

HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 25
Spring 2021



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URBAN FOREST

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ASSISTANCE

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the spring edition of Hobsons Bay Community News. I would like to begin by truly thanking the community during this last lockdown for stepping up and doing their part so we can get back to doing what we love.

COVID-19 has impacted us all and there is support available. On page 6, you will find information on rate waivers, Council's Community Connector program and free counselling for young people aged 12 to 25.

Throughout the year, we have seen and heard of many examples of goodwill and community spirit. If you know of someone who has contributed to the social connect and wellbeing of our city, nominate them for the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year (details below).

We are also recognising the achievements and contributions businesses have made to Hobsons Bay, join us for the 2021 Business Excellence Awards on Thursday 11 November, details on the back page. Speaking of businesses, see page 4 for ways you can support local businesses through our Hobsons Bay Christmas Gift and Event Guide.

This newsletter is also filled with great ways you can help green Hobsons Bay (page 3) and play a role in transforming our industrial precincts to support a more sustainable and resilient economy (page 4).

Stay safe and well,

Cr Jonathon Marsden
Mayor of Hobsons Bay

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Hobsons Bay Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year Awards. These annual awards give the public an opportunity to acknowledge the excellent work being done by individuals in the community. Nominees must be Australian citizens who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay. Nominate online at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/citizenawards or pick up a hard copy nomination form from the Altona Civic Centre or your local library when they reopen. Nominations close Friday 10 December.

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.

Cover image: The Altona Civic Centre has been fitted with solar panels as part of Council's large scale virtual power plant and solar panel roll out.

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



PUBLIC BINS ROLLOUT

General rubbish, recycling and glass bins will soon be trialled in selected parks, reserves, beaches and retail areas in Hobsons Bay. As part of the trial, residents and visitors in Hobsons Bay will soon be able to recycle when they are away from home. Results from a waste audit showed the three-bin system was optimal for public bins. You can provide feedback on the trial at **participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au**

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cherry Lake Ward

Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Brooklyn, Seaholme



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Wetlands Ward

Altona Meadows, Laverton, Seabrook



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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

g www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

f facebook.com/HobsonsBayCityCouncil

i instagram.com/HobsonsBayCC

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

t twitter.com/HobsonsBayCC

WASTE AND RECYCLING

As part of Council's kerbside recycling and waste reforms, we're making some changes to our service. The changes come after the recent review of our four-bin service, which considered the first year of operational data and extensive community feedback. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback. The results of the review are available on Council's website hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/WasteandRecyclingReview

Bin frequency changes

weekly rubbish,
fortnightly food and garden

From Monday 1 November:



Rubbish
Collected weekly



Food and garden waste
Collected fortnightly

Download Council's free Recycling 2.0 smartphone app to set bin-night reminders and to access all you need to know about waste reduction and recycling.

Join the trial

and receive paper bags for food scraps

Avoiding and recycling food waste at home has a huge impact on reducing landfill. Some estimates say food waste makes up a third of all household rubbish bins. To encourage food waste recycling and reduce the potential for mess in your 'green' bin, Council will be trialling the use of paper bags to contain food scraps.

It's anticipated the trial will be open to all households early next year. Those who register will receive a free trial pack of paper bags and will be asked to provide feedback via survey questions.

Registrations are now open. To register and for more info, see Council's website hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/PaperBagTrial

One size doesn't fit all

Upsize or downsize your bins

Did you know that there are two bin sizes for general rubbish and food and garden waste - 120L and 240L?

The smaller 120L size bin is standard, as part of your annual waste service charge. Households can change the size of their bins anytime using the form at Council's 'New, additional and replacement bins' webpage.

hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/BinsRequest



TOGETHER WE CAN build an Urban Forest

Trees help clean our air, improve wildlife corridors, reduce electricity bills, provide shade, and cool our urban areas. Plus, they look and smell great!

More trees for a better life. The right trees for a better future.

You can help green Hobsons Bay and achieve our 30 per cent tree canopy by 2040, all you need to do is:

Plant a virtual tree

Plant a virtual tree on our draft Urban Canopy Delivery Plan where you want to see a real one.

As part of the Urban Forest Strategy, the draft plan will diversify our street trees and reduce urban heat.

