Five Minutes with Mayor Darryl Gerrity

Birth date – 3 March 1943

How long have you lived on the West Coast of Tasmania?

Born in Queenstown – left 1.2 seconds after electrical apprenticeship. Mt Lyell 25 years, Melbourne and other places, came back in 1986 – lived here ever since.

What is your favourite part of the West Coast?

Any part because real people live here. The West Coast doesn’t suffer fools.

What are your personal interests?

History, boats, characters and family – family comes first.

What do you like to do on your days off?

I don’t really get days off. I am 24/7 with Tasports and 24/7 with West Coast Council.

Favourite song?

The Cape – it proves if you keep at it, it will eventuate.

Favourite TV show?

News and current affairs to keep up, and documentaries.

Best movie?

The Sting.

What do you like to indulge in when no one is looking?

Thinking.

What annoys you?

W**kers and ill-informed people.

How long have you worked in Local Government and how many years have you served as Mayor?

I have been in Local Government since 1999 and have served as Mayor for 7 years.

Why did you become involved in Local Government?

I felt my experiences in business and meeting all types of people could help the West Coast.

What are the most satisfying aspects of your role as Mayor?

To be able assist people and situations, and right wrongs, implementing innovation.

What’s your most embarrassing moment?

Believing a government minister.

What’s the best advice someone has given you?

‘Shut Up’ which, on the occasion, turned out to be the worst advice.

What’s one word other people might use to describe you?

Different.

What are your plans for the future?

To keep working for the benefit of the people of the West Coast and challenging authority when it is wrong.

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pitt&sherry’s Sustainability Services Group offer a range of specialist technical, scientific, planning and management services aimed at delivering tangible sustainability outcomes. We understand Local Government, its people, processes and local issues.

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We have gained internationally recognised accreditations and memberships to support this and have the expertise to deliver.
Dave Flynn
COORDINATOR
RURAL ROADS, LAUNCESTON CITY COUNCIL

You can’t buy experience and Dave Flynn has more experience in working in and around Launceston than any other current employee at Launceston City Council. Dave started working with the then Lilydale Council as a 17 year-old rouse-about and, due to amalgamations, currently works as a Coordinator at his home base of Remount Road for the Launceston City Council. Dave has been with Council for 53 years and was recently recognised for this significant achievement at an employee presentation night where Mayor Ivan Dean and General Manager, Frank Dixon awarded him a Recognition Certificate.

His role is quite varied and includes coordinating crews working on rural roads, bridges and culverts. Dave said that you can’t satisfy everyone but the best thing about his job is that he gets to meet so many amazing people, be it workers or ratepayers. He also gets the sense of achievement that he has “ gotten the job done” at the end of each day.

Regardless of the weather, including major storms and floods, Dave and the other Rural Road Crew members will be out in the thick of it to ensure the least impact on residents. Dave is a humble man but his workmates and supervisor have expressed an overwhelming sense of respect for him and the wealth of knowledge that he brings to Council. His supervisor says even though Dave is in his 70s, he works as hard as any of the men in their 20s."

Adelle Rist
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
GOVERNANCE DEPARTMENT, LATROBE COUNCIL

As Youth Development Officer, Adelle is responsible for the planning, development and facilitation of youth programs and activities for the Latrobe municipality and to ensure that the strategies and ideas of Council’s Youth Policy are achieved. Her job involves providing young people opportunities for community involvement and participation, building networks, promoting consultation between young people, community groups and all levels of government, and addressing youth issues and concerns. In the course of her duties, Adelle works closely with the Latrobe community, council staff, students and staff from local schools, Voice – Latrobe’s youth advisory group, service clubs, and an array of community services.

The most satisfying aspect of her job is working with young people. “They encourage my motivation, enhance my existing skills and constantly offer me the opportunity to learn new skills for my toolbox! When I offer support, provide information and inform young people, it gives them the potential to make a significant impact on their health and wellbeing, and to make better choices,” she said.

Adelle describes working in Local Government as a web of opportunities. “I love working and being in the ‘front line’ of the community, by contributing to all aspects of community life. I will continue to ensure that the needs of young people are heard and adequately represented, and want to create a better understanding of wellbeing in our communities.”

Adelle’s proudest achievements are the youth advisory group, Voice – made up of an energetic, creative group of young people, Get it on the Couch which offers young people a place to hang out at community events, the Mosaics project – an inspiring collection of seaside artwork, and the Beyond Goofy – clowning project.
Andrew Howell
MANAGER OF ENGINEERING SERVICES
NORTHERN MIDLANDS COUNCIL

Andrew graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours from the University of Tasmania, and later completed a Masters of Engineering Science (Project Management major) at the University of New South Wales. His post-graduate study was completed by a combination of distance education and residential courses, whilst working full-time at the Meander Valley Council as Assets Engineer. A later role was in private consulting with Sinclair Knight Merz, providing civil engineering and project management services to a range of clients including Local and State Governments and the private sector.

Currently, as Manager of Engineering Services at Northern Midlands Council, Andrew reports directly to the General Manager and works closely with the Works Department and the Planning/Development Services Department, to deliver technical specialist services on a range of infrastructure issues.

Andrew finds this challenging role both interesting and fulfilling and feels he has plenty to offer the organisation whilst learning the ropes as a new manager and drawing on the valuable experience of senior managers. The role is focused around provision of infrastructure to the community, and coordinating how major services such as roads, bridges, water, wastewater, stormwater and waste management can be delivered efficiently and sustainably. A major project he is currently involved in, is the construction of a major flood levee to protect the township of Longford against significant flood events.

Andrew enjoys the broad range of opportunities available through his Local Government work and finds it satisfying to be able to work on projects from inception right through to completion. He looks forward to being involved as the Northern Midlands area develops further, sustainably, and capitalises on its natural assets and major developments, and builds on the improvements that have already occurred.

“It is an exciting time to be an engineer in Local Government!” he added.

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