

The newsletter of the Derwent Valley Council

Spring/Summer 2011, volume 1 number 2

COUNCIL ELECTION BRINGS A MIX OF NEW FACES AND EXPERIENCE.

Local Government elections took place across Tasmania in October with voters returning a mix of new faces and experience to the Derwent Valley Council.

Elections were required for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor as these are two year appointments. There were nine candidates for the five vacant positions as Councillors, with three Councillors (James Elliott, Craig Farrell and Narelle Hill) choosing to stand down at this election.

Election results are as follows:

Mayor: Martyn Evans

Deputy Mayor: Barry Lathey

Councillors Elected: Judy Bromfield, Chris Lester, Tony Nicholson and Wayne Shoobridge.

The full Council will be made up of these incoming Councillors with the addition of existing Councillors Damian Bester, James Graham and Scott Shaw .



Upon being elected Deputy Mayor, Cr Lathey said, "I have been elected Deputy Mayor of the Derwent Valley Council. Thank you to those who supported me. I will fulfil my role to the best of my ability."

Newly elected Cr Shoobridge said, "I stood for Council because I could only see this beautiful area stalling. I am committed to getting this district moving again and welcome input from anyone in the district. Willow



Front Row: Cr Chris Lester, Mayor Martyn Evans, Deputy Mayor Barry Lathey

Back Row: Cr Judy Bromfield, Cr Tony

Nicholson, Cr Wayne Shoobridge, Cr Damian Bester

Absent: Cr James Graham, Cr Scott Shaw

Court needs progress and we need to address our infrastructure. These would be the two big issue that Council needs to address."



Cr Lester, who was elected for the first time in this election made the following statement, "I found being elected to Council one of the most humbling experiences of my life. To have people put their faith in you by voting for you is an incredible privilege and something that I take very seriously, it is my intention to represent the views of our residents at Council."

Cr Graham, who has been on Council since 2009, made the following point, "The last two years have been a buzz for me! I'm looking forward to supporting the Mayor and working with the new crew. It is an exciting time to be around the future of Local Government. I'm interested in



fostering the concept of our ability to get on with it!"

Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise scheduled, and are advertised in the *Mercury* and *The Gazette* prior to the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to come to Council meetings, and agendas are available from Council offices in the week prior to the meeting.

If you would like to contact a Councillor, their details are available on the Derwent Valley Council website, or by calling the Council offices on 6261 8500 Δ

FIND US ON THE WEB

You can find the Derwent Valley Council on the web at;

www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au

Our website contains lots of useful information including Council meeting agendas, minutes of past meetings, our Strategic Plan for 2011 – 2015, information on planning, council services and forms. Δ

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK

Council's job was once seen as being 'roads, rates and rubbish', but over time that has changed and we now work closely with the community on many big picture issues that have the potential to impact on our whole area.

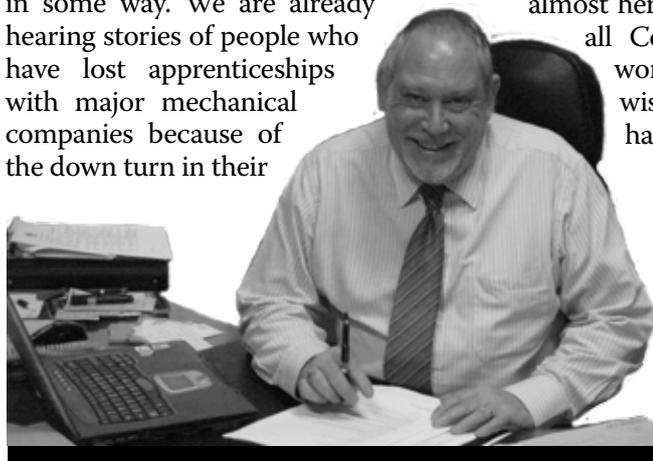
This year we've seen a couple of these issues hit the Derwent Valley, the first being the potential closure of the High School section of Glenora District High. Most of you will know that Council worked very closely with the community to help ensure that did not happen. What is less well known is that Council is continuing to work on this issue and has submitted a document to the School Viability Reference Group outlining our thoughts on potential school closures.

One of the other big issues facing our community is the changes that may occur because of the Tasmanian Forests Intergovernmental Agreement, the IGA. This is aimed at decreasing the amount of native forest available for harvesting, with the ultimate aim to end what has become known as the 'forest wars'. One of the consequences of this is that there will be many people currently employed in the forestry industry, and many businesses who rely on people employed in forestry who lose their jobs or have their business affected in some way. We are already hearing stories of people who have lost apprenticeships with major mechanical companies because of the down turn in their

businesses, and of people who are trying to sell their homes and leave the valley because they are concerned that their job will go.

