

# HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 26  
*Summer 2022*



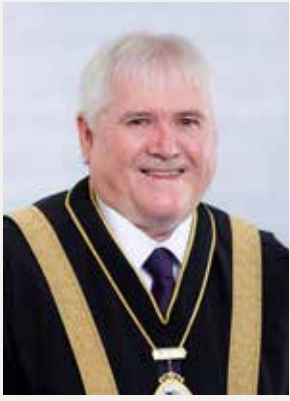
**FLOATING SEA FLOWERS ARE  
COMING TO WILLIAMSTOWN**  
(SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE DETAILS)

**3** CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
AND YOUNG CITIZEN  
OF THE YEAR

**6** BUSINESS EXCELLENCE  
AWARD WINNERS

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the summer edition of Hobsons Bay Community News and the start of a new year! We are gearing up for a big 2022 with capital works projects coming to fruition, reimagined services and big visions across our suburbs.

One of our major building projects, which has been years in the making, is the completion of the Altona Sports Centre redevelopment. Read all about it on page 8, along with many other infrastructure projects on page 9 in the "What's happening in your Ward?" section.

In a year with both state and federal elections, Council is actively advocating for big projects that will bring economic, environmental and social benefits to our city. For more details on Council's advocacy strategy and priorities, read page 4.

We're also on the hunt for ideas for programs, projects, and initiatives to fund in Council's 2022-23 budget. If you have a great idea that solves a local problem or an initiative that brings people together, find out how you can pitch your idea on page 3.

Turn to pages 6 and 7 and read all about our Business Excellence Awards winners who have beaten the odds to achieve some incredible feats despite a tumultuous two years.

From art exhibitions to live music and library events, don't forget to mark your calendars with the exciting events across Hobsons Bay that are listed on the back page.

All the best for 2022,

Cr Peter Hemphill

**Mayor of Hobsons Bay**



Calling all green thumbs! Our popular Hobsons Bay Habitat Gardens program is running again in 2022. Habitat Gardens provides Hobsons Bay residents with the opportunity to learn about the importance of using native plants in their gardens and how they can support our local wildlife. The program includes presentations from experienced habitat gardeners, design and feedback sessions, as well as a supply of FREE native plants. The next round will be in February/March 2022.

For more information and to apply or join the waitlist, please visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/habitatgardens](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/habitatgardens)

### Acknowledgement to 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.



Thank you to residents who provided feedback last year on the Reimagining our Industrial Areas project. As part of the consultation, we also heard from state government representatives, property developers, business owners and industry. Strong support was provided for the project objectives and the majority supported the four industry sectors highlighted as future industries. Feedback has been used to update and finalise the Statement of Opportunity document and will inform the review of the Industrial Land Management Strategy.

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

Cover image: Head down to Williamstown's water edge from 12 to 20 February to witness beautiful floating sea flowers and discover intriguing sea stories. Produced by Donna Jackson for Hubcap Productions. Image by Megan Slattery Designs. This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled stock using environmentally friendly inks.

## YOUR COUNCILLORS

### Cherry Lake Ward

Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Brooklyn, Seaholme



#### Cr Tony Briffa JP

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#### Cr Daria Kellander

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### Strand Ward

Altona North, Newport, North Williamstown, Spotswood, South Kingsville, Williamstown



#### Cr Jonathon Marsden

9932 1044 (bh) 0419 868 009  
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#### Mayor Cr Peter Hemphill

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#### Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud

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### Wetlands Ward

Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook



#### Deputy Mayor Cr Diana Grima

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dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au  
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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	ကဵုဒိုဟ်	Tiếng Việt
粵語	Македонски	普通话

### Your Council in your language

#### HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000  
customerservice@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil

instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC

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

twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC



# COMMUNITY PITCH

*Pitch. Vote. Deliver*

## BUDGET 2022-23

**Do you have an idea that will benefit the community? Turn it into a reality.**

The community gets the benefit. Council does the work.

Funding of up to \$50,000 is available for each idea and a total of \$600,000 is available (subject to Council budget adoption).

Ideas can solve a problem for your local area or be initiatives that bring people together.

Individuals, organisations, community groups, businesses and sporting clubs can submit an idea for a one-off community program, project or initiative.

Previous community-generated ideas include the Reusable Nappy Rebate Trial and Take-Home Tech Kits.

Once Council has shortlisted the ideas, you'll get the chance to vote for your favourite idea in April 2022.

Council will deliver the community's favourite ideas as part of the 2022-23 Budget.

