



DEVONPORT CITY COUNCIL

PO Box 604 Devonport TAS 7310 – 137 Rooke Street, Devonport

Telephone 03 6424 0511 Email council@devonport.tas.gov.au

Web www.devonport.tas.gov.au



29 October 2019

DON RESERVE BIOBLITZ PLANNED FOR 8 AND 9 NOVEMBER



The Don Reserve will be the site of a BioBlitz planned for 8 and 9 November

Devonport residents are being encouraged to do their bit to help discover and record as many living things - plants, animals and fungi - which inhabit the city's Don Reserve as possible as part of the Bookend Trust's BioBlitz on 8 and 9 November.

The 30-hour exercise – being run in conjunction with the Devonport City Council - will begin with about 120 students from the Our Lady of Lourdes and Andrews Creek Primary Schools assembling to undertake surveys from the 'BioBlitz basecamp' at the Splash Aquatic Centre at 10 am on the Friday.

From 4pm on the Friday, anyone in the community can book into the surveys, which will run until 4pm the following day.

Previous BioBlitzes had helped uncover hundreds of species which had previously not been recorded in the BioBlitz sites, and threatened species zoologist and Bookend Trust Citizen Science Coordinator Clare Hawkins said she was hopeful the same would happen in the Don Reserve.

"Currently on the Natural Values Atlas

(a publicly accessible Tasmanian Government database) only 29 species are actually recorded in the Don Reserve area, which are mostly plants," Dr Hawkins said.

"We can definitely improve on this as we are actually surveying a rather wider area, covering additional council land (and water), and nearly 200 species have been recorded in this general area overall, so that's a good start."

One of the key targets will be the endangered Central North burrowing crayfish.

Dr Hawkins said some were known to be in the area, but it was hoped more could be uncovered as part of an effort to record the crayfish further through its known range between Devonport, Port Sorell, the narawntapu national park and Sheffield.

"As well as the Central North burrowing crayfish, we may be lucky enough to see some other threatened species which have been recorded in the area."

More information is available by calling Council on 6424 0511.

COUNCIL UPDATE

COUNCIL REPORTS SEVENTH STRAIGHT SURPLUS IN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Council has achieved an adjusted underlying surplus of \$334,000 for the last financial year, more than double the projected underlying surplus of \$147,000.

It is the seventh consecutive year that Council has achieved an adjusted underlying surplus.

According to the Annual Financial Report, released last night, the result came on the back of a \$1.33 million increase in the projected operating revenue and a \$2.466 million increase in operating expenditure.

Revenue was above budget mainly due to a higher than expected return from the Dulverton Regional Waste Management Authority and higher than anticipated interest from short term investments.

The major variations to impact on expenditure included materials and services, depreciation and financial costs.

TWO ROAD PROJECTS APPROVED



Stage 1 of the Winspears Road renewal was completed in March

Council last night approved two road contracts valued at about \$480,000.

The Stewart Street renewal, from Williams Street to Gunn Street, involves the construction of a new kerb and channel, driveway improvements, pavement and seal and the installation of street trees.

An allowance of \$20,000 has been allocated to undertake the renewal of footpaths. This work was omitted from the tender, but it was later considered that renewing parts of the footpath would deliver a better outcome.

Stage 1 of the renewal of pavement and seal of the rural section of Winspears Road was completed in March and the second stage continues the work to Council's eastern boundary.

Initially it was assumed that the remaining section of road would be renewed in two sections over two financial years.

However, the tendered rates allow the entire remaining section to be completed for a cost only marginally in excess of the available budget.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations for the Devonport City Council's 2020 Australia Day Awards are now open.

The awards recognise the achievements of community members and groups who have made a significant contribution to the Devonport community.

They reflect values such as the pursuit of excellence, commitment to a tolerant and diverse society, a fair go and public service.

Nominations can be lodged in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

Nominees must have made a noteworthy contribution during the current year and/or given outstanding service to the Devonport community over a number of years.

All nominations are strictly confidential and the information provided will only be used to assist the Devonport City Council in considering the merits of the nomination.

For more information and to nominate visit <https://www.devonport.tas.gov.au/live/your-community/awards/australia-day-awards/>

Nominations will close on 2 December.