Regardless of anyone's personal view of forestry, it is concerning that there are people who will become unemployed in our community because of these changes. This has a ripple effect right across the community, much as a school closure or other major industry closure would. We have seen what has happened to our valley in the past when major employers have pulled out of the area. Council officers have been working to make sure that the State Government and various government departments understand what changes to forestry might do to our community. The first hurdle was to get government to recognise that the IGA would have an effect on employment in our municipality and what that would mean for our community; we are well on the way to achieving this now. The second step will be to ensure that if the IGA goes ahead we are well placed to be able to help those affected by putting people and businesses in touch with services they need to assist them. This will be a long road, but Council is determined to work to minimise the effects of any changes that might occur.

On a final note, with Christmas almost here I would like to thank all Council staff who have worked hard all year and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas. Δ



*Stephen Mackey,
General Manager of the
Derwent Valley Council*

Congratulations to Doug McKenzie

Council would like to congratulate Mr Doug McKenzie on winning the MAIB Disability Achievement Award for 2011, a category of the prestigious Community Achievement Awards. Since becoming a paraplegic in 1993 af-

ter a back operation, Mr McKenzie has conquered his disability and embraces life to the full. Doug is an active member of Derwent Valley Council's Access Advisory Committee and a volunteer at Westerway Primary School. Δ



The Inner Workings.... Council Committees

Council Committees are set up to look at specific things; the committee usually consists of members of the public, Council Officers (or employees) and Councillors. Being involved in a Council Committee is a great way of having a say in what happens in your community.

In coming editions we will look at some of the committees and what they do, but this time it's the turn of the New Norfolk Swimming Pool Committee. The Committee is made up of a number of people from the community, Councillors and Council Officers and deals with the on-going running of the New Norfolk Swimming Pool. Most recently the Committee has called for tenders for a pool manager for the 2011 – 2012 year, with Ian and Renata Lacey winning the tender. Ian and Renata have previous experience in pool management, last year successfully running the Bushy Park Pool. This year they have hit the ground running, making significant improvements to the pool, including new healthier options at the kiosk.

Over the year the Committee did substantial upgrades to the entrance of the pool, making it more user friendly and attractive, this was done with the assistance of a Federal Government RLCIP Grant. The committee also purchased 6 removable starting blocks, 2 of these are sponsored by the New Norfolk Lions Club and the New Norfolk Swimming Club.

The Committee would like to thank Craig Fuller from Council's outdoor workforce for his dedication to the maintenance of the pool and knowledge of the heating of the pool, which has enabled it to run more efficiently than in previous years.

Current operating hours for the New Norfolk Swimming Pool are:

Weekends and school holidays: 10 am – 7pm

Weekdays: 1pm – 7pm Δ



Glengrey House Providing Care and Respite to Our Community

Glengrey House was opened in 1989 and provides respite care and activities for the elderly and disabled in our community.

Run by Julie Triffett and a dedicated band of volunteers and part time staff, Glengrey House offers a variety of respite day care and activities, including weekly outings for those who attend. Glengrey House is funded through the State and Federal Governments and offers services right across the Derwent Valley.

Respite care not only offers great opportunities for those who attend to socialise but also gives carers a much needed break. To complement the many services offered to the clients of Glengrey House, there is also a monthly lunch held for carers, giving them a chance to relax and enjoy an outing. △

Public Consultations

From time to time Council advertises a period of public consultation about a specific matter. Public consultations are advertised in the Mercury and/or the Gazette. Council would like to encourage members of the public to take advantage of this system and submit comment on matters of interest when consultations are advertised. △

MAYOR'S MUTTERINGS

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who ran in the recent Local Government elections; it's a big step to put yourself forward for public office. To those that were successful, I look forward to working with you and the sitting Councillors to take our community forward. I'd also like to thank retiring Councillors, James Elliott, Narelle Hill and Craig Farrell for their contributions over the years in Council.



Mayor, Martyn Evans

This has been a busy year, with many changes taking place in the Derwent Valley, and looking back on it now, I can see just how much we have achieved by working together.

This time last year we were celebrating winning the Tasmanian Tidy Towns Award, unfortunately this year we were not so lucky, but I'd like to congratulate the Lachlan Community and the Derwent Valley Council Tidy Towns Committee on the awards that they received. Many of these awards went to individuals as well as groups, showing that it is people that make a difference to the community.

The last edition of the newsletter reported that Council had taken the bold step to take on the Carinya Education Park, formerly known as the BEC building. In the eyes of some this was seen as a risky decision, but I'm glad to see that Council's forethought has paid off, attracting a number of services to the area that previously had not had a presence here; these include GIDS, Colony 47 and ForestWorks who will be working with forestry workers who are looking for new employment opportunities. The building is also being used by the neighbouring High School to expand its programs, including a

gardening group run from the school and both the boys and girls mentoring programs. At this point I'd like to publicly congratulate the members of D'FAT who have taken it upon themselves to run a number of working bees at Carinya and have done an excellent job in cleaning many of the internal spaces ready for use by various organisations.

