

HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 38

April / May 2024



ONE, TWO, TREE!

YOU CAN HELP MAKE HOBSONS BAY COOLER, GREENER AND HEALTHIER, READ MORE ON PAGE 11

WRITING COMPETITION

See page 4 for details



4 ICONS EXHIBITION AT SEAWORKS

6 HOBSONS BAY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Amidst the backdrop of inevitable challenges facing our community, something that motivates me in my role as Mayor is finding ways to help spark a little joy or make life a little easier for folks.

As the father of an almost two-year-old, I'm grateful for our beautiful parks and reserves. Investments to make improvements continue including the expansive open space area at the southern end of Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows and the new play area at JJ Ginifer Reserve in Altona North, see page 8 for more details.

We're excited to partner with the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre committee to complete early works for the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre in Altona Meadows. Building on this, in partnership with our federal and state representatives, we are seeking funding for a state-of-the-art, sustainability-focused centre, read more on the following page.

I'm thrilled to see progress being made on Council's new customer service portal – My Hobsons Bay Hub. We want to make it easier for you to make and track enquiries.

In April and May, we celebrate our city's heritage with events across Hobsons Bay, as part of the National Trust Heritage Festival. This year, there is an unprecedented number of walking tours, check out our map on pages 6 and 7 for locations.

Finally, if you haven't already, book a ticket to Steve McCurry's *ICONS* exhibition at Seaworks, it's an eye-opening experience that you won't want to miss, details on page 4.

Cr Matt Tyler
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 9 April

Tuesday 14 May

Tuesday 11 June

Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 9 July

For more information, visit 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

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Strand Ward



Cr Jonathon Marsden
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Wetlands Ward



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Mayor Cr Matt Tyler
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Connect with Councillors on social media



Scan QR code for details

HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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- facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil
- instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC
- linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council

HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES
Your Council in your language

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: Pick up a free tree to plant on your property at one of our tree giveaways, find out more on page 11.

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

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE COMING SOON!



Artist impression - by Grimshaw Architects

Construction will kick off for the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre in mid-2024.

The initial stage of the project will include a community space for environmental education, visitor information pod, kitchenette, and landscaping, including native vegetation and ephemeral gilgai ponds.

The Wetlands Centre will be located at HD Graham Reserve in Altona Meadows, near internationally-recognised Ramsar-listed Cheetham Wetlands.

Council is investing in early works and is seeking funding from the state and federal governments to further develop the centre to be a premier destination for immersive teaching and learning

from prep to PhD, and a leading environmental research facility.

Once fully funded, the Wetlands Centre will be a significant asset to Hobsons Bay, bringing in economic, educational, and environmental benefits.

Importantly, there will be greater opportunities to embrace nature, leading to improved physical and mental health outcomes.

It will be a state-of-the-art, sustainability focused, drawcard for Hobsons Bay.



Show your support, scan

“A place where everyone can connect to Country, improve their health and wellbeing, and be inspired to care for our precious natural environment, in a space that puts Traditional Knowledge Systems at the heart of the design, the community and the visitor experience.”

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE INC, 2019

The initial elements of the Wetlands Centre are scheduled to open in late 2024.

Project partners include the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc, Deakin University, Melbourne Water, Greater Western Water, Ecolinc, Cirqit Health and Birdlife Australia.

BUILDING THE MISSING LINK



In the heart of Hobsons Bay is the Kororoit Creek Trail - a popular cycling and walking corridor away from busy roads. It's lined with trees, features Geoffrey Ricardo's magnificent sculptures *Spirits of Time and Place* and has an abundance of wildlife.

The trail follows the winding Kororoit Creek from Deer Park to Altona and ideally would connect the north and south of Hobsons Bay.

We're calling on the state and federal governments to help us complete the trail by building a 2.5 km shared user path to connect cyclists and pedestrians from Barnes Road and Cherry Lake in Altona North.

The completed trail will connect to the Federation and Coastal trails and beyond. It would be a win for commuters, cyclists, and walkers.

Stage 1 has been constructed by the Victorian Government and the West Gate Tunnel Project to connect the trail from Blackshaws Road under the Princes Freeway to the Federation Trail.

Stages 2 and 3 are also complete, and run from Blackshaws Road to the Barnes Road bridge in Altona North.



