

HOBSONS BAY

NEWS / INFORMATION / EVENTS

EDITION 39

June / July 2024



WINTER IN NELSON PLACE

VISIT WILLIAMSTOWN FOR
FAMILY FUN IN THE SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS - 28 JUNE TO 14 JULY.
(FOR DETAILS, SEE PAGES 6 AND 7)

**PHOTOGRAPHY
COMPETITION**

See page 4 for details



3 DAUGHTERS
OF THE WEST

5 SOLAR
SAVERS

**HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We're embracing the cooler weather with plenty of winter fun planned across Hobsons Bay.

Come down to Nelson Place in Williamstown during the school holidays to enjoy ice skating and light projections on our heritage buildings, details on pages 6 and 7.

We also have a range of free activities organised by our youth services team; scan the QR code on the back page for details.

If you're a young person looking for work or career advice, don't miss the Pathways to Work Expo at Grazeled in Spotswood on Friday 26 July – a key part of my Mayoral program, details on page 3.

While you're exploring Hobsons Bay during winter, capture the moment and enter our winter fun photography competition, details on page 4.

In this edition we chat with a few local legends. Kim Shields reflects on her journey as part of the 10-week health and wellbeing program Daughters of the West, see page 3.

We also chat to Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre volunteer Jenny Mitchell about what motivates her to volunteer on page 9 and one of our librarians, Konika, highlights the library's diversity and inclusion collection on page 10.

Lastly, congratulations to community group ParKanDo, which won a prestigious Volunteering Victoria award – it was a real treat to connect with Pam and Peter recently, details on page 11.

Stay well,

Cr Matt Tyler
Mayor of Hobsons Bay

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UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 11 June

Tuesday 25 June

Tuesday 9 July

Tuesday 13 August

Tuesday 10 September

For more information, visit hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

HOBSONS BAY *Life*

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

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Wetlands Ward



Cr Diana Grima

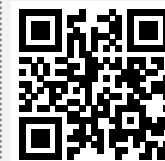
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Mayor Cr Matt Tyler

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Connect with Councillors on social media



Scan QR code for details

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[linkedin.com/company/hobsons-bay-city-council](https://www.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: Ice-skating in Nelson Place, view pages 6 and 7 for details.

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

BULLDOGS PROGRAM CONNECTS COMMUNITY

For Hobsons Bay mother of two, Kim Shields, joining the 10-week health and wellbeing program Daughters of the West became much more than something to do during COVID.

“I’ve gained confidence, learnt so much about myself, and expanded my community,” Kim said.

“I was surprised how beneficial I found it and I look forward to it each year.”

Kim first joined the Daughters of the West program in the height of COVID when everything was online. The sessions, facilitated by the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, are now face-to-face and run weekly for two hours.

Each week, participants learn about a different health and wellbeing topic from an expert guest speaker and take part in fun, group-based exercises with varying levels of intensity (low, medium, and high).

“It’s such a safe welcoming environment, you can contribute without fear of embarrassment, there is no judgement,” said Kim.

“The instructors encourage you to do all the activities but there’s no pressure and the topics are so varied from learning healthy habits, financial tips and learning about the local community.”

Through Daughters of the West, Kim has met many women from all walks of life.

“Over the 10 weeks, we get to know each other and even though we’re all different ages and different backgrounds, we find common ground and learn from each other,” she said.

“Whenever I go to the shops, I see ‘daughters’ and stop for a chat. It’s become an external support group and lots of members have joined walking groups and regularly catch up for coffee.”

Daughters of the West is open to women and those who identify as women, aged 18 and over who live or work in the west of Melbourne.



This year’s program runs from 15 July to 18 September at Laverton Community Hub on Mondays, 1pm to 3pm and Brooklyn Community Hall on Wednesdays, 7pm to 9pm.

To apply, visit

www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/dotw

The Sons of the West program ran earlier this year in March, keep your eye on our website to express your interest and for updates on next year’s program.

Council is a proud partner to the Daughters of the West and Sons of the West programs, which are initiatives of the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation.

We’re taking over GrazeLand for the day to showcase jobs and career pathways in Hobsons Bay and beyond.

Join recruiting experts, support services, local businesses and industry leaders and take a step towards finding a job.

