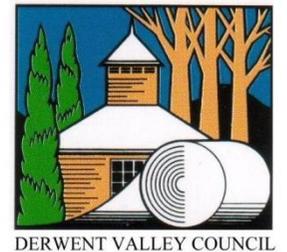




# Derwent Valley Council Annual Report 2015 - 2016





## Contents

Fast Facts and Income and Expenditure Graphs .....	5
Municipal Map.....	9
Message from the Mayor .....	10
Message from the General Manager .....	12
About Us.....	14
Council Structure .....	16
Council Organisational Chart .....	19
Committees of Council.....	20
Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015 .....	24
The Year in Review .....	33
Governance.....	34
Physical Services .....	36
Community and Social Development.....	37
Development and Environmental Services.....	38
Environmental Planning and Management.....	38
Building and Plumbing Control.....	38
Planning Control.....	39
Animal Control.....	40
Records Management.....	40
Environmental Planning and Management.....	41

Corporate and Financial Services .....	42
Child, Youth and Family Services.....	43
Home and Community Care (HACC) .....	43
Youth Services.....	46
Regional Development.....	48
Enterprise Powers Statement.....	51
Contracts for Supply of Goods and Services.....	54
Public Interest Disclosure Statement.....	55
Legislative Requirements.....	56
Councillor Meeting Attendance .....	61
Record of Councillor meeting attendance.....	62
Acknowledgements and Contact Details.....	63

## Introduction

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires every Council in Tasmania to produce an Annual Report. This gives an opportunity for the Council to formally advise the community of some of its achievements and challenges in the last year and review areas we need to improve upon.

This concludes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of the Derwent Valley Council each year. This report covers the period of the 2015 – 2016 financial year.

The Council is specifically required under section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to prepare a report that contains:-

- a summary of the annual plan for the preceding financial year;
- a statement of its goals and objectives in relation to public health for the preceding year;
- a statement of the Council's activities and its performance in respect of its goals and objectives set for the preceding financial year;
- the financial statements for the preceding financial year;
- a statement of the activities and performance of the Council in relation to any activity taken pursuant to section 21 as compared with its objectives for the preceding financial year;
- a statement of the total allowances and expenses paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors;
- a statement detailing the attendance of each Councillor at meetings of the Council and any Council Committee during the preceding financial year
- a statement in accordance with subsection 4 relating to the total remuneration paid to employees of Council who hold positions designated by the Council as being senior position;
- a copy of the audit opinion for the preceding financial year;
- a statement specifying details of any land donated by the Council under section 177, including the name of the recipient, the reasons of the donation and the value of the land;
- any other prescribed matter.

This report contains a series of chapters, each devoted to a particular section of Council, and an explanation of how these sections interact within the Derwent Valley Council structure.

The report also contains audited standard, financial and performance statements. This shows how monies raised via rates, charges, fees and from grants received have been expended.

Each year Council, in consultation with the community prepares an annual Budget within the context of the actions identified in the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015. The Strategic Plan and Budget are used to inform the decisions and actions of Council for the coming year.

Derwent Valley Council values the input of the community.

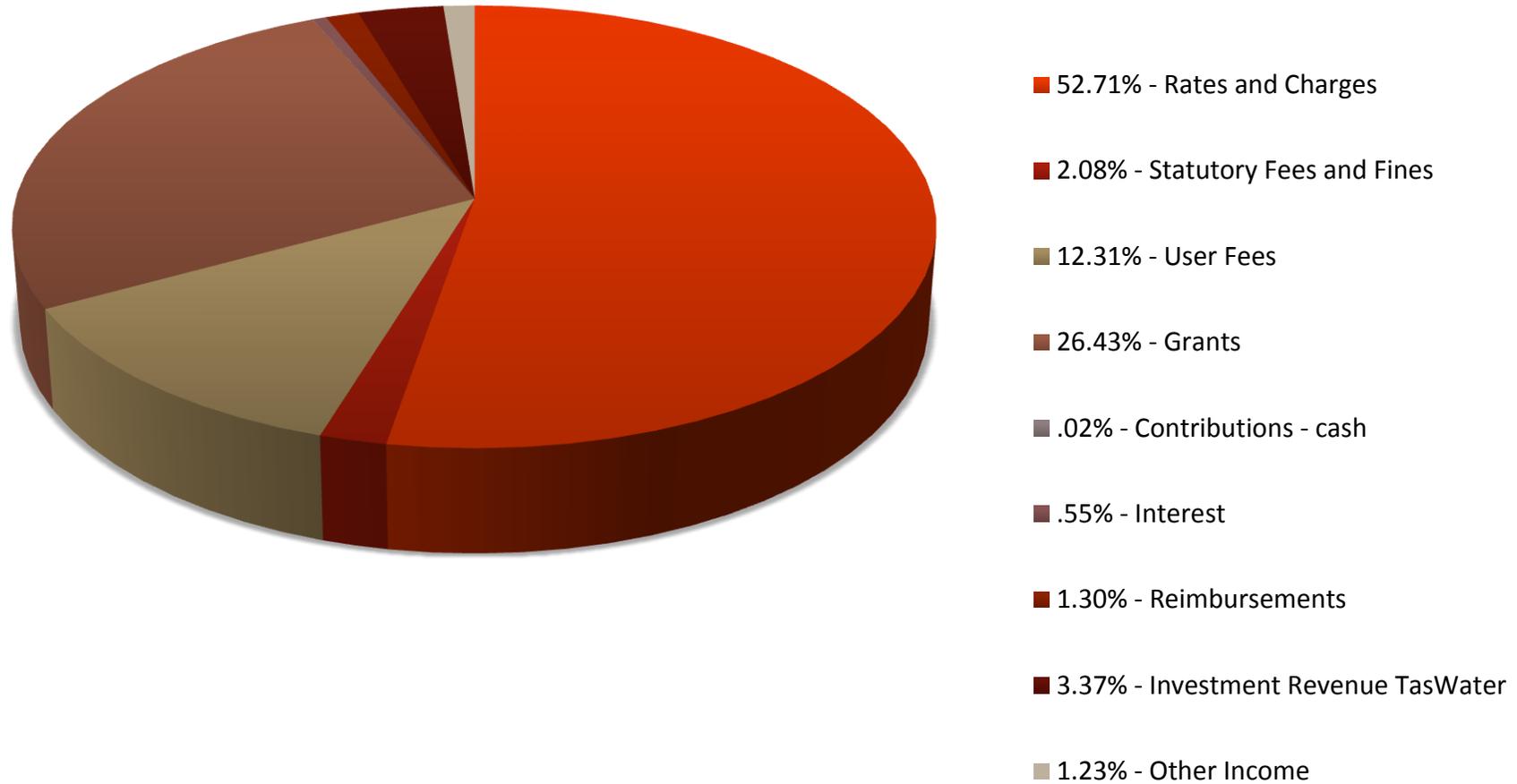
## Fast Facts and Income and Expenditure Graphs

- Municipal area: 410,345 sq km
- Total population: 10,026
- Population of New Norfolk: 5,336
- Men: 5,123
- Women: 4,903
- Average Household size: 2.42
- Median weekly household income: \$1,500
- Median monthly mortgage payment: \$1,315
- Median weekly rent: \$200
- Number Employed Local Residents: 3,871
- Unemployment Rate for the Derwent Valley (as at June 2016): 9.4%
- Number of Building Permits Issued: 130 – totalling \$17,278,154 in value
- Number of Development Applications Received: 158 – totalling \$22,007,470 in value consisting of:-
  - residential applications 95 – totalling \$14,027,631 in value
  - commercial applications 12 – totalling \$1,106,120 in value
  - subdivision applications 19 – no costs available
  - other applications 32 (includes all applications that do not fall into the above categories – totalling - \$6,873,719)

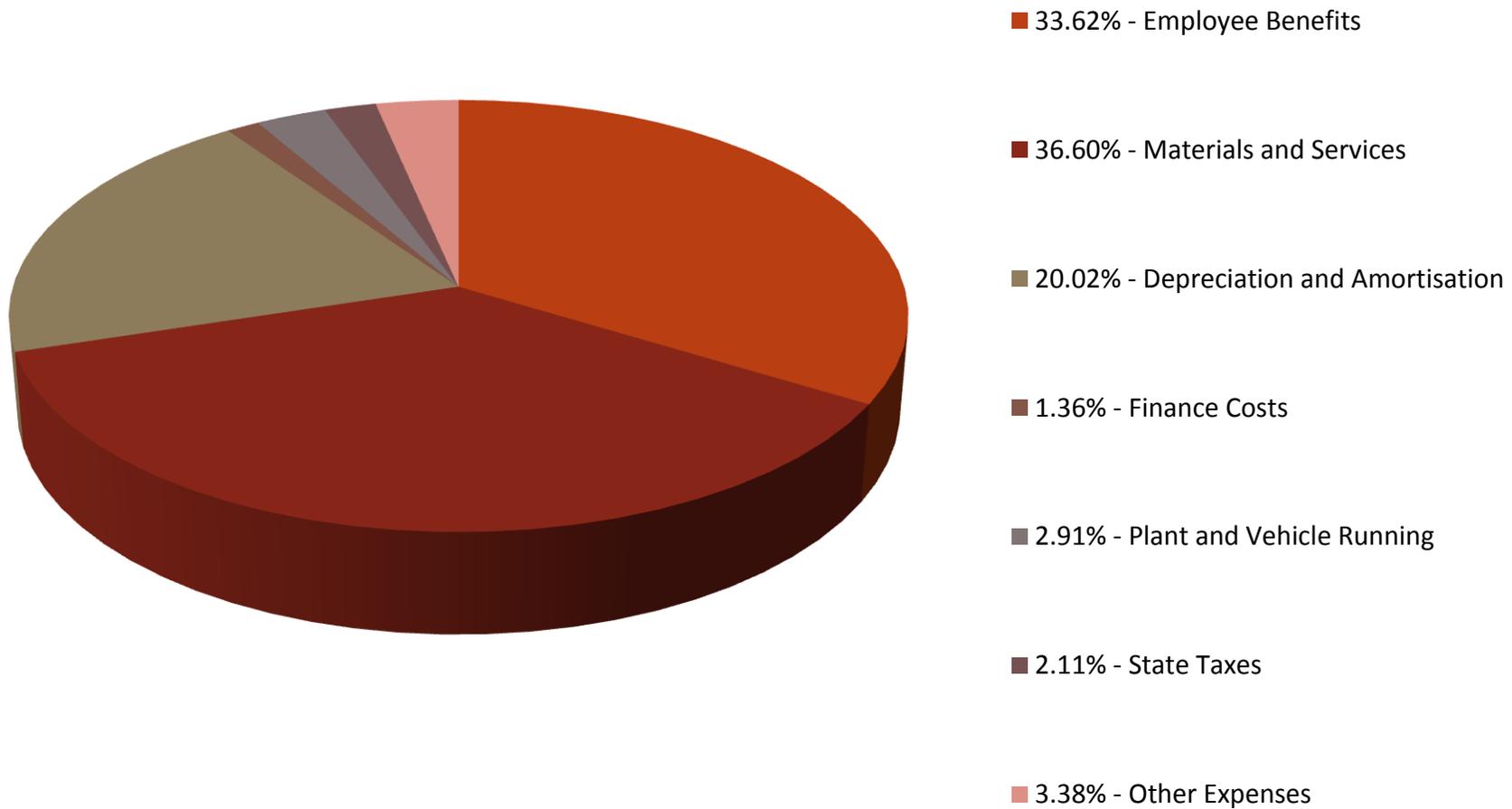
- Number of bridges within the municipality inspected by the Council - 74
- Total length of Council maintained roads is 333km consisting of 97km of sealed roads and 236km of unsealed roads
- The number of rated properties in the municipal area is: 5,138
- Area of world heritage area: 2,789 sq km
- Total area of Public Reserves: 3,266 sq km
- Number of Council operated cemeteries: - 3
- Number of Council owned swimming pools: 2
- Council supplies public toilets in the following locations: Circle Street, Arthur Square, Tynwald Park, Esplanade, Gleeson Park, Granton, Millbrook Rise, Fitzgerald Park and Maydena

