

City's eye in the sky

FROM surveying bushfires and flood damage to aerial mapping and roof inspections, drones have become an important tool in managing the city.

The City of Hobart introduced drones into its operations two years ago, with an initial focus on inspecting damage caused by the May 2018 flood.

A perimeter flight of McRobies Gully provided invaluable footage that was used to develop a clean-up and recovery plan without the need to physically walk damaged and hazardous sites.

The drones are operated by IT support officer and chief remote pilot Craig Garth, who holds a CASA Remote Pilot's Licence and a Remote Operator Certificate for the City of Hobart. The latter allows the City to fly at night.

Since 2018, drones have reduced service



City of Hobart's chief remote pilot Craig Garth. INSET: Drone view of Hobart's waterfront.

delivery time and costs for the community and improved workplace safety for the City's officers and contractors.

"For example, drones can be used to access hard-to-reach areas, like roof tops and tree



canopies, to inspect for damage quickly and easily," Mr Garth said.

"We can get close-up footage that can be used to plan repairs and maintenance."

High-definition drone footage is also used to update spatial mapping, compile photogrammetry, monitor fire conditions and marketing activities.

Freeze put on rates for next year

THERE will be no increase to rates when the 2020-21 City of Hobart budget is presented later this month.

The budget will reflect the City's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Council has already announced a freeze on general rates and most fees and charges for next financial year, in response to hardship resulting from the pandemic.

"People are doing it tough right now and any increase to rates would only cause further hardship," Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said.

"We've made a decision not to increase rates and most other City fees and charges for the next year.

"This decision is in addition to more than \$3.5 million in community support measures, which include grants programs, waiving of some fees for businesses, rent relief for tenants of City-owned buildings, and extending our financial hardship arrangements to support those most affected by the downturn."

General Manager Nick Heath has
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Works ramp up in isolation

TEMPORARY closure of Salamanca Market and reduced traffic and pedestrians in the surrounding area have allowed the City of Hobart to ramp up pedestrian improvement works.

The upgrade is one of several projects that have been able to power ahead under isolation conditions.

Ongoing works to refurbish the Salamanca Precinct have made good progress in recent weeks, with extra

crews allocated to the site to make the most of the quieter environment.

The project includes improving pedestrian safety and realigning the road network to establish a new plaza.

In addition, stormwater works that would usually cause a significant disruption have been able to proceed with minimal public impact.

Works in other parts of the city include

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New-look hub opening soon

Call-out for video art content

WORK is close to wrapping up on the new South Hobart Community Centre, with the opening now expected to be just weeks away.

As construction on the building nears completion, the South Hobart Progress Association – which manages the City-owned centre – is preparing to take the first bookings for the new-look venue.

The centre has been home to South Hobart Playgroup for more than 50 years and has hosted dance, music, photography and children’s yoga groups. It is also popular for children’s birthday parties and other gatherings.

The centre is also expected to play an important role in the community’s COVID-19 recovery, as a hub for social support and interaction.

Bookings will be available soon via www.southhobart.org.au.

The project was funded through the Tasmanian Community Fund, in partnership with the City of Hobart and the South Hobart Progress Association.



FILMMAKERS, animators and digital artists based in Hobart are invited to submit their work for an upcoming public art program.

The inaugural Hobart Current exhibition, *Liberty from here to here*, will be held in March 2021, having been postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Complementing the exhibition will be a program of diverse community activities in public spaces, providing opportunities to discover and explore the notion of ‘liberty’.

Video submissions are now invited for *Liberty LOOP, Films of the People* – a curated show that will run concurrently on The LOOP during the *Liberty* exhibition. The submission deadline is 31 November 2020.



The LOOP screen located in the heart of Hobart. Artwork: Sunrise by Alicja Trefler, video still, 2012. Courtesy of The University of Tasmania. Photo: Joseph Shrimpton

For more information visit theloophobart.com.au.

Hobart Current is a partnership between the City of Hobart and the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery that nurtures and

showcases contemporary artists working across varied media.

The Loop is the City of Hobart’s platform for digital art and consists of a large-scale public screen in the heart of Hobart.

Thank you notes go to top recyclers

STAR recyclers have been recognised as the City of Hobart aims to reduce recycling bin contamination.

Inspections of bin contents are continuing across the city to identify items that are commonly placed in the wrong bin. Yellow tags are being left in letter boxes or on recycling bins to help residents develop good home recycling habits.

More than 1000 Hobart households – or around half of those inspected – have already received a thank you tag congratulating them on a contamination-free bin.

Others have received a tag identifying some

things that do not belong in the recycling bin.

