

# WATERWAYS REPORT

## Waterbugs key to our rivulets

THE CITY OF HOBART has released its first ever report into the ecological health of Hobart’s four major rivulets: New Town Rivulet, Sandy Bay Rivulet, the Hobart Rivulet and Lambert Rivulet.

“The science behind this report uses the tiny waterbugs native to our rivulets as teltales of the environmental health of our inland waterways,” City Water Portfolio Chair Councillor Ben Lohberger said.

“Waterbugs sensitive to negative impacts on water health such as pollution and erosion are like canaries in the coal mine, with their numbers and diversity declining as rivulet health declines.”

The report found all four rivulets were healthier upstream than downstream, with the Hobart and New Town rivulets degrading



Report author and freshwater ecologist John Gooderham searches for waterbugs.

gradually from the naturally forested headwaters in Wellington Park to their urbanised mouths at the River Derwent.

It found that Sandy Bay and Lambert rivulets suffer more abrupt changes once their waters reach urbanised areas than New Town and Hobart rivulets.

Cr Lohberger said the report sets an important baseline for the

management of Hobart’s rivulet system.

“The results of our first ever surveys of the ecological health of Hobart’s inland waterways provide a comprehensive report into the condition of our major rivulets,” Cr Lohberger said.

“This report clearly demonstrates the importance of protecting the upper reaches of our rivulets where they are at

their healthiest and taking action downstream to reduce pollutants from entering our waterways.”

The rivulet surveys, conducted in spring 2022, identified a drop in ecological health on New Town Rivulet directly below the Girrorabong stormwater outflow.

They also identified the presence of invasive willow trees as potential culprits

behind a clear drop in ecological health in Guy Fawkes Rivulet.

The report recommends:

- Removing willows from Hobart’s rivulets to improve ecological indicators over time.
- Revegetating rivulet banks and increasing canopy cover over waterways to create habitat for waterbugs and other aquatic wildlife, such as platypuses.
- Surveys should be carried out annually to provide increasingly valuable information about the health of Hobart’s rivulets.

“The City of Hobart will build on this report by producing annual snapshots of our rivulets,” Cr Lohberger said.

“These annual rivulet snapshots will reveal stronger trends in improved health or declines of Hobart’s rivulets, aid water management decisions and help to improve the health of our precious waterways.”

Download the report from [hobartcity.com.au/rivulets-report](http://hobartcity.com.au/rivulets-report)

## WATERBUG WONDERLAND

The world of waterbugs is alien to most people, but for those willing to explore this miniature aquatic kingdom it is full of mystery, wonder and some of the strangest creatures on the planet.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

Many caddis are master builders, creating protective structures from sand grains, silk, or in the case of the log cabin caddis, freshly-cut water weed lumber.



Photos © John Gooderham & Edward Tsyrlin



Mountain shrimp live in the Hobart Rivulet just above Strickland Falls. They were described from fossils before the first living examples were discovered in Hobart in 1893 and have barely changed form over 300 million years.

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# Feast fires up winter nights

DARK MOFO is in full swing bringing streets and venues across Hobart out of their winter hibernation with art, live music, performance and nocturnal revelry.

The festival not only brings unique spectacles to Hobart but also showcases the city in new and exciting ways, infiltrating Hobart's streets and laneways, buildings, parks and waterfront.

City of Hobart staff have been providing a wealth of expertise – from parks, traffic, cleaning services, event set-up, permits, parking and venues – to ensure the festival runs smoothly.



Live performance, outdoor fires and over 90 food and drink vendors will showcase Hobart at its best. Photo: Dark Mofo/Rosie Hastie

The City is proud to support and sponsor the Winter Feast, a sumptuous banquet that will feature more than 90 food and drink vendors and an array of unique live performances, with the outdoor fires and canopy of lit-up trees creating an idyllic

atmosphere for guests to stave off the cold and enjoy Hobart at its best.

If you haven't made it down to the Winter Feast you still have time. The final night is Sunday 18 June and to celebrate the event is free for everyone and so are

Metro buses to and from the venue between 3 and 9pm.

