

HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 33
June / July 2023



**PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION**

See page 4 for details



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SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

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OPEN FOR USE

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SPOTLIGHT

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**





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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 20 June
Tuesday 11 July
Tuesday 8 August
Tuesday 12 September
Tuesday 10 October
Friday 10 November (election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
Tuesday 12 December

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

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cherry Lake Ward

Mayor Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP
 ☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0418 398 906
 ✉ tbriffa@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

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Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud
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Deputy Mayor Cr Diana Grima
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 ✉ dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Cr Matt Tyler
 ☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0407 748 235
 ✉ mtyler@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Wetlands Ward

Scan QR code for details

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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

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

for a better future



PLASTIC FREE JULY

Are you looking for a meaningful way to help our environment? Jump on board for Plastic Free July – a global movement helping people and organisations choose to refuse single-use plastic.

Participating is as easy as picking one single-use plastic item to avoid for the month of July!

Council has resources and giveaways to support your Plastic Free July challenge.

Scan the QR code for more information.



RENEWABLE ENERGY ONLINE WORKSHOP

Do you have questions about sustainability upgrades for your home? Interested in buying an electric vehicle but don't know which advice to trust?

Join our free online workshops designed to give you expert, independent advice on sustainable solutions for your home, business and lifestyle.

Upcoming topics, from June to August, include all-electric homes; solar and batteries; energy efficiency, and more.

Scan the QR code for more information.



BEYOND THE BIN: SCHOOLS OUTREACH WEEK

We're proud to offer free, curriculum-aligned incursions to our local schools, engaging students in a fun program to help them learn about recycling and build connections to our environment.

The council-funded program caters for Prep to Grade 4 students all year long. In July, we're also running a special schools outreach week for Grades 5 and 6, and secondary students.

Scan the QR code to find out how your school can get involved.

PARKING IN ALTONA

There are now new parking conditions along the Altona foreshore with paid parking and seasonal time restrictions, between Sarros Street and Millers Road.

Paid parking and time restrictions help to increase the turnover of car spaces, so it'll be easier to access the beach, shops, cafes, and restaurants along Pier Street.

Time restrictions are also on residential streets near the beach, between November and March, to ensure local residents have access to parking on their street.

FREE PARKING PERMITS FOR RESIDENTS

Residents can apply for a parking permit that will exempt them from time restrictions on their street.

And, all Hobsons Bay residents are eligible for a ticket machine permit, which allows you to park free at ticket machine areas (time restrictions still apply).



Visit a Council+ service centre or scan to apply online.

Scan QR code to apply online.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the June/July edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. Despite the cooler weather, there's lots of events happening in Hobsons Bay.

Get in early and book your tickets for our Arts at Your Doorstep program and Newport Folk Festival, details on page 12.

We chat to Willy Lit Festival Program Director about what's in store for this year's program on page 4, and the president of Altona Little Athletics Centre shares what he gets out of volunteering on page 9.

The photography competition is back for this edition! Take a photo of a hidden treasure in Hobsons Bay for your chance to win a \$100 voucher.

We received heaps of creative and inspiring entries for the writing competition in the last edition, make sure you read the winning entry on page 4.

We've delivered a couple of milestone capital works projects for our community, read about the completed capital works projects on page 8.

We're also planning for the future of our industrial land which makes up approximately one third of all land in Hobsons Bay. You can help shape our industrial precincts by telling us what you think of the Draft Industrial Land Management Strategy and Design Guidelines, details on page 9.

Lastly, don't forget you can visit any of our Hobsons Bay libraries and ask a council-related question, it's all about making our services more accessible to residents.

Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP
Mayor of Hobsons Bay

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Cover image: reusable mesh fruit and vegetable bags are a great way to take part in Plastic Free July. For more ideas on how you can reduce plastic waste, see page 3.

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

DID YOU KNOW?
What migratory bird, which visits Hobsons Bay, holds the world record for non-stop flight of more than 13,500 km in just over 11 days?

