

# BEAUTIFUL Altona



Welcome to the  
**Bayside Suburb of Altona in Melbourne West!**



<b>Altona Beach .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Cherry Lake .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Altona Coastal Park .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Altona Bayside Festival .</b>	<b>10</b>

# Altona Beach

**A**ltona is only one of two swimmable beaches in Melbourne Western Suburb, the other being Williamstown Beach. It is a favourite hotspot not only for local residents but also for people from other Western suburbs, especially during summer.



The Esplanade is the only road in Metropolitan Melbourne that runs so close to the beach and sea. A very long coastline hugs Altona.

There is a very long drive from the western end at Maidstone St to the Altona Coastal Park at the eastern end. This is a very scenic drive and you can see the curve of the shoreline, the Pier, Melbourne CBD and mountain ranges in the distance, changing marine landscapes varying from sandy beach to rocky outcrops as well as many aquatic birds such as swans, ducks, gulls, pigeons ebbing up and down in the seas.

The coast is lined with the majestic-looking Norfolk Island Pines which are historically significant for their associations with the former Shires of Werribee and Altona and aesthetically significant as an important element of the cultural landscape character of the Altona foreshore precinct.

Recreational activities on Altona Beach include walking, cycling, fishing, swimming, kite-surfing, windsurfing, jet skiing and snorkeling. Altona Sea is a favourite haunt for kitesurfers



with their bright and colourful kites dotting the sky on a windy day.

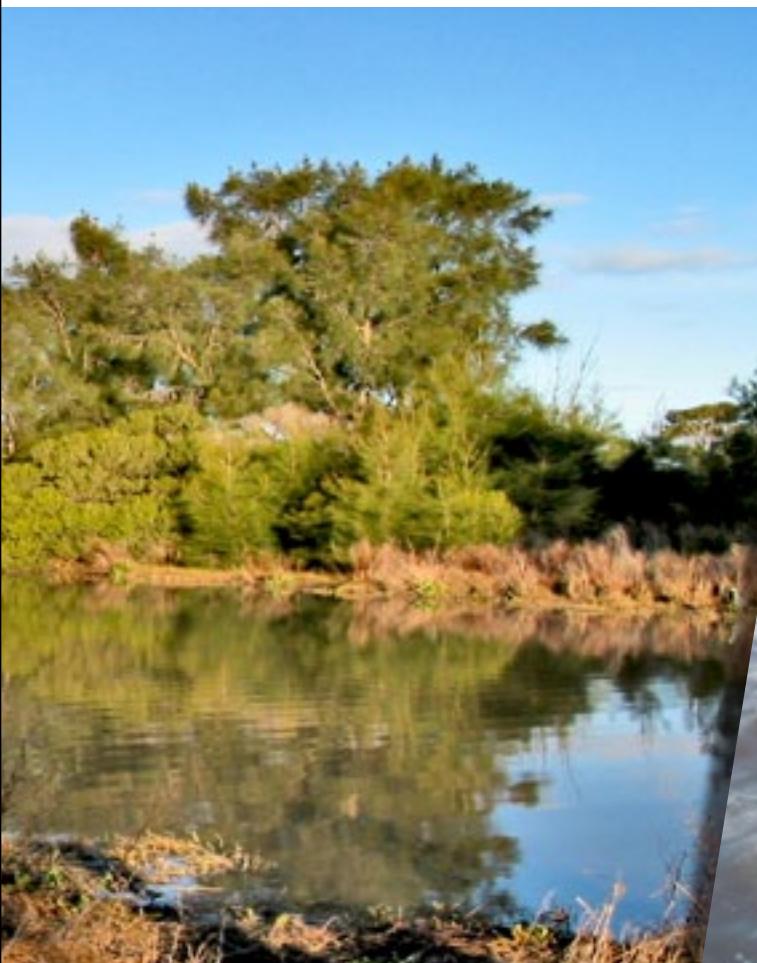
There are plenty of picnic benches and chairs along the foreshore, allowing families to spend some great time together, lovers to share some intimate moments, joggers to take a rest or simply for people to watch the waves lapping against the shores, to enjoy the sunrise or sunset or to idle time away.

Altona Beach had recently undergone beach improvement works in which a 40 metre wide beach was constructed from Romawi Street to Bayview Street, placing approximately 75,000 m<sup>3</sup> of sand on

the beach. The project restores the width of the beach, minimise sand drift, improve the stormwater drains and water quality, enhance the recreational experience for visitors and make beach maintenance easier.



# Cherry Lake



If you drive south along Millers Road towards Altona, you will eventually see a very large, beautiful lake on the right. This is Cherry Lake.

