

# HOBSONS BAY

COMMUNITY NEWS

SUMMER 2020/21 / EDITION 22

Hobsons Bay  
Business has Heart

*Outdoors*

OPEN

LET'S GO

*Alfresco*

SHOP, DINE, PLAY

EXTENDED OUTDOOR  
TRADING ALL SUMMER!

(see page 6)

5 MAKE IT HAPPEN

10 & 11

VIRTUAL ENERGY  
NETWORK COMING  
TO HOBSONS BAY

HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the bumper edition of the summer 2020-21 newsletter. This is the first newsletter of the newly elected Council. I am delighted to have been elected Mayor of Hobsons Bay once more and lead this new team of talented, energetic, and community-driven Councillors into the new Council term.

2020 has been a tough year. As with all businesses across Victoria, Council adapted many of its services during the lockdown. As restrictions ease, Council has reopened several venues and resumed face-to-face services—see page 3 for full details. We have worked closely with local businesses to reopen safely and extend outdoor trading areas. Check out locations on pages 6 and 7 to see all the plaza-style transformations taking place across the city.

Let's enjoy all that Hobsons Bay has to offer this festive season. Shop and celebrate locally, rediscover hidden gems in Hobsons Bay, and support our local businesses to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Visit [hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au](http://hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au) for a list of local businesses in your area.

As the warmer weather approaches, we expect more people to visit our bays and beaches. Please remember to be water safe and COVIDSafe – maintain social distancing, wear a mask when unable to socially distance, sanitise your hands and stay at home if you are unwell.

Most importantly, take time to recharge mentally and physically for the new year.

Cr Jonathon Marsden  
Mayor of Hobsons Bay



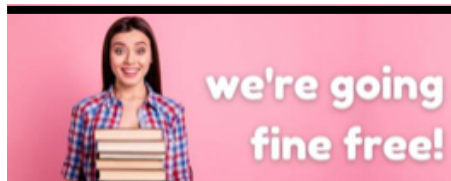
## BIN IT THE RIGHT WAY

As the weather heats up and restrictions ease, Hobsons Bay's beaches, parks and open spaces will become more and more popular.

Please remember to keep our city clean and tidy by disposing of your rubbish. Bins in local parks, playgrounds and around beaches will be emptied more frequently over summer.

If you need to report any issues to Council, you can use the free Snap Send Solve app, available from iTunes and on Android Devices in Google Play.

Customer service is also available on **1300 179 944**.



## FINE FREE LIBRARIES!

Hobsons Bay Libraries will no longer fine members for overdue library items.

Any previously outstanding overdue fines have now been waived and no further fines will be accrued. Standard loan periods and due dates will still apply and customers with two or more overdue items will be restricted from further borrowing and accessing public PCs until the items are returned. Charges for lost or damaged library items will remain in place.

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

## YOUR COUNCILLORS

### Cherry Lake Ward

Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Brooklyn, Seaholme



#### Cr Tony Briffa JP

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✉ [tbriffa@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:tbriffa@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)  
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t [www.twitter.com/tonybriffa](http://www.twitter.com/tonybriffa)  
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#### Deputy Mayor Cr Daria Kellander

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✉ [dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Strand Ward

Altona North, Newport, Spotswood, South Kingsville, Williamstown



#### Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden

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#### Cr Peter Hemphill

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#### Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

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### Wetlands Ward

Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook



#### Cr Diana Grima

☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 476 (ah)  
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#### Cr Matt Tyler

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## HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE

# 9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES AND RECORDED COUNCIL INFORMATION IN:

English	العربية	Ελληνικά
Italiano	ကဵုဒိၣ်တၢ်	Tiếng Việt
粵語	Македонски	普通话

### Your Council in your language

#### HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

115 Civic Parade, Altona  
PO Box 21, Altona 3018  
Phone 1300 179 944  
NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000  
[customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

t [twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC](https://twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC)

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

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

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

Cover image: Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors

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



# MANY FACE-TO-FACE SERVICES ARE BACK

**As restrictions ease, Council has reopened several venues and resumed many face-to-face services. While we look forward to welcoming everyone back, it's critical that we remain vigilant as we settle into a 'COVIDSafe' lifestyle. Please maintain a 1.5m distance from others, wear a mask when required, practice sanitisation and stay home if you are experiencing any symptoms. While many venues and services have reopened, Council's services can still be accessed from home.**

