

HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 24
Winter 2021



**WORKING FOR VICTORIA
KICKS GOALS FOR HOBSONS BAY**
(SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE DETAILS)

3 CHANGES TO
KERBSIDE WASTE

5 BUDGET
2021-22

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. It's been a busy few months for Council and this edition is packed with information on Council services, events and programs.

Council recently adopted its 2021-22 budget which features just over \$62 million in capital works improvements across Hobsons Bay, a \$2 million community support package to help the community and local businesses recover from the pandemic and funding

for more than 100 community services. You can see where the budget has been allocated on page 5 and 6. There is also timely and valuable information on rates and financial assistance on page 7.

See page 3 for updates to Council's kerbside waste and recycling service and there's details on page 4 on how to book hard waste collections via a new online portal. The fabulous Working for Victoria program produced some fantastic outcomes for our community and we've detailed some of the work that crews created over the six month program on page 3.

Finally, Hobsons Bay Libraries are one of Council's most beloved services and we've dedicated page 9 to them with an interesting breakdown of our most borrowed items in 2021, as well as details on current services and programs across our five branches. There's also information on the Creative Tech Hub and the cool technology kits that library members can take home to explore and create!

As always, stay safe

Cr Jonathon Marsden
Mayor of Hobsons Bay

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cherry Lake Ward
Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Brooklyn, Seaholme

Cr Tony Briffa JP
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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
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HOBSONS BAY LANGUAGE LINE

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES AND RECORDED COUNCIL INFORMATION IN:

English العربية Ελληνικά
Italiano ភាសាខ្មែរ 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

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil
instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC
linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council
twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC

WORKING FOR VICTORIA KICKS GOALS FOR HOBSONS BAY

Thanks to a partnership with the state government, the Working for Victoria program has accelerated projects across Hobsons Bay, supported businesses to reopen following lockdowns and expanded community service programs.

More importantly, the program has provided short-term contracts for more than 130 people within Hobsons Bay who lost their job or were significantly impacted by COVID-19.

The program officially finished in May 2021 with many participants using the opportunity to kickstart a new career and secure permanent positions in similar fields. As part of the program, Working for Victoria staff were provided with career coaching and resume writing and interview skills guidance.



Working for Victoria achievements

- 1,900 trees and 16,000 tubestock planted across the municipality; contributing to the Urban Forest Strategy and increasing tree canopy cover across Hobsons Bay
- 22 community facilities painted, including the Seabrook Kinder and Altona Life Saving Club
- removed graffiti from 214 sites
- laid 1.5km of concrete pathways across 16 locations
- refurbished and painted 145 park benches and picnic tables
- installed 43 outdoor trading areas across the municipality for 193 participating businesses
- actioned 21 business grants through the Hobsons Bay Business has Heart program



And those were some of the items that were easy to see. Working for Victoria staff also joined the Hobsons Bay UP team to assist young people with youth employment, as well as Council's Economic Development team to support local businesses through the pandemic and our Community Life team to help our older residents. They also provided digital expertise to streamline Council processes and improve the customer experience when the community accesses Council services.

A big thank you to all our Working for Victoria staff, many of whom are Hobsons Bay locals. The work completed by Working for Victoria staff has long term benefits for the Hobsons Bay community and enabled Council to better support our local community and businesses during the pandemic.

For information on the Working for Victoria program, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WorkingforVictoria

KERBSIDE WASTE AND RECYCLING REVIEW Outcomes

Council's new waste and recycling service has been in operation since February 2020. Following a review of the service's first 12 months, Council will implement a range of changes to further improve our waste management system, including:

- introducing weekly collections for general waste
- transitioning food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collections to fortnightly
- trialling the use of compostable paper bags for FOGO

We are currently developing an implementation plan for the changes and will keep the community updated on timeframes. Until then, it is business as usual with the current scheduled collections and calendars.

For residents who have already participated in the free COVID-19 interim upsize for garbage bins, you can continue to use the 240L bin at no charge for the time being. Council will be in touch over the course of the year to advise of further changes to this program.

Keep an eye out for updates on the compostable paper bag trial and how to get involved.

For more information on Council's waste and recycling service, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/recycling or download the Recycling 2.0 app, available from the App Store or Google Play.



Becoming a new parent is an exciting journey, but never quite what you imagine and often pre-baby ideals get thrown out the window.