Big projects that focus on physical infrastructure such as upgrading parks, community gardens or buildings will not be supported as part of Community Pitch as Council already has an ambitious program of scheduled work for 2022-23.

To submit an idea, visit [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/community-pitch-202223](https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/community-pitch-202223)

Submit your idea by **20 February 2022**



*If you or your organisation wish to deliver the project, program or initiative, please apply for a Make it Happen community grant.*



# Make it Happen

Hobsons Bay Recovery & Reconnection

**GRANTS OPENING  
FEBRUARY  
2022**



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



## CITIZEN AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Hobsons Bay's 2022 Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year have been announced with single mum Kate De Marco and admin officer Tahlia Kotiau being honored for their actions to support vulnerable community members through the pandemic.

For the past two years Tahlia Kotiau has been the face of the Williamstown Community and Education Centre (WCEC), a community centre, neighbourhood house and winner of last year's Victorian Community Training Provider Award.

Noticing a number of students not eating at lunch, Tahlia devised a partnership with Laverton Community Integrated Services to provide frozen meals for students and other community members in need.

*"The WCEC is like a family to me - I know all the students' names and am constantly looking for ways to help solve their problems, from applying for energy bill rebates to studying for citizenship tests," said Tahlia.*

In partnership with her neighbour, Kate De Marco started a community pantry in her Seaholme driveway to provide food and basic supplies to those doing it tough. With her background in social work, Kate knew there were many in the community who were going without basic food supplies but who would not feel comfortable applying for formal assistance.

With an old pantry, a donated fridge and a Facebook page, the pantry was ready to go. Kate developed partnerships with Coles and a number of community groups and networks to raise awareness and source donations. As word spread, Kate's house was inundated with food donations and people relying on the pantry for their weekly groceries.

*"People take what they need with no questions asked and this is only possible because of the magnanimous generosity of the Seaholme/Altona community who for the last 12 months have ensured the pantry is always stocked," said Kate.*

*"Running this pantry is my way of giving back to the community which has supported me."*

# ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Hobsons Bay is full of opportunities, with some challenges to tackle.

Council is taking the lead through its Advocacy Strategy 2021–25 to speak on behalf of the community to influence

decision makers in supporting policy change and positive projects for our city.

Council has identified several projects that can significantly transform our city's economic, environmental and/or social opportunities. Four are highlighted below, to view all of Council's advocacy priorities for 2021–22, please visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/advocacy](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/advocacy)



Liv, Hadley, Jess and baby Neve

## RAINBOW FAMILIES

Are you living in Hobsons Bay and wanting to connect with other Rainbow families?

Our Maternal and Child Health Nurses are offering to connect families by facilitating local catch-ups. Children of any age welcome!

Please email [mchinbox@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:mchinbox@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) or call **9932 1300** to register your interest.

For more information about Maternal and Child Health services, including breastfeeding support services and our sleep settling program, please visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH)



Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre

*"A place for everyone to connect with nature, improve health and wellbeing and be inspired to care for our precious natural environment"*  
**Vision statement for Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre Inc.**

- Regional flagship wellbeing and environmental centre with immersive learning and cutting-edge research for all ages, stages and abilities at HD Graham Reserve, Altona Meadows.
- State and federal government funding contribution to support project implementation

**Project cost: approx. \$16 million**



Bring forward Melbourne Metro 2 and reinstate Altona North Station

Council requests the state government brings forward the funding and planning for Melbourne Metro 2 and ensures its completion prior to the building of the outer suburban rail line.

This ask also includes the reinstatement of a train station in Altona North on the Werribee line to service the increasing population along Blackshaws Road (set to increase due to Precinct 15), employees at the Brooklyn Business Park and residents of the Bradmill site development in neighbouring Yarraville (City of Maribyrnong).



Western Aquatic and Leisure Centre

State-of-the-art aquatic centre at Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows featuring an eight lane 25m pool, learn to swim pool, toddler pool and aqua play, wellness centre, gym, early years' service and café.

- State and federal government funding contribution to support project implementation

**Project cost: approx. \$50–60 million**



Better Places Place Guide projects

After extensive community consultations through 2020 and 2021, the Better Places program has developed 12 priority projects in the Better Places Laverton Place Guide and 16 priority projects in the Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville Place Guide. Community consultation is underway for the Brooklyn and Altona North Better Places.

- State and federal government funding contribution to support the implementation of Hobsons Bay's Better Places 'Place Guide' projects.