See page 11 for the answer



Photo credit: William Hung

OUR CREATIVE CITY

WILLY LIT FEST

16 to 18 June

The Willy Lit Fest is celebrating its 20th birthday, and it's going to be bigger than ever before. There are more than 50 sessions over the three days, 80-plus writers, 11 venues, and a dog as the headliner!

Program Director Emily Westmoreland describes the festival as 'surprising, fun and delightful.'

Town Hall will be transformed into a cosy festival hub.

There are special interest sessions for film buffs, dreamers, beekeepers, medical professionals, and food lovers.

"The Willy Lit Fest is more inviting than other writers' festivals, it's about opening the door for literature," she said.

And if you're feeling brave, there's even an open water swim to kick start the Sunday morning.

"We're the writers' festival for the people and we're the only literary festival in Australia with a dog headlining the program."

For Emily, literature is not about reading books in isolation, but about talking with other people.

The dog, Spike, stars in the children's book *Spike Surfs*, which tells the true story of how Spike went from living in a lost dogs home to becoming a surfing champion.

"Willy Lit Fest is my favourite writers' festival in Australia. It really feels like a place where the community can come together to talk about books and topics of interest," she said.

Festival favourites are returning, including the popular Stereo Stories to open the festival on the Friday night. And, the majestic ballroom at Williamstown

"You don't need to have read the book to be part of the conversation."

For information and tickets, visit willylitfest.org.au



Council proudly supports the Willy Lit Festival through the Make it Happen Grants program.

WIN A
\$100
VOUCHER

HOBSONS BAY HIDDEN TREASURES

Take a photo of a hidden Hobsons Bay treasure for the chance to win a \$100 voucher for a local business of your choice, and have your photo published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. It could be your favourite nature retreat, heritage building or special spot to relax.

View the terms and conditions and submit your photo by Wednesday 5 July at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine

CONGRATULATIONS to Levente Toth

Levente Toth won our writing competition 'What Hobsons Bay means to you' in the April/May edition of Hobsons Bay Community News.

APRIL/MAY
COMPETITION
WINNER

*Hobsons Bay, oh Hobsons Bay,
Where the ocean meets the land,
A place that's filled with memories,
And where my heart does stand.*

*The sandy shores and rolling waves,
A playground for my youth,
The salty air and sea breeze,
A treasure to be beheld, forsooth.
Back in town, the cafes are great,
Where friends and I would often meet,
Aroma of coffee fills the air,
Moments shared, oh so sweet.*

*And now with children by my side,
Hobsons Bay is where we reside,
Beaches, parks, and open spaces,
A playground for their smiling faces.*

HOBSONS BAY Business

Whether you are running a new or an established business, or considering starting a business in Hobsons Bay, our economic development team is here to help!

Visit hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au to learn about:

- starting and running a business
- getting free business training
- networking events
- Small Business Bus program
- our business directory
- Business breakfasts, roundtable events and awards
- co-working in the free Civic Centre Co-Lab
- how to find and access grants
- investment support
- business permits
- Council tenders

Scan for more information



CO-LAB OPEN FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

Ditch the home office or a noisy café and join us in the Civic Centre co-working space.

The Co-Lab space at the Civic Centre in Altona is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. The space is ideal if you are keen to co-work with other like-minded business professionals.

With spaces to collaborate, hold meetings or work alone, these spaces are available to use for free for Hobsons Bay businesses and residents.

Bookings are not required, just drop by to use the space.

Scan for more information



NETWORKING EVENTS

Join business professionals from across Hobsons Bay for our business networking series!

With a range of early morning and mid-morning offerings, these informal events are a great opportunity to promote your business and share ideas, while meeting business professionals from a range of different industries.

Upcoming events

Introduction to Instagram reels
Tuesday 20 June, 10am to 12pm
Civic Centre, 115 Civic Parade, Altona

July business networking
Tuesday 4 July, 7.30am to 8.30am
Tick Tok, 181 Nelson Place, Williamstown

August business networking
Tuesday 1 August, 10am to 11am
Melbourne Ballpark, Merton Street,
Altona Meadows

Scan for more information



DID YOU KNOW?

