



DEVONPORT CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCIL GIFTS JULIE BURGESS TO LOCAL ASSOCIATION, JULIE BURGESS INCORPORATED



Council has agreed to transfer ownership of the Julie Burgess by way of a Deed of Gift, to local association, Julie Burgess Incorporated. Council has owned the Julie Burgess since 2009, when a Federal Government Jobs Fund grant enabled Council to purchase and restore the vessel to operate as a passenger carrying sailing vessel in sheltered and coastal waters. The vessel has been operated as a seasonal sailing attraction.

In August 2019, a comprehensive review of operations highlighted that passenger numbers and engagement was decreasing year on year, and that Council did not have the necessary resources to diversify the operation and increase activity.

Council undertook an open expression of interest process to seek an alternate operator, preferably one who would operate the vessel locally. Eight expressions of interest were received and reviewed by Council, with four of these invited to present to Council at a workshop. At the Council meeting in April 2020, the Julie Burgess

Working Committee was selected as the preferred proponent.

Over the last four months, Council has worked with the preferred proponent, who has since formed an incorporated association, Julie Burgess Inc.

The Julie Burgess Inc's membership is largely made up of previous Council Julie Burgess sailing crew and committee volunteers, therefore they are well experienced in sailing the vessel.

Councillor Leon Perry, who moved the motion at Monday night's Council meeting, noted that there is a real local interest and love for the vessel within the group who is taking ownership, leading to the best result for the vessel going forward.

Council has agreed to provide financial assistance to the JBI of \$50,000 in the first year and \$40,000 thereafter for a further four years, and has agreed to waive the licence fees for a period of five years for their use of the pontoon at Reg Hope Park.

COUNCIL UPDATE

CHANGES TO END OF YEAR EVENTS

The Devonport City Council has approved changes to Council's major events - the annual Christmas parade and the New Year's Eve celebrations.

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, a number of Council events, programs and activities have either been cancelled or modified as a result of restrictions imposed for public events arising from COVID-19.

Due to the level of planning and organisation that is required to deliver the Christmas Parade and New Year's Eve events, it was necessary for Council to consider the feasibility of hosting the events given the current COVID-19 restrictions for public events.

The restrictions and social distancing requirements that are currently in place make large scale events very difficult to manage, therefore Council is planning to run smaller community events throughout the Christmas/New Year Period, and intends to reallocate the subsequent budget surplus to community social recovery actions.

COUNCIL TO JOIN CITIES POWER PARTNERSHIP

The Cities Power Partnership program is a free, national program that provides a credible platform for Council to extend efforts to reduce emissions, while being supported with a knowledge hub, training opportunities, reporting tools and profiling Council activities to a national audience. Investigating the possibility of joining the program and pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is an action in Council's 2020/21 Corporate Action Plan.

Council is committed to mitigating the effects of climate change and have a number of strategies and plans in place to assist in achieving this aim, including:

- the Corporate Climate Change Adaption Plan - a plan that aims to improve the capability of the Council to manage risks associated with climate change that are within the Council's sphere of influence;
- the Environment Strategy 2019-2024 - this strategy outlines Council's environmental management activities focused on three main areas, 'conserving our biodiversity', 'healthy waterways and costs' and 'living lightly'; and
- in 2017, Council participated in the Tasmanian Government's Climate resilient Councils Project - participating in this project identified opportunities for Council to build on existing climate change management efforts.

Joining the Cities Power Partnership program is an additional avenue for Council to progress work on mitigating climate change impacts.

To join the program, Council will need to, within six months, identify five projects that comprise our pledge that Council will strive to achieve. Initiatives that focus on emissions reductions in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and community advocacy can be included in the pledge.

It is predicted that current global practices and policies will cause global temperatures to rise by at least 3 degrees within the century, potentially resulting in catastrophic climate change consequences. Many governments (national, state and local) share the desire to reduce emissions and being part of the Cities Power Partnership will assist Council to actively understand, report and analyse our emissions, and help set key emissions reduction performance targets.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING:

- Council endorsed the **Partnership Agreement between Council and the Tasmanian Arboretum Inc.** for a further 2 year period.
- Council endorsed the **Home Hill Landscape Management Plan** and will consider funding for identified actions in future forward works programs, and undertake immediate action to address the sleeper wall, pond and adjacent rock wall, utilising the \$25,000 previously allocated through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program funding.
- Council authorised the General Manager to **execute a lease with the Devonport Judo Club for the vacant space at the Devonport Recreation Centre**, and agreed that Council officers will work with the Devonport Men's Shed Club to assist them in finding an alternative venue for their operations.
- The following **strategy and plan status updates** were received and noted:
 - * The Environment Strategy 2019-2024 - Two Year Status
 - * Corporate Climate Change Adaption Plan - Year Two Status
 - * Road Network Strategy - Year 5 Status