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Edition

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Autumn
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Like many businesses Sharp Airlines has navigated its way thru the last two years of Covid and are very proud of the fact we have been able to safely provide a continuity in passenger and freight services to the Bass Strait Islands of King and Flinders during this time.

This has not been without its challenges with government mandates and travel advisory's.

As late as January this year we had our passenger loads decimated with the omicron outbreak which meant again a lot of last minute schedule changes were to make everything work.

We also managed some outbreaks within our flight crew and contracted engineering departments in Launceston and Melbourne which has had further effects on our resources including a back log in aircraft maintenance checks that will not clear until early April 2022.

Whilst I understand changes can be frustrating I can guarantee you that our staff and contractors have been working hard to facilitate your needs.

Whilst I don't like to single anyone out from what has been a great Sharp team effort, Kelli and her team in reservations need a special thank you as they have borne the brunt of the Covid disruptions.

With the reduction in Covid numbers and the majority of people vaccinated along with our own mitigation strategies continuing to be in place we are now confident the disruptions to schedules are behind us.

As a result we are now in a position to return to our core winter schedule from Launceston and Burnie to King Island from 2nd May to 30th September which will

see 10 return services from Launceston and twelve return services from Burnie.

Services from Launceston to Flinders Island and return will return to twelve services per week.

Our interstate services to King Island and Flinders Island return to five services to King Island and increase to three services per week to Flinders Island instead of the normal two services during winter to allow for the continuation of Hobart services which will connect through to Essendon on a Wednesday, Friday and Monday.

Our summer schedule effective October 1st 2022 thru to April 31st 2023 will see additional services added to all routes to cater for our peak travel and market demand. There is also some changes to the Essendon - Flinders Island schedules to allow for the continuation of Hobart services which will connect through to Essendon on a Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Thank you for supporting Sharp Airlines during the past two years and we look forward to welcoming you aboard when next your travel.

To support those affected by the NSW and QLD floods \$5 of every return airfare booked in MAY FOR TRAVEL IN JUNE 2022 will be donated to the Red Cross Flood Appeal. Donations will enable the Red Cross to provide much needed volunteers and staff to support those affected by the floods.

Malcolm Sharp
Director

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Credit:Samantha Gowthorp

FLINDERS ISLAND'S *Furneaux* MUSEUM

By: Fran Bryson

For more than fifty years, the Furneaux Museum has been delighting and informing visitors and locals alike. The museum – originally a schoolhouse – boasts more than 8,000 artefacts, photos, documents, and natural treasures in its permanent collection and hosts two special exhibitions each year. It’s a must-do for anyone spending time on Flinders.



Credit: Samantha Gowthorp



Credit: Samantha Gowthorp

Schoolmaster Walter Lyall lived and taught in the schoolhouse from 1909 until 1921. He christened his home Dryazell due to its lack of proximity to the island’s then sole pub in Whitemark. Since 1965, Dryazell has been home to the museum’s original collection, which along with the cottage, was donated to the Furneaux Community by lola Fowler and her historian husband Richard.

Over the years, the museum has become a multi-structure complex; its collection has also expanded considerably and is, as it always has been, managed and staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

You’ll enter through the newest wing, constructed in 2006 and expanded in 2019 and funded by the community, together with grants from the Tasmanian Community Fund, Flinders Council and the Federal Government. Here you’ll find the welcome centre, administration, and temporary exhibition space.

A good next stop is Dryazell itself: you’ll encounter myriad objects from the Furneaux Islands’ history, both natural and human-made, including the ever-popular old telephone exchange, a range of nautical maps and specimens of the archipelago’s three species of snake.

One of Dryazell’s rooms is dedicated to the islands’ Aboriginal history. Twenty-three exquisite shell necklaces evoke the ancient human history of Tasmania and form the centrepiece of this collection. The tradition of harvesting and stringing tiny shells, such as the maireener, is still practised by some female islanders and mainland Aboriginal Tasmanians today.

Mrs Gray’s Room, part of a 1920s cottage in Flinders’ capital, Whitemark, was moved to the museum in the 1970s. It was the first addition to the original museum when it became apparent that more space was needed to house the rapidly expanding collection. In Mrs Gray’s Room, you will encounter the Furneaux Group’s natural history. Look out for some local favourites such as a set of octopus beaks, shells, and a display of ever-cute sea dragons.

In the central room of Dryazell, you can dip into Australia’s largest research collection concerning the Furneaux Islands. The histories have been lovingly compiled over the decades and offer valuable insights into almost every aspect of island life including histories of the island farming properties, notable buildings and outer islands. The collection also includes the first edition of the ‘Island News’ first published in 1954 and it’s still the best way to catch up on Island news.

A highlight of the research collection are the diaries of Annie Eden. She, with her sister Mary, lived in Flinders’ oldest still-standing residence well into their eighties (you can see their wooden hut over to the east of the road as you drive into Palana, in the north).



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp

The sisters lived a self-sufficient life, running stock in the surrounding paddocks, selling milk to the Butter Factory and eggs to the Interstate Hotel. Annie is also said to have been one of the islands' best shearers.

When you've had your fill of the abundant collection in Dryazell, take a stroll around the grounds where you'll learn about the Soldier Settlement Scheme, you can even step into Flinders' original Land Settlement office. During the 1950s and early 1960s when the scheme was operating, the population of Flinders Island more than doubled.

Next door is the island's first two police cells, relocated from their original location in Whitemark to the museum's grounds in 1988. In these cells, prisoners were held prior to being transported to Launceston for trial.



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



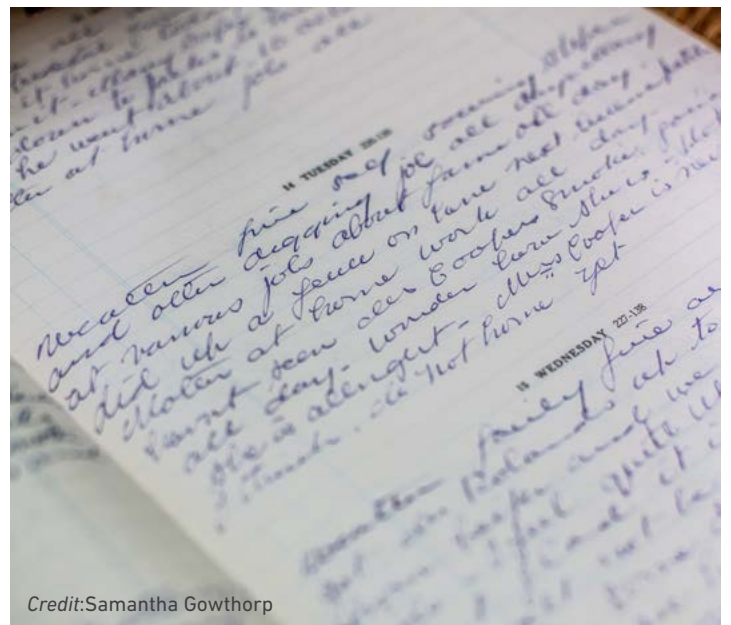
Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp

In the mutton-bird processing shed, a replica of a 1920s shed from one of the outer islands, you'll see how mutton-birds were – and in many respects still are – harvested and processed by 'birders' during the season (around April each year.) Annually, these amazing birds fly more than 15,000 kilometres from the Arctic to south-eastern Australia. Usually, they return to the same burrow and meet up with the same mate each year. The Furneaux Group hosts more breeding pairs than anywhere else in the Southern Hemisphere.



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp



Credit:Samantha Gowthorp

Your final stop will be at the Nissen Hut. The Nissen huts were used to store super phosphate during the development of the farms. This particular hut was used to store machinery during the Soldier Settlement Scheme. The building now showcases objects recovered from numerous shipwrecks in Bass Strait, plus farming equipment and tells the story of the Flinders Island Cheese, Butter and Bacon Factory, now a vineyard.

SUMMER EXHIBITION

The Flinders Island Home Guard tells the story of Flinders Island's Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC). It operated during World War 11. The exhibition showcases archival images, diary excerpts and local accounts from the years when this eclectic group of island men formed H Company of the 3rd Battalion VDC Tasmania and worked alongside the RAAF Guard stationed at the Pats River Advanced Operational Base (near Whitemark). On loan from the Tasmanian Police Museum, the exhibition also features the 1942 Harley Davidson U model motorcycle used by the island's local Police. The exhibition runs from Dec 26th to April 30th.

THE FURNEAUX MUSEUM OPENING HOURS

26 December - 30 April
Tues to Sun 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Closed Mondays & Good Friday

1 May - 24 December
Sat & Sun 1.00pm - 4.00pm



Find us at:
8 Fowlers Road, Emita,
Flinders Island 7255
furneauxmuseum.org.au



Credit: Samantha Gowthorp

A community-run museum displaying the cultural and natural history of the Furneaux Islands



SCAN ME

OPENING HOURS

26 December - 30 April
Tues to Sun 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Closed Mondays & Good Friday
1 May - 24 December
Sat & Sun 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Visit us at 8 Fowlers Road, Emita, Flinders Island
Phone: 03 6359 8434 Email: furneauxmuseum@gmail.com

Credit: Fiona Stewart



Soldier CRABS

ON FLINDERS ISLAND

by Amanda Double

We arrive at Patriarch Inlet following a tip from a generous local. This is our second trip to beautiful Flinders Island, almost exactly a year after our first Covid escape here, but we didn't make it out this way last time. Now we're on a mission ...

Patriarch Inlet is on the East Coast of Flinders Island, buffeted by the breakers of the Tasman Sea. It's an important habitat for birds, including migratory shorebirds and waders who find the warm, shallow waters perfect for resting and feeding. We revel in being the only people on the beach, enjoying instead the company of Sandpipers, Gulls, Pied Oystercatchers, and other birds we can't yet identify. A White-Bellied Sea Eagle glides overhead. We explore sand dunes, and admire mountains in the distance. Gloriously maskless, we take deep gulps of sea air, luxuriating in our freedom.

The tide is still quite low. The receding water has left behind a colourful array of seaweeds, kelp, sponges, cuttlefish and shells, like a stunning nature collage. And suddenly we spot what we're looking for: hundreds of little round creatures moving on the sand. It's the Soldier Crabs!

The little crabs *scuttle en masse*, traversing their territory like a tiny army on military manoeuvres. So small but so fast! I try to photograph them, tiptoeing on the sand to minimise disturbance, but they make me feel like a lumbering elephant - as soon as they sense our footfalls they burrow back into the sand, in a rapid corkscrew motion. One leaves part of his little legs sticking out. "I can still see you," I tell him, laughing. He reminds me of an echidna I saw once, burrowing its head when approached. And of small children who are convinced if they hide their heads and can't see us, we can't see them.

According to the Australian Museum, the adult Soldier Crab or *Mictyris longicarpus* can in some parts of Australia reach a size of up to 25 mm, although ours seem much smaller than this - about 10-15 mm. Their backs are a distinctive blue colour. At low tide, before emerging from the sand they make small hummocks on the surface, which become holes as they push through. They feed on minute organisms and detritus in the sand, and anything unsuitable is discarded as little pellets.

"You cannot make a crab walk straight", the ancient Greek Aristophanes is reputed to have said. And yet - unlike most other crabs, Soldier Crabs walk forwards rather than sideways. Again, just like soldiers. We watch, enchanted, and when we finally leave this beautiful place, our grins are mile-wide.

Credit: Fiona Stewart



FLASH *Forward* EPIC ARTISTS TRANSFORM 40 LANEWAYS

Wind your way through 40 Melbourne laneways to discover giant manga-inspired murals, fairytale landscapes and Thai temple art, reimagined.





Flash Forward showcases new work by more than 80 artists, including Jaycob Campbell, also known as Gonketa, whose stunning mural soars over Rainbow Alley.

Gonketa uses multiple mediums and canvasses to create artwork inspired by comic books, pop art and manga. The Flash Forward mural is his largest-ever project.

'I want to add more colour into the world. My Flash Forward location is called Rainbow Alley, but it was strikingly grey when I arrived, so I wanted my artwork to be bold and bright,' Gonketa said.

'It's great that we can help make Melbourne's streets more beautiful. I love creating murals, and I hope to create more of these around the city.'



Credit: City of Melbourne



Credit: City of Melbourne

Born deaf, Gonketa's first language is Australian Sign Language. His Flash Forward artwork depicts some of Auslan's 66 official hand shapes, each of which is used for numerous signs, to shine a light on Deaf culture.

'Auslan is a rich and expressive language, created by the Deaf community. It is not only about signs, but also your body language and facial expressions,' Gonketa said.