- **Libraries** have reopened with amended hours from 1pm to 6pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 1pm on Saturday. A check-in process for contact tracing will also be required.
- Our **face-to-face customer service** at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre has reopened. Staff will be available during business hours Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm at the Civic Centre, however, the community can continue to contact Customer Service on **1300 179 944** or at **customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**.
- Our **face-to-face community consultations sessions** have resumed for a range of projects and issues our community can provide feedback on. The in-person sessions are in addition to the Participate Hobsons Bay website and mail outs.
- Council-managed **community centres** at Newport, Laverton and Seabrook will remain closed to the public, except for essential public support services.
- **Immunisations** will continue to be provided through two sessions per week at Williamstown Town Hall and the Laverton Community Hub until March 2021. Bookings must be made online at **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/immunisation**.
- **Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH)** will return to full length centre consultations, with minimal home visits to be conducted (excluding vulnerable

families). Enhanced MCH and 3.5-year-old visits will be conducted via telehealth with additional centre appointments offered as required. Parent groups will remain online until 2021.

- **Meals on Wheels Food Services** will continue to be delivered via a contactless method. Home maintenance services for urgent jobs will gradually increase.
- The **Altona Sports Centre, Bayfit Leisure Centre and Laverton Swim and Fitness Centre** have reopened with COVIDSafe plans and will be subject to attendance restrictions. Please contact the centres for more information.
- **Hobsons Bay UP (Youth Services)** will continue to offer youth services online, including youth engagement and leadership programs, as well as the counselling service.
- In addition to the reopening of **playgrounds, outdoor gym equipment and skate parks, public barbecues** have now been switched back on and will be cleaned regularly. Drinking fountains have also been reactivated.

For full details visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/coronavirus**

## RECYCLING 2.0 LET'S SORT IT OUT

To help inform residents about what can and can't be recycled, Council will be conducting bin checks across Hobsons Bay.

Bin checks will be done across all suburbs over the next few months. Residents will receive a letter when their bin is checked.

Bins with materials that can't be recycled will receive a sticker and a letter explaining what to do next.



For help with recycling, check out the Recycling 2.0 app (free in the App Store and Google Play).

There is also information on Council's website, or you can contact customer service.

Continuous improvement is at the

heart of our waste and recycling system. Following the completion of the first year of Recycling 2.0, Council will be reviewing the service in the first half of 2021.

For details of the bin check program, see **www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling**

# YOUR NEW COUNCIL

Following the elections in October 2020, the new Hobsons Bay Councillors will represent the community for a four year term.

## CHERRY LAKE WARD



### Cr Tony Briffa JP

Cr Briffa is an Engineer, Justice of the Peace and human rights advocate. Cr Briffa's interests

include ensuring Council provides quality community services and infrastructure, maintains affordable rates, protects our environment, advocates for residents, community groups and businesses, and ensures development is respectful. Cr Briffa served as Mayor in 2011-12.



### Deputy Mayor Cr Daria Kellander

Cr Kellander is a Chartered Accountant, holding a Bachelor's Degree in Business,

majoring in Accounting. She is dedicated to investing in initiatives that support Hobsons Bay residents, businesses and sporting clubs, while ensuring that our local assets and the environment around us are both improved and protected.

## STRAND WARD



### Cr Pamela Sutton - Legaud

Cr Sutton-Legaud has committed her career to the Australian non-profit sector

working with Oxfam Australia, Plan International, Bush Heritage Australia and Zoos Victoria in leadership roles. She has lived in Hobsons Bay for more than 20 years and has a unique set of skills: strong organisational leadership, revenue-generation, financial management and strategic change management.



### Cr Peter Hemphill

A Newport resident, Cr Hemphill is an award-winning journalist with The Weekly Times

newspaper. Now in his seventh term as a Councillor, Cr Hemphill was first elected in 1999 and served as Mayor in 2008-09 and 2015-16. He is passionate about maritime history, preserving local heritage and building our sports network. He holds an Australian Institute of Company Directors diploma.

## WETLANDS WARD



### Cr Diana Grima

Cr Grima is active in community engagement. She has previously served on the Committee

of the Altona Meadows Community Association, Laverton Community Association Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch President and Friend of Skeleton Creek Committee member. Cr Grima is passionate about environmental issues, public transport, arts and cultural events and social justice issues.



