



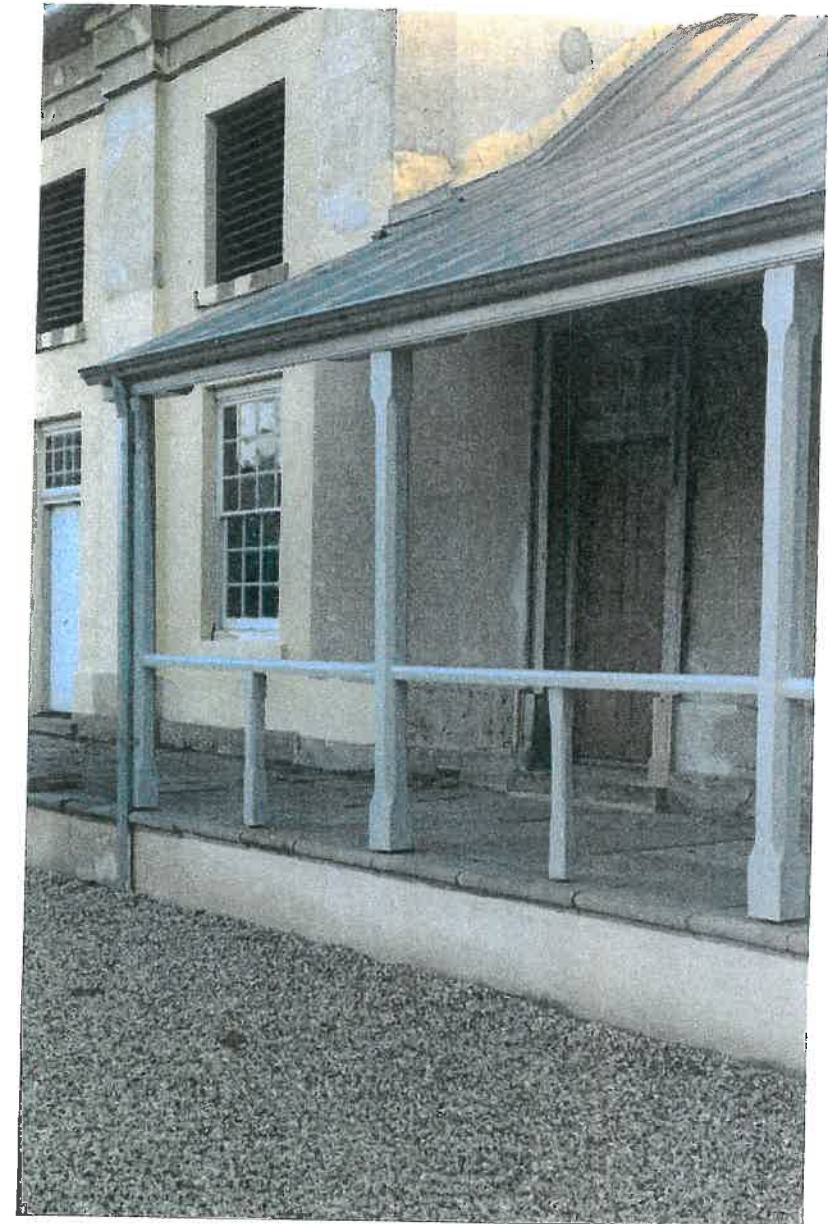
DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL

Derwent Valley Council

ANNUAL REPORT: 2013 - 2014



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Derwent Valley Council Annual Report



Introduction

1.1 What is the Annual Report

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires every Council in Tasmania to produce an Annual Report. This gives an opportunity for 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. Derwent Valley Council's Annual Report also includes broad information on the community and its achievements.

This concludes the annual corporate planning and reporting cycle of the Derwent Valley Council each year.

This report covers the period of the 2013 – 2014 financial year.

It is specifically required by the Local Government Act 1993 that Council report on:

- The context in which Council worked;
- An organisational overview;
- Council's operations, our achievements;
- The key activities and priorities identified in the budget; and;
- A set of audited standard, financial and performance statements.

The 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.

If you have any comments or queries, please contact the General Manager's office:

Phone: 6261 8512

Email: mpearce@dvc.tas.gov.au

Mail: PO Box 595, New Norfolk Tasmania 7140



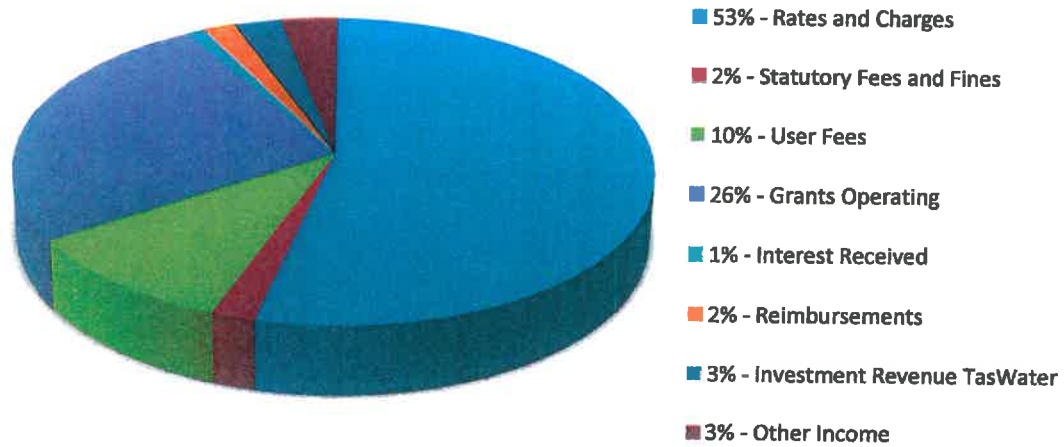
1.2 Fast Facts and Income and Expenditure Graphs

- **Municipal area: 4,111 sq km**
- **Total population: 9,708**
- **Population of New Norfolk: 5,244**
- **Average population density: 2.46 persons per sq km**
- **Men: 4,935**
- **Women: 4,773**
- **Average Household size: 2.5**
- **Median weekly household income: \$869**
- **Median monthly mortgage payment: \$1,200**
- **Median weekly rent: \$185**
- **Number Registered Local Businesses: 466**
- **Number Employed Local Residents: 4,044**
- **Number Local Jobs: 2,329**
- **Number Building Permits Issued: 103 – totalling \$17,382,860 in value**
- **Number Development Applications Received: 132 – totalling \$10,662,057 in value**
 - Consisting of
 - Residential Applications: 70 – totalling \$5,085,047 in value
 - Commercial Applications: 15 – totalling \$3,897,500 in value
 - Subdivision Applications: 17 – no costs available
 - Other Applications: 30 (includes all applications that do not fall into the above categories – totalling - \$1,679,510)
- **Number bridges inspected by AusSpan - 74**
- **Total length of council maintained road: 333km**
 - Consisting of
 - Sealed: 97km
 - Unsealed: 236km
- **number of rated properties in the municipal area: 5,586**
- **area of world heritage area: 2,789 sq km**
- **Total area of Public Reserves: 3,266 sq km**
- **Number council operated cemeteries: 3**