*Some of the above information has been sourced from profile.id Community Profile [profile.id.com.au/derwent-valley/](http://profile.id.com.au/derwent-valley/)*

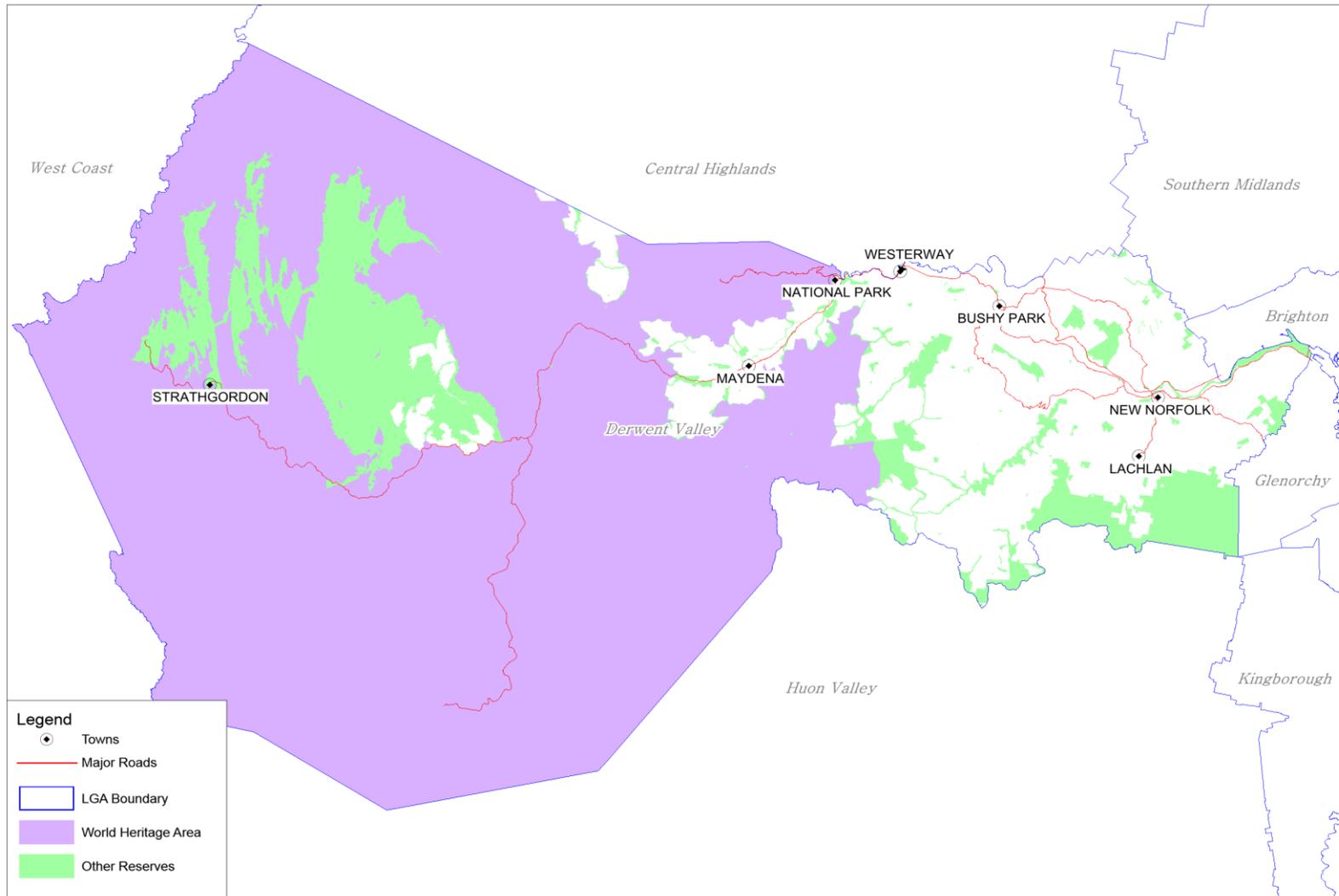
**Where The Funds Came From: Total income from continuing operations \$12,122,823**



**Where The Funds Were Spent: Total expenses from continuing operations \$12,488,994**



# Municipal Map



## Message from the Mayor

Tasmania's Derwent Valley, a place to live, work, play, visit and invest. Our aim over the past 12 months has been to continue to promote our people and our place to both Tasmania and the world.

The Council is continually updating its policies and procedures to keep in line with legislative requirements and making the Derwent Valley the best it can be.

### Education

This past year has seen many achievements including the highly successful year 11-12 program at the New Norfolk and Glenora District High Schools, the completion of the Fairview Primary School Early Years facility, the announcement of funding for the New Norfolk Primary School Early Years facility and the commencement of infrastructure work at the New Norfolk High School. It is fantastic to see the investment in our future with these projects coming online and the potentially funded future upgrades for Glenora District School.

### Agriculture

2015-2016 was yet another year of growth and investment in this sector. The sale of Redlands, the Ivanhoe properties ready for investors, along with the excitement of the impending development at Kilderry Farm.

This on top of the expansion of the cherry and berry industries, along with the hop industries. The growth of our dairy industry and our many cottage industries are driving a change to our region.



### Tourism

With the stunning Derwent River, amazing scenery and various heritage attractions it's no wonder that the Derwent Valley has seen a spike in visitation numbers over the past 12 months.

The Derwent Valley municipality has many events and attractions such as the Lake Pedder Lodge, National Park, Junee Caves, Forest Secrets, Tassie Bound Adventure Kayaking, Willow Court Precinct and the Gordon Dam. There are also many long and short walks which will give you the opportunity to "breathe" whilst taking in the scenery, wine and produce.

Add to that the Dark Mofo event and the Derwent Valley Autumn Festival its little wonder we are on the move.

## Economic Growth

The above mentioned achievements make up a small part of the growth in this sector over the past 12 months. The newly opened Mitre10 store and numerous small businesses contributed to this growth, as well as the businesses in the process of opening, such as the Agrarian Kitchen Restaurant and many more investing living and working in our great Valley.

## Challenges

As always it is about working in partnership with stakeholder's, investors and the government. Our challenge is being able to capitalise on not only the achievements but being able to deliver the skills, knowledge and training to keep up with our changing work demographics.

## Willow Court Precinct

The lack of external funding frustrations around the Willow Court precinct and Frascati House continues to be disappointing. However, as we have seen through the eyes and mind of David Walsh, who showed us the potential for this site, both on a local basis and worldwide.

Council will continue to work to achieve funding for this site to activate it for not only the Derwent Valley but for Tasmania.

## Thank you

Firstly, I must thank my fellow Elected Members for their great effort. I suspect that we as a Council, would probably meet and workshop more than any other Council to represent our valley.

To our indoor and outdoor staff, you do an amazing job showing pride in our municipality.

To our volunteers and committees you are part of the reason that the place "we call home" is on the up and up. Once again thank you.

*"Our strength lies with our people"*



**Martyn Evans**  
**Mayor**

## Message from the General Manager

The photograph on the front cover of this Annual report depicts the facade of the Council Administration Office one evening in June 2016. For me, it represents what can be when people come together with a focussed purpose.

The 2015-2016 financial year coincides with the 12 month period since my appointment to this role.

In the first three months I deliberately attempted to meet with many key individuals and groups, together with getting to know my fellow co-workers and elected members. I learnt much about the history of the municipal area and significant changes that had occurred over time, predominately by external decisions.

The lead up to the end of the calendar year saw me sourcing key organisational information, making some comparisons to industry benchmarks and interpreting where on the maturity spectrum I considered the organisation was.

The post new year period to the end of March allowed me some time take steps to commence introducing some needed administrative changes and seeking policy positions which reflect current circumstances.

The final quarter of the financial year was dominated by the preparation of what is the first Budget where I had an opportunity to be involved.



The Council meets on a monthly basis, Councillor Workshops are generally held on the first, second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Some of the matters debated by the Council (during the 33 hours it spent in deliberations) included:-

- Lease Agreement Bronte (portion) Willow Court
- Support for Derwent Valley Relay for Life, 4 Bridges Dragon Boat Paddling Marathon
- Sponsorship for the Tasmanian Fire Service - 1967 Bushfire Community Tribute Project
- Centenary of ANZAC Project - re-development of garden bed
- Street renumbering of Lawitta Road
- Commencement of negotiations with DV Community House regarding possible relocation to Carinya Education Park
- Derwent Valley Railway, survey of Derwent Valley Line
- Destination Southern Tasmania Visitor Map
- New Norfolk Structure Plan
- Formation of Derwent Valley Audit Panel

- National Stronger Regions Fund (round 2) applications
- Community Grants 2015-2016
- Sub-region Group Collaboration Strategy endorsed
- Becoming a regional partner with Brand Tasmania
- Entered into a Heads of Agreement with PCYC regarding the Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Centre
- Approval of Street events to coincide with Dark Mofo
- Engagement of consultants to prepare a feasibility study for Marina Construction
- Derwent Valley Interim Planning Scheme endorsed
- Policies Adopted:-
  - Councillor Allowances, Entitlements and Expenses
  - Credit Card Usage
  - Code for Tenders and Contracts
  - Rates and Charges
  - Information Management
  - Enforcement
- Tyenna bridge design adopted
- Contract awarded for replacement of Leachate Pond lining and construction of pipeline to sewer

Success can be measured in many ways: for me, it means being financially prudent, having a strong customer service ethos and working together with the community.

I look forward to playing my part in identifying and pursuing common objectives over the next 12 months.



**Greg Winton**  
**General Manager**

## About Us

The Big River people were the first inhabitants of the Derwent Valley. Made up of a number of tribes who lived in the region from the Derwent Valley through to the Central Highlands, including Great Lake and the Great Western Tiers. The Leenowwenna 'band' who made their home in the Derwent Valley. Were the first inhabitants of the New Norfolk area.

European settlement of New Norfolk occurred in 1807 – 1808 with the arrival of settlers from Norfolk Island. In 1811 Governor Macquarie ordered that a town plan be designed for 'Elizabeth Town' later to be named New Norfolk in recognition the Norfolk Island settlers. Many of the original town planning features are still reflected in the layout of the existing town.

