

# HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 43

*Apr/May 2025*

## LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

ATTEND A SPECIAL SPOKEN  
WORD EVENT ON ANZAC DAY  
EVE (DETAILS ON PAGE 7)

**WRITING  
COMPETITION**

See page 6 for details

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TREE  
GIVEAWAY

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VAPE RECYCLING  
TRIAL

HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Celebrating our history has long been an important part of our identity in Hobsons Bay. We always want to remember what has come before us so we can continue to appreciate what we have today.

This month, we observe Anzac Day, a time to reflect on the sacrifices of past generations. As a Council, we are proud to support the local marches and commemorations that mark this day.

While Anzac Day is a national event, closer to home we're also looking forward to celebrating the history of our beautiful city with the Hobsons Bay Heritage Festival, which returns this month. I'm looking forward to getting out and learning more about the stories that make Hobsons Bay what it is today.

There's plenty else happening. We're delighted to have the internationally renowned *Ocean Photographer of the Year* exhibition at Seaworks, as well as being part of the National Simultaneous Story Time, starring our very own local author, Deborah Frenkel.

As you can see as you read this magazine, Council is committed to delivering for our community. We're proud that major projects are coming to completion such as the Altona Ford crossing and Alma Avenue Reserve upgrade in Altona Meadows. We're also working hard to increase our tree canopy to 30 per cent.

I'd also like to warmly welcome Kerry Thompson as the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Hobsons Bay. Kerry brings with her more than 25 years' experience in senior government roles, including as chief executive of Wyndham and Maribyrnong councils.

**Cr Daria Kellander,**  
**Mayor of Hobsons Bay**

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

**Tuesday 29 April, 7pm**  
**(Endorsement of the proposed budget 2025-26 for public consultation)**

**Tuesday 27 May, 7pm**

**Tuesday 24 June, 7pm**  
**(Adoption of Budget 2025-26)**

**Tuesday 1 July 2025, 7pm**

**Tuesday 29 July 2025, 7pm**

For more information, visit  
[hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings)

**HOBSONS BAY Life**

Stay in the know with local news, events and stories delivered straight to your inbox. **Subscribe to our monthly newsletter**

## CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

### Altona Ward



**Mayor**  
**Cr Daria Kellander**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 438  
✉ [dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Altona North Ward



**Deputy Mayor**  
**Cr Rayane Hawli**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0477 440 281  
✉ [rhawli@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhawli@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Altona Meadows Ward



**Cr Diana Grima**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 476  
✉ [dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Laverton Ward



**Cr Paddy Keys-Macpherson**  
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✉ [paddykm@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:paddykm@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Spotswood Ward



**Cr Kristin Bishop**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0438 325 671  
✉ [kbishop@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:kbishop@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Williamstown Ward



**Cr Lisa Bentley**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0418 796 486  
✉ [lbentley@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:lbentley@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Williamstown North Ward



**Cr Michael Disbury**  
☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0459 818 530  
✉ [mdisbury@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:mdisbury@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Connect with Councillors on social media



**Scan QR code for details**

### HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

115 Civic Parade, Altona / PO Box 21, Altona 3018  
Phone 1300 179 944  
NRS phone 133 677 and quote 1300 179 944  
[customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

[www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

[facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil)

[instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC](https://www.instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC)

[linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Bunurong People 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: *Letters from the Front* performers Alan and John at the Williamstown Town Hall.

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

# ONE, TWO, TREE!



## ONE

It only takes one person to plant a tree in their garden. We need more trees to be planted on private land to increase our tree population. Together, we can increase canopy cover in Hobsons Bay and create cooler, greener suburbs, with cleaner air and healthier communities.

## TWO

Let us take the guess work out of what tree to plant with our top 10 species to plant in small, medium and large sized gardens. Watch our series of inspiring videos about the benefits of trees in our urban environment, advice around tree species and tips on how to plant a tree.

## TREE

Sign up for our winter tree giveaway. We'll let you know when it's time to choose a tree and collect your new tree from our Altona depot. The best time to plant trees is in the cooler months of the year (winter/spring).

