

## Exploring liberty through art

AN EXHIBITION that has been nearly two years in the making will open in Hobart this month.

*Liberty* is the inaugural instalment of the biennial Hobart Current program – a major partnership between the City of Hobart and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG).

Complemented by public and school-based programs, the exhibition explores 10 artists' individual responses to the concept of 'liberty' across a range of artistic mediums.

For Hobart artist Dexter Rosengrave, the upcoming exhibition is the culmination of a "rollercoaster" 12 months that impacted heavily on the arts sector.

"It was quite devastating at first when a lot of things got cancelled or postponed; 2020 was supposed to be a big year," Dexter said.

"To suddenly have barriers put up was difficult. But the experience has built a greater resilience.

"Now I'm excited to finally get this work out into the world."

An arts professional for five years, Dexter is one of 10 artists selected by Creative Director Rosie Dennis to participate in the exhibition, which opens at TMAG on 12 March.

Each artist has created an original work based on their own concept and experiences of 'liberty', using mediums such as film, installation, performance and visual art.

"My work is a large-scale, four-channel, multi-projection work exploring what liberty means to the queer community, focusing on club culture and the loss of safe places and nightlife," Dexter said.

Also exhibiting are Tasmanian artists Sinsa



Hobart artist Dexter Rosengrave is one of 10 artists selected for the inaugural Hobart Current exhibition, which opens at TMAG this month.

Mansell, Brigita Ozolins, James Newitt, Jacob Leary and Nadege Philippe-Janon, plus Sydney-based artists Uncle Wes Marne, and Jagath Dheeraseskara, Victoria's Sarah Jane Pell, and Indonesian sculptor

Suryo Herlambang.

While working on their individual projects, five of the artists mentored students under a statewide school-based educational program facilitated by TMAG.

Students gained valuable insight into how contemporary artists made their work, and developed new ideas for presentation of their own creative practices.

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Artist Alice Cooley working on her mural outside The Stagg during Vibrance Festival. RIGHT: The new artwork on the Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Service created by emerging artist Takira Simon-Brown and mentor TOPSK.



## Midtown streets get a vibrant new look

THERE is now even more reason to explore Hobart's Midtown precinct, following last month's Vibrance Festival.

A series of murals have been painted in and around the Midtown area by local and visiting artists, creating an outdoor art gallery.

The City of Hobart has funded four of the 11 murals, including one that was created by emerging Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Takira Simon-Brown under the mentorship of well-known street artist TOPSK.

Further enhancing the area, temporary outdoor dining decks have been installed in Elizabeth Street under a trial project. Planter boxes, bicycle racks and furniture have been added to create a more inviting retail strip in a project supported by the Tasmanian Government through its Ready for Business Program.

Off-street parking is available at the Midtown Melville Street car park, underneath the UTAS accommodation building.



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# Art program puts focus on liberty

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Documentation of the students' work – including drawings, photo montages and video blogs – has been captured in an online interactive platform known as *Liberty Canvas*, which is available through the Hobart Current website.

In addition, the City of Hobart is hosting a program of community activities in public spaces across the city.

**Liberty Loop** showcases work from photographers, film makers and digital artists at The Loop screen on Elizabeth Street daily from 24 March. See the full schedule at [theloophobart.com.au](http://theloophobart.com.au).

In **Liberty Soapbox**, disability-led performance company Second Echo Ensemble (SEE) presents *The Stare* on the Soapbox Billboards at Mathers Place,

challenging the way the world views people living with disability.

**Liberty Art on Victoria Street** comprises eight art frames dedicated to young people's responses to the liberty theme.

The **Liberty Postcard Exhibition** features creative responses submitted by members of the community in an exhibition at the Waterside Pavilion on 8-10 April and in an online gallery on the Hobart Current website.

*Hobart Current: Liberty* is at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and locations in the Hobart CBD from 12 March until 9 May 2021. Admission is free. Details at [tmag.tas.gov.au](http://tmag.tas.gov.au).