**Project cost: approx. \$50 million**



## COUNCIL+ PLUS WHAT YOU ASK?

**Council's buildings and facilities are changing!**

Your local library will soon become your gateway to all Council services – service centres, if you will. From paying rates to upsizing bins, planning advice to logging an issue, it can soon be done in person, in your own neighbourhood, at your local library. It's a new chapter in customer experience and one we like to call CX2.0 – easy information, easy communication, easy processes. A trial is already under way at Altona North Community Library with more branches to follow in coming months.

*Watch this space!*



# VOLUNTEER IN 2022!

Volunteers provide essential services to the community and across our city every year and have been particularly appreciated through the last two years of COVID and lockdowns.

These important services and programs change the lives of the people they work with, as well as the volunteers themselves.

Many volunteer programs and local community groups are recruiting – now might be the best time for you to explore if volunteering is right for you!

Share your skills or learn new ones, make new friends and make a difference in the community through volunteering. It could be once per week, once per month or any other combination that suits your needs.

Your contribution may be to customers or vulnerable people, or in supporting a program, with online and face-to-face options available.

Visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/volunteering) or contact Council's Volunteering Development Officer on **9932 1002** or email [volunteer@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:volunteer@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) to find out more. You may also contact us if you wish to advertise an existing volunteer vacancy.



**Michael**, Volunteer at  
Centre for Multicultural Youth

*"I feel that there is a way that everyone can give back to their community in a meaningful way. It can be volunteering for a few hours each week, or half a day each month. It can be sharing your own knowledge and skills with others, or even learning new skills alongside others. All facets of our community benefit from, and indeed rely upon, the support of volunteers. And the reward for giving back, for connecting with our community, is immense."*



**Christine**, Volunteer at  
The Substation

*"I found it amazing that this experience boosted my level of confidence in taking up new opportunities and reaching out to people that I am not familiar with. It gave me more talking points in and outside of class. Not to mention I made new acquaintances with company staff and volunteers with shared values and common interest which broadened my social network. All of these are important to me as a relatively new immigrant to this country."*



**Tammy**, Volunteer at  
Seabrook Community Garden

*"The best thing about being involved in the Seabrook Community Garden group is meeting new people. It seems harder to do this as an adult than it did as a child. We live in a very diverse community and this project has brought many of us together."*

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DEADLINE EXTENDED

Get 25 per cent off your  
2021–22 rates notice.

Residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19 can apply for a 25 per cent reduction of their 2021–22 rates (maximum \$10,000) until the budget allocation is exhausted or 30 June 2022.

### *Eligibility for rates waiver*

#### **Residential ratepayers**

30 per cent drop in income due to COVID-19 and maximum combined household income is currently less than \$80,000.

#### **Business ratepayers**

20 per cent decrease in turnover

A total of \$525,000 has been allocated in the Budget 2021–22 as part of the Community Support Package.

Interest free rate repayment plans are also available.



To apply, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance)



# CELEBRATING OUR 2021 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## WINNERS



### EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AWARD

#### **Pelvic Health Melbourne**

Pelvic Health Melbourne is a physiotherapy clinic specialising in pelvic health issues such as continence, gynecological, bowel, pelvic and sexual pain. With a lack of specialised clinics and services in pelvic health physiotherapy, the team's vision was to provide personalised service for the pregnant and postnatal population, women, men, children and our LGBTIQ+ community.

The clinic understands the anxieties and emotions that many of their patients hold and work hard to create a warm and caring environment and go above and beyond to provide first class client care.

#### *Judges' comments:*

*"Pelvic Health is committed to their vision of being safe, trustworthy and welcoming and are passionate about monitoring customer satisfaction!"*

Altona North | [www.pelvichealth.melbourne](http://www.pelvichealth.melbourne)



### CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE AWARD

#### **Self Defence Hub**

Self Defence Hub focuses on creating a safe space to learn self defence for women and children of all ages, helping them to grow confidence, build strength and regain control. The business has become more than just the lessons offered – it is helping women go from being victims of crime to survivors and helping younger students from being timid and unfocused to being confident and committed. The Self Defence Hub goes out of their way to facilitate inclusivity and connection by offering discounted rates to disadvantaged backgrounds, starting 'all gender' sessions targeted at individuals who identify as non-binary and building a community.

