

# HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 35  
*Oct / Nov 2023*



**GET ACTIVE OUTDOORS**  
VIEW OUR OUTDOOR FITNESS  
STATION MAP ON PAGES 6-7

**4** ARTS SPACE  
IN LAVERTON

**5** NOMINATE THE NEXT  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**HOBSONS  
BAY CITY  
COUNCIL**





## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to this edition of Hobsons Bay Community News.

As the weather starts to get warm, we have lots of events and activities to keep you active and entertained both outdoors and indoors.

The Hobsons Bay Seniors Festival runs throughout October, check out the program on page 12. For our youngest residents, don't miss Children's Week from 21 to 29 October, details on page 5.

In this edition we shine the light on our free fitness equipment stations dotted around Hobsons Bay, explore our map on pages 6 and 7.

This month our migratory birds are flying home to Hobsons Bay. Celebrate their return at the Wings for Wellness event on Saturday 14 October, details on page 10.

Saturday 14 October is also when Australians head to the polls to vote in the Voice to Parliament referendum. Read page 3 for how Council is supporting the Voice to Parliament.

Also, don't forget to subscribe to our new monthly newsletter Hobsons Bay Life, details on page 12.

This will be my last Mayor's message as a new Mayor will be elected on 10 November for a one-year term. I will not be seeking reelection, but I will remain a Councillor. I sincerely thank all the community members and groups who have supported me during my term.

I love serving our wonderful community, and it's been an honour to be Mayor for another term. I wish the next Mayor the very best for their term in the role.

Cr Antoinette (Tony) Briffa JP  
**Mayor of Hobsons Bay**

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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 10 October**

**Friday 10 November**  
*(election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor)*

**Tuesday 14 November**

**Tuesday 12 December**

For more information, visit  
[www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/  
CouncilMeetings](http://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](mailto:tbriffa@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Daria Kellander**

☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 438  
✉ [dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:dkellander@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Strand Ward



**Cr Jonathon Marsden**

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**Cr Peter Hemphill**

☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0419 762 266  
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**Cr Pamela Sutton-Legaud**

☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 834  
✉ [pslegaud@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:pslegaud@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)

### Wetlands Ward



**Deputy Mayor Cr Diana Grima**

☎ 9932 1044 (bh) 0499 600 476  
✉ [dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:dgrima@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Matt Tyler**

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### Connect with Councillors on social media



Scan QR code  
for details

### HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

[linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council](https://linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council)



**HOBSONS BAY  
LANGUAGE LINE**

**9932 1212**

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES  
Your Council in your language

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

Cover image: Volunteer community champions at Donald McLean Seniors Park in Spotswood are ready to show you how to use the new equipment at the come and try days, more information on page 7.

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

# SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

## for a better future



## HAVE YOUR APPLIANCES SEEN BETTER DAYS?

When it's time to replace household appliances, such as your stovetop, heater or hot water system, choose electric!

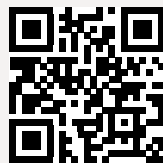
**For heating and cooling**, one of the best ways to keep bills under control and reduce your environmental footprint is through a split system or reverse cycle air conditioner. Government-backed discounts are available to help cover the costs of upgrading.

**For cooking**, induction stovetops heat food quickly while leaving the surrounding surfaces cool to touch.

**For hot water**, an efficient system will typically use 60 to 75 per cent less electricity than conventional hot water systems, reducing bills significantly. There are rebates and discounts available to help households make the switch.

Now is a great time to start planning to replace these three appliances. By doing your research before the appliance gives out, you'll be ready to upgrade.

Learn more at



## A SMALL ACT MAKES A BIG IMPACT

Correctly sorting your waste and recycling really does have a big impact!

Thanks to the community's efforts, we're seeing less general rubbish and non-recyclable items going into recycling. Having the right items in the right bins is better for our environment and makes it easier for the people sorting through the materials at the recycling facility.

Keep it up Hobsons Bay!

## FREE ONLINE SUSTAINABILITY WEBINARS

We're hosting a series of free online workshops to help you gain independent, reliable and practical advice on a range of energy topics.

With sessions designed for everyone, from renters to homeowners, you're bound to find value in one of our upcoming webinars, covering topics such as energy efficiency, all-electric homes, solar and batteries.

Learn more at



## VOICE TO PARLIAMENT REFERENDUM

The Voice to Parliament Referendum is being held on **Saturday 14 October**. This is your chance to cast your vote on the Voice to Parliament.

