



PARK LIFE

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Lift-off for Zig Zag track work

HELICOPTERS have been busy at work on kunanyi/Mt Wellington to restore one of the mountain's much-loved attractions, the Zig Zag Track.

For more than a century the Zig Zag Track has been a major walking route to the summit, but the elements have taken their toll, and the track needs considerable work to repair erosion and make it safer for walkers and runners.

It is the most popular and direct track to the mountain pinnacle and provides breathtaking views of the city and iconic Organ Pipes.

The first stage of the Zig Zag Track restoration project started in January 2022, with 200 metres of stonework completed above the Pinnacle Track intersection.

Stage two began in January this year and to ensure a safe working environment the track will remain off-limits until the restoration works are completed, expected by mid-2023.

The upgrade of the track will see helicopter operations lifting boulders and other resources



A helicopter is guided in to pick up a bag of gravel at the old hotel site at the Springs on kunanyi/Mt Wellington.

and equipment into place.

"Even Hobart's iconic kunanyi/Mt Wellington needs a little bit of love and care," Hobart Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Helen Burnet said.

"The work will make the track a safer walking route while maintaining its important heritage values and bush feel."

City of Hobart Sustainability in Infrastructure Portfolio Chair

Councillor Bill Harvey said the track was used constantly throughout the year.

"During the busy months, close to 250 people a day use the Zig Zag to reach the summit," he said.

"Overall, 63,000 walkers and runners used this track last year, so it is easy to see why it needs some attention and why it is so important to maintain it in its best possible condition."

Alternative access to The Pinnacle for walkers is available via Milles Track to the Icehouse Track, then along the South Wellington Track, but this a harder route and is suited to experienced walkers.

There will be reduced car parking at the old hotel site at The Springs and occasional helicopter operations may mean short-term closure of nearby tracks and the old hotel site.

North Hobart park designed with local flair

NORTH HOBART'S busy cafe and restaurant strip finally has the modern urban park it deserves with the opening of the revamped Swan Street Park.

Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said this previously underutilised corner would now be a community asset.

"Six months ago contractors started work turning Swan Street Park from an unloved corner of North Hobart into a beautiful, modern park that matches the urban groove of the North Hobart retail precinct," Cr Reynolds said.

"Today Swan Street Park is fit for purpose with a design and flair that matches surrounding businesses

like its neighbour Born in Brunswick and the State Cinema on the other side of Elizabeth Street.

"The North Hobart precinct is a valued contributor to the city economy, with \$380 million being spent by residents and visitors since 2019."

Federal Independent Member for Clark Andrew Wilkie said this was a terrific partnership between the City of Hobart and the Australian Government.

"I applaud council on delivering on this project for the community," Mr Wilkie said.

"Swan Street Park is in a prime location on the busy North Hobart strip and the new developments will further enhance the



The new Swan Street Park has created much-needed green space in North Hobart.

experience for everyone who frequents the precinct.

"I also thank the federal government in seeing the value in helping fund this project as we all know how important parks are for our physical and mental health."

Healthy Hobart Portfolio Chair Councillor Louise Elliot said creating parks and green spaces is good

for people, business and the environment.

"It's wonderful to see a space like this for North Hobart where people can take a break and enjoy all that this buzzing area has to offer," Cr Elliot said.

"Parks and green spaces also help foster better mental health and encourage people to socialise outdoors more,

and in today's world we need more of that."

North Hobart Traders Association President Aaron Brazendale said the park would be a welcome space for locals and visitors as well as business owners.

"It was a green space before but it is lovely to see it as a modern space now," Mr Brazendale said.

GET YOUR SCOOT ON

Green light for Hobart's e-scooters

HOBART CITY COUNCIL has voted to continue its hire-and-ride e-scooter program.

The 15-month trial counted more than 600,000 e-scooter rides.

Council recommended amendments to increase safety for everyone and enforcement of regulations for the small minority doing the wrong thing.

