most book sale days, someone will come in and donate an interesting book. Once we had a complete set of an encyclopedia on early American history donated. But my favourite was a cookbook with the most delightful comments in the margins of recipes.

When and where are the book sales?

The book sales are held at the rear of Altona Library on the first Tuesday, Friday and Saturday of each month, 10am to 1pm.

For details visit, www.hobsonsbay. vic.gov.au/BookSales

ALTONA MEADOWS LIBRARYAND LEARNING CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Coming soon – a new STEAM Centre of Excellence at Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre.

The Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre is being redeveloped!

The refurbished library will feature a new and improved children's area, technology pods, new furniture and external courtyard landscaping. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for a festival of events celebrating the opening later in the year!

For details visit





Hobsons Bay COUNCIL[†] ALL LOCATIONS

ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE COMMUNITY!

Council+ has been designed for the community, making accessing services across Hobsons Bay easier for all! Now you can access more Council services at more locations:

- Altona Library
- Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre (or the Council+ Pop-Up Library in Altona Meadows, while the library is undergoing a refurbishment)
- Altona North Community Library
- · Civic Centre at Altona
- Laverton Community Hub
- Newport Community Hub
- Seabrook Community Centre
- Williamstown Library.



HERE IN HOBSONS BAY, WE'RE AIMING TO INCREASE **OUR TREE CANOPY COVER TO 30 PER CENT BY 2040**



MEET OUR TREE EXPERT!

Andrew Fox is one of Council's arborists and manages our growing tree population.

What do you love about your job?

It's an exciting time to lead Council's tree team. The Urban Forest Strategy drives one of Victoria's largest tree planting programs and will create a safer environment for our community for years to come.

Why are we planting more trees?

Established trees have been shown to alleviate depression, improve mental health, reduce stress, enhance biodiversity, reduce electricity costs by shading homes, and improve air quality.

Root systems reduce stormwater flows and remove pollutants before reaching our waterways, and treelined streets look better! Did you know, properties in treelined streets can be valued 30 per cent higher than those in streets without trees?

Plus, trees play a vital role in combating climate change.

Do trees on private property provide the same benefits to our environment?

Yes, by planting a tree you contribute to a living legacy that will continue to provide benefits to the environment, wildlife, and future generations long after you're gone. It's a powerful way to leave a positive impact on the world and create a lasting, sustainable legacy.

On hot days, do trees lower the entire temperature of a suburb?

Absolutely, a strong tree canopy provides shade to block sunlight reaching the ground and by a process called evapotranspiration.

Transpiration is when trees release moisture through their leaves. This moisture evaporates into the air, creating a cooling effect just like how perspiration cools our skin. This process, coupled with the shade from trees, helps to lower the air temperature, making the area around trees feel noticeably cooler.

TREES PLANTED SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY IN 2020

advanced trees in streets and parks

indigenous plants and trees in conservation areas

TREE GIVEAWAYS

5,500

free trees for residents to plant in their gardens

GREEN SCHOOLS

2.000

trees and plants for local schools to plant on their grounds

GREEN STREETS

Working with residents to improve canopy cover in Richards Court in Brooklyn, Maclean Street in Williamstown and Fidler Court in Altona Meadows.

What's your favourite tree?

It's hard to pick, but I love Jacarandas, particularly when they go into flower in the summertime.

Can you climb a tree?

I am a trained climbing arborist, but it has been a long time since I have done it! We typically use elevated work platforms for most of our aerial tree works at Council.

ANDREW'S TOP TREES FOR **HOBSONS BAY GARDENS**

SHADE TREES: Chinese Elm (Ulmus parvifolia), Chinese Pistachio (Pistacia chinensis), Green Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos 'Shademaster') or White Cedar (Melia azedarach 'Elite')

NATIVE TREES: Burgundy Willow Myrtle (Agonis flexuosa 'Burgundy'), Dwarf Lemon-Scented Gum (Corymbia citriodora 'Scentuous'), Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood (Corymbia eximia 'Nana') or Silver Banksia (Banksia marginata).

FLOWERING TREES: Crepe Myrtle (Lagerstroemia indica), Jacaranda (Jacaranda mimosifolia), Magnolia (Magnolia spp.) or Pear (Pyrus spp.).

TOP TIP: When choosing trees, remember to consider the tree's mature size, growth rate, your soil conditions and any specific care or maintenance requirements. You can ask your local nursery for help.







WHAT'S ON



FRANCES BURKE - MODERN DESIGN

Heritage Network Wednesday 16 August, 7pm Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, Altona

authors and devotees of Burke.

Celebrate the artistic legacy of local textile designer Frances Burke (1904 -1994) with

Frances Burke, from Spotswood, is the subject of *Motifs and Motivations* by co-authors Nanette Carter and Robyn Oswald-Jacobs who will present the session celebrating one of Hobsons Bay's influential women of design.

Entry is free but bookings are essential at



INTRODUCTION TO SOLAR AND BATTERIES

Thursday 24 August, 7pm to 8.30pm *Online*

Learn the basics of solar and batteries from energy experts, Renew.

To book and view more free online energy workshops, visit





ARTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Goddesses of Jazz Wednesday 13 September, 7.30pm *Williamstown Town Hall*

A cabaret celebrating some of the world's most sensational jazz divas, through a contemporary lens.

Tickets: Adult \$35 Concession \$25 Groups (10+) \$30 each

RUOK? DAY EXPO

Thursday 14 September, 10am Laverton Community Hub

Join us for a morning filled with activities, games and food with a focus on taking care of your mental health.

For details, visit (



COMMUNITY SPORTS OPEN DAY

Saturday 16 September, 10am to 2pm *Multiple venues*

Keen to try a new sport? Sporting clubs around Hobsons Bay will open their doors for residents to come and try a new sport or learn about becoming a volunteer.

For details, visit (



FRIDAY MORNING TECH CLASS AT THE LIBRARY

Safely meeting people online 18 August, 10am to 11am, Altona Library

Understanding your Facebook privacy settings

25 August, 10am to 11am Altona North Community Library

Using your smartphone camera app

1 September, 10am to 11am Altona North Community Library

Exploring the settings menu (Android)

8 September, 10am to 11am Altona Library

Exploring the settings menu (Apple)

15 September, 10am to 11am Altona Library

For details, visit



WHALEBONE

Wednesday 27 September, 2pm School holiday special! Altona Theatre

Telling a tale full of magic and action, *Whalebone* is a funny, intriguing and touching performance for children and families. It opens the door to a fantastical world where the future of humanity is under scrutiny. Tickets: \$10.

For details, visit (



MARKETS

In the heart of Hobsons Bay lie numerous markets ready for you and the family to enjoy!

Whether you want to head to the Altona Beach Market or Williamstown's famous farmers market, you're bound to be impressed by the range of local produce, arts and crafts, gifts, bric-a-brac, clothing and much more on offer.

For details, visit (