#### *Judges' comments:*

*"Self Defence Hub focuses on empowering women and the younger generation to enhance their self-confidence and creating a strong sense of community for vulnerable women and girls!"*

Altona North | [www.selfdefencehub.com.au](http://www.selfdefencehub.com.au)



### EXCELLENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

#### **Eco Laundry Room**

Eco Laundry Room was created eight years ago with the goal of allowing the local community to access extra-large washers and dryers in a clean and welcoming environment that would leave a positive footprint on our planet. The team partnered with a global manufacturer to develop exclusive technology that reduces water, power and gas consumption creating the Tesla Professional range of commercial washers and dryers used in store alongside user-friendly features and ergonomics. Eco Laundry Room continue to grow their business and are now expanding nationally with 14 sites and more to come!

#### *Judges' comments:*

*"Eco Laundry is rolling out sustainable laundrette systems and machines across Australia based on international research and best practice!"*

Altona | [www.ecolaundryroom.com.au](http://www.ecolaundryroom.com.au)



*Hobsons Bay is home to a diverse range of businesses that make Hobsons Bay an enviable place to live, work and visit.*

On 11 November 2021, the Hobsons Bay Business Excellence Awards were held to celebrate and recognise local businesses and their contributions to the community and economy, despite the tumultuous challenges of the last two years.



## PIVOTING DURING COVID-19 AWARD

### Seaworks Foundation

Seaworks is a not-for-profit organisation which promotes Victoria's maritime history. Seaworks has three main revenue streams: onsite tenants, berthing and events. With the onset of COVID-19, the business found that tenants were struggling to pay rent and events income was lost. To recover income, Seaworks extended leases to tenants from the arts space – an industry vital to economic recovery. They also extended the licensed area for The Pirates Tavern, brought in live music and food trucks. With the addition of the Sun Theatre Williamstown, an outdoor cinema along the edge of the pier, and roving entertainment, Seaworks has created a space for the arts to flourish and for the community to come together again.

#### Judges' comments:

*"Seaworks has created a multiplier effect, generating jobs and supporting other local businesses while establishing itself as a vital community hub and bringing life to the municipality"*

Williamstown | [www.seaworks.com.au](http://www.seaworks.com.au)



## NEW START UP BUSINESS AWARD

### Mama Movement

Mama Movement started in July 2020 and has a mission to start a body positivity movement with its colourful high performance activewear and swimwear. The business prides itself on being a sustainable label, with its premium high-performance activewear fabric made from recycled plastic bottles. Their tanks, tees and kids wear are made from organic cotton. Mama Movement offers activewear that is not only highly functional and comfortable, but also bright and colourful to spark joy through the concept of dopamine-dressing giving a much-needed boost to many mums who have been working from home or home-schooling this past year.

#### Judges' comments:

*"Faye clearly understands her market and competitors and executed a successful go-to-market strategy in her first 18 months of business."*

Newport | [www.mamamovement.com.au](http://www.mamamovement.com.au)

*Congratulations to the five businesses who were chosen by an external judging panel and found to best represent each award category.*

To learn more about each of the finalists nominated and potential new businesses to support within your local community, visit [www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/awards](http://www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/awards)



*Watch now*

To watch the online awards ceremony visit [www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/awards](http://www.hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/awards) or scan the QR code







# NEW AND IMPROVED ALTONA SPORTS CENTRE

Altona Sports Centre has been transformed into an indoor and outdoor, multi-sport, environmentally friendly and accessible facility. The \$17 million project, in partnership with the state government and Altona Sports Centre Limited, was five years in the making and includes an additional four indoor multi-sport courts, seating for 1,000 people, a multi-purpose room, café, administration areas, four additional change rooms, umpire change rooms, storage, first aid room and two new outdoor courts with lighting.

The construction of the external forecourt which will comprise basketball half courts, seating and landscaping has kicked off and is expected to be completed in April 2022.

The redevelopment will provide more opportunities for people of all ages to participate in netball and basketball as well as opening programming options that can be utilised by the broader community.

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

## WASTE AND RECYCLING, BEYOND YOUR BINS

What to do with batteries? Electronic waste? DVDs? Mattresses and worn furniture?

Common household items, like batteries, ink cartridges, light globes and DVDs can be recycled if dropped to the right place. Recycling Made Easy hubs, stationed at 13 libraries and community centres across Hobsons Bay, make this possible.

For larger items, all Hobsons Bay properties are entitled to a free hard-waste collection every financial year. A second collection is also available at a cost of \$82.50.

To find out how and where to dispose of all your unwanted items, check the 'Which Bin' feature on the Recycling 2.0 app or visit Council's website.

The website also has details on how to book a hard-waste collection and dates for drop-off events for electronic waste and household chemicals, which are back up and running post lockdown restrictions.