Council's Maternal and Child Health Nurses can provide advice and guidance helping you along the way, as well as one-on-one expert help at key milestones. They also run free new parents' groups and topic specific programs including:

BABYMAKES THREE

Ideal for first time parents – this free, three-week program provides tips and tricks for adjusting to life with a newborn as a couple. The online sessions are run in the evening with both a male and female facilitator. Parents and baby are welcome to attend. To book, complete the online form at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH, speak to your Maternal and Child Health Nurse or call 9932 1300.

ZZZ IT'S SLEEP TIME

Sleep and settling concerns are common issues affecting young families. Our Maternal and Child Health Nurses are now running free baby and toddler sleep settling programs, where you will learn more about baby and infant sleep, including tips and strategies to promote positive sleep patterns. To book, email sleepsettling@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au, complete the online form at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH or call 9932 1300.



DECLUTTERING MADE EASY

Hobsons Bay residents can now book their annual, free hard waste collection online, with residents also having the option for one additional paid collection each financial year.

If you have items you are unable to rehome, repurpose or recycle, book your collection for up to three cubic metres of hard waste. For a full list of accepted items, guidelines for collection and to book your own collections, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hard-waste

Book online
Visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hard-waste

BREASTFEEDING WELCOME HERE

Breastfeeding is welcome in all Hobsons Bay libraries, community centres, meeting spaces, sporting facilities, playgrounds, and parks.

Look out for the 'Breastfeeding welcome' sticker for safe and welcoming breastfeeding cafes, shops, businesses, sporting clubs and entertainment venues.

Breastfeeding has many rewards but can be challenging especially in public places. A 'Breastfeeding Welcome' sticker reassures parents they are in a safe and non-judgemental space when breastfeeding.

If you're a business or non-profit organisation, you can join the Breastfeeding Welcome campaign and support breastfeeding families.

For more information about the campaign, breastfeeding support and to order a free sticker visit, hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/breastfeedingwelcome



You can easily report issues in the community with the Snap Send Solve App.

Use Snap Send Solve to tell us about graffiti, dumped rubbish, tripping hazards, damaged roads or paths, and overflowing bins in our parks. Download Snap Send Solve for free from the App Store or Google Play. To our regular users who report issues to Council via the app – thank you and keep them coming! For new users, Snap Send Solve is easy, quick and free. Happy snapping!



SUPPORT HOBSONS BAY

Need an excuse to treat yourself? Our small businesses have had a tough 18 months and need your support. Be a tourist in your own backyard and help our resilient local businesses by heading out for lunch, treat yourself to a massage or purchase a gift for a loved one from a local business. Don't forget to spread the Hobsons Bay love and like, share and write positive reviews. To discover new hidden gems in your area, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/visit/Experience

YOUR BUDGET 2021-22

Supporting our community through the COVID-19 pandemic and planning for the future.

Council's Annual Budget 2021-22 delivers funding for more than 100 vital community services, as well as \$62.089 million in capital works improvements across Hobsons Bay and \$2 million to support the community and local business through the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAPITAL WORKS

Major projects scheduled for 2021-22

\$23.045M
Buildings

- \$5.5 million Altona Sports Centre Extension, Altona Meadows
- \$5.2 million HD Graham Reserve sports facility development, Altona Meadows
- \$3 million JT Gray Reserve Pavilion, Williamstown North
- \$2.75 million Donald McLean Reserve, Spotswood
- \$1.07 million Brooklyn Community Hall Redevelopment
- \$900,000 environmental sustainability initiatives
- \$530,000 Building Renewal Program including sewer renewals, painting, electrical works, storm water drains

\$1.637M
Footpaths and cycleways

- \$531,000 - Footpath Renewal Program
- \$150,000 - Shared Trails Renewal Program

\$13.556M
Roads

- \$3.226 million Road Resurfacing Program
- \$1.1 million Pinnacle Rd, Altona North, Road Rehabilitation (Grieve Parade to end)
- \$925,000 Truman Street, South Kingsville, Road Rehabilitation (between Aloha Street and Brunel Street)
- \$630,000 Blackspot funding for Merton Street, Altona Meadows

\$17.323M
Recreation and open space

- \$11.228 million parks, open space and streetscapes
 - \$2 million Altona Foreshore seawall and shared trail (Webb Street to Sargood Street)
 - \$2 million Blenheim Road community park and public toilet, Newport
 - \$1.065 million Love Laverton Park upgrades (Henderson Street Reserve, Dick Murdoch Reserve, Bladin Street Reserve, Lohse Street Reserve)
- \$5.89 million recreational, leisure and community facilities

\$2.308M
Drains

- \$100,000 - Pit Upgrade Program
- \$757,000 - Drainage Renewal Program

FUNDING FOR VITAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Every month, Council delivers more than 100 important services for the community. During state government restrictions, Council adapted many of these services to support the community.