The most common items to be incorrectly placed in recycling bins are soft plastics such as plastic wrap, bread bags and chip packets, which can actually damage machinery at the sorting facility.

Soiled paper, disposable coffee cups, paper towels and tissues are other non-recyclable items that have been found in recycling bins.

Recycling placed in plastic bags is also a common problem that results in recyclables ending up in landfill. To brush up on your recycling knowledge, visit hobartcity.com.au/towardszerowaste.

City works power ahead with reduced traffic

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realigning the kerb and footpath in Murray Street near Liverpool Street, where pedestrian numbers are normally very high.

Crews have been able to excavate the footpath outside Myer on Liverpool Street to clear a blocked stormwater drain, and the road surface has been replaced in sections of several usually busy city roads.

Pedestrian safety has also received a boost, with repairs to loose pavers throughout the CBD.

On kunanyi / Mount Wellington, the City took the opportunity to carry out maintenance works while Pinnacle Road was closed.

Overhanging trees and branches along the road have received a much-needed trim, creating safer driving conditions.

As well as improving sight lines for motorists, cutting back vegetation allows more sunlight on to the road in winter, reducing the risks of dangerous ice spots on the road.

Other works on the mountain have included clearing of

stormwater drains and culverts, repairing road verges, repairing rock fall barriers, road surface repairs and line marking, and maintenance of pathways and signage.

Cleaning of parks, public toilets and other amenities has also been stepped up and general maintenance has continued across the city. All 50 of Hobart’s playgrounds were thoroughly cleaned prior to their reopening last month.

During autumn, leaf collection becomes a full-time job, with crews collecting up to 40 cubic metres – or 10 truck loads – of fallen leaves every day in the peak season.

All works undertaken during isolation have complied with workplace health and safety guidelines and the City of Hobart’s own COVID Safe Plan.

TOP: A City worker trims vegetation along Pinnacle Road.
RIGHT: Leaf collection is a full-time job during autumn.
FAR RIGHT: Reduced pedestrian traffic has allowed for pressure cleaning of the Salamanca restaurant strip.



Salamanca Market now online

SALAMANCA Market has entered the digital world, with many of its regular stallholders now represented in a dedicated online store.

The initiative was launched in March, following the closure of the market due to COVID-19 public gathering restrictions.

Since then, more than 10,000 shoppers from across Australia and the world have visited the online store.

It is not yet known when the physical market will return to Salamanca Place.

A decision to recommence will be based on public health

advice and the further lifting of restrictions on public gatherings.

The online store features more than 400 products exclusive to market stallholders. It allows shoppers to browse products by category and purchase items directly from the seller. Visit salamancamarket.com.au.

Summer food event funded

WORK is under way to develop a modified food-centric event to replace the Taste of Tasmania this summer.

The City plans to hold an event over the Christmas–New Year period, providing it is practical to do so under any restrictions to public gatherings that may be in place.

Up to \$300,000 will be allocated in the upcoming 2020-21 budget toward the cost of holding the event.

Last month, the City made the difficult decision to suspend planning for the Taste of Tasmania in its traditional format, due to uncertainty around large gatherings and economic risk.

The week-long food and beverage festival usually draws upwards of 250,000 attendees to the Hobart waterfront.

More information will be made available closer to the date.

Garden bridge leads to a rosier path

AN all-abilities pedestrian and cycle bridge connecting the city centre with the Queens Domain is now open for use.

The completion of the Rose Garden Bridge enhances Hobart’s pedestrian and cycling network.

It links the city centre from Bathurst Street, across Brooker Avenue, to the Queens Domain sporting and recreation facilities, as well as to the Glebe residential area.



The Rose Garden Bridge links the city centre with the Queens Domain.

The bridge span measures 60 metres in length and is situated up to 6.5 metres above Brooker Avenue.

The City of Hobart took possession of the bridge and connecting footpaths in late April and it was immediately opened for public use.

Unlike the existing underpass, which is almost 60 years old, the new bridge is suitable for cyclists, parents with prams, people with wheelchairs and those with limited mobility. It has been designed to provide a high level of accessibility and active travel amenity.

The project included relocation of underground services and a new, well-lit footpath and bicycle lane alongside the University Rose Garden. It links the bridge to Aberdeen Street, the Doone Kennedy Aquatic Centre, Queens Domain and the Bridge of Remembrance.

Budget to be handed down

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flagged an expected operational deficit of up to \$10 million at the end of the current financial year, as the City braces for the full impact of the pandemic.

“It has been estimated that the pandemic could cost the City up to \$22 million in lost revenue by the end of the next financial year,” Mr Heath said.