### Cr Matt Tyler

Cr Tyler is passionate about making government and social services work better. Trained

as an economist, he is currently an Executive Director at a large not-for-profit focussed on preventing mental ill-health and family violence. Cr Tyler is dedicated to partnering with the community to drive our COVID recovery, deliver on the basics and ensure all parts of Hobsons Bay get their fair share.



### Mayor Cr Jonathon Marsden

Councillor Marsden is proud to lead a new Council made up of talented, energetic

and dedicated people who have been recently elected to serve the interests of the citizens of Hobsons Bay. The coming year represents an opportunity to renew, recover and rethink the direction of our city in the face of COVID and the climate crisis. Cr Marsden is in his second term, serving as Mayor of Hobsons Bay for the second time.

## Hobsons Bay Business has Heart

## Support our local businesses

**Now more than ever, let's support our local businesses. Here's what you can do:**

- ✓ Shop local: buy products made, produced or sold locally
- ✓ Dine local: dine in or order directly from local venues

- ✓ Work out local: get fit at local gyms and fitness centres
- ✓ Source local: hire local service providers
- ✓ Support local: like, share and write positive reviews or comments for local businesses

# 'MAKE IT HAPPEN' GRANT PROGRAM OPENS



**Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to support our community to 'Make It Happen' while we recover and reconnect as COVID-19 restrictions ease. In total, \$500,000 will be distributed to the community.**

Announced in August as part of Council's Community Support Package 3, \$500,000 is allocated to this new program. Funding will support community-led recovery and reconnection as we all learn about, work through and adapt to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. With monthly assessments, the program is designed to put funds into the community quickly and with as much flexibility as possible. The program will provide support to enable activities, projects, programs, events and festivals and resources across

all sectors, including environment, sustainability, sports and recreation, ageing well, culture, projects by and for young people, multicultural, community and neighbourhood development.

The newly-designed Hobsons Bay 'Make It Happen' Recovery and Reconnection Grants Program combines and incorporates the Hobsons Bay Environmental, Events and Festival Funding, Quick Response and Community Grants into one round.

Applications can be made for funding between \$500 and \$25,000.

Grants will be assessed and awarded monthly between now and May 2021, with projects to be completed by June 2022. For more details, or to apply, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/grants](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/grants) or call **1300 179 944**.

# NEW RESIDENTIAL ZONES



The Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme is being updated.

The changes, known as Amendment C131, update the planning scheme to meet changed state government requirements in residential areas.

The amendment will ensure the estimated 443 new homes built in Hobsons Bay each year continue to meet the expectations of the community and Council.

To find out more about the changes and have your say until Wednesday 23 December, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/amendmentC131**. You can also contact customer service on **1300 179 966** to speak with a planning officer.

## ITS OK NOT TO BE OK



**2020 has been a tough year. There's been ups and downs and backward flips. In Hobsons Bay, there are many organisations to support you during challenging situations including financial counselling, emergency relief, utility relief and support, mental health, older people support services, LGBTIQ+ services, alcohol and other drug support, and legal help.**

These services have been collated in a Hardship Support and Referrals brochure which has been translated into 15 languages and is available at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ReferralandSupportServices](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ReferralandSupportServices)

If you would like to speak with someone at Council, the Hobsons Bay

Community Has Heart's Community Connector program is here to help. The program links people in need due to the impacts of COVID-19 with local service providers and networks. Trained Council staff help connect community members with agencies that supply a wide range of services – for example, food hampers and pet food, medications and nappies, access to cleaning supplies and masks, social activities, employment and training information and library services.

The program also connects volunteers and people who would like to help. If you are looking for support, or you would like to help, we would love to hear from you. Connect with us by email at [communityconnector@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityconnector@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) or phone our Customer Service team on **1300 179 944** and ask for the Community Connector.

## PITCH YOUR IDEA

2021-22

**Do you have a great idea for Hobsons Bay? Now is the time to Pitch Your Idea!**

Residents, community groups, sporting associations, businesses and organisations are invited to put forward ideas for infrastructure, community programs or projects to be funded next financial year.

Projects that have been funded as a result of previous successful community pitches include: outdoor fitness stations, sporting facilities, park upgrades, conservation projects and footpath connections.

To find out more or to make a submission, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/pitchyouridea**

Submissions close at midnight Thursday 31 December 2020.