'When I travelled through Europe, I found no barriers when I met deaf people. While we may not share the same sign language, our tenacity with visual communication means that we can exchange ideas very freely.

'I want passers-by to look at the hands on my mural, and look at their own, and be inspired to learn to sign. Many people don't realise how often they are already using their hands to communicate in day-to-day life.'

'You don't have to become fluent, but you can learn the basics of Auslan through community courses at places like Magic Hands and Open That Door, or go more in-depth at Melbourne Polytechnic.'

Follow @gonketa_ on Instagram for updates on his work and exhibitions.



Credit: City of Melbourne

Flash Forward is the largest revitalisation of CBD laneways in Melbourne’s history, creating more than 160 jobs for artists, designers, music producers, lighting specialists, technicians and maintenance workers.

The jobs are supported by the Victorian Government’s \$500 million Working for Victoria Fund, which has helped more than 13,500 people across the state find jobs during the pandemic.

SIX FASCINATING ARTWORKS

Flash Forward involves more than 80 creative works, from murals to albums, which can be found online and across the city. Here’s a small sample of what’s on offer:

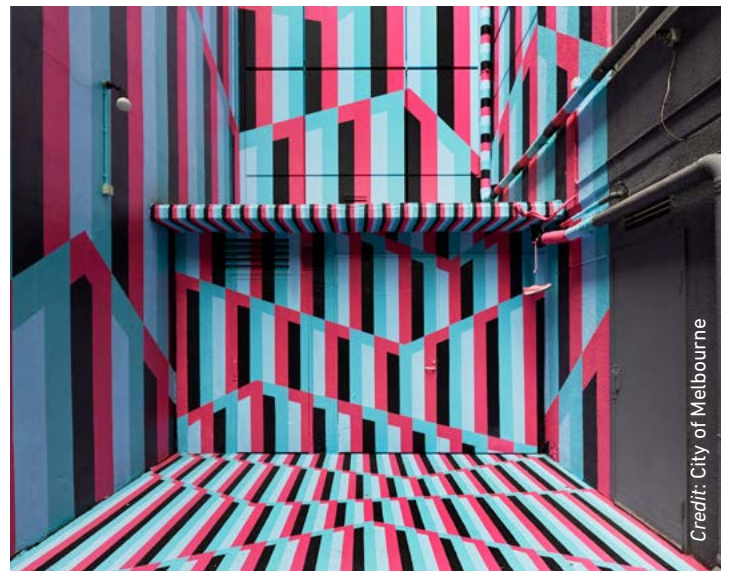
- an intricate pen-and-ink fairy-tale landscape by Shawn Lu in Langs Lane
- four light boxes that tell the story of colonialism by Aretha Brown in Meyers Place
- temple art meets contemporary stencilling by Bundit Puangthong in Rose Lane
- chaotic black and white graphics by Bootleg Comics in Crown Place
- a web of neural pathways painted by Prue Stevenson in Little William Street
- shifting colour and pattern by Nick Azidis in Highlander Lane.



Credit: City of Melbourne



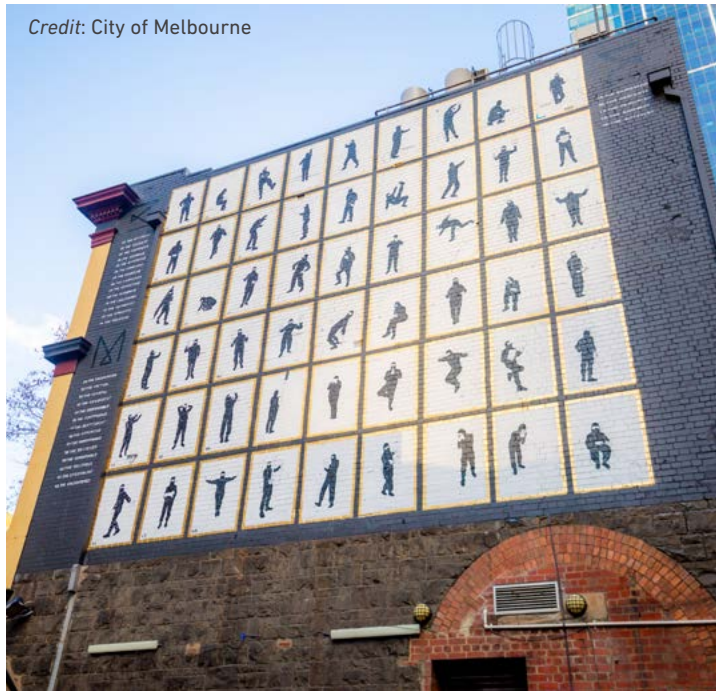
Browse the full program at flash-fwd.com



Credit: City of Melbourne



Credit: City of Melbourne



Credit: City of Melbourne



Credit: City of Melbourne

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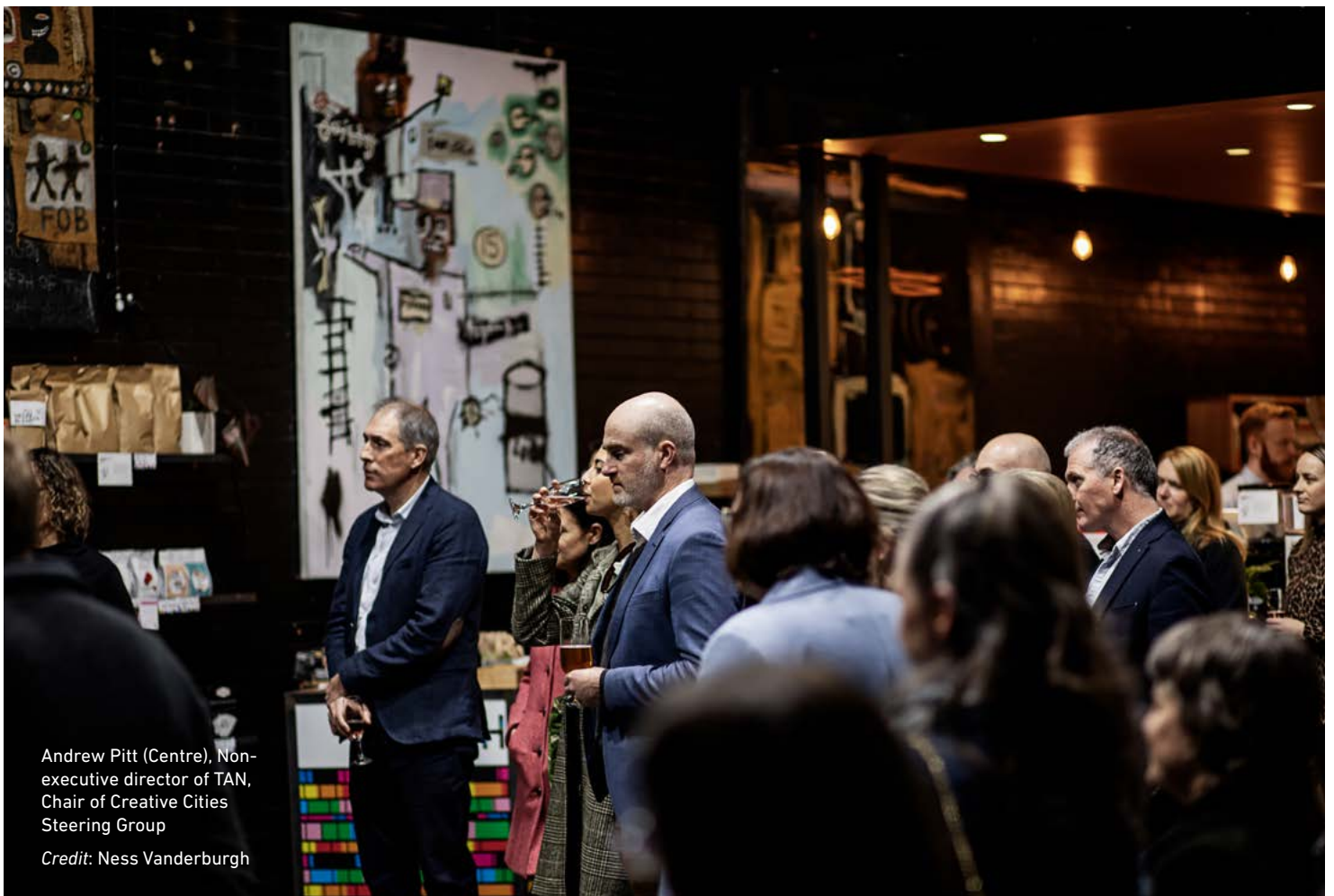


Mayors Creative Cities Bid – Andrew Pitt, non-executive director of TAN, with the Mayors of the seven northern LGAs supporting Launceston Gastronomy.

Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

CONNECTING NORTHERN *Tasmania* THROUGH FOOD

Something special is bubbling away in Launceston and Northern Tasmania, and it is not just the wine, whisky, beer and cider that we are world-renowned for. We are mixing our past, present, and future in new and creative ways to control our food future, and everyone is welcome to join us.



Andrew Pitt (Centre), Non-executive director of TAN, Chair of Creative Cities Steering Group

Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

Launceston Gastronomy was formed to tackle a single problem – can we connect our community to make Northern Tasmania one of the world’s great food regions? Gastronomy sounds fancy, but it is really about the way that people and culture connect to food. On its journey from soil to stomach, food touches everyone and plays a vital role in our region’s culture, creativity, and social exchanges.

LAUNCESTON BECOMES UNESCO CREATIVE CITY OF GASTRONOMY

Launceston and Northern Tasmania has successfully bid to be designated a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) Creative City of Gastronomy and is one of 49 cities joining the global network. Launched in 2004, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims to strengthen cooperation among cities and help guide economic, social, cultural, and environmentally sustainable development.

Chair of the Creative Cities Steering Group, Andrew Pitt, said, “It’s wonderful to have UNESCO’s endorsement of our vision for Northern Tasmania as one of the world’s great food regions!” “City of Gastronomy status will become what Launceston and Northern Tasmania is recognised for nationally and globally.



Dr Fiona Kerlake, Chair of TAN

Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

For some time, we have been lacking a cohesive, accessible and intuitive identity for our city. Now we have one. The activities and projects that underpin the bid will de-silo our food system from paddock to plate, adding value, providing jobs and careers, improving social outcomes, and helping to implement the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It's all about local action with global collaboration."

Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said the project would cement Launceston's identity as an internationally recognised region for food and beverage production. "The UNESCO brand is recognised worldwide and is a marker of the very highest quality," Mayor van Zetten said.

"Over many years, Northern Tasmanian has consistently demonstrated expertise in the development of agriculture, food processing, wine and beverage production, tourism and agritourism. Now that we have been recognised and listed as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, it will contribute positively to our regional economy and create new jobs in food-related industries and activities over the coming years. In addition, it formalises Launceston's identity as one of the world's great regional food cities."

The bid to be recognised as a City of Gastronomy was developed by the Creative Cities Steering Group, whose members represent industry, community, local government, educational and regional organisations. The bid was enabled by funding from the University of Tasmania and the Great Regional City Challenge and plenty of work from organisations such as Ferment Tasmania.

The City of Launceston will contribute \$25,000 towards the implementation of Creative Cities related projects. Six other Northern councils have also collectively committed more than \$28,000, including Break O'Day, Dorset, George Town, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands and West Tamar.

Meander Valley Mayor and local farmer Wayne Johnston said, "Meander Valley has been a food bowl for a long time now, and we are seeing more new, small businesses that do amazing things with locally-produced food and drink. We're excited to become part of the Creative Cities Network, and we look forward to the local projects and global collaborations that will lead to positive change on the ground in Meander Valley and across the region."

The projects and activities will be delivered through Launceston Gastronomy and a newly formed not-for-profit entity, Tasmanian Agrifood Network Ltd.



For further information visit -
launcestongastronomy.com.au



Kim Seagram AM
Non-executive director
of TAN (Secretary and
Public Officer)

Credit: Ness Vanderburgh



Dr Fiona Kerslake, Chair of TAN,
and Karina Damberg, CEO of TAN

Credit: Ness Vanderburgh



OUR Creative CITY & REGION

We believe that Launceston is one of the world's great regional food cities. But we also know there are challenges for us to address to make our city, our region and our food system more vibrant and sustainable. To help us turn these challenges into opportunities, and boost our shared prosperity, in November 2021 we joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as a City of Gastronomy.

MISSION

To grow a vibrant, sustainable community through food, recognising:

- Food is essential for everyone, even if we think about it differently,
- Food is our past and a taste of our place, and
- Food is our future and a path to a vibrant and sustainable region.