Pathways to Work Expo is the perfect opportunity for young people looking to enter the workforce for the first time and those looking for career advice to find opportunities close to home and further afield.



To find out more, scan 

DID YOU KNOW?

True or false – All residents can apply for a ticket machine parking permit.

See page 11 for the answer



Rashmi Patel and her exhibited work. Photo credit: Jonabelle Cogan



Photo credit: Self-portrait by Jonabelle Cogan

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COMPETITION WINNERS!



James Konstantinidis from Seaholme won our heritage writing competition in the April/May edition of the magazine.

In the heart of Altona, amid the salty breeze and the lively Pier Street, my family's café stood as a beacon of community and camaraderie. As a young boy, I immersed myself in its rhythm, mastering the art of the barista and the stories behind each regular's favourite coffee. Nights unfurled into symphonies of chatter, where locals and those from far and wide, shared tales over the rich aroma of roasted beans. Closing up with my dad, under the amber glow of streetlights, became a cherished ritual, brewed with laughter and warmth. I never fathomed its end. Pedaling home for the last time, I lost a piece of my heart. Yet, Altona helped me find it — I guess home really is where the heart is.

Ava McCutcheon from Williamstown won the under 18 category.

Hi, I'm Ava and I'm 9 years old. I am the 5th generation to go to St Mary's Primary School. When my Nan went to St Mary's, she marched into class, but I walk. Out my classroom window, I see the playground, but Nan saw the Post Office. At lunchtime Nan played hopscotch, I swing on the monkey bars. Nan was in a crowded classroom where 94 kids would sit on desks, the floor and windowsills, I have a table all to myself. The bell would ring by pulling a rope, now an electric bell rings I must go to class, I hope you liked my story bye.

OUR CREATIVE CITY

Meet two artists from the west who took part in the Wunder Gym program and exhibited their art locally.

The Wunder Gym program is annually presented as a partnership between Hobsons Bay and Wyndham City councils as part of the Melbourne Fringe Festival, and is facilitated by artist and mentor Annette Wagner.

Rashmi Patel from Seabrook was part of Wunder Gym's Artist as Curator program.

"It was immensely gratifying to work with other artists and curators to have my work exhibited at the Wyndham Cultural Centre," said Rashmi.

"To be part of such a diverse group, to read my work during the opening of the show, to be able to share my art with a wide audience gives me hope as an emerging artist of colour."

As a first-generation immigrant, themes of belonging and unbelonging are important to Rashmi and depicted in her work.

"My artistic work aims to integrate and make meaning out of the turmoil of my inner and outer worlds. Using mixed media printmaking techniques, I use images, found objects, and words to share my lived experience in the hope that others relate to these experiences and feel a

sense of being seen and heard," said Rashmi.

Multidisciplinary artist Jonabelle Cogan from Hoppers Crossing took part in the Recollection art program last year as part of the Wunder Gym program and had her work exhibited at the 2023 Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Jonabelle highly recommends the Wunder Gym program to emerging artists who are looking for a supportive environment to develop their creative practice.

"I don't think I could have done the work I have done to date without Wunder Gym. I believe I have grown as an artist and learnt so much about the industry by being a part of the program. Artists who've done the program previously have told me how much Wunder Gym has changed their lives. It's true. It is life changing."

Jonabelle will have her work exhibited at Laneway Gallery in Laverton until 26 July and will host a free photo montage workshop at Woods Street Arts Space. To register for the free workshop, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/woodsstreetarts

Expressions of interest for this year's program open on 10 June, to find out more visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Creative-Opportunities



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Take a photo of winter fun in Hobsons Bay for your chance to win a \$100 voucher from a Hobsons Bay business of your choice.

The winner will be published in the next edition of Hobsons Bay News.

View the terms and conditions and submit your photo by Sunday 30 June



Scan QR Code

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

for a better future



WE'RE MAKING IT EASIER THAN EVER TO INSTALL SOLAR!

Interested in solar panels but don't know where to start? Our new Solar Savers program is here to help make solar installation easy, affordable and reliable for residents and businesses.

When you go through our complimentary Solar Savers program:

- we suggest a trusted solar installer
- we check which government rebates you can claim, and
- we give you free support right through the process!