What is the largest industry in Hobsons Bay by employment?

See page 11 for the answer



COME ALONG TO THE FINAL COUNCIL+ LAUNCH WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE AT NEWPORT COMMUNITY HUB



LAVERTON COMMUNITY HUB



Hobsons Bay COUNCIL+

More services, more sites

From the end of June, all of our library sites will be Council+ service centres!

Council+ has revolutionised the way our community can access services across Hobsons Bay.

Now when you visit any Council+ site, you can tend to any council business you may have on top of your usual library services.



ALTONA NORTH LIBRARY

At a Council+ site, you can:

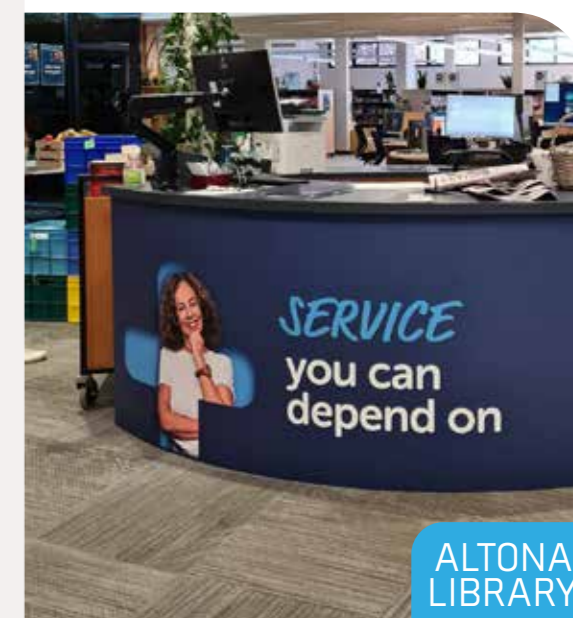
- + use a public PC
- + borrow a book
- + request a meeting with a town planner
- + upsize your bin
- + pay your rates
- + use a meeting room
- + register your pet
- + attend an event

You can visit any of the following facilities and have your Council queries resolved:

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



SEABROOK COMMUNITY CENTRE



ALTONA LIBRARY



WILLIAMSTOWN LIBRARY



Scan for information

To find out more call 1300 179 944, visit a Council+ service centre or our website hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlus



J.T. Gray Pavilion

J.T. Gray pavilion



Brooklyn Community Hall (progress photo in early May 2023)

Laverton Netball Courts

BUILDING A BETTER CITY

J.T. GRAY RESERVE UPGRADE

You can't miss the brand-new sports pavilion at J.T. Gray Reserve as you drive down Kororoit Creek Road in Williamstown North! The new facility is the largest sports pavilion in Hobsons Bay and boasts 10 change rooms, a first aid room, umpire facilities, social areas, kitchens, public amenities, and ample storage for the five tenant clubs.

The redevelopment also includes a car park with 170 spaces across the reserve, a new four-wicket cricket practice facility, behind-goal netting spanning 40 metres across the building, and 89 water tanks under the pavilion to service the toilets, plus 57 solar panels on the roof to reduce electricity costs.

J.T. Gray Reserve is home to Barnstoneworth United and Junior Football Club, St Johns Cricket Club, Williamstown Congregational Cricket Club and Williamstown Soccer Club.

The project was delivered in partnership with the Victorian State Government.

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY HALL REDEVELOPMENT

The Brooklyn Community Hall has been redeveloped into a modern and vibrant facility with new meeting rooms, a central foyer, updated hall, improved kitchen and toilet facilities, and an outdoor deck area.

The revamped hall also has several multipurpose areas and allows the community to host meetings, community events and activities simultaneously. It has also been designed to be a welcoming space where local residents can 'drop by', meet and catch-up.