The seasonality of the Derwent Valley reminded many European settlers of their home, with cold winters and hot summers moderated by the more mild spring and autumn.

The abundance of water (primarily from the River Derwent and other smaller rivers such as the Styx and Tyenna) make for great agricultural diversity in the area. Traditional beef, dairy and sheep farming complements a diverse range of agriculture that includes hop growing, poppy production, elder trees, apples, wine production, cherries, olives and raspberries. Recent years have seen increased investment in fruit growing in the Derwent Valley, making it one of the largest fruit production areas in the State.

Adding to the agricultural backbone of the community are the diverse industries of paper production, aged care and the emerging tourism industry.

Norske Skog, or the Boyer Mill as it is fondly known, produced Australia's first newsprint and has been a fixture in the Derwent Valley since 1941. The company continues to play a vital role in the Derwent Valley, not only as one of the largest employers, but also through its generous contributions to the community.

Emerging industries include the diverse agricultural industries, and a multitude of smaller individual producers including food and beverage producers and agritourism.

In the early 1960's the need for aged care in the Derwent Valley was recognised by a group of community volunteers, this led to the establishment of Corumbene; a not for profit, values based organisation with strong links to the community. Along with Norske Skog and the agricultural sector, Corumbene is one of the largest employers in the area, and provides a range of aged care services to the Derwent Valley, Central Highlands, Southern Midlands and surrounding areas.

Tourism is emerging as increasingly important role to the economy of the Derwent Valley, both in its traditional form and in the emerging market of agri tourism which highlights the Derwent Valley's reputation for high quality primary produce.

Fishing continues to play an important role in the Derwent Valley, from both a recreational and tourist perspective.

Changes to industry over a period of some twenty years has created challenges to the economy of the Derwent Valley. Unlike other areas in Tasmania and nationally where decline can be traced to specific events or the dramatic closure of a major industry, the changes in the Derwent Valley have been gradual and have resulted in a changed perception of the area over a period of time. Major change can be attributed predominantly to the closure of the Royal Derwent Hospital and changes to the forestry industry in the State. The changes in the forestry industry in particular have impacted many 'third party' businesses, who relied on the business of contractors and others coming into the area. Despite these challenges the community of the Derwent Valley continues to strive to capitalise on the many opportunities that the area presents.

The area is home to an abundance of heritage buildings and a wealth of historical treasures, from farms and magnificent oast houses once used in hop production, to homes and pickers cottages. Painters and photographers come from across the country to take advantage of the many opportunities to view these treasures.

The Derwent Valley has a strong sense of community. With over 100 community and sporting groups in the area there is something for everyone to be involved in.

There are seven schools in the municipal area. These cater for all ages from kindergarten through to the end of high school. A number of college courses are now available through the local High Schools, enabling young people to continue their education in the community, while exploring future opportunities.

The community is well serviced with visiting medical specialists, local GP's, child care, youth organisations, a day respite centre and a child and family centre. Many non-government organisations run programs in the Derwent Valley giving residents an opportunity to access services.

The numerous churches in the area offers a range of regular services in many denominations. There are many sporting organisations, ranging from the traditional football and cricket clubs to more relaxed pursuits such as croquet. Our rowing club is also the home of several Olympic medal winners.

The community in the Derwent Valley is strong and resilient, willing to lend a helping hand and welcoming of new arrivals to the area.

## Council Structure

All-in, all-out Local Government elections occur every four years, with four year terms for all elected members.

There are eight Councillors elected to the Derwent Valley Council; their role is to act as the policy and planning body of the organisation.



**Back row left to right:** Councillor Paul Belcher, Councillor Julie Triffett, Councillor James Graham, Councillor Damian Bester,

**Front row left to right:** Councillor Frank Pearce, General Manager Greg Winton, Mayor Martyn Evans and Councillor Barry Lathey.

**Absent:** Deputy Mayor Ben Shaw

Generally it is the role of Councillors to effectively represent and act in the best interests of their community.

The day to day operations of the Council are the responsibility of the General Manager who is also responsible for staff and other internal issues. Within the Council there are a number of departments, each of these deal with specific areas of Council operations.

Although each department has a specific focus, all work together for the operation of Council.

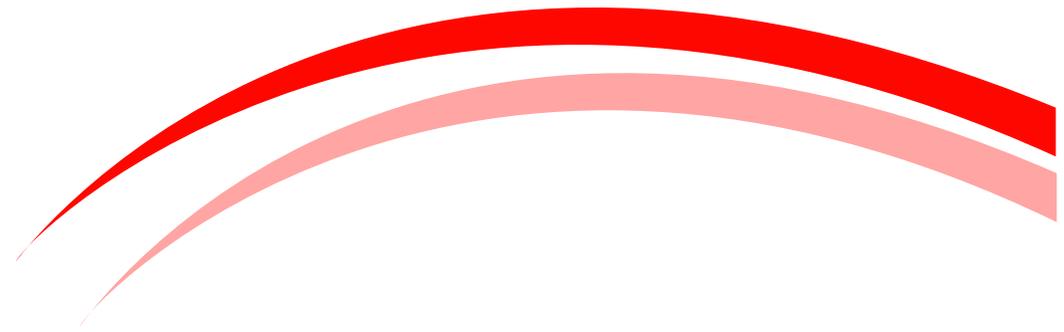
This division of duties enables Council to operate on a day to day basis, and to concentrate its efforts on the consideration of strategic issues, establishment of policy position and to represent and promote the interests of the community.

Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the each month at the Court House, Circle Street, New Norfolk commencing at 6.30pm, and are open to the public. From time to time Council incorporates a Community Forum into its regularly scheduled Council Meeting. These forums are held outside New Norfolk and allow members of the community to attend and raise issues of importance to their locality. Council may also hold Special Meetings; these are called to discuss matters that require immediate formal discussion by Council. All Council Meetings are advertised prior to taking place to allow attendance by the public.

Councillors hold regular workshops, these are a more informal opportunity for Councillors to discuss issues and events. Council workshops are generally held on the first, second and fourth Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm in the Courthouse, New Norfolk. The first half hour of Council workshops are open to the public.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend any of these meetings.

Meeting Agendas and attachments are available from the Council Administration Office on the Friday prior to the meeting or on Council's website: [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au). Council's website also contains confirmed minutes from previous Council Meeting.





**Mayor**  
Martyn Evans



**Deputy Mayor**  
Ben Shaw



**Councillor**  
Paul Belcher



**Councillor**  
Damian Bester



**Councillor**  
James Graham



**Councillor**  
Barry Lathey

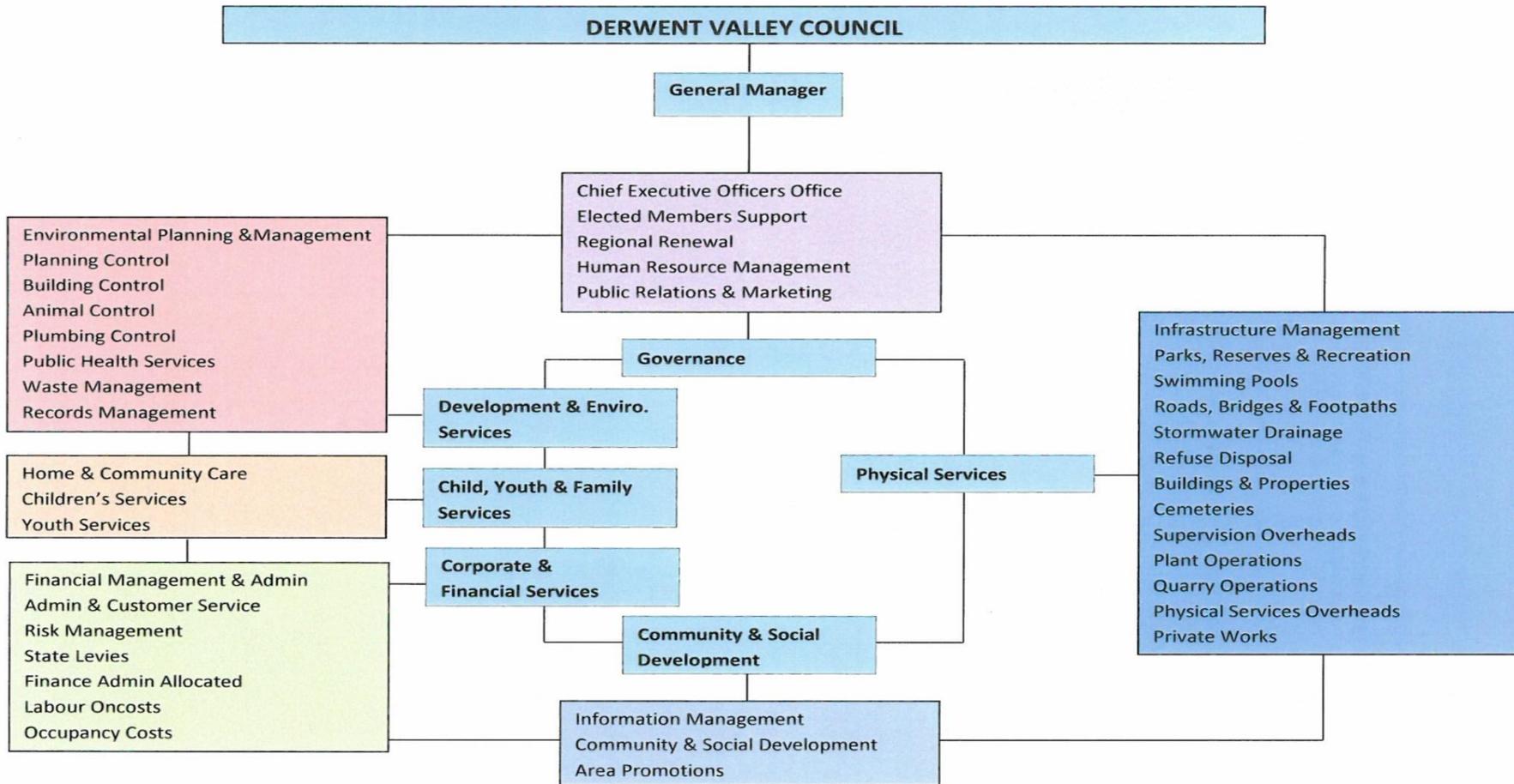


**Councillor**  
Frank Pearce



**Councillor**  
Julie Triffett

# Council Organisational Chart



## Committees of Council

The *Local Government Act 1993* provides Council with the authority to create various Special Committees, other committees, to have representation on various authorities, associations, other organisations and bodies.

Special Committees of Council generally have a membership that includes Councillors, Council staff and members of the public with an interest in the objectives of that committee. Committees may meet regularly or on an as needed basis. Committees are reviewed regularly and new committees may be created if required.

From time to time Council may also create working groups, these are generally less formal than committees and usually meet to discuss a specific project.

Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Boyer Oval Management Committee	Assists in the management and upgrading of Boyer Oval.	Cr Lathey, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Historical Information Centre Committee	Operates the Historical Information Centre.	Cr Bester, Cr Triffett (proxy)
Gleeson Park Special Committee	Assists in the management of Gleeson Park.	Cr Graham, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT)	Derwent Valley Council's youth advisory committee.	Cr Triffett, Cr Bester (proxy)
Bushy Park War Memorial Swimming Pool	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the Bushy Park Swimming Pool.	Cr Bester, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Committee	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Centre.	Cr Shaw, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Molesworth Recreation Reserve Committee	Assists in the management of the Molesworth Reserve.	Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)

<b>Special Committee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Councillor Representative</b>
Tidy Town Committee	Undertakes projects to help beautify and keep the municipal area tidy.	Cr Belcher, Cr Evans (proxy)
New Norfolk Swimming Pool Committee	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the New Norfolk Swimming Pool.	Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Access Advisory Committee	Advises Council on access issues, particularly in relation to those people with a disability.	Cr Lathey, Cr Triffett (proxy)
Environmental Management Committee	Manages major environmental incidents in the Derwent Valley.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
New Norfolk Business Alliance	Assists in the promotion of the central business district.	Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)
Friends of Willow Court	Has a special interest in the restoration of Willow Court	Cr Pearce, Cr Evans (proxy)
Friends of Frascati	Aides in the restoration of the gardens at Frascati House.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
Tynwald Park Development Committee	Advises on the development of Tynwald Park.	Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Derwent Valley Council Scholarship Trust Fund	Manages the scholarship fund	Cr Evans, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Economic and Growth Special Committee	To aid in the implementation of the STEP's Plan	Cr Evans, Cr Pearce, Cr Graham (proxy)
William Hazlewood Park (Magra)	Advises on the development of the reserve	Cr Bester, Cr Lathey (proxy)
Esplanade Special Committee	Advises on the development of the Esplanade	Cr Evans, Cr Lathey, Cr Triffett, Cr Shaw

Authorities and Associations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
TasWater Authority	Water supply related issues in regards to TasWater.	Cr Evans, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWSA)	Waste issue in the south of the State.	Cr Graham, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Southern Tasmania Council Authority (STCA)	A grouping of 12 Southern Councils.	Cr Evans / Cr Shaw (proxy)
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)	Tasmania's peak Local Government body.	Cr Evans, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Other Committees and Organisations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Derwent Valley Emergency Planning Committee	Puts in place plans that come into effect in case of a major emergency.	Cr Lathey, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Australia Day	Plans community activities for Australia Day each year.	Cr Lathey, Cr Evans, Cr Shaw
Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management	Monitors environment within the Derwent Catchment area.	Cr Lathey, Cr Graham (proxy)
Derwent Valley Autumn Festival	Plans the annual Autumn Festival.	Cr Graham, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Land Sale Committee	Looks at the sale of Council land.	Cr Bester, Cr Triffett, Cr Graham, Cr Pearce
Maydena Community Association	An association of members of the Maydena Community that has the support of Council.	Cr Bester, Cr Graham (proxy)
Derwent Valley Visitor Information Centre	Provides volunteers for the running of the Council funded Visitor Information Centre.	Cr Graham, Cr Bester (proxy)
RAFT (Real Action... Forward Thinking)	A partnership of organisations supported by Council to provide strategic leadership and information in regard to youth affairs.	Cr Shaw, Cr Graham (proxy)

Other Committees and Organisations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Lyell Highway Committee	Established to monitor upgrades on the Lyell Highway.	Cr Bester, Cr Shaw (proxy)
Community Grants	Administers and assessed applications to Council's Community Grants program.	Cr Lathey, Cr Bester, Cr Belcher, Cr Shaw, Cr Triffett
Code of Conduct Panel	Assesses any complaints received in relation to the Code of Conduct	Cr Bester, Cr Pearce, Cr Belcher (proxy)
Derwent Valley Council Audit Panel	The objective of the Panel is to assist Council and the General Manager in providing an independent process in its financial and risk management practices to ensure accountability to the community in the governance, management and allocation of resources.	Cr Triffett, Cr Graham

# Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015

## Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The current Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan relates to the 2011 – 2015 period, and is an opportunity to set clear, measurable goals for Council's actions over that time. Over the period of the Strategic Plan our direction, funds and focus are governed by the objectives set in the Strategic Plan as far as possible.

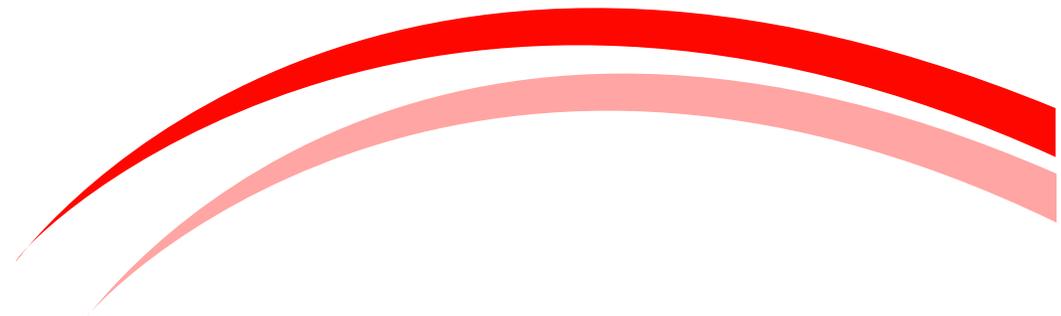
The Strategic Plan is developed in consultation with the public to ensure that it reflects the goals of our community.

The plan is advertised each time it is updated, Council encourages the public to submit ideas and suggestions through this process.

The Strategic Plan focuses on a series of priorities and projects which are reflected in Council's Annual Plan. Projects and actions from the Strategic Plan are funded through the budgetary process.

It is anticipated that a new Strategic Plan will be progressed over the ensuing financial year.

Copies of the strategic plan are available on the Council website [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au) or by request from Council's staff.



## An Overview of Progress

The following section contains a summary overview of progress against the Strategic Plan objectives.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE OBJECTIVES	
Progress	Outcomes
<b>IS 1 To maintain the standard of the municipality’s infrastructure assets</b>	
Council’s works and maintenance crews continue to progress the program of works as approved by Council in the annual budget. New technologies in mapping and GPS have been incorporated into daily operations. The road hierarchy policy continues to be used to assist in decisions around competing projects	Council’s works and maintenance crews continue to ensure assets are maintained within budget allocations.  Ongoing reviews and an increased use of technology will deliver will achieve greater efficiency.
<b>IS 2 To maintain high standards in the provision of all Council services in line with community needs, Council’s policies and regulatory requirements</b>	
Council continues to monitor the services it provides in line with the needs of the community and within budgetary requirements. Policies are currently being reviewed and where needed updated to reflect community needs and expectations. Council operates within all regulatory requirements.	Council policies are in place to facilitate and ensure the effective and consistent administration of relevant legislation, and/or matters of significance to both the Council and the community. This year has seen the commencement of a review of policies to ensure they meet statutory compliance.
<b>IS 3 To maintain community services</b>	
This point relates to ensuring that the community has access to information from service providers and Council’s assistance with community events.	Council continues to support and assist the community in accessing information from service providers. Ongoing assistance to community organisations through community grants, sponsorship and in-kind support has also been maintained wherever possible.

**IS 4 To improve transport and access in the municipality**

<p>Council has worked in partnership with a number of stakeholders to provide better access options and improve the efficiency of Council vehicles.</p>	<p>Council continues to work in partnership with stakeholders regarding opportunities to improve transport and access in the Derwent Valley.</p>
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**IS 5 To develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders on the development, management and maintenance of services in the municipality**

<p>Council continues to look for options to resource share where it advantageous to the municipal area and the community. Changes to public transport access have been implemented.</p>	<p>Council continues to shares resources with a number of other Councils.</p>
---	---

**IS 6 To develop partnerships with business in the area and particularly in High Street and its immediate surrounds with a view to reinvigorating the business district**

<p>Through the New Norfolk Business Alliance Council continues to work with business in High Street and the immediate surrounds.</p>	<p>Council continues to have a strong working relationship with a diverse cross section of businesses in the municipality. This year the New Norfolk Business Alliance has commenced the process of developing a strategic plan which will encourage participation of businesses from within the Levy area.</p>
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**IS 7 To develop a means of relaying information from Council to the residents of the municipality**

<p>Council produces a free quarterly newsletter. There are regular comments from Council in the local newspaper. Information on public consultations etc. is advertised on Council's website.</p>	<p>The production of the newsletter has ceased, however the Council has redesigned its website and improved the information available. Local newspapers continue to be used as a mechanism to communicate with residents of the municipality.</p>
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**SOCIAL OBJECTIVES**

**S 1 To make our people feel worthwhile by building greater self-reliance and self-worth in our community**

This point relates to encouraging community participation in the Local Government process, celebration of community achievements and community engagement.

Residents continue to be actively involved in Council activities and regularly provide feedback to Council through various means. Council is improving the way it engages with residents and encourages feedback on policy and other changes when possible.

**S 2 To recognise the work of all people, regardless of age, gender and race in providing opportunities to be part of a vibrant community**

Council continues to support a variety of social and community events. Council's youth advisory committee and Access Advisory Committee meet regularly and are engaged in projects in the community with the support of Council.

Council continues to offer support to various organisations and events within budget allocations.

**S 3 To encourage the development of local sporting, cultural and artistic activities**

The maintenance and upgrade of Council recreational facilities forms part of the work undertaken by the outside workforce, and is programmed into the budget. Through in-kind and financial support Council supports and promotes a number of sporting, cultural and artistic activities.

Council supports as many local activities as possible, through generous in-kind support and budgetary allocations.

**ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES**

**Ec 1 To encourage and facilitate greater opportunities for business development and tourism and work toward a strategic plan for tourism and business development in the area**

Council continues to engage with business owners and potential investors and has developed strong relationships with many tourism operators and tourism organisations in the municipal area. The Economic and Growth Special Committee works with stakeholders to identify opportunities and start to implement the STEPS plan.

Council continues to develop strong relationships in this area which enable it to reflect the views of these stakeholders to a larger audience. The implementation of the STEPS Plan has commenced.

**Ec 2 To support the retention and expansion of regional services**

Council regularly lobbies other levels of government to ensure that local services remain unaffected by cuts and to promote decentralisation of government services.

Council, working with stakeholder groups, continues to lobby stakeholders for the retention and expansion of services in the area.

**Ec. 3 To develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic growth and employment development**

Council has put considerable effort into opening lines of communication between Council and other bodies to promote regional growth.

Council continues to work with industry peak bodies, not for profit organisations, government departments and others to promote the Derwent Valley.

**ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

**En 1 To manage and where required, protect the municipality's natural environment and resources**

Council continues to actively engage with various bodies and organisations to ensure that those resources and assets are managed that are the responsibility of Council are managed to the highest standards.

Resource sharing continues between Council, the Central Highlands Council and NRM South to deliver a NRM program through a local community organisation Derwent Catchment Group. Through this group and independently of this group Council works with a broad range of organisations to deliver environmental and best-practice agricultural programs.

**En 2 To have a catchment management plan for the municipality**

Work continues on the catchment management plan.

A catchment management plan has been developed for the Lower Derwent which covers the majority of the Municipality. The plan identifies key environmental values and priority locations for conservation and management. This is directly related to the new planning scheme.