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

# PAPER BAGS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU RECYCLE FOOD SCRAPS

**If you haven't already, join the thousands of Hobsons Bay households trialling paper bags to contain their food waste.**

Simply register, then collect a free trial pack of paper bags in February from your local community hub, library or from Council's Civic Centre. Each pack contains a six-month supply of two types of bags and information on the different ways to use them. Participants also receive survey questions to provide feedback on whether paper bags reduce odour and mess in the green bin and make recycling food easier.

To manage contamination risks, only Hobsons Bay branded paper bags can be used, and newspaper and paper towel continue to be allowed. Using only Hobsons Bay branded bags provides a good, solid control while implementing a major change.

For more information and to register, scan the QR code or head to the website: [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/paperbagtrial](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/paperbagtrial)



Council is also expanding its Compost Revolution program with residents now able to choose from six composting products and claim a discount of up to 50 per cent with free delivery until 28 February 2022.

For more information, and to claim your discount, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/compost](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/compost)



# What's happening *in your ward?*



## Cherry Lake Ward

Come down to **PA Burns** and join the 'Twitch Hunt'. Our conservation team has hidden 20 replica steel birds in PA Burns Reserve. These birds represent species that can be found on the Hobsons Bay foreshore. To find out more, pick up your guided flyer from one of the entrances to the reserve. Can you find them all?

A section of the footpath at **Queen Street** in Altona (opposite Coles supermarket) has recently been replaced with sustainable, permeable paving which allows rainwater to penetrate the tree roots of the much-loved Moreton Bay Fig. The new pavement is made from 50 per cent recycled material.

The **Altona Surf Life Saving Tower** upgrade is complete. The Altona Surf Life Saving Club now has a larger first aid room and more storage space for lifesaving vehicles. For more information, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSurfLifeSavingTowerUpgrade](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSurfLifeSavingTowerUpgrade)

Along the **Altona foreshore**, the seawall is being raised to mitigate against the impact of the sea level rising and the increasing intensity and frequency of storms. As part of these works, more ramps, steps and viewing platforms are being installed. Beachgoers will soon have additional access ramps at the end of **Mount Street** and **Webb Street**, with works expected to be completed this month.

Over in Brooklyn, the building and landscape final concept designs for **Brooklyn Community Hall** have been released and are available to view at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-hall-redevelopment](http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/brooklyn-community-hall-redevelopment). Detailed design has commenced in collaboration with the Stakeholder Reference Group.

## Strand Ward

Works to revamp Newport's **Bryan Martyn Oval** pavilion and female friendly change room have kicked off. The works will also include upgrading the social room, spectator toilets and general building renewal.

Following extensive investigation, modelling and design, works on the **JT Gray Pavilion** in Williamstown have commenced. JT Gray Reserve is used throughout the year for soccer and cricket and the large open space off Kororoit Creek Road is enjoyed by residents.

The full park upgrade for Williamstown's **Maclean Reserve** is in full swing and is expected to be completed in March 2022. Once finished, the park will have a new play space, a picnic shelter, new footpaths, seating, tables and landscaping, which includes garden beds and new mature tree plantings.

**The Substation** has reopened with the Hyphenated Biennial, a multi-venue arts program curated with 10 new commissions by First Nations and Asian artists, showing until 9 April 2022. Visit [thesubstation.org.au](http://thesubstation.org.au) to find out what's on.

Our **Williamstown Botanic Gardens** team has been busy planting six new garden beds in the Pinetum along the Esplanade including a new grey garden. The plantings include a diverse selection of coastal plants from around the world. Over the next few years, a total of 38 new garden beds will be planted! As part of the Pinetum restoration project, 46 new trees have been planted. Botanic labels have been added to the open-air bandstand and to several new trees.

## Wetlands Ward

Great news for Seabrook Primary School parents – the footpath on the western side of **Point Cook Road**, between Pipeline Reserve and Catherine Road, is being widened by up to 2m. The works will create a continuous and safe pathway for pedestrians accessing Seabrook Primary School. As part of the project, 18 new trees have been planted. The works are scheduled to finish mid-February.

**Russell Court Kindergarten** in Altona Meadows has been refreshed to welcome the 2022 kinder intake with new flooring, ceiling and a fresh coat of paint. The Maternal and Child Health offices will also be revamped.