Launceston Gastronomy will unite the Northern Tasmanian food community together - including industry, academia, government, and community - to develop and grow a food system that leverages the significant food-related resources of Northern Tasmania. This will utilise the region's unique culture, creativity, natural advantages, networks, and passion.

OUR VALUES

Culture is at the heart of our city, and the heart of the organisation. Launceston Gastronomy is shaped by its values.

Inclusive: We believe in the power of working together. We encourage community collaboration to solve wicked problems. We embrace diversity as we work to achieve community goals.

Fair: We treat people equally. We balance different needs with respect for people's thoughts and opinions. We work hard to make a better food system and community for everyone.

Creative: We pursue creative solutions to improve our community. We place culture at the heart of our food systems. We are informed by what came before as we pave a new and brighter path.

Sustainable: We seek lasting, meaningful change. We consider the triple bottom line: environment, economy, community. We put sustainable development goals at the core of our actions.

Aspirational: We pursue creative solutions to improve our community. We seek opportunities to bring positivity to our food systems. We work together for the future of Northern Tasmanians.



MELBOURNE'S 10 OUTDOOR *Hidden* GEMS

Lake House - Lake Daylesford
Credit : Victoria

Now more than ever, people's feet are itchy, thumbs green, and Melbourne's metro green spaces are hubs for outdoor activity and solace in our natural environment. Whether it is a picnic, forest bathing, biking, strolling or reading setting you're after, these top 10 outdoor gems have you covered.

1 YARRA BEND PARK

Yarra Bend Park is Melbourne's largest natural bushland park just 4km east of the CBD. Enjoy the leafy grounds and abundant wildlife while strolling or biking its many trails. Catch sunrise or sunset with beautiful views out of the city skyline. Hire a canoe at historic Studley Park Boathouse, paddle upstream, and spot flying foxes. Explore the wild river escarpments, open woodlands, formal parklands and sports fields that make up Yarra Bend Park. Stop by the iconic Dights Fall – the closest thing to a waterfall to the CBD. Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield, VIC

2 MERRI CREEK TRAIL

The Merri Creek Trail is 21 kilometres long and starts from Mahoney's Road in Broadmeadows proceeding to Dights Falls Reserve in Abbotsford. The trail follows the creek, along the way it passes Coburg Lake Reserve, the

Brunswick Velodrome, Cable Suspension Bridge and CERES Community Environment Park where fresh produce and coffee can be picked up for a picnic.

3 Lysterfield Park

Lysterfield Park is an unexpected oasis about 45 minutes south of the CBD, offering a range of recreational activities. The Lysterfield Park Mountain Bike Trails and the State Mountain Bike course offers 20 kilometres of trails catering for riders of all ages and ability. Lysterfield Lake is very popular for canoeing, sailing, paddle boating and surf skiing. The area is also a haven for wildlife spotting (mainly kangaroos and wallabies) plus 140 different species of birds. Logan Park Road, Lysterfield South, VIC

4 THE SOLAR SYSTEM TRAIL

Navigate the Solar System Trail from the sun to the outer planets by following the bike and walking trail on the City of Port Phillip's foreshore. In 2008 artists and scientists constructed a model of our solar system, on a scale of one to one billion. The full trail is 5.9km from the Sun in St Kilda to planet Pluto at Sandridge Beach in Port Melbourne, which equates to the actual 5.9 billion kilometres.

5 WOODLANDS HISTORIC PARK

Woodland Historic Park provides a fascinating glimpse of the landscapes and wildlife seen by European settlers in the 1840s. The park has a 150-year old homestead, Indigenous canoe trees, native woodland and grassland. Wander through the fenced 'Back Paddock' and see kangaroos, birds and other wildlife. In the Spring, a sea of purple wildflowers make for very Instagrammable moments. Somerton Road, Greenvale, VIC

6 HERRING ISLAND

Herring Island may be one of Melbourne's best-kept secrets. Accessible only by boat, 3.2 hectares in size and just three kilometres from the city. Herring Island is the only substantial island in the Yarra River. Stroll through the sculpture park which has site-specific works from international and local artists. Yarra River, South Yarra, VIC

7 PLENTY GORGE PARK

Plenty Gorge Park offers a wide range of natural and cultural experiences only 20 km from Melbourne, where the spectacular gorge sets a backdrop for stunning landscape views and the abundant native wildlife are always on show. The 2km loop walk circles the Blue Lake, named for its turquoise colour at certain times of the year. Gorge Road, South Morang, VIC

8 WESTERFOLDS PARK

Watch adrenaline junkies tackle the rapids at Westerfolds Park from the observation deck (Lower Templestowe). This peaceful walk passes the old Westerfolds Manor, woodlands and shrubland. Take in the ancient Red Gums, as well as kangaroos and wombats who often graze in the open areas in the morning.

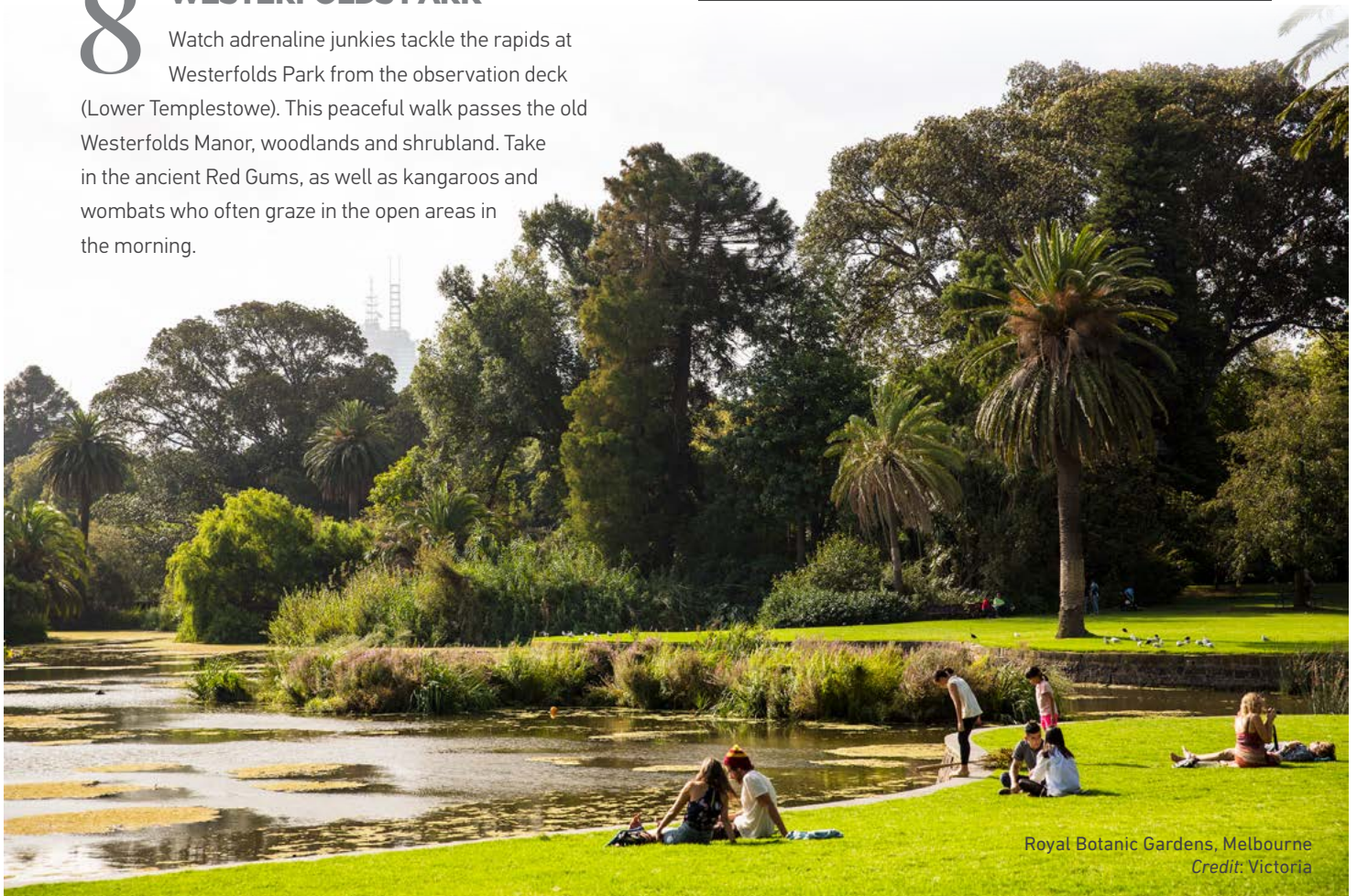
9 ORGAN PIPES

Twenty kilometres north-west of Melbourne's business area is an impressive rock formation called the Organ Pipes. Formed by cooling and cracking volcanic lava, the organ pipes look just like their name suggests, towering above the river below. A short walk away see the Rosetta Stone that looks like the spokes of a wheel, a Tessellated pavement and fossils over four million years old. Great for social gatherings, the park also has picnic spots and easy walking tracks. Organ Pipes Road, Keilor North, VIC

10 CAPITAL CITY TRAIL

The Capital City Trail links some of the best cultural, entertainment, sporting and outdoor recreation opportunities that Melbourne has to offer. Starting at the vibrant entertainment hub of Southbank, it winds along the grassy banks of the Yarra River past the Victorian Arts Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens, the MCG and Melbourne Park, and the elegant grandeur of historic Como House. It's a flat 29.6 kilometre loop that provides a great way of exploring Melbourne by bike. Make the most of the trail by allowing plenty of time to stop at your favourite attractions or picnic in leafy gardens or on a tranquil riverbank.

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
Credit: Victoria



ISLAND Power

Not so long ago the warm glow of kerosene lanterns could be seen dotted across Flinders Island. Small signals that warmth and life existed beyond the wild weather that lashed the strait's inhabitants. The latter half of the 20th Century brought change to the island – Hydro Tasmania's arrival in the 1950s saw the creation of a power station in Whitemark. With no opportunity for hydropower on the island, an era of diesel generation arrived.

In the mid-eighties the new Flinders Island Power Station was constructed just out of town. "It supplied power for the island's 900 residents for the next 30 years," says Hydro Tasmania's Production Supervisor Aronn Daw. "We're talking 100% diesel. Four diesel engines powered the 3 megawatt station, supporting almost 7 gigawatt hours of annual customer demand. While serving its purpose, that's an expensive exercise and the millions of litres of diesel consumed each year are not the best for the environment either. The next instalment in the story is where things get really interesting."

In 2017, Hydro embarked on an ambitious project to overhaul energy delivery in the strait. With the support of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, a hybrid system was developed that is capable of displacing up to 60% of the annual diesel fuel used to generate electricity on Flinders Island. The system can also operate without diesel, achieving 100% pure renewable penetration when conditions allow. Think full integration of wind, solar and diesel plus smart enabling technology including flywheel and energy storage. It's a groundbreaking project that's placed Tasmanian innovation firmly on the national stage – demonstrating just how communities can readily adapt and embrace clean energy.

Standing beneath the base of a 40m tall wind turbine, Aronn surveys the magic carpet that stretches before him. A khaki tapestry of farms and native bushland has come to define life on Flinders. "The development, planning and commissioning of the new hybrid hub have been an amazing project to be involved in," he agrees enthusiastically. "We not only wanted to see significant improvement in terms of renewable energy delivery and sustainability, but in the reliability of the supply too."

The Flinders power grid winds its way across 1000 square diverse kilometres of the island. Residents are spread far and wide across the biggest landmass in the Furneaux Group. Nestled in small townships, tucked down coastal tracks, overseeing rich farmland, bunkered down on the side of mountains and hidden behind expansive lagoons. It's a spectacular country to say the very least. And an ornithological paradise – aside from the roar of the elements the bird chorus is usually the only sound to be heard. The wombats, though plentiful, don't tend to make much noise.

The Flinders Island Hybrid Energy Hub stands as a shining jewel in Hydro Tasmania's crown. While transforming power generation in one of the most pristine places in the world, it's also brought the locals along for the ride. Innovative software allows each of them to have the latest energy stats in the palm

of their hand while out in the paddock. Hydro's Flinders app summarises exactly what the station is generating compared to customer demand. Want to know how much renewable energy is being generated? It's right there. One can also see at a glance key wind and solar variables, including how much solar power is being generated by customers with panels on their own properties.

Here, timing is everything. Hydro's hybrid technology allows multiple energy sources to be utilised as the weather dictates. There are times when the energy use peaks and an additional diesel generator is turned on. There are times when the wind and solar power see the batteries fully charged. "We can now store the excess power, and can reduce the inputs when we have a glut," explains Aronn. "It's flexible and responsive, and it can all happen remotely too."

