



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Each year, Council provides funding to community groups through its Community Grants Program, awarding more than \$230,000 since the Community Small Grants Program started in 1997.

Grants are available to Derwent Valley based, not for profit organisations for projects that provide a benefit within the local community. Council encourages groups who are completing an application to read the policy guidelines, ensure they have no outstanding acquittals due, complete all sections of the application form and include letters of support.

Round Two closes 5pm Tuesday, 11 February 2020.

To assist applicants with Grant policy, guidelines and applications, Council will be running a free info session. This session is for both new and previous applicants, and is an opportunity to ensure your submissions are strong and ask any questions you may have.

This session will be held from 12.30pm - 1.30pm, Tuesday 21 January in the Council Social Rooms. Registration is not necessary.

Questions and enquiries about applications can be sent to RTudor@dvc.tas.gov.au. Further information, application forms and policy guidelines can be found on Council's website.

GLENORA ROAD AND CAWTHORNS LANE SPEED REDUCTIONS

Council is seeking feedback from residents and road users on two separate proposals to reduce the speed limit on local roads.

The first proposal is to reduce a 17km stretch of Glenora Road, between Gordon River Road, Bushy Park and the New Norfolk town limits leaving New Norfolk from 100km/h to 80km/h, as well as a reduction to the speed limit through Plenty from 80km/h down to 60km/h.

The second is to reduce the speed limit on Cawthorns Lane from 80 km/h to 60 km/h. The reduction would apply to the length of the road, between Gordon River Road and Lyell Highway.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Round One of the Community Small Grants Program 2019/2020 awarded seven grants to community groups and organisations, with \$14,000* of budgeted funds remaining for Round Two.

Lachlan Hall Committee - \$792 for the replacement of kitchen floor coverings

Derwent Valley Choir - \$400 for new music scores

Upper Derwent United Hall Inc. - \$500 for whipper snipper

Derwent Valley State Emergency Service - \$2,000 to purchase a rescue training dummy

Westerway Primary School for \$1,000 for 100th Anniversary event activities

Derwent Valley Arts - \$1,199 for an outdoor data projector

*New Norfolk Neighbourhood Watch were previously approved for a grant of \$3,025, with the condition that further funding was acquired. As this condition was not able to be met, those funds have now been withdrawn and added to the funding pool for Round Two.

To have your say in support of or opposition to the proposal written feedback can be emailed to jcraven@dvc.tas.gov.au or marked 'Speed Reduction Proposal - Attention Jamie Craven' and sent to Derwent Valley Council, PO Box 595, New Norfolk 7140.



Feedback must be received by close of business on 7 February 2020.

How will Council use your feedback?

Council will consider feedback provided by road users prior to submitting an application to the Transport Commissioner. The Transport Commissioner's decision will be posted on Council's website when known.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of each year, I look back and remind myself of what we're aiming for as a Council and a community. I refresh myself on what we achieved and look ahead at the challenges and opportunities coming our way.

Last year we adopted our highest infrastructure spend to date, with \$10.31m allocated to upgrade roads, bridges and facilities in the area.

We continued on the journey to activate the Council-owned portion of the Willow Court Precinct. While at times controversial, I believe the activation of the site will provide positive economic benefits for our region. Complementary to the Agrarian Kitchen, the proposed New Norfolk Distillery will be Tasmania's first bespoke rum distillery in over 150 years, helping to further develop the food and wine image the Derwent Valley is becoming known for.

We continued with a number of community and infrastructure projects, as well as our bridge rehabilitation program with Wyre Forest Creek and Plenty Valley Road bridges being completely replaced, and upgraded a number of smaller bridges.

Late in the year we commenced the greatly needed and long awaited Glenora Road upgrade, as well as renewal works on Britten Street.

We also found some savings in the budget which will allow us to renew several cul de sacs in Fairview, starting in the new year.

Preliminary works for the Molesworth Road upgrade are also underway.

The last few months has seen Council undertaking a series of community consultations to develop the new Derwent Valley brand as well as a Recreation, Play and Open Space Strategy (RPOSS).

As key action items in the Strategic Plan, the branding strategy will promote awareness of our region and define a consistent approach to the marketing of the Valley while RPOSS will help us determine how we manage public open spaces into the future.

Along with continuing to implement items from Our Valley 2030, our ongoing tourism and economic growth continues to provide opportunity to showcase what our region has to offer.

Looking ahead, Council is currently planning and scoping a number of projects which we hope to commence in the coming months. These include the Community Hall upgrade at Westerway and Collins Cap Road improvements.

We also have a number of projects being made possible through various Grants from the Tasmanian Government, including Stage 2 of The Esplanade Master Plan, improvements to the Millbrook Rise Boat Ramp and upgrades to The Avenue streetscape at Willow Court.

2020 is going to be another big year but I think we're up for it.

For now, I'm looking forward to the Australia Day celebrations and seeing our community come together to celebrate.

MAYOR BEN SHAW

DERWENT VALLEY BRANDING PROJECT

During the consultations for Our Valley 2030, Council identified a desire from the community to develop a strong Derwent Valley Brand. One that incorporated the look and feel of the Valley, tells the story of who we are and why people want to come here, and that businesses and organisations in the community can also use.

After a series of workshops with community member and local businesses, the many comments, ideas and discussions have been consolidated into a brand concept and the next step is to give the community a first look at this and invite your input once more.

This is being done through Brand Exhibitions, which are public displays of the preliminary work. They will show some of the incredible stories that we heard have influenced our thinking, and give you the chance to provide your feedback.

The Brand Exhibitions will allow people to come and go as it suits them, with presentations by brand consultants For the People twice each day.