# HOBSONS BAY GEARS UP FOR A SUMMER

# Outdoors



## VIBRANT STREETS, OPEN FOR BUSINESS

FIND AN OUTDOOR PRECINCT NEAR YOU

A directory of participating individual business locations and a clickable interactive map is available at [hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/map](http://hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/map)

## OPEN STREETS FOR ALL

GO SLOW, RELAX AND ENJOY

**Save time on parking, ride your bike, catch public transport or take a stroll to a precinct this summer!**

**Hobsons Bay is following in the footsteps of New York, London and San Francisco and gearing up to enjoy a summer exploring the great outdoor spaces across Hobsons Bay.**

Traders are ready to showcase that they are OPEN for business and welcome customers for a new COVIDSafe experience: summer outdoors, going alfresco!

Council has been working closely with local businesses to support them as COVID-19 restrictions ease and they safely reopen.

Our Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors initiative has helped businesses extend their trading footprint by transforming footpaths, streets and parking spaces into new outdoor trading precincts, with fencing, planter boxes, barriers and signage.

Individual businesses and plaza-style communal precincts have been created in select locations, with outdoor areas to welcome back locals.

### Altona

Civic Parade  
Harrington Square  
Pier Street  
Corner Millers Road and Queen Street  
Railway Street South  
Upton Street  
Somers Parade

### Altona Meadows

Alma Avenue  
Merton Street

### Altona North

Borrack Square  
Blackshaws Road  
The Circle  
Second Avenue  
The 16 Shops, Millers Road  
Misten Avenue

### Brooklyn

Eames Avenue  
Geelong Road

### Laverton

Railway Avenue  
Woods Street  
Aviation Road

### Newport

Challis Street  
Blackshaws Road  
Hall Street  
Mason Street  
Maddox Road  
Melbourne Road

### Spotswood

Hudson Road  
Hall Street

### South Kingsville

Vernon Street

### Williamstown

Ann Street  
Albert Street  
Cole Street  
Douglas Parade  
Ferguson Street  
Nelson Place  
Parker Street  
Melbourne Road  
Electra Street  
Stevedore Street



# OUTDOOR TRADING BOOSTS ENERGY AND VITALITY

**A Hobsons Bay local, Pallets with Purpose founder Paul Finley Beames, ran Get Lost Travel Group (GLT) prior to COVID-19's impact on the travel industry. Faced with closing his doors for an unknown period of time, Paul pivoted into upcycled timber manufacturing.**

The team at GLT traded buses for pallets and power tools after Paul tripped over a pallet on the nature strip outside a neighbouring factory. After a conversation with his neighbour, he found out the pallets were destined for landfill and the owner had a steady supply arriving regularly to the factory. Paul thought it was a waste because they were in perfect condition and the owner happily offered them to him.

“With plenty of space in the depot and a shed full of tools, I started knocking together some prototypes. It blew me away how some of the wood grain polished up. I looked around and thought, we have all this vacant space, massive workbenches, lots of tools and a lot of talented people. I knew if I could convert the space into a furniture factory, I could re-employ some of the guides who had been stood down. And Pallets with Purpose was born.

“Over the course of the last few weeks, a small but staunch group of superheroes have worked around the clock to transform the streets of Hobsons Bay for outdoor (socially distanced) dining.

“They’ve brought hope and happiness to businesses and communities in much need. It’s incredibly heart-warming to see the joy and smiles on people’s faces.”

One of the biggest joys of Council's Hobsons Bay Business has Heart Outdoors project has been the rewarding experience of partnering with Paul and the team at Pallets with Purpose to bring our activation spaces to life. You can check out their recycled timber planter boxes popping up at participating businesses across Hobsons Bay this summer.



## HAVE FUN AND STAY COVID-SAFE

We love seeing our community getting outside and enjoying our vibrant outdoor areas. As the warmer weather draws crowds to the bay, it is important to remember to have fun and stay safe.

**It's up to us to minimise the spread of COVID-19** by practicing social distancing, staying at home and getting tested with symptoms and sanitising hands. We can also respect our neighbours by staying smoke-free, keeping dogs on a lead and putting litter in the bin.

If you are concerned, call the Coronavirus Hotline on **1800 675 398 (24 hours)** or visit **coronavirus.vic.gov.au**



**Our local businesses all have COVIDSafe plans. Please support them by following their COVIDSafe rules when you are visiting their businesses!**

**HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL**



# LET'S GET ACTIVE



## SUPPORTING COMMUNITY SPORT

**COVID-19 has had a major impact on community sport with all club activity being suspended for extended periods. With restrictions easing, clubs are welcoming back players for the summer competition and training.**

To support clubs returning, Council is providing:

- seasonal allocation fee waivers
- rental rebate for eligible clubs
- financial assistance relating to utility fees
- food safety and health registrations waivers
- online club development workshops
- community grants
- strategic planning assistance

Council is working with each club to prepare a club specific COVIDSafe plan. For more information, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Sport-Recreation](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Sport-Recreation)

## A DAY ON THE BEACH FOR ALL

With beach matting, free hire of beach wheelchairs, walking frames and accessible change facilities, Hobsons Bay boasts two of the most accessible beaches in Australia.