You can even nominate an area that is asphalt or concrete as Council is trialling technology that is suited for 'harder to plant areas' to passively water trees.

You can also identify areas on private land and Council will do our best to partner with local landowners, businesses, and organisations to add extra greenery.

Plant your virtual tree at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy

Feedback closes **Wednesday 24 November**.

Plant a real tree

As part of the consultation, we'll deliver a tree to your door. You can choose one of the five species below (subject to availability):

- Dwarf Yellow Blood- *Corymbia eximia* 'Nana'
- Jacaranda - *Jacaranda mimosifolia*
- Crepe Myrtle- *Lagerstromia indica*
- Lemon-scented Teatree - *Leptospermum petersonii*
- Showy Honey-myrtle- *Melaleuca nesophila*

Be a tree champion

1. Nominate your street to be a Green Street and help select and care for the trees. Nominations close Wednesday 24 November

2. Plant a tree or two in your yard, check out the factsheets on our website (hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UrbanForestStrategy) for the best tree species for Hobsons Bay

3. Nominate a *Lagunaria patersonia* (commonly called Itchy Bomb Tree or Norfolk Island Hibiscus) to be replaced. Norfolk Island Hibiscus can cause skin irritation and is now regarded as an environmental weed in many parts of Australia – including in Hobsons Bay participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy

Share your tree

Have you planted a tree as part of one of our tree giveaways? Share a photo of your tree on social media and go into a draw to win great prizes, including nursery vouchers. Use the hashtag **#BuildingOurUrbanForest**

Remember, if your account or post is set to private, we won't be able to see it!

Competition closes **30 November**.

For more information on Council's Urban Forest Strategy, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/urbanforeststrategy



REIMAGINING OUR INDUSTRIAL AREAS

Hobsons Bay's local economy is on the cusp of an exciting new chapter and you can be a part of it!

Globalisation, technological advancements, and climate change, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have significantly transformed Melbourne's economy.

Hobsons Bay has an opportunity to take advantage of this shift towards a more 'knowledge-based' economy and attract industry sectors that employ specialist skills and innovation.

One third of Hobsons Bay is industrial land, the majority of which has been declared as 'state significant', providing 50 per cent of local jobs.

With our proximity to the CBD, industrial legacy and a skilled workforce, Hobsons Bay can attract new and emerging industries and be the location of choice to invest in Melbourne's West.

The Reimagining Our Industrial Areas project aims to:

- ✓ Increase local jobs and diversify our industry sectors
- ✓ Become an environmental leader
- ✓ Balance job growth with community impacts
- ✓ Continue to be a major economic force in the Victorian economy

For residents, transforming our economy to be more resilient and diverse means more job opportunities closer to home and cleaner and greener industries.

Through research and initial consultation with stakeholders, we've identified four industry sectors which could transform our economy:

- advanced manufacturing
- new energy
- digital industries
- recycling and repurposing

We are asking for your feedback to help us shape the future of our key industrial precincts.

Your feedback will be critical to helping update our local policies that will enable transformation in our industrial areas. Specifically, feedback will be used to review Council's Industrial Land Management Strategy and Economic Development Strategy.

Learn more and have your say at participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/reimagining

Feedback closes on
Sunday 14 November



Christmas

COMING SOON!

Shop, eat and drink local this Christmas with the Hobsons Bay Christmas Gift and Event Guide.

The guide will be available mid-November and showcase our city's finest locally made goods, gifts, and festive dining experiences in an easy to read digital magazine. With direct links to businesses' websites, you can shop local – either in the comfort of your own home or by exploring our shops in person dependent on current restrictions.

Flip through the gift guide over a cup of tea and plan your Christmas shopping list or create a wish list of your own. From gift hampers, handmade jewellery, and clothing to homewares and children's toys, you will be sure to find something for everyone on your list. If you're looking for something a bit more active, sort through our list of local experiences and opt to purchase a gift voucher for that someone special.

As you are planning your Christmas list, it might also be worth planning some festive celebrations. Read about some of Hobsons Bay's diverse restaurants and entertainment venues and aim to try something new this season or plan a walk through our suburbs to view the decorated windows of our Shops on Show participants.

