



City of **HOBART**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ancanthe Park gets a makeover

The City of Hobart's refurbishment of Ancanthe Park is well on its way to reviving the park to the 'cultured centre within the wilderness' that Lady Jane Franklin sought to create in 1843.

Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart, Alderman Sue Hickey said while the works were some weeks away from completion, the Council was thrilled at what was starting to take shape.

"Ancanthe Park is home to one of our city's most interesting heritage buildings, visited by many patrons of the Art Society of Tasmania's events at the museum building.

A proposed nearby subdivision a number of years ago sparked the community into action, highlighting the values and importance of the park. Since then the Council has worked closely with the local community to develop a master plan for refurbishment and now implement the works.

"With this upgrade, we wanted to improve the amenity and visitor experience of the park, whilst maintaining and enhancing the cultural heritage and environmental values.

"We didn't want to significantly change the way the park is used, but rather to enhance the landscape setting and visitor experience and most importantly the upgrade includes the provision of new public toilets, said the Lord Mayor.

Alderman Anna Reynolds, Chairman of the Council's Parks and Recreation Committee said the building and surrounding parkland first came into the Council's ownership in 1926, following years of neglect, and the park was extended in 2012 to include land along Brushy Creek.

"The refurbishment works were identified in the Ancanthe Park Master Plan 2015, a plan the Council developed to provide us with a 'blue print' to guide future use, development and management of the Park," Ald Reynolds said.

Key refurbishment works include:

- Upgrading the entrance, including a new bus shelter
- Enhancing landscaping to improve access and feature the Museum
- Constructing a new public toilet facility to serve Ancanthe and the linear park

“It is wonderful to see that the renewal of this park being done in such a way that is not only respectful of Lady Franklin’s vision but to the natural values of the park.

“Through the extensive community engagement process undertaken to develop the Master Plan, the community told us of their interest in the site as a place of significant heritage value, so we are very pleased to be delivering on a refurbishment that takes account of the community’s connection to the park,” said Ald Reynolds.

The works cost \$600,000 and are expected to be completed by the end of June 2017.

The Ancanthe Park Master Plan 2015 can be viewed on the Council’s website - http://www.hobartcity.com.au/Projects/Major_Council_projects/Ancanthe_Park

For interview

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