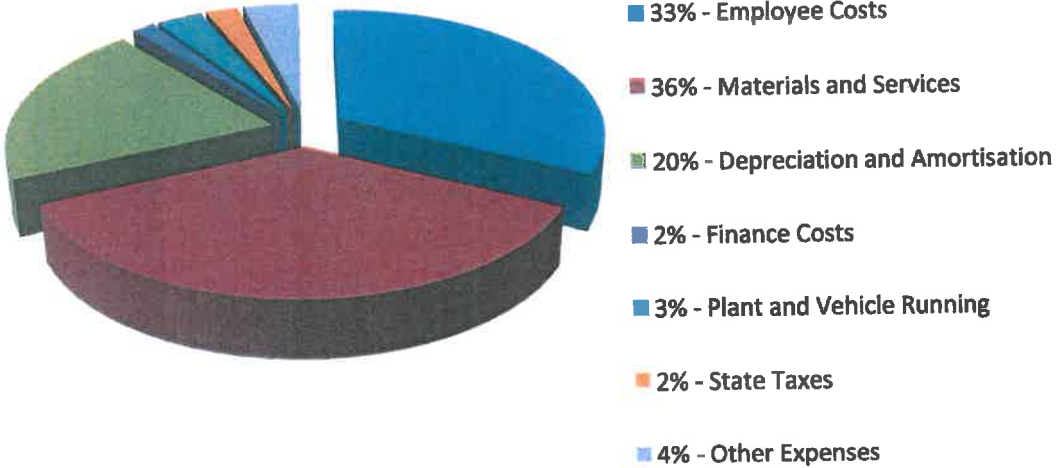
- **Number of burials in council operated cemeteries: 57**
Consisting of
 - Malbina: 47
 - Red Hills: 9
 - Tyenna: 1
- **Number of council owned swimming pools: 2**
- **Public BBQs available for hire: 8 (Tynwald Park, Gleeson Park and the Esplanade)**
- **Council supplies public toilets in the following locations: Circle Street/Arthur Square/Tynwald/Esplanade/Gleeson Park/Granton/Millbrook Rise/Fitzgerald Park/Maydena**



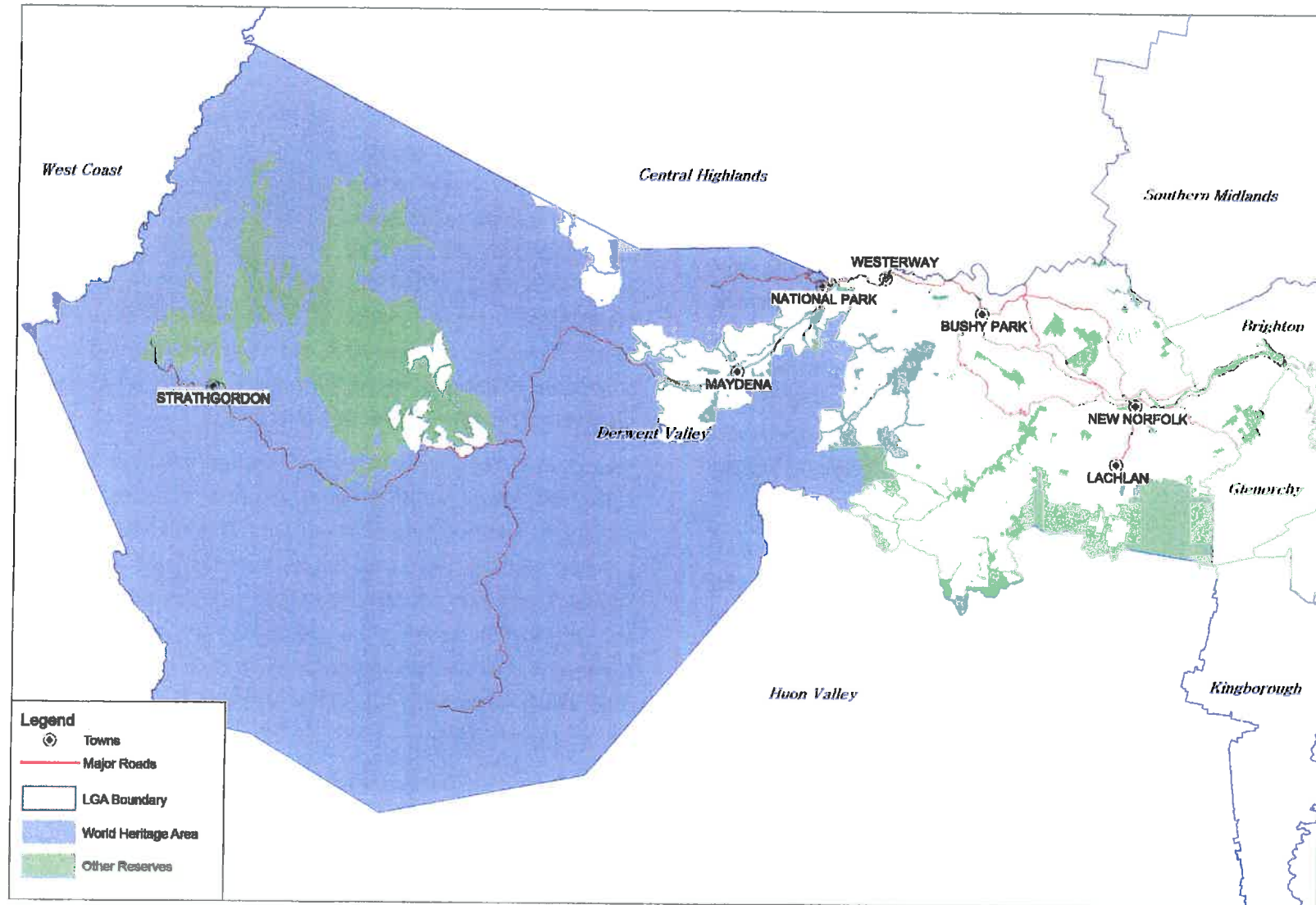
Where The Dollars Come From: Operating Income \$10,687,057



Where The Dollars Go: Operating Expenses \$10,698,418



1.3 Municipal Map



1.4 Message from the Mayor

Tasmania's Derwent Valley, the place to live, work, play, visit and invest is our message to our residents, Tasmania, Australia and the world.

This past year was the year of elections, with Federal, State and impending Local Government elections in October. Tasmanians voted, and voted for change, we now have new Federal and State Governments which bring challenges and opportunities. Challenges relate to the current status of State and Federal budgets. The opportunity though may give our municipal area a chance to build strong partnerships and relationships with community and the other two tiers of government. With impending Local Government elections in October I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the current Councillors on their work and relationships with the community they have achieved during their term in office.

Challenges for our valley and Council: The announcement of the capping of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) was a major disappointment and means a loss of funding of around \$700,000 over 4 years. This means we will have to cut our cloth to fit, and being ever mindful of the capacity of ratepayers to pay with many demands placed upon them. This brings new challenges to our Council in the way we do business, this means we will have to find ways to raise revenue and also ways to reduce the weekly costs to households through innovative thinking. This challenge will take some bold thinking.

Strength and achievement: Tourism in our valley is definitely an area of growth. During the past year visitor numbers to some attractions have grown by as much as 20%. With areas such as the magnificent south west

region, Maydena, National Park, our River Derwent and one of the largest collections of antiques in the State there is little wonder that people are discovering the jewel of the Derwent Valley.

Education: The Derwent Valley Learning Precinct has been working collectively with Council and government and was successful in obtaining funding for video linking of all our schools in the valley. This will not only aid education but also professional development of teachers and allow schools to tap into education provision from around the world. Currently the precinct is working on submitting an application to the State Government in late November for years 11 and 12 in the Derwent Valley. This would commence in 2016 if successful and will give our children more opportunities.

Agriculture: Another key driver for our valley which continues to grow is the agricultural sector. Berries, fruits, hops, grapes, cherries, boutique beer, cherries, whisky to name a few. Truly our Derwent Valley is being recognised as a brand of quality which in turn is leading to investment



growth. There is enormous potential in investment for agri-tourism and employment and skills development in this area.

Infrastructure, Growth and Innovation: Council took the progressive move of discussing policy around the growing and production of industrial and medicinal cannabis within the area. Council could see the value, not only in the industry alone, but also for the State as a whole with employment, training and economic benefits for regional communities. The suggestion of Hayes (Kilderry Farm) as a prime location for the growing and processing of this crop was put forward to the State Government, but as yet there is no decision on the fate of Hayes. The new Woolworths supermarket has recently started construction and is due to open in April 2015. This brings approximately 50 jobs and a full range of supermarket items to our town. Council is currently in discussion with the owners of the old Woolworths site around a reuse for this site to create services and more employment. During the State election Council were granted \$300,000 to construct a 20 berth marina at

the Esplanade, adjacent to the caravan park, this funding will be available in the 2015 financial year.

Tunnels or Drains? An end to the mystery of what may or may not be under our town draws closer to a close. In late November Council will have the pleasure of hosting Professor Heather Burke from Flinders University to take a first hand look at the tunnels and our other convict built history. There is hope that this will result in a field school being established here in early 2015.

