Tasmanians and visitors will experience an expanded line-up of culinary delights and entertainment at this year’s Hobart Summer Festival, commencing on 28 December and concluding on 6 January 2008.

Exciting, new events include Podwalks in the Cove, a family fireworks display on New Year’s Eve, and feature film screenings at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

The innovative Podwalks in the Cove is a collection of informative podcasts that can be loaded onto MP3 players with visitors following the instructions of the narrator as they walk through various areas of Sullivans Cove. The Nest Property Family Fireworks will present a new display of whistling, zipping and other unusual fireworks that are sure to impress the biggest of kids.

Films in the Garden enables patrons to view movie classics such as the Rocky Horror Picture Show, Zoolander and Finding Nemo at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in a relaxed, picnic-style atmosphere.

Sing Salamanca! is a part concert and part community sing along featuring the wonderful voices of the Southern Gospel Choir.

The Yachting Classics feature strongly, with entrants in the Melbourne to Hobart Yacht Race sailing down Tasmania’s east coast for the first time. A new race from Launceston to Hobart will also take place. On shore, Honeymoon Suite will see Mikelangelo and Undine Francesca take on romance and rock ‘n’ roll from behind the iron curtain, to create a spellbinding and seductive Kabaret Noir.

Some old favourites making a reappearance in this year’s program include Attitude Live - a youth event showcasing Tasmanian talent encompassing genres such as rock, hip-hop and techno music. Also, the African Cultural Festival - a vibrant celebration of traditional and modern African music, infectious dance and delicious food.

The Searson Buck Jazz in the Park will feature three of Australia’s finest jazz vocalists, Elana Stone, Michelle

Opposite Page: Spectacular New Year’s Eve celebrations at the Taste

Nicolle and Julie O’Hara, performing together for one special evening, presenting classic jazz songs, original material and other vocal delights.

The flagship event of the Hobart Summer Festival is undoubtedly the Taste of Tasmania, with more than 70 different stalls, a range of new stallholders, a variety of entertainment and the perfect location to sample the delights from Tasmania’s top food and beverage providers, the Taste is sure to appeal to all palates.

The Salmon Ponds New Year’s Eve Celebrations at The Taste will be a night of dazzling entertainment performances and fine Tasmanian food and wine. Situated in a wonderful waterfront setting providing a perfect place to view the Smolt Restaurant Family Fireworks, which are certain to make welcoming 2008 a memorable event.

The Hobart Summer Festival is a truly iconic event that signifies summer for all Tasmanians and this year’s line-up is sure to offer something for everyone. Look out for your free Festival Guide, now available from selected cafes and venues in Hobart, and Travel and Information Centres around Tasmania.

Full details of the Hobart Summer Festival can be found on the Hobart City council website at www.hobartcity.com.au.
Heritage Highway Goes the ‘i’ Way

An innovative audio tour of Tasmania’s Heritage Highway, incorporating facts, sites, landmarks, points of interest, and historic information across seven towns, was launched in November.

iWalk uses ‘theatre of the mind’ to transport visitors back in time and includes story-telling, enhanced by cameos scripted from historical records. Visitors will be able to download the tour from the Internet before they leave home, or pick one up at an information centre in Tasmania.

In launching the initiative, the Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment, Paula Wriedt, said podcasts and mp3s are now part of everyday life and it is important we embrace this technology as part of our continuing growth of Tasmania as a tourist destination. “We know from recent consumer research that our visitors want more from their holiday than just beautiful views. They come to engage with communities, and be engaged with intriguing tales of human endeavour,” she said.

The product answers the needs of visitors who like to travel independently, most of whom use mp3s and iPods. iWalk will provide a greater depth and breadth of experience along the Heritage Highway, bringing it to life. The iWalk has been developed by iWalk Tours, with assistance from the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association, and Tourism Tasmania.

Carbon-neutral Flights Turn Blue Skies Greener

The Qantas Group has achieved certification under the Australian Government’s Greenhouse Friendly™ initiative to provide zero-emissions flights domestically and internationally, making Australia the only country in the world where all airlines offer customers the option of flying carbon-neutral.

Travellers will be offered the option to purchase a Greenhouse Friendly™ carbon-neutral flight. The price will not be substantially higher, but it will make a significant difference to the environment. On an ongoing basis, the Qantas Group will also offset all staff business air travel, saving around 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions a year - equivalent to planting around 250,000 trees.

Part of the Government’s $3.5 billion climate change strategy, the Greenhouse Friendly™ initiative provides certification for carbon-neutral products and services following a thorough, rigorous, verification process, meeting international standards and best practice, to determine the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions a product or service produces.

Under the Australian Government program, the airlines will monitor and report on their emissions on an annual basis. They will then purchase carbon offsets through approved projects including recycling, waste diversion, and other energy efficiency and forestry activities.

Aviation is the fastest growing sector in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, currently representing around 3% of global emissions. The total domestic aviation transport sector currently contributes almost five megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

For more information, visit www.greenhouse.gov.au/greenhousefriendly.

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West Tamar Community Inherits Grubb Shaft Museum

The State Government has announced that it will transfer ownership of the Grubb Shaft Museum at Beaconsfield to the local community, together with $150,000 for building maintenance.

The transfer of ownership of the museum property, including all buildings, to the West Tamar Council is as a result of the Crown Land Assessment and Classification Project, which recently completed an assessment of the remaining 3% of Tasmania that had been unclassified Crown Land or public reserve.

The transfer will facilitate the development of displays about the collapse of the Beaconsfield mineshaft in 2006, including a Mine Rescue Display, entrance, meeting room, merchandise sales area and offices. Ownership of the museum precinct will enable Council to further enhance the area, which continues to attract a large number of visitors. The exhibition is receiving support from the Beaconsfield Community Fund, established by the Federal Government to assist recovery from the Beaconsfield mine collapse.

In making the announcement, the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, said that many facilities provided by Local Government on crown land can be more effectively and efficiently managed if ownership of the properties is placed in the hands of the local council.