



Newsletter June 2026

Joan Kirner House, Williamstown
Spotswood Community House
Altona North Community House

What's Coming Up?

- Monday June 8. Kings Birthday **public holiday**.
- Wednesday June 3, 10, 17, and 24. **FREE! Willy Walking Group**. Sponsored by the Hobsons Bay Community Fund. From 10.15 am to 11.00 am, starting at Joan Kirner House.
- Wednesday June 3, 10, 17, and 24. **FREE! Community Morning Tea**. Sponsored by Community Bank Altona and Laverton. Joan Kirner House at 11.00 am. All welcome!
- Wednesday June 17. **FREE! Refugee Week BBQ**. Sponsored by Community Bank Altona and Laverton. 12.00 pm. Joan Kirner House.
- Thursday June 11. **FREE! hearing tests**. Altona North Community House. Details below.
- June 14 to 20. **Refugee Week**.
- Monday June 29 to Friday July 10. **Term Break**.
- Monday July 13. **Term three starts**.





Hearing Australia is coming to town!

Altona North Community House, 7 Plover Drive
Thursday 11/6/2026 - 10:00am to 2:00pm



Join us for a FREE* 15-minute hearing check and
take the first step to better hearing today!

*Other services may attract charges/fees or may be subsidised for those eligible under the Australian Government Hearing Services Program, to which conditions apply.

134 432 hearing.com.au

FREE!



Thursday 11 June.
10.00 am to 2.00 pm.

At Altona North Community House.

Last month **Hearing Australia** carried out
17 hearing tests at Joan Kirner House in
less than half a day.



When sound fades, what follows?

Hearing loss is
linked to a
32%
higher risk of
developing
dementia.¹

We're coming,
Altona North Community House

Talk to our hearing experts and get a
FREE 15-minute adult hearing check at:
7 Plover Dr, Altona North
11/06/2026, 10:00am- 2:00pm

Hearing Australia

1. Readman, M. R. et al. (2025) Hearing loss as a risk factor for dementia: a systematic review and meta-analysis from a global perspective, *Aging & Mental Health*, 29(10), pp. 1831-1844. doi.org/10.1080/13607853.2025.2515180 (accessed on 21/10/25)



THE I.T. CLUB

FREE!

Informal, Social, Fun!

The I.T. Club is an informal weekly drop-in where you can build digital skills, grow your confidence, and spend time with others in a relaxed, social setting.

Bring your own device and explore at your own pace, with plenty of opportunity to learn from one another, share ideas, and work through tech challenges together.

No need to book or enrol. Just drop in!

For more information contact Lucila:

03 9397 6168 or projectofficer1@wcec.com.au

Proudly Sponsored by Hobsons Bay Community Fund



**MONDAYS FROM
10AM TO
11.30AM**



Joan Kirner House
14 Thompson
Street,
Williamstown



NEW!



FREE!

Every Monday 10.00 am to 11.30 am.
At **Joan Kirner House.**



Woods Street Youth Art Prize / 2026

**Entries now
open**

4 May to 12 June 2026

Open to artists aged 14 - 25 years
with a connection to Melbourne's west

Over \$2,500 worth of
prizes to be won

Find out more and apply:
hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/youthartprize



woods
street
arts
space



Hobsons Bay
Youth Services



HOBSONS
BAY CITY
COUNCIL





Pictured: "Stand Out" by Tara Mathews

Airtime EOI *now open*

Airtime is a public art opportunity for young people in Hobsons Bay to transform their artworks into large-scale flags displayed at Altona Meadows Skate Park.

Open to ages 12 to 25

Submit your Expressions of Interest (EOI) from 4 May to 1 June



← Scan me for more information

@creativecityshobsonsbay
hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Creative-Opportunities



FREE!
 Registrations required.

ALL IN FOR RECONCILIATION #NRW2026



FIRST NATIONS CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING

Tuesday June 2, 6.30pm Altona Meadows Library

This 2-hour session facilitated by proud Bunurong woman Jillian West will bring you on a journey where you will learn about First Nations culture and traditions.

Find out more and register for free:
hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/nrw



Community Fund Business Lunch



Celebrating 10 years!

Friday 19 June, 2026 Williamstown Town Hall

Bringing Hobsons Bay businesses and community together to raise funds for local grants and create a lasting impact. Join us to celebrate.

Delicious menu provided by **SEBASTIAN** and **d'ASPORTO**

Beverages sponsored by **HOP NATION BREWING CO.** and **Barking Frog**



Book tickets here!
hbcommunityfund.org.au

FREE!



Great local event.
Great cause.
Big sponsor of local initiatives.