We have some challenges, but we have some opportunities to drive us forward. We welcome the challenges but we all need to be on board and work collaboratively to achieve the many things that are possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our many volunteers and community groups for their tireless work. To my Councillors, thank you again. To our staff, both indoor and outdoor, thank you for your passion, pride and commitment.

Our strength lies with our people,



Martyn Evans
Mayor

1.5 Message from the General Manager

As the Mayor has said, there are many challenges facing the Derwent Valley, with households feeling the ever increasing cost of living rises and Council needing to look at new ways to increase revenue in order to provide the services expected by our community. However, we have also achieved a great deal this year.

Funds received from the Australian Government through the Your Community Heritage Program have been expended on Willow Court along with State government funding and funds from Council's Royal Derwent Reserve. The Royal Derwent Reserve was set up a number of years ago specifically to fund works on the Royal Derwent/Willow Court site, funds from the sale of land in the precinct go into this account, ensuring that ratepayers did not bear the brunt of funding this very large project.

A great deal of work has gone into ensuring that all work done on the site complies with the strict heritage guidelines that cover the entire site, this includes landscaping and all building works. Soon parts of the Bronte and Barracks buildings will be available for public inspection. Much of this work has been carried out under the supervision of the Willow Court Conservation Special Committee, a skills based Special Committee of Council given carriage of this major project.

At the request of the Mayor, Council organised a 'preview' of Willow Court, inviting a number of politicians, elected officials from other Councils and others to see what works were being carried out. This resulted in some very positive feedback and will hopefully lead to a higher

level of understanding of the challenges being faced in the redevelopment of this precinct.

Council continues to look for ways of funding the ongoing works that will be needed to bring the entire precinct up to a standard where it is available for adaptive reuse and can be opened to the public.

Council also received funding for a feasibility study into the Plenty Valley Link Road. This funding will allow us to look at the costs and benefits involved with upgrading the road, and make an informed decision on whether this is a viable option. There have been discussions for many years regarding the possibility of linking the Derwent Valley with the Huon Valley and the West Coast, creating a major new tourist route. There may also be benefits to industry in being able to transport goods from south of Hobart to the West Coast and Brighton Transport Hub while avoiding the congestion of Hobart. Council looks forward to seeing the results of this study and being able to base any future case for funding on a substantive document should it prove to be viable.

As the Mayor has mentioned, and as follows in this document, there are a great many things to be proud of in the Derwent Valley, our growing agricultural sector, which includes world class exporters and producers of fine local products. The work being done in partnership with our schools to ensure that the young people of the Derwent Valley are given every opportunity to make a good start in life, and the work of the many volunteer and community organisations in our community. Through a number of Special Committees and other mechanisms Council also engages with the public on many and varied matters, there is of course

always room for improvement, however Council and its staff should be proud of the efforts they put in to dealing with the many issues that face us on a day to day basis. Council staff are often the first point of contact with the community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank

staff for their dedication and support, and for often going beyond what is required of them to assist in ensuring that our community is served to the best of our abilities.



Stephen Mackey
General Manager



1.6 About Us

New Norfolk was first settled by Europeans in 1807 – 1808; in 1811 Governor Macquarie ordered that a town plan be designed for 'Elizabeth Town' later to be named New Norfolk in recognition of the first European settlers who arrived from Norfolk Island. Many of the original town planning features are still reflected in the layout of the existing town.

Prior to European settlement the Derwent Valley was the home of the Big River people, who inhabited the region from the Derwent Valley through to the Central Highlands, including Great Lake and the Great Western Tiers. New Norfolk was the home of a band of people known as the Leenowwenna; their name for the Derwent River.

The Derwent Valley reminded many of the first settlers of their European home and they planted many deciduous trees which have become a feature of the area. These trees still attract many tourists and photographers who come to enjoy the distinct seasonal changes in the area.

Cold winters and hot summers are 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.

From traditional beef, dairy and sheep farming, through to hop growing, poppy production, elder trees, apples, wine production, cherries and raspberries, the Derwent Valley has a diverse range of agricultural activity and investment.

Adding to the agricultural backbone of the community are the diverse industries of paper production and tourism.

The Boyer Mill as it is still known to many (now Norske Skog) started production in 1941, and has continued to be one of the major employers in the area since then. In recent years the mill has faced many changes, including the transition to a soft wood plantation based wood source for its paper manufacture, and some drop in demand for newsprint and the growth of internet based publishing. Norske Skog has responded to these challenges by converting Paper Machine 2 (PM2) from newsprint to Light Weight Coated (LWC) paper production, allowing the company to access a new market and diversify its production capacity.



With a total project cost of some \$85 Million the conversion shows a strong confidence and commitment to the community that Norske Skog has been part of for 73 years. Apart from providing direct employment for over 300 people, Norske Skog is a pivotal contributor to the Derwent Valley Community; with a strong support of many community events and organisations.

The community's close association with the forestry industry continues with Norske Skog. However, the decline of the native hard wood industry and the expansion of the World Heritage Area in the Derwent Valley have been contentious over the last few years.

Although these changes have not always been smooth, the increase in the World Heritage Area has created new opportunities in tourism.

Mt Field National Park has experienced its highest ever visitor numbers this year with 142,000 visitors to the Park, the previous highest number was 128,000 in 2005. This makes Mt Field National Park the third most visited of 19 National Parks in Tasmania (Freycinet and Cradle Mountain each receive more visitors than Mt Field.) The increased visitation provides opportunities for local tourism operators to capitalise on visitors to the area, capturing day trippers and encouraging people to stay in the area.

Mt Field National Park is Tasmania's oldest park, and one of the oldest in the world behind Yellowstone National Park (in Wyoming) and Royal National Park in Sydney. The park will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016, with a number of public events currently being planned.

Tourism is playing an increasingly important role in 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.



Reid Fruits, one of the largest cherry producers in Australia, has established 120 hectares of cherry orchard at Plenty, employing up to 400 people during the height of picking season and providing stable employment for around 20 people at other times of the year. Reid Fruits are known for the quality of their dark cherries, and this year exported 70% of its crop to over 20 countries worldwide. The decision to concentrate on the export market ensures that smaller producers have equitable access to the domestic market and that the market is not flooded with cherries at one time. In recognition of the work that has been put into Reid Fruits and in a coup for the region, this year Reid Fruits won the prestigious Tasmanian Exporter of the Year Award, also putting them in the running for the National Award.



The Westerway Raspberry Farm has had another very successful year, with growing sites at New Norfolk and Westerway the farm has focused on building and diversifying its customer base.

The efforts of the farm have resulted in SPC and a number of other mainland manufacturers of juices, jams and other products deciding to use Tasmanian fruit in their products this year. A three year supply arrangement for Tasmanian blackcurrants and raspberries to be used in the iconic Cascade fruit syrups was announced by Tasmanian born CAA CEO, Alison Watkins. This helps to cement the name of the Westerway Raspberry Farm and the Derwent Valley as synonymous with high quality produce on an international and national market.

Closer to home, Westerway Raspberry Farm held their second annual Raspberry and Blackcurrant Open Day which proved very successful, over 1000 people joined in picking blackcurrants and watching demonstrations on Sunday January 12th 2014, many people visiting the farm went on to visit and explore other attractions in the Derwent Valley.

The farm supplies valuable seasonal work with 120 seasonal workers needed to pick and pack berries in the short lead up to Christmas 2013, the farm's busiest time of the year, an unseasonably warm autumn saw plants continuing to produce enough fruit to enable sales to continue at the Hobart Farm Gate Market all the way through until the 1st June.

Derwent Estate Winery and Stefano Lubiana Wines have gone from strength to strength in the last year, each expanding into new processes and markets.

Derwent Estate recently held an open day to showcase its new production facility which will allow their wines to be completely produced on site for the first time. The facility features state of the art technology combined with eco friendly straw bale construction and is a valuable addition to the property. There are future plans for an expanded cellar door and possible convention facility on the property.



April saw the opening of Stefano Lubiana Wines Osteria, built to showcase fresh, local produce and simple Italian food, the Osteria has been a wonderful addition to the Derwent Valley.