For more information on the Hobart Current program and the participating artists, visit [hobartcurrent.com](http://hobartcurrent.com).



The new kids' play zone has been a hit with local youngsters.

## Splashing out at aquatic centre

KIDS are making a splash in the new-look leisure pool at the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre.

The children's pool opened in January, after a major refurbishment that started during last year's COVID-19-enforced closure.

The refurbished pool – which features

slides, a tipping bucket, water jets and soft-fall flooring – has proven to be a popular attraction over the summer.

For more information on the centre, including opening hours, pool availability and class timetables, and COVID-safe information, visit [hobartaquaticcentre.com.au](http://hobartaquaticcentre.com.au).

## Track closed for repairs

REPAIR works have started on an eroded embankment on the Lenah Valley Fire Trail.

The trail is a popular choice for walkers, and is the easiest route into the Old Hobartians Track.

Works to stabilise the dangerous section are expected to be completed in May. Access to the Old Hobartians Track is via a 1km detour to the Main Fire Trail and is suitable for more experienced hikers.

Discover other great walking tracks across the Greater Hobart region at [greaterhobarttrails.com.au](http://greaterhobarttrails.com.au).

## Suburban road paved with plastic

DISCARDED plastic bags are quite literally paving the road to more sustainable construction methods in Hobart.

More than 150,000 plastic bags were diverted from landfill and transformed into the Reconophalt sustainable asphalt mix recently used to refurbish Beaumont Road at Lenah Valley.

The product is mixed locally by Downer, which sources plastic bags collected through a partnership with REDcycle, and other recycled materials.

The Beaumont Road



City of Hobart staff lay Reconophalt on Beaumont Rd.

project used about 260 tonnes of Reconophalt, comprising around 154,000 plastic bags,

5400 printer cartridges, 6200 glass bottles and 26 tonnes of reclaimed asphalt.

In addition, the City of Hobart used 280 tonnes of recycled concrete as backfill material for the stormwater trench.

It has been reused from other construction projects around the city, preventing it from going into landfill and is cheaper than purchasing new concrete fill material.

The City is investigating use of recycled concrete for future footpath repairs and upgrades.

The City of Hobart has also used recycled glass in pipe bedding and fill material in a stormwater upgrade at Sandy Bay.

# SLOW DOWN FOR A SAFER HOBART

Hobart's CBD is now a 40 km/h zone



[hobartcity.com.au/saferhobart](http://hobartcity.com.au/saferhobart)



City of HOBART



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# Deadline for single-use plastics

HOBART will soon be single-use plastic-free.

A by-law prohibiting the supply of single-use plastic packaging, cutlery and similar items by takeaway food businesses will be enforced from 1 July 2021.

Hobart was the first Australian city to make such a by-law, which was gazetted in early 2020.

However, implementation was delayed due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food businesses.

Since then, City of Hobart has been working with food and beverage businesses across the



city to help them to transition to compostable products and many of the 300-plus businesses have already made the switch.

It is estimated that the by-law

will result in a reduction of up to 600 tonnes of single-use plastics to landfill each year – or around 9 million individual items.

Salamanca Market (and currently Tasmania's Own Market) and the Doone Kennedy Hobart Aquatic Centre both became single-use plastic-free in 2019, with up to 18,000 kilograms of waste now going to compost instead of landfill each year.

To find out more about the by-law, visit [hobartcity.com.au/singleuseplastics](http://hobartcity.com.au/singleuseplastics), or contact the City of Hobart to access business resources and assistance.

## Report recaps challenging year

THE 2019-20 Annual Report, which was formally adopted at last month's Annual General Meeting, detailed an end-of-year deficit position brought about by the impacts of COVID-19.

The 2019-20 financial year was described as one of "exceptional circumstances and challenging times".