Incorporating a 900kW wind turbine and 200kW solar array into the grid was no mean feat. Hydro Tasmania designed a series of scalable modular units to house and ship all the enabling technologies to the island. The tried and true innovation developed for the strait can now also be applied to other remote communities, and possibly even used to temporarily deliver power in disaster relief situations.



Credit : The Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit : The Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit : The Tasmanian Tuxedo

"Before the hybrid model, we probably saw the power go out once a month here," recalls Aronn. "Now, once or twice a year is the norm. We've not only got a far superior electricity supply, but we have invested a lot of time rectifying historic problems in the grid...we've fixed a substantial amount of distribution equipment, including the introduction of remotely operated switchgear...and it's really paying off now. Having local control over the budget and to be able to spend where we experience the issues on the ground has made a very positive impact." After a moment he adds, "Our team is very committed to making sure the community has what it needs. If there's a problem, they're straight onto it." He adds with a grin, "When you're down at the pub on a Friday night, you don't want to have to explain the power problems."

Hydro Tasmania's closely banded team of 12 'Whitemark boys' are on call to tend to the power lines and wind turbines. They include trades, fitters, linesmen, a couple of apprentices and administrative staff. It's clear they share three things – a love of island life, a strong work ethic and a genuine desire to serve the community. Friendly banter abounds. It's a crew defined by hard work but, as local culture dictates, there's always time for a bit of lighthearted stirring. Many are island-born and bred, often having left to complete their training and gain experience, before bringing their skills back and reinvesting in island life. Young families arrive in tow and are rewarded with the gift of a childhood blissfully roaming pristine beaches and climbing rugged mountain ranges.



“One of the things Hydro does really well is look after its people,” nods Aronn. “They’ve done nothing but extend opportunities to me and I’ll always be grateful for that. It’s a fantastic, positive culture to be a part of and I’m grateful that they notice people who really put in.”

“One of the differences I find over here is that we’re so close to our customers,” explains Aronn. “In actual fact, we are our customers. We all live and work in this community and take real pride in what we do. I think you have to.”

Valerie Hall is the Bass Strait Island coordinator and currently the only woman on the team. Initially working remotely from Hobart, she sold up last year and relocated permanently to the island. “The opportunity arose for me to come and work here and I haven’t looked back since,” she nods, taking in the stunning sunset from Whitemark’s jetty. “At any given time I could be doing data validation, reading meters or operating our GIS program. At the end of the day, it’s pretty hard to beat throwing a line in here after work. You might have to wait a bit for the wind to die down, but that just makes it all the more special,” she smiles. “Evenings like this are just magic.”

With a couple of freshly caught squid squirming at her feet, Valerie is quick to heap praise on her colleagues. “Simply a bunch of great guys,” she nods. “And in fact, when they are at their best is when there’s a crisis. Whether it be an unplanned outage or some sort of local emergency, they are like a well-oiled machine. They all know their part and get straight down to ensuring the power is back on as quickly as possible.” Valerie adds, “The sense of community spirit is very strong too. Lots of them hold volunteer roles within the community and will be the first to put their hands up when something’s needed. The professionalism they continually demonstrate is amazing. I truly take my hat off to them.”

Valerie has embraced the community culture that Flinders is renowned for. Her magic wand comes in the form of knitting needles and she’s quick to whip up a beanie for anyone that needs one. “It’s just something I like to do,” she says. “I’ve usually got a beanie on as I have a cold head. But the knitting ramped up when the CWA put out a call for help. I’ve now knitted lots for the boys here and their kids too. If it’s something that helps others out, then that’s a bonus.”

Sitting amid one of the world’s most treacherous stretches of water, Flinders presents a myriad of challenges for this young and energetic team. Aronn recalls 188km/hour winds not so long ago. “That’s category 2 cyclone conditions,” he explains. “It gives you an idea of the unexpected problems that the elements can sometimes throw at us.”

“Life here is unbeatable,” agrees Aronn. “It’s not for everyone, but if you love the outdoors, being welcomed into a genuine community, and a challenge, then I couldn’t recommend it more highly.”

“Over here 80–100km/hour winds can create issues pretty quickly,” explains Aronn. “Those days can be long, but they are offset very quickly when the great weather arrives.” With a grin he adds, “When the weather’s rough I’m happy to be working anyway. But when Flinders turns on a magic day, it’s usually very quiet for us. Hello fishing, diving and exploring.”

An electrician by trade, both a linesmen’s ticket and sound experience as a power station operator under his belt, Aronn has risen quietly through the Hydro’s management ranks. He’s a bright example of the capable hands in which Hydro is placing its future. “There are just so many good opportunities to be had here. On any given day I can be climbing a wind turbine, servicing a diesel engine, reading a meter or in the office catching up with reporting,” says Aronn. “Whether it’s maintaining 400km of powerlines, overseeing the remote operations software or running our suite of diesel generators... when things don’t go as expected, that’s when our people really rise to the fore. They’re a highly trained group with such a diverse set of skills. You really see that in action when an issue presents itself.”

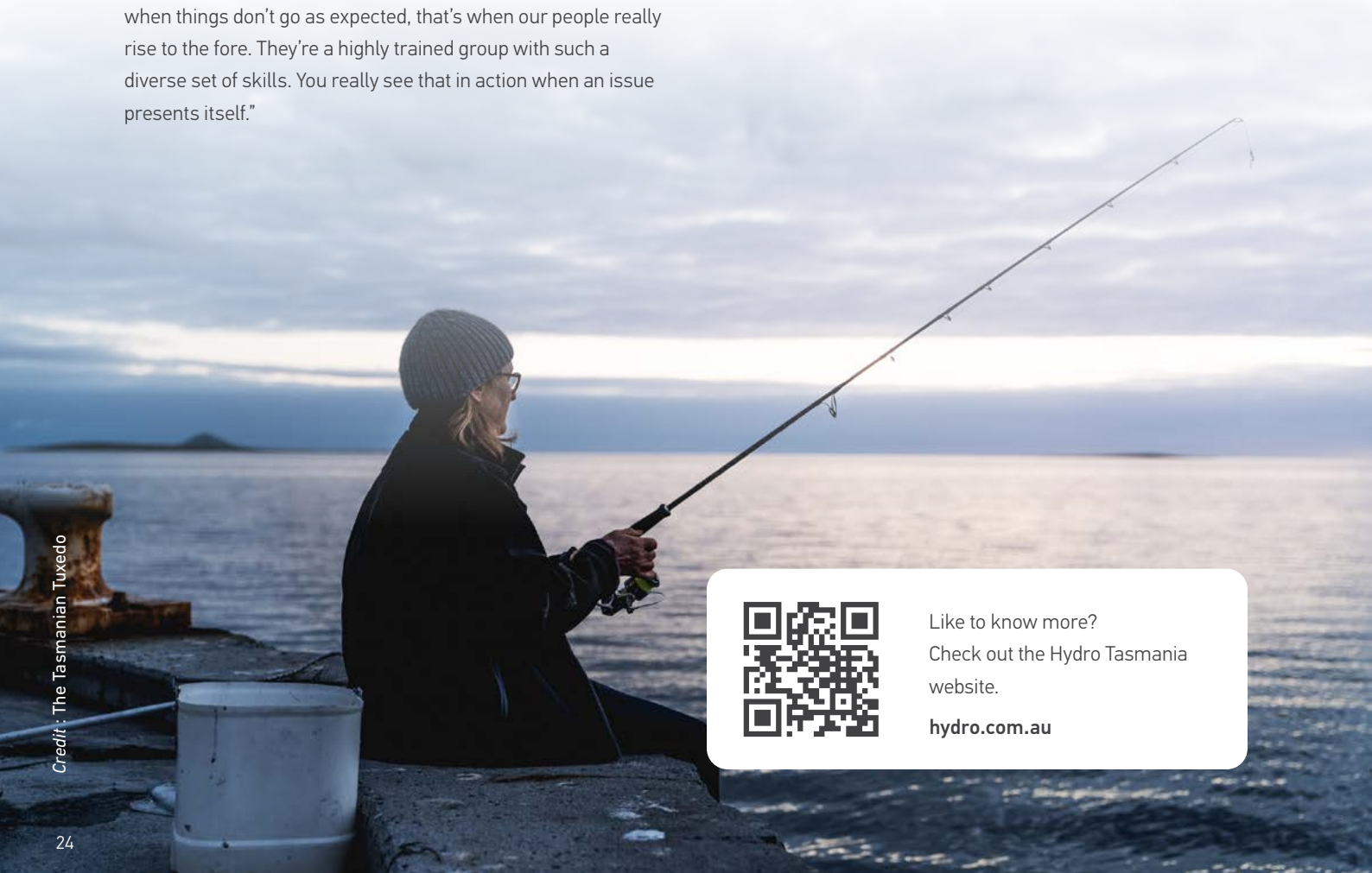
It’s not often you hear employees speak highly of safety guidelines, but that happens here too. “This is one of those places you know that if you stick to the rules, you’ll stay safe,” says Aronn. “And working with high voltage, there are no second chances. Hydro Tasmania maintains such a good safety program...they are constantly investing and no limits are placed on safety costs, which is great peace of mind for us and our families.”

Wandering the island, it’s not hard to be envious of the lifestyle. “Fishing, boating, barbeques on the beach...that’s Flinders really,” agrees Aronn. “Who wouldn’t want to be a part of it? If you accept it for what it is, and don’t try to change it, you’ll reap huge rewards. People here are genuine and are protective of what we have, and for good reason.”

Ironically, Aronn has become a victim of the team’s success. “I guess the one downside is that now we have less issues, it means less power outages at home. I kind of like getting out all the candles and sitting by the fire with a bottle of red. The kids love those times too...classic family moments huddled together listening to the weather raging outside.”

Giving the ‘Flinders wave’ to a passing motorist is mandatory on the island and a Hydro vehicle is no exception. They’re the first to acknowledge you with that classic lift of the finger. It’s more than just a gesture of greeting, it’s an understated symbol of community.

* This article was a collaboration with **The Tasmanian Tuxedo** and **Hydro Tasmania**



Like to know more?
Check out the Hydro Tasmania website.

hydro.com.au



agriCULTURED

Tasmania's

FRESHEST COOL SEASON EVENT

Acoustic Life Of Sheds
Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

Australia has ambitious targets for agriculture and food as we head towards 2030, making value-adding in the sector critical. Achieving this change will take collaboration, innovation, and ambition.

TAKING PLACE FROM 4 - 7 AUGUST 2022

agriCULTURED is an exciting new opportunity to connect with agri-food industry professionals and practitioners to:

- innovate, learn, inspire others and be inspired to evolve,
- build a platform for advocacy, and
- challenge norms and the status quo...

Join us to celebrate the contribution of agri-food to culture, community and economy and to help create a vibrant, resilient future, inspired by Tasmania and Tasmanians.

At agriCULTURED, we believe this change can start with something simple - conversations. We want to stimulate conversations that connect us to new networks and trade, that inspires us to learn and grow sustainably, that celebrate success to inspire our future.

To start these conversations, the event will provide a mix of experiences celebrating and highlighting the rich agricultural landscapes of Northern Tasmania including:

- Food Conversations in the City
- Landscapes of Learning with on-farm cultural experience
- The Acoustic Life of Farm Sheds
- Producers dinners, markets, community events, book launches, and more
- Exclusive opportunities to eat & drink the best of Northern Tasmania



Conversations Civic Square
Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

“It’s a sophisticated agritourism concept for local and national foodies hungry for new Tasmanian experiences”

OUR STORY

agriCULTURED has been researched and developed by Visit Northern Tasmania, with input to the concept from a wide range of industry and sector individuals and organisations.

It is designed as a four-day event to be staged in the Northern Tasmanian region. It builds on Tasmania’s brand strengths of our rich agricultural landscapes, fresh seasonal produce, and vibrant food and beverage makers, growers, producers, and farmers.

It’s a sophisticated agritourism concept, with an appeal to food producers from micro to macro, and local and national foodie audience hungry for new Tasmanian experiences. agriCULTURED will be delivered on farms, in barns and within a cultural context with workshops and panels set alongside music and performance in the Tasmanian landscape, with the hub centered in the City of Launceston.

agriCULTURED Matthew Evans NSCC
Credit: Ness Vanderburgh



agriCULTURED IS ...