Along with some of the newer ventures in the Derwent Valley, tradition and heritage continues to play an important role in production activities.

This year Inland Fisheries celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the introduction of trout to Tasmania. In 1864 the first live Salmon and trout eggs arrived at the now heritage hatchery in Plenty. The salmon, a migratory species were not as successful as the trout,

which now draw many people to the Derwent Valley to fish. Inland Fisheries has for a number of years based its head office in New Norfolk, its main duties include the management of recreational and commercial fisheries and biodiversity including pest fish management.

Fishing continues to play an important role in the Derwent Valley, from both a recreational and tourist perspective. Inland Fisheries not only manages these operations but also supports the Derwent Valley Community through its involvement in numerous activities.

Affectionately known as “the Bushy Park Hop Fields”, Hop Products Australia (HPA) harvests over 500 tons of hops per year from around 225 hectares of hop fields at Bushy Park. Hops were one of the first major crops in the Derwent Valley, with commercial production starting around 1867, the Bushy Park hop fields and processing facility are the biggest and most technologically advanced in the Southern Hemisphere.



Recent years have seen an expansion in the number of varieties of hops being grown and the area being cultivated, this has been driven in part by the craft beer market, but also by the HPA's international reputation for excellence. Many tourists come to visit the Derwent Valley in summer specifically to see hops growing, it's one of the few places where you can park on the side of the road and take in the magnificent vistas of this stunning crop.

Additionally HPA employs around 15 permanent staff, which swells to around 150 during the picking season. Through a long association hops have become an integral part of the story of the Derwent Valley and its community.

These are a few of the many success stories of the Derwent Valley, there are many more, people who go quietly about their business, working and helping our community to prosper and grow in their own way and in their own field.

New Norfolk is the main shopping centre for many people in the Derwent Valley and Central Highlands, it provides a diverse range of goods, catering for the day to day needs of the community, as well as specialist stores such as hunting and craft stores. Through the work of the New Norfolk Business Alliance, the town is becoming known as the antiques capital of Tasmania, with visitors browsing antique stores and then staying to explore the area and providing an economic boost through the flow on effect to the growing number of cafes in the town. There are a range of specialty shops in a developing enclave at Willow Court, bringing life to that area as well. Television advertising undertaken by the Business Alliance has increased the profile of the central business district, and helped to promote the area as a tourist destination.

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 many far flung places to take advantage of access to the many opportunities to view these treasures. There are over 5000 individual listings on the Tasmanian Heritage Register which takes in all of Tasmania, of these around 130 are listed in the Derwent Valley municipal area.

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, and include one non-government school.

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 many services.

The numerous churches in the area offer 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 the home of several Olympic medal winners.

The Derwent Valley Sports Centre offers a range of services including several sports and a fitness centre.

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

2.1 Council Structure

There are nine Councillors elected to the Derwent Valley Council; their role is to act as the ultimate policy and planning body of the organisation. Each Councillor is elected for a period of four years, with half of the Councillors standing for election every two years. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected for a period of two years at each election. Generally it is the role of Councillors to effectively represent and act in the best interests of their community.

Council elections were scheduled to be held in 2013, however due to changes made to the Local Government Act 1993 elections were held over until October 2014.

The day to day operations of the Council are delegated to the General Manager who is also ultimately 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.

Councillors and the General Manager below from left to right are: Councillor Damian Bester, Councillor Scott Shaw (front), Councillor Chris Lester, Deputy Mayor Barry Lathey, General Manager Stephen Mackey (seated), Mayor Martyn Evans (seated), Councillor Judy Bromfield, Councillor Tony Nicholson, Councillor James Graham (front,) Councillor Wayne Shoobridge.



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.

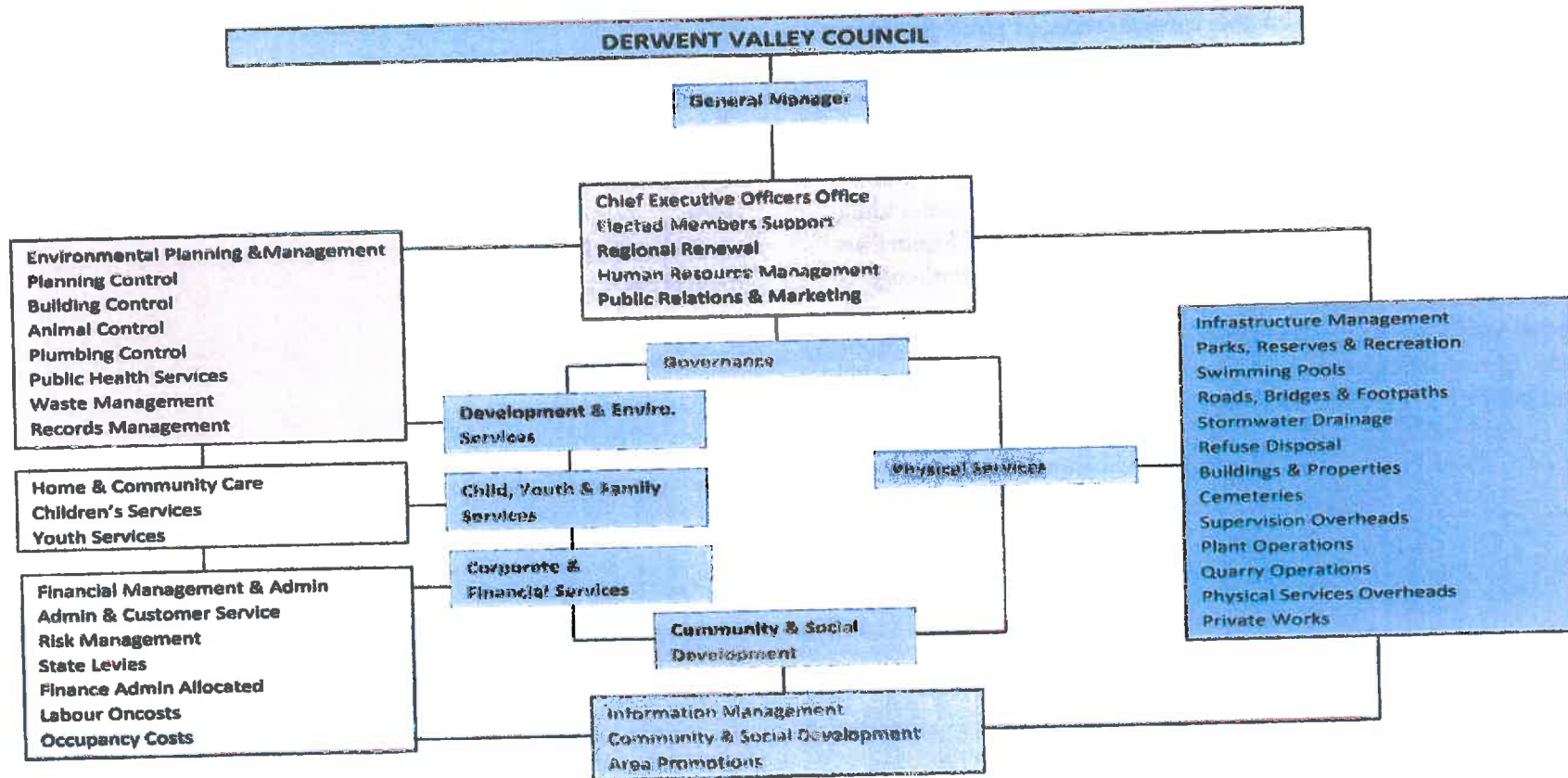
Council meetings are held on the third Thursday of the each month at the Court House, Circle Street, New Norfolk commencing at 6.30 pm, and are open to the public. From time to time Council incorporates a Community Forum into its regularly scheduled Council Meeting, these forums are held outside New 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 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.

Agenda and attachments are available from Council Chambers on the Friday prior to the meeting or on Council's website: www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au . Council's website also contains minutes from previous Council Meetings.