Highlights of the 2019-20 financial year include the redevelopment of the South Hobart Community Centre, replacement of the toilets at Swan Street in North Hobart, construction of the Rose Garden Bridge, pedestrian improvements at Salamanca Place, and the refurbishment of Fern Tree Park and visitor amenities.

The Annual Report and the Lord Mayor's speech can be viewed on the City of Hobart's website.

## Apply for grants

APPLICATIONS for Community, Event and Small and Medium Creative grants will close at 5pm on Monday 15 March.

A combined total of \$195,000 in grant funding has been made available in this round.

For more information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit [hobartcity.com.au/grants](http://hobartcity.com.au/grants).

## Check in with app

TO MEET contact tracing requirements, the Check-in TAS app is now in use at City of Hobart venues, including the Town Hall, Council Centre and Mathers House.

The app can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play.

## Dahlias on show

THE 2021 Hobart Horticultural Society Dahlia Show will be held in the Hobart Town Hall on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 March.



Due to limited capacity, groups are asked to register attendance in advance by email to [events@hobartcity.com.au](mailto:events@hobartcity.com.au).

It is the final show in the 2020-21 City of Hobart Floral Shows season.

## Council meetings

COUNCIL Meetings are held in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall at 5pm, unless otherwise advertised.

All meetings are streamed live on the City of Hobart's YouTube channel and agendas are published on the City's website. Upcoming full Council meeting dates:

- 9, 22 and 31 March
- 26 April
- 10 and 24 May
- 7 and 21 June

# North Hobart future in spotlight

FEEDBACK is invited on a shared vision for the future of North Hobart's primary retail and entertainment precinct.

The draft North Hobart Place Vision Framework and Access and Parking Plan was commissioned to explore the challenges and opportunities posed by the popular Elizabeth Street dining, entertainment and retail strip.

The draft plan was developed from feedback received during a consultation process early last year.

The diverse range of eateries and shops, inclusion of cultural festivals and events, the heritage streetscape, a pedestrian-friendly nature and a strong sense of community were among the features valued highly by residents and traders.



The unique character of North Hobart has been captured in the draft Vision.

A survey that considers the outcomes of the draft plan is now available to complete on the City of Hobart's YourSay website,

closing on Monday 29 March.

To view the draft plans and complete the survey, visit [yoursay.hobartcity.com.au](http://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au).

# Easier way Urban sprawl talk topic to park

THE EasyPark app is available to download for free and is the easiest way to pay for parking in Hobart.

It allows drivers to skip the meter and pay via smart phone from anywhere.

Features include the ability to top up parking to the maximum time allowed, and notifications advising when the parking session is due to expire. Plus, parking sessions can be ended manually, so users only pay for the time they actually use.

The app is compatible with all on-street paid parking in Hobart, including the new meters at North Hobart.

THE topic of urban sprawl will be up for discussion at the next CityTalks online event.

In a forum titled *Sprawl and crawl? Or a comfortably compact Hobart?* Leading Australian planner Greg Vann and a panel of experts will discuss the economic and social impacts of urban density and suburban sprawl.

The discussion will explore global and local trends in cities resulting from the pandemic and leading to a rise in "localism", the concept of a 15-minute city, and an effort to create quality city environments.

Greg Vann is a Queensland-based planning and economics expert with nearly 40 years' experience. He is a former State President of the Planning Institute of Australia, was the project director of the new South East Queensland Regional

Plan and Chair of the state's Transit Oriented Development Taskforce.

He will be joined by UTAS Professor of Human Geography and Planning Jason Byrne, SGS Economics' Ellen Witte, and Hobart-based placemaking expert Steven Burgess.

CityTalks is a partnership between the City of Hobart and the University of Tasmania.

The public discussion events focus on topics relevant to Hobart and feature community leaders, international and national keynote speakers followed by a panel discussion.