\$5.379M
Libraries and community centres

\$1.024M
Early Years

\$2.598M
Community Development

\$987,000
Public Health

\$2.252M
Economic Development and Social Planning

\$3.833M
Community Support

\$806,000
Events and Visitor Services

\$11.485M
Parks, Gardens and Conservation

\$3.235M
Community Child Health

\$1.4M
Youth Services

\$1.275M
Arts and Culture

\$1.023M
Sports and Recreation

SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Council's 2021-22 budget involved extensive community consultation which began in November and December 2020 with the 'Pitch Your Ideas' program. Congratulations to the successful community members, local groups, and organisations who submitted their ideas about projects and programs across Hobsons Bay, including:

- \$400,000 WJ Irwin Reserve, Altona North playground upgrade
- \$365,000 Henderson Street Reserve, Laverton upgrade
- \$370,000 Resurfacing laneway rear of shops in Mason Street, Newport

YOUR RATES EXPLAINED

To keep delivering essential services and projects that benefit our community, Hobsons Bay has increased rates to 1.5 per cent in accordance with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System.

The 1.5 per cent rate increase applies to the average rateable property, not individual rates notices- so some ratepayers will pay less than the 1.5 per cent increase from last year's rates and others will pay more, but overall, general rates won't exceed the rate cap. Rates are based on 2021 property valuations by a state government-appointed independent valuer.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PACKAGE 4

Council's fourth Community Support Package provides targeted relief to our community most in need.

A Community Support Package Focus Group, representing a cross section of the community, was instrumental in helping shape a meaningful and responsive package.

The package encompasses \$1.35 million in targeted rate reductions including interest-free rate deferrals and, interest and rate waivers, which will be guided by Council's Financial Hardship Policy and the recommendations of the Community Support Package Focus Group.

The package also includes \$650,000 of support to groups in our community that we know, through targeted research, are facing a higher level of financial stress from the pandemic: our creative industries, young people, and local businesses.

We speak to two members of the Focus Group about their involvement.

For more information about Council's Community Support Packages, please visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CommunitySupportPackages

For information about available financial assistance and how to apply, please visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance

WHAT IF I CAN'T PAY MY RATES?

There is genuine and discreet support for residents and businesses impacted by the pandemic.

Ratepayers who have been impacted by COVID can apply for a waiver of their rates by 30 November 2021, in-line with the second-rate instalment.

Residential ratepayers whose income has dropped by 30 per cent (maximum income of \$80,000) will be eligible to receive a rate waiver. **Business** ratepayers whose turnover has reduced by 20 per cent will be eligible to receive a rate waiver. The exact amounts to be waived will be



Melanie Grant, Williamstown North business owner, Snuggleglum

"As a resident and business owner in Hobsons Bay, this was a unique opportunity to build an understanding of the type of funding Council provides and how it is spent in the community. It was really interesting to understand the different points of view of people in the community from all walks of life. I now understand the complexities of allocating funds and the competing priorities. I was impressed with Council's openness to listen and to improving the process."

Christos Sokolis, Altona Meadows resident

"I have been living in Hobsons Bay for 50 years both in Altona North and Altona Meadows; this is the first time I have been invited to be a part of anything to do with Council. I never realised how hard it is to run. And now that I am coming to this stage of my life, I wanted to start to contribute and do whatever I can to help the Council to help residents."

determined in line with the allocation of approximately \$525,000 after the number of eligible applicants is determined.

Approximately \$450,000 has been set aside for ratepayers to apply for an interest free rate deferral until 31 December 2021 and then interest free repayment plans thereafter.

Council will be waiving an estimated \$375,000 rate interest previously raised to ratepayers with a good payment history prior to COVID-19. No action is required as this will be automatically applied by Council.

Residents, businesses, and community organisations can apply online for financial relief at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance

What's happening in your ward?