2.2 Council Organisational Chart



2.3 Your Councillors

Top Row: Mayor Martyn Evans, Deputy Mayor Barry Lathey, Councillor Damian Bester

Middle Row: Councillor Judy Bromfield, Councillor James Graham, Councillor Chris Lester

Bottom Row: Councillor Tony Nicholson, Councillor Scott Shaw, Councillor Wayne Shoobridge



2.4 Committees of Council

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

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, for example the website working group whose role is to look at the best way of updating Council's website. Working groups usually cease to meet after their specific task has been completed.

Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Boyer Oval Management Committee	Assists in the management and upgrading of Boyer Oval.	Cr Lathey, Cr Evans (proxy)
Historical Information Committee	Operates the Historical Information Centre.	Cr Nicholson, Cr Evans (proxy)
Gleeson Park Special Committee	Assists in the management of Gleeson Park.	Cr Graham, Cr Evans(proxy)
Derwent Valley Youth Future Action Team (D'FAT)	Derwent Valley Council's youth advisory committee.	Cr Graham, Cr Lester (proxy)
Bushy Park Swimming Pool	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the Bushy Park Swimming Pool.	Cr Bester, Cr Evans (proxy)
Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Committee	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of The Derwent Valley Sport and Recreation Centre.	Cr Shoobridge, Cr Evans (proxy)
Molesworth Reserve Committee	Assists in the management of the Molesworth Reserve.	Cr Graham, Cr Evans (proxy)
Tidy Town Committee	Undertakes projects to help beautify and keep the municipal area tidy.	Cr Evans, Cr Bester (proxy)

Special Committee	Purpose	Councillor Representative
New Norfolk Swimming Pool	Assists in the safe and efficient operation of the New Norfolk Swimming Pool.	Cr Shaw, Cr Lester (proxy)
Access Advisory Committee	Advises Council on access issues, particularly in relation to those people with a disability.	Cr Lathey, Cr Shaw(proxy)
Environmental Management Committee	Manages major environmental incidents in the Derwent Valley.	Cr Bester, Cr Graham (proxy)
New Norfolk Business Alliance	Assists in the promotion of the central business district.	Cr Graham, Cr Evans (proxy)
Willow Court and Barracks Working Group	Assists in the promotion of the Willow Court precinct.	Cr Lathey, Cr Evans (proxy)
Friends of Frascati Community Garden	Aides in the restoration of the gardens at Frascati House.	Cr Bromfield, Cr Evans (proxy)
Tynwald Park Development Committee	Advises on the development of Tynwald Park.	Cr Shaw, Cr Lester (proxy)
Willow Court Conservation Special Committee	Undertakes the development of and setting of strategic direction for the Council owned sections of the Willow Court precinct.	Cr Evans, Cr Lathey (proxy)

Authorities and Associations	Purpose	Councillor Representative
Southern Water Authority	Water supply related issues in regards to TasWater.	Cr Evans
Southern Waste Strategy Authority (SWASA)	Waste issue in the south of the State.	Cr Nicholson, Cr Graham (proxy)
Southern Tasmania Council Authority (STCA)	A grouping of 12 Southern Councils.	Cr Evans
Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)	Tasmania's peak Local Government body.	Cr Evans, Cr Lester (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 Evans (proxy)
Australia Day	Plans community activities for Australia Day each year.	Cr Bromfield, Cr Shoobridge, Cr Evans
Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management	Monitors environment within the Derwent Catchment area.	Cr Nicholson, Cr Lathey (proxy)
Derwent Valley Autumn Festival	Plans the annual Autumn Festival.	Cr Graham
Land Sale Committee	Looks at the sale of Council land.	Cr Bester, Cr Bromfield
Maydena Community Association	An association of members of the Maydena Community that has the support of Council.	Cr Bester, Cr Lester (proxy)
Derwent Valley Visitor Information Centre	Provides volunteers for the running of the Council funded Visitor Information Centre.	Cr Lester, Cr Lathey (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 Graham, Cr Bromfield
Lyell Highway Committee	Established to monitor upgrades on the Lyell Highway.	Cr Bester, Cr Bromfield
Community Grants	Administers and assessed applications to Council's Community Grants program.	Cr Shaw, Cr Bester, Cr Shoobridge, Cr Bromfield, Cr Lathey
Spatial Planning Review Committee	Currently in Recess	Cr Graham, Cr Nicholson, Cr Lester (proxy)
Rivers Run Tourism Association	The local tourism association, an independent organisation which Council is a member of and provides support to.	Cr Lester, Cr Evans (proxy)

Derwent Valley Council Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015

3.1 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 current Strategic Plan will expire at the end of the 2014 – 2015 financial year.

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.

Copies of the strategic plan are available on the Council website www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au or by request from Council's staff.



3.2 An Overview of Progress

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

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE OBJECTIVES	
Progress	Outcomes

IS 1: To maintain the standard of the municipality's infrastructure assets

Council's works and maintenance crews continue to progress the program of works as approved by Council in the annual budget. The incorporation of 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	Ensuring the safe and reliable functioning of assets continues to be an ongoing priority for Council.
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IS 2: To maintain high standards in the provision of all Council services in line with community needs, Council's policies and regulatory requirements

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.	To maintain its commitment to the community Council continues to update its policies and ensure regulatory requirements are met.
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IS 3: To maintain community services

This point relates to ensuring that the community is aware of lifestyle change that individuals may choose to adopt to maintain a healthier lifestyle.	Council regularly assists in passing on information from service providers and others with regard to community forums and opportunities for participation in various events. Council provides inkind assistance to the organisers of such events wherever possible, Council does not have the resources to initiate programs of this nature.
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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>River access for tourists has been extended. A new bus interchange provides easier and better access for public transport patrons. When purchasing new vehicles Council ensures that they are fit for purpose and as fuel efficient as possible.</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 resources shares some positions with a number of other Councils and looks to incorporate this type of arrangement wherever possible and practical. The upgrade of Lasky's Car park to include a public transport interchange has assisted in providing better facilities for public transport users.</p>
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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 number of businesses in the area and consults with business when major changes are to be made.</p>
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IS 7: To develop a means of relaying information from Council to the residents of the municipality

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.

The production of the newsletter is limited due to resourcing constraints. Council acknowledges that communication with residents of the municipality requires ongoing attention.

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.

Although there is always room for improvement in community engagement, Council continues to see increasing numbers of residents becoming involved in Council activities and providing feedback to Council through various means.

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.

As part of its ongoing commitment to the community Council will continue to offer support to various organisations and events wherever possible.

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 inkind and financial support Council supports and promotes a number of sporting, cultural and artistic activities.

Council provides a high degree of support to as many activities as possible, often through inkind support from staff resources. Budgetary considerations sometimes limit the financial support that can be given to some activities.

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

<p>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 STEPS Plan is nearing completion and will soon be implemented.</p>	<p>Council continues to develop strong relationships in this area which enable it to reflect the views of these stakeholders to a larger audience. The completion of the STEPS Plan will see its implementation in the near future offering further opportunities for community input.</p>
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Ec 2: To support the retention and expansion of regional services

<p>Council regularly lobbies other levels of government to ensure that local services remain unaffected by cuts and to promote decentralisation of government services.</p>	<p>State and Federal budget cuts threaten to undermine the work that has been undertaken in this area. Both these levels of government are at this time unwilling to consider the decentralisation of services to this area.</p>
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Ec. 3: To develop partnerships with State Government, industry and regional bodies to promote economic growth and employment development

<p>Council has put considerable effort into opening lines of communication between Council and other bodies to promote regional growth.</p>	<p>Council's engagement with government and other organisations has been fruitful in some instances, with a growing interest in investment in the Derwent Valley.</p>
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ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

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

<p>Council continues to actively engage with various bodies and organisations to ensure that those resources and assets that are the responsibility of Council are managed to the highest standards.</p>	<p>Resource sharing continues between Council and the Central Highlands Council to retain an NRM officer. At both a Councillor and Officer level Council participates with various organisations to ensure management of the natural resources of the area.</p>
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En 2: To have a catchment management plan for the municipality

<p>Work continues on the catchment management plan.</p>	<p>A catchment management plan has been developed for the boarder Derwent Catchment, this will form the basis of the specific management plan for the municipal area. Council has finalised its tree management plan.</p>
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En 3: To review the municipality's Planning Scheme