At its June meeting, Council voted to support the Yes vote and help our community become informed about the referendum. You can find out more on our website.

*Be ready to vote*

**Saturday 14 October**

Find out more about the Voice



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Which creek in Hobsons Bay has the largest catchment area?

See page 11 for the answer

# OUR CREATIVE CITY

Woods  
arts sp



## WOODS STREET ARTS SPACE

*New arts program released!*

Woods Street Arts Space in Laverton has an exciting new program with a wide range of free and low-cost activities, workshops and events for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

### Program highlights

- Free family-friendly art sessions with Little Art Big Art
  - Beat Factor drum classes
  - Free weekly social art group for people aged 12 to 17
  - Free Hobsons Bay Arts Society workshop with pastel artist Caroline Lewallen
- For bookings or more information, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WoodsStreetArts](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WoodsStreetArts)

The arts space, at 44 Woods Street, is walking distance from the Laverton train station and Lohse Street Reserve playground and next to local restaurants and shops.

You can also pop into the arts space on Thursdays and Fridays, 12pm to 6pm (excluding public holidays). No need to book, just drop-in, have a cuppa and explore what creative activities are on offer.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ART COMPETITION WINNERS!

*Chiyoaka* aged 12, won the young person prize (12 to 25 years). The drawing/painting is of the old pier at Altona Beach at sunrise.



*Minnie* aged 10, won the under 12 prize.

*"It's Flemings Pool in Altona and I painted it because I like to go there and play and watch the sunset,"* said Minnie



*Hannah* aged 9, won the encouragement award for a drawing of Altona Theatre.

*"This is where I practice my musical songs and dances. It's where musicals happen,"* said Hannah.



## ARE YOU A BUDDING WRITER?

Get your creative juices flowing and write 100 words or less on the theme of migratory birds. It could be a short story, poem or even a haiku! Check out page 10 for more information about migratory birds visiting Hobsons Bay.

The winner will receive a \$100 voucher for a local business of their choice and be published in the next edition of the magazine.

View the terms and conditions and submit your written piece by Wednesday 8 November at [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/magazine)



Hobsons Bay

# CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

2024

Nominations open



## NOMINATE A HOBSONS BAY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Do you know someone who makes a difference in our community?

Show them you value their work and nominate them for the 2024 Citizen of the Year or Young Citizen of the Year.

The awards celebrate the outstanding contributions or achievements individuals make to the Hobsons Bay community.

This could be in community service, sport, arts and culture, environment, health and wellbeing, business, and other areas that contribute to improving and celebrating our city.

Nominees must be Australian citizens who live, work, volunteer, or study in Hobsons Bay. Nominees for the Young Citizen award must be 26 years or younger on 26 January 2024.

**Nominations close  
Sunday 12 November at 5pm**

**Scan to nominate someone who deserves recognition**



Or pick up a hard copy nomination form at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre or your local library.

## MEET OUR 2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Naserah Khan, known as Nasz, was awarded the 2023 Citizen of the Year for her years of dedication, passion and commitment working behind the scenes to improve Seabrook.

*“It’s been such a wonderful opportunity; I’ve enjoyed it very much and loved working with council staff. I’ve been able to directly contribute to events including the dawn service, coffee at the Homestead, and outdoor movies. It’s been a busy, yet very fulfilling year!”*

## CHILDREN'S WEEK

21 to 29 October

Ages 0 to 12 years

Get excited!  
Children’s Week is back!

We have a fantastic program for our youngest residents. Spanning more than 10 locations, there will be fun activities at our libraries, community hubs and sporting clubs. Get creative with Rachael from Little Art Big Art, try tennis at the Brooklyn Tennis Club or hockey at Altona Hockey Club. For kids interested in science, don’t miss Scienceplay with Dr Loz, Lego Club and a special presentation from Seaweed Sally!

For parents and families, tune in to the Raising an Emotionally Intelligent Child webinar.

Events and activities are age specific from babies to up to 12 years old.

For details and to book, visit



## DID YOU KNOW?

Which tree is suspected to be the oldest in Hobsons Bay?

See page 11 for the answer

# Active OUTDOORS

Exercising outdoors is a great way to socialise and have fun while getting active.

It's also a boost for your mental and physical health, improving your mood and reducing stress.