Whether you're a homeowner, landlord or business owner, join an online webinar to learn about our Solar Savers program on Thursday 20 June, 7pm to 8pm.



Register now

BE THE SOLUTION TO PLASTIC POLLUTION THIS JULY

Plastic Free July is a global movement that supports communities to refuse single-use plastic every day.

It's not about boycotting plastic altogether – just choose one item to avoid. Taking the challenge will help you find great alternatives that can become new habits forever.

It might seem like a small step, but when 140 million people take a step together, it gets noticed. Plastic Free July participants make a big difference by stopping about 300 million kilos of plastic polluting the world each year!

Join the Plastic Free July challenge



WORM FARMS AND HOME COMPOSTING

Whether you're interested in a worm farm or a compact bin to transform food waste into liquid gold for your garden, a home composting system makes a rewarding hobby for all ages.

It's easy and affordable to get started with a range of low-maintenance products offered to Hobsons Bay residents at discounted prices.



Learn more and pick your product today

YOUTH FEST 2024

Youth Fest is a month-long celebration of young people in Victoria, and we want you to be part of it!

Hobsons Bay Youth Services are seeking young people aged 12-25 years to contribute to the planning and development of Youth Fest in September 2024.

Music, skating, art, film, fashion, events - whatever you're into, we want to hear from you. Help make it the best Youth Fest ever!

We're recruiting the Youth Fest 2024 planning committee – an opportunity for you to gain event management, leadership and development skills, and make some great new friends too.

If you'd like to be a part of it, please get in touch by emailing the Youth Services team at youth@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

DID YOU KNOW?

True or false – You can recycle all types of wrapping paper.

See page 11 for the answer

WINTER HOLIDAYS

Nelson Place

**28 JUNE
TO 14 JULY**

Come down to Williamstown and enjoy ice skating and light projections.

Low-cost winter family fun at Commonwealth Reserve and Nelson Place in Williamstown, every day from midday.

SYNTHETIC ICE-SKATING RINK

**12pm to 6pm
Sunday to Wednesday**

**12pm to 8pm
Thursday to Saturday**

Light projections from 5pm.



Bookings required for ice skating, to book your session, scan the QR code



FACES BEHIND NELSON PLACE



Christine Tiktikakis
Tick Tok owner



TICK TOK CAFE

Q. What do you love about Nelson Place?

A. I love Williamstown for so many reasons but first and foremost are the people. We are blessed to have wonderful customers that have become friends and family to us all.

Secondly, Williamstown is an amazing place to live and visit. Full of history, museums, landmarks, beaches, yacht clubs, botanical gardens, reserves and it's the only place you can see the West Gate Bridge and city in one scene. I don't think there is a more beautiful place with so many things to do in Victoria.

Q. What is your favourite winter dish?

A. My winter favourite dish, back by popular demand, is our Amarillo baked eggs in a rich light spicy tomato, capsicum, tomatillo sauce with yellow capsicum paste, cheddar cheese, spring onion served on a mini pan straight from the oven; with some toasted sourdough on the side. You can add tofu for a vegan option, and it can also be gluten free.

PLUS
Fun at the Rotunda on Fridays and Saturdays, 5pm to 7pm.



"Williamstown holds a great wealth of history, untold stories and beauty, the feeling of being near the water and its calmness. Add to this the variety of eateries, shopping and events, you don't have to travel too far to find this hidden gem!"

Rosemary Angyasy
President of the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce



Ray Doan
Lukumades store owner

LUKUMADES

Q. What do you love about Nelson Place?

A. Nelson Place has a good variety of food places to eat. Whether it's dinner, dessert or even just a coffee. It also has great dock views and a little park area for a picnic which is great for the family.

Q. Favourite offering in winter?

A. You definitely can't go wrong with the Bueno flavoured lukumades. That has been our best seller from day one. It's a hazelnut-based sauce with drizzled milk chocolate and crushed biscuits.



Altona City Soccer Club upgrade - HC Kim Reserve, Altona



Render: McLister Street, Spotswood



McCormack Park, Laverton



Greenline Project Sections

BUILDING A BETTER CITY

UPGRADED SOCCER FIELDS

The Altona City Soccer Club will soon have access to improved playing fields at HC Kim Reserve with a full upgrade on pitch 1 and irrigation upgrades on pitch 2 and 3.