<p>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.</p>	<p>The new Planning Scheme is due for release in 2015.</p>
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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 continues to support these types of projects and to actively participate in them where possible.</p>
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En 5: To develop best practice waste management activities

Council is currently developing a new policy to govern the day to day operations of the Peppermint Hill waste disposal site, and will soon be advertising this for public comment. Council continues to work with other councils to implement the Southern Waste Management strategy. Where possible office products are reused and recycled, low energy light fittings have been fitted to Council Chambers.	The Peppermint Hill waste disposal site will soon have operating guidelines that are clear and available to the public through the new policy, this will assist in meeting Council's WHS and other responsibilities to users and staff. Council continues to look at ways of renewable power generation.
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FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**F 1: To improve the affordability of Council's rating and charging structure**

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.	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.
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F 2: To effectively manage Council's debt

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

Council continues to look at resource sharing opportunities and ways that Council's plant can be used.	This is an ongoing issue that Council is mindful of as there are limited opportunities to secure non-traditional income
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F 4: To improve community understanding of Council's financial management and finances

<p>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.</p>	<p>Some statutory requirements impede the production of easy to read documentation.</p>
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F 5: To increase the level of grant income

<p>Council continues to develop projects for potential grant funding, and to undertake funding applications and lobby for funding.</p>	<p>Council has received a number of grants for specific projects in the last year. A change in government may change the way funds are allocated, this is beyond Council's control.</p>
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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 community, however for the purposes of auditing, pay roll and reporting it is convenient to divide the organisation into six departments.

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.



4.1 Governance

The General Manager takes responsibility for the area of governance within Council, including the broad spectrum of activities that ensure Council's strategic objectives and legislative responsibilities are undertaken. This area also includes regional renewal, public relations and marketing, human resource management and elected members support.

Acting in the human resource capacity, this office ensures that staff 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.

Work continues on the renewal of the current Workplace Agreement and the process of converting current staff classifications to comply with the Modern Award System. In order to comply with current Workplace Health and Safety requirements a new Workplace Health and Safety Policy has been initiated, this will involve modification to a number of policies.

Major projects and initiatives of Council and external investors and developers are scrutinised through this office before any further action is taken in regard to proposals, this year that included working on details regarding the building of the Woolworths supermarket and the adaptive reuse of the Maydena School. Working closely with Councillors and the

community this office oversaw the drafting of the STEPS Plan and will be involved in the implementation of that plan.

This office works closely with elected members to provide support to elected members and ensure that the decisions of Council are enacted. Through the Governance area, the General Manager and staff under the direction of the General Manager ensure that Councillors are provided with appropriate information, advice and support service to enable them to work collectively for the good of the community. Ongoing support is provided to individual Councillors as requested. Council has an open door policy which allows Councillors informal access to staff to discuss issues and queries as they arise.

Councillors play an active part in setting the Derwent Valley Council Budget including the consideration of public submissions to the budget. 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. Staff working 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.

Through the governance department working with Councillors and the community a number of initiatives have taken place this year, including:

- Community grants
- The Hobart Water Taxi initiative
- The establishment of the Derwent Valley Scholarship Fund
- A fundraiser boxing match for the Derwent Valley Scholarship Fund
- The Autumn Festival
- Support of various community events, including the ANZAC Day Services, celebrations for the Salmon Ponds anniversary and the Derwent Valley Regional Arts competition.



Through the Willow Court Conservation Special Committee this department has responsibility for works at Willow Court. The last year has seen a great deal of progress made in the restoration of the Barracks and Bronte buildings. It is anticipated that these areas will soon be available for use. Council along with the Willow Court Conservation Special Committee continues to look for funding to continue the restoration of this historic precinct and looks forward to the time when the area can be fully utilised.

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 inkind assistance to organisations such as Friends of Frascati, Derwent Valley Community House and ANZAC Day.

Council provides access to the decisions of Council made at Council Meetings and minutes of many Special Committees via its website, and is welcoming of community input. Council encourages the public to contribute through active involvement in committees of Council and making submissions to the budget process and other public documents.

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. These staff are well informed and helpful and are often able to provide advice and assistance on a range of matters. Frontline staff assist as much as is possible with enquiries and will willingly direct the public to the appropriate officers for further information.

This year saw the completion of the Millbrook Rise Boat Ramp toilet block and flood mitigation works undertaken with the installation of a new tidal flap at the New Norfolk Caravan Park to prevent high tide back flow from flooding camping areas. Also in this area Black Jetty was slightly modified to allow longer boats to access the jetty without damaging their hulls.

Works have been undertaken at the Esplanade to install a new compliant black water dump point and provide an overnight stop for RV's to assist with tourism in the town.



In addition to these activities there are regularly programmed roadside slashing, spraying and grading programmes, building and cemetery maintenance.

The work of Council's outdoor workforce often goes unnoticed, however it is essential to the safety and amenity of our community. The outdoor workforce is often out in inclement weather and during high winds, floods and fires can be seen attending to emergency situations to ensure the safety of our community.

4.3 Community and Social Development

The community and social development functions of Council work closely with the governance area in seeking opportunities to engage with the community 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
- Christmas Parade through the New Norfolk Business Alliance (a Special Committee of Council)
- RAFT (Real Action...Forward Thinking)
- Derwent Valley Scholarship Fund
- 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, Big River Growers Market, Caterpillar Tour of Tasmania and the planned Relay for Life. 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 in the local tourism association, the Rivers Run Tourism Association and support of Destination Southern Tasmania, the regional tourism association. Council continues to fund the Visitor Information Centre. This year Council worked with the CMCA to achieve RV Friendly status for New Norfolk, this is a step in attracting more touring visitors to our area to stay and enjoy the experiences offered in the Derwent Valley and surrounds.

Information management is included in this portfolio. This year Council's computer systems have been upgraded ensuring that staff have the capacity to undertake their roles through the provision of efficient and effective working systems. The information management system consists of computerised and manual systems including property details, financial records, graphic information and information relating to general enquiries. Records management which falls under the development and environmental services department also contributes to this area.

4.4 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.

PLANNING CONTROL

Planning control provides strategic and statutory planning in accordance with the requirements of various pieces of State legislation. This year planning control has had much of its time taken up with the development of the new Derwent Valley Council Interim Planning Scheme. It is anticipated that the new scheme which is regionally based will receive formal approval from the Minister in 2015.

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. This position was vacant for much of the year; however since the appointment of a new officer a large amount of planning for future activities has been undertaken.

Also included in this area is the licensing of food businesses and food inspections, on-site wastewater systems, immunization 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 Great Garage Sale Trail are shared between this department and Community and Social Development.

BUILDING AND PLUMBING CONTROL

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

This includes checking plans, applications, works under construction and completed works for compliance with various codes and Acts relevant to the project. This area is highly regulated and must meet the expectations of the Department of Justice (Building Standards and Occupational Licensing) who provide guidance and undertake regular audits.

Animal Control

The Animal Control area includes the registration of dogs, there are currently 2,333 dogs registered in the municipal area, dealing with animal control complaints, and the provision of the municipal pound. This year 87 dogs were impounded, of those 46 were reclaimed. The majority of the remainder of the impounded dogs were transferred to the Dogs Home of Tasmania for rehoming.

The Animal Control Act 2000 sets out Council's responsibilities in regard to impounded dogs. If a dog is impounded and owners can not be located, Council is required to retain the a dog for at least 3 working days. After this time Council has the right to sell, destroy or otherwise dispose of the dog, provided it is not dangerous dog or a restricted breed as per the Animal Control Act 2000.

Through the inspectorate duties of this office fire abatement notices are also distributed.

Records Management

Records management is an important part of this department, ensuring that the internal filing and retrieving of hard copies of Council documents, maps and records is done in an efficient manner. Records management staff have undertaken the yearly disposal of excess records, as per the Disposal Schedule for Functional Records of Local Government. This involved the secure destruction of 14 boxes of records which were no longer required.

Records management staff are regularly updated by the Tasmanian Achieves and Heritage Office on the current requirements and guidelines for record management, this includes regular briefings and visits from that office to ensure Council staff are fully aware of the requirements of the position and are adhering to the appropriate legislation.