Cherry Lake Ward

The new dog off-lead area at **PA Burns Reserve** is nearing completion. The concrete walking trails around the dog off-leash areas are complete and designated parking areas for dog beach users and horse floats are finished. Fencing and landscaping are taking place and the site is scheduled to open in August 2021. hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/PABurnsReserve

Altona's iconic **surf life saving tower** will be upgraded to increase the existing first aid room's capacity and improve storage for lifesaving vehicles. The works will commence this winter, including the removal of the public toilet. The nearest public toilets are in Weaver Reserve, approximately 20 metres across the road. For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSurfLifeSavingTowerUpgrade

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback for the draft Open Space Development and Conservation Plan for **G.J Hosken Reserve**. The 'What we heard' report is now available on Participate Hobsons Bay participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/hoskenreserve

The play space at **W.L.J Crofts Reserve** in Altona North is getting a facelift in early 2022! Read up on the first round of community feedback gathered at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WLJcrofts. A draft concept plan is being created and will be shared for further comment soon. The upgrade is partly funded by the Victorian Government through the West Gate Tunnel Project.

Strand Ward

The first ever purpose-built outdoor **Box Lacrosse court** officially opened with local Member for Williamstown Melissa Horne and ward Councillors on 9 July this year at **Paisley Park (PJ Lynch Reserve)**, Altona North. The new court features LED lighting, interchange and officials' boxes, dasher boards and posts, safety bollards and a shock pad sub-base to improve playability with a synthetic grass surface. For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/BoxLacrosse

A new 13 lane cricket practice structure is nearly complete at **Williamstown Cricket Ground**. The new facility includes six synthetic turf and seven natural turf practice wickets. As part of the works, the old cricket nets have been demolished. For details, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WilliamstownCricketGround

Stages 1 and 2 of Williamstown's **Dennis Reserve Master Plan** have been completed and open to the community. Stage 3 works involve constructing a new multipurpose community facility to house the current Williamstown Seniors Building tenants and the Williamstown Central Tennis Club. A Multipurpose Facility Working Group has been established to provide input into the design and concept plan, which will be made available to the community for feedback. For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/DennisReserve

Wetlands Ward

As part of the Better Places Laverton Cleaner and Green initiative and the Urban Forest Strategy, over 500 street trees will be planted in Laverton this year. The increased tree canopy will help reduce the urban heat island, provide shelter for native wildlife, improve air quality and create shade. For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UrbanForestStrategy

The upgrading of the **Central Avenue** drainage system has recently been completed. The new drainage will help mitigate flooding in this area of Altona Meadows.

Seabrook Community Garden is thriving thanks to a team of dedicated passionate volunteers. Ashish Gandre, Bridget Kirsch and Tammy Todd share their volunteer stories and what the community garden means to them in the Virtual Photo Exhibition, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Volunteer-photo-exhibition

A new 100 per cent solar powered, single unisex accessible toilet is a welcome addition to **Tatman Reserve** in Altona Meadows. The popular reserve features a universally accessible flying fox, half-court basketball court, playground and barbecue shelter. For more information, please visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/TatmanReserve

Until November, **'Living by Skeleton Creek'** featuring the artwork of grade two students from Seabrook Primary School, is being exhibited at Orbital Exhibition Space, Central Square in Altona Meadows. Students were inspired by virtual workshops with artist Rich Keville who has painted a mural at the Skeleton Creek underpass on Point Cook Road, Seabrook.

Not only are Hobsons Bay Libraries brimming with physical books, library membership is a gateway to over 10,000 eBooks, 5,000 eAudioBooks, a diverse range of films and magazines and free access to online resources such as Studiosity and ancestry.com.au

Hobsons Bay Libraries also run regular children programs (Baby Bounce, Wiggle and Read, Storytime and Creative Kids Club), tech help (Drop-In Tech, Device Advice), book clubs and English language classes. View the library website for a full list of regular programs, times and locations. Our libraries also run one-off interactive events, check out the back page of this newsletter for upcoming events.

Library locations

Altona Library
123 Queen Street, Altona

Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre
Central Square Shopping Centre,
2 Newham Way, Altona Meadow

Altona North Community Library
Corner Millers and
McArthurs Roads, Altona North

Library at Newport Community Hub
13 Mason Street, Newport

Williamstown Library
104 Ferguson Street, Williamstown

The Creative Technology Hub
Seaworks Maritime Precinct,
82 Nelson Place, Williamstown
(restricted opening hours, please check the library website for opening times)

Libraries Change Lives

Abdullah Sherifdeen
"My long-term goal is to become a doctor"



For Hobsons Bay resident Abdullah Sherifdeen, his local library provided a welcoming space to study for university exams and finish off assignments. After completing a Bachelor of Biomedical Science with Honours at Monash University, he is now studying postgraduate medicine in Adelaide.

For Abdullah, the library was a place for him to focus without getting easily distracted. To him, the quiet library setting invited people to engage in personal academic study or focus on work-related tasks. Sometimes, he spent a whole day at the library.