The redevelopment also includes a new pavilion with six change rooms, a first aid room, umpire facilities, social space and storage.

Works on the new building are progressing well with the external brickwork and internal framing complete, and the roof and windows installed.

The project is on track to be finished in mid-2024, keep an eye on our website and social media for photos of the finished building.

GREENLINE BETTER PLACES PROJECT

GreenLine is one of the largest-scale projects incorporated into the Better Places vision for Spotswood and South Kingsville.

The vision for GreenLine is to provide major east-west and north-south active transport corridors that run through the heart of Spotswood and South Kingsville. It will link all the key destinations, including the major future development precincts, schools, Spotswood Station, and village centres.

GreenLine will also connect through to the Federation Trail and West Gate Tunnel veloway, providing a direct active transport link to the Melbourne CBD and the regional cycling network.

Concept plans have been developed for the seven sections and are planned to be delivered in stages (with some sections subject to additional funding).

Scan the QR code below to visit our webpage and view the map of the East-West (EW) and North-South (NS) GreenLine, concept designs and how each section is being planned.

Scan QR code



McCORMACK PARK REDEVELOPMENT

McCormack Park is a beloved community park centrally located in Laverton. The park includes a large play space and skate park for young people and families, and Laverton Creek runs through it.

As part of the McCormack Park master plan, the park has been reimagined to create a community place that brings people together to socialise, to play and for fitness.

Stage 1 of the development has kicked off and is focused around Laverton Creek.

Stage 1 highlights

- Establishing socialising spaces away from the main hub of activity with seating.
- Exercise stations for adults.
- Shrub and tree planting, seating and a new path connection.
- Signage and sculptural posts.

Stage 1 works are scheduled to be completed by mid-2024.

The design works for Stage 2 of the upgrade are in progress. Construction will begin in 2025.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are the backbone of our community. In this edition, we meet Jenny Mitchell OAM from the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre (HBWC).

Jenny is on the committee of management and played a key role in establishing the governance and strategic vision for the volunteer-driven not-for-profit organisation.

She first encountered the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre in 2016 after a friend introduced her to the chair, Marilyn Olliff.

“At that stage, the organisation was in its embryonic stages, and I liked the idea of writing funding submissions to help it on its way, having had a career that entailed writing resources and grant applications,” said Jenny.

“My volunteer role has changed over time. Once the organisation was incorporated in 2018, I worked on the governance team to obtain deductible gift recipient status for donations, I joined the committee of management as secretary and have now gone full circle to lead the fundraising team.”

For Jenny, volunteering is about contributing to the community and environment.



“I enjoy volunteering because it keeps my mind active in retirement and I feel as though I’m contributing to my local community,” said Jenny.

“I am very concerned about the impacts of climate change for future generations, including my grandchildren, which is why HBWC’s focus on conserving the wetlands is so important to me. Wetlands are among the most effective carbon sinks on earth, which makes it important to look after the coastal area of Hobsons Bay.”

HOBSONS BAY WETLANDS CENTRE EARLY WORKS

Construction will kick off for the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre in mid-2024.

Council is partnering with HBWC to construct a unique environmental and eco-tourism centre for

Melbourne’s west at HD Graham Reserve in Altona Meadows.

Early works to construct a temporary centre have begun while we plan and advocate to the state and federal governments to help realise the long-term vision for the centre.

For more information about the Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre, visit hobsonsbaywetlandscentre.org.au



COMMUNITY ENGAGED IN LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECTS IN HOBSONS BAY

We’re working closely with residents and business owners to ensure the community’s concerns are considered as part of the level crossing removal projects happening in Hobsons Bay.

Late last year, we established community interest groups for Champion Road and Maddox Road level crossing removal projects in Newport, and the Hudsons Road level crossing removal project in Spotswood to hear directly from the community about how these projects will impact them.

The groups meet regularly to discuss the proposed design for the projects, consider and adopt urban design principles that are provided to the state government, and hear advocacy updates from Council. The community members help us develop Council’s position on each crossing.

While Council welcomes the removal of the level crossings, Council is renewing its call to the state government to pause plans and rethink the proposed closure of Champion Road as part of its level crossing removal program and to consider alternatives.