4.5 Corporate and Financial Services

Corporate and financial services has primary responsibility for financial management and 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.

Customer Service comes into the Corporate and Financial Services department as the front line staff in Council Chambers.

To ensure sound financial management and in line with the goals set in the Strategic Plan, the annual budget and the Annual Plan, Council endeavors to provide the community with clear and easy to understand information on the budget, rating structure and services. Additionally, monthly financial reports 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, Council calls for public submissions to the Budget, this occurred between 13th March – 4th April 2013. This provides the public with an opportunity to seek funding for projects and improvements which may not have come to the attention of Council. All submissions are considered by Councillors as part of the budgetary process.

Council's Budget was adopted by Council in a Council meeting on 20th June 2013.

This department is also responsible, with input from other departments, for the production of the Annual Plan. The Annual Plan was adopted on 20th June 2013, and set out the immediate goals for the coming year .

Customer service staff are the frontline of Council operations, they are the first point of call for many people who have dealings with Derwent Valley Council and are in effect the face of Council to the public.

Our customer service staff are well trained and courteous and will assist members of the public whenever possible with any enquiries.

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

One of Council's main concerns is ensuring that the residents and visitors are not exposed to undue risk of injury. Council manages its exposure to risk in a proactive manner, addressing areas of potential public 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, this is achieved through the extensive use of risk management practices.

4.6 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, Outside School Hours, 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)

HACC is situated at Glengrey House and is an adult day respite centre, providing services to frail, aged and people with disabilities and their carers living in the Derwent Valley area.

This past year has seen a lot of gradual changes within the centre with modernization while keeping the homely, safe and friendly atmosphere it has always had. We have purchased new comfortable and adjustable arm chairs for the comfort and ease of our clients as well as new outdoor settings which promote a healthy lifestyle with fresh air and relaxed conversation. A new upright freezer has also been purchased for easy access for staff.

Glengrey House provides a relaxed, homely and social environment for clients who are otherwise at risk of social isolation by reinforcing social contact outside the home. Over the past year there have been a number of gradual changes introduced to ensure that the safety and comfort of

clients and staff remains a high priority, this includes the purchase of new armchairs, an upright freezer and an outdoor setting.

Clients of Glengrey House achieve a sense of belonging to the community as their skills are recognized and they are given the opportunity to learn new skills. Clients can take advantage of a large variety of activities offered in the day program including guest speakers from Advocacy Tasmania, Tas Fire Service, Corumbene and Lisa Curry who was an extra special guest. This year's activities also included a trip to Derwent Bridge to see the very popular Wall in the Wilderness.

Staff and volunteers at Glengrey House undertook training in First Aid, mental health and food safety this year, expanding their knowledge and learning new skills to ensure that Glengrey House maintains its reputation for offering a client and carer focused respite centre. Glengrey House passed two essential audits this year, ensuring that the highest possible standard of care is offered.

Carers benefit from the respite services offered at Glengrey House, as it gives them an opportunity to recharge their batteries, or undertake chores safe in the knowledge that their loved one is in good care for the day.

The majority of Glengrey House's funding comes through the Australian Government and is administered by Council.

Children's Services

Valley Children's Services offers a range of child care and early learning services to the residents of the Derwent Valley.

The centre offers Long Day Care for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years, Before and After School Care for children from 5 – 12 years with a collection service from four schools in the area for After School Care. Vacation Care is offered along with Family Day care, with registered Family Day Care Educators in their own home. Services have expanded this year to see a Family Day Care service running in Ouse five days a week.

The Valley Children's Services is fully licensed and accredited and all staff meet the required standards of qualification. All rooms at the Valley Children's Centre are near capacity, with the centre operating at capacity three days per week.



Youth Services

Council throughout 2014 assisted with promotion and publicity, and the provision of transport and supervision for Derwent Valley participants in the Father Chris Riley Youth Off The Streets school holiday programs.

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. Carinya Education Park continues to be utilised by a number of skills and training providers who offer accredited and non-accredited short courses to assist youth and long term unemployed to prepare for or gain for employment. Council supports these activities through providing a low cost area for the delivery of such courses.

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 service include:

- The New Norfolk Inter-agency Support Team (NNIAST). IASTs 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.
- RAFT (Real Action...Forward Thinking). RAFT is an over-arching supporting body 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. RAFT currently has affiliations with 16 service

providers and is involved in the development of a number of projects.

- 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.

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.

5.1 Public Health Statement

From 1 July 2013 until 30 June 2014, the Council's Environmental Health section employed a full time Environmental Health Officer. Council fulfilled all its obligations under the *Public Health Act 1997*, the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, the *Food Act 2003* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

One of the roles of the Environmental Health unit and an objective of Council is to ensure food prepared and sold within the municipal area is safe for human consumption, meets food standards, is properly described and complies with the Australian Food Standards Code. This objective is achieved through regular inspection of food premises. There were 98 food premises registered in the municipal area during the 2013 – 2014 financial year. Approximately 87 inspections of food premises were conducted. Additionally 63 temporary food business registrations were produced for specific events. Council's Environmental Health Officer attended and regulated large events including the Autumn Festival and

inspected approximately 50% of temporary food businesses for compliance.

Council has an obligation to provide food education/awareness sessions to members of the community who work with food in various capacities. The outcome of the food safety sessions is to provide people with an awareness of their responsibilities under the *Food Act 2003* and Food Safety Standards. These sessions cover the fundamentals of food safety and food hygiene.

Food handling training was conducted by the Environmental Health Unit for 4 groups during the financial year, 47 participants attended in total. Certificates of attendance were presented to all participants who completed the sessions.

The Environmental Health Office is also required to undertake inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems and to issue special plumbing

approval for the installation of any new on-site wastewater treatment systems. A total of 44 Special Plumbing permits were issued. Under the *Public Health Act 1997* Council has a responsibility to monitor its recreational waters and public pools. The recreational water sampling site was the Derwent River, a total of 17 recreational water samples were taken on a weekly basis during the swimming season (December to the end of March). Additionally there are 4 swimming pools in the Derwent Valley municipal area that are offered for public use. A total of 62 swimming pool samples were submitted for analysis during the year. The results of the recreational water sampling are included in a report as required by the Director of Public Health. In accordance with the *Drinking Public Health Act 1997*

Water Quality Guidelines under the *Public Health Act 1997*, Council is required to keep a register of private water suppliers, including commercial water carriers in the municipal area. Derwent Valley Council currently has 2 registered commercial water carriers and 7 private water suppliers operating in the municipal area. The details of the commercial water carriers and private water suppliers is compiled in a report as required by the Director of Public Health.

The activities conducted throughout the financial year were completed in accordance with the 2013 – 2014 Annual Plan.

Type of Premises	Number Premises 2012 - 2013	Number Inspections 2012 - 2013	Number Premises 2013 - 2014	Number Inspections 2013 - 2014	Comments
Places of Assembly	22	13	18	12	No notices served.
Immunisations		535		434	Doses administered.
Bathing water samples – pools and spas	61	61	62	62	Regular sampling and monitoring of public swimming pools and spas was undertaken to monitor water quality compliance.
Regulated systems	0	0	0	0	
Commercial water carters	2	2	2	2	No notices served. Annual drinking water quality support submitted to the Director.
Public health risk activity	1	2	1	1	No notices served.
Specific events licence	15	4	8	8	Includes large and annual events.
Unhealthy housing	0	0	0	0	

Recreational waters	1	16	1	17	Annual recreational water report submitted to Director.
Notifiable disease investigations	2	2	3	3	Responded to all notifications
Private burial permits	0	0	0	0	

Food Act 2003

Type of Premises	Number Premises 2012 -2013	Number Inspections 2012 - 2013	Number Premises 2013 - 2014	Number Inspections 2013 - 2014	Comments
Registered food businesses	115	120	115	98	No notices served
Growers market registrations	3	3	3	3	
Temporary food premises	46	29	63	31	
Food Vehicles	2	2	2	2	
Seizure of food items	0	0	0	0	
Approval of plans for new or alterations to existing food premises	2	2	3	4	

Environmental and public health nuisances:

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

Description	Number 2012 – 2013	Number 2013 - 2014
Complaints received	151	144
Environmental Protection Notices served or ongoing	0	0
Abatement Notices served under Local Government Act 1993	150	49
Infringement Notices served under Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994	0	0

Building Act 2000

Description	Number 2012 – 2013	Number 2013 - 2014
Special Plumbing Permits issued	48	44
Special Plumbing completions	21	5
Development Applications	30	132
Subdivision referrals	0	0
Plumbing Notices served	0	14
Plumbing Orders served	0	21

5.2 Enterprise Powers Statement

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

No activities were undertaken during the 2013 – 2014 financial year.