Cherry Lake, formally the Altona Swamp was named after Robert Cherry who was a local farmer and landowner in the late 1800's. In the 1970's the basin was created to help prevent Altona from flooding.

This is a large lake with an island inside, has a 3.7 km shared walking and bicycle path that encircles the lake that will take about 1 and an half hour of walking time.

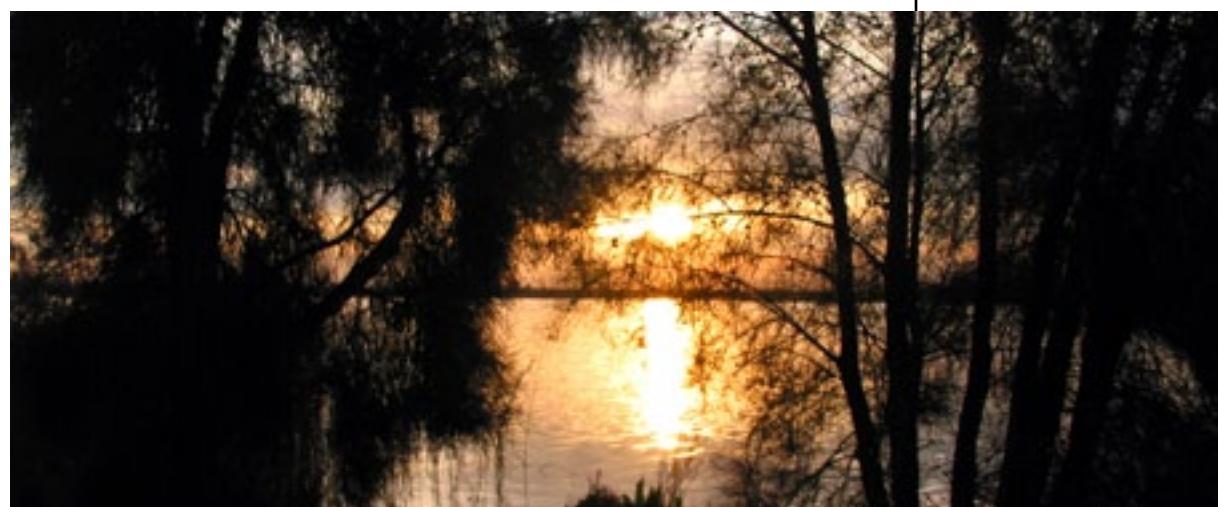
It is accessible by cars from the Millers Rd carpark as well as from the end of Fresno St from Civic Parade.

The lake and associated salt marsh vegetation provides habitat for pelicans, black swans, Purple Swampheens and the endangered Altona Skipper Butterfly.

Aquatic birds can be viewed from a bird hide at the north-western end, where tall sedge grasses

abound which form a beautiful, flowing silky pattern when winds blow.

Recreational activities on the lake include boating, windsurfing, angling and remote-controlled model boat racing. The walk/cycling path is connected to the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail.



There is a big barbecue/picnic area near the Millers Road carpark, a children playground nearby, a skating park and a boardwalk that runs through the tall sedges.

The undulating, well-manicured grassfields with majestic-looking trees on the southern shores of the Lake makes an idyllic, picturesque spot for picnics.

Improvement works are in store for Cherry Lake, with a Sensory Garden proposed on its southern side. This includes a network of themed garden areas with plants to stimulate the senses, concrete and crushed rock pathways, a maze built into the lawn, a viewing platform, seating and a shelter for visitors.



To the north of Cherry Lake, you can climb up a mound to take in a bird-eye view of the entire Lake from the summit. Wild bunches of large, purplish proteas-like flowers grow on the slopes of this mound.

The Altona Lions Club holds an outdoor market on the first Sunday of every month on the Miller Street frontage of the park, selling trash & treasure, toys, clothes, preserves, home-grown and home-made goods.

## FACT FILE

**Location** Altona, Victoria

**Coordinates** 37°51'30"S  
144°50'5"E

**Average depth** One metre

**Walkpath** 3.7 km

**Carpark** Via Millers Rd or Fresno St

**Facilities** Playground, barbecues, picnic areas, boardwalk, bird hide

**Activities** Strolling, jogging, boating, windsurfing, angling, birdwatching, photography, remote-controlled model boat racing

**Event** Altona Lions Club's market first Sunday of every month

# Altona Coastal Park

**T**he Altona Coastal Park is a 70 hectares intertidal and salt marsh forming the eastern boundary of Altona.

**I**t provides habitats for a large biodiversity of flora and fauna, including the rare Orange-bellied Parrot, White Mangroves and many marine birds.