The redevelopment includes landscaping with bike parking, timber seating, colourful garden beds and new trees. New pathways connect the revamped hall to the rest of Brooklyn Reserve and the southern car park along Cypress Avenue.

The project was initiated and led by the Brooklyn community who advocated for the redevelopment.

LAVERTON NETBALL COURTS FACELIFT

Three netball courts in Laverton on Railway Avenue have been resurfaced to remove cracks, humps and dips and new netball poles have been installed. The final changes of the facelift were the acrylic surface painting, including the hot pink run-off area, and line marking.

The courts also now match the team uniform of Victoria University Vultures Netball Club who use the courts for training.

Close to 200 netball players are members of the club and on any given night about 75 netball players practise on the courts in Laverton. The club regularly enters teams into competitions at the State Hockey and Netball Centre and the Altona Sports Centre.

Check out our capital works program in your area



Scan the QR code for more info



PUBLIC TOILETS FOR ALL

Our recently adopted Public Toilet Strategy meets the growing needs of our community and ensures everyone has access to toilet facilities. The strategy maps out 15 new toilet facilities to be built over the next 10

years in Hobsons Bay and ensures there will be adequate funding for cleaning and maintenance.

As part of the strategy, no existing single sex toilet will be converted to a unisex toilet.

Importantly, there is a focus on accessibility, with seven toilet facilities

in key locations having larger than standard accessible toilets and equipped with height adjustable adult-sized change table, a tracking hoist and space for two people either side of the toilet.

The first of these facilities is being installed at the new Bruce Comben Reserve open space upgrade that is being delivered this year.

HELP SHAPE HOBSONSBAY

ALL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ARE FEATURED ON OUR PARTICIPATE HOBSONSBAY WEBSITE.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF HOBSONSBAY'S INDUSTRIAL LAND

Council's Draft Industrial Land Management Strategy (ILMS) and Design Guidelines will guide land use and development in Hobsons Bay's industrial precincts over the next 15 years.

Why is this important?

- Approximately a third of all land in Hobsons Bay is industrial land
- Industrial precincts support close to half of the total jobs in Hobsons Bay and generate half of the city's economic value

Have your say at Participate Hobsons Bay or provide feedback at a Council-service centre. Feedback closes on Sunday 2 July.

Scan to have your say



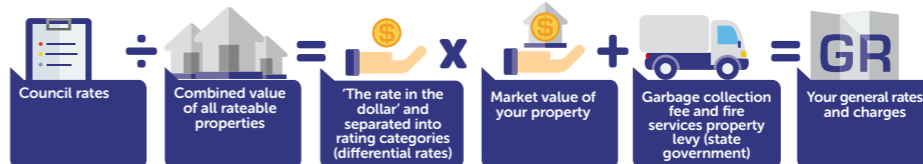
YOUR RATES EXPLAINED

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the Proposed Annual Budget 2023-24. The budget is scheduled to be adopted at the Council meeting on Tuesday 20 June.

The annual budget includes a strong capital works program to improve infrastructure across our city and funding for more than 100 vital community services.

Once the annual budget is adopted, rates notices will be delivered to households in late August with the first instalment due 30 September. Here is a breakdown of how rates are calculated:

HOW GENERAL RATES AND CHARGES ARE CALCULATED



When are properties valued?

Property valuations are calculated on **1 January each year** by a state government appointed independent valuer. The valuation change for each ratepayer's property determines if their rates bill will increase or decrease. Any changes in the marketplace from that date will be reflected in following year's rates notice.

DID YOU KNOW?

Where is the highest point between Melbourne and the You Yangs?

See page 11 for the answer

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteers are the backbone of our community. This edition we meet Nirvan, who first started volunteering for the Altona Little Athletics Centre in 2019.

NIRVAN, PRESIDENT OF ALTONA LITTLE ATHLETICS CENTRE

Nirvan and his family joined Altona Little Athletics shortly after moving to Victoria from Queensland. The sporting club had been recommended as being a lot of fun and Nirvan thought it would be a great way to help his daughters settle into Altona.