To find out more, visit our website



DID YOU KNOW?

Why are there dead trees in the northern lake at Newport Lakes?

See page 11 for the answer



OUR CREATIVE CITY

Steve McCurry's - *ICONS* Exhibition

Steve McCurry, *Sharbat Gula, Afghan Girl*, 1984

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOGRAPHY COMES TO SEAWORKS

Steve McCurry's *ICONS* exhibition is now showing at Seaworks in Williamstown until Sunday 19 May.

The international exhibition features more than 100 large-format photographs that celebrate McCurry's incredible 40-year photography career.

McCurry's famous and most recognisable photograph, *Afghan Girl*, will feature in the exhibition.

His work is inspired by conflict, cultures, ancient traditions and contemporary culture, but always retains a human element, which makes his photography so powerful.

From Afghanistan to India, Southeast Asia to Africa, Cuba to the United States and Brazil to Italy, *ICONS* is a truly

fascinating collection of images in which the human element takes centre stage.

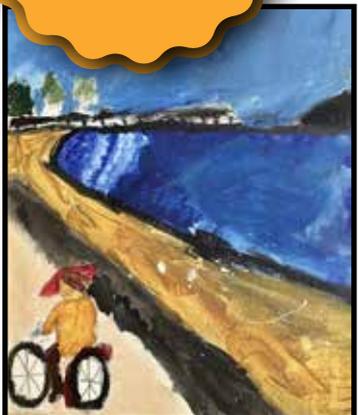
Don't miss this stunning exhibition. McCurry's photographs will both delight, intrigue and haunt you.



Buy your ticket at



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ART COMPETITION WINNERS!



Kai, 7
"Morning bike ride to the pier with my little brother."



Karin, 11
"I love to play volleyball with my friends at Altona Beach."



Helene Wild
"A watercolour and coloured pencil painting of a familiar scene at Newport Lakes Reserve."



CALLING ALL WRITERS

In the spirit of this month's Heritage Hobsons Bay Festival, we want to hear your stories and experiences growing up or moving to Hobsons Bay.

Share an interesting heritage or cultural story about Hobsons Bay in 100 words or less for the chance to win a \$100 voucher for a local business of your choice and have your work published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. It could be a short story, poem or even a haiku!

View the terms and conditions and submit your written piece by Wednesday 24 April at



SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

for a better future



ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP-OFF DAY

Did you know that old mobile phones, chargers, TVs and other electronics should not go in any of your household bins? Electronic waste (e-waste) is any unwanted appliance that's powered by batteries or a plug. When these products go to landfill, they leach out harmful substances that pollute the soil, air and waterways.

The good news is most e-waste can be refurbished or recycled!

Small e-waste items can be dropped off year-round at one of Council's 'Recycling Made Easy' hubs, located at our libraries and community centres.

Larger e-waste can be dropped off at our annual E-Waste Drop-Off Day. The next one is on Saturday 20 April, 9am to 2pm, at the Operations Centre in Altona.

For more information, visit



DETOX YOUR HOME

Get rid of unwanted toxic substances such as bleach, pesticides, weed killers, cleaning products and fuels at our Detox Your Home event on Saturday 11 May, 9am to 2pm, at the Operations Centre in Altona.

This free drive-through and contactless service allows you to safely dispose of household chemicals that are dangerous to store and get rid of. If not disposed of correctly, toxic substances can add extra fuel to a house fire, poison people and pets, release toxic fumes and pollute the environment.

Save the date and drop-off your unwanted household chemicals for free.

To learn more, scan



SUN POWER

One-third of Council's electricity use is now powered by the sun!

We're proud to be leading the way towards a sustainable energy future by powering our buildings with solar energy.

Since the roll-out of our Virtual Energy Network (VEN) began in 2021, we've installed solar panels on 48 Council buildings, reducing the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions by almost 2,600 tonnes per year (the equivalent of a person flying Melbourne to Sydney about 14,000 times)! Last year, Council generated over 3,000 MWh of renewable electricity (the equivalent needed to power 650 average Victorian households!).

The VEN also offers substantial energy cost savings – money we can put back into community services and programs.