The park is carpeted with large areas of pigface which blooms in late October, resulting in swathes of pink flowers – a phenomenal sight! In Spring, certain parts of the Park become a meadow of yellow wildflowers.



It was formerly the site of the Williamstown Racecourse, where a lone date palm tree, rising out of the flat landscape and some ruins of the grandstand are reminders of its nineteenth century grandeur.

A 4-metre sculpture called Requiem for a Champion, created by the artist Yvonne George, featuring a bronze Stint perched on top of a galloping horse, was installed as a historical marker to commemorate the location of this once third largest racecourse in Victoria, graced by Australian thoroughbred champions, including Phar Lap.

The Lower Kororoit Creek meanders through the Altona Coastal Park and empties into Port Phillip Bay, adjacent to the Jawbone Flora and Fauna Reserve. The Jawbone Reserve consists of a sandy beach flanked by basalt rock outcrops. A wooden boardwalk enables visitors to approach the water, rockpools, yellow lichen and the saltmarsh-mangrove community. Huge colonies of aquatic birds flock to rocky outcrops located in the centre of a wetland lagoon. Seagrasses, kelp forests, mussels, abalones and rock lobster can be found in the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary.



The Lower Kororoit Creek is interrupted in its course by a train bridge (Werribee train line) and a road that is submerged under water during high tides and hence, not usable by cars. You can often see black swans bobbing up and down along this stretch of the Creek.

During low tides, the sea water retreats a very long distance from the shore, exposing the sea beds and temporarily creating islands in the sea, which are sand ridges at a much higher elevation than those closer to the shores. This is a favourite time for dog owners to unleash their dogs there. These dogs will run free on the exposed sea beds and “islands”, chasing each other.



# Altona Bayside Festival

**T**he Altona Bayside Festival is the most important annual event in the calendar of Altona's activities. It is held annually, over a weekend in March, to promote and celebrate Hobsons Bay and the western suburbs. Formerly known as 'Operation Recreation', the Bayside Festival began in March 1977 after the opening of Cherry Lake.

It was initiated by a group of local residents who wanted to promote the recreational opportunities offered by sporting clubs, groups and service clubs within the City of Altona (now known as Hobsons Bay). The 30th anniversary was held in 2007.

It enjoyed a brief period of heightened prominence in 2002 when it was featured on the Channel 9 travel program Postcards in a segment hosted by Geoff Cox.

The activities are spread out from Logan Reserve, Pier Street, J.K. Grant Reserve and Cherry Lake. They include concerts, performances by professional entertainers, pet shows, an antique car exhibition, a spaghetti eating competition, showcasing of artists' works from the western suburbs at the Louis Joel Arts & Community Centre, children's workshops where they learn how to create handicrafts using recycled materials, bloke's activities such as sports, gizmos and carpentry at the Finnish Hall, handmade



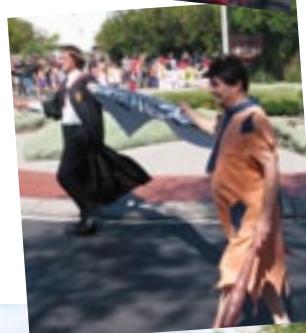
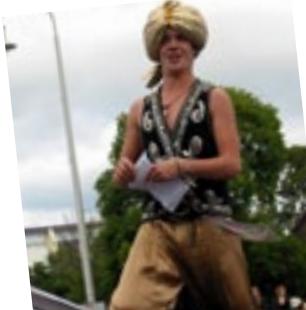
exposition at the Senior Citizen's Centre, roving buskers at Logan Reserve and multicultural food stalls and children rides at Grant Reserve.

You could even hop on a free historic double-decker bus ride around Altona in which the bus driver will give commentary on the various places of interest in Altona.

The Altona Homestead and various sporting clubs hold their free Open House during the Bayside Festival. The Altona City Theatre plays a Children's Pantomime during the Festival.

The greatly anticipated Firework Display takes place over Cherry Lake on Saturday night, after the open-air night concert has ended.

The highlight of the Festival is the Sunday Grand Parade that extends from the beach end of Pier Street to Cherry Lake. The street parade



is regularly interrupted by suburban passenger trains as they pass through nearby Altona station.

Throughout the history of the festival, over eighty entries have participated in the promenade representing various sporting clubs, churches, schools, cultural groups, bands, service clubs and a host of recreational organisations.

Apart from the sheer spirit and frolic of the entire event, there are prizes to be won based on four main criteria – effort, theme, originality and presentation of the charade.

The 2010 theme is "Rhythm of the Jungle" The previous year theme is "Fantasy and Magic".



