Ten Days on the Island - the Pride of Tasmania

From 27 March - 5 April, Tasmania’s premier international arts festival, Ten Days on the Island, is coming to a town near you.

Northern Midlands Council Mayor Kim Polley, was delighted when she heard Ten Days’ events were scheduled in Campbell Town, Evandale, Longford, and Ross.

“Our Council works closely with the Heritage Highway Tourism Region Association to develop tourism products and experiences. Our ultimate aim is to entice more tourists into the Northern Midlands and encourage longer stays - thus leading to increased tourism spend which generates local economic growth,” Mayor Polley said. “These events will certainly bring many visitors into our communities and have the added bonus of enabling this array of extraordinary artistic talent to be easily accessible to our residents.”

The Northern Midlands Council has had a close working relationship with Ten Days on the Island since its inception. Community members have willingly volunteered to assist with the planning and carry through of performances in their communities; warmly embracing the opportunity to showcase their towns to intrastate, interstate and international visitors.

Events to be showcased in the Northern Midlands include:

Ruined, which involves a quest for Tasmania’s neglected, abandoned, weathered and decayed pianos. Respected West Australian composer, Ross Bolleter, will explore them in a series of regional performances.

Barbara Furtuna, (Cruel Fate) a Corsican male vocal quartet keeping alive the tradition of cappella singing, will perform in the Christ Church at Longford on 29 March.

Florence, a one-woman show by Louise Moyes of Newfoundland Canada. Louise recreates the life of the lively and funny storyteller, musician and dancer Florence Leprieur, documented at age 94. Florence will be performed at the Campbell Town Hall on 31 March.

Dance Hall at your Hall, an island-bopping roadshow, will bring Jalsa Creole playing Sega - the traditional irresistible rhythm music of Mauritius, to Ross on 4 April.

Baby, Where are the Fine Things you Promised Me? by New Zealand artist, Stephen Bain, which invites you to reflect on the lost Utopia of the quarter-acre block. A tiny house is the setting for Stephen’s performances and passers-by will be amazed to discover that the house is occupied, ship-in-bottle style, by a man who plays music, cooks, or shares a cup of tea and a natter with them. This art installation/street performance can be viewed at the Evandale Market on 5 April.

Trust is a groundbreaking series of site-specific art installations presented at five significant National Trust properties. Trust commissions eight prominent Tasmanian artists to research, develop and mount work that interrogates the stories, history, culture and environment of each of the properties. The art installations of artists, Julie Gough, Michael McWilliams, John Vella and Lucy Bleach, is on display at Clarendon House near Evandale until 19 April.

Burnie City Council will also play host to one of this year’s Ten Days on the Island events, which is guaranteed to turn a few heads. Artist, Tracy Luff, will reveal how recycled and corrugated cardboard can be transformed into an artistic masterpiece, through her large-scale installation Switch. The installation will be on display in the Council Chamber’s three-storey atrium.

The awe-inspiring and thought-provoking installation contains coded messages about the medium’s previous existence, as well as its new and enriched life. Tracy, who has used recycled cardboard as her artistic medium of choice since 2000, has won numerous prizes for her work.

For more information, check out www.tendaysontheisland.com.
Premier Unveils Brand Identity

A new Tasmanian brand identity, a blue-green contemporary take on the state’s widely recognised geographical outline, was launched by the Premier, David Bartlett, in December, after a nine-month development project overseen by the Brand Tasmania Council.

“This new brand identity will help link together many of the positive messages Tasmania sends to the world,” Mr Bartlett told a launch gathering at Launceston’s Design Centre. “It will further strengthen our position in external markets, helping us to manage our economy through the present global uncertainty. It will help our businesses ride the wave when the recessionary fears begin to fade.”

The new brand identity, protected by copyright, will be available to any business that is a current financial member of Brand Tasmania, and will be available for non-commercial organisations in specific circumstances.