Abdullah's story is one of many Hobsons Bay library members' stories featured in the Turning Pages exhibition at Williamstown's Creative Tech Hub until Friday 27 August through the Libraries Change Lives initiative.

Take Home Tech now available



Test your skills and try coding a robot! Robotic kits can now be borrowed which allow you to interact with technology in a different way – program a robot to complete a challenge, play games against it, control it with your smart device, or learn more about artificial intelligence as you watch it 'learn' about its surroundings. For more information, visit libraries. hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/library-news/1161-take-home-tech-kits

You can also check out a large range of Creative Technologies equipment at The Creative Technology Hub at Seaworks, Williamstown, including a 3D printer, green screen technology, laser cutter, drone and more.

Drum roll... the results are in!

This year our library members loved Australian authors with Jane Harper being a clear favourite across all platforms. Stay on top of what everyone is talking about and borrow one of Hobsons Bay's popular picks, search the library catalogue 24/7 at libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Borrowed books

- The Survivors**
by Jane Harper
- Splashy Weird**
by Anh Do
- Where the Crawdads Sing**
by Delia Owens
- Dictionary of Lost Words**
by Pip Williams
- 130-Storey Treehouse**
by Andy Griffiths



eAudiobooks

- Becoming**
by Michelle Obama
- The Survivors**
by Jane Harper
- Where the Crawdads Sing**
by Delia Owens
- Shuggie Bain**
by Douglas Stuart
- Dressmaker's Secret**
by Rosalie Ham

eBooks

- The Survivors**
by Jane Harper
- Honeybee**
by Craig Silvey
- Infinite Splendours**
by Sophie Laguna
- Consolation**
by Garry Disher
- All Our Shimmering Skies**
by Trent Dalton

Not a member?
Sign up today for free.
Visit libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au
or drop-in to your closest library and
speak with our friendly librarians.

Library love



WHAT'S ON

EVENTS AT OUR LIBRARIES

All events are free however, registrations are essential. To register and for more details, visit libraries.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au. In the event of state government restrictions, events will be postponed or moved online.



Novel Saturday Writing Group: point of view

Saturday 7 August, 1.30pm to 3.30pm,
Altona North Community Library

Uncovering the past with Sands directories

Wednesday 11 August,
11am to 12pm, Williamstown Library

Discover the art of Chinese Calligraphy

Saturday 28 August,
10am to 12pm, Altona Meadows
Library and Learning Centre

Łowicz Polish Vocal-Dance Ensemble

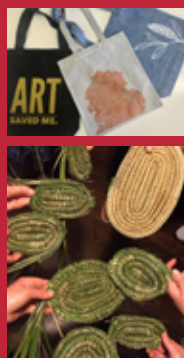
Saturday 18 September,
10am to 11am, Altona Library

Treasure! Ahoy there me hearties!

Wednesday 22 September,
10am to 11.30am,
Seabrook Community Centre

woods street arts space

44 Woods Street,
Laverton 3028



Laverton's Woods Street Arts Space has a new program featuring a diverse range of free and low-cost creative workshops, programs and events. For details, visit hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/woodsstreetarts

From July to December, check out the Woods Streets Arts Space Laneway Gallery and discover how local multi-disciplinary artists showcase their creativity using four billboards and a projection window.

CAREERS CONNECTION

Wednesday 29 September
Newport Community Hub, 6pm

Hobsons Bay UP presents a free expo-style event for young people aged 12 to 25 to discover local career pathways.

With local employers, panellists, and career specialists present, local young people can ask their burning questions and get industry-specific insights to help them understand their pathways and options within Hobsons Bay.

To register, visit hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au/careersconnection

ART & INDUSTRY FESTIVAL presents

'I.AM' at The Outside Gallery

Paine Reserve, Newport

Until September 2021, explore the larger-than-life portraits of award-winning artist Keren Dobia, in her exhibition 'I.AM' at The Outside Gallery including a look at the inside of Blunt's Boatyard!

For more information, visit
artandindustryfestival.com.au



MOVIE NIGHT

**Altona Beach Film Festival 2021
Saturday 21 August, Altona Theatre**

Find some 'Space' in your calendar for this year's Altona Beach Film Festival, Hobsons Bay's very own themed annual short film festival. This year's theme is 'Space', prizes will be awarded at the Annual Gala Award Presentation and Film Screening Event.

For details, visit
www.altonabeachfilmfestival.com.au