The winter tree giveaway will include a range of species, both native and non-native, including fruit trees.

Trees will come in 14cm–20cm diameter pot sizes and will need to be replanted in your garden. Offer limited to one per household.



Sign up for a FREE tree

# OUR CREATIVE CITY

Photo - Rafael Fernandez Caballero – Baja California Sur, Mexico



Photo - Giacomo D'Orlando



Photo - Yue Hongjun

## INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION COMES TO SEAWORKS

The spectacular *Ocean Photographer of the Year* exhibition, run by London-based *Oceanographic Magazine*, features 118 photos highlighting the beauty and fragility of our oceans.

This is the first time this international photography exhibition has been displayed in Melbourne.

Seaworks executive officer Glenn Jones is thrilled to showcase the world's leading ocean photographers.

"It's a chance to celebrate the beauty of our oceans and spark conversations about how we can all do our bit to protect them for future generations," said Glenn.

Hobsons Bay City Council is proud to support this landmark exhibition at Seaworks, the first in a new dedicated

exhibition space – the perfect location for such a stunning showcase of ocean photography.

It is a great reason to visit Williamstown and especially the lovely waterfront area of Nelson Place. Plan to make a day of it and support our local traders!

**The exhibition is on Wednesday to Sunday, from 10am to 5pm (last entry at 4.30pm), until 13 July.**

For more information and to book tickets, please visit the Seaworks website: [seaworks.com.au/events/ocean-photographer](http://seaworks.com.au/events/ocean-photographer)

## DID YOU KNOW?

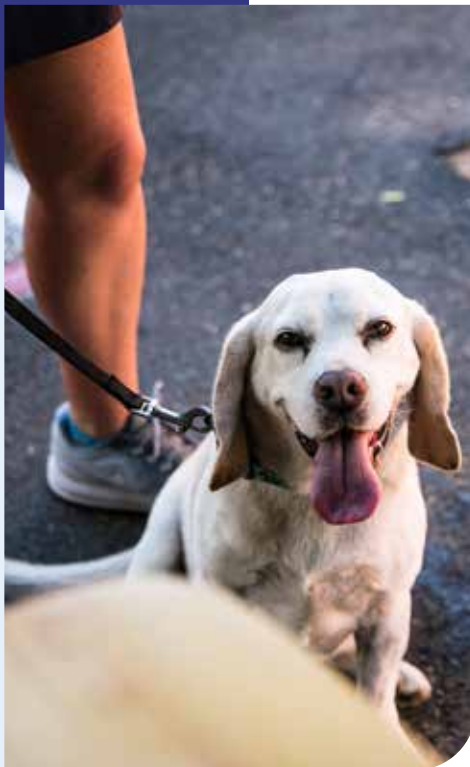
True or false - Cheetham Wetlands near Truganina Park used to be the Cheetham Saltworks?

See page 10 for the answer

# HAVE YOUR SAY

Community feedback is crucial to how Council develops and delivers projects, policies and programs. Feedback from community consultation is used to refine designs, modify services and ensure Council's projects and services align with what the community needs and wants.

All community consultations are featured on our engagement platform [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



## CURRENT OPEN CONSULTATIONS

### DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (DAMP) CLOSES 25 APRIL

The Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) is developed every four years and guides the work of our animal management team.

The plan aims to promote responsible pet ownership, manage and evaluate animal safety and welfare, protect the community and the environment from nuisance cats and dogs, as well as authorising how Council officers enforce these practices.

Have your say on the 2025–29 Domestic Animal Management Plan and tell us the most important animal management issues facing Hobsons Bay and your thoughts on how we can approach them over the next four years at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### LOCAL LAWS CLOSING 9 MAY

We want your feedback on seven proposed changes to our local laws.

Local Laws help protect community health, safety and amenity throughout Hobsons Bay.

Every 10 years, the Local Laws are revised in consultation with the community. It's an opportunity to work together to meaningfully solve local issues and meet emerging needs.