Historically they have supported our –
Morning Teas
Walking Group
The IT Club
Garden beds
Our refugee students
BBQs
Craft and art courses.



Learn to Swim

Sponsored by the Community Bank – Altona and Laverton

10 FREE Adult Beginner Swimming Lessons

To be eligible you need to:

- Be over 18 years of age
- Reside in the Hobsons Bay or Wyndham Area
- Be unable to swim
- Able to attend lessons each week for 10 weeks during the school term, either in the mornings from 9am or evenings from 7pm depending on pool availability

Register your interest:

Contact Bendigo Bank – Community Bank Altona and Laverton

☎ 0448 993 441

✉ cbto@hobsonsbaycfs.com.au

📍 Lesson Location- AquaPulse, 80-82 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing, VIC





Historical
Forced
Adoptions
Redress
Scheme

Were you separated from your baby through forced adoption?

The Historical Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme provides financial redress and support to the many mothers who continue to live with the serious, complex and ongoing effects of their experience of forced separation.

The scheme offers redress to mothers who gave birth in Victoria, or were a Victorian resident but gave birth interstate, and who were forcibly separated from their newborn babies soon after birth, prior to 1990. Eligible mothers can receive:

- a one-off payment of \$30,000
- access to counselling and support
- apologies or personalised responses in the future and
- a trauma informed, non-court process with support available at every step.

Forced adoption refers to past practices that forcibly separated mothers and their babies. Not all these practices resulted in adoption, and included mothers who were forced, pressured or coerced to give up their babies rather than bear the shame and social stigma of pregnancy and birth outside marriage.

Our support team is available to guide you through the application process, answer questions, and assist you with any supporting information that may be required.

To find out if you are eligible or to talk about your options:

Free call 1300 217 425, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday
Visit vic.gov.au/redress-forced-adoptions
Or email forcedadoptions.redress@justice.vic.gov.au

Interpreter services are available.

If this information is distressing and you need immediate support, call Lifeline 13 11 14. For information and advice for people impacted by adoption, call VANISH on 1300 826 474

Play

Serious Business! Why it's important – and how to do it

Free Event

A free, hands-on workshop for families and carers of young children
Play isn't just fun. it's how young children learn, grow and connect.

Join us for a practical, interactive workshop where you'll explore different ways to play with your child and understand why it matters in the early years.

FREE!



Children are welcome and encouraged to attend

- Learn why play is essential for children's learning, development and wellbeing
- Try simple, hands-on play activities to use at home
- Build confidence in following your child's lead and strengthening connection
- Explore a range of play types – imaginative, sensory, loose parts and more
- Discover how everyday low-cost household items can become great play resources
- Understand when and where to seek extra support

**Wednesday
3 June**

10am to 11.30am

*Sutton Avenue Kindergarten
16 Sutton Avenue, Altona North*



Scan for more details


For further info contact the early years team
1300 179 944 or earlyyears@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to being a child safe organisation and has zero tolerance for child abuse

Hobsons Bay City Council, in partnership with ECMS

Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation
As the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways,
and pay our respects to elders past and present.





ARE YOU AN UNPAID CARER UNDER 65?

Call us
0401 545 790

Visit
unitingvictas.org.au

REGISTER OF INTEREST
Are you an unpaid carer, or do you know someone who provides essential care, support, or assistance to a family member, partner, friend, or neighbour without payment?

You may be caring for someone living with:

- Disability
- Mental illness
- Drug or alcohol dependency
- Chronic or life-limiting illness
- Age-related care needs

Support may be available to help carers access:

- Community activities
- Cultural and recreational activities
- Counselling services
- Respite support
- Emergency respite care

Contact us today to find out more about this program and check your eligibility.

Please note this program only covers the following LGA's:

- Wyndham
- Hobson Bay
- Moonee Valley
- Maribyrnong

Uniting

Learn more
norma.rojas@vt.uniting.org

Find out More

To purchase tickets or learn more, scan the QR Code, visit the event page or contact us directly.