To learn more, scan



Free parenting programs

Every stage of parenting is a learning curve and requires different skills and attributes. Each term, our early years team partners with a range of professionals to deliver forums and information sessions to

help support Hobsons Bay parents and families.

The topics reflect the diverse range of parenting approaches and needs of our community, including kindergarten and school readiness, managing temper tantrums, ASD and behaviour support and parenting children who worry, just to name a few.

To register and for more information, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ParentingSupport

Subscribe to our new quarterly e-news *From Newborn to School* for the latest family-friendly events, parenting programs and services.



To subscribe, scan

DID YOU KNOW?

How many playgrounds do we have in Hobsons Bay?

See page 11 for the answer

HERITAGE

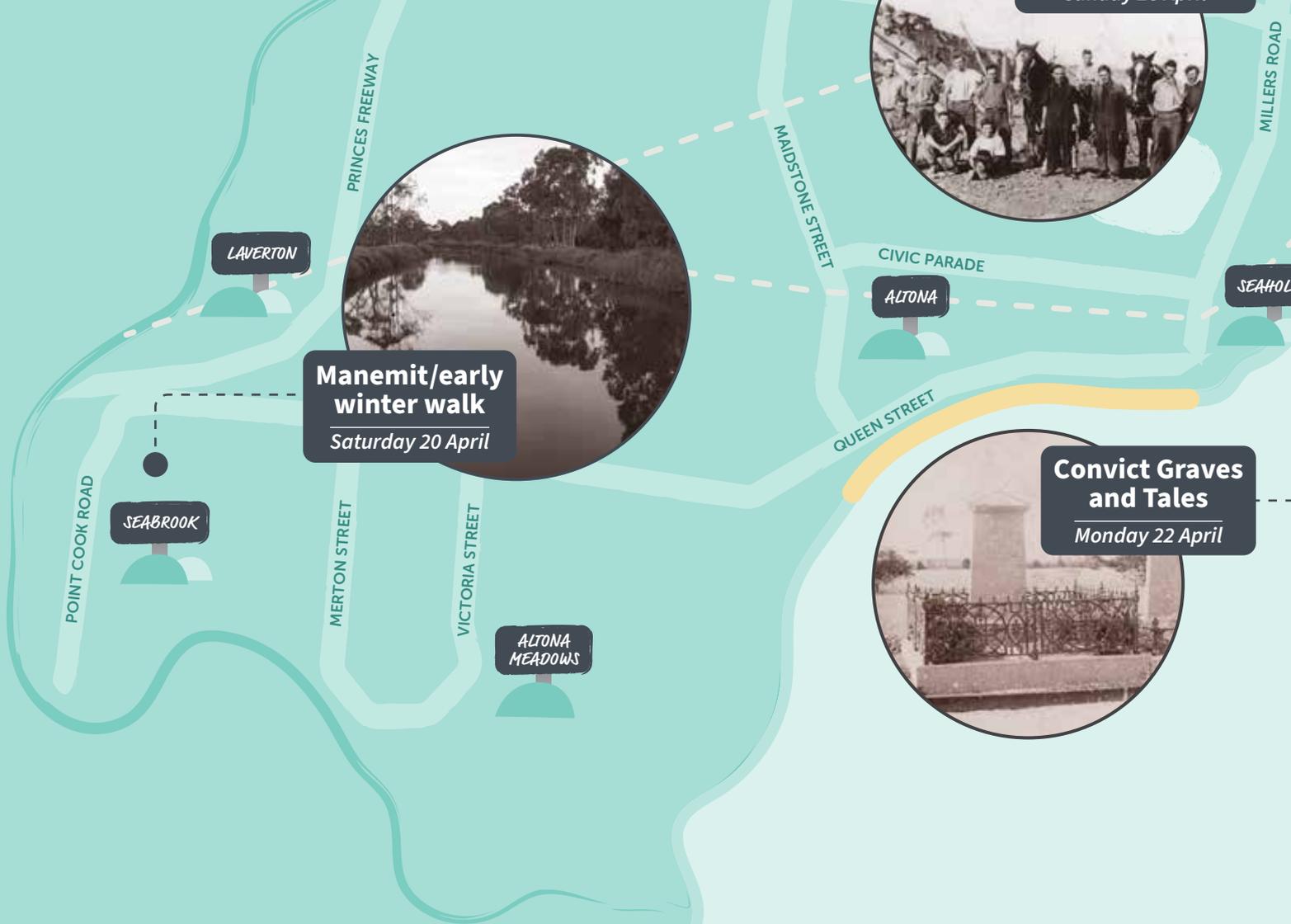
HOBSONS BAY

15 April – 2 May 2024

Hobsons Bay is rich in cultural heritage and has many fascinating stories to tell.

