

PLANET ARK NATIONAL TREE DAY

National Tree Day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree-planting and nature care event. It is a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community.

During the months of July and August, Planet Ark National Tree Day was held in parks and reserves in Bicheno, Swansea, and Triabunna. Staff from Glamorgan Spring Bay Council collaborated with Triabunna District School, Swansea Primary School, and the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre in Swansea

to plant 240 native plants in our municipal area. With over 100 students learning about the environment and assisting in this important work proved beneficial to both the students and the landscape.

The foreshore reserve below Allen Street, Bicheno was the site for the National Tree Day community event. This site has been worked on for some time to reclaim the area, from a dense weed infestation, to now having 110 native grasses and creepers to create habitat for the Little Penguins.



Yellow-flowered local native plants to look out for at this time of year

There are many advantages of planting local natives in your garden:

- They are adapted to local conditions.
- Once established they require little maintenance and rarely need watering.
- They may attract birds and butterflies.

For ideas on planting natives, we have stock of the brochures *Native Plants of Glamorgan Spring Bay* and *Native Gardens a planting and landscaping guide for the southern region of Tasmania* that are available at the Council office.



Sweet Wattle (*Acacia suaveolens*)



Golden Pea (*Aotis ericoides*)



Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)

Message from the General Manager



Dear Residents and Ratepayers,

Welcome to the first edition of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council's SeaSpeak printed on recycled paper!

Why recycle? Council remains committed to its principles outlined in the Community Strategic Plan. A key pillar of this Plan is the management and improving of our natural resources. Paper recycling is commonplace in most offices today and creates important environmental savings. Producing this SeaSpeak edition on paper from recycled materials not only conserves trees, but it also saves landfill space and reduces the amount of pollution in the air from incineration.

To say the 2020/21 financial year was an eventful one would be an understatement. The good news is that Council has met the requirements of the Performance Improvement Direction (PID) issued by the State Government in July 2020 to ensure compliance with the *Local Government Act*.

During the course of the year Council developed and implemented the strategies and plans to ensure Council's long term financial sustainability and delivering on the PID obligations, but also to still achieve the goals and aspirations of the community identified in the 10-year Strategic Community Plan. Difficult but responsible decisions have been made along this journey to ensure that Council can better meet the needs of residents into the future.

One of those decisions has been regarding a change in Council's rating system from Average Area Rating (AAR) to Assessed Annual Valuation (AAV). The AAV rates

model that has been adopted is fairer, more equitable and reflects the growth in the region. It will better meet the needs of the community and help put Council on a sustainable financial footing. Under the old AAR system still used by a small number of Councils in Tasmania, a flat rate was applied to all residential properties in each town, irrespective of individual property value.

Moving to a new system that is based on the value of individual properties means a significant number of properties will see a reduction in their rates, while others with high value properties will see their rates increase. Even where rates have increased, however, they will still be in line with or lower than rates charged in neighbouring municipalities.

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council offers financial hardship assistance for individuals experiencing genuine and serious financial hardship. The Council also offers rates remissions for eligible concession card holders, as well as non-for-profit community groups. Please see our website for information.

Council recently adopted its budget for the 2021/22 financial years including an \$8.5 million capital program that invests in the future of the municipality. Approximately \$3 million of this total will be spent on the renewal of critical assets such as roads and footpaths. Capital works priorities have been guided by the new Asset Management Plans which are also available for perusal on Council's website.

In visiting the website, you will note recent improvements made to help you better navigate the site for information.

Greg Ingham,
General Manager



Mayoral Message



Over the past several months, East Coast Health (ECH) staff have been working hard to ensure adequate medical care is available at both Bicheno and Triabunna medical practices. There have been significant challenges securing Locum

GP's to travel to Tasmania on top of the existing shortage of GP's and other health professionals around Australia, which is felt particularly hard in regional areas.

Currently there are approximately 50 unfilled GP vacancies in Tasmania. Despite this ECH have recently been successful in recruiting two permanent GP's across our two practices.

Council is working with medical professionals and relevant community stakeholders to implement a municipal wide medical governance structure that will ensure the ongoing reliable and quality medical care for Glamorgan Spring Bay residents. More information in regard to this will be publicised in due course.

In other important news:

- The new management team has been finalised bringing experience from other Councils and private business.

- Significant effort is being directed to addressing legacy issues and kickstarting improvements to council procedure.
- Community Connect sessions have re started to create face to face discussions with council and the community. Please see December session dates below.
- Council is continuing to work with community groups and event organisers including Festival of Voices, Seafarers, Wine Festival, Bicheno Beams etc.
- Promoting and collaboration with other agencies to create work opportunities within Council for our community.