Website:
3minds.com.au/events/on-the-horizon-melbournes-west-2/

Email: info@3minds.com.au

Phone: 0457 814 434






I AM A PART OF MELBOURNE'S WEST GROWTH STORY

ONE-DAY EXPERIENCE - FORUM - KEYNOTE & DINNER

ON THE HORIZON MELBOURNE'S WEST

Hobsons Bay Yacht Club | Nelson Place | Royal Yacht Club of Victoria

JOIN US ON 11 JUNE | WILLIAMSTOWN

<p>AFTERNOON FORUM 12:00PM-4:30PM</p> <p>Keynotes, contributor showcases, industry insight and cross-sector dialogue.</p> <p>HOBSONS BAY YACHT CLUB</p>	<p>MARITIME EXPERIENCE 4:45PM-5:45PM</p> <p>A curated waterfront transition through Williamstown, place, trade and regional identity.</p> <p>NELSON PLACE</p>	<p>EVENING DINNER 6:00PM - 8:30PM</p> <p>Canapes, seated dinner, keynote and panel conversation with The Hon. Melissa Horne MP.</p> <p>ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF VICTORIA</p>
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FREE CRAFT, COFFEE AND CHAT



Everyone is welcome!

Come along and make new friends at our weekly craft sessions. A chance to socialise over a cuppa, and have fun creating something interesting each week. No craft experience necessary!

Call Lynne for more details:

03 9397 6168

Sponsored by Hobsons Bay Community Fund



THURSDAYS
1.30PM TO 3.00PM



**Spotswood
Community House**
598 Melbourne
Road, Spotswood



FREE!



Third Tuesday of every month.
10.30 am to 11.30 am.

Well for Life



FREE information and advice sessions on support services

**Come along, meet and have a chat to local
housing, legal, health and wellbeing
services!**

Location

Hobsons Bay Salvation Army
108 Queen Street, Altona Victoria,
3018

Date and time

The third Thursday of every month
from February 2026
10:30am – 11:30am

Learn more about:

- Housing
- Mental Health
- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Legal
- Community Nursing
- Aged Care support
- Tenants Victoria
- Services Australia (Centrelink)
- Gambler's Help

For more information, contact the
IPC Health Homeless and at Risk of Homelessness Response
(HaRH) team, call 0490 382 239 or
email: harh@ipchealth.com.au



Hobsons Bay

What's been happening?

Neighbourhood House Week student testimonials.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD
HOUSE WEEK**
11-17 MAY 2026



I ❤️ WCEC

because... Staff make you feel like you are welcome and provide us with a great learning environment with great teachers and of course our wonderful office staff

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK
11-17 MAY 2026

Joan Kirner House Williamstown, Spotswood Community House and Altona North Community House

I ❤️ WCEC

because... the centre is so welcoming. The teacher is very interesting and the knowledge imparted is fantastic. We are very lucky to have this centre.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK
11-17 MAY 2026

Joan Kirner House Williamstown, Spotswood Community House and Altona North Community House

I ❤️ WCEC

because... I've been involved with the centre for a good number of years. I find the staff and everybody in the office are always so helpful and kind, and makes me feel good to know such amazing people.

Manannn ❤️

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK
11-17 MAY 2026

Joan Kirner House Williamstown, Spotswood Community House and Altona North Community House

I ❤️ WCEC

because... The Teachers and The Staff are very friendly, helpful. The environment and facilities are very good. The atmosphere of the center is cosy. I feel confident to communicate with everyone in the center.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK
11-17 MAY 2026

Joan Kirner House Williamstown, Spotswood Community House and Altona North Community House

A HUGE 'Thank You!' to all our dedicated volunteers.

You truly are appreciated.

All have received a **Certificate of Appreciation**.



Fedra and her English class take a trip to the city.



Claire and her Computer Class at Altona North Community House, celebrating Easter.



Staff and students attended the **Women's Health Forum**, sponsored by Melissa Horne MP.



We have also been nominated for a **Hobsons Bay Community Recognition Award**.
Winners announced on May 30.



Congratulations to the other finalists. See the [Star Weekly](#). Page 5.



Laverton Community Education Centre held staff professional development at our Joan Kirner House.



Our Annual General Meeting was held on May 5.

The Annual Report is on our website [HERE](#).

Hard copies are available at Altona North Community House, Spotswood Community House, and Joan Kirner House reception.



We were successful with a grant application to Transurban.

We applied for funding to cover gift vouchers for fresh food (meat, vegetables, fruit, fish, etc) for our Food Relief program, as well as covering the fuel costs of volunteers picking up and delivering donations.



From Claire's **Craft, Coffee and Chat** class.

Join us for a relaxing time to make new friends, learn new things and to bring your craft projects along to share!



Wednesdays from 1.30pm to 3.00pm at Spotswood Community House, free of charge.

Recently we have been crocheting and knitting for KOGO, looking at several types of patchwork and art diary work.

We had a visit with an illustrator working on recording the Indigenous flowers of the inner west of Melbourne, particularly the Newport Lakes Area.

Thanks.

Mark.

Dr Mark Brophy PhD
Manager / CEO
Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc.
manager@wcec.com.au
03 9397 6168.