Join a walking tour, choose your own heritage adventure and be part of Heritage Hobsons Bay this year.

As well as walking tours, there are talks, discussions and live music events taking place across the city including Williamstown Town Hall, community centres, libraries, parks and sites of significance.



Manemit/early winter walk
Saturday 20 April

Newport Lakes heritage walk
Sunday 28 April

Convict Graves and Tales
Monday 22 April



Holy Trinity Vicarage tour

Friday 26 April & Saturday 27 April



Spotswood Industrial Heritage walking tour

Thursday 18 April



Alfred Graving Dock tours

Saturday 20 April



Maritime industry open house and shore walk

Sunday 21 April

Step back in time heritage walking tours
Tuesday 23, 30 April, Friday 26 April



On the Beach

Thursday 18 April



Heritage Convict Walk

Monday 15 April



Secrets of the Pinetum

Thursday 2 May

For meeting locations, more information and tickets, visit → 



JJ Ginifer Reserve, Altona North



Bruce Comben new play space, Altona Meadows



Bruce Comben new play space, Altona Meadows

BUILDING A BETTER CITY

BRUCE COMBEN OPEN SPACE REVAMP

The southern end of Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows has been transformed into a new vibrant open space for the community! The redeveloped reserve was officially opened on Sunday 24 March with a community celebration.

Features include:

- new adventure playground with a large climbing frame, accessible in-ground trampoline and carousel, dual flying fox, shaded sandpit and swings
- nature play discovery trail
- multipurpose court
- walking and cycling network
- fenced dog off-lead zone
- BBQ area and shelter
- public toilets
- planting of trees and shrubs throughout the park
- an upgrade and extension of the carpark and new street lighting.

STREETS FOR PEOPLE

Spotswood's village is now safer for pedestrians and cyclists with reduced speed limits. The change was driven by community feedback through the Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville program and has been approved by the Victorian Government's Department of Transport and Planning.

Streets bounded by Melbourne Road, The Avenue, Hope Street, and McLister Street (not including Melbourne Road), now have a 40 km/h speed limit. A section of Creek Street is also part of the 40 km/h zone.

While you're enjoying Spotwood's delicious eats, visiting ScienceWorks or the redeveloped Donald McLean Reserve, please be mindful of the reduced speed limits and keep an eye out for the new signs.

For more information about the Streets for People project, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/StreetsforPeople

NEW PLAYAREA IN ALTONA NORTH

JJ Ginifer Reserve on Chambers Road in Altona North is open for you to enjoy.

The play space includes a new play tower, tunnel slide, flying fox and additional swings.

The asphalt basketball court has been resurfaced and enhanced to create a more vibrant space and smooth playing surface.

There is also a new sheltered gathering space with a drink fountain and bike hoops. The enhanced garden bed landscaping and new trees will provide additional shade.

The reserve is an important open space for residents and is used by workers from Millers Junction to enjoy a slice of nature on their lunch break.

Check out our capital works program in your area



Scan the QR code for more info

MY HOBSONS BAY HUB

It's now easier to connect with Council online. We're excited to launch our customer portal where you can:

- log in on any device
- track your enquiry
- pay your rates
- register your animals
- report an issue, including footpaths repairs, pot holes and fallen branches.

Need help?

Our Council+ service centres are here to help! Ask us questions at the front counter or jump online and try out the new portal. Scan here



JUST FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



WESTSIDE FREEZA

Are you 12 to 25 years and interested in music and event management? Westside FReeZA is seeking new committee members to help create events for our community.

The committee meets every Wednesday afternoon during school terms at Youth Services, Newport Community Hub.

Current committee member Angus loves that FReeZA is so casual and a great way to get into events and make friends.

“I have always loved helping the community with running events no matter what size,” said Angus.