Hobart Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds said these safeguards must be addressed by any company entering the licence arrangements.

"City of Hobart officers will develop licence conditions for e-scooter operators that take into account the findings of the hire-and-ride e-scooter trial with particular emphasis on reducing footpath obstruction," Cr Reynolds said.

"These conditions will be considered by council at a subsequent meeting prior to their implementation."

For year 11 Hutchins School student Josh Wise, the availability of e-scooters has been a life-changer.

Mr Wise is unable to obtain a drivers licence due to vision constraints, but found e-scooters to be a terrific alternative.

"It is so great getting from home or school to the CBD," Mr Wise said.

"As a young student who unfortunately can't get their drivers licence due to some other reasons I find them extremely helpful and they create really good independence for myself and others."

He said he used e-scooters three or four times a week and could not imagine his life without them now.



Year 11 student Josh Wise says travelling by e-scooter has exceeded his expectations.

"I was a little bit apprehensive to start with just with my vision constraints but as soon as I got on one I thought 'wow, this is really good, this is really helpful'," he said.

"I had nervous apprehension thinking they might be a little bit interesting on footpaths and things like that but after using them now I think they are really great, they are

easy to use and I definitely try to keep way away from pedestrians.

"It is very important and really good for people with disabilities."

Laura Drysdale got a taste of e-scooters via hire-and-ride to help her overcome her mobility issues and now owns her own private e-scooter.

"It costs me 20 cents to go 65 km for a full charge,"

Ms Drysdale said.

City Mobility Portfolio Chair Councillor Ryan Posselt said e-scooters provide environmentally friendly transport options.

"There were 604,516 rides taken on e-scooters during the trial. The data shows that more than half of these replaced car travel – that's 66 tonnes of CO2 averted from our atmosphere," he said.

Vision for heart of Hobart years in making

AFTER YEARS of planning the City of Hobart in partnership with the Tasmanian Government has developed one of the most important documents to guide the city's future.

The draft Central Hobart Precincts Structure Plan is the first of its kind for Tasmania and set to become a model for urban planning.

Central Hobart is the primary hub of commerce, administration and cultural activity for the southern

region and a significant driver of Tasmania's economy. The draft plan covers 64 city blocks bounded by Davey Street to the south, Burnett Street to the north, the Brooker Highway to the east and Molle and Harrington streets to the west.

It will introduce measures that protect Hobart's unique character and heritage values, while creating jobs, additional housing and increasing the greening of Hobart.

The draft plan outlines preferred land use for different areas,

expectations for future building form, transport integration, current and future open space and infrastructure needs. It considers key issues such as maximum building heights, affordable and social housing, transport and accessibility.

Community input has been vital in developing the draft plan, which will be open for feedback in April via the Your Say Hobart website – yoursay.hobartcity.com.au – and in person at pop-up info hubs.



GREATER HOBART TRACKS & TRAILS

COMPETITION

HIKING • RUNNING

PRIZES!

TO ENTER

Visit greaterhobarttrails.com.au/comp

A graphic for the Greater Hobart Trails Competition. It features a circular image of a hiker on a trail, surrounded by text about prizes, entry, and the competition details. The text includes 'GREATER HOBART TRACKS & TRAILS', 'COMPETITION', 'HIKING • RUNNING', 'PRIZES!', 'TO ENTER', and the website 'Visit greaterhobarttrails.com.au/comp'.

Help make our city greener, healthier, and more beautiful.

ourcitycanopy.com.au

The Our City Canopy logo, featuring a stylized tree and the text 'Our City Canopy'.

A background image for the Our City Canopy campaign showing a dense, lush green forest canopy.

Taiwanese diner takes a bao

THE FIRST thing you notice when you walk into Pink Buns are the two vases shaped like bottoms sitting on the counter.

“We like to make people laugh,” says co-owner and chef Liang. “When we see the customers laughing, we know we are doing a good job – making the customer happy is our number one rule.”