5.3 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: \$139,359

Total expenses paid to all Councillors: \$18,275

5.4 Councillor Meeting Attendance

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

Councillor	Ordinary Meeting	Closed Meeting	Special Ordinary	Special Closed	AGM	Total Attended
Councillor Evans (Mayor)	9	6	4	2	1	22
Councillor Lathey (Deputy Mayor)	12	7	5	2	1	27
Councillor Bester	12	7	5	2	1	27
Councillor Bromfield	10	6	4	2	1	23
Councillor Graham	12	7	5	2	1	27
Councillor Lester	11	7	5	2	1	26
Councillor Nicholson	11	6	5	1	1	24
Councillor Shaw	9	5	1	1	1	17
Councillor Shoobridge	11	6	5	2	1	25

There were a total of 27 Council Meetings, consisting of:

- 12 Ordinary Meetings
- 7 Closed Meetings
- 5 Special Ordinary Meetings
- 2 Special Closed Meetings
- 1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Included in this total are 3 meetings held away from New Norfolk (Molesorth, Westerway 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 and Procedures) Regulations 2005.

5.5 Senior Employee Total Remuneration Statement

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

Remuneration is as follows:

- \$140,000 – 159,000 – 1 employee
- \$120,000 – 139,999 - nil employees
- \$100,000 – 119,999 – nil employees
- \$80,000 – 99,999 – 3 employees

5.6 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 2013 – 2014 Community Grants Program, all amounts are GST exclusive:

- Tasmanian Special Children’s Christmas Party - \$275
- St John’s Church, interpretative signage - \$250
- Derwent Valley Autumn Festival, tents and equipment - \$2,500
- Community Shed, heater - \$500
- New Norfolk Aquatic Club, paint for renovations - \$200
- Bushy Park Show Society, Valley Taste exhibition - \$500
- Friends of Frascati, Chainsaw and safety equipment - \$500
- Derwent Valley Horse riders Association Inc, hop poles - \$485
- Maydena Community Association, craft materials - \$500
- New Norfolk Scout Group, tent and kayak - \$500
- Erica Read: Early Morning Swimming, lap swimming - \$500
- Westerway Bush Watch, Bush Watch signs - \$411
- St John’s Church, information signage - \$500
- Lachlan Volunteer Fire Brigade, replacement computer and printer - \$500
- Magra Volunteer Fire Brigade, upgrade of entrance - \$500
- Corumbene Nursing Home, capture of historical information - \$499
- Derwent Valley Recreation Centre, upgrade of equipment for fitness class- \$475
- Derwent Valley Recreation Centre, upgrade of safety equipment for boxing - \$400
- Glenora High School, adult woodwork group - \$855
- Derwent Valley Pony Club, cross country course - \$500
- New Norfolk Scout Group, new tethers - \$150
- Friends of Frascati, water tank installation - \$500

Derwent Valley Council made the following donations to individuals and organisations in the 2013 – 2014 financial year:

- Upper Derwent Anglers - \$100
- Give me five for kids - \$100
- World's Greatest Shave - \$50
- Can Hope New Norfolk - \$100
- Kobie's Cubby - \$100
- D. Baldock Memorial - \$1,000
- Beacon Golf Day - \$200
- Lap Sponsorship, Latrobe Speedway - \$125
- Tas Football (Jordan Hayden) - \$100
- Chelsea York –Netball - \$500
- Hobart Lions, Circus Quirkus - \$100
- Log a Load for kids – Run the Bridge - \$100
- Derwent Valley Volunteer Emergency Service - \$100
- Frascati Garden, purchase of plant for Mayor - \$50
- Fairview Primary School, Fairview Values Award - \$50
- New Norfolk High School, BBQ for school fair - \$50
- Bushy Park Show - \$200
- New Norfolk High School, Outstanding Achievement Award - \$100
- Glenora District High School, GAS - \$100
- Molesworth Fire Brigade - \$50
- New Norfolk Primary School, quiz night - \$50
- New Norfolk Primary School, contribution to bus trip - \$100
- Magra Fire Brigade, donation to quiz night - \$100
- R. Smith, boxing championships - \$500
- Glenora District High School, awards - \$100
- M. Thompson, medical donation - \$100
- New Norfolk Fire Brigade - \$100
- New Norfolk High School, presentation Awards – \$50
- Australian Powerboats - \$100
- New Norfolk High School - \$100
- Fairview Primary School - \$100
- Rotary Club of Hobart, annual magic show - \$110
- Greg Gollan, Karate National Champion ships - \$250

5.7 Contracts for Supply of Goods and Services

This statement is made in accordance with Section 23(5) of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2005.

The following contracts to the value of \$100,000 or above were entered into during the 2013 – 2014 financial year:

Contract	Contract Period	Extension Option	Contract Sum (inc. extension options)	Contractor
Kerbside Recycling	5 years Commence 5 th March 2012	1 year + 1 year	\$600,000 (estimated)	Aussie Waste
Waste Collection	5 years Commence 21 st February 2011	1 year + 1 year	\$800,000 (estimated)	Veolia
Road works: Lachlan Road	2013 – 2014	N/A	\$192,500	Groombridge Civil Pty Ltd

5.8 Donated Land Statement

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

5.9 Public Interest Disclosure Statement

Derwent Valley Council has not raised or determined any disclosures during the 2013 – 2014 financial year in accordance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002.

Acknowledgements and Contact Details

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

Derwent Valley Council welcomes feedback regarding this report, written comment should be addressed to the General Manager:

General Manager

Derwent Valley Council

PO Box 595

New Norfolk, Tas, 7140

Further copies of this report be obtained from Derwent Valley Council at:

Derwent Valley Council's website: www.derwentvalley.tas.gov.au

Telephone: General Manager's office on: 6261 8512

email: mpearce@dvc.tas.gov.au

letter addressed to: Derwent Valley Council, PO Box 595, New Norfolk Tas 7140

Photographic credits and captions:

Front cover – rural scene at Glenora

Financial statement - Willow Court

Inside cover – New Norfolk from Peppermint Hill

Page 3: Lasky's Car park during upgrade works

Page 5: Lake Pedder, photo courtesy of Steven Richardson

Page 9: Mayor, Martyn Evans

- Page 12: General Manager, Stephen Mackey
- Page 13: Paper Machine 2 (PM2) Light Weight Coated conversion, photo courtesy of Norske Skog
- Page 14: Reid's Redland Orchard at Plenty, photo courtesy of Reid's Cherries
- Page 15: Raspberries at Westerway Raspberry Farm, photo courtesy of Richard Clark
- Page 16: (top) Derwent Estate Winery machinery, photo courtesy of Derwent Estate Winery
(bottom) Hop Products Australia processing plant and hop fields
- Page 18: Looking toward Mt Field from Glenora
- Page 19: Councillors, captioned in body of document, photo courtesy Damian Bester
- Page 22: Individual Councillors photographs, captioned in body of document
- Page 26: Works being undertaken in Pioneer Avenue
- Page 33: Barracks Building
- Page 34: Derwent River from Peppermint Hill
- Page 36: Remembrance Day wreathes at the Cenotaph
- Page 37: Works being undertaken
- Page 38: New dump point and RV Friendly stop over point
- Page 40: Flooding at Bushy Park
- Page 41: Heritage grapevine at Frascati House
- Page 44: D'FAT and YAC members meet at Huon Valley, photo courtesy of Matt Hill

All unattributed photographs are from private collections or Derwent Valley Council file photographs.