We have many free outdoor exercise stations throughout Hobsons Bay. Start by doing some gentle activity, and gradually build up.



Br

DN Dua

Hosken Reserve

ALTONA NORTH



LAVERTON

Curlew Park

Cherry Lake

ALTONA

Altona Meadows Community Park

Apex Park

SEABROOK

Homestead Run

ALTONA MEADOWS



"It's all about regaining fitness and using parts of the body that haven't been used for a long time!"

Community champion,  
Denise from Altona



“The Donald McLean Seniors Park is fantastic. It’s easy to get to from the train station and the equipment is fun to use. You get a reasonable workout!”

Community champion,  
Dianne from Williamstown

## SENIORS EXERCISE PARK AT DONALD MCLEAN RESERVE

The seniors exercise park at Donald McLean Reserve is specifically designed and built for older people to use and enjoy.

The brand-new equipment aims to help older people improve strength, balance, flexibility and mobility.

Each station has QR codes to scan for videos on how to correctly use the equipment.

### Community champions

Local volunteers have been trained by professional trainers to show others how to safely use the equipment. Come down, meet the community champions and learn how to use the equipment in a safe, welcoming and social environment.

### Free come and try sessions

To kick start your fitness journey, join us for a free session to learn how to use the equipment:

- Friday 13 October, 10am to 12pm
- Friday 27 October, 10am to 12pm

Check the website for more sessions



The Donald McLean seniors exercise park program is being delivered in partnership with the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI), funded through the Australian Government.



WJ Irwin Reserve, Altona North



Bruce Comben Reserve, artist's impression



Bruce Comben Reserve, works in progress, Altona Meadows



Federation Trail, Brooklyn

# BUILDING A BETTER CITY

## NEW PLAYGROUND IN ALTONA NORTH

It's all smiles at the new play space at WJ Irwin Reserve on Hobbs Street, Altona North!

The bright flower talk-tubes dot the paths, the bee spring-rocker creates a colourful, happy vibe and the Golden Sun Moth is featured with a beautiful wood carving sculpture showing the insect's lifecycle.

The new modern playground has a flying fox, swings, rope course, slides, nature play areas and an accessible carousel. There's also ample shade, and table and chairs for picnics.

## BRUCE COMBEN RESERVE REVAMP

Works have started on upgrading the southern end of Bruce Comben Reserve in Altona Meadows. The project will transform the area creating a new, vibrant open space for the community. Highlights include:

- new playground
- tennis courts
- multipurpose court
- walking and cycling network
- dog off-lead zone
- BBQ and picnic shelter
- public toilet facility
- trees and shrubs throughout the park
- an upgrade and extension of the car park and new street lighting.

## GREENING BROOKLYN

We've dialed up the greenery along the Federation Trail in Brooklyn. More than 5,000 plants have been planted along the trail in Pipeline Reserve from Millers Road to Old Geelong Road.

As well as beautifying Pipeline Reserve, the new plantings will create a habitat corridor for native wildlife. The project will also include improving the reserve entry at both ends with new seating and solar lighting, scheduled to be completed by early 2024.

The Greening Brooklyn project was a local community initiative and is funded by Council and the Victorian Government through the West Gate Tunnel Project's West Gate Neighbourhood Fund.

It is also part of the Greening the Pipeline initiative involving Melbourne Water, Hobsons Bay City Council, Greater Western Water, and the Department of Transport.

Check out our capital works program in your area



Scan the QR code for more info





# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the backbone of our community. In this edition, we meet John Hinks from the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed.

## John Hinks, woodcarving group convener

Every Tuesday morning, you will find John Hinks at the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed in Altona teaching woodcarving.

As a retired teacher, John is passionate about sharing his knowledge and teaching others the ancient and international craft of wood carving.

"There is substantial intrinsic satisfaction in assisting others to improve their skills and to produce excellent finished pieces," said John.

During the workshops, John teaches people tool safety, timber types and suitability, project planning, and finishings including sanding, varnishing, and waxing.



John enjoys teaching people one-on-one and watching their confidence grow.

The Men's Shed is a safe and inviting environment, and everyone is welcome.

**"As well as the potential to gain great satisfaction from project creativity, there is the opportunity to share life's experiences, which is especially important after COVID," John said.**

**To join the Hobsons Bay Men's Shed, visit [www.hobsonsnet.com](http://www.hobsonsnet.com)**



# BUSINESS AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCED!

A big thank you to everyone who nominated a business for the 2023 Business Excellence Awards!