This sense of fun and playfulness encapsulates the ethos of Pink Buns. The brightly coloured décor, including a pink neon sign shaped like a giant bao bun, pop music and friendly staff all contribute to making this inner-city eatery a fun dining experience from start to finish.

Liang is a wok-chef originally from Taiwan. After studying at Le Cordon Bleu in Sydney, Liang made the decision to seek a quieter lifestyle and move to Tasmania. Together with his two business partners (both originally from Hong



Pink Buns owners Tunliang Hsu (Liang) and Chun Ngai Li (Jeff) love to make customers happy.



Kong) Liang opened Pink Buns. The Pink Buns menu combines Cantonese and western-style cooking techniques to create a modern twist on the classic and traditional bao bun. “We missed our hometown food and

wanted to bring it to Tasmania – with a local twist,” says Liang. Although bao buns originated in China many Asian countries have put their own spin on the bao, with variations in fillings and preparations found across different regions and countries. “We tried to find a balance between local and traditional – for example, you would never find crispy chicken bao in Asia – but here in Hobart it is one of our top-selling items.”

Other best-selling menu items include the tea smoked BBQ pork bao and the more traditional braised pork belly bao. Pink Buns also has a range of steamed dumplings, rice and noodle dishes and an exciting variety of sides including their super popular crispy eggplant sticks – a Hello Hobart favourite. Open Monday to Friday, 10.30 am – 6 pm and Saturday 10 am – 6.30 pm. For the full review visit hellohobart.com.au

NEWS BRIEFS

How do you like your City News?

The City of Hobart wants to find out how people like to get Hobart news and events updates and the sort of information you would like the City to share with you in the future. By taking our quick survey you can help shape how we deliver news to you. To take the survey visit hobartcity.com.au/city-news-survey

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 20 March
- Mon 24 April
- Mon 22 May
- Mon 19 June
- Mon 17 July
- Mon 28 August
- Mon 25 September
- Mon 30 October
- Mon 27 November

What’s your best time on the Riv 5?

WHEN COVID-19 put the hugely popular Queens Domain parkrun events temporarily on ice Kevin O’Flaherty had to find an alternative. He’s a runner, he has to run, and he likes running in beautiful places. The solution was waiting near the end of Kevin’s street in South Hobart, the Hobart Rivulet Track. All it needed was a clearly defined return loop with markers set every 500 metres to allow runners to accurately time their pacing. He pitched the idea to the City of Hobart and the result is the Riv 5, a five kilometre run along the Hobart Rivulet that starts at the entrance to the track near Hamlet Cafe. “Running on the Rivulet Track is not a new idea,” says Kevin. “People who live, work and study in the south of the city have used it to run, walk and cycle

every day for many years. “I just thought it was a great opportunity to recognise and enhance this experience with distance markers. “The Riv 5 is a great run for those that live or work in or near the city and creates an immediate escape into a picturesque landscape. “If you’re not up to running the whole thing you can pick your own distance using the 500 metre and one kilometre marker posts.” Kevin says the running scene has expanded rapidly in Hobart since he first moved here 17 years ago. “About 1000 runners and walkers take part in parkrun every Saturday across five events in the Greater Hobart region,” says Kevin. “Social running groups like Sole Mates, the Tasmanian Road Runners



Kellie Williams, Sarah Grey and Jarrod Gibson about to put the Riv 5 through its paces.

and Knockoffs Run Club are growing all the time as people realise the sport is not just for elites and that anyone who wants to benefit from the social, physical and mental health benefits of running can get involved.” The marker posts on the

Riv 5 are designed to give runners a mental boost and to help them track and measure their progress. To run the Riv 5 look for the starting sign at the end of the car park at Hamlet Cafe on Molle Street. The run takes you 2.5 kilometres along the

Hobart Rivulet Track and into the Cascade Gardens. You then return to the beginning. You can also run the course in reverse. “Running through Hobart’s bushland can be really uplifting and adds to the escape exercise can bring,” says Kevin.

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