Over the past five years, Hobsons Bay has provided continued beach access and beach wheelchairs to more than 150 community members and is committed to continuing this service with COVIDSafe measures in place.

To assist in helping people of all ages and mobilities enjoy a day on the beach, wheelchairs and walking frames are available at Williamstown and Altona beaches. Free for hire, the chairs and frames can be accessed on Saturdays and Sundays between 12pm and 5pm. For information and booking details, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AccessibleBeaches](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AccessibleBeaches).

Beach matting is installed at both Williamstown and Altona beaches and is available seven days a week, a first in Victoria. Any visitors to the beach are invited to use the matting, but it is of particular benefit to people with prams, wheelchairs, walking and mobility aids to pass over the soft sand onto the firmer sand on the shoreline.

Across the road from Altona Beach at Weaver Reserve guests will find an accessible change facility with a change table and hoist. This facility is available for use 24/7 with a universal MLAK key. Speak to Council on **1300 179 944** for more information. BYO sling.



## BE SAFE IN THE WATER

With restrictions easing and summer coming into full swing, we're all itching to get into the water. The large amount of people on the beach, a lack of preparedness due to COVID-19 and the inability of learn to swim programs to operate this year, present a series of unique challenges to Surf Lifesaving Victoria. While at the beach in Hobsons Bay or on holidays, it's more important than ever to remember to swim safely and responsibly - swim between the flags, never swim alone and understand your own ability and limitations.



## THIS GIRL CAN

Want to get active? Not sure where to start? In partnership with VIC Health and This Girl Can, Council has developed physical exercise cards with an accredited physiologist. They come in four packs:

- 18-60 year old workouts
- over 60s workouts
- postnatal workouts
- wheelchair workouts

Each pack has been translated into 10 languages and is available at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ThisGirlCan](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ThisGirlCan)



# Green initiatives in Hobsons Bay

## DID YOU KNOW, IN HOBSONS BAY ...?



- 1 More light-coloured roofs, paved areas and driveways are part of new developments to reduce the urban heat island effect (urban areas that are hotter than rural areas due to human activity).
- 2 There is an increase of canopy tree plantings around properties to reduce the urban heat island effect and save on energy bills.
- 3 More concrete made with recycled materials is being used in construction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 4 More roads are being paved with recycled asphalt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 5 There is an increasing uptake of permeable driveway installations around homes to reduce flooding in neighbourhoods.

To learn more about Council's environmentally sustainable design standards, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/esd](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/esd)



Small changes at home can lead to big savings over time. Council is partnering with the Australian Energy Foundation (AEF) to provide free consultations to help make your home more energy efficient, including:

- individual recommendations to suit your home
- trusted, independent advice to help you make an informed decision
- the opportunity to connect with approved suppliers for an obligation-free quote on energy efficiency products or solar.

To access this free service, call **1300 236 855** or visit [aef.com.au](http://aef.com.au). This service is part of Council's commitment to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.



## BAG HABITS

In Hobsons Bay, we could recycle about 78 truckloads more each year if we all did one easy thing – that is to put recyclables in the bin loose, not in bags. Break open the plastic bag and release recyclables before binning them.

To recycle plastic bags, take them to your nearest REDcycle collection point.

Let's not waste a recycling opportunity. Break the bag habit, empty recyclables loose into the bin, so we can recycle more, waste less and look after our home.

For more tips and tricks, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling)

## LOCAL TREASURE MAP

Council's conservation map plots important features of our area's unique plants and animals. Originally created for World Environment Day, anyone can use the map as a guide to find the elusive Altona Skipper Butterfly, the critically endangered Swift Parrot, bird hides that enhance bird-watching, significant trees such as the Moreton Bay Fig, Sheoaks and much more. The conservation map uses the Google Maps platform and can be viewed on mobile phones.