Week two of the City of Hobart Dark Mofo Winter Feast runs 15-18 June. Castray Esplanade is closed until 22 June for the event. Visit [darkmofo.net.au](http://darkmofo.net.au) for ticketing and stallholder information.

## Vision in the works for cherished park

A DRAFT MASTER PLAN for one of Hobart's most popular and cherished parks is out for public comment.

The draft outlines City of Hobart plans to improve Waterworks Reserve.

It follows consultation that found our community values the reserve as a place to gather, to socialise and celebrate important events, take part in outdoor physical activity and learn about the natural environment and history.

More than 60 per cent of those surveyed said they would like to see improvements to bushland tracks and almost half would



Waterworks Reserve has a number of beautiful barbecue areas ideal for large and small gatherings.

like to see more sheltered barbecue sites and improved toilet facilities.

Improved play facilities are also important.

Waterworks Reserve has fantastic views across water to the forested foothills of kunanyi/Mt Wellington and is part of Tasmania's oldest

functioning drinking water supply system.

It is popular as a picnic spot, and for bird watching, hiking and trail running, but its aging facilities have not kept pace with the reserve's popularity as a visitor destination.

Key recommendations in the draft plan include:

- New pavilions, BBQ sites and improvements to social gathering places.
- New nature-based play spaces for children throughout the reserve.
- New tracks and trails including an off-road trail from the reserve entrance to its far reaches, providing safer access

for walkers, runners and riders to get to Ridgeway Park, the Pipeline Track and the foothills of kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

- A new, centrally located visitor hub that includes shelter, barbecues and accessible toilets.
- Work with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to promote awareness about Aboriginal history and culture.

You can view the draft master plan and have your say by visiting the Your Say Hobart website. Plans can also be viewed at the City of Hobart Customer Service Centre, 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart.

## HAVE YOUR SAY HOBART

Share your thoughts about the future of Hobart and help inform Hobart City Council decision making through the Your Say Hobart website.

- **STRATEGIC PLAN FOUR YEAR REVIEW:** The Capital City Strategic Plan is the City of Hobart's major planning document and responds to and reflects community values and aspirations.
- **HOBART DRAFT LOCAL PROVISIONS SCHEDULE:** The new planning scheme that will apply to Hobart once formally approved by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.
- **WATERWORKS RESERVE DRAFT MASTER PLAN:** The final Waterworks Master Plan will inform asset replacement, future capital works and the ongoing management of the reserve.



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





# New Town Rivulet plans revealed

PLANS have been released revealing an ambitious project that would return the heavily concreted mouth of New Town Rivulet to a more natural state while addressing increasing risks of bank erosion.

The project is an initiative of the City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Council and follows a 2021 review of the weir and deteriorating concrete walls that line the mouth of the rivulet.

“This is an exciting project that will replace the degrading concrete walls that line the New Town Rivulet and start the process of returning this area to a natural estuarine landscape,” City of Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said.



City of Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds launches the New Town Rivulet plan with Glenorchy City Council Mayor Bec Thomas.

“It is well established that native plants and landscaping help trap sediment and historical contamination of river beds naturally, and we all know they help bring back native

wildlife and beautify our open spaces.” City of Hobart City Water Portfolio Chair Councillor Ben Lohberger said the area had been heavily modified since European settlement

and much of it used as landfill. “The New Town Rivulet Estuary Project is an ambitious plan that will benefit not just local residents but also our aquatic wildlife and the health of the River Derwent,” Cr Lohberger said. “As well as creating a beautiful, natural environment for everyone to enjoy this project will help stabilise the rivulet embankments.” The project design includes walking tracks from the Queens Walk bridge up along both sides of the New Town Rivulet to the River Derwent. Almost 10,000 native plants and trees will be

established to create a natural wildlife corridor, there will be formalised parking and improved access to the area. Community feedback has revealed overwhelming support for the project, with a strong desire for improvements to the health of the rivulet as well as increased wildlife habitat and plant diversity. Respondents also felt the design, especially the new walking tracks, would encourage more people to take pride in the area and to make use of it as a recreational space. There was also interest in seeing more seating built in the area, more bins and better lighting as well as a kayak launch.