COMMUNITY CONNECT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2021

TIME	LOCATION
10:00am to 11:30am	Coles Bay Town Hall
2:00pm to 3:30pm	Bicheno Town Hall

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2021

TIME	LOCATION
10:00am to 11:30am	Swansea Town Hall
2:30pm to 4:00pm	Triabunna Town Hall

July Citizenship Ceremony

Mayor Robert Young officiated a Citizenship Ceremony at the Triabunna Community Hall on July 6, 2021. Australian Citizenship is a significant and final step in a migration story. Becoming an Australian Citizen means an ongoing commitment to Australia and our shared values. It also marks the start of one's membership in the Australian community, it is the step that enables a new Citizen to say, 'I am Australian'. Glamorgan Spring Bay had the pleasure of welcoming seven new Australian citizens to our wonderful municipal area after they took the pledge. These new Australian citizens come from all over the world, including Indonesia, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Vietnam.

On behalf of the Glamorgan Spring Bay



Left to right: Ngoc Duy Tran, Thi Khanh Vy Trinh, Megan Lucas, Loic Pages, Mayor Robert Young, Kiki Dowling, Nicky Dowling and Talsa Yates

Community, we wish you all the best and congratulate you on your Citizenship.

Colin Campbell's Art Exhibition

Your East Coast Heritage Museum's current display is "Colin Campbell's Art Exhibition". The late Colin Campbell was an avid fan of Swansea, history and especially the East Coast Heritage Museum. Colin was on the museum committee and the redevelopment with his wife Rae, they would spend time between their homes in Swansea and Bothwell.

This current exhibition is the private collection of artworks from some of Colin's fabulous paintings, dioramas and donations made to the museum over a number of years. The exhibition will run until the end of October 2021.



© Colin Campbell

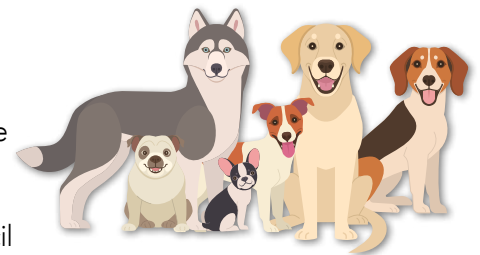
We thank you for your continued support and invite you to visit the Museum in Swansea between 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

Dog Registration Audit

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council will be undertaking a municipal Dog Registration Audit between the months of September and November to encourage responsible pet ownership and help build a safer, happier community.

Any dogs found to be unregistered will result in an infringement of one (1) penalty unit per offence being issued, in accordance with the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

Under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, all dogs aged six months and over are required to be registered and microchipped by 30 June each year (this includes working dogs.) A Kennel Licence is required from Council if your property has more than two (2) domestic dogs, or more than four (4) working dogs aged six months and over.



Be a responsible pet owner by registering your dog with Council and ensure the tag provided is always worn. Registering your dog increases the likelihood of your pet returning should it become lost. Dogs registered with Glamorgan Spring Bay Council prior to 31 July 2021 receive a discounted fee. Pension concession is available for one (1) dog, once the concession card has been sited and validated by a Council Officer.

If in the unfortunate situation that your dog is deceased or is no longer at your premises, you are obligated to notify Council. Once notified, Officers will cancel the registration and you will not receive any further registration reminders.

Caravans in Glamorgan Spring Bay

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has a gazetted by-law in relation to caravans situated on land within the Glamorgan Spring Bay area. The by-law requires the owner of a caravan to register the caravan with Council annually if it is occupied for more than thirty (30) days (consecutive or otherwise) in each financial year.

Registrations for Caravan licences expire 30 June every year, at which time a renewal will be sent out.

The by-law can be accessed via the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council website or from the Council office.



If you have any enquiries about this, please email admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au or phone Council on 6256 4777 during normal business hours.

WORKS DEPARTMENT

Assets – What’s changed and why it matters?

Something changed in the last twelve months that is having a significant and ongoing impact on the way this Council is managed and it's mostly about assets. Assets are roads, stormwater systems, marine infrastructure, buildings, and the like.

In the last year, Council has had to identify all the assets it owns to be able to develop asset management plans. That has never been comprehensively done before at GSBC. Because it hadn't, the ongoing cost of keeping those assets from overall condition decline was not sufficiently considered in the finances of the organisation and as a result, renewal was not adequately costed.

In doing this work, substantial additional values of assets were identified as Council's liability and responsibility to maintain and replace over time. A high value of assets being used and wearing out weren't previously identified. These had to be added into the renewal calculations.

Just like owning a car, you need to continually spend on maintenance and plan for the replacement as you use it, or you will have a car that doesn't work and no funds to replace it. So, Council needs to maintain and renew its assets at least at the rate they are wearing out. We also have a backlog of renewal that didn't happen in a timely way over a decade or more, particularly in the sealed road network that should be pegged back gradually.

Plans for timely expenditure on existing asset replacement at end of service life had to be developed with a long-term view. These were based on the average expected useful lives of all the assets Council

owns (by their class types) and what work next needs to be done now and in subsequent years to keep them functional.