Our Local Laws are set to expire this September. The proposed changes are:

- Shipping containers to require a permit before being placed on Council land, roads, road-related areas or on residential properties.
- Roosters in residential areas to only be allowed if there is a permit or is allowed under the Planning Scheme.
- Chimineas/braziers on properties to be allowed for heating in outdoor residential living spaces.
- Vessels, caravans and trailers to require a permit to be kept or stored on a road, road-related area or Council land.
- Long vehicles (7.5 metres or longer) in residential areas to require a permit to be kept on a residential property.
- New building site operating hours to align with EPA guidelines.
- Protections for trees and remnant vegetation on Council land to be expanded.

Read more about the proposed changes and provide feedback at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



## BACI'S COFFEE: BREWING COMMUNITY JOY AT ALTONA BOAT RAMP

If you've strolled past the Altona Boat Ramp recently, you might have noticed a little coffee van serving up big smiles. Baci's Coffee, owned by Alexandra, a former corporate professional-turned-local barista, has been warming hearts (and hands) with quality brews.

For Alexandra, the best part of the job isn't just the coffee; it's the connections, chatting with regulars, meeting new faces, and bringing a little joy to the community each day. Whether you're a morning walker, a weekend fisherman, or just passing by, Baci's Coffee is there to serve up your caffeine fix with a friendly chat.

Baci's Coffee is a great example of how small businesses can thrive as mobile vendors in Hobsons Bay. If you're a local entrepreneur looking to set up your own food or drink van, Council can support your next endeavour. Learn more about our Mobile Vendor Permit Policy and how you can bring your business to the community by visiting [hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au](https://hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au)

And don't forget to check out Baci's Coffee on Instagram: [@baciscoffee\\_](https://www.instagram.com/baciscoffee_)



# SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

## for a better future



### CLIMATE COLLABORATORS WORKSHOP

Ready to step up your environmental efforts? Join the Climate Collaborators Workshop, a half-day event designed to help you connect, collaborate and create a plan for climate action in your community.

Who should attend?

- Community groups focused on environmental change, looking to grow and expand their impact.
- Individuals eager to connect with like-minded locals and transform their passion for the environment into action.

Attendees will gain practical skills and advice from local change-makers and behaviour change experts.

The free workshop is on Saturday 17 May, 9.30am to 1.30pm in Altona.



Learn more and register



### CASH BACK ON REUSABLES

The 2024/25 Reusables Rebate deadline has been extended, giving you more time to claim up to \$65 when you purchase reusable personal care products including:

- modern cloth nappies
- menstrual underwear
- washable incontinence products

Switching from disposable sanitary, incontinence or nappy products to reusables is a fantastic way to save money and reduce your environmental footprint.

Applying for the rebate is easy — simply purchase an eligible item and submit your receipt online.

You have until 31 May 2025 to lodge your claim in this financial year.



Learn More



### VAPE RECYCLING TRIAL

Vapes and e-cigarettes are a growing issue in our community.

We're making it easier to recycle vapes and their batteries by including vape recycling as part of our Recycling Made Easy program at Altona Library and Newport Community Hub.

Vapes and their batteries can be recycled in the blue drums (pictured above) that are next to the recycling stations. The drum at Altona Library is located in the foyer, you don't need to come into the library. The recycling station and drum at Newport Community Hub is located in the hall next to the back entrance on the ground floor.

If you or someone you know has old vapes, please encourage them to safely dispose of them at either location.



Learn more

## Free parent webinars

If you are looking to hone your parenting skills or seeking information and support in parenting teens, we have a range of upcoming and on-demand webinars available for Hobsons Bay parents.

Topics include:

- teen mental health
- eSafety
- neurodiversity
- vaping and e-cigarettes
- impact of drugs on the adolescent brain, and
- teens and alcohol

Hobsons Bay Youth Services provides group programs and one-off sessions on topics relevant to parents of 12-to-18-year-olds.

Our youth services team also runs free school holiday activities, check out the details on page 12.



Scan to find out more

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Where in Hobsons Bay can young people access a music studio for free?

See page 10 for the answer



WIN A  
**\$100**  
VOUCHER

## CALLING ALL WRITERS

In the spirit of the *Ocean Photographer of the Year* exhibition, we want to hear your stories and experiences living near the bay.