Following community feedback last year, work will soon commence on the detailed design for improving safety for all road users in **Merton Street**, Altona Meadows. The works are funded by the federal government Blackspot program. The concept plan and 'What we heard' report is available at [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/mertonstreet](http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/mertonstreet)

As part of Better Places Laverton, through the Love Laverton Parks program, **Henderson** and **Bladin Street** play spaces are getting a facelift. Bladin Street will receive a fresh coat of paint on the play equipment and Henderson Street Reserve will receive a full park upgrade. Completed park upgrades as part of Love Laverton Parks include **Frank Gibson Reserve** and **Whittaker Avenue**. For more information, visit [participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/lovelavertonparks](http://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/lovelavertonparks)

Council is working with the Department of Transport to progress their design work for a new **Queen Street pedestrian and cycling bridge**. Their detailed design work is expected to be completed in February 2022. Council also continues to advocate to the state government for funds to construct the bridge.



## SEA FLOWERS AND SEA STORIES

12 to 20 February  
Williamstown

Be mesmerised by beautiful floating sea flowers on Williamstown's water edge between Stevedore Street and the Ferguson Street Pier from 12 to 20 February. Scan the QR code to hear sea stories and discover what's under the water, who travelled over the water to get to this spot and how the water in this area has been a source of renewal during difficult times. Listen carefully to find out how these floating artworks were created and installed.

COVID conditions permitting, an event is planned on Friday 18 February at 7.30pm, Morley Reserve, with live music, a soundscape and stories.

This exhibition is produced by Donna Jackson for Hubcap Productions, and is made possible through Council's Make it Happen grants. Sea Flowers by artist Sandra Lancaster was commissioned by Ten Days on the Island in 2007.

## COVID-19 INFO

Stay up to date on requirements about COVID-19 including vaccination, by visiting [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

And a reminder that local GPs, medical and respiratory clinics, pharmacists in Hobsons Bay are providing vaccinations and boosters, in addition to vaccinations hubs across Melbourne.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

For assistance especially for residents self-isolating due to COVID-19, who may need access to support or services, contact Council's Community Connector by email on [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. For further information on support and services visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HBcommunityhasheart](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HBcommunityhasheart)

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

20 to 26 March 2022

Council is proud of its diverse community and we look forward to celebrating it during Cultural Diversity Week 2022 and on Harmony Day on Monday 21 March, with a program of fun, engaging and safe activities across the city.

To find out more, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



## HOBSONS BAY LIBRARY SERVICE MORE THAN BOOKS

### FREE EVENTS

Check out the Hobsons Bay Libraries website for free events for all ages and interests, delivered both in-person and digitally: [libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on](http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on)

### DIGITAL LIBRARY

Whether you're interested in novels, audiobooks or newspapers or magazines, our digital collections have hundreds of titles ready to upload onto your smartphone, tablet or digital device. All for free! Start reading now at [libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/collections](http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/collections)

### JOIN TODAY!

If you're not a member, sign up for free at [libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) or call **1300 462 542**.

## HOBSONS BAY UP YOUTH SERVICES

We want to hear from young people aged 10 to 25 who live, work and study in Hobsons Bay.

Stay tuned for a 10-week campaign which kicks off in April.

For more information about Council's youth services and to join the mailing list, visit [www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UP](http://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UP)



Past participant Ashlyn Gomez at the Tanabata Festival in Anjo, 2019

## APPLICATIONS OPEN

for the Hobsons Bay 2022 Student Delegation to Japan

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

Hobsons Bay's sister city relationship with Anjo stretches back to 1988, and more than 200 students have participated in the exchange.

The exchange involves hosting a Japanese student for 10 days during the winter school holiday break and then visiting Anjo for approximately two weeks in July/August 2022.

For information visit [hbifa.org.au](http://hbifa.org.au) Applications close 28 February

*"My trip to Japan was really an amazing experience! I never thought I would create such intimate friendships with the people in Japan and the friends and families of the delegates. It was such an honour to go and I would jump at the chance to do the experience again."*

Ashlyn Gomez



Live music / Entertainment / Food trucks / Kids activities

Paisley Park, Altona North  
Friday 4 March, 5pm to 9pm

Brooklyn Reserve, Brooklyn  
Saturday 5 March, 11am to 3pm

Family-friendly festival held over two big days in Brooklyn and Altona North. Enjoy live music, popular kids entertainers *The Mik Meks*, food trucks, face painting and pick up a free tree.

Keep an eye out for updates and events in March on Better Places Laverton and Better Places Spotswood and South Kingsville.

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



**BETTER PLACES**  
Brooklyn & Altona North