"I love that the club is focused on personal bests and having fun. The program is inclusive and helps children build confidence, perseverance and improves fitness," Nirvan said.

As the president, Nirvan's role is to oversee operations, and improve the facilities, equipment and experience of the athletes and their families. He is also keen to build and enhance community partnerships.

For Nirvan, volunteering is about providing a service for the community. As the president and previous vice-president, Nirvan has had the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the club.

"I have learnt so much from the opportunity to be involved in different experiences and I know that it improves my children's experience when I'm involved," Nirvan said.

Children aged 5 to 16 can join Little Athletics and the club is always welcoming new members and volunteers.

For more information, email altona@lavic.com.au or visit www.lavic.com.au.

LIBRARIES AND COUNCIL+ NEWS



MEET JULIE

Julie is our program delivery officer in our libraries.

She runs many of our popular early years programs, including Baby Time (ages 0 to 12 months), Toddler Time (ages 12 to 24 months) and Story Time (ages 1 to 5 years).

What's your favourite kids' book?

My favourite picture book at the moment, because librarians have many hundreds, is *Quick Quack Quentin*, by Kes Gray and Jim Field. I'm also holding a Sophie Beer book in this photo, because she is my favourite Australian author to showcase during story times.

What do you love about your job?

I get to be a singer, storyteller and a book recommender every working day, which fulfils all my bookworm dreams.

What book/author do you recommend for adults?

I believe books and reading are worthy in all forms, so I'm going to recommend an audiobook, *The Near Daphne Experience*, by Alison Reynolds. I have never laughed so loud in a supermarket whilst wearing headphones.

To find out more about our early years programs, scan QR code below.

All sessions are free, to book visit



EXHIBITION AT WILLIAMSTOWN LIBRARY

BACK FROM THE DEAD – A HISTORY OF RESUSCITATION AND DEFIBRILLATION

Until 25 July

St John Ambulance Historical Society has curated an amazing exhibition now showing at Williamstown Library throughout June and July.

The exhibition will take you on a journey from early equipment to the latest technology, allowing you to discover first-hand the progress that has been made in bringing people back from the dead through resuscitation and defibrillation.

St John Ambulance has been serving the local community from as early as 1883, including the tragic West Gate Bridge collapse where St John had 100 volunteers on the ground within an hour. This fascinating exhibition can be viewed in the Heritage Room at Williamstown Library and will be on display until Tuesday 25 July.



ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Access to mental health support is critical for community wellbeing with young people particularly experiencing an ever-increasing need for mental health support services.

However, in Hobsons Bay there is a 'mental health services desert', with very little to no free or low-cost mental health services for young people compared to other Melbourne metropolitan areas.

The nearest 'headspace' services are in Werribee and Sunshine – up to an hour away by public transport, and both with long waiting lists.

In 2021, 10 per cent of 15 to 24-year-olds in Hobsons Bay reported having a long-term mental health condition.

Our Hobsons Bay Youth Services offers 12 generalist counselling sessions for young people aged 12 to 25 at Newport Community Hub, at schools within Hobsons Bay or via outreach at a safe location of choice. While this service provides some initial support, we recognise that our young people deserve and need more.

Council is seeking our community's fair share of state and federal government investment for youth mental health services to ensure that our young people have access to the local, timely and affordable services they need.

To find out more about Council's youth support services, visit



For more information about our advocacy efforts, visit



DID YOU KNOW?

Check your local knowledge against the answers, scan the QR code



HOBSONS BAY FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCES

About Anjo and Hobsons Bay

The sister city relationship between Anjo and Hobsons Bay spans 35 years and grew from a connection of shared industry. Two large Japanese factories, Toyota and Nippondenso (now named DENSO), employed many local residents and contributed to the local economy. Mayors of the Altona City Council and Anjo City Council signed a Sister City Agreement in 1988.