Share an interesting short story, poem or haiku in 100 words or less for the chance to win a \$100 voucher for a local business of your choice. The winning entry will be published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay News.

View the terms and conditions and submit your written piece by Sunday 4 May at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine)



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DRAWING COMPETITION WINNERS!

FEB/MARCH COMPETITION WINNERS

**Kyra**, 8, won the under 18 competition - what do you want to see in Hobsons Bay in the next ten years?



**Jasmine** won the open category for her drawing to illustrate the world needs more kindness and peace.

# Letters FROM THE FRONT

On the eve of Anzac Day, letters and postcards written on the frontlines in World War I will be read aloud at a special spoken word event at the Williamstown Town Hall.

The intimate event will pay homage to some of the fallen soldiers who are commemorated on the Great War Honour Board in the foyer of the Town Hall.

It is presented by Alan Davies, a member of the Newport Folk and Fiddle Club, and author and Victoria University associate professor, John Weldon.

Council's heritage program officer, Stella Kinsella, said the evening will be a sombre but inspiring event to commemorate the fallen.

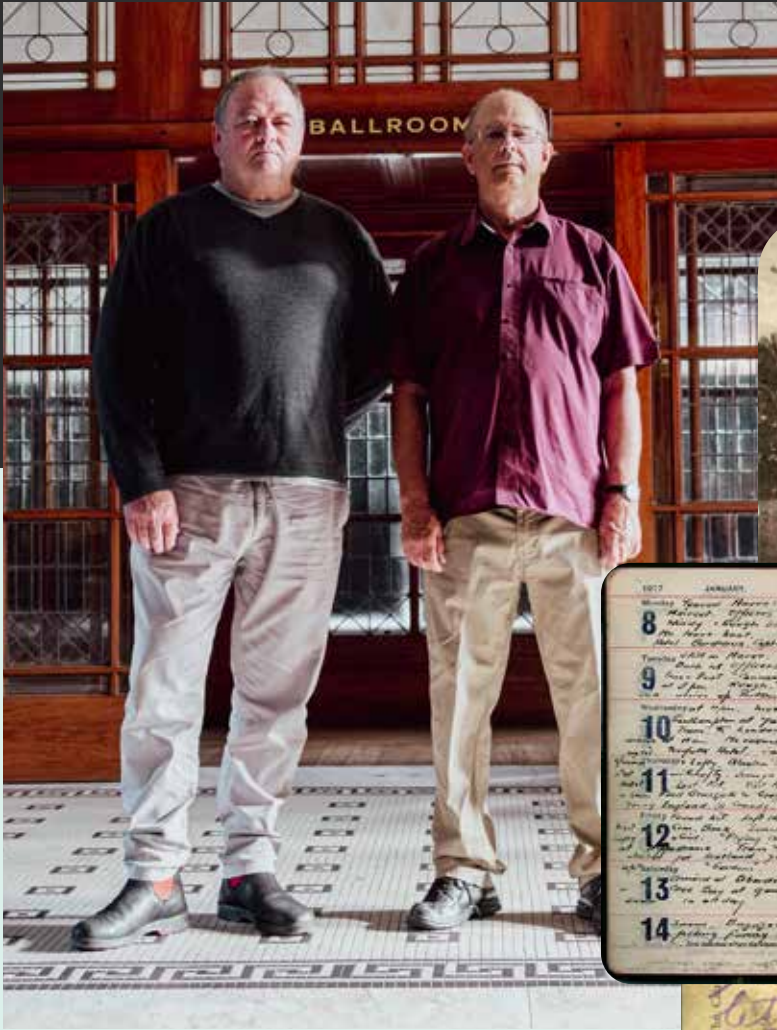
“Some letters are innocent and a bit whimsical, some identify the conditions on the battlefields of Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, some are written from hospital,” she said.

The event will include a cellist and a display of letters, photographs and postcards.

*Letters from the Front* is part of the Heritage Hobsons Bay Festival from **21 April to 4 May**.



For details on local Anzac Day commemorative services and marches, and the Heritage Hobsons Bay Festival, please view page 12.