For more information about the community interest groups and the level crossing projects, visit www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/LevelCrossingRemovalProject

DID YOU KNOW?

True or false - The most common migratory shorebird to visit Hobsons Bay is the size of a fun size mars bar.

See page 11 for the answer



LIBRARIES + COUNCIL NEWS

MEET KONIKA

Konika is one of our collections librarians with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

Her role ensures the Hobsons Bay Libraries collections, services and programs reflect our diverse community and there is something for everyone to borrow and be part of!

Q. What is part of the diversity and inclusion portfolio?

A. Our library collections include eight community languages, English language learning resources, dyslexic friendly collections, and accessible formats such as large print and audio books.

Q. What is the most popular collection or language?

A. The Italian language collection is popular!

Q. Where are the collections located?

A. Large print books, audio books and resources for English language learners are available at all library branches.

The community language collections are based at multiple library branches in Hobsons Bay.

- Altona Library has Greek, Italian, Croatian, Polish, Chinese and Vietnamese
- The STEAM Centre at Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre has Chinese, Maltese and Vietnamese. We are also trialing a small collection of Arabic, Greek and Italian.
- Altona North Community Library has Arabic, Greek and Italian.
- The library at Newport Community Hub has Arabic, Greek and Italian. Library members can request items from a different library be sent to their nearest library branch.

Q. What about collections for our younger readers?

A. There are bilingual children's books in Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek, Italian, Polish, Spanish, Croatian, Maori, Hindi, Punjabi and Sinhalese.

The bilingual children's collections are available at Altona, Altona Meadows and Altona North libraries.

Q. What other resources are there?

A. Your library membership also provides you free online access to eAudiobooks, eBooks in English, and online access to newspapers and magazines in 60 languages through PressReader.

For online content, we are looking at providing access to eBooks and eAudiobooks in community languages as well as access to online picture book collections for children in 65+ languages soon. We will be adding some more languages to the children's bilingual collection and hope to offer it at all the library branches.

Q. Besides having an inclusive library collection, how else do the libraries create a welcoming environment?

A. Great question, our libraries regularly organise cultural events, bilingual story times and cultural displays to support and celebrate Hobsons Bay's diversity.

Q. What do you love about your Job?

A. Language is such an important part of one's identity, especially in Hobsons Bay where over a quarter of the population speak another language at home. I love the opportunity my job gives me in providing this feeling of belonging through our collections, along with fostering community connections through programs like the Lunar New Year festivities. I love that my work ensures that our collections and services are inclusive and accessible.

To find out more and browse the library collections, visit





PARKANDO WINS VOLUNTEERING AWARD

A huge congratulations to Parkinson's support group ParKanDo, which won the prestigious Grassroots Volunteering Award from Volunteering Victoria!

The award was presented to members Carmel Wall, Peter Wall, Mimi Morgan and Pam West at a ceremony at Government House hosted by Victorian governor Margaret Gardner earlier in the year.

Launched in February 2020, ParKanDo is run by volunteers with lived experience of Parkinson's.

The community group introduces members to a diverse range of activities via Zoom and in person (where possible).

Parkinson's is one of the fastest growing degenerative neurological conditions in the world. In Australia, Parkinson's affects 100,000 Australians with 38 new cases diagnosed daily.

According to co-founder Pam West, a key challenge can be a general lack of understanding in the wider community.

"As our name suggests, ParKanDo focuses on what we 'Kan Do' rather than what we can't," said Pam.

"We are keen to change the community's perception of the ability of people with the condition to contribute to the broader community."

ParKanDo is free to join and there are now over 100 members.

To learn more, visit parkando.org.au

Council is proud to support ParKanDo through the Make it Happen grants program.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is held globally on 15 June. It is a day to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

Elder abuse comes in many forms. It can be financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or social. Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child. Abusers can also be other family members, relatives, or friends. Abuse is usually intentional.

HOW PREVALENT IS IT?

According to Seniors Rights Victoria, the most recent study of elder abuse prevalence in Australia found that **14.8 per cent of those 65 years and over** had experienced at least one recognised form of elder abuse over the previous 12 months.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?