- A celebration of the contribution of the agri-food sector to the culture, community, and economy of Tasmania, attracting both practitioners, and visitors hungry for new experiences in Tasmania.
- A physical and metaphorical journey through the agricultural landscapes of Northern Tasmania.
- A way of creating the future by learning from the past.
- Landscapes of learning—a multi-dimensional journey with a series of discreet events traversing the landscape.
- An opportunity to connect with industry professionals and practitioners from across Tasmania and Nationally to innovate and inspire others, build a platform for advocacy, and challenge norms and the status quo.
- An event that will bring farming families and their sheds together with artists, musicians, and composers, celebrating the passion that goes into producing, farming, and knowing where food is from.



To know more about agriCULTURED, visit:
agriCULTURED.com.au

The event will be underpinned by the principles of regenerative tourism and leave more than it takes from the environment.



Night Market
Credit: Ness Vanderburgh

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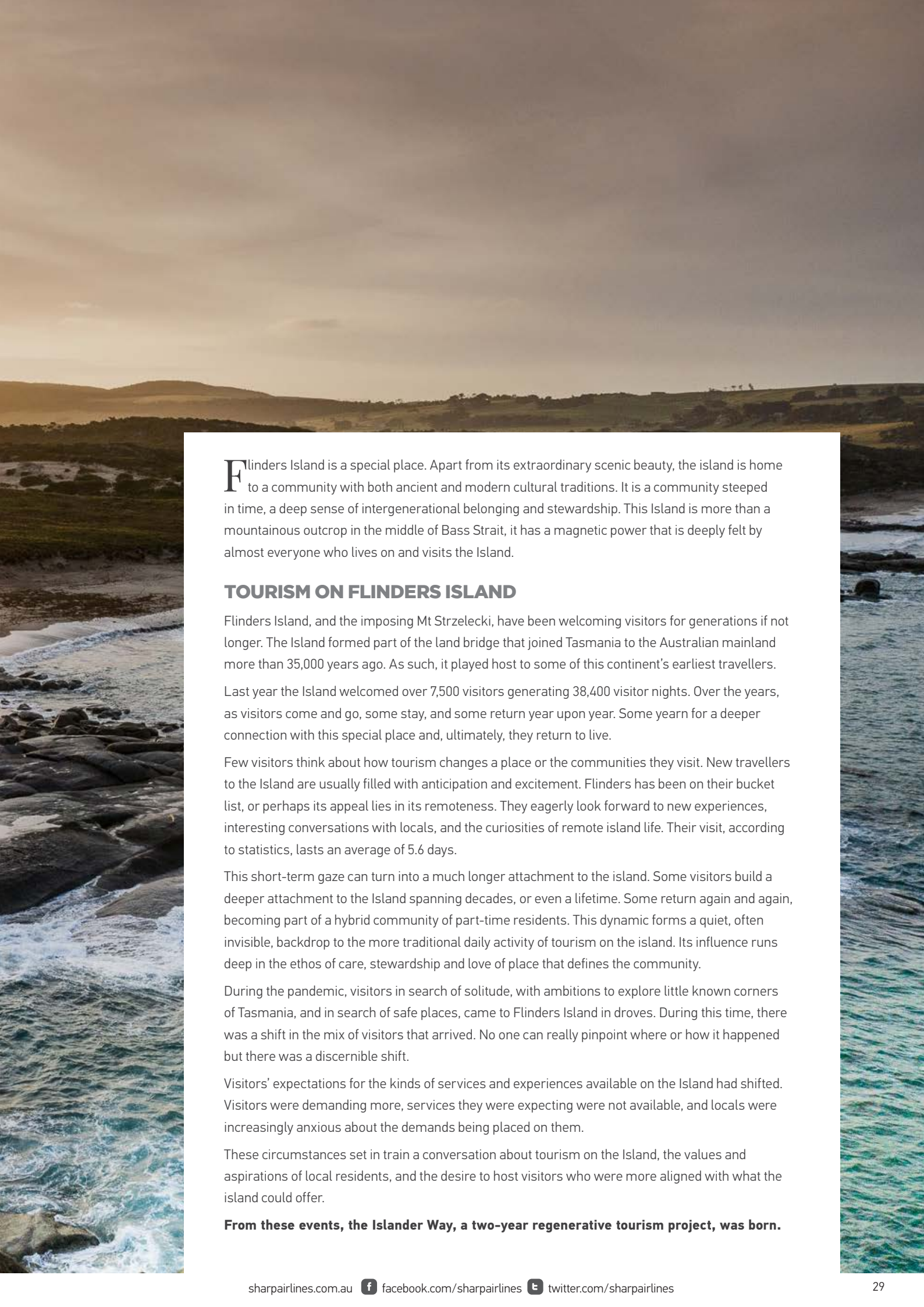
THE *Islander* WAY

WHAT IS THE ISLANDER WAY?

“The first thing you will notice, on Flinders and the Furneaux group of islands, is the breathtaking scenery. In every direction, what you see is like nothing else in the world.

It’s deeper than quiet beaches and coastlines, mountains and mist. These islands have a rich and dark history, and an intensely passionate community that wants to reckon with its past and build the right future together. No-one is here because it is the easiest place to live. Everyone is here because it is different. When something works on these islands it tends to be small and special. As the rest of the world chases growth, we chase meaning.”

Brand Tasmania. Flinders Island Brand Story



Flinders Island is a special place. Apart from its extraordinary scenic beauty, the island is home to a community with both ancient and modern cultural traditions. It is a community steeped in time, a deep sense of intergenerational belonging and stewardship. This Island is more than a mountainous outcrop in the middle of Bass Strait, it has a magnetic power that is deeply felt by almost everyone who lives on and visits the Island.

TOURISM ON FLINDERS ISLAND

Flinders Island, and the imposing Mt Strzelecki, have been welcoming visitors for generations if not longer. The Island formed part of the land bridge that joined Tasmania to the Australian mainland more than 35,000 years ago. As such, it played host to some of this continent's earliest travellers.

Last year the Island welcomed over 7,500 visitors generating 38,400 visitor nights. Over the years, as visitors come and go, some stay, and some return year upon year. Some yearn for a deeper connection with this special place and, ultimately, they return to live.

Few visitors think about how tourism changes a place or the communities they visit. New travellers to the Island are usually filled with anticipation and excitement. Flinders has been on their bucket list, or perhaps its appeal lies in its remoteness. They eagerly look forward to new experiences, interesting conversations with locals, and the curiosities of remote island life. Their visit, according to statistics, lasts an average of 5.6 days.

This short-term gaze can turn into a much longer attachment to the island. Some visitors build a deeper attachment to the Island spanning decades, or even a lifetime. Some return again and again, becoming part of a hybrid community of part-time residents. This dynamic forms a quiet, often invisible, backdrop to the more traditional daily activity of tourism on the island. Its influence runs deep in the ethos of care, stewardship and love of place that defines the community.

During the pandemic, visitors in search of solitude, with ambitions to explore little known corners of Tasmania, and in search of safe places, came to Flinders Island in droves. During this time, there was a shift in the mix of visitors that arrived. No one can really pinpoint where or how it happened but there was a discernible shift.

Visitors' expectations for the kinds of services and experiences available on the Island had shifted. Visitors were demanding more, services they were expecting were not available, and locals were increasingly anxious about the demands being placed on them.

These circumstances set in train a conversation about tourism on the Island, the values and aspirations of local residents, and the desire to host visitors who were more aligned with what the island could offer.

From these events, the Islander Way, a two-year regenerative tourism project, was born.



Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo

Australian Enterprise Awards 2022
 ★★★★★★
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 Best Craft Distillery - Tasmania

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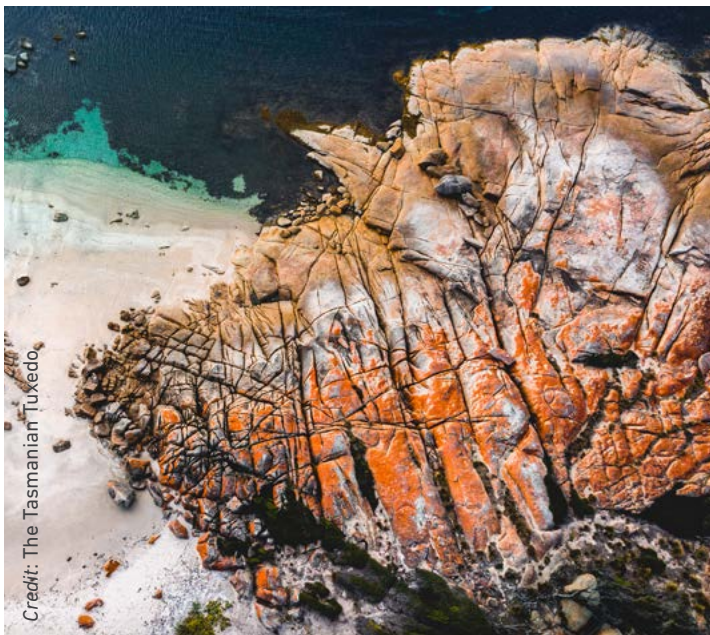
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Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo

WHAT IS THE ISLANDER WAY PROJECT?

The Islander Way project aims to better understand the Island's relationship with tourism so that we can chart a course into the future that is regenerative. It's not about more tourism, but about a better kind of visitor economy that reinvests back to the Island and its community.

It's a two-year project because it's important to get it right, to dig deep into what is really going on, and to spend time understanding different perspectives and challenges. All too often, a hasty diagnosis can lead to quick-fix solutions that don't address the real problem.

The project adopts a regenerative tourism approach and is the first of its kind in Australia. Indeed, there are only a handful of locations across the world that have adopted regenerative principles, and most are island destinations, including Hawai'i, New Zealand, and the Faroe Islands.

Regenerative tourism, at its simplest, seeks to ensure travel and tourism delivers a net positive benefit to people, places and nature. It's an approach to tourism on the Island that supports the long term renewal and flourishing of the Island's social and ecological systems.

The reason why islands are leading the way in regenerative tourism is because the impacts of tourism are often more intense and challenging. Island economies often rely on tourism, local residents can't escape into a secret backstage area, and visitors often don't appreciate island time and islander culture. Global research has also consistently shown that visitors generate more waste and use more water than Islanders. This is large because the people who live on the islands have a more acute sense of their Island's resources and environmental capacity.

Sometimes the effects are less visible, like the impact that high season can have on food supply chains and logistics, jobs, housing, waste, and the costs of maintaining local public assets. A regenerative approach shifts the lens through which we see tourism by asking what tourism takes and what it gives back.

The question becomes "How can visitors contribute to the Island, its economy and its community?"

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TAKING DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS

The Islander Way project is charting a pathway forward so that tourism makes a net positive investment back into the community and the environment. A large focus on the project is to better align the kinds of visitors to Flinders Island with what the Island and its small community can feasibly offer as a remote destination. To that end, our conversations with the community are shaped by the values set out in our “guiding north star”.

The outcomes from this project will include a new framework to guide decision making about tourism on Flinders Island. Working closely with the Flinders Island Business Inc (FIBI), Flinders Council, Visit Northern Tasmania and state government agencies, our ambition is to shift mindsets and nurture a more collaborative and holistic approach to managing tourism on the Island.

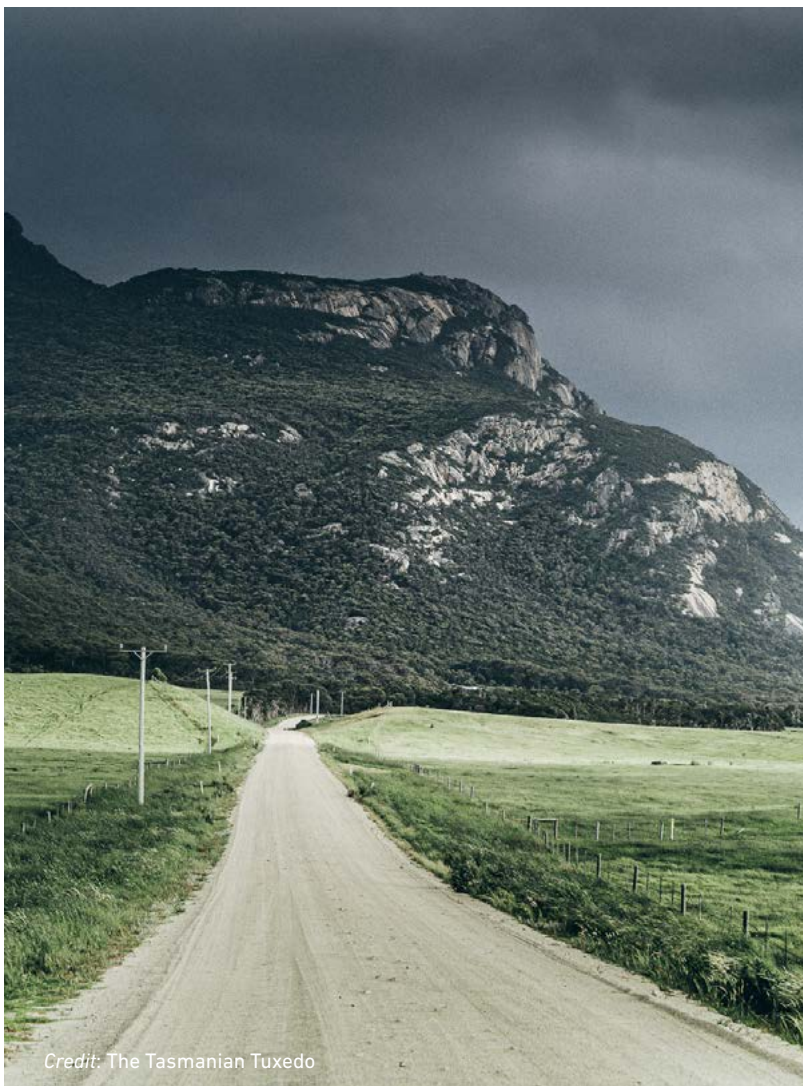
A business program is also planned where community-led and local business initiatives will be identified, developed and supported through coaching and mentoring.



Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo



Credit: The Tasmanian Tuxedo

That's why a 2 year time span for this project was necessary to allow for deeper and more authentic outcomes. Attention will also be placed on how existing and potential visitor experiences and services might be curated to strengthen the business ecosystem.

So, if you are a visitor to Flinders Island and you have got this far, the hope is that you have a deeper appreciation for how tourism can change a destination, its community and environment. Perhaps when exploring Flinders Island, there is a deeper awareness of how your actions and interactions shape not only your own experiences, but those who call this beautiful island their home.

There are five words, a mantra, that will help you on your way...

**RESPECT. CONNECT.
LEARN. LOVE.
REPLENISH.**



For more information visit:
islanderway.co



Martha Lavinia Beach, King Island
Credit: Stu Gibson

KING ISLAND'S MAGIC Martha

For those seeking adventure off the mainland, take a flight to Tasmania's King Island. Swell pumps up from Antarctica and breaks onto the empty stretches of Martha Lavinia Beach. But it's not just barrelling waves that make the journey worth it.

WELCOME TO MARTHA LAVINIA BEACH

In the top eastern corner of the little wilderness known as King Island, is a not-so-secret surfer's pocket – an eclectic left, right and centre barrel that turns just off the pristine Martha Lavinia Beach. For years, diehards and locals alike have salivated over Martha's circular, aqua-electric form.

But the crisp whites of the gravel roads, the lush, succulent greens of King's coastal foliage, the butter-yellow sands and the spirited Bass Strait winds will lustily overcome just about anyone lucky enough to find themselves in this paradise.

This is précis King Island – welcome to the pearl in Tassie's oyster.

SURFER'S BREAKFAST AT MARTHA LAVINIA BEACH

Martha Lavinia isn't shy about being one of the top surf breaks in Aus; she puts on her best show over the colder months when the two currents that encircle the island greet again at its north-eastern tip. Look for south-westerlies and two metre swell on the forecast, and you're almost guaranteed a jolly slide.

That said, there are so many other secret locations around here to paddle out you can't lose! Nowhere's far, we just can't let those out of the bag anywhere other than 'round the campfire. Besides, everyone knows the best breaks are the ones you stumble on yourself, and the best thing about King Island is that you'll hardly have to share.

TAKE A PADDLE ON PENNYS LAGOON

Pennys Lagoon is set back and up from Martha's sands and is a rare phenomenon in itself – one of only a couple of known perched lakes in the world (another is Lake McKenzie up north on Fraser Island, QLD).

It'll be chilly in the winter months, that's for sure, but it's stunning to look at, and the facilities are spot on. A morning fry-up following post-dawn waves here is a must, and you'd do well to spend the rest of your day hiking and exploring the surrounding shores. If you've brought the kayak, what are you waiting for?

BIRD WATCHING

For a super unique birdwatching experience, hit up the Birds of King Island group before you head over. King happens to be a bit of an avian refuge, situated smack on the migratory paths of an immense number of sub-species; here you could observe anything from the Short-tailed Shearwater or tiny Fairy Tern to a Satin Flycatcher or Flame Robin.

If you're feeling auspicious, you could spot one of the world's rarest birds, the Orange-bellied Parrot. You might not think yourself so lucky, but they're out there – check around early Autumn.

You can even register for the Wings on King project, helping local volunteers collect data that'll enable them to construct a more detailed storyline of the island's flying friends.



Martha Lavinia Beach, King Island
Credit: Stu Gibson

ON YA BIKE!

King's steadily undulating gravel and sealed roads are a dream for anyone who loves a pedal, especially those who can't admit to frothing an inclination greater than 2.5%. Spanning out like spokes from Lavinia Reserve are miles of melaleuca-lined tracks begging you to choose your own biking adventure.

Head south towards Sea Elephant River, or north towards Cape Wickham. On the way, you'll observe parties of wild peacocks, fat cattle in lush fields of green, the haze of sand gusting across the shore, and rough, salty plaques marking tribute to the countless shipwrecks of the 1800s.

BASECAMP - PENNYS LAGOON/ MARTHA LAVINIA BEACH

Recently reno-ed facilities and a marked reduction in reptile mates make camping at Pennys in the cooler months a temptation indeed. There's a fair amount of scrub for windbreak and protection, plus toilets, BBQs and the kick-off point for a number of bushwalks and trails.

It's not a huge area, good for intimate groups and individuals, and it's only a 40-minute drive back to civilisation for supplies, in case someone forgets the condiments.

If you've got a larger crowd and want to put seconds rather than minutes between your sleeping bag and a wave, you can also camp out on the beach at Martha.

Sleeping on the sand is beyond sensational on a starry, breathless night, the prospect of which should have you keen as Kipp Caddy. No national park pass is necessary, free camping all year round. What more could you want?

Please note! Please refrain from taking vehicles on the beach. Keep to the tracks up behind the dunes to avoid Fairy Terns nesting and prevent sandbank degradation.



Martha Lavinia Beach, King Island
Credit: Stu Gibson

DISTANCE COVERED / TIME TAKEN

Currie township to Pennys Lagoon – 48km / 40 mins drive

Source – We are Explorers

WE ARE EXPLORERS

Since 2014 they have been building a community of modern day explorers. Our purpose is to make the outdoors accessible for everyone, celebrate the beauty of the world, and inspire fulfilling and adventurous lives in connection with nature. They produce award-winning content to inspire Australians to live more adventurously and protect our wild places.



For more info visit:
weareexplorers.co/

SURFING

Martha Lavinia is a world class beach break on King Island in Bass Strait. Perfect 'A-frame' waves are formed by swell wrapping around both sides of the island and it is a truly unique natural wonder of the Australian surf scene.

Martha Lavina beach, on King Island's north east coast, has been described by Tracks magazine as "The best beach break in Australia" which is some accolade. The advantage for surfers of visiting a relatively small island is that invariably something will be happening on one coast or another. No good on the east coast? Just drive 20 minutes back over to the west and have a look there. While some of the waves and some of the beaches are more for the experts you can find ideal beaches with gentle waves for beginners and you can also hire boards if you didn't come prepared.



For more info visit:
savethewaves.org

LAVINIA STATE RESERVE

Before food, King Island was all but defined by shipwrecks. More than 100 vessels have been torn apart on its rocks and reefs, resulting in hundreds of deaths. In Australia's worst peacetime maritime disaster, 400 people perished when the emigrant ship Catacaqui broke up on rocks south of Currie in 1845.

Lavinia State Reserve is situated on the North East coast of King Island. The reserve was named after the 52-ton schooner Martha Lavinia that, in 1871 travelling from Tasmania to Adelaide struck a reef offshore near the reserve.

The reserve contains spectacular coastal and bush scenery, wildlife and a significant lagoon and wetland system. The reserve is listed under the RAMSAR convention as a Wetland of International Importance. This reserve is also home to a number of rare birds including the endangered orange-bellied parrot.

Today, three lighthouses flicker along King Island's edges, including 48 m-high Cape Wickham, the tallest lighthouse in the southern hemisphere, and the very conditions that once drove ships aground now lure surfers out to



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sea. South-west swells wrap around the island like a frigid hug, but nowhere more famously or fiercely than at Lavinia Beach in the north-east, where the break was once rated among the world's top 10 waves by *Surfing Life* magazine. World champions Kelly Slater, Sunny Garcia and Tom Carroll have surfed here, and in 2000 the world's first tow-in championship was held on the island.

NORTHERN SECTION

Within the northern section of Lavinia State Reserve lays Lavinia Beach and two freshwater lakes: Lake Martha Lavinia and Penny's Lagoon.

With white sand seeming to stretch forever and a world-class surf break, Lavinia Beach is one of the most popular surfing and fishing locations on the island.

Penny's Lagoon is a rare perched lake found in only three locations in the world. Its freshwater is held by compacted sand and organic matter. The lagoon is a favourite swimming spot for locals and visitors. Facilities provided are picnic tables, woodfired barbecues and a toilet.

Source Australia Geographic



Martha Lavinia Beach, King Island
Credit: Stu Gibson

Lavinia

NATURE RESERVE

Lavinia Nature Reserve is one of the few largely unaltered areas of native vegetation remaining on King Island, which lies between Tasmania and the mainland state of Victoria. It includes wetland types that are representative and/or rare to the bioregion, including *Melaleuca ericifolia* swamp forest, freshwater aquatic wetlands, herbfields and grasslands marginal to wetland, and sedge/rush wetland.

The Lavinia Ramsar Site is located on the north-east coast of King Island in Bass Strait, 12 kilometres south west of the town of Naracoopa. The site covers approximately 7034 hectares, extends 8 kilometres inland at its widest point and is mostly below 20 metres above sea level. The site contains the majority of the remaining native vegetation on King Island, under the management of the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

The Ecological Character Description for Lavinia describes the main ecosystem units of the Ramsar site and its components, processes and services. The site contains a significant and diverse set of ecosystems, including a significant lagoon and wetland system, coastal and bush landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. The site is one of the few largely unaltered areas of King Island and contains much of the remaining native vegetation on King Island.

The Site's mud flats, coastal swamps and lagoons provide important habitats for a range of globally threatened species such as the critically endangered orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*) and the endangered green and gold frog (*Litoria raniformis*). The Site is also a regional biodiversity hotspot because the ecological communities on King Island represent a transitional zone between the Australian mainland and north-west Tasmania, supporting species from both the north and south. The largely unspoiled nature of the Reserve and its variety of interesting features make it an important area for scientific study and education. There are also oyster farms operating at the Site.



The Peel-yalgorup Ramsar Site
Credit: David Rennie

WHAT IS A RAMSAR?

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance holds the unique distinction of being the first modern treaty between nations aimed at conserving natural resources. The signing of the Convention on Wetlands took place in 1971 in the small Iranian town of Ramsar. Since then, the Convention on Wetlands has been known as the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention's broad aims are to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise use and management, those that remain. This requires international cooperation, policy-making, capacity building and technology transfer.

WHAT ARE RAMSAR WETLANDS?

Under the Ramsar Convention, a wide variety of natural and human-made habitat types ranging from rivers to coral reefs can be classified as wetlands. Wetlands include swamps, marshes, billabongs, lakes, salt marshes, mudflats, mangroves, coral reefs, fens, peat bogs, or bodies of water -

whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. Water within these areas can be static or flowing; fresh, brackish or saline; and can include inland rivers and coastal or marine water to a depth of six metres at low tide. There are even underground wetlands.

The Ramsar Convention encourages the designation of sites containing representative, rare or unique wetlands, or wetlands that are important for conserving biological diversity. Once designated, these sites are added to the Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance and become known as Ramsar sites. In designating a wetland as a Ramsar site, countries agree to establish and oversee a management framework aimed at conserving the wetland and ensuring its wise use. Wise use under the Convention is broadly defined as maintaining the ecological character of a wetland. Wetlands can be included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance because of their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological or hydrological importance.



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sawyersbayshacks.com.au

THE *Show* MUST GO ON!

Live theatre and musicals are back



RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA TO PREMIERE IN MELBOURNE

Lyndon Terracini for Opera Australia and John Frost for Crossroads Live today announced that the Tony® Award-winning Broadway production of Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella will have its Australian Premiere at Melbourne's Regent Theatre from 20 May next year, with a season at the Sydney Lyric Theatre from 23 October.