Mr Barlett said the state’s brand already had significant global traction and research showed that the word ‘Tasmania’ conveyed positive messages to many people. “Italians use our wool to produce their costliest suits,”

Premier David Bartlett launches Tasmania’s new brand identity

Mr Bartlett said. “European judges have recently given our Sauvignon Blanc a world’s best award, and popular travel guide publisher, Lonely Planet, has deemed the Bay of Fires the best destination on Earth. Seafood, cheese, fine furniture, beer, ships and marine evacuation systems are among the products constantly adding to this positive story,” he said.

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Local councils across Australia will soon have access to a new workshop program designed to deliver innovation in tourism planning.

The program, developed by the Sustainable Tourism Cooperative Research Centre (STCRC), provides council staff, managers and elected members with an understanding of a council’s role and approach to supporting tourism development and management within the community. The program also provides a forum for councils to consult with industry and the community ahead of developing tourism strategies.

The Local Government Pathway to Sustainable Tourism Workshop program has been developed by STCRC in conjunction with its commercial arm, EC3 Global, to assist local councils to better understand and plan for tourism development.

Councils can find out more about the Pathways program at Mark Olsen’s workshop being held on 12 June as part of the 2009 Local Government Conference. Further information can also be obtained by contacting Andrew Sivjis at the STCRC on (07) 5552 8221, or email andrew.sivjis@crctourism.com.au.

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After more than sixteen years, the largest annual gathering of Tasmanian steam power has become something of an institution in Tasmania’s North-West.

SteamFest is held each year in March, alongside the original Sheffield railway station. The event featured the largest regular collection of working steam road traction engines and steam rollers, along with steam train rides over the 1km long Redwater Creek Railway.

A special feature at this year’s event was the debut of the world’s first oil engined tractor, built in 1897 by Richard Hornsby and Sons - who were well known Traction Engine builders. This tractor is perhaps the most significant engine to have attended SteamFest in terms of engineering heritage and the development of the modern diesel engine.

Of particular interest to LGAT News readers in Local Government would be brothers - Christopher and Vivian Martin’s 1926 Marshall Steam Roller, which was originally the Longford Council road roller, and the Aveling Steam Roller, Betsy, built in 1927, which was supplied new to Fingal Council in 1928. This roller was sold to the Public Works Department and used on road construction up to 1957, and then by a private contractor until 1965.

The Redwater Creek Railway relies on its 1906 Munich built Krauss steam engine to haul heritage passenger carriages, including the only first class, two foot gauge passenger car to have operated on the Tasmanian Government Railways system on the North-East Dundas Railway, between Zeehan and Williamsford, at the turn of the last century.

Other features of the event included tractor pulling and displays of vintage rural machinery, an old-time general store, a working model quarry, horse-drawn coaches and wagons, military vehicles including the only tank in Tasmania - an ex British Army Tank, vintage cars and bikes, shingle splitting demonstrations, craft displays and children’s activities.

SteamFest and the Redwater Creek Railway is run by a dedicated group of volunteers. The organisation has enjoyed the support of the Kentish Council and Treloar Transport, who carts much of the equipment to the site. The Redwater Creek Railway runs on the first weekend of each month and for special functions.

For further information, visit the society’s website at www.redwater.org.au.

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North-West Welcomes the New Year

More than 10,000 patrons braved the elements and welcomed the New Year at Burnie’s A Night on the Terrace.

As one of the Burnie City Council’s biggest community events, the event lived up to expectations with plenty of hot entertainment for people of all ages. Frontline act, the Blues Brothers Revival Band, rocked the crowd into the New Year, along with The Giant Hamsters. A free bus service operated throughout Burnie and Wynyard, offering a safe transport alternative. The service was part of the Council’s DES (designated driver) campaign in conjunction with Metro Tasmania, Tasmania Police and The Advocate newspaper.

