



Hobsons Bay Community Arts Centre Inc.
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Grand Opening - The Substation

The Substation Community Arts Centre, Newport

After 12 years of hard work by a dedicated team of local volunteers - The Substation is officially opening its doors to the public, artists, musicians, performers and community groups.

Originally used to convert electricity for the railways for half a century, Newport's substation is one of the oldest in the metropolitan system, and also one of the largest. Once operations at the substation ceased in the late 1960s, the building was left abandoned and derelict for 27 years. In 1996 local residents embarked on the enormous task of restoring the building and converting it into a community arts facility.

"The Substation redevelopment has taken many years of hard work and support from the local community, business sponsors, Hobsons Bay City Council and the State Government. We have finally achieved our goal of creating a unique venue for the visual and performing arts", says Darren Williams, President of Hobsons Bay Community Arts Centre.

The Substation will provide multi-purpose studios, workshops, a large performance space, galleries, rehearsal space and a café for community groups, artists and performers. The Substation will be established as a vibrant place for the learning, pursuit and enjoyment of the arts in the West.

"In the coming year over 100,000 people will visit The Substation to view exhibitions, attend performances or participate in a wide variety of arts, performance and music programs to take place within the centre. The Substation will become a unique arts hub and a place to promote the rich artistic talent within the western region. Many employment opportunities will be created within the centre in arts tuition, hospitality and arts management. Local artists will also be able to sell their creations at The Substation.

"The Substation will invigorate Newport and promote further improvements in the surrounding area. Sculpture gardens, street trees and landscaping will create an attractive place to visit. The Newport business and transport precinct will benefit from a flow on effect as more people visit the area."

The Opening will be on Saturday 22 November 2008 at The Substation, 1 Market Street, Newport.

Entertainment will begin from 3pm, with performances from Newport Bush Orchestra, Willin Wimmin, African Drumming and Newport Lakes Primary School under the direction of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. An exhibition of art work by local VCE students will also be on display until Sunday 23 November. The Hon. Lynne Kosky, MP, together with the Mayor of Hobsons Bay Cr Bill Baarini will officially open The Substation at 4pm.

To confirm your attendance, contact us via website www.thesubstation.org.au or by telephoning 99322001 by Monday 10 November.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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