**En 3 To review the municipality's Planning Scheme**

The review of the Planning Scheme continues under the guidance of State Government. Public consultations have been undertaken and a number of workshops have been held for Councillors. Council's Weed Management Policy is under review.

The new Planning Scheme will soon be in operation. A new 5 year weed management plan has been completed. The plan covers all council roads and prioritizes action based on key environmental and agricultural assets.

**En 4 To support and encourage landcare type activities**

<p>Council has provided practical and inkind assistance to a number of landcare activities in the past year and encourages community participation in such projects.</p>	<p>Council actively supports landcare activities such as Dairy Cares for the Derwent and Nutrient works programs which focus on achieving best practice outcomes and revegetating key riparian areas.</p>
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**En 5 To develop best practice waste management activities**

<p>Where possible office products are reused and recycled, low energy light fittings have been fitted to Council Chambers. Council continues to maintain the Peppermint Hill waste disposal site.</p>	<p>The Peppermint Hill waste disposal site now includes a Tip Shop. For the third year running, Council has participated in the Garage Sale Trail and achieved the highest registrations per capita in Tasmania and ninth nationally, with 122 registered sales and stalls. Council continues to look at ways of renewable power generation.</p>
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**FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**

**F 1 To improve the affordability of Council's rating and charging structure**

<p>During the budget process the effectiveness of Council's rating system is discussed. Council continues to work on modelling, that will provide the best ratings outcomes for the community.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing concern, a balance must be found between the affordability of the rating structure and providing services reflective of the level of expectation by the community.</p> <p>A full revaluation of the Derwent Valley is to occur, effective 1 July 2017. Further work regarding improvements to Council's rating structure will be progressed after this has eventuated.</p>
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**F 2 To effectively manage Council's debt**

<p>Council's debt remains within acceptable guidelines.</p>	<p>Council's debt is constantly reviewed and managed to ensure that the needs of the municipality are met in the most affordable manner.</p>
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**F 3 To increase income from non-traditional sources, including greater utilisation of Council's plant and resources**

<p>Council continues to look at resource sharing opportunities and ways that Council's plant can be used.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing issue that Council is mindful of as there are limited opportunities to secure non-traditional income.</p> <p>Resource sharing in regards to Planning, and Refuse Disposal are currently in place.</p>
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**F 4 To improve community understanding of Council's financial management and finances**

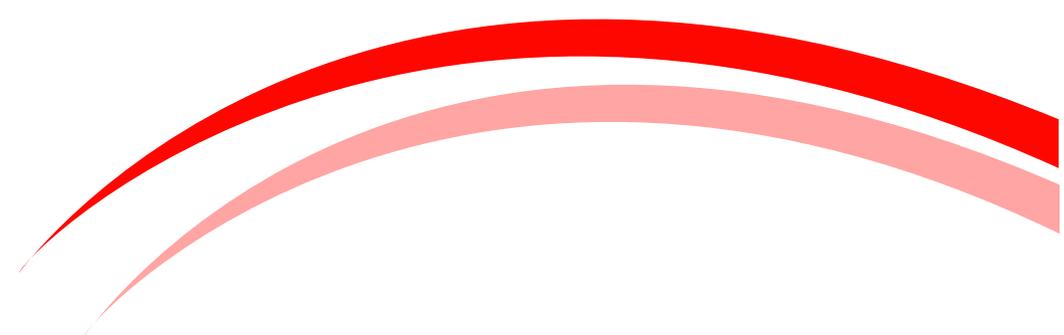
Council continues to monitor the budget papers and provide monthly reporting. Members of the public are encouraged to attend Council Meetings to discuss matters of concern and to make submissions to the budget process.

Councillors are presented with a months end Financial Report at all Council meetings and monthly financial reports are provided to relevant Council staff. Public submissions to Council's Budget were considered by Council with a number of these being included in the Budget.

**F 5 To increase the level of grant income**

Council continues to develop projects for potential grant funding, and to undertake funding applications and lobby for funding.

Council has received a number of grants for specific projects in the last year.



## The Year in Review

This section provides a review of the activities of Council.

All areas of Council work together to achieve outcomes for the entire community. To ensure that actual and human resources are allocated in the most effective manner, and to provide the best service possible to the community; staff allocated to a particular department may from time to time work across departments to utilise their skills and qualifications.



## Governance

The General Manager takes responsibility for the area of governance within Council. This area also includes regional renewal, public relations, marketing, human resource management and elected members support.

Acting in the human resource capacity, this office ensures that officers have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities, the strategic direction of the organisation and their place in relation to that direction. This office also oversees the day to day operations of Council and is responsible for all decisions regarding staff matters.

Major projects and initiatives of Council, external investors and developers are scrutinised through this office before any further action is taken in regard to proposals.

This office works closely with elected members to provide and ensure that the decisions of Council are enacted. Council Officers under the direction of the General Manager ensure that Councillors are provided with appropriate information, advice and support services to enable them to work collectively for the good of the community.

Councillors play an active part in setting the Derwent Valley Council budget including the consideration of public submissions. During the year Councillors attend numerous functions, seminars, forums and other meetings in the execution of their positions.

Regional renewal, public relations and marketing form part of this department and take in a large number of varied activities. The focus of these activities is to bring the community and various stakeholders together to work for positive outcomes for the municipal area. This may take many forms, from direct involvement in committees, forums and other consultative activities, through to sourcing grant funding for organisations and assisting with writing grant applications. Council Officers in this area work closely with the community, the General Manager and Councillors to ensure that there is a flow of information between the various parts of the organisation. Staff involved in these activities may also liaise with a number of departments within the organisation to ensure the success of various projects.

Internal reviews of the way in which Council services are delivered for the community have been undertaken. The intent of the reviews is to identify areas of improvement, to ensure that the services provided are consistent and transparent. As part of this review a number of policy changes have been made.

This department has responsibility for works at Willow Court. The last year has seen further progress made in the reuse of the Willow Court precinct and the Bronte building in particular.

Support for community events, whether large or small helps to fulfil part of Councils corporate responsibility and builds a stronger community. Councils Physical Services Department often plays an

important role in these events, including providing in-kind assistance to organisations such as Friends of Frascati, Derwent Valley Community House and ANZAC Day.



Access to the decisions of Council made at Council Meetings and minutes of Special Committees is available via its website.

The Council is welcoming of community input and encourages the public to contribute through active involvement in committees of Council and making submissions to the budget process and other public documents.

This year the Council has focused on reviewing its policies. As part of this process the public are encouraged to provide feedback by way of a written submission within the 42 day consultation period.

Derwent Valley Council's front counter staff and outside workforce are often the public face of Council and the first point of contact that many people have with Council. Frontline staff assist as much as is possible with enquiries and will willingly direct the public to the appropriate officers for further information.

## Physical Services

This Department manages a vast range of assets including Parks and Reserves, Swimming Pools, Roads and Footpaths, Stormwater, Bridges, Plant, Buildings and Property, Cemeteries and a Landfill. Operations activities incorporate the outdoor workforce and extends from maintenance of the above assets to operation of the landfill and a quarry.

A series of replacement and rehabilitation works were completed during the year including reconstruction of Gaul Lane, improvements in Alfred Street, Blair Street, Dixon Street, Plunkett Street, Warner Avenue and stormwater improvements in Saddle Road. Significant efforts were applied to design works to assure future work programs. Replacement of two bridges over the Tyenna River commenced – design and fabrication of components were achieved, with site construction proposed during the 2016-2017 Financial Year.

Waste management functions of council were subjected to an end to end review to establish areas for improvement of those services and activities. These are critical services to maintain community amenity, and while landfills are a valuable asset, waste management is a costly activity. Council now has a clearer view of the cost of waste management from kerb to landfill, and strategies are under development for the Peppermint Hill Landfill. In pursuit

of full cost recovery of those services, changes were implemented to waste charging structures.

Council operates a quarry under lease and has analysed those activities to ensure value for money is achieved. Gravel produced is used for road maintenance and other activities. After reflecting all associated costs, it is a cost benefit to continue this activity in addition to sourcing gravels from other private producers.

In order to improve probity and transparency of Council activities, a review of purchasing activities was undertaken resulting in the implementation of new procurement procedures. These are supported by core contract documentation to ensure clarity of expectations between tenderers and Council. The processes and documentation, which demonstrate our commitment to good governance, have been received positively by industry participants.

Prioritisation of our works programmes commenced during the year, ensuring community funds are expended where best value is achieved for Council and its community. To reinforce that position, ongoing initiatives will be implemented during 2016-2017 to improve asset knowledge and better inform decision making processes of Council, and implementation of works. Provisions have been made for asset management system development, road condition surveys, design and stormwater management planning.

## Community and Social Development

The community and social development functions of Council work closely with the governance area in seeking opportunities to engage with stakeholders and build a strong and cohesive community.

As part of the commitment to the community; Councillors and staff are encouraged to play an active role in local committees, clubs and organisations. This helps to integrate Council into the broader community and develop networks.

This wide ranging area of engagement was identified as an area of focus in the current strategic plan, Council therefore places a great deal of importance on participation in this area. Council builds relationships across the community through a number of initiatives involving partnerships between community stakeholders and Council. These include:

- Australia Day activities
- Support for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services
- CWA Learn to Swim Campaign
- Carols by Candlelight
- Relay for Life

- Christmas Parade and Fair through the New Norfolk Business Alliance (a Special Committee of Council)
- RAFT (Real Action...Forward Thinking)
- Derwent Valley Scholarship Fund
- Numerous smaller events and involvement with community organisations
- Numerous small donations to individuals and organisations during the year.

The Derwent Valley has much to be proud of, from our agricultural success stories, through to the many community and other events that Council and the community is involved in each year including the Autumn Festival. Through its area promotions function, Council aims to assist in as many of the events that take place in the Derwent Valley as is possible, these help to build on the reputation of the valley and strengthen the community.

This aspect of promotional activity also includes Council's support of the tourism sector through an active involvement with local tourism operators and organisations including, support of Destination Southern Tasmania, the regional tourism association. Council continues to fund the Visitor Information Centre.

## Development and Environmental Services

Much of the work undertaken by this department is governed by the legislative requirements of Council; this is detailed in Section 5 of this report. This department is divided into a number of discreet areas, with information on each contained below.

### Environmental Planning and Management

Environmental planning and management, involves the protection of natural environment, including catchment and environmental monitoring. This includes Council's contribution to NRM South. The Derwent Valley and Central Highlands Councils share an NRM officer who specialises in this work.

Also included in this area is the licensing of food businesses and food inspections, on-site wastewater systems, immunisation sessions, recreational water quality monitoring and a number of other public health related activities. The results of these activities are recorded in section 5 of this report.

Physical Services shares responsibility for waste management with this area, this includes support for programs to promote waste minimization and recycling. Participation in sustainability programs such as the Garage Sale Trail are shared between this department and Community and Social Development.

### Immunisations

Council provides Immunisation sessions for children aged birth to 4 years, year 7 High School students and over 65 Flu vaccines. This year the Federal Government implemented the "No Jab, No Pay" scheme. After an initial rush to the Baby Clinics, numbers have now settled.