For more information and to view the gift and event guide visit hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/Christmas



VIRTUAL *power*

The Altona Civic Centre, Newport Community Hub and the Laverton building that houses social enterprise Mesh Mash are the latest Council-owned community facilities to host their new 'solar system', joining over 40 local buildings to be fitted out with solar panels as part of Council's large scale virtual power plant and solar panel roll out.

The rooftop panels will generate renewable energy required onsite, and surplus clean, green power will be moved from one building to another within the network, reducing Council's reliance on grid-supplied energy. In a future phase, it will become a true Virtual Power Plant (VPP) by adding batteries.

Once installation at all sites is complete in the coming months, Council will have the capacity to generate almost four megawatts of solar power across the network, which is enough energy

to power approximately 1,000 average Victorian households.

Residents of Hobsons Bay can take pride in knowing their community facilities are being powered by green energy. It is estimated that the project will reduce Council emissions by 55 per cent (4,000 tonnes per annum), which helps reach the community's vision of zero emissions by 2030.

At the Altona Civic Centre, one of the network's high yield sites, the 402 kW system will supply about 80 per cent of the building's energy needs. The 513,555 kW of estimated energy generated annually on site is enough energy to supply over 110 average Victorian households. Over 2,000 square metres of panel coverage is on the civic centre's roof, which is over the size of four and a half standard basketball courts.

Council's infrastructure investment in the project is expected to be repaid from energy savings within nine years.

For more information and to get to know your local Virtual Power sites, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/solar

SHOUT OUT FOR OUR COMMUNITY, MAKING IT HAPPEN!

There is no doubt that the past 18 months have been beyond challenging but there are people in our community who have continued to work hard and think creatively about how we can reconnect and recover in a post pandemic world.

Through Council's Make it Happen grants, we are fortunate to see a lot of this community energy up close. We've marveled at the resilience of groups changing programs from face-to-face to virtual or something in between, postponing or rescheduling events time

and time again, or running committee meetings online to keep in touch and ensure our community has something to look forward to when restrictions ease.

We will continue to update the Make it Happen grants page with stories and updates, and highlights, as we celebrate our community making it happen.

Some recent examples, perfectly timed between COVID outbreaks, have included:

- the Pier Festival at Seaworks as part of Midsumma Festival from 24 April to 5 May
- Rotary Altona City's inaugural Hobsons Bay Wynspeak Heat at the Altona Theatre in May
- the Move It for Kids program to support hundreds of children and adults to dance, sing, laugh and play along to scores of music online

- Hobsons Bay Arts Society's series of online and in person (once restrictions allow) informative talks, local tours and sketching sessions in partnership with local historical and environmental groups
- Dance for Parkinson's friendly and inclusive online class that welcomes all older adults, their families and carers to join a seated to standing weekly dance class based on the respected Dance for Parkinson's Disease method.

For more information and to register for updates regarding future Council grant programs, please email grants@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

To see other great projects supported by Make it Happen grants, visit: hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/MakeItHappen

FINANCIAL Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted us all, some more than others. Financial support is available for ratepayers who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Eligibility for rates waiver

(reduced amount owing on your rate account)

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

For businesses: 20 per cent decrease in turnover.

The exact amounts to be waived will be determined in line with the allocation of approximately \$525,000 after the number of eligible applicants is determined. Interest free rate deferrals are also available.

To apply, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/financialassistance

Applications close on
1 December 2021



EASY ACCESS TO IMMEDIATE SUPPORT

If you're in need of support, there are many services and organisations in Hobsons Bay that are available to help. Through the Hobsons Bay Community Has Heart Community Connector program trained Council staff provide one-on-one support to link people with local service providers and networks with a wide range of services including:

- food
- medication and nappies
- cleaning supplies and masks
- counselling
- library services
- social activities
- COVID-19 information in your language
- aged care and family services
- domestic violence support services
- emergency pet food and dog walking

For details, call 1300 179 944 or visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HBCommunityhasHeart

FUNDED THREE AND FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN IN HOBSONS BAY!

Kindergartens are a safe space for learning, adventures and developing strong social skills.

Even during lockdown kindergarten kids have had lots of fun staying engaged and active online. Robina Scott Kindergarten teacher Melanie Sullivan went the extra mile to bring happiness to her students by organising a virtual Werribee Zoo tour and delivering learning packs when the kindergartens physical doors were closed.