To view the map and find out more first-hand from our rangers' online presentations, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Conservation](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Conservation)





# VIRTUAL POWER

Sustainability  
Through Technology



HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL



## Council is taking the lead in generating renewable energy and stimulating the local economy through the roll out of a Virtual Energy Network (VEN) and the installation of new solar panels on more than 40 Council buildings.

Within two years, Hobsons Bay will be powering itself with clean, green, renewable energy and will have expanded the network to enable community access. Council will provide residents and businesses with access to affordable green electricity, while simultaneously contributing to the Community Vision of zero net emissions by 2030.

The Virtual Power initiative is an industry leading, large scale solar energy project that will see Hobsons Bay accelerate the uptake of renewable energy, create local jobs and reduce the impacts of climate change.



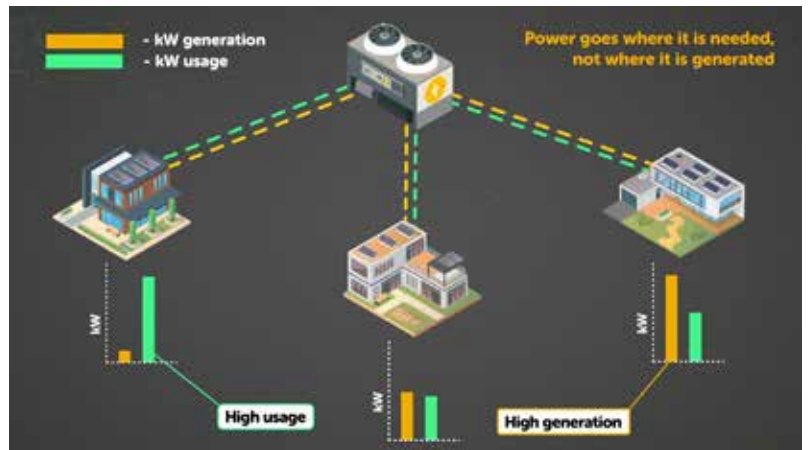
The first solar infrastructure is already being installed with more sites to come online in early 2021. The community access model will offer opportunities for residents or businesses to participate as a producer of energy, a user of low-cost green energy, or both.

You can find out more about the project and the ways you can have input into the design of the community access model through **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au** and **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/solar**.

# ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- generation of almost four megawatts of solar power in the first stage
- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by almost 4,000 tonnes per annum, or up to 55 per cent of Council's total carbon emissions, within two years.
- built-in flexibility to expand and adapt to new technology
- substantial acceleration of zero net emissions targets for Council and for Hobsons Bay

The Virtual Power project has the capacity to expand through further phases, including energy storage capacity.



## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- reduced barriers for the community to access low cost, renewable energy
- opportunity for the community to participate in a Hobsons Bay Community Solar Network within the first two years

## ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- stimulus of our local economy through the creation of local jobs
- year on year savings in energy costs, redirecting Council's funds back into community programs



The Virtual Power project will set the standard for implementing energy systems within local government. It has the capacity to be replicated across the country, while stimulating the same surge of benefits, including job creation, in local communities.

# PARENTS CONNECT DURING PANDEMIC

**The COVID-19 lockdowns have shown us that finding new ways to connect with each other is incredibly important, especially in times of change. If the phase 'it takes a village to raise a child' rings true, then this year has been particularly challenging for new parents.**

For Melanie Hale and her 12-week-old baby girl, Eleanor, it has been just that. Without any family within their 5km and 25km radius during lockdown, a Virtual Parents Group has been an important source of connection and support.

Through regular online meetings, the group discusses their babies' development, shares stories and asks

the Maternal and Child Health Nurse questions. Now that restrictions have eased, the group has enjoyed catching up in local parks. While Melanie was pregnant with Eleanor, she was worried that the parents group wouldn't be able to run at all. Having only lived in the area for a few years, she's enjoyed meeting other local parents and sharing the experience of new parenthood with other parents.

New parents will be contacted by a Maternal and Child Health Nurse when their baby is approximately 6-8 weeks to join a parents group.

For more information about Council's Maternal and Child Health service, please visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH)



## THANK YOU HOBSONSBAY



Hobsons Bay continues to show tremendous immunisation rates. Thank you for continuing to immunise throughout COVID-19 restrictions.

Council is continuing its immunisation services at Williamstown Town Hall every Tuesday and Laverton Community Hub every Thursday with COVIDSafe plans in place.

Bookings through [trybooking.com/eventlist/hobsonsbayimmunisation](https://trybooking.com/eventlist/hobsonsbayimmunisation) are encouraged, though families are welcome to drop in without an appointment. Maternal and Child Health Nurses will be available at all sessions for short consultations.