Heritage Hobsons Bay is an annual program that invites you to discover the history and stories behind our iconic spaces and common places through a range of exhibitions, tours, workshops, presentations and events.

The festival theme for 2025 is 'Unearthed' – revealing the past, bringing to light lesser-known histories and stories, and unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and tradition.

Among the other highlights of this year's program are guided walks led by local historians, including The Forgotten History of Thompson Street with Russell Brown, and Convict Walk at Point Gellibrand and Convict Graves & Tales with Brian Haynes.

*Letters from the Front* is a free event, but tickets are limited. To register, and to see the full Heritage Hobsons Bay program, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay) or scan the QR code



Scan for more details

## Honouring the fallen, Sons of Williamstown A Labour of Love

During World War I, on behalf of the community, Cr William Henderson collected portraits that would become the Great War Honour Board which hangs in the foyer of the Williamstown Town Hall. The board commemorates 265 men from Williamstown, Newport and Spotswood, who made the 'supreme sacrifice' and did not return home to their families.

To access the digital version of the Honour Board, including many family stories, visit [sonsofwilliamstown.com.au](http://sonsofwilliamstown.com.au)



Alma Avenue Reserve upgrade



New planting at Williamstown Botanic Gardens



Ford crossing works

# BUILDING A BETTER CITY

## NEW LOOK FOR ALMA AVENUE RESERVE

The Altona Meadows community has spent the past few months reaping the rewards of upgrade works to Alma Avenue Reserve.

With existing seating and equipment in need of an upgrade, the works have breathed new life into the reserve, including:

- new play equipment
- a nature play area
- an accessible pathway
- additional plantings, and
- a new shelter

The updated reserve has something for everyone of all ages.

Nearby in Laverton, Council is also in the process of boosting road safety.

As part of our capital works and the Blackspot program, works are under way at Railway Avenue, between Aviation Road and Merton Street.

These works aim to enhance road safety for both pedestrians and road users and will include road resurfacing, new raised crossings, a pedestrian refuge and changes to the roundabout.

The works are estimated to be completed by mid-2025.

## WILLIAMSTOWN BOTANIC GARDENS

Over 1600 plants across 25 species have been planted in the southern end of Williamstown Botanic Gardens over the past few months.

The planting project is part of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens master plan and aims to provide a decorative ground cover that complements the existing character of the gardens.

The display along the eight garden beds that run along the main path subtly echoes the strong diagonal banding design as seen in the main path at the northern end of the gardens.

With the plants chosen to be low-level, hardy, textural and have year-round interest, the gardens will be stunning throughout the year both looking in from the outside and walking around the paths.

Be sure to visit to see the exciting growth in these garden beds over the coming months as planting continues.



Scan for more details

## BRIDGE RENEWAL WORKS ON TRACK

Works are progressing well to upgrade the ford crossing between Altona Road and Racecourse Road, at the lower end of Kororoit Creek.

The road was previously in poor condition and prone to flooding.

The new crossing will include a road for two-way traffic and a shared user path with safety guard rails, as well as a new electronic flood warning system.

The project also includes construction of a fish passage designed to help fish, aquatic life and bird species migrate, both upstream and downstream. This will support their feeding and breeding, and improve genetic diversity.

During the works, Altona Road/ Racecourse Road will be closed in both directions from the flood gates. The pedestrian and bike paths are also closed.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2025 and will ensure a safer, more reliable connection for all users. Thank you for your patience during these vital works.



For project updates, please scan





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the backbone of our community. In this edition, we celebrate the volunteers at the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre in Williamstown, which has been serving the community for 20 years.

The Visitor Information Centre is supported by the contribution of 45 professional and trained volunteers, eight of whom have been volunteering since its opening in 2005.

For Lili, pictured, there are so many aspects she loves about volunteering.

*“It allows me the opportunity to give back to my community, learn new skills, gives me a sense of purpose and extends my social network,”* said Lili.

Lili first joined the volunteer team in 2016 and volunteers once a week.

Her volunteer role involves welcoming and assisting visitors with enquiries about local attractions, providing

maps and brochures, directing visitors to relevant locations, events and activities, public transport, ferries, and generally promoting Hobsons Bay.