Thanks to state government funding, three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten is free/low cost to families on a healthcare card from 2022. Families can now register to attend kindergarten next year



through Council's kindergarten central registration portal. Children can be registered for three-year-old kindergarten from the age of one and four-year-old kindergarten from the age of two through the portal or by phoning **1300 179 944**. To find out more and to view a 'How to register for Kindergarten' video translated into five community languages, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/kindergartens

FREE YOUTH COUNSELLING

Hobsons Bay UP, Council's Youth Services team, is a dedicated team of staff providing support to young people in Hobsons Bay aged 12 to 25.

The team includes Youth Counsellors who can provide a general youth counselling service, tailored to meet the needs of each young person.

Depending on need, young people can access up to 10 sessions with a counsellor, and these are delivered either face-to-face or online. Sessions are confidential and at no charge to the young person.

Young people or their parents/carers can call to discuss counselling needs and

Basic criteria apply, and the young person:

- must be aged 12 to 25
- must live, work or study in Hobsons Bay
- cannot be receiving any other formal counselling or therapy
- must voluntarily agree to attend the counselling session/s

options on **9932 4000** or email youthcounselling@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au, or complete an online referral form at hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/UP

If you're a young person and counselling isn't what you need, but you're interested in other events, programs or want to get involved in shaping our programs, follow us on facebook.com/HobsonsBayUP and instagram.com/hobsonsbayup, or email admins@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

What's happening *in your ward?*



Cherry Lake Ward

Walkers and cyclists using the **Kororoit Creek Shared Trail** can now enjoy a new viewing platform to admire the creek and wetlands. The viewing platform in GJ Hosken Reserve at Altona North, has seating and picnic facilities and is constructed from recycled timber and recycled plastic. Visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/KororoitCreekReserve

Traffic flow in central Altona will soon be improved under a plan to upgrade five key intersections with roundabouts. The roundabouts will provide safer access to streets, new pedestrian refuges and pram ramps. Three locations are on Blyth Street at the intersection with Seves Street, Mount Street and Bent Street and two are on Queen Street at the intersection of Sargood Street and McBain Street. The project will also include an upgrade to the existing pedestrian crossing on Queen Street at Altona Library. The works are funded by the Victorian Government and scheduled to commence in November.

Stage one of the **Altona Tennis Club refurbishment** in Bluegum Drive is complete. The light poles and sustainable LED lights have been craned into position and the new fences and nets have been installed. The renewal of six clay courts for stage 2 along Fresno Street are under way and expected to be completed by the end of the year. The project is jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government.

The **Altona Surf Life Saving Tower upgrade** is anticipated to be completed in time for the summer season. The Exeloo has been removed to make way for the expansion to the first aid room and the new upstairs roof framing has been installed. For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSurfLifeSavingTowerUpgrade

Strand Ward

The **Blenheim Road park project** works will commence shortly. Located next to the Australian Islamic Centre and Altona Miniature Railway, the park will include picnic areas, toilets, a play area, landscaping and a meditation space with decking. It is expected that the construction will be completed by June 2022.

Outdoor puzzles are coming to Newport with a creative twist to the fencing at the **Newport Bowls Club**. The puzzle fencing is located between the children's playground and the Newport Lawn Bowls Club. It is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Digman Reserve's play space in Newport is set for a facelift next year. A multi-age playground, including a basketball activity court, in-ground trampoline, swings, shelter and landscaping will replace the existing play structure at the western end of the reserve. Construction is expected to begin in April 2022. Visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/digman-reserve

Traffic improvements are coming to the **Williamstown Esplanade** between Thomson Street and Gifford Street just in time for summer! The safety treatments include replacing the existing nine sets of speed cushions to seven flat top speed humps and one raised platform crossing. The works will replace aging infrastructure, help keep traffic speeds low and improve pedestrian connectivity. There will be no loss of parking and works will begin later this year subject to any COVID-19 restrictions.

Works to build an additional children's room and outdoor area at the **Newport Gardens Early Years Centre** kicked off in August 2021. The expansion is a partnership with Council and the Victorian Government and will allow an extra 33 children to learn and play! From 2022, the centre will provide additional funded three-year-old kindergarten programs.