Monthly Baby Clinics were held at Ptunarra Child and Family Centre in Blair Street. Positive feedback has been received from parents regarding Ptunarra being a family friendly environment.

There was a big push this year, to have all Year 7 immunisation permission slips returned, regardless of whether students received immunisations. Council is pleased to say that Glenora District High School returned 100% of their forms and New Norfolk High School returned 86%.

The over 65 flu clinic was fully booked this year. Next year the Council will be providing a shingles vaccine for people aged between 70-79. This will be held at the same time as the flu vaccinations for those that are eligible to receive both.

## Building and Plumbing Control

Building and plumbing control form part of the team to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements in relation to new, existing and unapproved structures.

A Building surveying service is provided for dwellings and outbuildings. This includes checking plans, applications, inspection of works under construction and completed works for compliance with the related codes, acts and regulations. On completion of privately certified projects, inspections are also carried out to ensure all planning conditions have been met.

Compliance action is also involved for works undertaken without the required permits.

This area is highly regulated and must meet the expectations of the Department of Justice (Building Standards and Occupational Licensing) who provide guidance/training and undertake regular audits.

Council's Building Surveyor (Limited) and Compliance Officer is employed on a full time basis and the Plumbing Inspector being resource shared with Southern Midlands Council.

A total of 113 building applications during 2015-2016 were received and a total of 130 building approvals were granted for projects in the same period, with a total value of \$17,278,154.

## Planning Control

Planning control provides strategic and statutory planning in accordance with the requirements of various pieces of State legislation.

Council receives and determines applications for development or land use in accordance with the New Norfolk Planning Scheme 1993 (up until 15 December 2015) and the Derwent Valley Interim Planning Scheme 2015 (from 16 December 2015) and the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993*.

Of the 158 permit applications submitted to Council, 126 were approved. No applications were refused and applicants withdrew a total of 5 applications. At 30 June 2016 there were 35 applications pending a decision.

There were 12 applications assessed with no permit required.

There were 19 subdivision applications submitted of which 16 were approved. There were 12 applications pending at 30 June 2016.

During the year there were no planning appeals lodged against Council's determination.

## Animal Control

Council undertakes a number of animal management programs which include animal nuisance complaints, straying stock on roads, dogs at large and dog attacks. Council employs a fulltime Municipal Inspector. The Municipal Inspector undertakes patrols around the municipality, responds to animal complaints and promotes responsible ownership to the wider community.

Council has legislative requirements under the *Dog Control Act 2000* to ensure that all dogs are registered, microchipped and managed in a responsible manner.

Council has commenced a review of its Dog Management Policy. Under the *Dog Control Act 2000* this is required every 5 years. This review incorporates how the Council responds to dog related complaints as well as reviewing the areas in which dogs are permitted off lead, restricted areas and prohibited public areas.

As a result of Council's ongoing Animal Control Program:-

	2014-2015	2015-2016
<b>Registered dogs</b>	2,037	2,082
<b>Impounded dogs</b>	71	73
<b>Impounded dogs reclaimed</b>	40	28
<b>Unclaimed dogs transferred to the Tasmanian Dogs Home for Adoption</b>	31	42
<b>Infringement notices issued</b>	1	7

## Records Management

Records management ensures that the internal filing, retrieval and disposal of hard copy Council documents, maps and records are completed in a timely and efficient manner. An audit by the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO) was undertaken to determine the level of ongoing compliance. As with most Councils the Derwent Valley Council has a number of areas that require attention. There were three key recommendations for improvement prior to next review (approximately 2 years following the audit):-

1. develop, endorse and implement an Information Management/Records Management Policy;
2. development of an Information Asset Register;
3. develop/update Records Management Procedures for all staff.

Item one has been implemented since the audit and items two and three will be implemented prior to the next audit.

Records management staff are regularly updated by the TAHO on the current requirements and guidelines for records management. This includes briefings from the TAHO to ensure Council is adhering to the appropriate legislation, ongoing publications of guidelines as well as information relating to best practice records management.

## Environmental Planning and Management

Environmental Planning and Management, involves the integration of environmental factors into everyday management of our municipality. This includes planning, asset maintenance, supporting community actions and working with landholders for broader environmental benefits.



## Corporate and Financial Services

Corporate and financial services have primary responsibility for financial management, administration, customer service and risk management.

Through the budget process, in conjunction with decisions of Council, this department controls the budget, sets rates and undertakes the financial administration of Council.

To ensure sound financial management that meets the objectives of the Strategic Plan, Financial Management Strategy, Long Term Financial Plan, annual budget and the Annual Plan. The Council endeavors to provide the community with clear and easy to understand information. Generally this is undertaken through the production of monthly financial reports which are presented at Council meetings and are available to the public as part of the Council Agenda.

This section is charged with the duty of ensuring that there are adequate financial resources available to deliver services and that these resources are managed efficiently and effectively.

Each year, the Council calls for public submissions to the Budget, this occurred between 25 March 2015 and 9 April 2015. This provided the public with an opportunity to seek funding for projects and improvements which may not have come to the attention of the Council. All submissions were considered by the Councillors as a part of the budgetary process.

Council's Budget was adopted by Council at a Council meeting held on the 25 June 2015.

The Annual Plan was adopted on the 25 June 2015, and set out the immediate goals for the coming year.

Our customer service staff are trained to assist members of the public whenever possible with any Derwent Valley related enquiries.

The role of customer service staff has broadened in recent years, from a single point of contact, to assisting with more detailed enquiries and various administration duties that keep the Council functioning efficiently. Customer service staff are also able to help the public direct their enquiries to other government agencies such as TasWater etc. where appropriate.

One of the Council's main concerns is ensuring that residents and visitors are not exposed to undue risk of injury. The Council manages its exposure to risk in a proactive manner, addressing areas of potential risk in a timely fashion. Part of this role is to work to ensure that costs associated with any liability claims are kept to a minimum, through extensive use of risk management practices.

## Child, Youth and Family Services

There are three areas covered by this program:

- Home and Community Care (HACC);
- Children’s Services, including Long Day Care, After School Care, Vacation Care and Family Day Care, and;
- Youth Services

Through these programs Council provides support to many vulnerable members of the community. These programs form the centre of Council’s community services program.

### Home and Community Care (HACC)

Glengrey House provides adult day respite services for the Derwent Valley area, with carers and clients residing from Granton through to Maydena. It is open Monday to Thursday and is serviced by two permanent staff, one casual staff member and two part time volunteers.

The philosophy of Glengrey House is; to enable the elderly or disabled person to maintain his/her independence, individuality and importance in the community; to ensure that the elderly or disabled person is maintained at home for as long as possible; to encourage the person to become more independent by promoting living and social skills in an environment that is warm, friendly, safe and non-judgmental.

Glengrey House is funded by the Crown through the Department of Health. Nationally, the Commonwealth Government contributes approximately 60% of HACC program funding and maintains a broad strategic policy role. The State Government is responsible for the day to day management of the program.

Home and Community Care (HACC) now comes under the umbrella of Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) through the Department of Social Services.

This year staff have been trained in Dysphagia and Choking Management, updated their First Aid, and Medication Administration certificates. Police checks and drivers licenses have also been updated. Working with Children and Vulnerable People checks will be conducted early next year to ensure that all staff and volunteers are compliant legislative requirements.

In April we took 5 clients on a 4 day holiday to Launceston which was most enjoyable for all. We are all looking forward to a trip to Devonport next year.

We also hosted a St Patrick’s Day luncheon inviting the staff and clients from The Highland’s Day Respite Centre at Ouse to attend. Guest speakers this year included Advocacy Tasmania, Better Hearing Australia, New Norfolk Fire Service and Palliative Care Services. We were part of the Health Expo held in High Street in June, as members of the newly formed The Right Place initiative

which has been actively supported by the Council. Seniors week activities this year included our clients joining in with Bingo and the Mayor's Afternoon Tea which we did all the table decorations for.

In July we underwent a review with the Aged Care Quality Review Agency. They identified a number of issues with the:-

1. structure of the building (including subsidence of the floors in bathroom and kitchen, and the bathroom not being suitable as disability accessible);
2. the governance of the centre;
3. sub-contractor information.

Glengrey House is working with the Council to rectify these matters.

We currently have spaces for clients who are frail aged or a young (under 65 years) person with disabilities. We transport clients to and from the centre where they enjoy a day of activities and a two course lunch. Once a week we have an all-day outing where clients can have a meal, do some shopping and enjoy the sights while being fully supported by qualified staff.

## **Children's Services**

Valley Children's Centre and New Norfolk Family Day Care offers a range of child care options for families residing in the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands municipalities. We focus on early childhood educational programs from the age of birth up to 12 years, which includes a range of care options including; childcare, Family Day Care, Long Day Care, Out of School Hours Care and Vacation Care.

This year we congratulated Valley Children's Centre and New Norfolk Family Day Care services on achieving and exceeding their rating for the National Rating and Assessment. This was an amazing effort for both services, as their last quality rating was working towards the National Quality Standards.

The teams at the Valley Children's Centre and Family Day Care continue to move forward to improve on all aspects of their programmes for the children. They are committed to developing ever stronger relationships with children and their families whilst building a culture of learning.

The educators are qualified and committed to early education and care. This is shown through a programme that fosters children's learning through their various interests and strengths. Inclusive practices are encouraged for all children by educators that respect diversity and support the children to respect and celebrate individuality. Children are supported and encouraged to work in small and large group experiences, to learn the necessary tools supporting children to build resilience, to develop positive social

dispositions and skills to co-operate or negotiate as part of a team environment.

Valley Children's Centre and Family Day Care provides a strong nurture based learning environment to support children to become confident inquisitive learners and to enhance children's growth and development in areas such as literacy and numeracy. Quiet spaces are available supporting children's well-being. Children's sense of agency is encouraged by allowing children to share their voice into the programme and sharing in decision making about their own learning.



Children from both Long Day Care and Family Day Care attend local excursions which promote community awareness and supports children to learn about the wider world through people, places and things. Community involvement is supported, as children have visits to the community gardens where they learn about sustainability and growing local produce. This is transferred to the children, helping to build gardens to promote sustainability with produce

being utilised in the kitchen. Local Excursions to the park, Library, Dentist and shops also builds children's awareness of what is in their local community. The Ambulance and Fire Service have been to the centre and Family Day Care residences to support children learning about community within their programmes. Family Day Care Educators have the opportunity for networking through a play group which operates from a community partnership with the Salvation Army. The playgroup also gives children the opportunity to build new friendships and strength their social skills in a different environment.

Educators are mentored and lead by the Director and Pedagogical Leader employed by UnitingCare Tasmania. As well as participating in a variety of professional development opportunities to enhance and build upon their skills and knowledge working towards continual improvements for optimum learning outcomes for children.

## Youth Services

Council's youth services are based at Carinya Education Park, adjacent to New Norfolk High School. This complex houses a number of services, including external non-government organisations who are primarily involved in service delivery for young people and the broader community.

Council's Youth Services provides various opportunities for youth in the area to fully develop their potential. Council actively works with and supports a number of groups representing young people (12-25 years of age). These services include:-

**Derwent Valley RAFT** is an over-arching supporting body initiated and convened by Council to assist with coordinated delivery of youth programs in the Derwent Valley. RAFT convenes networking opportunities and information sharing for youth service providers and stakeholders through the operation of regular RAFT Forum meetings.