Leading the cast of this lavish production will be Shubshri Kandiah (Aladdin, Fangirls) as Ella (Cinderella); Ainsley Melham (Merrily We Roll Along, Aladdin) as Prince Topher; Silvie Paladino (Mamma Mia!, Les Misérables) as Marie, the Fairy Godmother; Tina Bursill (TV's Doctor Doctor, Wentworth) as Madame, Ella's stepmother, and Todd McKenney (The Boy From Oz, Shrek) as the Lord Chancellor, Sebastian.

Daniel Belle (My Fair Lady, Les Misérables) will play Lord Pinkleton, the second-in-command in the Royal household, while Josh Gardiner (Billy Elliot, Rent) is Jean-Michel, the poor revolutionary who is in love with Gabrielle. Completing the cast will be William Brougham, Mackenzie Dunn, Danielle Evrat, Luke Haberecht, Matthew Jenson, Lauren Jimmieson, Leah Lim, Rubin Matters, Joshua Russell, Greta Sherriff, Lewis Shilvock, Suzanne Steele, Tom Struik, Daniel Szesiong Todd, Alexis van Maanen, Dean Vince, Daniel Wijngaarden, Erica Wild and Emily Wood.

John Frost and Lyndon Terracini are delighted to finally bring to the Australian stage one of the most beautiful musicals of all time. "We're so excited to announce the dates for the Premiere of this Broadway favourite. Cinderella is one of Rodgers & Hammerstein's greatest scores and this production with beautiful orchestrations, magnificent costumes and sets, jaw-dropping transformations and all the moments you love from the classic story, will have audiences clamouring for more.

"We're also thrilled with our outstanding cast led by Shubshri, Ainsley, Silvie, Tina and Todd, and know that they are going to relish bringing this much-loved story to life. Audiences will be enchanted by this glorious and uplifting musical. Rush to get a ticket!"

With its fresh new take on the beloved tale of a young woman who is transformed from a chambermaid into a princess, Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella combines the story's classic elements – the glass slippers, pumpkin, a beautiful masked ball and more - along with some surprising twists. More than just a pretty face with the right shoe size, this Cinderella is a contemporary figure living in a fairytale setting. A spirited young woman with savvy and soul, she not only fights for her own dreams, but forces the prince to open his eyes to the world around him and realise his dreams too.



MELBOURNE

Venue Regent Theatre, Collins Street, Melbourne

Season From 20 May 2022

cinderellamusical.com.au



MULTI AWARD-WINNING

HIT MUSICAL GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

COMING TO THE COMEDY THEATRE IN MELBOURNE FROM APRIL 2022

One of the most critically acclaimed, multi award-winning productions of the 21st century, it has taken the theatrical world by storm, selling out seasons in the West End, Toronto and Broadway since opening at The Old Vic in London.

A story of American life in 1934 Minnesota, it centres on a community living on a knife-edge in the local guesthouse, and stars multi Gold Logie winner, Lisa McCune.

With twenty of Dylan's songs including Hurricane, I Want You, Slow Train Coming, Lay Lady Lay and Like A Rolling Stone, beautifully reimagined and woven through the story, *Girl From the North Country* is a modern masterpiece.

Writer and director Conor McPherson said: "It is an honour to bring this production I'm so proud of to Australia. Our journey from The Old Vic in London to the West End in London and onto Broadway has been monumental, and we have managed to find an incredible Australian cast who will bring this magical production to life."



Girl From The North Country opens at the Comedy Theatre on Friday 29 April 2022 for a strictly limited season

Tickets: northcountry.com.au

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S CINDERELLA TO PREMIERE IN MELBOURNE

One of Rodgers & Hammerstein's most popular titles, *Cinderella* was written for television, debuting in 1957 starring Julie Andrews, who was nominated for an Emmy Award for her performance. More than 100 million viewers saw the broadcast, more people than any other program in the history of television at the time. *Cinderella* was re-made for television in 1965 starring Lesley Ann Warren in the title role, Ginger Rogers and Walter Pidgeon as the King and Queen, and Celeste Holm as the Fairy Godmother. A further television remake followed in 1997 with Brandy as *Cinderella*, Whitney Houston as the Fairy Godmother, Bernadette Peters as the Stepmother, Whoopi Goldberg as the Queen and Jason Alexander as Lionel. The stage version of Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* made its long-awaited Broadway debut in January 2013, featuring a new book by Douglas Carter Beane and direction by Mark Brokaw, and it ran for two years. Mr Beane's book blends masterfully with the musical's cherished score, with songs including *In My Own Little Corner*, *Impossible/It's Possible*, *Ten Minutes Ago* and *Do I Love You Because You're Beautiful?*

Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* is a romantic and exciting experience for anyone who's ever had a dream. Waitlist now to be the first to buy tickets at cinderellamusical.com.au.

JUDITH LUCY &
DENISE SCOTT

STILL HERE



"EITHER of these performers is capable of tickling an audience pink; together, you can expect to be red raw." The Age Kicking off in Canberra this February, Australia's comedy icons Judith Lucy and Denise Scott are hitting the road with a brand new show and a huge national tour.

The last time Jude and Scotty teamed up and hit the road it was 2017 - a simpler time. Their critically acclaimed, smash-hit show *Disappointments*, sold more than 70,000 tickets nationally and they won the 2017 Melbourne Comedy Festival's People's Choice Award.

Now, the whole country is wondering, how did they cope with a global pandemic and the endless lockdowns of the last two years?

Well, it turns out they were in lockdown together dealing with the same big questions as everyone else: how many meals can I eat in one day? Do I have a drinking problem?

(Specifically, if I go to the toilet in the middle of the night and on my way back to bed I stop and have a gin and tonic, does that mean my drinking problem has gotten worse? Or does it mean I'm living my best life?) Will I ever wear a bra again? Should I trim my goatee or go the full on beard?

Join Jude and Scotty for what could loosely be called a play – think *Waiting for Godot* meets *Flying High* – that is not only full of shameless gags but sees them confronting their greatest fear. Intrigued? Don't be. Just buy a ticket.

"At last something to shave my face for! Can't wait to embrace Scotty, some show business and our audience – not literally obviously that would be repulsive for everyone involved."

– Judith Lucy

"Judith has frozen shoulders, can't use her arms. I have arthritic knees, can't use my legs. I'm excited to be Jude's arms. She's thrilled to be my legs. We're ecstatic to be back, together as one, on stage loving ourselves and our audiences sick."

– Denise Scott.

Tickets on sale now

MELBOURNE

Thu 31 Mar - Sun 24 Apr (No shows Mon)
6:45PM (Sun 5:45PM)
Arts Centre Melbourne - Playhouse
[ticketek.com.au](https://www.ticketek.com.au)



HOBART

Thu 14 - Sat 16 Jul
7:30PM (Sat 5PM & 7:30PM)
Theatre Royal
[theatreroyal.com.au](https://www.theatreroyal.com.au)



DAVID WILLIAMS
AN
UNSTOPPABLE
Runner





We managed to catch up with the Flinders Island Deputy Mayor, David Williams, just as he finished a podcast interview about his recently published book “An Unstoppable Runner”.

It had taken David forty years of running to come up with the idea and two years to write. The concept was to tell his story and to show that if he can still be out there having amazing adventures at the age of 75, so can most people. “In my opinion it’s all about mindset” he told us, “self-motivation is key. If you tell yourself you’re not capable of doing something, then your body will oblige. On the other hand, by taking a positive approach whilst recognising that change takes time and dedication, exciting things can happen”.

In *An Unstoppable Runner* David uses his own experiences to illustrate his points which apply equally to all exercises including hiking, cycling or simply walking. In his seventies, David has run across a large part of the Simpson Desert, through ankle deep mud in New Zealand forests as well as out in the wilds of Cambodia! His book describes those and many other experiences. It hasn’t been easy for him, there have been many ups and downs along the way, including some pretty ugly endings. “I’m still trying to work out how best to work with the cards I’ve been dealt – but that’s all part of the fun!”

David took up running back in 1979 because, like so many others, he didn’t like his lifestyle of drinking and smoking. He was then living in Hong Kong where the main activity was partying! “I was young at the time and realised that I had gone down the wrong rabbit hole and knew I had to make some radical changes” he said. His first attempts at running were pretty disastrous. David ran as hard as he could for as long as he could. “It wasn’t long before I came down with colds and plenty of minor injuries”. But he was fortunate to get some good advice from a business friend and began to work slowly at improving.

David recognises that he has always been a bit obsessive about things he loves doing so he had to adopt a more patient attitude





if he wanted to improve. "Once I'd started, I knew I had found a lifelong habit. Running every day clears my mind and makes me feel very positive about even the mundane things in life and able to deal with the negatives that get thrown at us all".

David moved to Sydney in 1980 where the running boom was in full flight. He threw himself into running marathons as often as possible, but soon grew a little disenchanted with road running. "Back then there weren't too many trail races, but I searched them out and travelled all over the place entering some pretty weird and wonderful events" he said, "It was a really good excuse to travel around Australia, and beyond, to get my fix! I've even run round a track for twenty-four hours clocking up 170 kilometres!"

David with his wife, Dale, were extremely fortunate to discover the wonders of Flinders Island in the wild, wild Bass Strait where they have lived for the past twenty years or so. "Being a retiree here enabled me to spend more time, you've guessed it, running!", David smilingly told us, "I'm lucky enough to have a network of trails just down the road from my house, so I find it easy to get out into nature every morning. It's so uplifting physically and mentally I wanted more and more people to at least give it a go! And so, David Heap, our local physio, and I established the island parkrun that has really taken off with lots of locals turning up every Saturday".



There is a small but very active running group on Flinders Island and, over the years, it has helped David to be able to run with others. They were particularly keen to help David to raise money for Cure Cancer Australia when he ran the length of Flinders Island (76kms). "I had such amazing support from our running group but also the whole community who made generous donations. It was so successful I did it again, but in the opposite direction. Who said I was crazy?"

"But the run I am most proud of was in 2013 when I ran, again with the support of so many fantastic people, the 200 kilometres from Launceston to Hobart. In unpleasant weather I had so many people come out and run with me for a while, it was truly inspiring. Working as a team we raised over \$30,000 for Cancer Council and I was so pleased to be able to write that cheque knowing that it would make a big contribution to the research for a cure. What stands out the most is the almost family-like sense of achievement we made together".

Both David and his wife are cancer survivors as well as losing a 28-year-old daughter to that dreadful disease. So, in writing "An Unstoppable Runner", David wanted to find a way in which to raise additional funds, this time for Cancer Council Tasmania. With their blessing he has organised for all profits and royalties earned from book sales to go to them.

"Obviously my life isn't just about running," David was quick to point out, "I have nine grandkids to keep me active as well. They lead hectic lives in large towns and cities, but we love to visit them when Covid allows. The good thing is that many of them enjoy running or walking the Mother's Day Classic with us every year."

David has also been an elected member of Flinders Council for nearly sixteen years and the Deputy Mayor for the last four. "It has been a tremendous honour to represent our community and I am proud to have been part of the councils that have brought improvement to so many areas of daily life here. Sometimes it's easy to forget how far we have come in those sixteen years."

"An Unstoppable Runner" by David Williams is available on Flinders Island at Bowman's Store in Whitemark or the Lady Barron Store as well as in all Tasmanian bookshops. If anyone has difficulty in finding a copy David would be happy to help if they email him at: flinders.runner@hotmail.com

Foreword: An Unstoppable Runner

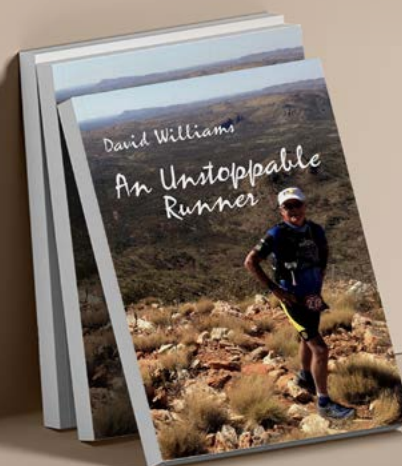
By Pat Farmer AM

A lot of people run to win medals, to set records, to continuously run faster and finish first, but ultra runners go beyond all that to discover what being first really is. In his book "An Unstoppable Runner", David Williams has been able to tap into the very core of an ultra runner's motivation, to discover who they really are and to whom. David relays his steel-forged strength and his ability to cope with disaster through the fires of running. "An Unstoppable Runner" is one who has found a higher purpose, an awakening and an understanding of who they are and what they must be to find fulfillment. "An Unstoppable Runner" teaches us that somewhere, near the threshold of pain and failure, comes the realisation that a life without barriers or borders is true freedom. Somewhere, just beyond pain comes euphoria and knowing that even the most ordinary of us can be great.