The awards celebrate the efforts of our local businesses, both large and small, and recognise their achievements and contributions to the community and economy in Hobsons Bay.

The winners will be announced at the Business Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday 25 October.

Check out the finalists on our website



Do you have ideas on how we can make Hobsons Bay a better place to live, work, visit and play?

We regularly seek feedback on projects, policies and programs we are developing to improve our city. All community consultations are featured on our Participate Hobsons Bay website and you can sign up to receive newsletters and notifications when new consultations open.

Your valuable feedback will help refine designs, modify services and ensure policies reflect the needs and wants of our community.

We have lots of community consultations coming up, keep an eye out for:

- A Fair Hobsons Bay for All
- Biodiversity strategy
- Tourism strategy

Find out more



## DID YOU KNOW?

What was the fastest growing language in Hobsons Bay in the past five years?

See page 11 for the answer

# LIBRARIES NEWS



## FUN FACT

Over a lifetime of return journeys from Hobsons Bay to their arctic breeding grounds in Siberia and Alaska, many migratory birds will fly further than from the earth to the moon and back!



## SPOT A BIRD

Each year Hobsons Bay's migratory birds fly 11,000 km from their summer home on our shores to as far away as the Arctic! These beautiful birds then return to Hobsons Bay in October.

With the warmer spring weather it's the perfect time to check the skies for our feathered friends – and the Altona Library can help you!

You can borrow bird identification guides and even binoculars from the library. The binoculars are easy to use and make it easier to identify birds.

Visit the EnviroCentre at Altona Library to find out more about the items you can borrow with your library card.

### Where can I spot migratory birds?

Migratory birds visit Hobsons Bay from October to May each year.

You can spot them at many places, including:

- Altona Coastal Park, ford crossing
- Apex Park
- Doug Grant Reserve
- Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve
- Mouth of Laverton Creek
- Paisley-Challis Wetlands
- Point Gellibrand – Shelly Beach
- Seaholme Foreshore
- Stony Creek Backwash
- Sandy Point Nature Reserve
- Truganina Park
- Truganina Swamp

## WINGS TO WELLNESS

Celebrate the migratory birds returning to our shores and the importance of mental health with a fun day of activities on Saturday 14 October, 11am to 3pm at the Truganina Explosives Reserve in Altona.

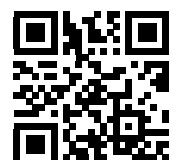
Join multi award-winning children's author Claire Saxby to launch her new book *The Secrets of the Saltmarsh*.

There will also be tree and native plant giveaways, forest therapy and eco-anxiety workshops, roving entertainment and a kids' arts and craft stall.

The event is in partnership with our conservation rangers, libraries team and Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre.

### Want to learn more?

Watch our animated video to trace the path of a red-necked stint's journey from Hobsons Bay to Siberia



# MEET MCH NURSE LEANNE

Maternal and child health (MCH) nurse Leanne is one of our team of qualified nurses who provide invaluable support to all Hobsons Bay families with children from birth to six years old.

With over 20 years' experience as a registered nurse and midwife, Leanne shares her experiences and tips for new families.



### What do you love about your job?

My job is all about helping families. I love seeing the bonds between parents and babies grow and their relationships enhanced. It's also great to be around toddlers, they're fun! We could all benefit from viewing the world with the curiosity and wonder of a toddler.

### What tips do you have for new families?

Your baby is your best guide to what they need. While it's tempting to search for answers on social media and websites, your baby will tell you how much sleep they need, when they're hungry and when they're unwell.

Like every person, your baby is an individual with moods, likes, dislikes and needs. No parent and baby are the same, and no two families are the same. If you follow your child's lead, they will grow into a kind, secure, happy human being.

### What tips do you have for baby settling?

The main thing to help babies to settle is understanding when your baby is tired and putting them to sleep before they get overtired. You also need to give your baby the opportunity to learn how to go to sleep independently. They will thank you for the opportunity and look forward to bedtime.

### What tips do you have for picky eaters?

Grated veggies are fantastic to get picky eaters to eat greens. Or you could make smoothies with spinach, zucchini and even kale. You can add a date, fresh pineapple or banana to make it sweet.

For lunch and dinner, don't force your child to eat. Serve a nutritious meal and let your child decide what they're going to eat and how much. It's best not to play games or incentivise eating, your child will eat if they're hungry.