**Derwent Valley Learning Precinct** is a collective of Derwent Valley public education facilities working together to raise the value of education.

**Tree2Sea** is an educational kayak and boat building program based at Council's Carinya Education Park. Tree2Sea is a collaborative project between Council, Derwent Valley Community House, New Norfolk High School (supported by the Derwent Valley

Learning Precinct – 'Valley of Learning'), Workskills Employment, Derwent Valley RAFT and Primary Health Tasmania. Tree2Sea is supported by Primary Health Tasmania under the Primary Health Networks Program – an Australian Government initiative.

One-hundred and fifty individuals have been engaged in this program over the past twenty-four months producing eight constructed watercrafts; including stand-up paddle boards and sea kayaks. This program is currently constructing a uniquely designed Tasmanian drift boat.



**Community of Wellness** is a network of volunteer mentors, trained to support the wellbeing of their peers. These volunteer mentors are highly supported and will be the links between their peers and support services. Community of Wellness is a collaborative project of Derwent Valley RAFT and is supported by the Australian Government through Partners in Recovery (PIR). Community of Wellness has provided training in Mental Health First Aid and Bridges Out of Poverty to thirteen individuals in the Derwent Valley Community during 2016.

**26TEN** is an initiative of the Tasmanian Government with the aim of improving literacy and numeracy levels. With the support of Council, Derwent Valley RAFT in-partnership with the Derwent Valley Learning Precinct received 26TEN funding and engaged an officer to raise awareness and map education and learning opportunities in the Derwent Valley.

The 26TEN Awareness Officer has assisted various individuals, organisations and businesses with becoming 26TEN supporters and members, establishing a 26TEN mosaic at the New Norfolk LINC, and establishing a localised action group to assist with the long-term sustainability and direction of 26TEN in the Derwent Valley.

**The New Norfolk Inter-agency Support Team (NNIAST)** are an initiative of Tasmanian Police with the aim to case-manage young people (5-17 years) and their families with multiple and complex problems.

**D'FAT (Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team)** is a Special Committee of Council and acts as the youth advisory group to Council. The major aim of D'FAT is to assist Council in developing activities and projects for young people and advise Council on youth issues and concerns.



## Regional Development

Regional development covers a diverse mix of activities within the Council. The Council's Regional Development Officer works with staff from all Council departments with the aim of providing support to the Derwent Valley community.

Day to day activities include answering queries from the community, working with community organisations and committees of Council to further their goals in the Derwent Valley through to discussions with government and other agencies to provide strategic input into longer term activities. Activities can take the form of one off initiatives such as assisting the Bushy Park Show society with discussions about their use of the Bushy Park Show ground, through to ongoing activities such as working with the Economic and Growth Special Committee to implement elements of Council's STEPs Plan.

One of the most high profile events that occurred in the last year was the Council's partnership with Mona to deliver an impressive Dark MoFo event to New Norfolk. Dark MoFo ran over two weeks in the Willow Court precinct, featuring an art exhibition and installation by Mike Parr and attracting around 12,000 visitors to the Derwent Valley. One of the highlights of the event was the community Garden Party, which was very well supported by the local community and visitors alike. Thanks goes to all the

businesses across the Derwent Valley who got behind the *Paint The Town Red* initiative and lit New Norfolk and other venues in the Derwent Valley with a welcoming red haze. This event was realised with the support of Destination Southern Tasmania and Events Tasmania. If the Council chooses to support future Dark MoFo events, one of the challenges will be to convert the visitation to the Dark MoFo event into increased trade for local businesses.



Council's involvement in this event served to show that access to appropriate resourcing the Derwent Valley can professionally host a large scale event which attracts State and national attention. The Dark MoFo event also highlighted the potential of the Willow Court precinct creating possibilities for future innovative uses.

This year saw a significant commitment of time in finalising the Council's staff workplace agreement and starting to implement an updated work, health and safety policy.

Council's new budget process gave staff the opportunity to put forward projects for funding, this included a submission to create a new 'dog park'; a suitable site is currently being investigated.

ANZAC Day was commemorated with the Dawn and 11am services this year, with considerable time being set aside to organise these services and the Remembrance Day service for the New Norfolk RSL. This year's Dawn Service on ANZAC Day was very well attended, with one of the largest gatherings of the community at the service in many years.

This year was the establishment of *The Right Place* initiative in the Derwent Valley. *The Right Place* is an initiative that started in the Huon Valley and through funding from Primary Health Tasmania has been expanded to include the Derwent Valley; it involves businesses and organisations agreeing to join the initiative being provided with easy to understand information on community services in the area. This enables community members' access to a point of entry for services; it's about connecting the community with services provided in the area. As a result of connections made through this initiative, a group of service providers have started to meet regularly to network and discuss issues of importance to

service provision in the area. Although in its formative stages, this is proving a valuable networking tool for those involved, and allowing the sharing of information that will benefit the community.

Council was successful in grant applications to the Tasmanian Community Fund for a new PA system which can be used by community organisations at public events and to the Australian Government's Safer Streets program. Funding from the Safer Streets program will see security cameras installed in strategic locations around High Street and Tynwald Park; this will act as a deterrent for antisocial behaviour. The Council's application for funding to the National Stronger Regions Fund round 3, for the restoration of Frascati house and the creation of a community employment hub in the building was unsuccessful, however, the process has created a stronger network of people who wish to be involved in future projects in the Derwent Valley.

Special Committees of Council provide a way for community members to have input into the activities of the Council. With this in mind, the New Norfolk Business Alliance, a Special Committee tasked with promoting business within a defined area of New Norfolk has started the process of strategic planning. The purpose of this is to ensure that the committee has a mechanism to consult with all members of the Business Alliance and to work with the membership to provide ideas and opportunities to promote the

shopping experience in New Norfolk, therefore improving trade for all businesses in the area. This process included a review of the levy paid by Business Alliance members, with results suggesting that the levy should continue. In line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993, the levy will be reviewed again in 2017.

The Economic and Growth Special Committee was set up in 2015 to implement Council's STEPs plan, an aspirational strategic document that focuses on tourism, agriculture, business and population growth as ways of boosting economic activity in the Derwent Valley. The Economic and Growth Special Committee spent much of the first part of the year identifying strategic priorities through consultation with stakeholders, including business, tourism and agricultural representatives. The priorities for the coming year include branding, developing an inventory of assets for the Derwent Valley which will be used in the future for a gap analysis and to develop a prospectus for the area, developing famils for the tourism industry to help provide accurate information to promote the area and working with the agricultural sector, particularly in relation to options for the provision of accommodation for seasonal workers. To further a strong brand for the Derwent Valley, the Council has agreed to work with Brand Tasmania to promote the 'Tasmania's Derwent Valley' as a strong outward facing brand to the public; and giving business and producers an opportunity to work with Brand Tasmania. The Economic and Growth Special committee has been involved in promoting a number of other

projects in the Derwent Valley, including providing part funding for a visitor map distributed and designed by Destination Southern Tasmania, providing funding for increased NRM services to the Derwent Valley through matching grant funding with NRM South, and discussions regarding possible future uses of the Derwent Valley line.

Work was undertaken this year to strengthen the Council's application to have Willow Court listed on the National Heritage List, an outcome of this application is still pending. The Council made submissions to the State Government in regard to the production of hemp, and heritage tourism, with Council being requested to speak at the Legislative Council hearing on its submission regarding heritage tourism.



## Enterprise Powers Statement

This report is made pursuant to Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

No activities were undertaken during the 2015-2016 financial year.

### Senior Employee Total Remuneration Statement

This statement is in accordance with Section 72 (1)(cd) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Total Remuneration including salary, superannuation and private use of any motor vehicle as required under the Act is as follows:-

\$240,000 - \$259,999 – 1 employee

\$120,000 - \$139,999 – 1 employee

### Councillor Allowances and Expenses Statement

Statement of Allowances and expenses paid to elected members Section 72 (1)(cb) of the *Local Government Act 1993*:-

- Total allowances paid to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors: \$134,571;
- Total expenses paid to all Councillors: \$7,063.

Allowances, telephone and travel paid to elected members for 2015 – 2016 were as follows:-

Elected Member	Allowance \$	Telephone \$	Travel \$
Councillor Belcher	11,746		
Councillor Bester	11,746		
Mayor Evans	41,110	2,141	4,922
Councillor Graham	11,746		
Councillor Lathey	11,746		
Councillor Pearce	11,746		
Deputy Mayor Shaw	22,988		
Councillor Triffett	11,746		

## Grants Assistance and Benefits

*This statement is in accordance with Section 77(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Council allocated the following grants under its 2015-2016 Community Grants Program, all amounts are GST exclusive:-

Organisation	Funds Utilised for	Funds Allocated \$
Maydena Community Association Inc	Refrigerator	800.00
Log A Load for Kids	Sponsorship	500.00
Lions Club of New Norfolk	Grants workshop	500.00
Historical Information Centre	IT training	500.00
New Norfolk Fire Brigade	Refrigerator	500.00
MoCo Dragon Boat Club	PFD's	480.00
Derwent Pony Club	Dressage cones, jump cups	473.00
St Matthews Singers	Music scores	450.00
Derwent Valley Men's Shed	Compound saw	429.00
Derwent Valley Choir	Music scores	400.00

## Derwent Valley Council Annual Report 2015 - 2016

Derwent Valley Council made the following donations to individuals and organisations in the 2015-2016 financial year:-

Organisation	Funds Allocated \$
Give me 5 for Kids	100.00
D. Rankin - regional team	300.00
M. Byrne	500.00
New Norfolk High School - quiz night	100.00
S. Gangell - Handlers Final	100.00
J. Stevenson - U15 AFL	300.00
Lions Club of Hobart - Circus Quirkus	109.09
Starlight foundation	147.00
International Women's Day	200.00
Bushy Park Show Society - annual show	100.00
New Norfolk High School - Golf Day	100.00

Organisation	Funds Allocated \$
Fairview Primary School - assembly prize	100.00
Gretna Fire Brigade	100.00
T. Fulton - Horse riding	200.00
Fairview Primary School - Fair	100.00
New Norfolk High School - assembly	100.00
Magra Fire Brigade - fundraiser	100.00
Rotary Club of Hobart - Magic festival	100.00
Tas. Trout angling - August competition	400.00
S. Williams - Underwater hockey	200.00
A. Blackwell - Race walking	200.00
Glenora High School - presentations	50.00

A total of \$8,738.09 was granted/donated during the year.

Footpath Occupation Licence Fee Exemptions	Value of Exemptions
25 Applications received from business	\$2,500

### Photocopying Services - Community Groups

The cost to the Council for the period 23 October 2015 to 30 June 2016 was \$869.93.

## Contracts for Supply of Goods and Services

For the purposes of compliance with Section 72(1)(e) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the following contracts for the supply or provision of goods or services valued at or exceeding \$100,000 that has been entered into or extended during this financial year. The following statement is made in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2015.