## Project levels playing field

SERIOUS SURFACE cracking and erosion that has hampered athletes training and competing in javelin, discus, shotput and hammer at the Domain Athletic Centre will soon be a thing of the past.

A \$300 000 City of Hobart project to resurface the centre’s throws area and improve water drainage is expected to be completed later this month, creating a safer and more accessible training space for athletes of all ages.

One of those athletes is 15-year-old Arielle Cannell, who has been honing her skills with the hammer for more than five years, and moved her training regime to the Domain Athletic Centre in 2020.

Arielle returned home from national championships earlier this year with a gold medal for both the Under 16 and Under 18 hammer throw. She also brought home a silver medal in the Under 16 discus.

It was an extraordinary performance, with Arielle posting a new personal best after breaching the 60 metre mark



Athletes and sisters Emma, Claire and Georgia Stark take a break in the throws area at the Queens Domain Athletics Centre with Tasmanian hammer throw champion Arielle Cannell.



Cracked area being resurfaced.

with her hammer throw.

“I’ve been getting closer and closer to throwing the hammer over 60 metres and when I

finally reached that goal I was overjoyed,” the Mt Carmel College student says.

She now has her aim set squarely on the 64 metre mark, which she hopes to achieve at the All Australian Schools competition meeting in December.

If Arielle reaches her goal it will be a new record for the under 16 hammer throw in Australia.

The resurfacing of the throws area represents a significant investment in Tasmania’s premier athletics centre and the future of the state’s track and field athletes,

from Little Athletics all the way through to Masters Athletics.

The project will improve access for athletes of all abilities. Currently, potholes and surface cracking are difficult to negotiate for athletes with mobility issues, greatly detracting from the enjoyment of their chosen sport.

The project has been funded through the Tasmanian Government’s Improving the Playing Field Grants Program, which provided \$250 000. The City of Hobart is contributing \$50 000 to the project.



# Salamanca Place: Walk this way

## NEWS BRIEFS

SALAMANCA PLACE is set to become a safer and more accessible destination when the next stage of the City of Hobart's \$3.5 million upgrade gets underway in July.

The City began upgrading the precinct connecting Salamanca Place to Hobart's waterfront in 2019 to give the area a fresh, contemporary feel that provides a safe

and accessible space for everyone. After a delay due to the impacts of COVID, the final stage can now get underway and will see a number of improvements.

The footpath in front of The Whaler will be widened and new pavers installed to provide enough room for pedestrians and people with prams and mobility devices to pass while still allowing space for the

much loved outdoor dining area.

People walking between the waterfront and Salamanca will be able to travel safely with new zebra crossings to be installed across Salamanca Place and Montpellier Retreat. Extra lighting will also be installed to better illuminate these crossings at night.

New CCTV cameras will help create a safer

environment for everyone.

Construction is scheduled to begin on 17 July and expected to be completed by November 2023.

The works will provide minimal disruption to shoppers and businesses and cease on Salamanca Market days. The City of Hobart will work closely with traders to ensure they are well informed and supported.

## Have a say on the City's priorities

HOW CAN the City of Hobart meet the challenges of population growth?

What should the City be prioritising and what actions should be taken?

Now is the chance for Hobart residents to have their say as part of the City's four-year review of the Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29.

Tasmanian councils are required to review their 10-year strategic plan every four years.

Residents of Hobart can have their say until 30 June by visiting the Your Say Hobart website – [yoursay.hobartcity.com.au](https://yoursay.hobartcity.com.au)

## Council meetings

HOBART City Council meetings start at 5pm, unless otherwise advertised, and are streamed live on the City of Hobart's YouTube channel. Agendas are published on the City's website.