### What's the most common question you get asked?

Is it ok that my baby has a sniffly nose? This is normal for newborns as everything in the air is new and their nostrils/air ways are so tiny.

### How can I improve speech?

Read and talk to your baby and toddler. How much they are talked to reflects how many words they know when they're two years old.

**For more maternal and child health resources, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MCH)**

## Subscribe to From newborn to school

Subscribe to our new quarterly newsletter for families.

We'll keep you updated with parenting programs, family-friendly events, and services for our youngest residents and families.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Check your local knowledge against the answers





# WHAT'S ON

## HOBSONS BAY SENIORS FESTIVAL

**1 to 31 October**

Seniors Festival is back for 2023 with a packed program for, and in celebration of, Hobsons Bay's older residents. Throughout October, take part in a wide range of free or low-cost events and activities across the city. Join a free walking tour, learn new skills in workshops, put on your dancing shoes or go on a bus tour. Bookings are required for most events.

To view the program and secure your spot, visit



## MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL

**3 to 22 October**

The Melbourne Fringe Festival returns to Hobsons Bay in October with a line-up of experimental performance, puppet mayhem and contemporary art to delight and inspire. Featuring work from western suburbs emerging artists, plus Joel Bray Dance, The Rabble and A Blanck Canvas, this year's program is not to be missed.

For full program details and more information, visit



## ARTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Double Feature by Damian Callinan

**Thursday 19 October at 7.30pm**  
*Altona Theatre*

The surprise discovery of his mother's 1946 diary leads three-time Barry Award nominee Damian Callinan on a cinematic, romantic romp through post-war Melbourne. However, her diary poses more questions than it does answers.

Tickets: Adult \$35, Concession \$25  
Groups (10+) \$30

To book, visit



## LAUNCH OF THE STEAM CENTRE AT ALTONA MEADOWS LIBRARY

**Saturday 21 October, 10am to 2pm**  
*2 Newham Way, Altona Meadows*

Celebrate the reopening of the new and improved Altona Meadows Library and the launch of its STEAM centre. We have a lineup of exciting events planned to kick off Children's Week, including a silent disco, a thrilling robot race, an immersive sensory zone experience, and much more! For details, visit [hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Whats-On-and-News](http://hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Whats-On-and-News)

## CHILDREN'S WEEK

**21 to 29 October**

Don't miss the fantastic program of free events and activities at our libraries, community hubs and sporting clubs, details on page 5.

## WILLIAMSTOWN HIGHLAND CELTIC FESTIVAL

**Saturday 28 October, 10am to 3pm**  
*Seaworks, Williamstown*

A day of dancing, pipe bands, folk music, displays and stalls. This event is proudly supported by Council through the Make it Happen grants program. To book tickets, visit [seaworks.com.au/events/williamstown-highland-celtic-festival](http://seaworks.com.au/events/williamstown-highland-celtic-festival)

## MONSTER MAYHEM

**Saturday 28 October, 3pm to 8pm**  
*AB Shaw Reserve, Altona Meadows*

Celebrate Halloween with an afternoon of fun, rides, food and entertainment. The event is organised by the Altona Meadows Community Association and is proudly supported through our Make it Happen grants program. Come down and pick up a free tree, chat to Council staff and say hi to your local Councillors.

For ride tickets, visit



## ALWAYS LIVE END OF THE LINE

**Saturday 9 December, 2pm to 8pm**  
*Commonwealth Reserve, Williamstown*

Tap on and join the party with ALWAYS LIVE and Metro Trains.

A free family-friendly festival, featuring Alex Lahey, Alice Skye, Meghna and Philly.

This event is part of ALWAYS LIVE 2023, a 17-day state-wide celebration of contemporary live music supported by the Victorian Government through Visit Victoria. The event is alcohol free and is supported by Hobsons Bay City Council and Metro Trains.

No bookings required! To find out more, visit



## HERITAGE WALKING TOUR

Step back in time and unlock the secrets of Williamstown during a free heritage walking tour. Explore hidden lanes, an abandoned morgue, historical buildings and monuments guided by a knowledgeable volunteer. Tours operate every Tuesday and Friday during spring, excluding Melbourne Cup Day on 7 November.

For further information and to book, scan



## HOBSONS BAY Life

Stay in the know with local news, events and stories delivered straight to your inbox. **Subscribe to our new monthly newsletter**