Located in the beautiful Commonwealth Reserve, opposite Nelson Place and next to Gem Pier, the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre offers free guided heritage walking tours in autumn and spring, and as part of events such as Heritage Hobsons Bay and October’s Seniors Festival.

National Volunteer Week takes place across Australia from Monday 19 May to Sunday 25 May. The theme for 2025 is Connecting Communities.

For more information about volunteering, please visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Volunteering](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Volunteering)

For more information, about walking tours, please visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HeritageWalks](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HeritageWalks)

## NEW BILINGUAL PLAYGROUPS



We’re proud to launch three bilingual weekly playgroups for our Indian, Chinese and Arabic families.

Bilingual playgroups support children to build their bilingual language skills and learn through play with their peers, while connecting parents and carers to share ideas and experiences and are supported by Council.

The fun weekly drop-in sessions are run during the school term and you don’t need to book or register, just come along to play, connect and socialise.

### ARABIC FAMILIES PLAYGROUP

Newport Gardens  
Early Years Centre

Mondays 10am to 11.30am  
51 Maddox Road, Newport



### CHINESE FAMILIES PLAYGROUP

Altona Meadows Library  
and Learning Centre

Wednesdays 10am to 11.30am  
2 Newham Way, Altona Meadows



### INDIAN FAMILIES PLAYGROUP

Laverton Community Hub

Mondays 10am to 11.30am  
95-105 Railway Ave, Laverton



The three playgroups are run independently with a community member volunteer and are supported by Council.

For more information, please contact the playgroup team by phone: **1300 179 944** or email: [communityplaygroup@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityplaygroup@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

## DID YOU KNOW?

What percentage of Hobsons Bay residents are born overseas?

See page 10 for the answer



## LOCAL AUTHOR'S BOOK TO STAR ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

Hobsons Bay resident Deborah Frenkel's newest book has been selected for this year's National Simultaneous Story Time.

Millions of readers across Australia will come together to read *The Truck Cat*, which is illustrated by Danny Snell, on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 12pm.

Deborah will also give a live reading in Newport on 12 May. We chat to her about about the inspiration behind the book.

### How did it feel when your book was selected to be read for National Simultaneous Storytime?

It was such a lovely surprise! My publisher had put it forward, but there are so many brilliant picture books published in this country every year, I had no sense it was a real contender. As an author of picture books, you rarely get to see kids experiencing your stories, the thought that millions of children from around Australia will be reading the book, simultaneously – that's mind blowing!

### What is *The Truck Cat* about?

*The Truck Cat* is the story of Tinka the cat, who travels all around the country with his human, Yacoub, who is a truck driver. But while Tinka and Yacoub live literally everywhere, home feels very far away – for both of them. Then one day, Tinka and Yacoub get terrifyingly separated on the highway, and, well, everything changes! In finding their way back to each other, they discover something new about what home might mean. (There may even be a hint of a love story!)

### What was your inspiration behind the book?

The seed was planted when my family adopted an injured cat, and needed to get him to the vet quickly but didn't own a cat carrier or cage. We had to drive with him loose in the car – which stressed me out a lot – but surprisingly, he loved it, and really enjoyed himself looking out the window and wandering around the car! My husband made a throwaway comment – 'he's like a cat that belongs to a truck driver' – and I instantly knew that was a great starting point for a picture book.

**Did you ever think Tinka would become a national star with posters and bunting displayed across the country?**

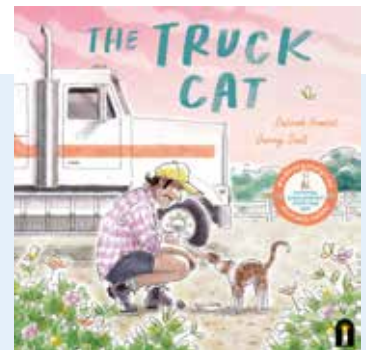
Hah, not at all! But it's a thrill!