In this book, David Williams takes us on a journey to many countries and climates through decades of time, to prove that we were meant to run the corners of this world and experience every aspect of life. To anyone who is wondering who they are or what they should be, David says, simply go for a run, a long run and eventually you will discover the answers. The peace and solitude that now surrounds David on Flinders island is fitting, considering his journey through the trails, deserts and highways of this manic world an ultra runner calls home.

Pat Farmer AM.

As I say in my book, I first came across Pat Farmer at a race when he was a very young man (alongside Cliff Young) and caught up with him only a few years ago when he came to Flinders Island as the guest speaker at our Running Festival.



Holiday PACKAGES

FLINDERS ISLAND

Unspoilt, unexploited and unbelievable just over one hour's flight from Melbourne, even less from Launceston.

Discover perfect private beaches, rugged mountain ranges, rolling farm vistas, spectacular island lookouts, birdlife lagoons, wildlife, island history and spectacular fishing - all here in an archipelago of over 63 wilderness islands. Take your late model hire car, pack a picnic hamper, bring along your favourite rod and reel and prepare yourself for the perfect escape.

Relax and unwind at one of the cosy cottages, holiday units, luxury suites or hotel/motel accommodation venues. Savour a glass of Flinders Island wine while feasting on the freshest local seafood. Escape on a real life holiday with genuine Flinders Island hospitality.

EX MELBOURNE (ESSENDON)

2 Day Package: From \$780*

3 Day Package: From \$910*

EX LAUNCESTON

2 Day Package: From \$636*

3 Day Package: From \$766*

4 Day Package: From \$856*

*Conditions Apply.

KING ISLAND

At the western entrance to Bass Strait is King Island, a precious treasure oozing rich history, natural beauty and a pristine coastline. Ship wrecks, lighthouses and jagged reefs contrast with King Island's long sandy white beaches, lush green pastures and spectacular rocky cliffs. King Island produces some of Australia's finest natural foods, most notably dairy and beef produce, but there is much more to this little piece of paradise than first meets the eye. Take the time to explore the 64 km long by 27km wide island and experience for yourself the "King Island way of life."

EX MELBOURNE (ESSENDON)

2 Day Package: From \$670*

3 Day Package: From \$820*

EX BURNIE (WYNYARD)

2 Day Package: From \$740*

3 Day Package: From \$868*

EX LAUNCESTON

2 Day Package: From \$876*

3 Day Package: From \$1026*

*Conditions Apply.



For enquiries please call
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or scan code to complete the Holiday enquiry form

KING ISLAND GOLF PACKAGES

Renowned for its natural beauty, relaxed way of life and the production of some of Australia's finest natural foods, the remarkable King Island is about to set a new standard for golfing enthusiasts. With the opening of two new world-class Golf Links courses, Cape Wickham and Ocean Dunes, the Islanders are ready to welcome golfers to their shores.

Located at the western entrance to Bass Strait, King Island is a precious treasure oozing rich history, natural beauty and a pristine coastline. Shipwrecks, lighthouses and jagged reefs contrast with King Island's long sandy white beaches, lush green pastures and spectacular rocky cliffs.

After the game, golfers can kick back and enjoy this slice of paradise with a glass of something and taste the delights of the King Island Dairy Company - perhaps a triple brie or the roaring forties blue or a chunk of cheddar. For dinner, tickle your taste buds with a juicy KI steak and fresh local vegetables. If you take the time to explore, you can wander the length and breadth of this little gem, meet the locals and introduce yourself to the "King Island way of life."

EX MELBOURNE (ESSENDON)

- 1 Day Play from \$605*
- 2 Day Play from \$930*
- 3 Day Play from \$1080*

EX BURNIE (WYNYARD)

- 1 Day Play from \$675*
- 2 Day Play from \$1000*
- 3 Day Play from \$1150*

EX LAUNCESTON

- 1 Day Play from \$811*
- 2 Day Play from \$1136*
- 3 Day Play from \$1286*

*Conditions Apply.

THREE SPECTACULAR ISLANDS IN ONE HOLIDAY PACKAGE

The Three Spectacular Islands In One holiday package offers travellers an experience like no other. This tailored package offers the chance to experience the extraordinary geological features that attest to the earth's tumultuous power, bear witness to the traces of thousands of years of human habitation, and to sample the freshest cuisine.

WE WELCOME YOU TO THE WORLD OF SHARP AIRLINES

We invite you to see the three spectacular islands of Flinders Island, King Island and Tasmania in one holiday package.

Sample an array of delicacies and adventures spanning across six days and three islands.

The package gives travellers the freedom to explore and enjoy without thinking about which destination is next. The pre-planned route gives a diverse range of possibilities for activities across King and Flinders Islands and Northern Tasmania.

PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

- Airfares from Essendon to Flinders Island
- Airfares from Flinders Island to Launceston
- Airfares from Burnie (Wynyard) to King Island
- Airfares from King Island to Melbourne (Essendon)
- 2 Days Standard Car hire in Flinders Island
- 2 Days Standard Car hire in King Island
- 2 Nights' Accommodation at the Furneaux Tavern - Lady Barron, Flinders Island
- 2 Nights' Accommodation at the Island Breeze Motel - Currie, King Island

PRICE

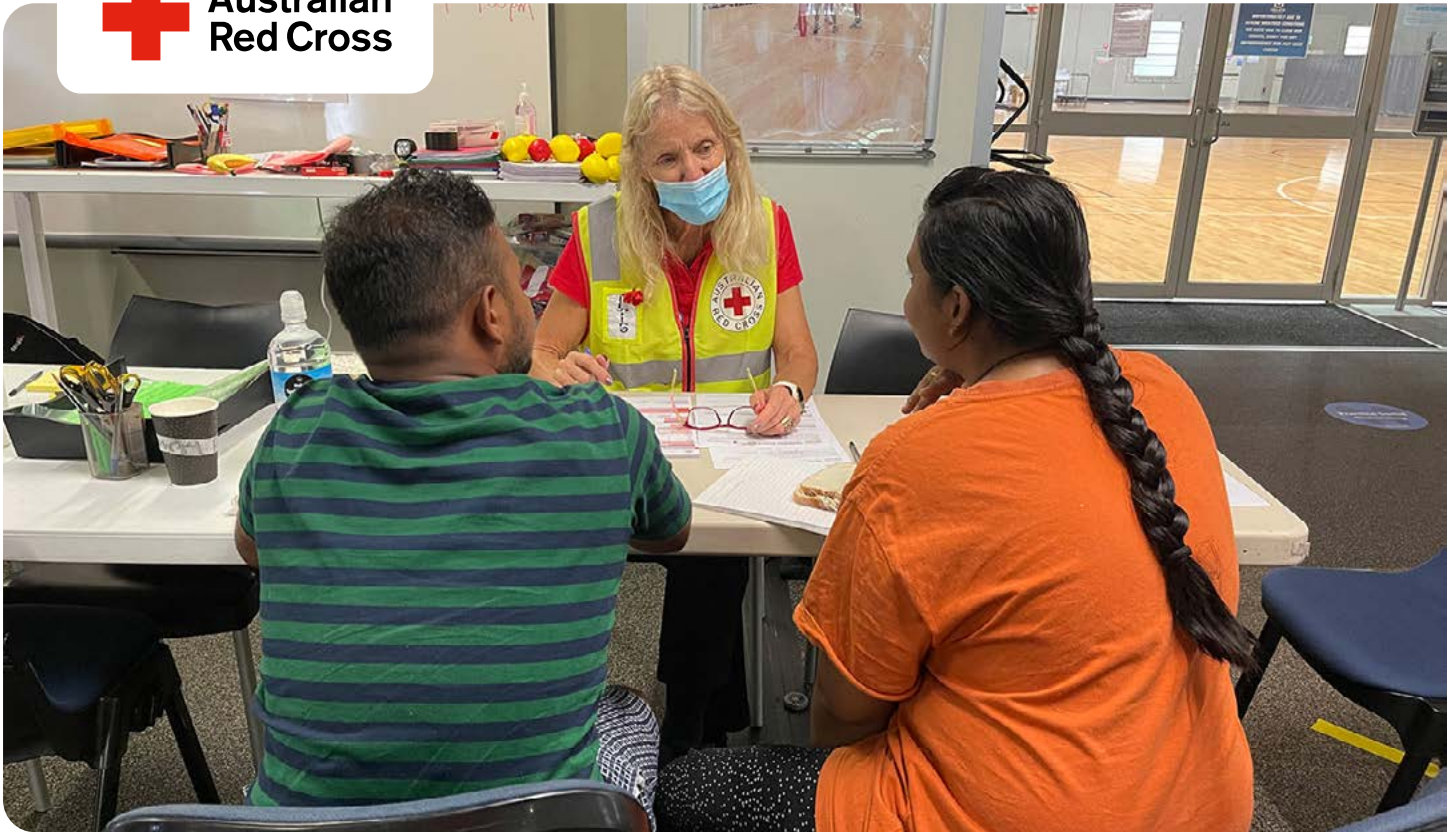
\$2962 per couple (or \$1481 per person)



Flinders Island Accommodation options can be viewed here at:

visitflindersisland.com.au

contact the Sharp Holiday team and we can help you find suitable accommodation.



COMMUNITIES ACROSS QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES URGENTLY NEED SUPPORT.

With flash flooding and heavy rains across both states, people in Queensland and New South Wales have lost access to power, houses have been damaged, and roads and access to support have been cut off.

Australian Red Cross is providing urgent humanitarian support to the communities affected by the floods. This has included psychosocial support, registering people through our reunification service Register.Find.Reunite so their loved ones know they are safe and providing essential support and assistance at evacuation and relief centres.

The situation in Queensland and New South Wales is ongoing and rapidly changing every day.

Red Cross response across Queensland and New South Wales:

- Red Cross emergency response team members and volunteers involved to date: 476
- Number of evacuation centres with Red Cross presence: 1
- Number of recovery hubs with Red Cross presence: 30
- Total people assisted: 13,599
- Register.Find.Reunite.: 4,751 registrations, 1,712 inquiries and 89 matches

Red Cross response in Queensland:

- Supported in over 33 evacuation centres, recovery hubs and outreach locations across 10 local government areas to date
- Over 180 Red Cross emergency response team members and volunteers in the response so far in the field
- Over 6,599 community members assisted
- 8+ liaison officers attending over 168 local government meetings
- Register.Find.Reunite received 417 registrations, 98 enquiries and 3 matches

Red Cross response in New South Wales:

- Supported in over 30 evacuation centres and 6 recovery hubs across impacted areas to date
- Over 96 Red Cross emergency response team members and volunteers involved in the response so far in the field
- Over 9,000 community members assisted
- Register.Find.Reunite 4,334 registrations, 1614 enquiries and 88 matches
- The Public Information and Inquiry Centre (PIIC) support activated with 22 personnel supporting to date

We will be providing cash assistance to help individuals and families affected by the Qld and NSW floods.

Sharp Airlines

**will
donate \$5**

of every return booking made in MAY FOR TRAVEL IN JUNE to the Red Cross Flood Appeal.

Donations will enable the Red Cross to provide much needed volunteers and staff to support those affected by the floods

\$25.2 million was raised was raised during the Australia Unites Telethon on Saturday 12 March, 100% of which will go cash assistance.

We understand that people need help urgently. We will provide more details on how much will be disbursed, eligibility criteria, timelines and processes for application as soon as we can.

Your generosity and kindness will directly benefit the people and communities in Queensland and New South Wales who are currently affected by the floods.

Donations to the ongoing Qld and NSW Floods Appeal are supporting:

- On the ground work in evacuation and recovery centres
- Contribute to the ongoing funding of the cash assistance grants program
- Contribute to the essential support costs to make all this work possible.

Red Cross have raised \$5.7 Million to date

Your generosity and kindness will directly benefit the people and communities in Queensland and New South Wales who are currently affected by the floods.

Furneaux Museum

A community-run museum displaying the cultural and natural history of the Furneaux Islands

Shell necklace-making is the oldest continuing cultural practice in Tasmania – a significant tradition for Aboriginal women that is still handed down through each generation.

Explore the Shell Necklace Collection displayed at the Furneaux Museum.



*Shell Necklaces:
maikutena Vicki-Laine Green*



OPENING HOURS

26 December – 30 April

Tuesday to Sunday
1.00pm – 5.00pm
Closed Mondays & Good Friday

1 May – 24 December

Saturday & Sunday
1.00pm – 4.00pm

**8 Fowlers Road,
Emita, Flinders Island
Phone: 03 6359 8434**

furneauxmuseum@gmail.com
www.furneauxmuseum.org.au