Wetlands Ward

The extension of the **Altona Sports Centre** is finished! Home to over 30 clubs, the extension adds four new indoor courts to the facility, bringing the total to 10 indoor and two outdoor courts. Minister for Community Sport the Hon. Ros Spence MP is scheduled to officially open the Altona Sports Centre on Wednesday 10 November. Visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/AltonaSportsCentre for more information.

The **Love Laverton Focus Group** is being established to help drive the rollout of the Better Places Laverton Place Guide. The group will meet regularly and aims to channel local energy and community leadership to make the Laverton vision a reality. For more information, visit participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/better-places-laverton

Laverton will soon have a revamped play space and a range of activity options for the local community with the **Frank Gibson Reserve** upgrade nearing completion. The upgrade, as part of Better Places Laverton, through the Love Laverton Parks Program, includes new play equipment, meandering footpaths, park furniture, a basketball activity space and junior soccer goals. As part of the upgrade, the cricket pitch has also been resurfaced and parts of the park have been irrigated to ensure the successful growth of new garden beds and trees within the park.

Turn ban signs have been installed on **Point Cook Road** as part of a trial to minimise rat-running traffic on local roads in Seabrook. While Point Cook Road is managed by Department of Transport, it is hoped the turn ban signs will ease the congestion on the surrounding streets. Council will monitor their effectiveness with traffic surveys.



2021 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

This year more than ever, Council wants to celebrate the efforts of our local businesses, both large and small, during these difficult times.

Join us for the gala online awards night from 7pm on Thursday 11 November to recognise the achievements and contributions businesses have made to the community and economy in Hobsons Bay.

CATEGORIES



Excellence in Customer Experience



New or Start Up Business
(up to 2 years old)



Excellence in Sustainability



Creating Social Change



Pivoting during COVID-19



Find out more and register to view the event live at hobsonsbaybusiness.com.au/business-awards or email business@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

MORE THAN BOOKS

The Libraries Team host a diverse range of programs and events for all ages!

Keep an eye on the library website for events or follow them on social media - libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/whats-on/event-calendar

If you're not a member sign up for free at libraries.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au or call **1300 462 542**

Heritage Help

Are you new to family history? Or do you want to learn more about your local area? The libraries' monthly Heritage Help sessions will help get you started! Visit the library website for more details.

Upcoming sessions

Wednesday 10 November,
11am to 12pm: Trove for Beginners

Wednesday 8 December, 11am to 12pm:
Discover your military ancestors



WHERE THE STREETS HAVE KNOWN NAMES - HERITAGE STREET SIGNS

Hobsons Bay enjoys a rich cultural history and many of our streets honour the lives of business, political, cultural and community leaders. The current program includes 45 streets dotted across our city, which showcase important elements of our past, including our vibrant maritime history. As you walk around your neighbourhood, look out for the green heritage street signs. To find a heritage street sign near you, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/HeritageStreetSigns

ARTS & EVENTS ENEWS

Want to stay in the loop on what's going on in Hobsons Bay? Sign up to the Hobsons Bay Arts & Events eNews. Whether it is about what is happening online or what is being planned in our neighbourhoods as the city starts to emerge out of lockdown, we will do our best to keep you informed and up-to-date. This monthly e-newsletter is the ultimate source for upcoming events, activities, and artistic goings on across the city. In addition to the monthly edition, subscribers also get additional notices about special events or programs, like exhibition openings. Sign up here today: hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CommunityArts-Culture-Heritage



Hobsons Bay Community Action and Leadership

Learn, share, act, volunteer, grow

What makes a great community? You do! Hobsons Bay is home to a host of volunteer groups, clubs, committees, networks, boards, not for profits supporting opportunities for and the needs of our community, including across recreation, sports, arts, environment, faith and culturally and linguistically diverse interests.

Our community sector is supported by Council through the delivery of a program of workshops, training and information sessions, called Hobsons Bay Community Action and Leadership. Mostly provided online and always free, the taking part in Community Action and Leadership sessions can be a great way to build skills, network, and build the capacity of your group, sector, and yourself. Interested? To look at the program or register for sessions online hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CommunityActionandLeadership

Please contact the Community Development Team on **1300 179 944** or commdev@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au if you have any questions or require additional support to participate in the sessions.