Seniors Rights Victoria has a team of experienced advocates, lawyers, and social workers who provide free information, advice, referral, legal advice, legal casework and support to older people who are either at risk of or are experiencing elder abuse.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

If you are experiencing elder abuse and want to know what options are available to you, call the Seniors Rights Victoria helpline on **1300 368 821**

For nationwide assistance and to access additional resources in 20 different languages, call the Australian Human Rights Commission on **1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)** or visit their website.

If it is an emergency, call 000

DID YOU KNOW?

Check your local knowledge against the answers





Willy Lit Festival

National Tree Day

Open House Melbourne



Newport Folk Festival

Winter Solstice

WHAT'S ON

UPCOMING EVENTS

WILLY LIT FESTIVAL

14–16 June

Join the conversations, listen to panel discussions, take part in workshops, and experience Willy Lit Fest over three big days in June. For more information, visit www.willylitfest.org.au

Council proudly supports the Williamstown Literary Festival through the Make It Happen Grants program.

REFUGEE WEEK

16–22 June

This year's Refugee Week theme "Finding Freedom" encapsulates the profound journey of resilience, strength and unity that defines the refugee experience.

For more information and to attend an event, visit www.refugeeweek.org.au

WINTER SOLSTICE

21 June

Seaworks, Williamstown

The Seaworks Winter Solstice Festival celebrates the longest night and the shortest day of the year, marking the start of the winter season.

For more information, visit seaworks.com.au

Council proudly supports the Seaworks Winter Solstice Festival through the Make It Happen grants program.

NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL

28–29 June

Annual showcase of diverse folk music styles, performed by local musicians and singers, and artists from further afield. For tickets and more information, visit newportfolkfestival.org.au

Council proudly supports the Newport Folk and Fiddle Festival through the Make It Happen grants program.

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

26–28 July

Rediscover historical and architecturally significant buildings in Hobsons Bay through Open House Melbourne. For details, visit openhousemelbourne.org

YOUTH SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Hobsons Bay Youth Services (HBYS) is gearing up for the winter school holiday break. With a range of activities on offer from swimming to ice skating, op shop tours and cooking, there's something for all young people in Hobsons Bay. All activities are free and are facilitated by HBYS youth workers. Suitable for ages 12–17 years.

For more details and to register, Scan QR code



NAIDOC WEEK

7–14 July

NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee is Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Sunday 28 July, 10am to 1pm

Altona Coastal Park

Take part in Australia's largest tree planting and nature care event and enjoy roving entertainment and a free barbecue afterwards.

BYO gloves if you can.

ARTS AT YOUR DOORSTEP

Each year, Arts at your Doorstep brings together a dynamic range of theatre, comedy, music, children's programs and more from Australian and international performers. Don't miss the upcoming performances:

ABBA DAY DOWNUNDER FEATURING THE CHOIR BY ABBA THE MUSEUM

Sunday 23 June

10am to 10pm

Williamstown Town Hall

Celebrate ABBA Day Downunder at a special event starring The CHOIR by ABBA The Museum all the way from Stockholm, Sweden.

A LITTLE BIT OF BLUE

Tuesday 2 July, 10am

Old Laverton School,

43 Kiara Street, Altona Meadows,

A Little Bit of Blue is an interactive puppetry show that invites children and families to become detectives for a day.

GARRY STARR GREECE LIGHTNING

Thursday 4 July, 7.30pm

Williamstown Town Hall

An overzealous idiot attempts to perform all Greek mythology in order to save his Hellenic homeland from economic ruin.

GARAGE GIRLS BY THREE BIRDS THEATRE AND THE SHIFT THEATRE

Thursday 25 July, 7.30pm

Williamstown Town Hall

Meet Alice Anderson. Mechanic. Trailblazer. Entrepreneur. Part history, part farce, part who-done-it, Garage Girls shines a light on one remarkable young woman's short but eventful life.

LAMINE SONKO + PIRRITU

Friday 16 August, 7.30pm

Altona Theatre

Composer, director and multi-instrumentalist Lamine Sonko joins Ngiyampaa singer-songwriter Pirritu for an intimate double-bill performance that traverses embodied knowledge, tradition and contemporary culture.

For all Arts at Your Doorstep tickets, visit www.hobsonsbaytickets.com.au