Meetings schedule:

- Mon 19 June
- Mon 17 July
- Mon 28 August
- Mon 25 September
- Mon 30 October
- Mon 27 November
- Mon 11 December

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## Ability to Create elevates senses

**ABILITY TO CREATE:** Elevate is a four day, all ability feast for the senses. Transforming the Town Hall Ballroom into an interactive, intergalactic sensory space station and futuristic city.

Future leaders will greet you on arrival to the exhibition and transport the viewer via green screen animation, electro-acoustic soundscapes and planetary mayhem.

There will be creative workshops, performances and a marketplace.

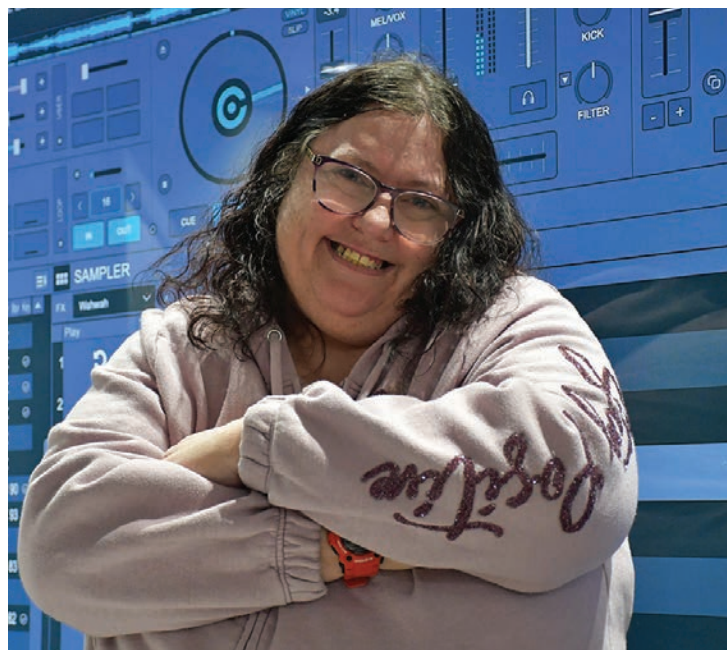
Dozens of local all ability artists have been coming together weekly since

### Ability to Create 2023: Elevate

This exhibition is FREE, 26-29 July, Town Hall Ballroom, 50 Macquarie Street, Hobart. Visit [hobartcity.com.au/abilitytcreate](https://hobartcity.com.au/abilitytcreate)

April to collaborate with their creative mentors and build the interdisciplinary artworks that will be on display.

The four mentors – Georgia Lucy, Jon Smeathers, Richie Cyngler and Timothy Hodge – were selected for their expertise in a range of mediums to ensure a full body sensory experience.



Belinda loves exploring electro soundscape acoustics.

These disciplines include sound design, lighting and projection as well as green screen animation.

The City of Hobart's Ability to Create exhibitions are a platform

for enhancing a sense of place, nurturing creativity, celebrating artistic excellence and, most importantly, connecting creative people of all abilities.



Ability to Create workshop artists mentored in green screen animation and star charts.

## Grants boost for communities

MULTICULTURAL soccer tournaments, Masters football clubs, community orchestras and dance projects are set to benefit from the latest City of Hobart grants.

Recipients range from a small grant for the Nigerian community's installation of a stone plaque to major community events like the Chinese Lunar New Year Festival and Diwali.

Hobart Welcoming and Inclusive City Councillor Dr Zelinda Sherlock said even a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference.

"To see the impact these grants have on a wide range of community groups, sporting clubs and multicultural organisations is truly inspiring," Cr Dr Sherlock said.

The Hobart Football Club

AFL Masters Program used its grant to purchase the club's first defibrillator – greatly enhancing the club's chance of saving a life in an emergency.

Masters Australian rules gives men over the age of 35 the opportunity to improve their physical and mental health and fitness while enjoying footy.

The Black Scorpions community soccer team will



Black Scorpions Tasmania competed in Adelaide earlier this year.

use its grant for uniforms and balls.

"Uniform for the team

is your identity," Black Scorpions president Jal David said.