### What are you working on now?

I'm working on edits for a few more picture books, including *Boldilocks* (which will be out in July, illustrated by Carla Hoffenberg), and some others lined up for early next year. I'm also constantly jotting down picture book ideas. I love the challenge of writing a picture book that speaks both to the child reader, and the adult who is (usually) reading it aloud to them, and then equally love the collaboration that follows with an illustrator.

### What made you want to be an author?

I've always been a words person – in my day job, I work as an advertising copywriter – but my need to write for kids became acute when I was on maternity leave with my first child. It's a common origin story for picture book writers: suddenly, you're reading scores of picture books, visiting the library constantly, and before long the rhythm and shape of these stories gets under your skin. I also write short stories for adults, but writing for kids is such a profound joy and privilege, I don't think I'll ever stop.



COME ALONG TO A SPECIAL  
READING WITH LOCAL  
AUTHOR DEBORAH FRENKEL

**Monday 12 May, 10am to 11am  
Newport Community Hub**

JOIN NATIONAL  
SIMULTANEOUS STORY TIME

**Wednesday 21 May  
Altona Theatre\***

**\*Bookings required, to book visit  
[hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/events](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/events)**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Scan the QR code for the answers  
and test your knowledge



# HOBSONS BAY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

## MELDING COMMUNITY INTERESTS

Altona City Theatre performing Hansel and Gretel



Williamstown Musical Theatre Company props at the Hobsons Bay community workshops

Have you ever passed by the Hobsons Bay community workshop site near Truganina Reserve off Queen Street in Altona and wondered what happens there?

Providing a base for not one but three community organisations, it's a hive of activity with the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed, Altona City Theatre and Williamstown Musical Theatre Company all using the space in various ways.

The Hobsons Bay Men's Shed runs programs including photography, heritage restoration, gardening, cycling, woodwork and music, just to name a few.

They have a regular Friday barbecue and hold events such as the annual Car Show nearby at Apex Park and monthly Car Torque event.

Despite what the name implies, the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed is open to all.

President of the Men's Shed, David, said there are currently 370 members.

"It doesn't take much to be a member, and there are so many benefits," said David.

**"There are always skilled people around to provide assistance and people to chat with or have health discussions?"**

The Hobsons Bay Men's Shed is run entirely by volunteers, it's not just a group that meet regularly, it's a vital link to community connectedness for many of its members.

**"The Shed offers friendship and fun in abundance, a sense of personal worth when completing new projects, and the opportunity to work on personal projects for the home,"** said David.

The Altona City Theatre (ACT) and the Williamstown Musical Theatre Company both have spaces at the Hobsons Bay community workshop, to build, paint and store their sets and prop collections in preparation for their performances at the Altona Theatre in Civic Parade.

This year, the ACT is producing *9 to 5: The Musical*, based on hits of Dolly Parton, and *Urinetown: The Musical*, a satirical comedy.

President of the Altona City Theatre Mark said the group is always in need of volunteers.

"We are on the lookout for people to help with costumes, build and paint sets or help our patrons get to their seats as part of the front of house team," said Mark.

Williamstown Musical Theatre Company, which also calls Altona Theatre home, kicks off its 2025 performance season

with Disney's *Dare to Dream JR*, *Cruel Intentions: the Musical* and its annual concert *Encore 2025*.

President of the Williamstown Musical Theatre Company Marcus said each production has between 15 to 30 people performing on stage and notes that a similar number work behind the scenes and contribute greatly to every show.

**"A theatre company isn't all about acting, dancing and singing, we offer the opportunity for all aspects of the community to get involved, to get together and support the local community whilst putting on a great show,"** said Marcus.

"Whether it be set building, painting and prop making, sewing or ushering there are so many roles to cover all interests."

If you would like to find out more about the groups that use the Hobsons Bay community workshop, visit their websites:



Hobsons Bay Men's Shed

**Hobsons Bay Men's Shed**  
[hobsonsbayms.com.au](http://hobsonsbayms.com.au)

**Altona City Theatre**  
[act.show/volunteer](http://act.show/volunteer)

**Williamstown Musical Theatre Company**  
[wmtc.org.au](http://wmtc.org.au)

# WHAT'S ON

## RIDE AND LEARN BIKE TOUR

**Wednesday 16 April**  
**8.30am to 11.30am**

*Leaving from Altona Foreshore,  
near Apex Park*

Join our rangers for a conservation-themed bike ride throughout reserves in Hobsons Bay. The tour is aimed at adults and young people over 16 years old who must be accompanied by an adult. BYO bicycle.