“The 2020-21 budget will take into account these predictions and the hardship that is being felt across our community.

“It will likely result in deferral of capital works projects and some impacts on our services, as we reduce our spending across the organisation.

“But we assure the community that we will do everything within our power to keep our essential services operating at full capacity.”

The date and format for the Budget Meeting will be advised soon via the City of Hobart’s website. The meeting will be open to the public.

Centre back in service

THE City of Hobart’s primary customer service centre is open for face-to-face service.

Customer service staff are available during business hours for payments and general enquiries.

Specialist services, such as plumbing and development assistance, require an appointment.

If attending the centre, please follow any signage or directions with regard to physical distancing and hygiene measures.

Payment by card is encouraged and consoles are cleaned after each use, as

are tables and other surfaces used in meetings within the centre.

Online and phone services continue to be available and should be used where possible.

The customer service centre is located in the Council Centre, at the corner of Davey and Elizabeth streets.

The recycling unit located at the Council Centre is also open for disposal of difficult-to-recycle items.

To make an appointment for a specialist service, please phone the City of Hobart on 03 6238 2711.



Street lights audit

UNDER a pilot program launched in April, City of Hobart parking officers have been re-deployed as street light evaluators.

Making use of the quieter conditions in the city, officers have been using an app to capture essential data about what street lights the City of Hobart has and where they are located.

By creating a street light database, the City can better manage its assets, with a view to making savings on energy costs and reducing light pollution.

The database captures the location and condition of each street light. This will allow better planning around lighting to meet the community’s needs and avoid energy wastage.



Plastics by-law a step closer

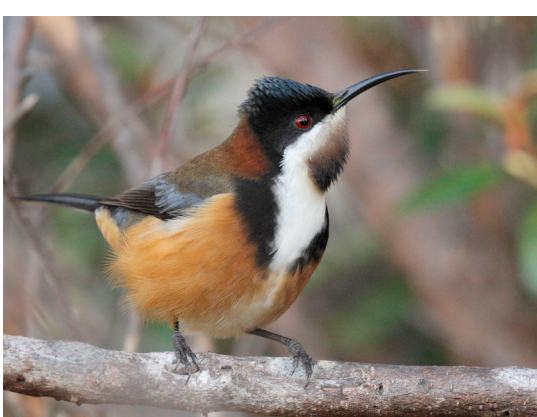
HOBART is another step closer to being the first Australian city to ban single-use plastic takeaway food packaging and utensils.

The City of Hobart’s Single-Use Plastics By-Law was recently gazetted, which enacted the by-law.

Implementation of the by-law is expected to occur by mid-2021.

The City of Hobart will undertake a thorough education and engagement campaign prior to that time to assist businesses in transitioning away from single-use plastics.

More information, including a list of items to be impacted by the by-law, is available on the City of Hobart’s website.



Eastern spinebill. Photo: Michael Roberts

Nurture nature while at home

WITH the City of Hobart’s Bushcare program on hold due to COVID-19 isolation, volunteers have found new ways of channelling their passion for nature into meaningful action.

To help, the City’s Bushcare team has come up with simple actions everyone can take to help play a role in caring for Hobart’s native plants and animals.

Become a weed warrior. Many of the weedy plants threatening Hobart’s bushland reserves originate in people’s gardens. By responsibly disposing of garden waste and removing weeds, home gardeners can protect Hobart’s bushland reserves.

Create habitat gardens. Using plants that are native to the region is a great way to create a backyard habitat sanctuary that will attract local birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Add rock gardens, nest boxes and even “bee hotels” to provide shelter for native wildlife.

Become a citizen scientist. All that is needed is a curious nature and enthusiasm for the natural world. Contribute observations to online apps like iNaturalist, Fungimap and FrogID to make a valuable contribution to the broader understanding of Hobart’s bushland reserves and the wildlife that rely on them.

For more information and ideas, visit hobartcity.com.au/CareForNature.

Council meetings

COUNCIL meetings are currently being held online via Zoom to comply with physical distancing requirements.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 22 June, starting at 5 pm. A link to watch the meeting live will be published on the City of Hobart’s website at the start of the meeting.

Upcoming full Council meeting dates:

- 22 June
- 6 & 27 July
- 10 & 24 August

Committee meetings have now resumed. Meeting dates and format are subject to change. Always check the City’s website for the latest information.

Show of respect for all

AN anti-racism campaign, launched recently by the City of Hobart, is calling on the community to stand up to racism when they see it.

Hobart Respects All encourages bystanders to call out racist behaviour in Hobart.

It is considered timely, given anecdotal evidence of a rise in racist sentiment in the city driven by misinformation and fear around COVID-19.