Non-scheduled Meningococcal B - Bexsero vaccinations will also be offered at all sessions. Prescriptions are not required and the cost is \$115 per dose, with multiple doses required.



## WOODS STREET YOUTH ART PRIZE 2020 AWARD WINNERS

### THE JUDGES VERDICTS ARE IN

**The winners of the 2020 Woods Street Youth Art Prize have been announced.**

Judges shortlisted 26 artists who all responded to the theme 'A New Power - Finding a Voice', while reflecting on the many challenges our community faced in 2020.

The 2020 winners are: Chelsea Hickman (Open Category Winner); Anni Hagberg (Open Category Runner Up); Krystyna Katsouri (Hobsons Bay Artist Award); Sophia (Artist Encouragement Award - Under 20 years); Kate Lewis (Artist Encouragement Award - Over 20 years); and Rachael Castelino (People's Choice Award).

The virtual exhibition can be found at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/youthartprize](https://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/youthartprize).

## HOW DO YOU Travel



Council is developing a number of Local Area Movement Plans (LAMPs) for the northern area of Hobsons Bay, incorporating the suburbs of Brooklyn, Altona North, Newport, South Kingsville, Spotswood and Williamstown North.

These LAMPs aim to improve the way our community travels through our city on roads, public transport and the cycling and footpath network. The northern LAMPs will deliver a five-year framework to guide Council's infrastructure planning and implementation and assist with our advocacy to state and federal governments to help maintain a safe, well-connected, efficient and accessible transport network.

Council is seeking feedback on the northern section of the Hobsons Bay transport network until Tuesday 5 January 2021 at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/northernlamps](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/northernlamps).



# What's happening in your ward?



## Cherry Lake Ward

Over 800 native trees will soon be planted in **Grieve Parade Reserve**, Altona as part of the Urban Forest Strategy and Working for Victoria Program.

Design work and considerations of the operational aspects of the **Brooklyn Community Hall** are continuing with the formation of the Stakeholder Reference Group. Construction is scheduled for mid-2021 and expected to be completed in approximately one year.

An **Altona North Local Area Traffic Management Plan** has been created for the neighbourhood area bordered by Blackshaws Road, Mills Street, Mason Street and Millers Road.

Following community feedback, the revised concept plans are available to view on **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/altonanorthLATM**. As part of the project, works to improve Marion Street, which received Federal Government Blackspot funding, will begin in January 2021.

To improve traffic flow and congestion, the state government has changed all existing clearways on major roads within 20-kilometres of Melbourne's CBD to tow-away zones. In Hobsons Bay, **Millers Road** from Kororoit Creek Road to Princes Highway is now a tow-away zone. Drivers who park illegally in tow-away zones during restricted times may have their vehicle towed and receive a fine. For more information, please visit **www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/towawayzones**

**Sargood Street** flood mitigation works are continuing with pump station works scheduled to be completed prior to the Christmas break and the outfall works will start in the new year. All works are scheduled to be completed in February 2021.

**AH Ford Reserve** upgrade in Altona is complete! The reserve now has a new irrigation system, a new circuit path, public lighting, football goals, a new play space, new garden beds and advanced tree planting and new picnic facilities. For details, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AHFord**

## Strand Ward

Thank you for providing feedback on **Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville**. The next stage of the program is to review and assess the community's feedback to create a draft vision which will be out for community consultation next year. For details, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/better-places-spotswood-and-south-kingsville**

Work upgrading Newport's **Paine Reserve** is progressing well. The space has been designed for people of all ages and abilities and can be used as a gathering space for events and festivals. For more information, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/PaineReserve**

**Armstrong Reserve** in Newport is open and ready for play with a new play space, picnic facilities, full size basketball/netball court, landscaping and sculptures. Visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/ArmstrongReserve**

Construction on the open space will begin at Dennis Reserve in Williamstown in February 2021. As part of the Dennis Reserve Master Plan, the southern and central part of the park will be redeveloped. For details, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/DennisReserve**

Reconstruction works are continuing on **Anzac Crescent** in Williamstown. The works involve reconstruction of the road pavement, kerb and channel, new underground drainage, footpath and asphalt road surface. During the works residents will have limited vehicle access along Anzac Crescent. Works are expected to be completed in late January.