*CityTalks - Sprawl and crawl? Or a comfortably compact Hobart?* will be held on Wednesday 24 March at 5pm. All are welcome to watch the free online event. More information at [hobartcity.com.au/citytalks](http://hobartcity.com.au/citytalks).

# Collins Court design

A PROPOSED design for Collins Court aims to transform the laneway into a fun, family-friendly city destination.

Designs that increase accessibility and connectivity, and create a safe place for families to enjoy when visiting the city, have been released for public feedback.

The proposal includes a playful sculptural octopus (pictured below) for children and an all-abilities access ramp connecting Collins Court to the St David's Cathedral carpark.

Visit [yoursay.hobartcity.com.au](https://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au) to view the designs and provide feedback. The survey closes on Monday 12 April.



City of Hobart's Mischa Pringle, Brian Pigden, Sean Black and Jill Hickie were among the key staff involved in the refurbishment of the park.

## Busking trial end nears

A TRIAL of new locations and times for busking and street performance will end this month.

Feedback is invited from performers, businesses and other members of the public to help determine whether the new arrangements should continue.

Under the six-month trial arrangements, buskers and street performers have been able to perform between 8am and 8pm on weekdays

and from 10am to 8pm on weekends, with a maximum 80 minutes of performance time per location, per day.

This was designed to promote regular turnover at each location to provide variety for audiences and give more performers the opportunity to busk in the higher-profile locations.

Feedback can be provided at [yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/busking](https://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au/busking) and closes on 30 March.

## Rediscover historic park

A TINY park in Fern Tree that once hosted summer strawberry festivals and has been a gateway for visitors wishing to explore Wellington Park for more than a century is being rediscovered by local families.

A \$2 million makeover was completed at Fern Tree Park last year and includes a fun natural playground featuring Tasmanian animal engravings. The new toilets and bus shelter include stonework by local stonemason Ray Hilton.

Upgrading the park brought considerable design challenges. It is set on steep, forested terrain on the edge of Huon Road and includes parts of the heritage-listed Pipeline Track, which carries a quarter of Hobart's water supply.

The location is steeped in natural and cultural heritage, which the City sought to protect and celebrate through the improvement project.

Tourists were first drawn to the natural beauty of the area in the early 1860s, visiting Silver Falls and the rainforest glade at Fern Tree Bower.

In the early 1890s, summer strawberry feasts were held on the lawns to raise funds for St Raphael's Church, which was built in 1893.

Stalls were set up serving berries and cream and afternoon tea and the feasts became a local attraction for Hobart residents.

The church has survived two major bushfires and still stands today.

The City worked closely with the local community on the upgrade, which was undertaken with assistance from the federal government through a Community Development Program grant of \$800,000.

# smoke free HOBART

Help us keep these areas smoke-free.

[hobartcity.com.au/smokefree](https://hobartcity.com.au/smokefree)

## Become a bandicoot buddy

HOBART residents are invited to take the pledge to protect the endangered eastern barred bandicoot by signing up to be a Bandicoot Buddy.

Residents can become citizen scientists by reporting sightings in their backyards and neighbourhoods and help provide safe habitat for native wildlife.

Eastern barred bandicoots were declared extinct in the wild on the mainland nearly 20 years ago, leaving Tasmania as the last hope for this important native species.

The marsupials often seek shelter in residential gardens, where the deeper, moist soil makes for easier foraging of earthworms and tubers. This puts them at risk from predation by roaming cats and dogs and cars at night.

Find out more about the program at [hobartcity.com.au/bandicoots](https://hobartcity.com.au/bandicoots).



Baby eastern barred bandicoots. Photo supplied by Adam Muylt.

- How to be a Bandicoot Buddy:
- Report sightings in your garden and neighbourhood.
  - Keep pet dogs and cats contained, especially at night, and away from bandicoot habitat in your garden.
  - Keep dogs on-lead in bushland.
  - Create and maintain native wildlife habitat in your garden.

### CONTACT THE CITY OF HOBART

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