Contract	Contract Period	Extension Option	Contract Sum (inc. extension options)	Contractor
Kerbside Recycling	5 years Commenced 5 March 2012	1 year + 1 year	\$600,000 (estimated)	Aussie Waste Management Pty Ltd PO BOX 1474 Eastern Shore MC
Kerbside Waste Collection	5 years Commenced 21 February 2011	1 year + 1 year Exercised extension until December 2017	\$370,000	Veolia Environmental Services PO Box 431 Rosny Park
Street improvements to Blair Streets, Warner Avenue footpath kerb and channel, Saddle Road stormwater	27 April – 23 June 2016	Nil	\$388,233	Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd 3 Whitestone Dr Austins Ferry TAS
Peppermint Hill Landfill leachate pond lining and leachate pipeline	6 June 2016 – 2 January 2017	Delayed commencement Date	\$117,078	Batchelor Construction Group Pty Ltd 115 Browns Road KINGSTON TAS
Replacement of bridges over Tyenna River, Newbury and Tyenna Roads	27 April – 11 December 2016	Nil	\$544,200	BridgePro Engineering 19 Faulkner Drive, Latrobe Tasmania 7307

### Donated Land Statement

Derwent Valley Council has not resolved to donate any lands in accordance with Section 177 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## Public Interest Disclosure Statement

Section 86 of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* requires a public body to report on the following for the period covered by this Annual Report:-

Reporting Requirement	Outcome
How persons may obtain or access copies of the current procedures established under the Act.	The Council has a copy of the current procedure available to the public on its website. Copies may be viewed at the Council Chamber.
Number and types of disclosures made to the Derwent Valley Council and number of disclosures determined to be a public interest disclosure.	There were no disclosures made.
Number of disclosures determined by the Derwent Valley Council to be public interest disclosures that the Council investigated.	There were no disclosures made therefore no disclosures determined.
Number and type of disclosed matters referred to the Derwent Valley Council by the Ombudsman.	There were no referrals from the Ombudsman.
Number and types of disclosed matter referred during the year by the Derwent Valley Council to the Ombudsman to investigate.	Council did not refer any matters to the Ombudsman.
The number and types of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the Derwent Valley Council during the year.	No matters were taken over by the Ombudsman during the year.
The number and types of disclosed matters that the Derwent Valley Council declined to investigate during the year.	Derwent Valley Council did not decline to investigate any matters during the year.
The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and action taken on completion of the investigation.	No matters were investigated, there was no action taken.
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the Derwent Valley Council.	The Ombudsman's office has not made any recommendations to the Derwent Valley Council.

## Legislative Requirements

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires that certain information on the operations of Council is included in this report. That information can be found in this section.

### Public Health Statement

From 1 July 2015 until 30 June 2016, the Council's Environmental Health Department employed an Environmental Health Officer for four (4) days a week. Council fulfilled all its obligations under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*; *Food Act 2003*; *Public Health Act 1997* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

One of the roles of the Environmental Health Department and an objective of Council is to protect public health and safety and to ensure food prepared and sold within the municipal area is safe for human consumption and complies with relevant legislation, in particular the Australian New Zealand Food Standards Code. This objective is achieved through educational programs and regular food inspections of food premises. There were 101 food premises and 72 temporary food premises registered in the municipal area during 2015 – 2016 financial year.

Approximately, 91 food inspections and 20 temporary food inspections were conducted. Council's Environmental Health Officer attended and regulated large public events including the Autumn Festival; Bushy Park Show; Hobart Speedway and Granton Boats Racing.

Council has an obligation to provide food education/awareness training to members of the community, who work with food in various capacities. The goal of food education/awareness training is to ensure persons undertaking or supervising food handling operations have the appropriate skills and knowledge in food safety and food hygiene matters, so as to protect public health and safety. The Environmental Health Department provides food premises and the public with food education information packages.

In accordance with the *Building Act 2000*, the Environmental Health Department is also responsible for assessing on-site wastewater systems and to issue special plumbing permits, for the installation of any new on-site wastewater systems. A total of 23 special plumbing permits were issued during the financial year.

Under the *Public Health Act 1997 – Recreational Water Quality Guidelines 2007*, Council has a responsibility to monitor its recreational and public pools. The recreational water sampling site was the Derwent River, near Fitzgerald Jetty. Monitoring of recreational waters was conducted by the Derwent Valley Council, principally on a weekly basis, through the months of December 2015 to March 2016. Samples were analysed for the microbiological indicator of *Enterococci* bacteria.

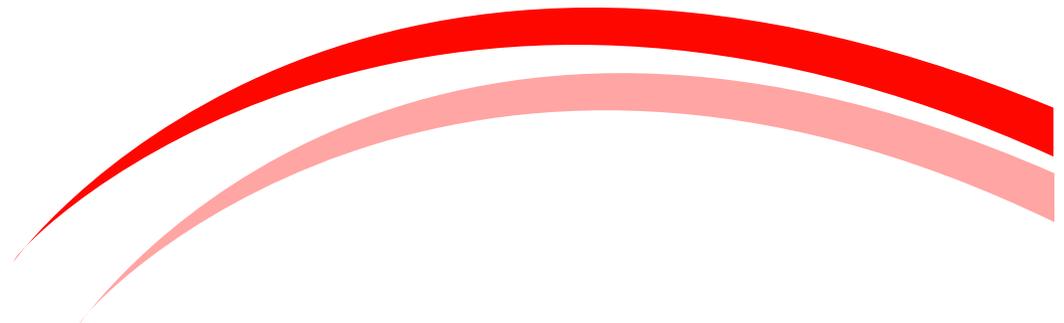
A total of 13 recreational samples were taken. There are four public pools in the Derwent Valley municipality.

They include:-

1. New Norfolk Main Swimming Pool and New Norfolk Baby Swimming Pool, situated at the Esplanade, New Norfolk;
2. Bushy Park Swimming Pool, situated at 601 Gordon River Road, Glenora;
3. Maydena Swimming Pool, situated at Mayne Street, Maydena;
4. Derwent Valley Indoor Swim Centre, situated at 30 Derwent Terrace, New Norfolk.

Pool samples were analysed for Heterotrophic Plate Count 36°cfu/mL; E. Coli cfu/100mL and Pseudomonas aeruginosacfu/100mL. A total of 73 pool samples were taken. The results of the recreational and pool samples are included in a report required by the Director of Public Health.

In accordance with the Drinking Water Quality Guidelines under the *Public Health Act 1997*, Council is required to keep a register of private water suppliers and water carriers in the municipal area. There are currently 5 private water suppliers and 1 water carter operating in the municipal area. The details of the private water suppliers and water carter are compiled in a report as required by the Director of Public Health.



The following table summarises the activities undertaken during the 2015-2016 financial year

Type of Premises	No. Premises 2014-2015	No. Inspections 2014-2015	No. Premises 2015-2016	No. Inspections 2015-2016	Comments
Places of Assembly	21	21	0	0	
Places of Assembly for Specific Events	22	12	4	4	
Immunisations	N/A	286	3	325	Doses administered.
Pool Water Samples	4	68	4	62	
Recreational Water Samples	1	17	1	13	
Regulated Systems	0	0	0	0	
Commercial Water Carters	1	1	1	1	
Public Health Risks	1	1	0	0	
Unhealthy Housing	0	0	0	0	
Notifiable Disease Investigations	4	4	6	6	
Private Burial Permits	0	0	0	0	

### ***Food Act 2003 and Building Act 2000***

Type of Premises	No. Premises 2014 - 2015	No. Inspections 2014-2015	No. Premises 2015 - 2016	No. Inspections 2015-2016	Comments
Registered food businesses	104	104	101	91	
Growers Market Registrations	3	3	2	2	
Temporary Food premises	65	25	72	20	
Food Vehicles	3	3	1	1	
Seizure of food items	0	0	0	0	
Approval of plans for new or alterations to existing food premises	2	2	3	0	

### ***Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 and Local Government Act 1993***

Description	No. 2014 - 2015	No. 2015 - 2016
Complaints Received	93	98
Environmental Protection Notices served or ongoing	0	0
Abatement notices served under <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>	0	44
Infringement notices served under <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>	0	0

**Building Act 2000**

Description	No. 2014 - 2015	No. 2015 - 2016
Special Plumbing Permits Issued	30	23
Special Plumbing Completions	8	12
Development Applications	139	126
Subdivision Referrals	0	0
Plumbing Notices Served	0	6
Plumbing Orders Served	0	3
Building Notices	-	8
Building Orders	-	5
Emergency Orders	-	5

## Councillor Meeting Attendance

This report is made pursuant to Section 72 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

There were a total of 28 Council Meetings, consisting of:-

Type of Meeting	Total number of meetings held
Ordinary Council Meetings	12
Closed Meetings	11
Special Ordinary Meetings	3
Special Closed Meetings	1
Annual General Meeting	1

Included in this total are four meetings held away from New Norfolk (Maydena, Westerway, Molesworth and Granton) these meetings included a community forum.

Where a Councillor was not in attendance at a particular meeting, a leave of absence for a specific purpose may have been granted by Council pursuant to Section 39 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

## Record of Councillor meeting attendance

Councillor	Ordinary Meeting	Closed Meeting	Special Ordinary	Special Closed	AGM	Audit Panel	Total Attended
Councillor Belcher	12	11	2	0	1		26
Councillor Bester	12	11	3	1	1		28
Councillor Evans	11	10	3	1	1		26
Councillor Graham	12	11	3	1	1	0	28
Councillor Lathey	12	11	2	1	1		27
Councillor Pearce	11	10	2	1	1		25
Councillor Shaw	12	11	3	1	1		28
Councillor Triffett	12	11	3	1	1	0	28

## Acknowledgements and Contact Details

The Derwent Valley Council would like to thank all who contributed to this report.

The Derwent Valley Council welcomes feedback regarding this report, written comment should be addressed to the Derwent Valley Council, General Manager, PO Box 595, New Norfolk, Tas 7140.

Further copies of this report can be obtained from the following:

**Website:** [www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au](http://www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au)

**Telephone:** (03) 6261 8500

**Email:** [dvccouncil@dvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:dvccouncil@dvc.tas.gov.au)

### Photographic Credits and captions

Front Cover – Derwent Valley Council Chambers (*photographic credit Mr G Winton*)

Page 11 – Derwent Valley Councillors (*photographic credit Councillor D Bester*)

Page 13 – Derwent Valley Councillors (*photographic credit Councillor D Bester*)

Page 28 – View from Peppermint Hill (*photographic credit Dr A Stagg*)

Page 36 – Tyenna River (*photographic credit Dr S Stagg*)

Page 40 – Daycare children visiting the Botanical Gardens in Hobart (*photographic credit Valley Children’s Centre*)

Page 41 – New Norfolk High School student Tree2Sea program participant (*photographic credit Mr M Hill*)

Page 42 – DFAT members at the Derwent Valley Autumn Festival (*photographic credit Mr M Hill*)

Page 43 – Council staff preparing for the Paint the Town Red Event (*photographic credit Councillor D Bester*)

Page 45 – Valley Children’s Centre (*photographic credit Mrs M Wilson*)

Page 52 – New Norfolk Swimming Pool (*photographic credit from the private collection of the Derwent Valley Council*)