Council now knows what is needed to fund basic asset renewal and replacement for all its community assets. So then, what has changed is that there is now a long-term plan for maintaining and replacing all the assets being used by the community. This is where the majority of our rates go to and a key financial pressure for increase.

All Abilities Seat

Council recently received information in the way of a request that playground equipment was not meeting the needs of a family with a child with physical limitations. With a little research and some funding, Council officers were able to identify a suitable safe replacement swing. The replacement swing can be used by all abilities and will enable any similarly physically challenged children to feel the breeze in their hair with a gentle swing.



Duck Park, Swansea

We hope this brings a little joy to some little people and their families and appreciate the note of thanks received in response.



Triabunna Gatehouse

Bicheno Triangle Project

Consultation on a community preferred design Option for the Bicheno Triangle is underway.

Place Design Group (James Birrell) has provided two alternative concept designs to his original concept for the Bicheno Triangle Upgrade – Stage 2.

James has kept the overall site layout for the options similar to the original concept and has also kept the triangle theme for the focal structure. The overall site layout has been retained as this had previously been reviewed and accepted and included elements/features consistent with the Community Development Grant (CDG) for Stage 2 of the Bicheno Triangle Redevelopment. The reason for “staying the course” with the triangle theme for the structure is predominantly due to the feedback from the previous community consultation that James was intimately involved with. Further details on the development of this theme are provided in the Background section of the Place Design Concept Package.

The subtle difference with the options for the structure are:

Original Master Plan:



Above: Bicheno Triangle previous Master Plan

Option 1: This is a similar size and look as the original concept, the difference being the slide has been removed and public amenities are included.



Above: Bicheno Triangle option 1

Option 2: This is also similar in appearance but has a wider entry and stepped seating providing an amphitheatre style structure. Public amenities are also included with Option 2.

The Grant Deed for Stage 2 of the Bicheno Triangle Redevelopment highlighted specific elements/features that were to be provided with this project.

All three concept design options include the elements/features compliant with the Deed.

While there are some members of the community who do not like the idea of a focal structure being built in the Triangle there are many that see this enhancing the amenity of the town centre. The lookout structure is the dominant feature of the proposed Bicheno Triangle Stage 2 Redevelopment and is specifically listed on the CDG grant to be constructed as part of the Stage 2 works.

A preferred option will be progressed from the feedback received and preliminary drawings will be prepared for further review by Council and then provided for public display through the Development Application process.

To have your say on the option you prefer, Council will conduct a survey with online and hard copy options for community members to review, fill out and submit.



Above: Bicheno Triangle option 2

Farewell to Outdoor Team Leader, Leo Crosswell!

This quarter Council farewelled a wonderful long-term employee and positive culture influence in Leo Crosswell who has retired after almost 31 years service to the community through his role at Council. Leo started as a team member and progressed in plant and truck operations to team leader for the Triabunna team.

We caught up with Leo at his farewell to ask, what has changed during his time with council?

“Well Council amalgamation took place after I started with the Triabunna and Swansea workforces. We didn’t have kerbside bin collection so that was a big change when it was introduced. When I started, we did everything, there were no teams for building, civil or parks maintenance. We had hand tools, pick and shovel. Then we progressed to backhoes and excavators to improve productivity.”

Has there been much change in administration?

“We had virtually no paperwork when I started. Today we have systems and processes that are all



documented. There have been big leaps forward in Workplace Health & Safety.”

What project gave you the greatest satisfaction?

“The Marina project is definitely the jewel in the crown for me.”

On behalf of Council and the community, we wish Leo and Lyn all the best for the future and many kilometres of trouble-free travel!



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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in Tasmania

Tasmania's Aboriginal cultural heritage provides a spiritual connection for Tasmanian Aboriginal people today and valuable information about one of the oldest living cultures in the world.

Aboriginal cultural heritage places and objects – such as shell middens, stone artefacts, rock shelter and art sites – can be found all over Tasmania and are often located near major food sources such as rivers, lakes, and the coastline.

The Property Search website provides the best available information about the presence of relics in Tasmania; however, the records are not complete. Obtaining a Search Record from this website does not exempt a person from their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*.

To report an unanticipated discovery or suspected Aboriginal heritage (relic) contact Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania on 1300 487 045 or email aboriginal@heritage.tas.gov.au

Aboriginal cultural heritage fact sheets provide information about the types of Aboriginal cultural heritage found in Tasmania. These fact sheets are located on the Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania website or <https://www.aboriginalheritage.tas.gov.au/cultural-heritage>



Council Communication Subscriptions

We encourage you to receive our newsletter and communications electronically by going to www.gsbc.tas.gov.au and subscribing or emailing community@freycinet.tas.gov.au and request an electronic version.

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Please note:

As a Local Government Authority, Councils are required under the *Archives Act* and the *Local Government Act* to keep accurate records of Council business. Any records created, received or sent in an official capacity as a Councillor are part of Council's public record and hence a State record. Any email or other correspondence to Councillors may be viewed, copied and retained by Council.