Tourism is set to become a big drawcard in the Derwent Valley; with this in mind it's great to see the Rivers Run Tourism Association becoming more active. With a new President and a number of new office bearers the organisation is starting to consult with many tourism operators in the area about how it can work with them to create a strong and vibrant tourism destination in the Derwent Valley. This inclusive approach, working with people and other groups, is something that we should all be looking at.

We are a small but strong community, and when we work together we can achieve almost anything. We need to build on our strengths and look toward the future so that we can make our mark in the world. I'm looking forward to working as a team with all Councillors to help build the future of the Derwent Valley, and would encourage the public to attend Council meetings and take part in public consultations and committees so that we as a team can represent your views.

With Christmas on the way, I'd like to thank all the staff at Council, from the outdoor workforce through to the front counter staff, who have shown commitment and dedication to their work, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. △

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE UPGRADE OFFERS BETTER FACILITIES

For many years now the volunteer run Derwent Valley Visitor Information Centre has provided information on our beautiful area for tourists and residents alike. It's often one of the first stops for new residents who want to find out more about the Valley and what's where.

Thanks to a submission put in to the last Council budget, the Visitor Information Centre is looking smarter than ever after a facelift. Volunteers and visi-

tors to the centre are enjoying new and better facilities, and better displays for pamphlet information.

Derwent Valley Council would like to congratulate the volunteers at the centre for their work on the refurbishments and for keeping the centre operating in top condition.

The Visitor Information Centre is located in Circle Street near the Historical Information Centre and Council Chambers.

Like all volunteer organisations in the Valley, the Visitor Information Centre is always looking for new volunteers to help out. If you have a few spare hours a month, why not contact the Centre or one of our other great organisations and see how your time and skills can make a difference. We have community and sporting organisations, historical and arts organisations, all who welcome new volunteers with open arms. △

THE WORKS REPORT

Work Continues on Burnett and Montagu Streets

Upgrade works are well underway in Burnett and Montagu Street and despite having caused some traffic disruption the works are progressing well. During the works, a drain was uncovered, this was rumoured to connect the Bush Inn to other areas of the town and has created quite a bit of media and local interest. When uncovered the structure was not damaged, and in the interest of public safety and to ensure that residents were not disrupted by further works delays a metal sheet was laid over the opening so that works could continue.

Council has advertised tenders for works in Back River Road, Derwent Terrace to Fairview Primary school, Charlotte Street between Blair and Rex Street and Second

Avenue, North Crescent to Southview Crescent. Once finalised these works will commence in the New Year and will involve kerb and gutter work, footpath replacement and in the case of Back River Road resurfacing works. When works commence they will be advertised to alert members of the public and motorists and to help in minimising any inconvenience.

Other works, including bridge works that were allocated funding in the last budget will soon be tendered for as part of Council's regular maintenance and repairs program.

Council would like to thank the public for their patience while the road works continue in Burnett and Montagu Streets.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Council Office and Depot will be closed from 12 noon on Friday, 23 December 2011 reopening Tuesday 3 January 2012.

The New Norfolk Landfill Site will be open from 7.30am until 11.30am on Friday, 23 December 2011.

Closed Sunday 25th December 2011, Tuesday 27 December 2011 and Sunday 1 January 2012. Normal hours of operation Monday 26 December 2011, Wednesday 28 December 2011, Thursday 29 December 2011, Friday 30 December 2011.

Swimming Pools are closed on Christmas Day

The Valley Children's Centre will be closed Friday 23 December 2011 reopening Tuesday 3 January 2012.

Council's emergency telephone number is (03) 6261 8500 – (24 hours).



The management and staff and Councillors of Derwent Valley Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Council would again like to thank all the local businesses that have helped to distribute this newsletter to the community:

Maydena General Store,
Kallista Rd Maydena

Westerway Road House,
Gordon River Rd Westerway

Bushy Park Road House,
Gordon River Rd Bushy Park

Eagle Snack Bar,
Hamilton Rd New Norfolk

New Norfolk Newsagency,
High Street New Norfolk

Molesworth Fabulous Foods,
Molesworth Rd Molesworth

Lachlan General Store,
Lachlan Rd Lachlan

Magra Village Store,
Back River Rd Magra.

Our next edition will be out in March 2012 and available from the above businesses and the Derwent Valley Council Chambers in Circle Street.

Thank you to Matt Hill for taking most of the photos in this newsletter.

We value your input and feedback, if you would like to make a comment on the newsletter please contact our Regional Development Officer, Jess Dallas on 6261 8517 or email: rdo@dvc.tas.gov.au

Southern Water – now takes charge of all Sewerage and Water enquiries - 13 6992 – emergency and enquiry line, can help you with information on faults, billing and any other water related enquiries