The campaign builds on an earlier campaign to support migrants, refugees and international students called *Hobart Welcomes All*.

The City of Hobart became a signatory to the Welcoming Cities network in 2019, confirming its position that everyone should feel that they are valued and welcomed in Hobart.

The new campaign aims to empower bystanders to support anyone who is being targeted by racism, whether in overt or more subtle ways.

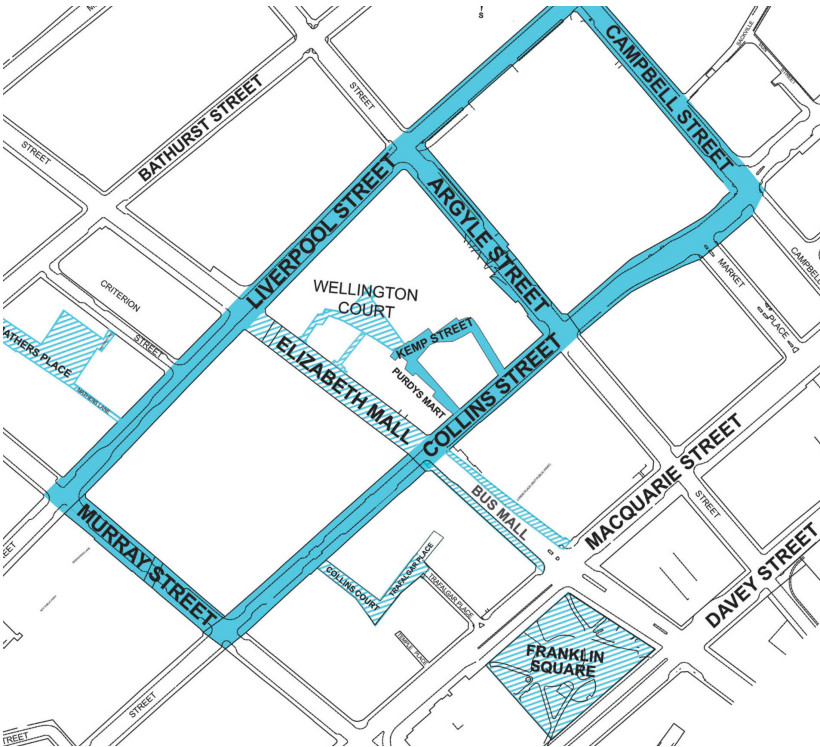
The *Hobart Respects All* message can be seen on buses, banners, bags and stickers around Hobart as a reminder that it’s everyone’s responsibility to make the community more

inclusive and respectful. Actions that can help to achieve this include:

- Speak to, sit or stand next to the person being harassed to show support.
- Report incidents of racism to Equal Opportunity Tasmania via their website.
- Call for police assistance if needed on 13 14 44. In a life-threatening situation, call 000.
- If it is safe to do so, tell the person who is being racist that they’re out of line.

For more information, visit hobartcity.com.au/RespectAll.

Hobart’s CBD now smoke-free



HOBART’S city centre is now smoke-free, following the introduction of a new smoke-free zone in April.

The area spans three blocks, bounded by Collins, Campbell, Liverpool and Murray streets.

This is in addition to several existing smoke-free areas around the city, including Collins Court, Elizabeth Mall, the University Rose Gardens and Franklin Square.

Smoke-free areas help promote healthy behaviours, support people who have or are trying to quit, and reduce health risks associated with passive smoking.

Around the city, designated smoke-free areas are indicated by bright blue signage and standard No Smoking signs. Smoking of herbal or e-cigarettes (vaping), as well as tobacco, are prohibited in these smoke-free areas.

Good dogs snap up tasty treats

RESPONSIBLE pooches who walk their owners on-lead are being rewarded in the yummiest way.

A favourite canine treat – the one that dogs “go wacko for” – is being handed out by City officers patrolling popular dog-walking areas.

At the height of COVID-19 isolation, parks such as Knocklofty, Queens Domain and along the Rivulet experienced a surge in the number of people and four-legged companions visiting.

Complaints about dogs being allowed off-lead also increased.

Re-deployed parking officers stepped out armed with tasty treats to encourage owners to keep their pets on-lead.

Schmackos heard about the initiative and supplied the City



City officer Mandy Barron gives Jessie a treat for walking on-lead with owner Mick.

of Hobart with 20 bags of their finest products to keep the treats flowing.

For owners wanting to give their dogs some off-lead exercise, there are 25 designated off-lead

areas, which can be found on the City of Hobart’s website. To find the nearest one, use the find a park search feature and select “dogs allowed off-lead” in the features drop-down box.