**To book  
the free  
tour, scan**

## YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Hobsons Bay Youth Services are gearing up for the school holiday break. With a range of activities on offer from ice skating to artist workshops to outdoor activities, there's something for all young people in Hobsons Bay aged 12–17. All activities are free and run by Council's youth workers.

To find out more and register visit [HBYS.com.au](http://HBYS.com.au)

## HERITAGE HOBSONS BAY

Learn the history behind the hidden spaces and common places of Hobsons Bay during the Heritage Hobsons Bay Festival from 21 April to 4 May.

Heritage Hobsons Bay is presented by Council in partnership with our local history and heritage community, as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival.

There are over 20 events including walking tours, exhibitions, author talks, family history workshops and the special spoken word event *Letters from the Front*.

To find out more at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay)



Heritage walking tours

## WALK ON COUNTRY – MANEMIT/ EARLY WINTER WALK

**Saturday 3 May, 10am to 12pm**

*Meet at Andrews Park Drive carpark,  
Altona Meadows*

Listen to stories about the cultural significance of the Kulin seasons and how it can inspire our life, work and play. Join Uncle Willie Pepper and Matt Sykes (Regeneration Projects) to celebrate the traditional season of Manemit / Early Winter with a Smoking Ceremony and Walk on Country, along Laverton Creek.

This is a free event, however, bookings are essential at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay)

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

**27 May to 3 June**

A time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and explore how each of us can contribute to reconciliation. During National Reconciliation Week and throughout the year, we take the opportunity to support First Nations people, and host events and programs. Keep an eye out on our website for updates on National Reconciliation Week at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/NRW](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/NRW)

## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS - building skills in events planning and management

**15 May – Event planning**

**19 June – Risk assessment**

**17 July – Emergency management**

**Hobsons Bay Civic Centre, Altona,  
6.30pm to 8.30pm**

Are you interested in event management? Sign up for our series of free workshops designed to support our community to build skills to create, produce and deliver your own safe and successful events. To register, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/eventworkshops](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/eventworkshops)

## ACTIVITIES AT OUR LIBRARIES, COMMUNITY CENTRES AND HUBS

From line dancing to yoga, mahjong to LEGO, art and comics, there's a huge range of fun regular activities at our libraries, community centres and hubs. Check out our programs and activities at our community venues and hubs [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CommunityHubsandCentres](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CommunityHubsandCentres)

To see what's on at our libraries, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LibraryEvents](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LibraryEvents)



## ANZAC DAY

### ALTONA RSL MARCH AND COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**Saturday 12 April**

**2.45pm - March starts from Altona RSL  
in Sargood Street in Altona**

**3pm to 3.30pm - Service at the Cenotaph  
at the Altona Civic Centre**

### ALTONA ANZAC DAY MARCH AND DAWN SERVICE

**Friday 25 April**

**5.45am - March starts from Altona RSL  
in Sargood Street, Altona to the Cenotaph  
at the Altona Civic Centre.**

**6am to 6.30am service - Altona Civic  
Centre Cenotaph**

### NEWPORT RSL COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

**Friday 25 April, 1pm to 2pm**

*Paine Reserve, Newport*

### SEABROOK ANZAC DAY COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION

**Friday 25 April, 6.30am to 7.30am**

*Homestead Run Reserve*

### SPOTSWOOD KINGSVILLE ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

**Friday 25 April, 5.50am to 6.20am**

*Spotswood Kingsville RSL,  
59 The Avenue, Spotswood*

### SPOTSWOOD KINGSVILLE ANZAC DAY FAMILY COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE

**Friday 25 April, 11am to 12pm**

*Spotswood Kingsville RSL,  
59 The Avenue, Spotswood*

### WILLIAMSTOWN ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

**Friday 25 April, 5.30am to 6.30am**

*Williamstown Cenotaph*