Over at **Fearon Reserve**, the Harlsey Pavilion, Lacrosse Pavilion and the gravel carpark upgrades are complete. Council is now preparing the draft concept designs for the lacrosse safety nets for community comment later this year. For more information, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/FearonReserve**

## Wetlands Ward

**Merton Street** rehabilitation works, from the baseball stadium to Harcourt Road, are complete. The works involved cement stabilising of the existing road pavement, placement of an additional 150mm crushed rock layer of pavement followed by a two-coat spray seal and line marking.

**Homestead Run** in Seabrook has been revamped! Key improvements include a new irrigation system, shade shelters, new barbecue facilities, path lighting, outdoor exercise equipment and a fully upgraded play space. Several garden beds are available to the community to harvest summer veggies. For more information, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HomesteadRun**

In September, Council endorsed a **Better Places Laverton Place Guide** with a list of actions to improve the amenity and livability of Laverton. As part of Better Places Laverton, eight community parks will be upgraded over the next three years.

Frank Gibson and Whittaker Avenue Reserves are scheduled for design and upgrade in 2021, while Dick Murdoch and Henderson Street Reserves are all scheduled for a full upgrade in 2021/22. Each park will have a point of difference with different types of play equipment and local indigenous trees will be planted. For more information, visit **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/lovelavertonparks**

The Working for Victoria tree planting crew has also been busy in Laverton. Approximately 250 trees were planted at **McCormack Park** as part of the Better Places Laverton project.

The new and improved **Lan Avenue Bridge** is in and has received the tick of approval from pedestrians and cyclists. The upgrade takes this well utilised bridge over Skeleton Creek out of the one in 10-year flood zone. For more information, visit **hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LanAvenueBridge**

# WHAT'S ON?

## ONLINE LIBRARY EVENTS

While our library doors have reopened, our popular early year's programs such as Baby Bounce and Stay-at-home Storytime, book clubs, online workshops and library events are continuing online. All events are free however, bookings are required.

To book, visit  
[libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au)

### STAY-AT-HOME BABY BOUNCE

**Wednesday 16 December,  
10.30am to 11am**

Baby Bounce is coming to you live online! Ask our librarians questions in the chat, request your favourite songs, and enjoy this rollicking live event from the comfort of your own home.

### LET'S TALK BOOKS

**Wednesday 16 December,  
10.30am to 11.30am**

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

### STAY-AT-HOME STORYTIME

**Thursday 17 December,  
10.30am to 11am**

Storytime has gone live and online!

### VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Monday 11 January to Friday 22 January 2021**

Hobsons Bay Libraries is back with another action-packed virtual school holiday program.

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

To view the full program, and to book, visit [libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au)



### Sustainable Living Festival

Hobsons Bay is taking part in the Sustainable Living Festival which kicks off in February, with lots of inspiration to change the way we live for the better. Workshops include planting out your nature strip, so it is truly a strip for nature. Keep an eye on Council's website for updates and further information about local events and visit [slf2021.org](http://slf2021.org) for the Melbourne-wide program.



### HOBSONS BAY UP

Hobsons Bay UP, Council's youth services team is hosting a range of workshops, sport programs, art activities and events as part of the summer school holidays program (4 January to 22 January) for young people aged between 12 and 25 who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay. Learn how to skate with our beginner skate program, take part in an outdoor tennis clinic, enjoy a clay workshop, take part in a digital and social health program or come along for a Survivor Challenge on the beach.

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



Hobsons Bay Libraries love connecting people to great reads. Your Summer Reads is a program that provides library members with a personalised reading list, helping you find the perfect book to read over the summer break. Included in the list of five titles are two read-alike titles as well as an Australian, a classic title and a wildcard. The process is simple – tell us your reading preferences and allow us to do the research and send you a list of books we think you will love. Your Summer Reads will run until 31 January 2021.

Find out more: [libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/library-news/803-your-summer-reads](http://libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/library-news/803-your-summer-reads)



## MARKETS

### Altona Lions Club Market

Cherry Lake, Millers Road

1st Sunday of the month (Sunday 7 February)

### Altona Meadows Regional Farmers Market

AB Shaw Reserve, Altona Meadows

1st Sunday of the month (Sunday 3 January)

### Williamstown Regional Farmers Market

Robertson Reserve, Williamstown

2nd Sunday of the month (Sunday 10 January)

### Spotswood Slow Food Market

Spotswood RSL

4th Saturday of the month (Saturday 19 December, Saturday 23 January)