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MEDIA RELEASE

Organisation: Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Subject: Triabunna Centre to open for Maria Island ferry restart
Date: 12 June 2020

To coincide with the Maria Island ferry service recommencing, the Triabunna Visitor Information Centre will re-open on Monday, June 15.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council closed the Centre in March as a result of COVID-19, along with its other Centres at Swansea and Bicheno.

Council management met with Encounter Maria Island and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service last week to discuss the easing of the Tasmanian Government's COVID-19 travel restrictions to ensure a smooth return for the ferry service and Council's transition out of operating Visitor Information Centres by 31 October 2020.

Mayor Debbie Wisby said the Triabunna Centre would be open daily between 9.30am and 4.30pm. Council will have COVID-19 procedures in place for the safety of staff and visitors.

Encounter Maria Island will initially run a 10am departure service from Triabunna and a 3.30pm return trip from Darlington, every day except Tuesdays.

The Company has advised all ferry passengers must check-in at the Centre at least 30 minutes prior to the departure time and will be provided with safety information and boarding procedures. Encounter Maria Island has put in place COVID-19 procedures, including cleaning of the vessel before and after each trip.

Further information can be found on Encounter Maria Island's website at www.encountermaria.com.au. For National Park information, on-island accommodation and park passes, refer to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service website at www.parks.tas.gov.au.

Council has announced it will divest itself of operating the three Visitor Information Centres by 31 October 2020 to focus on delivering core services to ratepayers and residents.

Council will continue to work with Encounter Maria Island, as well as government, regarding alternative options for Maria Island National Park visitors, the ferry and its passengers as a result of the decision.

Mayor Wisby said the Swansea and Bicheno Visitor Information Centres will re-open in the next few weeks.

Council met with tourism industry and government representatives in Swansea on Thursday to start mapping out a way forward in light of Council's decision to move away from operating the Centres.

The meeting included representatives from East Coast Tasmania Tourism, Break O'Day Council, the Department of State Growth and Tourism Tasmania.

Mayor Wisby described the meeting as positive and that all the parties were committed to working together to ensure a long-term plan was in place to promote the region and support the local tourism industry.

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For more information please contact: Mayor Debbie Wisby, 0439579652