National Park Hotel
 Thursday 16 January 2020
 10:00am – 8:00pm. Presentations at 1:00pm and 7:00pm

Council Social Rooms, New Norfolk
 Friday 17 January 2020
 9:00am – 7:00pm. Presentations at 12:00pm and 6:00pm



The presentations will cover the thinking behind the concepts, and how the brand toolkit can be used to help the local community and businesses to engage with and capitalise on opportunities. They will also show how the Derwent Valley story can be told simply and boldly to a non-local audience to attract the right kind of tourism and investment to the region.

Following the Brand Exhibitions, feedback will be taken on board prior to formal adoption by Council.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

As we enter the warmer months, our Capital Works program gains momentum once again and Council starts to tick off items listed in the 2019/2020 Projects Plan.

These works include:

Major upgrades of Britten St road, gutter, and footpath are being undertaken from the Back River Road intersection through to the Benjamin Terrace/Fairfax roundabout. These works are scheduled to be completed by the end of March 2020. Matheson Court, Downie Circle and Shoobridge Place will also be renewed, with works due to start in the new year.



Glenora Road and Gordon River Road intersection

Glenora Road upgrade works have commenced, thanks to a \$2.5m Grant from the Tasmanian Government as part of the Roads Package to Support Tasmania's Visitor Economy. These works include the 5km section from the Gordon River Road intersection, and key areas along the rest of the road being rehabilitated for our residents and tourists.



Plenty Valley Road bridge

Preliminary works for the Molesworth Road upgrade are progressing, with existing property boundaries identified and marked, and designs underway for the relocation of power infrastructure to facilitate the new road design.

Council's bridge rehabilitation program continued with Wyre Forest Creek and Plenty Valley Road bridges being completely replaced. We also completed renewal works on Glen Dhu Road Bridge #9, Lachlan Road Bridge #2 and Lachlan Road Bridge #10.

Works on both Tynwald Park and Boyer Oval cricket pitches were completed with each aged pitch being replaced with new artificial grass covered concrete pitches, and associated remediation works around the pitches. Early in 2020, new artificial winter grass covers will be purchased, allowing a shorter transition between cricket and football codes each



New cricket pitch at Boyer Oval

By working with an arborist, Council was able to save a 13 metre tall Claret Ash tree in Arthur Square from removal. The heavy foliage coupled with strong winds in November caused a large split in the trunks. If left alone, the tree would have continued to split through the trunk and have to be removed for public safety. Instead, a steel rod was used to pin the trunks together and 3 steel bracing cables applied to reinforce and strengthen the trunk. The larger branches were also thinned out to reduce the weight on the rods.

For more information on these, and other projects listed in Council's 2019/2020 works program, see the Projects page on Council's website.

TIDY TOWNS AND VEOLIA WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER VALLEY

Derwent Valley Tidy Towns Committee has been fighting challenges with waste in the Valley for many years but have recently started to work with Derwent Valley youth in an attempt to help educate younger members of our community.

As a Special Committee of Council, Tidy Towns undertake activities for Council and the community including; cleaning graffiti from buildings and areas around town, as well as roadside litter collection, weeding and cleaning up alongside local roadways.

One of their latest projects focusses on youth education around waste and recycling, in conjunction with Veolia's Area Sales Manager TAS, Lidija Bicker.

Tidy Towns and Lidija met with school principals and senior teachers from all schools across the Derwent Valley to identify the main challenges faced which led to the development of an action plan with each school.

They quickly discovered that schools in the Valley are at very different levels of understanding of waste management and since then have been working closely together to overcome each school's individual challenges. Recycling and waste reduction presentations have been run and children engaged in discussions about waste and recycling.

While some children already knew how to minimise waste and recycle correctly both at school and at home, others reported contamination of recycling due to lack of knowledge, dumping waste or burning.

"The program has been received very well at schools and children are generally very responsive and understand the importance of correct waste reduction

and recycling. Some schools have obtained recycling bins which they didn't previously have, have started separating paper for recycling or have engaged in activities such as trying to minimise waste in lunch boxes" Lidija said.

"We will continue visiting schools and ensuring learnings have been taken on board by closely monitoring what goes in the bins. Our long term focuses are to keep recycling out of the landfill, tackle dumping and also change purchasing habits in order to minimise waste".



Tidy Towns' Ian Lacey with Lidija Bicker from Veolia and members of Junior Tidy Towns

COUNCIL STAFF DEVELOPING SKILLS

Council have been heavily investing in training and professional development for their staff throughout the last financial year.

A number of staff are undertaking accredited courses to attain skills and qualifications that will better equip them to perform their roles, including six Municipal Workers currently undertaking a Cert IV in Civil Construction, and two in various Horticulture degrees.

All of those staff have been involved in theoretical and practical onsite training, and are already implementing some of what they've learned. They have been using their new knowledge in their day to day jobs and solving some unique problems in new ways.

One staff member picked up a tip from the training about wallabies and kangaroos not liking eucalyptus. She was able to use this knowledge at the Malbina Cemetery where there had long been a problem with animals eating the flowers from grave sites. By adding gum tree bark into the gardens and around the grave sites, she

was able to keep the hungry wildlife away and keep the graves looking better for longer.

Along with covering correct and safe use and storage of chemicals in the workplace, they have also learned some new techniques regarding more rigorous pruning techniques.

These techniques have already been used on the ring of rose gardens surrounding Council Chambers. Not only will this encourage thicker, denser foliage on shrubs and bushes, but using correct pruning techniques will provide more defence against borer and insect attacks.



DERWENT VALLEY COUNCIL NEWS

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