As part of the relationship, a student exchange program evolved which provides invaluable experiences for young people both here in Hobsons Bay and in Anjo. The exchange involves local families hosting a Japanese student for 10 days during the winter school holidays, and then visiting Anjo for about two weeks in July/August. Since 1988 more than 200 students have participated in student delegations to Japan.

Every five years, the two cities also participate in a cultural exchange program. Hobsons Bay Mayor Cr Tony Briffa visited Anjo in April this year to create stronger connections and purposeful engagement between the two cities.

The enduring sister city relationship is made possible through the work of the Hobsons Bay International Friendship Association and Anjo International Association with the support of the Hobsons Bay and Anjo City Council.

About Anjo

Anjo is a city in the Aiche Prefecture in Japan, situated near the centre of the Nishi-Mikawa Plain, about 30km from Nagoya. It covers about 86 square kms with a population of almost 190,000 people. In comparison, Hobsons Bay's population is 92,275 and the land area is 64 square kms.

Anjo was originally an agricultural district; it now has a mixed economy including manufacturing, and is still known for rice, wheat, soybeans, figs, Japanese pears and cucumbers.

For more information





WHAT'S ON



WILLY LIT FEST 16 to 18 June

The Williamstown Literary Festival brings together readers, writers and book creatives to celebrate storytelling with author talks, panel discussions and writing workshops.

Tickets: www.willylitfest.org.au
Council proudly supports the Willy Lit Fest through the Make it Happen Grants program.

NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL 23 to 24 June

After a three-year hiatus the Newport Folk Festival returns to Hobsons Bay with a stellar line-up of performers.

Tickets: newportfolkfestival.org.au
Council proudly supports the Newport Folk Festival through the Make it Happen Grants program.

NAIDOC WEEK 2 to 9 July

NAIDOC Week celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and is a great opportunity for us all to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and culture. This year's NAIDOC Week theme is 'For our Elders.'

Find out more about events across Hobsons Bay



DAUGHTERS OF THE WEST 10 July to 11 September

Join Daughters of the West, a free 10-week health and wellbeing program for women aged 18+ living, working and playing in Melbourne's west. Facilitated by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation in partnership with Hobsons Bay City Council.

For details, visit



ARTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Emma Donovan & The Putbacks
Friday 14 July, 7.30pm
Williamstown Town Hall

Returning to Hobsons Bay after a sell-out performance in 2022 at Altona Theatre, ARIA-nominated soul-rhythm combo, Emma Donovan & The Putbacks, will take the stage at the glorious Williamstown Town Hall.

Tickets:
Adults - \$40
Concession - \$30
Groups (10+) - \$30

Sounds of Silent: Buster Keaton
in *The General*
Thursday 3 August, 7.30pm
Williamstown Town Hall

The Sounds of Silent is a five-piece band that recreates the experience of the silent movie era when many bands performed in Melbourne theatres to accompany the film. Don't miss them creating all the action of Buster Keaton's *The General*.

All tickets: \$20
For details, visit



OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE 2023 29 to 30 July

The much-loved Open House Melbourne events celebrate architecture with tours, public talks, and open days.

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre Open House
Thursday 27 July, 6pm
115 Civic Parade, Altona

The redeveloped Civic Centre is community-minded and pays homage to the natural surroundings and heritage of Hobsons Bay.

Join architect Sonia Duric of Hames Shirley in conversation with Aaron van Egmond, CEO of Hobsons Bay City Council to hear more about the design and features of the building.

Small group tours will be offered along with the special panel discussion.

Other sites in Hobsons Bay include:

- Modscape Modular Design Hub
- Altona Homestead
- Williamstown Town Hall
- Former Williamstown Morgue
- C Blunt Boatbuilders
- Gantry House in Newport

For details, visit



NATIONAL TREE DAY
Sunday 30 July, 10am to 12pm
followed by a free barbecue
Altona Coastal Park

Get your hands dirty and assist in planting for local habitat! BYO gloves if you can.

National Tree Day is an annual event to revegetate our special natural areas, which helps local animals and plants survive and thrive.

Meet at the designated parking area off Altona Road.