“So, when I heard I could do this through FReeZA, I gave it a try. It is amazing to be part of and everyone is so nice.”

Another committee member Tom first joined FReeZA to learn more about gigging as a musician.

“Through FreeZA I have learnt the value of hard work and decision making that goes into the larger yet rewarding process of making a great event possible,” said Tom.

“FReeZA has given me memories that I am eternally grateful for and skills that have helped me become not only a better musician myself but a better team player and contributor to constructing events in Hobsons Bay.”

This is a great opportunity for people aged 12 to 25 to lead, learn and connect through hands-on experience to plan and stage live events and workshops in the local community.

It’s all about young people creating events for young people, thanks to funding from the Victorian Government.

ART, ACTIVITIES AND GAMES AFTER SCHOOL

Our youth services team runs free drop-in sessions from 3.30pm to 5.30pm during the term for young people ages 12 to 17 years.

Mondays - Altona Meadows
Thursdays - Newport



For more
information



To sign
up, visit



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the backbone of our community. In this edition, we meet the founder of All 4 Paws Dog Rescue, Maryanne Kovach.

Maryanne founded All 4 Paws Dog Rescue seven years ago.

She saw the need for a community approach to rehoming dogs.

“We rescue dogs and cats of all ages and sizes, from pounds and surrenders and then match them with people who are applying for a pet,” said Maryanne.

Each month there are between 15 and 30 dogs and cats that need rehoming.

A team of volunteers from All 4 Paws Dog Rescue foster animals before a permanent home is found.

“We’re always in need of foster carers, especially for medium to large dogs. It’s a very rewarding and humbling experience,” said Maryanne.

“We ask foster carers to have a secure yard, an open home and big hearts.”

Dogs and cats needing a home are shared on the All 4 Paws Dog Rescue Facebook page and their website.

The volunteer team tries its best to match the dogs and cats to the right families that are applying.

Maryanne enjoys volunteering and contributing to the community.

“As a foster carer, I’m saving lives and helping families find the right dog to join them.”

To find out more, visit
www.all4pawsdogrescue.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

When was the Alfred Graving Dock within the old Naval Dockyard in Williamstown built?

See page 11 for the answer



LIBRARIES + COUNCIL NEWS

MEET SARAH

Sarah is our technology librarian. She runs fantastic programs for all ages and abilities including Friday Morning Tech Classes, our monthly Tech Café and the Makerspace.

All classes are free, to book visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Libraries

Q. What is your favourite item that people can borrow from our libraries?

A. We have so many great things people can borrow (from robots to projectors) it's hard to pick a favourite.

The scanning pen is available for take-home use and is fantastic for people who find reading difficult, simply scan the page and the pen reads the words for you.

For items that people can use at Altona Meadows Library, my personal favourite is FLUX. It's a card game where the rules are created as you play. It takes a few minutes to learn, (games are normally under 15 minutes) and every time you play it's always unique. We have three STEAM-themed variants you can play with (maths, chemistry and anatomy).

Q. Are there any hidden gems at the Altona Meadows STEAM Centre?

A. Again, it's hard to pick just one thing, but... we have a free and bookable media room. You can use it for up to two hours a day and it comes with a large screen, lights and a green screen. You can also borrow items like tripods and vlogger kits from our Library of Things collection to add to your technical set-up. It's a small but versatile space for local creatives wanting to record audio or video content.

Q. What do you love about your job?

A. Technology can be stressful for people trying to keep up with the constant updates and changes (I struggle too!). I love getting to share helpful or creative ways people can interact with their devices (or hopefully feel less frustrated by them). From digital drawing to playing with LEGO, there are so many ways for people to engage with technology (and that makes my job really fun!)

Q. Can you tell us about some of the technology programs at the library?

A. Our regular adult technology classes start again for term two in mid-April and run every Friday morning with topics ranging from scam skills to how to find your phone. These are great for people wanting to build their confidence with technology and learn new skills.

We also have a fantastic line-up of workshops and experts coming along to share their knowledge with the community (there are too many to mention here so view our website for details - www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/libraries).

All our programs are free and there is always something amazing going on at the library no matter what your interests are!



To find out more, scan



ONE, TWO TREE

WHAT TREES SHOULD I PLANT?