What started off in 2004 as a one-off event to say thank you to the Burnie community from the Council, has become the “place to be” on New Year’s Eve on Tassie’s North-West Coast. Burnie Mayor, Alvyn Boyd, was honoured with his own beach bonfire, while two spectacular fireworks displays and other amusements kept revellers entertained.

Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre Officially Opened

An exciting new addition to Tasmania’s tourism industry, the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre, has been officially opened by the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Kevin Rudd in Beaconsfield.

Commencing in May 2007, the $1.7 million development of the former Grubb Shaft Museum in Beaconsfield was undertaken by the West Tamar Council, with funding assistance under the Australian Government’s Beaconsfield Community Fund. Council engaged Artas Architects to design a purpose built heritage style building and Innis Construction completed the project.

West Tamar Council Mayor, Clr Barry Easther, said the new centre is an important community asset and a significant attraction for visitors to Tasmania’s Tamar Valley region. “The Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre is quickly becoming a ‘must see’ destination for visitors to Tasmania, providing great flow-on benefits to the rest of the community and local economy,” he said.

The centre houses a variety of social history displays, including working steam engines and stories of the importance gold mining has played to the town over the last 100 years. A key feature of the new centre is the mine rescue display, which pays tribute to the rescue at the Beaconsfield Mine following the rock fall in April 2006. The mine rescue display recognises the people involved in the rescue and their courageous efforts to retrieve the trapped miners, Todd Russell and Brant Webb. The display features stories on how the Beaconsfield community united in the crisis, how the town coped with the influx of media, and its recovery after the event, which made headlines around the world.

Visitors can view a replica of the rock fall area where the miners waited in the cage to be rescued. To get there, visitors crawl through a tunnel underneath rocks. Halfway through the tunnel, visitors can stand up in a viewing hole and look into the cage - Webb and Russell’s ‘home’ for 14 days.

The redevelopment of the centre was largely funded by the Australian Government, through the $8.3 million Beaconsfield Community Fund, delivered by AusIndustry. The fund was created in response to the rock fall and consequent closure of the Beaconsfield Gold Mine in April 2006. As part of the redevelopment, the West Tamar Council has launched a new website for the Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre.

The website can be found at www.beaconsfieldheritage.com.au.
Lights, Camera and Action on Tassie’s East Coast

As the first French expatriate to serve as a Mayor in Australia, Clr Bertrand Cadart, with his colourful dress-sense and equally colourful past, has captured the attention of French television network, Reseau France Outremer, which operates in all French territories throughout the world. In December 2008, the network sent a film crew to Tasmania to shoot footage for a one-hour documentary for the show Archipel, due to air this month to a potential 30 million viewers worldwide.

The crew spent two weeks on Tasmania’s East Coast recording interviews with the Mayor and other French expatriates who have settled in the area. Stunning footage of our native wildlife, including one of Tasmania’s largest seal colonies, the Isle des Phoques and the Wielangta forest reserve will also feature in the documentary. The crew members were particularly pleased to be escorted between filming locations in Clr Cadart’s recently acquired 1991 Pontiac Trans Am Firebird GTA - a black, rumbling vehicle which reminds the Mayor of the Interceptor from the film Mad Max.

Sound engineer, Paul Mesanovic, said there was no struggle in finding interesting material for the documentary. “He (Cadart) talks a lot - you just have to press the record button once and he likes to argue just like every Frenchman,” he said. When asked of his impression of Tasmania, Mr Mesanovic said, “It’s a very remote place and cold, but has warm people.”

The crew felt right at home when they discovered the quality of Tasmanian wine, which they considered as being comparable to French wine. Among the vineyards that they visited on the East Coast was the Apsley Gorge Vineyard - the only one in the state that produces wine using the traditional French method, developed in the Burgundy region centuries ago.

If the walls could talk, this would be a highlight! From L-R, RFO South-Pacific Division Producer - Damien Ordas, Cameraman - Claude Bretegnier, Mayor Bertrand Cadart, and Sound Engineer - Paul Mesanovic in the normally quiet and secluded lounge room at Bertrand’s home.

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