

STRAND WARD NEWSLETTER



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Dear Resident,

We thought we would bring you up-to-date on a few issues affecting the Williamstown area. Please contact us if you need to know more after reading our newsletter. Be sure to copy both of us in if sending an email.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWN HALL RENEWAL

After what seems to be an eternity, Hobsons Bay City Council has finally completed the renovation of the iconic Williamstown Town Hall. It has been given a new lease of life and we are sure you will agree if you have been inside. Now we are about to begin work on the **car park** west of the town hall plus the forecourt in front. Construction of the car park and forecourt should begin next February and be completed by the following September. The forecourt works will be guided by the 2002 Conservation Plan and will retain heritage features. The council has decided to carry out the long-awaited reconstruction of **Lenore Crescent** at the same time, involving new drainage and resurfacing of the street.



SPORTSGROUND WORKS

Works are soon to begin on a number of sportsgrounds in Strand Ward. We hope that an upgrade of the football/cricket and lacrosse grounds at **Fearon Reserve** will begin in October. The playing surfaces have been hit hard with the constant use in recent years. HBCC has been successful in gaining a \$100,000 grant from the State Government from its Community Sports Infrastructure Program to help with the upgrade. Cricket matches will be relocated to other grounds in the municipality for the summer. The works should be completed in time for next season's football and lacrosse matches.

We are also hoping we will be successful in gaining a grant for the building of a new pavilion for soccer and cricket clubs playing at **JT Gray Reserve** in Kororoit Creek Road. This is long overdue. HBCC completed a Master Plan for the whole of the reserve a few years ago, with most of the work going into lighting to allow training over winter, plus renovation of some of the playing surfaces.

The Council has also included \$393,000 in the 2016-17 Budget for the feasibility and concept design for an extension of **netball and basketball courts** at the Altona Sports Centre on Queen Street. Peter held a number of sports forums as part of his Mayoral program this year. At the netball/basketball forum, we were told by the Altona Sports Centre manager 82 teams faced a bye each week because there are not enough courts. So we are doing the groundwork with the view of starting the extension hopefully the following year.

NEWPORT COMMUNITY HUB



Without a doubt, Hobsons Bay City Council's biggest project in recent years has been the Newport Community Hub. This \$9.3 million multi-use building was opened on September 2. It is a fabulous building, housing a **flexible library space, plenty of program rooms for community groups, a music recording studio, a maternal child health clinic and HBCC's youth services team.** It has concertina doors opening out on to Paine Reserve, making it an ideal venue for the Newport Folk Festival. If you haven't already seen it, pop in and have a wander around.

The library features a 24-hour book collection kiosk in the main entrance – the first of its type in Victoria – 6000 books and the latest in library technology, including one

of the biggest hits – a fantastic **interactive touch table** loaded with historic photos and Bing maps. Check it out! The people who developed the interactive touch table also developed Council's new library phone app. Anyone can search for and order a book through this app, then go to pick it up at midnight! Go to the council website to find out more on the app.

IS DON. IS GOOD??

Developers for the **Dons Smallgoods site** on the north side of Blackshaws Road between Kyle Rd and New St in Altona North plan to build about **3000 dwellings** on the site. That means about **4000-6000 extra cars** coming and going from the site. Add to this other developers' pushes for 600 dwellings on the former Caltex site at the east end of Blackshaws Rd and another 350 units on the vacant site north of Sadliers freight hub on Melbourne Rd in Spotswood and you can see we have **more traffic chaos looming for Williamstown residents** trying to get out of the city along Melbourne Road during peak hour. We have been advocating for tunnels under the Westgate Freeway at Kyle Rd and New St to provide alternative access to suburbs further north as a "relief valve". If you agree, make your voice known to the State Government.

The Dons Smallgoods site will come before the community as a rezoning proposal later this year or early next year, depending on whether developers address our concerns. If the developers ignore the traffic issues, make sure you have your say on the proposal when public comment is open as it may affect your livelihood.

WESTERN DISTRIBUTOR

The Western Distributor project will have ramifications to Newport and Williamstown residents. In particular, traffic lights planned for the intersection of the on and off ramps on to Hyde St/Douglas Parade have potential to cause unnecessary delays during peak hour traffic. We are arguing for the Government to consider ramps and fly-overs at these intersections to ensure seamless flow of traffic. We hope you support our case. There is more on Council's actions at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/westerndistributor .

COUNCIL BUDGET

Hobsons Bay City Council passed its annual Budget on June 28. We capped our rates at 2.5 per cent in line with the edict of the State Government. But it also coincided with a State Government imposed general revaluation of properties, which will see individual properties vary around this increase. Council does not get any more than 2.5 per cent in extra revenue across the municipality.

Please be aware rate capping will wipe **\$60 million** off our capital works programs over the next 10 years. That is equivalent to two whole years of capital works programs not being done. You should also understand council rates only account for about 3 per cent of the total government tax dollar, with State Government taxes making up 16 per cent and Federal taxes 81 per cent.

Feel free to get in touch with us – your **non-party aligned Independent** councillors – through the email addresses or phone numbers on the front. And please go to **our websites** – www.peterhemphill.com.au and www.angelaaltair.com – to get information about more local issues and the **upcoming council election on October 22.**