Planting more trees in Hobsons Bay will create cooler, greener suburbs, with cleaner air and healthier communities.

WHY DO WE NEED MORE TREES?

Historically, western suburbs have low canopy cover. Before settlement, the area was basalt plains and had fewer big trees than eastern suburbs.

There are many benefits to increasing our tree canopy and planting trees on private land:

- more trees shade our environment and cool our streets
- a shaded house means you can also save money on air-conditioning bills!
- established trees improve mental health and reduce stress
- trees enhance biodiversity
- more trees improve air quality.

Since the adoption of the Urban Forest Strategy in 2020, we have planted over 99,000 trees in our streets, parks and reserves and given away 7,000 trees to residents.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Check out our One, Two, Tree video series on our website and claim a free tree for your garden.

To find out more, scan



TOP TREES TO PLANT IN BIG YARDS

- Southern Magnolia
- Drooping Sheoak
- White Spruce

TOP TREES TO PLANT IN MEDIUM YARDS

- Flowering Gum (dwarf varieties)
- Native Frangipani
- Willow Myrtle

TOP TREES TO PLANT IN SMALL YARDS

- Japanese Maple
- Port Wine Magnolia
- Weeping Bottlebrush (compact variety), Callistemon viminalis (compact variety)

To view the full list of tree recommendations on our website, scan the QR code on the left.



DID YOU KNOW?

Check your local knowledge against the answers





See NEWK at Altona Theatre



Memories of migration and home



National Reconciliation week



Project Pohewa

WHAT'S ON

YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Our youth services team is running fun events and activities for young people during the autumn school holidays, check out the program.

For more information scan here



LIBRARY EVENTS

MEMORIES OF MIGRATION AND HOME

Thursday 18 April
1.30pm to 3.30pm
Laverton Community Hub

Join us for a storytelling workshop and explore ideas of home and migration.

RUSSELL'S TRAVELLING SUITCASE

Friday 19 April
10am to 12pm
Logan Reserve, Queen St, Altona

Bring the kids to this special story time under the Moreton Bay Fig at Logan Reserve.

BIG COUNTRY GAMES DAY

Saturday 27 April
10am to 12pm
Newport Community Hub

Come and try traditional children's games from First Nations communities with Aunty Pauline.

For more information, scan here



UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAT WITH MATT

Saturday 20 April, 12pm to 2.30pm,
Seabrook Community Centre

Saturday 18 May, 10am to 11.30am,
Altona North Library

Pop-in for a chat with Mayor Cr Matt Tyler to discuss any Council-related issues.

For more information scan here



SCREEN PRINTING WORKSHOPS

Saturday 27 April, 10am to 2pm
Saturday 25 May, 10am to 2pm
Mesh Mash
54 Woods Street, Laverton

Learn how to create and design unique stencils and how to screenprint them onto fabric and paper.

PROJECT POHEWA

Sunday 28 April, 12pm to 3pm
Sunday 26 May, 12pm to 3pm
Woods Street Arts Space,
44 Woods Street, Laverton

Delve into the mesmerising art of Poi-making and weaving flowers with harakeke flax.

MENDING IN MAY

Learn how to mend and upcycle your clothes and textiles at one of our hand sewing or machine mending classes this May.

To register, scan here



NEWK, THE JOHN NEWCOMBE STORY

A rollicking journey through the life and times of one of Australia's greatest tennis players, from acclaimed actor Damian Callinan. Presented as part of Arts at your Doorstep - bringing professional theatre, comedy and live music to Hobsons Bay.

Thursday 2 May, 7.30pm
Altona Theatre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

Tickets: Full \$35, concession \$25, groups (10+) \$25 each

To book, visit Hobsons Bay Tickets



PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPO

Wednesday 22 May 2024,
5.30pm to 8pm
Laverton Community Hub

Thursday 30 May 2024,
5.30pm to 8pm
Williamstown Town Hall

Come chat to experts about your child's school readiness. Council's preschool field officers and staff from primary schools in Hobsons Bay will be available to answer questions.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

27 May to 3 June
National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. Keep an eye on our website for an event near you and visit Participate Hobsons Bay to help shape the Hobsons Bay Reconciliation Action Plan.

For more information, scan here

